



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO

CHAPTER 0182

National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association

REPORTER

February 2025

Volume 25, Issue 6

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

National Web Site: www.narfe.org

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



Chapter 182 President
Judy Rosco

Happy New Year Dear Mem-
bers and we are off with a
bang!

After forty years of the unjust WEP/GPO, the bill has been repealed and signed into law by President Biden on January 5th. It will take the Social Security Office a few months to catch up but we have been told that we (CSRS Retirees) will get a lump sum payment for 2024 and monthly checks will be adjusted to pay our full entitlements. Thanks to everyone who called, wrote, or went online to email your legislators about this injustice and don't forget to thank them for passing this bill in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

We have a lot happening with the chapter this new year and we need to fill the following vacant positions on our Executive Board:

Logistics Chair – Make sure the meeting rooms are prepared.

Members-at-Large – Two vacancies exist because the previous at-large members stepped into Chair positions on our Executive Board. Job Description for Members-at-Large are to attend monthly board meetings and observe the

Continued on Page 2

Chapter Programs

Happy New Year to all. As we enter the new year and round the corner to finish out our NARFE year, we have more exciting and informative programs.

NARFE Chapter 182 General Meeting
Saturday, February 8, 2025 (8:30 a.m.)
Las Cruces Village
(formerly known as Good Samaritan)
3011 Buena Vida (Creative Arts Room)

February Program: Pam Rodgers (Yes, we are lucky to have her back for another program.)
“You Matter Too - Self Care and Burnout”

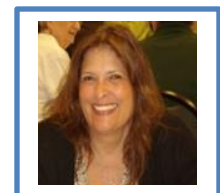
There is a cost of \$18.00 for the breakfast buffet and reservations must be made not later than January 22 by calling Carol Main at 575-382-7686.

March 8 – Brandie White, Program Director, Mesilla Valley CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

April 12 – Scarlett Ayres, Mesilla Valley Iris Society

I always appreciate ideas for our programs. If you have suggestions, please send them to md.harris1@comcast.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Donna Harris
Program Chair



Chapter President's Report Continued from Page 1



inner workings of chapter business. Perform duties to assist the President or other board members (i.e. welcome members at general meetings, assist Treasurer in checking members in at monthly meetings, and other duties as requested).

Nominations Chair – In election years (every two years) the Nominations Chair would poll officers and chapter members who want to run for elected offices and present a slate of officers to the board at the January meeting.

Ways and Means - Bring ideas to the board on raising money for the chapter. Raising funds to be used to assist members who are attending NARFE functions or help with the cost of attending a function.

These positions on the board are important to the chapter or they would not be listed in our By-laws. Please consider volunteering for one of these vacant positions.

The Southwest Federation Conference will be hosted by our chapter, 16-17 May 2025, at the Las Cruces Village (formerly Good Samaritan). The first planning meeting was held on January 8th and we got off to a good start. The National NARFE President, William “Bill” Shackelford has accepted an invitation to attend the conference. More information will be posted on the Chapter website, Southwest Federation website, and in the *NARFE Magazine* in March and in the coming months.

Sharon Reese and I attended the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, Legislative Send Off Luncheon at the Farm and Ranch Museum on January 9th. We heard from several State Senators: Jeff Steinborn, Bill Soules, and Nathan Small (whom we met few years ago when he attended a chapter meeting). The food was good and we enjoyed the luncheon.

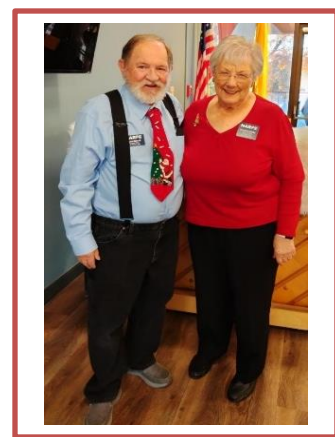
We had a wonderful December chapter meeting.
Here are photos of some of our members dressed up for the holiday!



Emroy Shannon
Judy Rosco



Janice Bridges, Cindy Cook,
and Judy Rosco



John and Sharon Reese



**Donna Harris
(Programs Chair) and
Janice Bridges
(1st VP for Legislation)
Jan 2025
Chapter 182 Meeting**

Legislation (Janice Bridges)

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year! Of course, the BIG news is that President Biden signed H.R. 82 into law. This repeals the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. Those affected will receive a back payment for 2024. Now we need to focus on the next issues. Especially the Equal COLA Act, which provides FERS with the same Cost of Living as CSRS. There has not been a new number assigned to it yet. Once we find out we will let you all know.

I appreciate those of you who attended the January 11th chapter meeting and hopefully learned how to use the NARFE website better and especially the Advocacy part of it. Again, any questions or help needed, please feel free to contact me at Jan838790@msn.com or 575-635-9768.



Della Apodaca

NARFE-PAC will report final contribution and disbursement numbers for the 2023-2024 cycle in February.

With the start of the 2025 – 2026 cycle, we will have new chapter and national goals, which I will present in the near future. In addition, the PAC has a new lapel pin design. The lapel pin for sustaining members was also updated. Refer to page eleven in the January/February 2025 *NARFE Magazine* to view the new design.

After the historic win repealing the WEP and GPO, NARFE-PAC continues its fight for our earned benefits as there are other emerging threats on the horizon. That is why it is so important to support the PAC. These threats include cuts to federal benefits, changes to merit-based civil service, workforce reduction, compensation cuts, and unfair COLAs, to name a few. Consider making a one-time voluntary contribution* of any amount you can afford, either [online](#) through the NARFE website, through the mail via the form in the magazine, or during a chapter meeting. With a monthly contribution of \$10 or more, you can become a sustainer using a credit card, or via your federal annuity if you are retired by going to www.narfe.org/pac-sustainer. 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.*



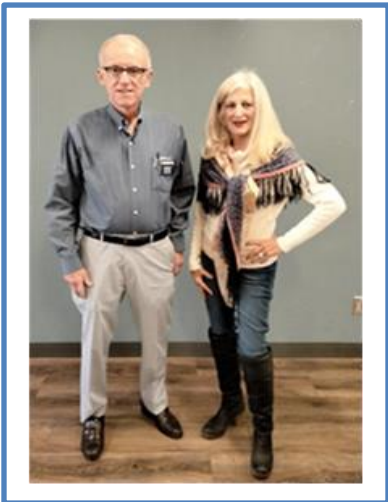
Service Officer (Jim Kielty)



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SHOWS UNEVEN RESULTS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2024

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 2026, showed mixed results based on the CPI-W figures for October and November 2024. The CPI-W figure for October 2024 was 309.385, a 0.1 percent increase over the September 2024 figure, while the CPI-W for November 2024 was 308.998, a slight decline when compared with the October 2024 figure. The CPI-W figure for December 2024 is scheduled to be released on 15 January 2025 by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In order for a COLA to be authorized in January 2026, the average CPI-W for the months of July-September 2025 must exceed the average CPI-W figure for the months of July-September 2024, which was 308.729. Social Security recipients and federal retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) received a 2.5 percent COLA in January 2025, while federal retirees under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) received a 2.0 COLA in January 2025, since FERS COLAs currently are capped at 2 percent when the CPI-W increase is between 2 and 3 percent.



Long-time member Sylvia Noble attended her first chapter meeting on January 11th. She is a retiree from White Sands Missile Range. Many of our members know her and were very happy to see her at our meeting. She's pictured here with our Service Officer, Jim Kielty. We hope to see Sylvia at our future meetings.

Recruit a co-worker or friend to join NARFE and our chapter.

It's easy to join or renew your membership. There's four ways to do it:

--Contact our Chapter Membership Chair Dan Carroll at 575-932-9491 or our Chapter President Judy Rosco at 575-635-7127.

--Complete the application form that is in the NARFE magazine and mail it with your payment to NARFE Member Services, 606 N. Washington St., Alexandria VA 22314-1914.

--Join online at www.NARFE.org or

--Call 800-456-9410. Monday through Friday – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET.



Alzheimer's (Cindy Cook)



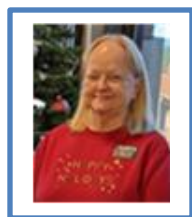
We had a good ALZ raffle at our January chapter meeting and lots of nice prizes were donated to the raffle. Thanks to all who participated.

I'm happy to report that our chapter donated a total of \$267.00 to ALZ from the money collected at our raffles from the last three meetings.

Our chapter will also have an ALZ raffle and door prizes at the Southwest Federation Conference we are hosting in May.

We would like to request donations of items from those who are able to donate. We would like the items to have a Southwest theme. We are looking for donations such as local wines, anything "chile", anything "pecan", SW pottery/art, etc. I'm sure there are more southwestern items you may come up with. We need these items by the end of April. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank You All for supporting Alzheimer's Research and Community/Family Support to those afflicted with this disease! The ALZ 24/7 Helpline is 800-272-3900.



We do not have any new members to announce this month, but we still have a strong chapter membership of 185 members!

Hope to see you at our February 8 meeting.

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, or any notices we send out.

Carol
Main

Records
Officer



**Changing Deadlines for Chapter Meetings and Chapter Newsletters
(Carol Main)**

The facility where we hold our meetings has been sold. The name is now "Las Cruces Village – Independent Living". The new management company requires a two-week notice with numbers and payment for our breakfast meetings. We will be sending out emails to make meeting reservations three weeks before the actual date of the meeting. We will also be preparing the monthly newsletter approximately ten days earlier so that our members who receive the newsletter via USPS mail will have time to make meeting reservations. If you have questions, please call Carol Main at 575-382-7686 or email csmain7@gmail.com.



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)

Happy Valentine's Day



We really need some sunshine to warm us up after the cold, and in some cases snow, of this past month. I guess we should be glad we didn't experience the extreme cold and blizzards of some parts of the country, or the heat and wildfires damaging southern California.

A Get Well card was sent to Nancy Banks who had surgery in December. We hope you will be completely recovered soon, Nancy.

Have some fun by solving this riddle: **WHERE DID MANY MATH TEACHERS SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE?**

The answer to the December riddle: **WHY DID THE CHRISTMAS TREE GO TO THE BARBER? (IT NEEDED TO BE TRIMMED).**

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.



Membership Report

Winter is starting to get colder as of middle of January! We now have 185 members in our Chapter 182. Full moon occurs on February 12th (Mary Ellen McKay). Holidays this month include Valentine's Day on February 14th and Presidents' Day on February 17th.

Dan
Carroll

VP for
Membership
and
Chapter
Historian

Chapter 182 Executive Board is working on the Southwest Federation Conference (Arizona and New Mexico) which we are hosting for its inaugural event on May 16-17, 2025. The event will be held at the Las Cruces Village-Independent Living (formerly known as Good Samaritan Village). Details are still being worked out. It's going to be BIG!

Quote of the month: "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." – Benjamin Franklin. See you at the conference. Dan



**December 22nd and It Was Almost Christmas
by Dave Fox (Chapter 182 Public Relations Officer)**



Sunday morning, super day, had a nice brekky with my wife Della and showered up. We talked about what we were going to do that day and Wammo! Sharon and John Reese's Holiday Open House! And...

What a party! Everyone was dressed in their best Christmas duds. We all had our favorite drinks and in such a beautifully decorated festive atmosphere. We had lovely appetizers, plus, a wonderful buffet table full of delicious hot and cold gourmet food to die for! All lovingly prepared by Sharon and her daughters, Sharon and Karen.

Della and I had great fun with our chapter friends and met some of their family from out of town and John and Sharon's neighbors dropped in. The amazing patio was very pleasant and enjoyed by all with the day's great weather. Look out! We had to save some room for the amazing dessert plates and coffee. An extreme of excellence and a memorable occasion indeed, as you can see in some of the photos I took. Thank you to Sharon, John and family!



Dorothy Rachele, Sharon & Roy Willoughby



Yvette Guerra, John Reese (in back), Marlene Mayfield, & Sharon Reese



**(Back) Marcelle and Irv Skelton, Carol
Main (Front) Della Apodaca**



**Chapter Members Chuck James & Marlene Mayfield
joined other guests & family members on the patio.
A good time was had by all!**



**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	575-635-7127
1st Vice Pres. (Legislation)	Janice Bridges
jan838790@msn.com	575-635-9768
2 nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Dan Carroll
cardan116@comcast.net	575- 932-9491
Secretary	Marlene Mayfield
marlene.mayfield@gmail.com	575- 644-6851
Treasurer	Craig Singleton
scsingleton575@gmail.com	575-373-0705
Alzheimer's	Cindy Cook
cindy77lou@yahoo.com	575-640-0860
NARFE-FEEA:	Marsha Smith
marsha.smith1948@gmail.com	575-644-5131
NARFE-PAC	Della Apodaca
dmarieda@aol.com	704-351-2051
Program Chair:	Donna Harris
md.harris1@comcast.net	575-382-9070
Member Communications:	Carol Main
csmain7@gmail.com	575-382-7686
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

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**.

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

Public Relations: (Dave Fox) foxydave1@aol.com