



# Nevada Federation Newsletter

## FINAL EDITION

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



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.

B H Fanning, Editor bhfanning@gmail.com

September Sept

January 2018

### JANUARY AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  HOLIDAY	2 LV Service Office 9:30-11:30 A  Ch 2031 Henderson Gen'l mtg 1:00 P	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 LV Service Office 9:30-11:30 A	10	11  Ch 423 Las Vegas Gen'l Mtg 12:00P Board mtg 11:00A	12	13
14	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 	16 LV Service Office 9:30-11:30 A  Ch 0142 Reno Gen'l mtg 12:15P	17	18	19  Ch. 2031 - Monthly Luncheon - 11:30 A	20
21	22	23 LV Service Office 9:30-11:30 A  Ch 2167 MinGard Gen'l mtg 2:00P	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 LV Service Office 9:30-11:30 A	31			

### MESSAGE FROM THE NEVADA FEDERATION PRESIDENT ROBERT RUSKAMP

I hope that all of you had a relaxing and satisfying Year-End Holiday Season. As we embark upon the New Year, I just have a few comments. Unfortunately, chapter membership continues to decline within the federation and funds remain short supply.

I also regret that this edition of the Nevada Federation Newsletter will be the last. Ms. Heidi Fanning, and those who assisted her over the past years, are to be commended for their work in the preparation and mailing of the Newsletters. We will however, continue with our Federation Website to provide information to members having internet access. Perhaps in the future, someone will step up and assume the role of Editor, so that we could at least have an on-line version of the Newsletter.

On the positive side, NARFE members managed during the past year to raise or contribute over \$12M to the Alzheimer's cause. Also, federal retirees are to receive an anxiously awaited 2% increase in retirement annuity benefits. However, it is certain that our adversaries will still continue to consider decreases in federal benefits and compensation during the coming year and beyond.

Also during the coming year, HQ is forming a number of standing committees to address various aspects of NARFE activities, such as grassroots advocacy, strategic planning, bylaws, and communications (of which I will be a member). We will also be working preparations for the upcoming FEDcon18 Conference to be held next August in Jacksonville, Florida. The conference is to provide training and information opportunities as well as a forum for the general membership.

Note that as the year progresses, I will remain open to suggestions on how we might continue to maintain a viable NARFE Nevada Federation.

In closing, I wish to extend my best wishes to all NARFE members in Nevada for a successful New Year.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Nevada Federation Officers**

Robert Ruskamp, President	703-628-3234
Jane Vaughn-Meisel, Secretary	702-217-6029
Donna Neese, Treasurer	775-674-5564

**Nevada Chapters**

**Reno Chapter 0142**

President, Kathryn Vitalie	vitaliek@prodigy.net	775-313-6059
VP Membership, Susan Bower	ksusanbower@icloud.com	775-770-4199
VP Programs, Rosemary Damron	rdamron088@gmail.com	775-787-2261
Secretary, Sadie Bowyer	bowyersadi@gmail.com	775-324-5327
Treasurer, Donna Neese	donna38018@gmail.com	775-674-5564
Legislation, Eileen Way	mseileenrenee@yahoo.com	775-560-3248
Service Officer, Lou Mendes	lounkaren@aol.com	775-425-2741
Shine Chair, Adele Stoddard	adelerr13@yahoo.com	775-972-8282

**Las Vegas Chapter 423**

President, Jane Vaughn-Meisel	702-217-6029
Secretary, Paula Perez	702-255-2690
Treasurer, Alice Berly	702-452-5733

**Henderson Chapter 2031**

President, Sharon Brunson	702-269-7367
VP, Verena Briley Hudson	702-998-6757
Secretary, Vikki Renneckar	702-617-8898
Treasurer, Janet Smith	702-951-4585

**Min-Gard Chapter 2167**

President, Don Babb	775-265-5549
Vice President, Gloria Grant	775-783-9039
Secretary/Treasurer, Nellie Erskine	775-392-3262

**Pahrump, Chapter 2276**

President, Pam Raneri	775-727-8361
1 <sup>st</sup> VP, Phil Raneri	775-272-8361
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP, Judie Johnson	775-751-5870
Secretary, Deborah Reneau	775-527-2513
Treasurer, Ralph Johnson	775-751-5870

**NV Federation Service Office 24/7 Hotline**

Service Officer Paula Perez	702-516-7001
<a href="mailto:paulacperez4@hotmail.com">paulacperez4@hotmail.com</a>	

says a lot about the selfless nature of our community, and explains our resolve. Next year will bring many unknowns, but NARFE member's commitment is without question. I wish you all great joy and a happy New Year."

*"To the world you may just one person, but to one person you may be the world,"*

**FROM OUR NEVADA FEDERATION PRESIDENTS**

**Reno Chapter 0142 Pres. Kathryn Vitalie**

On December 19, 2017, members gathered at the Sands Hotel and Casino for our annual Christmas Holiday Luncheon. We all enjoyed lively conversation, excellent food, and had a wonderful time. It is always so enjoyable to see our members and their spouses and catch up on the activities of the past year. Eileen Way swore in the chapter officers for 2018: President, Kathryn Vitalie; First Vice President, Susan Bower; Second Vice President, Rosemary Damron; Secretary, Sadie Bowyer; and Treasurer, Donna Neese. We enjoyed the raffling off of gifts that members brought to the party. We also brought wrapped gifts for seniors at the Senior Center and food items for the Faith Lutheran Church food pantry. A special thank you is extended to Eileen Way and Rosemary Damron for planning the luncheon.

Please join us by attending the chapter's first meeting of the New Year. The meeting will be held at Faith Lutheran Church on January 16, 2018, beginning at 12:15 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Steve Gessler, and he has an enjoyable travel presentation planned for us. In the past, Steve has been our guest speaker, and his travel presentation was wonderful and very informative.

Thank you to members who have made it so enjoyable to serve as the Reno Chapter 0142 President. I look forward to working with all of you. Thank you also to chapter officers and everyone for making our chapter successful. Finally, thank you all for participating in the monthly meetings and joining us by attending the various activities throughout the past year. Heidi Fanning, thank you very much for editing the monthly Nevada Federation newsletter. You did a wonderful job of preparing and distributing the newsletter monthly.

*WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR*

**OPM RETIREMENT CENTER** Contact 888-767-6738 and/or email: [retire@opm.gov](mailto:retire@opm.gov) Also TDD 855- 887-4957 (toll-free) Business hours: Mon-Fri 7:30 AM-5:00 PM EST

**Message from NARFE President Richard G. Thissen**

"I want to wish you, your families and the entire federal community a happy holiday season. It's nice to reflect on all that has happened this year and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you as NARFE President. NARFE members came together during the past year and made their voices heard throughout many congressional fights. The federal family is comprised of caring people who made it their life's work to serve the American public. This desire to serve

**Las Vegas Chapter 0423 Pres. Jane Vaughn-Meisel**

Our Chapter 0423 members enjoyed their holiday lunch and installation of officers for 2018 on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Reinstalled were Jane Vaughn-Meisel, President; Paula Perez, Secretary, and Alice Berly, Treasurer. We will continue to have our meetings at the Howard Lieburn Senior Center. A very happy new year to all!

### **Henderson Chapter 2031 Outgoing Pres. Vikki Rennekar**

Happy New Year from Henderson Chapter 2031! I am so thankful that we have officers for our chapter for this year and look forward to a great NARFE year. Newly elected President, Sharon Brunson brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our chapter.

We had a lovely Holiday Party on December 4<sup>th</sup> with lots of wonderful food and a fun white elephant auction and guests Paula Perez and Jerry Mork from the Las Vegas Chapter 423. We had so many items for the auction that we had many leftovers. The Gardners kindly took them to the Heritage Park Senior Facility in Henderson where these treasures are used for Bingo and other prizes. We owe Mary Elms a huge thank you for organizing the party and making sure everything went smoothly. We also want to thank Sharon Brunson, Wally Kuznia and Sharon House for being our auctioneers. Every year, we collect food for 6 families and presents for 8 children at one of the Henderson "at risk" elementary schools. Our thanks to Harriet Huber for heading this up and to Harriet, Wally Kuznia and Sharon House for delivering everything to the families. It is a big but rewarding task. And thanks to all who contributed to these efforts and even more for continuing to support our NARFE chapter.

As a reminder, here is Chapter 2031's meeting schedule for 2018:

Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm  
Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm  
Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm  
Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

Annual Picnic, Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm  
at O'Callaghan Park, Henderson, NV  
Holiday Party, Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 pm

The meetings and holiday party will be at the American Legion Post #40 at 425 East Van Wagenen Street, Henderson, NV.

Our monthly luncheons, except for July and August, 2018, are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month. Please support our chapter by coming to the meetings and lunches, volunteering to help with the work we do and enjoying the fellowship of other Federal retirees and active employees. NARFE works hard to protect Federal employees and retirees and needs our support to continue that work.

### **Min-Gard Chapter 2167 Pres. Donald N. Babb**

Our December 19th meeting was our Annual Christmas Potluck and Installation of Officers for 2018. Again, we had a small turnout but those attending enjoyed good food, good company, and good conversations. Raffle winners were Brenda B., Irene B., Gene A., and Don B. Following the meal, Gene Abat installed Chapter Officers for 2018: President - Don Babb; Secretary/Treasurer - Nellie Erskine. Vice President - Gloria Grant was not present and will be installed during our January meeting. Our January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

*"If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments."*

### **WHERE AND WHEN WE MEET**

**Reno Chapter 0142** meets at 12:15 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at the Faith Lutheran Church. Exceptions: July – picnic; August – dark; December – Holiday Luncheon

**Las Vegas 423** meets on the second Thursday at 12:00 PM (except Jul, Aug and Dec), at the Howard Lieburn Senior Center, 6230 Garwood Avenue. Board meets at 11:00 AM.

**Henderson Chapter 2031** will meet at 1:00 PM as follows: January 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday), April 2<sup>nd</sup> (Monday), September 4<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday). No meetings in July or August. At the American Legion Post #40, 425 Van Wagenen St., Henderson. Speakers TBA. Monthly luncheons on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 11:30A

**Min-Gard Chapter 2167** meets at 2:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the month (except June, July, August, November, December) at the Carson Valley United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville, NV. Speakers TBA.

**Pahrump Chapter 2276** meets four times a year, TBA.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Chapter 0142 Reno – Jan. 16** - Guest speaker will be Steve Gessler who has an enjoyable travel presentation planned.

**Chapter 2031 Henderson – Jan 19** - The monthly luncheon to be held at Mimi's Restaurant, 596 N. Stephanie St., Henderson. Individual orders. For any questions, call Mary Elms 702-568-5398. Please join us to celebrate the New Year and show your support for continued lunches!

*"The trouble with being punctual is that nobody's there to appreciate it."*

***Beginning february 2018, our Nevada Federation website [www.narfenv.org](http://www.narfenv.org) will be the main hub for current news, announcements, and back issues of previous newsletters for all Nevada chapters. Additionally, you can contact your respective chapter officers for updates. For those without internet connection, you may even "borrow" time on computers at your local library or activities center.***

***Note from the Editor: This is the final edition of your Nevada Federation newsletter. I thank all who have supported my editorial efforts during past few years. It has been a pleasure working with you!***

***B. Heidi Fanning***



**National Active and Retired  
Federal Employees  
Nevada Federation**  
P.O. Box 777452  
Henderson NV 89077-7452

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The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), one of America's oldest and largest associations, was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal workers. The largest federal employee/retiree organization, NARFE represents the retirement interests of nearly five million current and future federal annuitants, spouses and survivors.

**NEVADA LEGISLATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION**

<p><b><u>Governor Brian Sandoval</u></b> 555 E. Washington St., Suite 5100 Las Vegas, NV 89101 Phone: 702-486-2500 Fax: 702-486-2505</p>	<p><b><u>Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto</u></b> 333 Las Vegas Blvd. So., Ste. 8016 Las Vegas, NV 89101 Phone: 702-388-5020 Fax: 702-388-5030:</p>	<p><b><u>Senator Dean Heller</u></b> 8930 W. Sunset Road #230 Las Vegas, NV 89148 Phone: 702-388-6605 Fax: 702-388-6501</p>
<p><b><u>Congresswoman Dina Titus</u></b> <b><u>CD1 Las Vegas</u></b> 495 South Main Street, 3rd floor Las Vegas, NV 89101 Phone: 702-220-9823 Fax: 702-220-9841</p>	<p><b><u>Congressman Mark Amodei</u></b> <b><u>CD2 Reno</u></b> 5310 Kietzke Lane, Suite 103 Reno, NV 89511 Phone: 775-686-5760 Fax: 775-686-5711</p>	<p><b><u>Congresswoman Jacky Rosen</u></b> <b><u>CD3 Las Vegas</u></b> 8872 S. Eastern Ave, Suite #210/220 Las Vegas, NV 89123 Phone: 702-387-4941 Fax: 702-837-0728</p>
<p><b><u>Congressman Ruben Kihuen</u></b> <b><u>CD4 North Las Vegas</u></b> 2250 Las Vegas Blvd., N. #500 North Las Vegas, NV 89030 Phone: 702-912-1634 Fax: 702-476-0911</p>	<p><b><u>Legislative Counsel Bureau</u></b> 702-486-2800 (This number is for State Issues-Laws &amp; Casework) Grant Sawyer State Office Building 555 E. Washington Ave., Room #4000 Las Vegas, NV 89101-1072</p>	<p><b><u>Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt</u></b> <b><u>(Housing Assistance)</u></b> 1-855-457-4638 toll free <a href="http://www.HomeAgainNevada.gov">www.HomeAgainNevada.gov</a>.</p>