



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

LAS CRUCES
NEW MEXICO

CHAPTER 0182

*National Active & Retired
Federal Employees Association*

REPORTER

March 2025

Volume 25, Issue 7

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

Southwest Federation Inaugural Conference May 16-17, 2025 (Las Cruces Village-Independent Living)



**Chapter 182 President
Judy Rosco**

Help! Dear Members, I write this article in the hope of touching several of you to step up and serve your NARFE Chapter 182 by volunteering for one of the vacant positions on our Executive Board.

Logistics Chair – Makes sure the meeting rooms are prepared. Most of the time, the facility has set up the room for us, but we need to be prepared for last-minute changes, or we can be charged if staff members are required to make changes to the room. Chuck James has been serving in this position since John Reese resigned from the position, but he serves as Logistics Technician and does not want to do both.

Members-at-Large – Two vacancies exist because the previous at-large members stepped into Chair positions on the Executive Board. The job description for Members-at-Large are required to attend monthly Board meetings and observe the 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

Continued on Page 2...

Chapter Programs

**NARFE Chapter 182 General Meeting
Saturday, March 8, 2025 (8:30 a.m.)
Las Cruces Village – Independent Living
3011 Buena Vida (Creative Arts Room)**

March Program: Brandie White, Program Director, Mesilla Valley CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate). She will be discussing how CASA advocates for children in foster care and protects their interests.

There is a cost of \$18.00 for the breakfast buffet. Please call Carol Main at 575-382-7686 not later than February 19 if you plan on attending.

Upcoming programs:

April 12 – Scarlett Ayres, Mesilla Valley Iris Society

There will not be a May program as we will have the SW Federation Conference.

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 Message Continued from Page 1

members in at monthly meetings, and other duties as requested). This position for the Member-at-Large helps them to get to know other members who attend our meetings.

Nominations Chair – In election years (2026 is our next election year), the Nominations Chair would poll sitting officers and chapter members who want to run for elected offices. He/She will 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. If interested, please call me at 575-635-7127 or email rosco631@gmail.com.

As you know, the Inaugural Southwest Federation Conference will be hosted by our chapter, 16-17 May 2025, at the Las Cruces Village (formerly Good Samaritan). Planning meetings are being held every two weeks and we are making substantial progress. Two local hotels have been chosen for our out-of-town guests. We need help from our members in getting ads for our Program Book. If you visit your dentist, realtor, lawyer, or hairdresser/barber, please ask if they would consider putting an ad in our Program Book. Sharon Reese or Dave Fox can give you more information about the ads. See Dave's article on page 3 of this newsletter. We have started receiving donations for the Door Prizes that will be given to attendees at the Conference. Please contact Cindy Cook about the donations. Please read Cindy's article on page 3 of this newsletter.

John Hatton, VP of Advocacy at our National Headquarters, will be providing updates by Zoom on the current situation with current federal and retired members at the Conference. It should be a good Conference, and we look forward to seeing you in attendance.



Las Cruces Day in Santa Fe (Feb 1, 2025)

Las Cruces Police Chief Jeremy Story
Las Cruces Mayor Eric Enriquez
Senator William Soules
Sharon Reese (NARFE Region VII VP)
John Reese (Chapter 182)
Marlene Mayfield (NM Federation and
Chapter 182 Secretary)



**Coming up fast! SW Federation Conference (May 16-17, 2025)
(Dave Fox, Chapter 182 Public Relations Officer)**

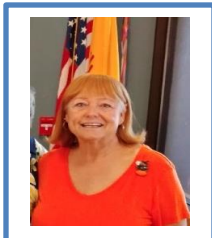
Just a quick appeal to chapter members requesting help to find business owners that would like to be featured in our May 2025

Conference Program for only a minimal fee. Think of your favorite restaurant, your local real estate agent, that reliable plumber or electrician that you would recommend to another member. It may be an organization or a really good dentist or optical office or a hairdresser that you like using.

I am talking about somebody that you know, a good local family who wants to get their name and business in front of our visiting Conference attendees and be seen multiple times in the Program that will be given out in our Conference material.

So, please get your thinking caps on and try and write down someone and then, text or call me at 704-301-3484 or Janice Bridges at 575-635-9768 with names of people who might like to benefit from visibility in our Conference Program Magazine.

Thank you for your attention everyone. We hope to hear from you and to see you at our next breakfast meeting.



Alzheimer's (Cindy Cook)



Our chapter will have an ALZ raffle and door prizes at the Southwest Federation Conference we are hosting here in Las Cruces on May 16-17, 2025.

We are requesting 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 (cindy77LOU@yahoo.com or 575-640-0860).

Thank You All for supporting Alzheimer's Research and Community/Family Support to those afflicted with this disease!

February 8, 2025 Chapter 182 Breakfast Meeting

40 members and guests attended the meeting. Guest Jim Noble attended with his wife Sylvia Noble, guest Marsha Rushing attended with her husband George Rushing, and long-time member Don Jansen attended with his wife Laraine. We also had four members at the meeting who were celebrating their birthdays in February: John Reese, Emroy Shannon, Jo Ann Sherman, and Sharon Willoughby.



Service Officer (Jim Kielty)



**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JANUARY 2025
CONTINUES TO REFLECT INFLATIONARY PRESSURES**

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Personnel, used to determine if Social Security recipients, federal retirees, and survivor annuitants will receive a Cost-Of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) in January 2026, showed a continuing increase in inflation in the economy, based on the CPI-W figure for January 2025. The CPI-W figure for January 2025 was 311.079, 0.79 percent higher than the average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2024, which was 308.729. The January 2025 CPI-W figure was 0.68 percent higher than the December 2024 figure. The U.S. imposition of tariffs on certain products being imported into the U.S. from countries such as Canada, China, and Mexico are expected to keep inflation at elevated levels. The CPI-W figure for February 2025 is expected to be announced on Wednesday, March 12.

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.



Records Officer (Carol Main)

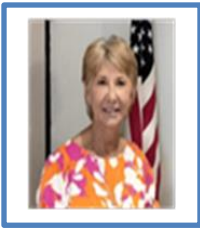
Welcome New Members: Deborah O'Callaghan and Mara Weisenberger

Welcome Back: Jim Bernard
New Prospective Member: Ericka Seymour

We would like to see you at the March 8 meeting. Come meet your fellow chapter members.
Our chapter membership is 183 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, or any notices we send out.





Legislation (Janice Bridges)



I hope everyone is having a good year so far. There are a few issues going on that people need to go and read about and take action on.

Please remember to go to NARFE.ORG and look under advocacy to see these items and also go and let your lawmakers know how you feel about these items. I just put the outline of the proposals of cuts that will affect the workforce and also the retirees. More information on each is on the website.

1. Reducing the government contribution towards Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plans by switching to a flat-rate voucher model
2. Eliminating cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for current and future Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees
3. Reducing COLAs for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees by 0.5 percent. • Breaks promises to retirees
4. Reducing the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) G Fund
5. Increasing federal employee payroll contributions toward retirement by 4.4 percent, or by as much as 9.5 percent or more, of pay, without any added benefit
6. Converting new federal employees to at-will unless they accept a higher FERS contribution (of 4.4 percent)
7. Charge a Fee for Federal Employee MSPB Appeals
8. Basing federal annuities on the highest five years of salary instead of the highest three years of salary
9. Eliminating the FERS Annuity Supplement

On his first day back in office, President Trump signed an executive order to eliminate merit-based civil service protections from a significant portion of the federal workforce – for as many as 50,000 or more employees. In the order, Trump reinstated a new excepted service schedule, Schedule F (or Schedule Policy/Career), and began the process of reclassifying a significant number of employees into this new excepted service category, removing the protection of merit-based civil service rules that require hiring and firing based on merit rather than political affiliation or otherwise. NARFE opposes Schedule F and supports the Saving the Civil Service Act, H.R.492/S.134, to prohibit a return of Schedule F.

Take action now to tell members of Congress to support the Saving the Civil Service Act, H.R.492/S.134, to protect this country's merit-based civil service.

Please remember if you have any questions or need help with the website, contact me at jan838790@msn.com or 575-635-9768. It is best to text me first. I am getting all kinds of SCAM calls these days and do not always answer if I do not recognize the number.



Sunshine Report (Marcele Skelton)

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade." (Charles Dickens) This quote is what we can expect regarding March weather.



A Get-Well card was sent to Bill Beerman who is having some health issues.

Have some fun by solving this March St. Patrick's riddle: WHAT KIND OF SANDWICH SHOULD BE SERVED ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY?

The answer to last month's riddle: WHERE DID MANY MATH TEACHERS SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE? (Times Square)

Please let me know if you hear of someone who is ill, has passed away or could use a little sunshine in their life. Marcelle: 575-521-4954 or marcele@skelton.net



Membership Report (Dan Carroll)

Spring is right around the corner. Starting to warm up! We now have 183 members in our Chapter 182. Full moon is March 14th (Mary Ellen). Ash Wednesday is March 5th. Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 9th. Set your clocks ahead at 2 am. St. Patrick's Day (I'm half Irish) is March 17th. Quote of the month--"Don't simply retire from something, have something to retire to." -Harry Emerson Fosdick. Have a good month and see you at the movies (Yvette).

VP for Membership and Chapter Historian



Barbara Herrera, our BC/BS Representative and chapter member, attends most of our monthly NARFE meetings. She makes herself available to answer questions our members have regarding their insurance coverage. Thanks, Barbara.



Della Apodaca

March is NARFE-PAC* Month - Become a Sustainer

We are in the early phase of the 2025-2026 cycle. With that, let's get off to a good start. Make a voluntary contribution during the March meeting, where I will provide contribution forms, envelopes and other information. If you prefer, I can take your voluntary cash contribution during the meeting.

We have chapter goals for the new cycle: 1) Meet or exceed our prior result of \$6,117, and 2) Increase the number of sustainers by at least one member. National goals for the new cycle are due out soon.

A big "Thank You" for your support. Our chapter closed out the 2023-2024 cycle exceeding our goal. The final contribution result was 127% of our goal. In addition, 20% of chapter members made at least one contribution, and we have eight sustainers. Remember, a sustainer can contribute any amount per month. However, to receive a sustainer lapel pin, provide an ongoing contribution of \$10 or more. During our February meeting, I presented information about the PAC's national goals. So, I will not repeat them here. I hope to see you at our March meeting.

**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.*



Chapter 182 President Judy Rosco with our guest speaker Pam Rodgers (Ambercare Hospice Volunteer Coordinator) at our Feb 8th meeting. This was Pam's second visit with us. The subject of her presentation was "You Matter Too: Self-Care & Burnout".



Della Apodaca (Chapter 182 NARFE-PAC Chair), Dave Fox (Chapter 182 Public Relations Officer & Della's Husband), & Filomeno Apodaca (Long-Time Chapter 182 Member & Della's Father) (Feb 2025 NARFE Chapter Meeting)



**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