



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

LAS CRUCES  
NEW MEXICO

CHAPTER 0182

*National Active & Retired  
Federal Employees Association*

**REPORTER**

**March 2026**

**Volume 26, Issue 7**

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

National Web Site: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

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



**Judy Rosco  
Chapter 182 President**



Aloha everyone. By the time you get our wonderful newsletter I will be in Waikoloa Village, HI on the Big Island, celebrating my 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with my hubby. Be assured I will be thinking about all of you and the meetings I have missed.

I hope you all took to heart our Federation President's message, "Let's do one thing new for NARFE." Maybe you can tell us what you came up with at our March breakfast meeting. I spoke to a retiree at church the other day. She told me she had gotten bad news and found out she has stage two Alzheimer's. She knows that I am involved with NARFE, but she did not know that NARFE has given millions of dollars towards Alzheimer's research. She was impressed. She did not say she would join but she is open to hearing more about us. Maybe one of us could volunteer to drop off NARFE magazines at the library, or your doctor's office when you visit. (Please see me to get some magazines.)

We need to keep trying to recruit new members at every opportunity we get.

*Continued on Page 2...*

**NARFE Chapter 182 General Meeting  
Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m.  
Las Cruces Village-Independent Living  
3011 Buena Vida Circle (Creative Arts Room)  
Breakfast Buffet - \$18.00  
Reservations: Call Carol Main  
(575-382-7686 NLT 25 Feb 2026)**

**March 14<sup>th</sup> Program:  
Lorena Lozano, Director of Marketing  
Visit Las Cruces**

Our speaker, Lorena Lozano, will be providing information on the tourism initiatives through Visit Las Cruces. She will highlight how their team advocates for visitors to experience the many things Las Cruces has to offer by highlighting the food, outdoor recreation, arts & culture, space industry and other attractions and entertainment.

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](mailto:md.harris1@comcast.net) or Judy Rosco at [rosco631@gmail.com](mailto:rosco631@gmail.com).



**Programs – Donna Harris**

**See Page 2 for  
Upcoming Programs**

**Chapter 182 President's Message**  
**Continued from Page 1**

**Do not forget to start 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. We have already had two members request funds to attend. FEDcon26 will be August 23-25, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis. Registration details are coming soon.**

**Our Chapter 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.)**

**FEEA Chair – Federal Employees Emergency Assistance program. Duties of this position are to keep members informed of ways they can help other federal employees during disasters and how to request funds, if needed.**

**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](mailto:rosco631@gmail.com) for more information.**

**Upcoming Chapter Programs (Donna Harris)**

**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**



**CH 182 Feb 2026 General Meeting  
NARFE Speakers & Visitors**  
**Gary Montoya (Sierra County Chapter President, Secretary & National Legislative Chair), Marian Thornton (SW Federation Newsletter Editor and Sierra County Chapter Treasurer), Sharon Reese (Region VII Vice President), Mark Mickelsen (SW Federation President and Albuquerque Chapter 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) & Janice Bridges (CH 182 1<sup>st</sup> VP for Legislation)**



Donna Harris, Chapter Programs Chair, presented Christa Slayton with a NARFE Certificate for her presentation at our meeting.

Christa Slayton, a retired Professor of Political Science from Auburn University and NMSU, was the guest speaker at our February 14<sup>th</sup> general meeting. She spoke to us about The Academy for Learning in Retirement (ALR). If you were not able to attend our meeting, you can obtain information about their programs by contacting them at:

The Academy for Learning in Retirement, P.O. Box 14014, 1180 Commerce Dr, Las Cruces NM 88011. Email: [alr.nmsu@nmsu.edu](mailto:alr.nmsu@nmsu.edu), Phone: 575-527-7776, or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ALRLC>.



Della Apodaca

**March is NARFE-PAC month.**

Our chapter has met 58% of its goal for the 2025-2026 cycle, which is good progress. As of December 31, 2025, 28 Las Cruces chapter members contributed \$3,580. Dollar-wise, this is an increase of \$385 since the prior quarter. The 28 contributors represent 15% of our 191-chapter membership (as of 01/27/2026). The mean contribution is \$128. The number of sustainers remains at seven. Our chapter continues to lead with NM contributions followed by Albuquerque \$2,871 and Santa Fe \$818. The remaining NM chapters also displayed contributions. No new NM political disbursements were made during the last quarter of 2025. Thank you for supporting NARFE-PAC. If you have not made a contribution, consider making one during NARFE-PAC month, or become a sustainer for \$10 per month.

*\*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.*



## LEGISLATION (Janice Bridges)



Hope everyone had a nice Valentine's weekend. And if you came to our meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, you will have to agree

that the program Donna brought to us from the DACC Academy For Learning in Retirement and Da'Lynn Mills presentation on BC/BS Heart Health were very informative.

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. Please let them know that the government shutdown affects all of us.

Here is what NARFE supports and where NARFE stands.

**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 annuities 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 Newslines, stay active on FEDHub, read the NARFE magazine and continue to let your legislators know where we stand on these bills.

We are now in our third government shutdown as of Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. This shutdown affects DHS which is about 13% of the government employees which includes the TSA, FEMA, Coast Guard, and the Cyber Security and Infrastructure Agency along with other agencies. This will last at least 10 days since the legislators are on a 10-day break. Please contact them and state that they need to fund these agencies.

Hope to see you at our March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Wear your St. Patrick's green!

Recruit a new NARFE member. There is a NARFE Membership Application in every NARFE Magazine or you can join online at [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org).

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



**Carol Main**  
**Records Officer**

**New Prospective Member:  
Luis Cruz**

**We would like to see you at the March 14 meeting.  
Come meet your fellow chapter members.  
Our chapter membership is 184 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](mailto: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.**



**Cindy Cook**

**Alzheimer's  
(24/7 Helpline 800-272-3900)**

**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 \$116.00 at our February general meeting.**



**Las Cruces Chapter 182 Feb 2026 General Meeting: Mark Mickelsen (SW Federation President & Albuquerque Chapter 1/VP), Carol Main (Las Cruces CH 182 Member Communications & Records Officer & SW Federation Area Officer), Marian Thornton (SW Federation Newsletter Editor & Sierra County Chapter Treasurer), Craig Singleton (SW Federation Treasurer & Las Cruces Chapter 182 Treasurer)**



### Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)



March is the month that keeps on marching along towards more sunshine. Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8. Don't forget to change your clock!

Spring officially starts on March 20. We welcome the upcoming warmer days.

A Get-Well card was sent to Steve Rosco who underwent foot surgery.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Mike McMullen over a year ago on December 20, 2024. Mike, along with his wife Meriam (now deceased), were very active in Chapter 182.

Have some fun by trying to solve this St. Patrick's Day riddle: WHY SHOULD YOU NEVER IRON A 4-LEAF CLOVER?

The answer to last month's riddle: WHAT BEGINS WITH T, ENDS WITH T, AND HAS T IN IT? (A tea-pot)

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](mailto:marcele@skelton.net)



### Membership Report

Dan  
Carroll

We are still enjoying a mild winter with a few cold nights and we had a light dusting of snow on February 1<sup>st</sup>. We now have 184 members in our chapter (as of February 9, 2026). Full moon is on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 am. Turn clocks ahead one hour. St. Patrick's Day is on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Palm Sunday is on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Quote of the month: "You're blessed if you have the strength to work."— Mahalia Jackson. Have a good month everybody!



Da'Lynn Mills, a Blue Cross Blue Shield Coordinator for 5 states including New Mexico, attended our February general meeting and gave a presentation on many health awareness issues.

We appreciate the time she spent with us and thank her for her excellent briefing.





**A dinner party at La Posta in Mesilla welcoming our SW Federation President Mark Mickelsen the night before our Chapter 182 February general meeting. Mark was a speaker at our February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Attendees were Carol Main (Las Cruces Member Communications Officer, Chapter Records Officer & SW Federation Area Officer), John Reese (Las Cruces Chapter Officer Nominating Committee), Sharon Reese (Region VII Vice President), Sharon Willoughby (Las Cruces chapter member & Past NM Federation Treasurer), Roy Willoughby (Las Cruces chapter member & former Chapter President), Marlene Mayfield (Las Cruces Chapter Secretary), Craig Singleton (Las Cruces Chapter Treasurer, Chapter Historian & SW Federation Treasurer), Mark Mickelsen (SW Federation President & Albuquerque Chapter 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), and Bob Main (Las Cruces Chapter Logistics/Electronics Chair). It's always good to have Mark visit our chapter and speak at our meetings! A good time was had by all!**



**Marlene Mayfield (CH 182 Secretary) and Barbara Herrera (CH 182 member and Blue Cross/Blue Shield Representative) at the Las Cruces February 2026 meeting.**



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

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*You Need NARFE and NARFE Needs You!*

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#### **Chapter 182 Officers**

President	<b>Judy Rosco</b>
rosco631@gmail.com	575-635-7127
1st Vice Pres. (Legislation)	<b>Janice Bridges</b>
jan838790@msn.com	575-635-9768
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. (Membership)	<b>Dan Carroll</b>
cardan116@comcast.net	575-932-9491
Secretary	<b>Marlene Mayfield</b>
marlene.mayfield@gmail.com	575-644-6851
Treasurer	<b>Craig Singleton</b>
scsingleton575@gmail.com	575-373-0705
Alzheimer's	<b>Cindy Cook</b>
cindy77lou@yahoo.com	575-640-0860
NARFE-FEEA:	<b>Vacant</b>
NARFE-PAC	<b>Della Apodaca</b>
dmarieda@aol.com	704-351-2051
Program Chair:	<b>Donna Harris</b>
md.harris1@comcast.net	575-382-9070
Member Communications:	<b>Carol Main</b>
csmain7@gmail.com	575-382-7686
Service Officer:	<b>Dan Carroll</b>
cardan116@comcast.net	575-932-9491
Sunshine:	<b>Marcele Skelton</b>
marcele@skelton.net	575-521-4954

#### **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

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The NARFE Las Cruces Chapter holds a breakfast meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**.

Newsletter Editor: (Sarah McAdoo) [mcadoosr@aol.com](mailto:mcadoosr@aol.com)

**Public Relations: (Dave Fox) [foxydave1@aol.com](mailto:foxydave1@aol.com)**