



**National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association**

**Check Web Sites for Current Legislative News**  
**www.narfe.org      www.narfe-nm.net**

Join us for the **next meeting March 24th 1 PM.** For questions or information email any officer or call Pam Jones 505-864-6458

**April 16-18 NM Federation of Chapters Convention in Albuquerque**

**Chapter 1462  
Ready for April**

NM Federation of Chapters Convention in Albuquerque is near by and should be good for learning, gaining friendships, and getting information back to our chapter. At the February 24th meeting we chose our convention delegates. They are:

- Vicky Boyer
- Chuck Brandt
- Del Gregory
- Kathy Gregory
- Pam Jones



Top. Vicky Boyer with President Chuck, standing, and Treasurer John Vigil. Left. Secretary/Editor Pam and John.

**NARFE NEWS**

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**Chapter 1462—Belen**  
**Northwest District/Region VII**  
 31 years of service

Chartered July 22, 1976  
 to serve areas in Bosque, Bosque Farms, Isleta, Jarales, La Joya, Los Lunas, Mountainair, Peralta, Tome, Veguita and Willard in the Rio Grande Valley

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**Meetings**

Where: Del Rio Senior Center,  
 Hwy S 47 in the Plaza  
 When: 4th Tuesday monthly at 1 PM

**NARFE membership**

is open to civilians who are or will be eligible to receive an annuity or survivor annuity from the federal retirement programs of any agency of the U.S. government. Guests are welcomed.

**NARFE is dedicated to**

protecting the retirement benefits of federal employees, retirees, and their survivors, offering assertive legislative representation, the informative monthly NARFE magazine, current information through the national association online site, liaison with OPM, opportunities for leadership, political action and community service.



NM Federation President Mary Ellen McKay with husband Franklin, Genie Hatch getting coffee, and Mary Stanford at the February 24th chapter meeting. Missing from photo is Truitt Stanford.

## Chapter Visited by NM Federation President

President Mary Ellen McKay wants us to feel free to give her our ideas and make suggestions. She is a conversational speaker and you feel she is genuinely serious in this goal. If you have ideas/suggestions get them to us and we'll forward them on. This was the goal for her presentation to us 2/24 at her president's visit to our chapter .

She gave Chuck 3 handouts we can use in chapter meetings: 1) NARFE Chapter Health, which includes discussion points, 2) Elements of an Effective chapter Meeting, and 3) Ten Commandments for NARFE members. I think we will have some interesting meetings using these.

She spoke about important information sources from NARFE: 1) NARFE magazine which for example, has an excellent article on the legislative program for the 111th Congress in the January issue, and on Health Care Reform in the February issue; 2) GEMS, the messaging program enabling us to get information out rapidly — you are encouraged to sign up; and, 3) VOICES, the organ of the Federation.

And, of great importance, she pointed out 5 areas in which we should be active:

- 1) Give to Alzheimer's research — it benefits us, and we can be proud that we belong to NARFE which as an organization is the single largest donator;
- 2) Give to NARFE-PAC—we need it because everyone else has one and because it brings us some successes;
- 3) Attend the NM Federation Convention in Albuquerque this April — it is so close by;
- 4) Be alert to legislative calls to action — sign up on GEMS and get alerts immediately, then respond;
- 5) remember to have fun — it is also a very important part of our lives.

**Voicing our Concern.** We need to develop an email address list of fast responders so that when a Legislative Action Alert is sent out as many of us as possible contact our legislators asap. *Send Pam your email!!*

This means **signing up for the Legislative Hotline** available to all of us. It is usually prepared weekly and emailed via GEMS, posted on the NARFE web site ([www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)) and available 24/7 by phone toll-free (877-217-8234).

You can **sign up for GEMS** on the NARFE web site, by emailing your name and email address to [memsrvcs@narfe.org](mailto:memsrvcs@narfe.org), phoning 800-456-8410, or mailing your email address to NARFE Member Records, 606 N. Washington St., Alexandria VA 22314-1914. →→→→

### 2009 Legislative Conference

May 7-10, 2009, in Crystal City VA are dates of the conference. Check the NARFE magazine for details.

### Sites for Future National Conventions

2010 — convention will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan  
2012 — convention will be at the Nugget Casino in Sparks/Reno, Nevada

**Entitlements** (requiring a change in the law) such as civil service retirement and disability program, social security, medicare, medicaid, FEHBP and Veterans health care are 'sitting ducks' this year as Congress searches for ways to cut the budget. Be ready to work at protecting what we have.

Thanks to everyone who responded to the email Urgent Call to Action legislative alert the chapter sent out. We are effective. Our Federation President told us that Representative Teague was able to get some of our concerns into the stimulus package.