



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

**LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO**
CHAPTER 0182

**National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association**

REPORTER

February 2026

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Local Web Site: <http://www.narfe-nm.net>

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NARFE.LasCrucesChapter.182>



**Judy Rosco
Chapter 182 President**



A brand-new year is upon us. I gave up on New Year's resolutions a few years ago and decided I would pick a word each year that I would try to live up to. For 2026, I have decided to select the word Thoughtful. Webster's dictionary lists the meaning as showing consideration for the needs of other people. During these times of political unrest within family and friends we can be more thoughtful about other people's ideas. I urge you to be more thoughtful. If you cannot agree then agree to disagree and move on.

Our Federation President, Mark Mickelsen, will be visiting our chapter meeting on 14 February 2026. He has a new slogan that he would like to see implemented... "Let's do one new thing for NARFE." I am sure you are thinking "What could I do?" Here are some things you could consider:

--talk to a Federal Employee or Retiree friend or neighbor who is not in NARFE about how NARFE membership would help them and give them a copy of the NARFE Magazine.

--contribute to NARFE-PAC, either as a monthly Sustainer or with a one-time contribution.

--sign onto FedHub and use it to communicate your views on NARFE issues with other SW members.

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**NARFE Chapter 182 General Meeting
Saturday, February 14th, 8:30 a.m.
(Valentine's Day!)**

**Las Cruces Village-Independent Living
3011 Buena Vida Circle (Creative Arts Room)
Breakfast Buffet - \$18.00**

**Reservations: Call Carol Main
(575-382-7686 NLT January 28th)**

**February 14th Program:
The Academy for Learning in Retirement
(ALR)**

Our speaker will be Christa Slayton, a retired Professor of Political Science from Auburn University and NMSU. She is a member on the ALR Board.

Come join us and learn about this interesting program.

See Page 3 for our upcoming programs in February – May.

**Programs
Donna Harris**



**Join Us On
Valentine's Day!**

Chapter 182 President's Message
Continued from Page 1

- post articles from NARFE on social media (Facebook, Instagram, X, TikTok, etc.).
- bring a copy of NARFE Magazine to a local library for inclusion in their magazine section and inquire whether the library could subscribe to it.
- drive someone who does not drive to a NARFE chapter meeting.
- attend a virtual or in-person congressional town hall meeting.
- email your Senators and/or Representative about a NARFE issue.
- help recruit new NARFE members at Open Season Health Fairs or other opportunities.
- write or email a letter to your local newspaper promoting NARFE.

Many of us have already fulfilled some of these suggestions and may find a new one to try.

Are you getting requests for money from Judy Rosco? DO NOT RESPOND; DELETE the EMAIL or TEXT. These requests are continually going out to chapter members and I am unable to stop them.

Are you planning to attend FEDcon26? The Southwest Federation is offering \$900 to assist members who want to attend the Conference. The funds will be on a first-come-first-serve basis for the first thirty-three members to request funds. FEDcon26 will be August 23-25, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis. Registration details are coming soon.

I am very happy to report that our current VP/Membership Dan Carroll has agreed to take over the position of Service Officer vacated by Jim Kielty. Also, long-time chapter member Elwood Baas has volunteered to take the position of Chapter Parliamentarian. We thank them for stepping up to help our Chapter.

Our Chapter 182 Executive Board still has the current vacancies:

Member-at-Large (Two Vacancies). This position allows the individual to learn about the inner workings of the Chapter Executive Board and how we do business; positions on the Board they may want to fill; and duties as assigned (i.e., call table numbers at our monthly meetings, greeting members when they arrive; helping with the Alzheimer's drawing, etc.)

Way & Means Chair finds creative fundraising ideas to help chapter members attend NARFE National and Southwest Federation Conferences.

Please think about serving your NARFE Chapter and accept one of these Board vacancies. Please contact me at (575) 635-7127 or rosco631@gmail.com for more information.

Recruit a new NARFE member. There is a NARFE Membership Application in every NARFE Magazine or you can join online at www.NARFE.org.

Ask a co-worker or a retired friend to join NARFE and our Chapter 182.



Chapter 182 Programs

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We hope everyone had a safe and joyous New Year. As we head into the new year, I hope you enjoy our programs. Here is what we have in store!

**Donna
Harris**

**Please
Mark
Your
Calendars!**

FEBRUARY 14th - Academy for Learning in Retirement DACC

MARCH 14th - Visit Las Cruces

APRIL 11th - Carol Main and Janice Bridges will give a presentation on the NARFE website and FEDHub, our on-line community.

MAY 9th - Branigan Library - Quality of Life Initiatives

I will be stepping down from the Program Coordinator position in May. We are looking for someone to continue coordinating programs for our Chapter. If you are interested, please contact me at md.harris1@comcast.net or Judy Rosco at rosco631@gmail.com.



Carol Main

**Records
Officer**



Welcome New Members:

Debbie Beebe

Nicole Daniels

Amalia Slaughter

New Prospective Members: Leann Benitez, Priscilla Gutierrez, John Kulik, Albert Riboni, Geoffroi Steinauer, Sara Thomas, Cindy Turri, Diana Walker

We would like to see you at the February 14 meeting.

Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Our chapter membership is 191 members strong!

Reminder: Have you changed your home address, telephone number, or email address? If you have dropped your landline and are using your cell phone only, let me know. Please notify me at csmain7@gmail.com or phone 575-382-7686. We don't want you to miss any copies of the NARFE magazine, our chapter newsletter, ballots or any notices we send out.



NARFE Chapter 182 Meeting – Jan 10, 2026

(L-R) Paul Garza (Director of Operations, La Pinon, Las Cruces), Janice Bridges (Chapter 182 VP for Legislation), Donna Harris (Chapter 182 Program Chair), & Krysta Montez (Director of Prevention Programs, La Pinon, Las Cruces)



NARFE-PAC

Della Apodaca

We are halfway through the 2025-2026 NARFE-PAC cycle.

Our chapter goals are 1) Meet or exceed our prior result of \$6,117, and 2) Increase the number of sustainers by at least one member (from eight to nine). Dollar-wise we are making progress. For our sustainer goal, we need two additional members, as we lost one member in 2025. [Click this link to get started as a NARFE-PAC-sustainer](#). Or, consider making a [one-time voluntary contribution*](#) of any amount. A contribution can also be made through the mail via the form in our NARFE magazine, or during a chapter meeting. Thank you for your support.

**To comply with federal law, we must use our best efforts to obtain, maintain and submit the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions to NARFE-PAC exceed \$200 each calendar year. NARFE-PAC is for the benefit of political candidates and activities on a national level. NARFE members have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal, and NARFE will neither favor nor disadvantage anyone based on the amount of a contribution or failure to make a voluntary contribution. The suggested amounts are only suggestions and not enforceable. Only members of NARFE may contribute to the PAC. Contributions from nonmembers will be returned. NARFE-PAC contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.*



Cindy
Cook

Alzheimer's
24/7
Helpline
800-272-3900

Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's research is currently in an incredibly active new era. In the last years research has shifted from just managing symptoms to actually slowing down the disease and detecting it with simple tests. One of the biggest breakthroughs being the Blood Test which is now a reality. These tests detect specific proteins with over 90% accuracy. Now doctors can identify the disease years before symptoms appear using a simple blood draw. Brain ultrasound research looks very promising.

NARFE is helping to make a difference in millions of people's lives with our donations to Alzheimer's Research! Thank You to all who donate items and those who participate in our ALZ raffles! I'm happy to report that our chapter raised a total of \$312.00 over the last three months.



alzheimer's association®



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)

We have had several cold, dark, cloudy, dreary days this past month. Let's hope that February brings us more sunshine.



Sunshine helps lift our spirits and gives us more energy. We need that to carry out the increasing tasks/demands of spring.

A Get-Well card was sent to John Reese who was hospitalized several days and is now in rehab. A sympathy card was sent to the family of Richard Irons who passed away December 21. Richard was a NARFE member since 1980 and was our chapter's longest term member.

Have some fun by trying to solve this riddle: WHAT BEGINS WITH T, ENDS WITH T, AND HAS T IN IT?

Please let me know if you hear of a member who is ill, has passed away, or could use a little sunshine in their life. Marcele: 575-521-4954 or marcele@skelton.net.



Dan
Carroll

Membership Report

Mild winter so far. Dry and no hard freezes yet. We now have 191 members in our Chapter 182. Holidays this month include Valentine's Day on February 14th and President's Day on the 16th. Full moon (Mary Ellen) is on February 1st. Quote of the month -- "Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning." (William Arthur Ward). Have a good month and see you at the movies!

Hope to see you at our February monthly meeting
on Valentine's Day!



(Craig Singleton, Carol Main, & Bob Main)

We see them at every NARFE Chapter 182 meeting and the three of them are very busy keeping things organized for our chapter. Craig is our Chapter Treasurer and he collects money at our breakfast meetings. His sister, Carol, is the Chapter's Records Officer and Member Communications Officer. Carol's hubby and Craig's brother-in-law is Bob. Bob handles all our Logistics (Electronics) for our chapter meetings. We thank them for everything they do for our chapter!



Chapter VP for Legislation
Janice Bridges

Happy New Year!
Hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Holiday.



To start, I am very happy to report that the Southwest Federation received a Gold Star rating for the 4th Quarter. Please continue to contact your legislators and let them know what legislation that NARFE supports and please vote accordingly. Remember you can go online to the NARFE website and go the Advocacy site and there are “scripts” there you can use to email or call to let them know which ones to support.

Here's what NARFE did, where NARFE stands, and what NARFE currently supports:

Windfall Elimination Provision/Government Pension Offset- One year ago, President Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act H.R. 82. This ended 40 years of unfair penalties imposed on thousands of people for simply earning a pension through public service. Our own Sharon Reese was very active supporting this and went to Washington D.C. to express our Southwest Federation Support.

H.R.1- The “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”. This originally included provisions to cut Federal Active and Retiree benefits. Thanks to NARFE Advocacy these were eventually removed.

H.R.492/S.134- “Saving the Civil Service Act”. NARFE supports this bill. It will provide the establishment of Policy/Career of the excepted service to ensure merit-based hiring and firing of civil servants.

H.R. 491/S.624- Fair Cola Act. NARFE supports this bill. It will give full cost-of-living adjustments to FERS annuitants based on changes in consumer prices.

H.R.493/S.126- Federal Adjustment of Income Rates. NARFE supports this bill. This will provide Federal Employees with a 3.3% across the board pay raise plus a 1% average increase to locality pay.

H.R.5249- NARFE supports this bill. It will require the President and Executive Branch to provide Congress with a Reorganization Impact Report before the President may enact major federal employee terminations.

PLEASE subscribe to Newsline, stay active on FEDHub, read the NARFE magazine and continue to let your legislators know where we stand on these bills.

See you on February 14th for our next general meeting. Wear your Valentine best!



Chapter President Judy Rosco and Chapter Program Coordinator Donna Harris at the December 2025 general meeting where we all enjoyed a White Elephant gift exchange.



Ballot and Teller Chair (Carol Main)

NARFE Chapter 182 Ballot & Teller Report January 10, 2026

Sharon Reese read an email she had received from the NARFE Hq Parliamentarian, Maurice S. Henderson. "I read the appropriate sections of the chapter's bylaws and standing rules. Since Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised is their parliamentary authority, Robert's allows an election to be by acclamation as long as the governing documents do NOT require an election by ballot. I do not see any statements in their governing documents where it states that an election must be by ballot. Therefore, they can indeed conduct the election by acclamation."

That being said, Sharon Reese (for John Reese, Nominations Chair), presented the following:

President – Judy Rosco
1st Vice President (Legislation) – Janice Bridges
2nd Vice President (Membership) – Dave Fox
Secretary – Vacant
Treasurer – Craig Singleton

After asking three times (for each position) for nominations from the floor, and there were none, Sharon turned the meeting over to the Ballot & Teller Chair, Carol Main. She announced that since there were no nominations from the floor, the new slate of officers as stated above will be our chapter officers until the next election in 2028. They will be installed in April and take over in May. Our current Chapter Secretary, Marlene Mayfield, has agreed to continue until a successor is found.



Members singing *The Twelve Days of Christmas* at our December 2025 meeting!

Corinne Okamura, Bronwyn Bruce (Guest), Judy James, Judy Rosco, Janice Bridges, Cindy Cook, Dave Fox, Maria Smith, Carol Main, Craig Singleton, Matt Harris, Donna Harris



NM

**National Active and Retired
Federal Employees Association
Chapter 182
PO Box 16424
Las Cruces, NM 88004-6424**

You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!

Chapter 182 Officers

President	Judy Rosco rosco631@gmail.com
1st Vice Pres. (Legislation)	Janice Bridges jan838790@msn.com
2 nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Dan Carroll cardan116@comcast.net
Secretary	Marlene Mayfield marlene.mayfield@gmail.com
Treasurer	Craig Singleton scsingleton575@gmail.com
Alzheimer's	Cindy Cook cindy77lou@yahoo.com
NARFE-FEEA:	VACANT
NARFE-PAC	Della Apodaca dmarieda@aol.com
Program Chair:	Donna Harris md.harris1@comcast.net
Member Communications:	Carol Main csmain7@gmail.com
Service Officer:	Dan Carroll cardan116@comcast.net
Sunshine:	Marcele Skelton marcele@skelton.net

Members of Congress

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D) 201 N Church St Suite 305 Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-523-6561 - http://www.heinrich.senate.gov
U.S. Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D) 201 N Church St Suite 201B Las Cruces, NM 88001 575-526-5475 - http://www.lujan.senate.gov
U.S. Representative Gabriel Vasquez (D) (District 2) Las Cruces District Office, 115 W Griggs Ave, Las Cruces NM 88011 - http://www.vasquez.house.gov DC Address and Phone: 202-225-2365 1517 Longworth House Office Bldg Wash DC 20515

The NARFE Las Cruces Chapter holds a breakfast meeting on the 2nd Saturday of each month except in June, July, and August. The meeting is held from 0830-1100 at the **Las Cruces Village** (Independent Living Center) (Creative Arts Room/First Floor), Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. Reservations are required and breakfast cost is **\$18**. All members, those who might be interested in joining, and guests are most welcome. Membership is open to all federal civilian employees, retirees, their spouses, and surviving spouses.

For reservations, contact **Carol Main/575-382-7686** or email: lascruceschapter182@yahoo.com.

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