



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO

CHAPTER 0182

National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association

REPORTER

May 2026

Volume 25, Issue 9

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

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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

NARFE Chapter 182 General Meeting
Saturday, May 9th, 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 April 22, 2026)

Come to our May meeting!! Our speaker will be Carol Brey, Deputy Director/Quality of Life Department, Las Cruces Public Library. She will be speaking about the Quality of Life issues the library is involved with; highlighting current programs and the future of Branigan Library. Come and see what your library has to offer.

May will be our last program of the year. I hope you have enjoyed the programs presented throughout the year.



Join us!

Donna Harris

Program
Coordinator

I will be stepping down as Program Coordinator after this year. We are still looking for someone to take over programs. Programs have always been an integral part of our monthly meetings. So, come on, volunteer, get involved, become our Program Coordinator!

If you are interested, please contact me at md.harris1@comcast.net or Judy Rosco at rosco631@gmail.com.



Judy Rosco

President
Chapter
182

You may have heard that I was re-elected as your chapter President for another two years (2026-2028). The following members were sworn in at our April 11th membership meeting by Sharon Reese, Region VII, Vice President:

President (Judy Rosco), 1st Vice President for Legislation (Janice Bridges), 2nd Vice President for Membership (Dave Fox), Treasurer (Craig Singleton), and Secretary (Marlene Mayfield). I would like to say "thank you" to each one of these members for volunteering to step into these leadership positions. We have a continually active and vibrant chapter because of these members. Please let them know how much you appreciate their service to NARFE and our chapter the next time you see them.

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Chapter 182 President's Message
Continued from Page 1

Recently, Elwood Baas agreed to be our chapter Parliamentarian and we would like to thank him for stepping into that position that guides us through Roberts Rules of Order at our meetings.

May 22nd will be here before we know it. Do not forget to register for FEDcon26, August 23-25, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis. Early Bird Registration costs \$225 through 22 May 2026. 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. If you are interested, please contact me.

Many of you know that the chapter renews its Space Agreement annually with Las Cruces Village - Independent Living. Beginning September 12, 2026, our buffet breakfast will increase to \$21. This includes your breakfast, drink, fruit, and the room. We continue to have our meetings at this facility because it is the best bargain we can find for our members. We are only allowed to have breakfast and our meetings here because we have members who reside here.

The Southwest Federation Region will be starting a quarterly Newsletter. The date has passed (April 10th) for submitting articles for this first edition but be ready for the next issue. The first issue will be mailed to those SW members without a valid email address and will be emailed to those with a valid email address. However, because mailings are too costly on an ongoing basis, future issues will be emailed only. But we will also post the issues on our SW Federation Website (currently under construction) and on the Southwest Federation FEDHub Community, so everyone can have access to it. The Newsletter Editor is Ms. Marion Thorton, and articles should be submitted to her at mdtcat@gmail.com.

Our Chapter 182 Executive Board still has these 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 182 and accept one of these board vacancies. I will keep submitting chapter vacancies in my article until they are filled. Please contact me at 575-635-7127 or rosco631@gmail.com for more information.





NARFE-PAC

Della Apodaca

Your contribution to NARFE-PAC is essential to help fight hostile changes to federal benefits.

Thanks to NARFE advocacy efforts, most anticipated cuts or reduction to our benefits were eventually removed from legislation. This was not possible without contributions from members to NARFE-PAC. So, please consider making a contribution to the PAC today through a mail-in contribution, online at the NARFE website, or by becoming a sustainer. A contribution as little as \$10 can make a world of difference. Thank you for your support of NARFE-PAC.

**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



I believe we all know how important it is to support Alzheimer's, as it affects thousands of lives every day. This disease affects the entire family. It's a devastating disease. NARFE supports Alzheimer's research in hopes of a cure someday. Our Alzheimer's raffle may seem like a small amount, but they have added up to millions of dollars since NARFE started donating to Alzheimer's. Every dollar counts when it comes to research. At our April 11 ALZ raffle we collected \$118.00, adding more money to that hope of a cure one day. Thank you everyone for participating.

For more info on anything about Alzheimer's, go to alz.org. There are answers to any of your questions or concerns there. Or call the help line at 1-800-272-3900.



Chapter 182 April 11, 2026 general meeting: Donna Harris (Program Chair), Janice Bridges (1st VP for Legislation), Carol Main (Member Communications & Records Officer), and Judy Rosco (Chapter 182 President). Janice Bridges and Carol Main presented the program on how to navigate the NARFE and FEDHub websites.



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)



May is a month of many days of sunshine. It is also a month when we celebrate Mother's Day, and mothers bring a lot of sunshine into our lives.

Have you ever wondered about the history of Mother's Day? It starts way back in ancient mythology when the Greeks and Romans dedicated a spring festival to honor the Mother of their Gods. In 15th Century England, a celebration "Mothering Sunday" was inaugurated. It was set aside as a Sunday for visiting one's mother. Anna Jarvis of West Virginia wished to honor her deceased mother so on May 10, 1908, a Mother's Day service was held at a church in Grafton, West Virginia. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill designating the second Sunday in May as a legal holiday, to be called Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all of the best mothers in the world -- yours and mine.

A Thinking of You card was sent to Terry Bloom, whose husband has been diagnosed with dementia. A sympathy card was sent to Maria Smith, whose sister passed away. Long-time former member for many years, Lois Simonton, passed away January 30, 2026.

Have some fun by trying to solve this Mother's Day riddle: WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS ARE BEST FOR MOTHER'S DAY?

The answer to the April riddle: WHAT SPRING FLOWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PEOPLE'S FACES? (Tulips). Carol Main suggested another good answer -- Iris.

Please let me know if you hear of a member who is ill, has passed away, or just needs a little sunshine in their life.

Marcele: 575-521-4954 or marcele@skelton.net



Service Officer (Dan Carroll)



Weather has cooled off since early hot spell in March and early April. Still dry. Drought continues. No snowpack. Fire danger high in our nearby forests especially Ruidoso and Mescalero Reservation. Ouch! Full moon May 1st (Mary Ellen). We now have 180 members in our Chapter 182. Mother's Day falls on May 10th. Memorial Day is on May 25th this year. Gas is up. Senior coffee still 55 cents at McDonald's with free refills. Wow! Have a good month!

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.



Legislation (Janice Bridges)

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 to 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.

I did a program at the April 11th meeting on how to navigate the Advocacy portion of the NARFE website. Here are my instructions and my talking points on how to navigate through this. **PLEASE REMEMBER YOU MUST SET UP AN ACCOUNT ON THE NARFE WEBSITE. VERY EASY TO DO THAT ALSO.**

How to navigate NARFE Advocacy part of the NARFE website. Log into NARFE.ORG. Go to the HOMEPAGE. Go to Advocacy.

Under NARFE Shutdown Resources – Latest Advocacy News- has updates on what is happening.

Under Advocacy News - there are updates.

TAKE ACTION-most important- Scroll down- These are the bills that NARFE supports. Click on the bill and to the right put in your zip code and it populates the fields for you. You can add your comments and your information and hit send. The site will send emails to appropriate people. Those who sponsored and those who did not and need to.

Grassroots Advocacy- information about what is going on and benchmarks.

NARFE BILL TRACKER- Important- has the bills that are in the queue. There is a legend showing the ones NARFE supports and does not support- Expand each to see where each stand.

Advocacy Resources

Bill Tracker is here again- it highlights the legislation and where each is at on the day you look at it. NARFE is following concerning Federal benefits, annuities, personnel policy, compensation, and postal service. Check for update.

Fact Sheets– These documents should be provided to members of Congress or their staff during meetings. Good background.

Issues Briefs- These documents are the NARFE stance on the issues of the day. These are meant to be distributed to legislators and their staff.

Talking Points- These serve as a guide to NARFE members preparing for in-person or virtual meetings with members of Congress or their staff. Good background.

Additional Resources

NARFE Advocacy Positions for 2025-2026- What NARFE is focused on for this year.

Letters from NARFE- Letters that NARFE has sent to Congress and to the Administration

Congressional Testimony- Summaries of what NARFE has testified before Congress

NARFE’s Congressional Scorecards- View NARFE’s Congressional scorecards, which inform NARFE members on how their legislators represented the concerns of the federal community.



Coalitional Partners

NARFE Legislative Accomplishments- View documents detailing NARFE accomplishments from current and previous Congresses.

We are now in our third government shutdown as of Feb 13th. This shutdown affects DHS which is about 13% of the government employees which includes the TSA, FEEA, Coast Guard, The Cyber Security and Infrastructure Agency along with other agencies. Please contact them and express that they need to fund these agencies.

NARFE is already seeking submissions for 2027-2028 Advocacy positions. While NARFE is still well underway with the current 119th Congress, NARFE is gearing up for the next one. NARFE's advocacy positions outline our specific policy stances and guide NARFE's leadership and staff in their decision making when determining whether to support an action taken by Congress or the administration. If you are interested in submitting a proposal for NARFE to consider supporting, please refer to the APRIL NARFE magazine or the NARFE Advocacy Website on how to do this and the guidelines.

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU NEED HELP OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. Please text first if you are going to call or leave a message. I tend not to answer if I do not recognize the number. Getting too many SCAM calls. (575-635-9768 or Jan838790@msn.com)



Carol Main
Records
Officer

Welcome:
Esther Armijo
We would like to see you at the May 9 meeting.
Come meet your fellow chapter members.
Our chapter membership is 180 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.



Las Cruces Chapter 182 newly elected officers were sworn in at the April 11, 2026, general meeting by Region VII VP Sharon Reese. (L-R) Marlene Mayfield (Secretary), Dave Fox (2nd VP for Membership), Judy Rosco (Chapter President), Janice Bridges (1st VP for Legislation), Craig Singleton (Treasurer), and Sharon Reese (Region VII VP).

NARFE CHAPTER 182 BYLAWS CHANGE 2026 (Carol Main)

Las Cruces Chapter 0182 bylaws and standing rules are being updated. The Chapter Bylaws article in last month's Reporter, our chapter newsletter, detailed the changes and gave instructions for obtaining hard copies if you have no email. Every member with valid email addresses received both drafts and a copy of the changes on March 16, 2026. Here are the highlights.

Bylaw Changes

Change New Mexico Federation to Southwest Federation

Change dues to \$12 per year

Correct to reflect current one member one vote procedures

Add sentence to clarify failure to perform duties

Change numbers defining a quorum for Executive Board

Remove term limits on Members at Large

Remove definition of Quorum because it was defined above

Entire paragraph added to define procedures to remove appointed committee chairs

Several changes throughout the Bylaws from "Executive Committee" to "Executive Board"

Standing Rules Changes

Add procedure to be followed if only one candidate for each position is nominated

Add term of office for elected officers

Member Communications - Change to reflect new procedure for email to members

Now it's time to vote. Ballot with instructions is below. **Note:** For those with email, the ballot with instructions will be coming from the chapter email: lasruceschapter182@yahoo.com.

Ballot for NARFE Chapter 182 Bylaws Change 2026

The Ballot is for the Chapter 182 Bylaws change. To complete ballot, please enter either your Membership ID number (found on your NARFE magazine label) or your name at the top of the form above the "Concur?" column next to NARFE Member Name and/or ID. In order to verify voter eligibility, we need your name and/or NARFE ID number. Complete the ballot by entering an X between the brackets; Yes if you agree to the Bylaws changes; No if you do not agree.

NARFE Member Name and/or ID Number: _____

	Concur?
Chapter 182 Bylaws (Proposed March 2026)	YES ()
	NO ()

You may return this ballot by one of three methods.

1. Please complete this ballot and mail to:

NARFE Chapter 182
PO Box 16424
Las Cruces NM 88004-6424
(Ballot must be postmarked by May 2, 2026)

2. Bring the completed ballot to the May 9th meeting and put it in the ballot box.

3. If NARFE National has your email, complete and submit your ballot following the directions in the separate email message you will receive from our chapter at: lasruceschapter182@yahoo.com.



**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 575-635-7127
1st Vice Pres. (Legislation)	Janice Bridges 575-635-9768
2 nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Dave Fox 704-301-3484
Secretary	Marlene Mayfield 575-644-6851
Treasurer	Craig Singleton 575-373-0705

Alzheimer's	Cindy Cook 575-640-0860
NARFE-PAC	Della Apodaca 704-351-2051
Program Chair:	Donna Harris 575-382-9070
Member Communications:	Carol Main 575-382-7686
Service Officer:	Dan Carroll 575-932-9491
Sunshine:	Marcele Skelton 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

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** (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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