



# CASA GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER 1905 NEWSLETTER



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## CHAPTER 1905 OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

President/PAC	Dave Hardee	316-9780
Vice President	Peggy Carter	836-2877
Secretary & Treasurers	Allan Rockne	836-5148
Legislative - State & National	Ron Miller	868-0939
Membership	Jim Carter	836-2877
Programs	Vacant	
Alzheimer's	Alice Wilbur	836-9005
Service Officer/Telephone	Alice Wilbur	836-9005
Chaplain & Sunshine	Nancy Rockne	836-5148
Public Relations/Newsletter Editor	Allan Rockne	836-5148
Refreshments	Peggy Carter	836-2877
Telephone	Carolyn & Ernie Buechler	876-4973
Telephone	Marcia Miller	316-0856

*Casa Grande Valley Chapter 1905 holds a general membership meeting at 10 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, September to May, in the Casa Grande Lakes Clubhouse, 515 West Casa Grande Lakes Blvd. South. Members of Chapter 1905, all current and retired federal employees and their spouses are welcome. In addition to regular chapter business, general membership meetings feature guest speakers or programs on topics of interest to those in attendance.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dave Hardee*

*Email: bettyhardee@msn.com*

Time flies when you are old and forgetful. It is hard to believe this is our last newsletter for the year. Our chapter will be going on summer break following our meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> and will return to normal on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the Casa Grande Lakes Club House. Stay safe, cool, and healthy until we come together again in September. A special thanks to the Executive Board and committee members who stepped up this year to keep the doors open.

Following is some information I have received that should be of interest to federal employees and retirees:

- **Message From NARFE President Ken Thomas:** "The recent introduction of legislation providing federal employees peace of mind in the event of another government shutdown is necessary and supported by NARFE. Federal employees affected by a

government shutdown should not have to worry that their health coverage will lapse by no fault of their own or that they'll be unable to get their newborn child covered under their health care plan in the midst of a shutdown. These bills take critical steps to ensure federal employees and their families are covered under their health care plans regardless of whether or not elected officials are engaged in political gamesmanship in Washington."

- **House Budget Advances, Sets Up Clash Between Congressional Chambers:** The House Budget Committee approved the Investing for the People Act of 2019, a two-year budget that would raise the statutory caps on discretionary spending sooner rather than later to jump-start the appropriations process and help avoid another government shutdown. Contrary to the Senate Budget Committee's version, which calls for \$15 billion in cuts that would predominately fall on the backs of the federal community, the House budget passed committee

without any reconciliation instructions. This sets the stage for a budget tug-of-war between the two chambers and gives NARFE activists the leverage they need to make sure that cuts to earned federal pay and benefits are absent from any final budget approved by Congress. Contact your legislators today and urge them to reject any threats to your earned pay and benefits brought forward in the budget process.

- **Bills Introduced to Ensure Federal Health Care coverage During Shutdowns:** This week, a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers introduced two bills that would guarantee health care coverage for federal employees and their families during government shutdowns. The coalition included Reps. Elijah Cummings, D-MD, Gerry Connolly, D-VA, and Mark Meadows, R-NC, as well as Sens. Tina Smith, D-MN, Tim Kaine, D-VA, Mark Warner, D-VA, Ben Cardin, D-MD, Chris Van Hollen, D-MD, and Sherrod Brown, D-OH. The first of the two bills is the Ensuring FEHBP Coverage During Shutdowns Act, H.R. 2003 and S. 971, which would ensure federal employees providing certain services under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program, such as processing new dependents, are considered excepted during a government shutdown. Thus, federal employees with qualifying life events, like the birth or adoption of a child, would be able to add new dependents to their coverage even during a shutdown. The second bill, the Ensuring FEDVIP and FLTCIP Coverage During Shutdowns Act, H.R. 2004 and S. 973, would require the Office of Personnel Management to issue new regulations allowing federal employees affected by government shutdowns to repay missed dental, vision and long-term care insurance premiums through back pay, nixing the current requirement that enrollees must directly pay their bills after two or three consecutive missed pay periods. These important pieces of legislation would help guarantee coverage under federal health care programs continues, even during a government shutdown.
- **The Budget Is Here, but Do Not Overlook Other NARFE Priorities:** Over the past few weeks, the administration's fiscal year 2020 (FY20) budget captured the federal community's attention with its harmful proposals to cut pay and benefits for active and retired federal employees. Although the budget rightfully deserves our attention, we cannot forget to advocate for important issues outside the scope of the budget debate, including important bills like

the Social Security Fairness Act of 2019, H.R. 141 and S. 521, introduced by Rep. Rodney Davis, R-IL, and Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-OH, respectively. This legislation would repeal both the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), the unfair offsets denying Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees their earned full Social Security benefits. Speak out now and urge your legislators to support this important legislation.

- **Using the NARFE Legislative Action Center:** NARFE members can take action on a number of different bills that are critically important to the federal community.
  - Contact your legislators in support of the FAIR Act, which would provide a 3.6 percent pay raise to federal employees in calendar year 2020 to close the expanding gap between federal and private-sector pay and prevent President Trump from implementing an unfair federal pay freeze.
  - Urge your representatives to cosponsor the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act, legislation to provide federal employees 12 weeks of paid leave due to illness or to welcome a new child into the family. The federal government needs to implement the provisions in these bills to remain competitive with the private sector in the contest for top talent.
  - Ask your representatives to support the FAIR COLA for Seniors Act, legislation to calculate cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) based on the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E). The current consumer price index fails to account accurately for the actual effect of inflation on seniors.
  - Also in defense of fair COLAs, implore your legislators to support the Equal COLA Act, which would provide Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees with full COLAs based on the relevant measure of inflation. Without accurate COLAs, retirees will be forced to continue watching their hard-earned annuities dwindle in purchasing power throughout retirement.
- **Grassroots Corner:** Did you recently attend a congressional town hall, community event or meeting on behalf of NARFE? Please complete the Congressional Meeting or Event Feedback Form after any interaction with legislators and staff. When you complete this form, which is located on NARFE's

advocacy webpage under "Surveys," your interactions are recognized by the Advocacy Department staff and ultimately help ensure that NARFE's lobbyists echo your message on Capitol Hill. Your dedication to NARFE and help in advancing our legislative agenda is appreciated.

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## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*Ron Miller*

*Email: ron3920@gmail.com*

### **Federal News Network:**

This time last year the same suggestions were made. For a while it looked like some of them might make it but they didn't. The proposed pay freeze turned into a 1.9 percent pay raise and the cost of living protections in the two different Federal retirement programs were untouched. Democrats winning back the House in the mid-term elections was hailed by Federal postal union. They see the House majority and its leadership as advocates of government workers and retirees which, compared to the old GOP leadership, is absolutely true.

### **NARFE Legislative Hotlines:**

**March 15, 2019 Message from NARFE President Ken Thomas:** "Proud, hard-working federal employees and retirees deserve better than the cuts to their earned pay and benefits included in President Trump's fiscal year 2020 (FY20) budget request. The president's latest budget, like past versions, breaks promises made to the federal community by threatening to slash what they earned through long, dedicated careers of service to our country. Trump's FY20 budget is an expression of the value the administration places on public service, and NARFE will not rest until these proposals aimed at undermining the federal workforce and breaking commitments to Feds are soundly defeated."

NARFE strongly objects to the following FY20 budget proposals, which amount to more than \$177.1 billion in cuts to earned federal benefits:

- Eliminating cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for current and future Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees.
- Reducing COLAs for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees by 0.5 percent each year from what the COLA would have been otherwise. When combined with the elimination of the FERS COLA, this would cost federal retirees \$56 billion over 10

years, and much more thereafter.

- Increasing employee contributions to the annuities of federal employees covered under FERS by 1 percent each year for the next six years, without any corresponding benefit increase.
- Eliminating the earned and fully funded FERS Annuity Supplement for new retirees. This benefit provided to FERS employees who retire before they are eligible to collect Social Security, would hit those with a mandatory retirement age - such as federal law enforcement officers and air traffic controllers - the hardest.
- Reducing the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan's Government Securities Investment (G) Fund.
- Changing the basis for federal pensions for new retirees such that they are based on the average of the highest five years of salary instead of the highest three.

**March 22, 2019 Message from NARFE President Ken Thomas:** "President Trump's complete federal budget request to Congress, released this week, again scorns the federal family by once more proposing a federal pay freeze. After years of previous pay freezes and meager increases, the buck stops here. I urge Congress to intervene through the appropriations process and authorize a competitive federal pay raise closely aligned with private-sector rates, or we risk an exodus of top-notch, in-demand employees. NARFE successfully fought off a 2019 pay freeze through tireless, unyielding advocacy and we are prepared to do so again. Contact your legislators and urge them to exercise their authority to augment federal pay rates consistent with the essential, high-level work performed by the civil service. Unlike the extensive list of other proposed cuts to federal pay and benefits in the Trump budget, the president can enact a pay freeze without prior congressional approval. Absent congressional action, a pay freeze would take effect come the first pay period of next year. This is why NARFFE calls on Congress to once again reject the president's proposed pay freeze and enact a pay increase for 2020 through the appropriations process. A federal pay freeze during a time of private-sector wage growth and economic strength will only undermine the effectiveness and morale of a federal workforce still in recovery after the unnecessary and record breaking 35-day government shutdown."

**NARFE ARIZONA FEDERATION**  
**AZFedCon19 – Doing It Our Way**  
May 3 - 4, 2019

## ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

*Alice Wilbur*  
Email: [awilbur2@cox.net](mailto:awilbur2@cox.net)

Hi Everyone— Were you aware that Alzheimer's disease hits women harder than men. Nearly 2/3 of Americans who have Alzheimer's are women. Worldwide 47 million people are living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. There are nearly 6 million in the United States so the number of women affected is staggering. Alzheimer's disease can start 10 to 20 years before diagnosis. Studies have found evidence that women's brains are more vulnerable to Alzheimer's than men but the reasons are unknown. Sadly there are currently no treatments exist to stop or reverse Alzheimer's disease.

I want to thank our members who give monthly to the Alzheimer's fund. It is very much needed for Alzheimer's research.

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## MEMBERSHIP

*Jim Carter*  
Email: [james-online@cox.net](mailto:james-online@cox.net)

Our current membership remains steady at 56 regular members and 1 associate member.

Dues withholding still remains the best option for anyone getting ready to renew their membership. No misplacing the reminder notices or missing any reminder phone calls. You only lose \$2.84 from you monthly annuity check or, if it is for you and your spouse, only \$5.68 per month. A great bargain over the \$40.00 per month for each of you. It is worth considering!

Have a great summer! Hope to see all of you back in September or near there.

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## SUNSHINE REPORT

*Nancy Rockne*  
Email: [nrockne@cox.net](mailto:nrockne@cox.net)

If you know of anyone who needs a reminder we're thinking of them, whether its because of illness, death in the family, or just a cheery greeting, please let me know.



APR. No birthdays this month

MAY Gerald Long (3<sup>rd</sup>).

JUNE Kyle Stall (1<sup>st</sup>), Ken Boyer (10<sup>th</sup>), Alice Wilbur (15<sup>th</sup>), Brian McKenzie (28<sup>th</sup>), and John Gluch (29<sup>th</sup>).

JULY Carol Roth (4<sup>th</sup>), Josie Walker (9<sup>th</sup>), Allan Rockne (21<sup>st</sup>), Ronald League (22<sup>nd</sup>), and Wesley Borninkhof (29<sup>th</sup>).

AUG. Ronald Jordan (2<sup>nd</sup>), Ron Miller (6<sup>th</sup>), Nancy Bembenek (9<sup>th</sup>), Henry Carrico (9<sup>th</sup>), and Peggy Carter (31<sup>st</sup>).

SEPT. Stephen Regginello (10<sup>th</sup>), Nina De Leo (29<sup>th</sup>), and Beverly Lash (30<sup>th</sup>).

I am missing birthday data (day & month only) for 18 of our members. Therefore I am unable to send them a card on this very special day. If you have not received a card then you are one of the 18. Please email or call me with this information.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Allan Rockne*  
Email: [arockne@cox.net](mailto:arockne@cox.net)

Balance on hand February 1, 2019:.....\$896.29

### RECEIPTS:

Dues.....\$29.92  
50/50.....11.50  
1st Credit Union Ad .....8.55  
No Bake Sale .....485.00  
AZ FedCon19 Booster List.....10.00  
Total Receipts:.....\$544.97

### EXPENSES:

Meeting Room Rent .....\$100.00  
Secretary/Treasurer - copy.....12.32  
AZ FedCon19 Booster List.....57.00  
Newsletter—printing & postage.....25.50  
Total Expenses:.....\$194.82

Balance on hand April 1, 2019:.....1,246.44

## MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Allan Rockne

Email: arockne@cox.net

NARFE Chapter 1905 met for its monthly meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> in the Casa Grande Lakes Clubhouse, 515 W. Casa Grande Lakes Blvd S.

President Dave Hardee called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and Chaplain Nancy Rockne gave the invocation, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Dave welcomed members in attendance, thanked those who brought food for the HOHP food bank. He announced members' birthdays for March and "Happy Birthday" was sung.

### OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Secretary/Treasurer Allan Rockne:** Gave the monthly Treasurer's Report - the current balance on hand is \$936.47. Since copies of the February minutes were e-mailed to Chapter members who have internet access and distributed to those in attendance, a motion was made by Marcia Miller and seconded by Ron Karrels and passed that the minutes not be read and both the treasurer's report and minutes be accepted as presented.

**Legislative Chair Ron Miller:** Ron was unable to attend today but had emailed his report which Dave Hardee presented. Items covered included: • Statement from NARFE National President Ken Thomas on legislation averting another government shutdown; • National Parks efforts to recover after the partial government shutdown; • Supreme Courts favorable ruling that states must treat and tax federal retirees the same way they tax retirees who leave state government; • USPS exploring idea of self-driving mail trucks; • The invisible efforts of government operations that are taken for granted.

**NARFE-PAC Dave Hardee:** March is NARFE-PAC month and the March issue of the NARFE magazine has a good article (page 31) with information on what NARFE-PAC is, dollars raised and disbursed for political purposes and the goals for 2019-2020. While March is NARFE-PAC Month a donation solicitation sheet is available at each of our Chapter monthly meetings. Donations can be made by check or money orders made out to NARFE-PAC. Cash will also be accepted or if you prefer you can donate by using the form found in the NARFE magazine.

**Service Officer & Alzheimer's Chair Alice Wilbur:** Alzheimer's donation today was \$15.00. She thanked members who donate monthly to the Alzheimer's fund. Noted a recent article that women are more susceptible to contracting the disease than men - 2/3 to 1/3.

**Telephone Callers Alice Wilbur, Nancy Rockne and Marcia Miller:** Calls made, talked to a few but as usual a lot of messages were left.

**Membership Chair Jim Carter:** Jim was unable to attend today but Dave noted that our membership is holding at 56 regular members and one associate member.

**Sunshine Chair Nancy Rockne:** Birthday cards are being sent out for March. There are no members that she is aware of that have an April birthday.

**Public Relations/Newsletter Editor Allan Rockne:** The meeting notice was published in the Casa Grande Dispatch on Wednesday and Thursday. Material for the April/May newsletter should be submitted to him by April 8<sup>th</sup>. Material that members would like to share with other members is always welcomed.

**Refreshment Peggy Carter:** Thanked Ron Karrels and wife Jeanne for providing today's refreshments. The Carters will provide them for our April meeting.

### OLD/NEWS BUSINESS: (Dave Hardee)

- **Chapter Bylaws:** National has made a push that chapters update their bylaws to conform to a format that they have provided. Our bylaws have been revised to conform and the Executive Board (EB) has reviewed the changes and recommend they be approved. Changes were discussed and all members in attendance approved the Chapter Bylaws as revised. They will now be submitted to National for review and approval.
- **No Bake Sale:** Letters announcing the No Bake, Bake Sale were sent to members and responses are coming in. This is an effort to keep the Chapter adequately funded and was discussed and approved at the February EB and Chapter meetings.
- **AZFEDCON19:** The Federation 2019 Conference (AZFEDCON19) will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western Inn Suites Tucson Foothills Hotel & Suites located at 6201 N. Oracle Road in Tucson. The Chapter will pay for the registration and help with some expenses for those who wish to attend. We need to know who will be attending by the end of March so the paperwork can be sent in.
- **Balloting:** Voting for Arizona Federation Officers will be done on-line prior to April 15<sup>th</sup>. A ballot can be found on the Arizona Federation website at

www.narfeaz.com. Completed ballot can be mailed or emailed. Copies will be available at our April meeting with information on where to send them.

- **Street Cleanup:** Our bi-annual city street cleanup event will be held Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Walgreens parking lot at the corner of Korsten and Pinal Avenue. Following the cleanup the Keep Casa Grande Beautiful Advisory Board will be serving breakfast at the Community Recreation Center for the participants.
- **50/50:** Nancy Rockne won \$4.50.

There being no further business, Alice Wilbur made a motion we adjourn; seconded by Nina DeLeo. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m. There were 9 members and one guest present.

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#### ARIZONA FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

The Arizona Federation newsletter is on the Federation website. Go to the following link to view it:  
[www.narfeaz.com/News.html](http://www.narfeaz.com/News.html)

If anyone has any questions or needs further information, please contact Arizona Federation President Etta Bryant at [narfeazfp@gmail.com](mailto:narfeazfp@gmail.com) or 520-578-0848.

#### NARFE WEB SITES & HOTLINE #

NARFE Headquarters:

<http://www.narfe.org>

Free Hot line #: 1-877-217-8234

Arizona Federation:

<http://www.narfeaz.com>

#### FEDERAL OFFICIALS

Congressional Contacts: Congressional members tend to listen when many constituents are concerned about the same issues, so stay alert and contact your Congressman about the issues important to you as a federal retiree and to NARFE. A letter will reach any member of Congress if it has the member's name, office (House or Senate) and the correct ZIP Code. Addresses and telephone numbers for the White House and your congressional representatives are listed below. You may also call the Capitol Switchboard at 1/800-962-3524 and ask to be connected to the office of any Senator or Representative:

President:

Donald Trump, (202) 456-1111  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Senators:

Kyrsten Sinema D-Arizona  
Washington: (202) 224-4521  
825 B&C Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Martha McSally R-Arizona  
Washington: (202) 224-2239  
B40D Dirksen Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative:

Tom O'Halleran D-Arizona  
Washington: (202) 225-3361  
126 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

District Office: (520) 316-0839  
211 North Florence St., Suite 1  
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

I recently found this article on my computer.  
It was originally written for the AZ Federation Newsletter a few years back.  
I have updated it and provide it below to let you know how the  
Chapter got started many years ago by a few dedicated members and  
how history could be repeated.

## **HISTORY OF NARFE CHAPTER 1905**

(March 23, 2019)

Casa Grande Valley Chapter 1905 was formed by 19 retired federal employees on May 18, 1982. By 1985 the membership had increased to 26 but sadly few wished to volunteer for a Chapter office or Committee Chair so on October 26 of that year the Chapter was deactivated.

However, three years later Marie and John Schrier had arrived in town and through their efforts the Chapter was reactivated on May 10, 1988 with Marie as President and John as Membership Chair. Marie served as President for three years then she and John switched positions and she continued as Membership Chair for the next six years. By this time another couple, Dale and Peggy Lee had joined the Chapter. Dale served as President from 1997 until 2001 when Peggy became President and he took over Membership for the next 11 years. Thanks to their leadership and service the Chapter grew steadily even as the National membership continued to decline. Chapter 1905 membership peaked in 2010 at 121 including 33 transfers as Coolidge Chapter 0907 and Phoenix Chapter 056 folded for lack of officers.

Unfortunately, since 2010 Chapter 1905's membership has slowly dropped as members died or failed to renew and fewer joined. Our current membership is at 57 but only 15 to 20% attend monthly meetings and very few are willing to assume a Chapter Office position or Committee Chair. If not for a small dedicated core of members holding several positions, the Chapter would again be deactivated.

Our current President Dave Hardee has served as President since 2005 and Secretary/Treasurer Allan Rockne became Chapter Treasurer in 1998 and added Secretary duties in 2001. Hopefully they will remain in good health for many years to come and 1905 will continue to exist. We have a great meeting facility in the Casa Grande Lakes Clubhouse, 515 West Casa Grande Lakes Blvd. South, in Casa Grande and meet at 10am on the second Friday of each month from September to May.

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