



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

**LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO**

CHAPTER **0182**

*National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association*

REPORTER

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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>



Las Cruces NARFE Chapter 182 Executive Board Members

(L-R) (Back Row) Bob Main (Logistics), Roy Willoughby (FEEA), Dan Carroll (VP/Membership), Sarah McAdoo (Newsletter Editor), Jim Kielty (Service Officer), Marlene Mayfield (Secretary), Janice Bridges (VP/Legislation), Chuck James (Logistics/Electronics), Carol Main (Records Officer), Dave Fox (Public Relations), Craig Singleton (Treasurer)

(L-R) (Front Row) Sharon Willoughby (Audit Committee), Della Apodaca (NARFE-PAC), Cindy Cook (Alzheimer's), Marcelle Skelton (Sunshine), John Reese (Logistics), Sharon Reese (Region VII VP), Kathy Treat (Member at Large), Judy Rosco (Chapter 182 President) (April 2024 General Meeting)

NARFE Chapter 182 General Meeting

Saturday, May 11, 2024 (8:30 a.m.)

**Good Samaritan Village
(Creative Arts Room)
3011 Buena Vida Circle**

Reservations: Call Carol Main

575-382-7686

NLT: May 1st

**See Page 2 for information
on program.**



NARFE Chapter 182 Officers

Dan Carroll (VP/Membership), Judy Rosco (President), Marlene Mayfield (Secretary), Craig Singleton (Treasurer), and Sharon Reese, Region VII VP who gave the Oath of Office to the new officers. Janice Bridges, 1/VP Legislation, will be sworn in at the May 2024 meeting.



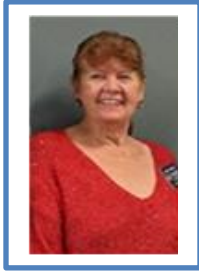
**Donna Harris
Program Chair**

Program for May 11th General Meeting

Our final program for this year will be Ms. Barbara Toth, founder of Vulnerable Road Users New Mexico (VRUNM). She will be speaking about the organization and the awareness they have brought for riders, pedestrians, runners, and children walking from school.

I hope everyone has found the programs this year to be fun and informative. As always, if you have any topics you'd like more information about, let me know. Contact me at md.harris1@comcast.net.

Reservations: Call Carol Main (575-382-7686) NLT: May 1st



Chapter 182 President

Judy Rosco

Thank you to all who voted in our chapter officer elections.

Sharon Reese installed the following officers: Judy Rosco (President), Dan Carroll (2nd VP for Membership/Historian), Marlene Mayfield (Secretary), and Craig Singleton (Treasurer). Janice Bridges (1st VP for Legislation) will be sworn in at our May 11th meeting. A big “Thank You” goes out to the officers who volunteered to lead our chapter for another two years. I would also like to thank our entire Executive Board. A photo of the Executive Board is on page 1 with their names and titles. Missing from the photo is our (Webmaster) Jeffrey Smith and (Member Emeritus) Emroy Shannon. I would also like to thank Judy James for collecting our breakfast tickets each month. Even though we have all these wonderful people helping the chapter we still have three vacancies on our Executive Board: Member-at-Large, Ways & Means Chair, and Parliamentarian. A lot of effort goes into running a successful NARFE Chapter and we believe we have one of the best!

FEDcon24 is being held in St. Louis, MO, 18-20 August. The chapter will reimburse \$150 of your registration fee. Member rates: Early Bird is \$175 if postmarked by May 17. The event will also be available in ZOOM, but the registration is the same as stated above. The hotel we have reserved for the conference is the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch, St. Louis, MO. The hotel rate is \$130 per night BUT you must register for the conference before you can get the NARFE rate at the hotel. I am looking forward to the conference and seeing friends I have not seen in a while.

The meeting on May 11th is our last general meeting until September 14th. I also want to let our members know that beginning in September there will be a price increase for our breakfast from \$15 to \$17. I wish you a safe and happy summer and I hope to see you at FEDcon24 in St. Louis!

Happy Summer!



Chapter 182 President Judy Rosco with our program speakers at the April 2024 meeting – Mary Peschka (575-312-7773) and Kathy Norris (575-642-6122) from A Matter of Balance (Managing Concerns About Falls). If you have concerns about falling and would like to attend their classes, please call them. Their course is 16 hours total and their classes are held twice a week for 4 weeks, 2 hours each.



Della Apodaca

The PAC* supports **NARFE's MISSION STATEMENT:**

- To support legislation and regulations beneficial to federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants under any federal civilian retirement system and to oppose those detrimental to their interests.
- To promote the general welfare of federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants, to advise and assist them with respect to their rights under retirement, health and other employee and retiree benefits laws and regulations, and to represent their interests before appropriate authorities.
- To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives.

**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 non-members will be returned. NARFE-PAC contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.*



Carol Main



Records Officer Report

Welcome New Member: **Steve Rosco**

We would like to see you at the May 11 meeting.

Come meet your fellow chapter members.

Our chapter membership is **193** 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 of any changes 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, or any notices we send out.



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)



**CPI-W FOR MARCH 2024 AGAIN INCREASES
BY 0.7 PERCENT OVER PREVIOUS MONTH'S FIGURE**

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Personnel (CPI-W), used to determine if Social Security recipients, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants will receive a Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) in January 2025, increased in March 2024 to a figure of 306.502. This figure constituted a monthly increase of 1.7 percent over the February CPI-W of 304.284, which shows that inflation is still a problem in the U.S. economy and continues to be a factor in driving up prices. The March 2024 figure of 306.502 is 1.7 percent higher than the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2023, which was 301.236.

In order for a COLA to be authorized in January 2025, the average CPI-W for the months of July-September 2024 must exceed the average CPI-W figure for the months of July-September 2023 (301.236). The CPI-W figure for April 2024 is scheduled to be released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on May 15, 2024.

**OPM FINALIZES RULE TO PROTECT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FROM
REEMERGENCE OF SCHEDULE F EXCEPTED SERVICE AUTHORITY**



On April 4, 2024, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) published in the Federal Register a final rule to protect over 2.2 million competitive service federal employees from being placed in the excepted service under a Schedule F authority which if implemented would have allowed federal managers to convert them to at-will workers with minimal job protection rights. The Schedule F authority was proposed under a previous administration but was never implemented due to widespread opposition from NARFE, potentially affected employees, and federal employee unions.

Alzheimer's (Cindy Cook)

NARFE Celebrates Exceeding \$16 Million Alzheimer's Fundraising Goal

NARFE is pleased to announce that it has surpassed \$16 million in fundraising contributions in the fight against Alzheimer's. This milestone was achieved following the final tally of receipts from nationwide Walk to End Alzheimer's events through December 31, 2023.

Since 1983, NARFE contributions have helped fuel Alzheimer's Association care, support and research programs, and have included sponsorship of 94 research grants examining wide-ranging, disease-related research. During this time, NARFE has distinguished itself as one of the Alzheimer's Association top research funders.

(See page 7 for more Alzheimer's information.)





Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)



In May, sunshine graces us with its warmth.

It is the month of renewal. Flowers and shrubs are in full bloom. We enjoy May's sunshine because it is not yet too hot.

A Get-Well card was sent to Marsha Smith who had Covid. Sharon Reese was sent a Get-Well card when she was hospitalized with a blood clot. A Thinking of You card was sent to Bill Beerman, who has recently been in and out of the hospital. We wish all of you a complete recovery.

A Sympathy Card was sent to the family of Stanley Dickerson, who passed away November 16, 2023. We are thinking of you at this sad time.

Have some fun by trying to solve this May riddle: IN SUMMER'S PEAK, I CAME ALIVE. WITH A FLICKER AND DANCE, I THRIVE. FRIENDS GATHER ROUND AS I CONSUME. IN MY WARMTH, THERE IS NO GLOOM. WHAT AM I?

The answer to the April riddle: WHY IS APRIL CALLED THE CLEANEST MONTH? (April Showers)

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



Membership Report

Time to get swamp coolers working and shut down furnaces. I don't go on the roof anymore. I get handyman or plumber to do it! We now have 193 members in our chapter 182. Mother's Day coming up on May 12th. Full moon (Mary Ellen) is May 23rd. Memorial Day is May 27th.

**Dan
Carroll**

**VP for
Membership
and
Chapter
Historian**

Quote of the month: "About the time we make ends meet, somebody moves the ends." – Herbert Hoover. Have a good month everybody and see you at the movies!

Hope to see you at our May 11th meeting! Remember, no meetings during the months of June, July, and August.





Alzheimer's (Cindy Cook)

ALZ Las Cruces: The Alzheimer's Association no longer has an office here in Las Cruces but if you need information or have questions, please contact me at: cindy77lou@yahoo.com or phone 575-640-0860. You can also call the Alzheimer's 24/7 Helpline: 800-272-3900.

Photo: **Jo Ann Sherman** (long time chapter member) was one of the lucky winners at our chapter's April Alzheimer's Raffle. We thank all our members for participating in our Alzheimer's raffles at our chapter meetings.



Legislative Report Chapter VP/Legislation (Janice Bridges)



NARFE has initiated advocacy benchmarks.

You can go online onto the NARFE website and click on Advocacy and there is all kinds of information there. If you need help understanding, then PLEASE REACH OUT TO ME. I will be more than happy to help you understand.

These are what we need them to support:

1. PLEASE TAKE ACTION ADVANCING the Social Security Fairness Act. H.R. 82. This is ready to go to vote but they still have not. This is to take ACTION on repealing the WEP/GPO.
2. Support H.R. 866 that ensures that FERS retirees get the same COLAS as CSRS. Right now FERS gets 1% less.
3. There is new legislation from Rep Angie Craig from MN H.R. 7804 that will remove Federal Taxes from all Social Security recipients. We need them to OPPOSE H.R. 5779 and S.3262!!! This is legislation currently before Congress that proposes the establishment of a fiscal commission that could cause potential cuts to federal benefits.

AGAIN, please call me if you need help in contacting our local lawmakers. I am more than HAPPY to help you. Jan838790@msn.com or 575-635-9768



**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

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2 nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Dan Carroll cardan116@comcast.net 575- 932-9491
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Alzheimer's	Cindy Cook cindy77lou@yahoo.com 575-640-0860
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Service Officer:	Jim Kielty jkielty70@yahoo.com 575-640-9585
Sunshine:	Marcele Skelton 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

NARFE Monthly Meetings

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 Good Samaritan Village (Creative Arts Room/First Floor), Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. Reservations are required and breakfast cost is \$15. 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: lasrucreschapter182@yahoo.com.

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