

**South Carolina Federation
President Blaine Lotz**
gblotz@yahoo.com



My Fellow SC NARFE members, I hope all of you, including spouses and partners, will join my wife, Lynne, and me at our 2020 SC NARFE Federation Conference in Summerville, SC, at the brand new Lowcountry Conference Center at the Hilton Garden Inn, from Monday, April 27 to Wednesday mid-day, April 29. This will be an exciting time of information sharing and fellowship with other active and retired federal workers. We've had some tough times recently with a loss of membership in our advocacy organization. But, I believe things are looking up. Let me explain.

A Democratic House of Representatives, a Republican Senate, and a Republican President introduced, debated, and approved legislation favorable to federal employees late in 2019. Let's hope this display of bipartisanship continues. On the South Carolina front, we are actively working to garner better understanding and respect for our feds through improved communications within our local communities on how our federal workers help to make life better for all of our citizens. Our local chapter members are making themselves available to their local media outlets for interviews and through penning letters to the editor in the press. My concern has long been that the average citizen does not have a good understanding of what a federal worker does during his or her career. Better understanding will equal improved respect.

Working with our Executive Vice President, Ernest Williams, he and I are conducting a *listening tour*, meeting with SC NARFE chapters and hearing their members' concerns and suggestions on how to build on an improved NARFE. Your ideas and recommendations are always welcome and are important for us and our state NARFE leadership in planning for the present and the future. Our conference in April will devote time for additional feedback from you, our members.

We need and want more feds to join NARFE, but you have a right to know what NARFE is doing and will continue to do for you in the future. For instance, we have a committee working now to consider ways to urge the SC executive and legislative branches to support a state income tax waiver for retired federal workers living in South Carolina. Retired feds are an asset to our local communities and we need additional reasons to make SC attractive to them in their retirement. Neighboring NC, GA, and FL provide tax benefits. Why should SC not do the same? At our April conference you will learn more about our efforts in this important quality of life area.

Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us in Summerville April 27-29. I look forward to meeting, speaking, and socializing with you there. Sincerely, Blaine

**Conference Committee Chair
& Summerville Chapter 1082
President Patricia Whitely**
pwhitely@sc.rr.com



GREETINGS FROM THE LOW COUNTRY. This year's 56th Annual South Carolina NARFE Federation Conference will be coming back to the Low Country for the first time since 2014! Both of the Low Country Chapters 72 and 1082 will be hosting the conference this year. The joint committee has plenty of ideas swirling around in our heads to entertain as well as bring you up to date on what's happening in NARFE!!

The conference will be held Monday, April 27 to April 29, 2020, in Summerville at the brand new and first ever Summerville Low Country Conference Center at the Hilton Garden Inn. The conference center opens February 20 and our conference will be one of the first events held there. Your committee has been hard at work with all conference details.

Please mark the date on your calendars and make plans to attend. The registration form and reservation information are included in this newsletter. Register early and make plans to join us for an exciting 2 and a half days of training and fellowship with your fellow NARFE members from around the state. The committee is looking forward to a record attendance this year, so come on down to the Low Country. The Summerville/Charleston area is just beautiful in April!!

SEE WHAT FOLLOWS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Page 2 — Article by Region III Vice President, Mr. Clarence Robinson

Page 2 — Listing of federation elected officers

Page 2 — Listing of chapter presidents

Special Insert (pages unnumbered) — 2020 ballot to vote for South Carolina Federation president, executive vice president, secretary and treasurer

Page 3 — Conference registration form

Page 4 — Meet the candidates for elected federation offices for 2020-2021 (short bios of each)

Save these dates!

**April 27-29, 2020 — 56th Annual Conference of
South Carolina NARFE Federation Members**

See registration form on page 3 or at scnarfe.org

**Questions/Comments — Contact Bob Shear at
803-331-9567 or robertshear.narfe87@hotmail.com**

**NARFE Region III Vice
President Clarence Robinson**
crobin8145@att.net



Region 3 Vice President's Update

I would like to thank every member in Region 3 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) for your support and confidence in me as your Region 3 Vice President. As you probably know, I am unopposed for the term 2021-2022. As in the past, the next three years will continue to present challenges that we have never experienced before. I know that Region 3 is up to the task and will do everything in its power to make our Region and NARFE successful.

There are a lot of proposed changes that will be coming before the membership in 2020. The proposed Amendments to the National Bylaws will be published in the July 2020 issue of the NARFE magazine. The NARFE ballot will appear in the August NARFE issue of the magazine. Voting will close on August 31, 2020 at 11:59 pm eastern time. I am asking every member to exercise their right to vote because this vote will determine the future direction of our fine organization.

As the organization continues to shrink with the loss of members, we will have to adjust the revenues and expenses of NARFE to remain in business. Some of the proposals that have been put forth for 2020 and beyond are:

1. The Regional Vice Presidents voluntarily eliminated the reimbursement for internet and phone, effective January 1, 2020.
2. Attendance by RVP's at Federation Board meetings will not be reimbursed. RVPs will pay their own way to Federation Board meetings from personal funds, effective January 1, 2020.

3. A proposal was submitted to cut RVP salaries by 50%, effective November 1, 2022. Action requires membership vote.
4. I am believe that if cuts need to be made, they should be made throughout the organization. I also believe we should operate on a balanced budget and live within our means.
5. The National Budget was cut 1%. The 2% discretionary fund was eliminated and merit raises were cut from 3% to 2% for 2020.
6. A proposal was put forth to cut the Federation 10% funds from 10% to 5%. This proposal will be on the 2020 ballot and requires membership approval.
7. A proposal was put forth to return one-sixth of the new membership fee to the chapters instead of one-third. Action requires membership vote.
8. A proposal was presented to increase the annual membership dues by \$8.00. Annual dues would increase from \$40.00 to \$48.00, \$92.00 for two years, and \$126.00 for three years. Action requires membership vote.
9. Eliminate COLA for the National Executive Board effective November 1, 2020. Action requires membership vote.

This is only a snapshot of proposed changes. To survive, we will have to make hard decisions. For a copy of the minutes, go to the NARFE Home page.

We are at the crossroads. As I have said in the past, we have to make the decision what type of NARFE we want. That time is here. Your vote will change NARFE's direction now and in the future. Please encourage every NARFE member you know to vote in the upcoming 2020 NARFE election. I know I can count on 'YOU' to vote also. Thanks for all you do. I hope to see everyone from Region3 at the National Conference in Scottsdale, AZ, in August, 2020.

SOUTH CAROLINA NARFE FEDERATION ELECTED OFFICERS

Position	Name	Chapter	Email	Phone
PRESIDENT	BLAINE LOTZ	HILTON HEAD/BLUFFTON, #2258	gblotz@yahoo.com	843-363-5204
EXECUTIVE VP	ERNEST WILLIAMS	COLUMBIA, #87	ejohnwjr@earthlink.net	803-783-6825
SECRETARY	KEVIN TOEVS	ROCK HILL, #1180	toevskevin@gmail.com	443-977-9696
TREASURER	BETTY HAWKINS	COLUMBIA, #87	blhawkins@mindspring.com	803-438-6829

SOUTH CAROLINA NARFE FEDERATION CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Chapter	President's Name	Chapter	President's Name
72 Greater Charleston Area	William Greenhill	1015 Myrtle Beach	Blake Crawford
87 Columbia	William Toney	1021 Beaufort	Deborah Riley
121 Greenville	John L. Thompson	1079 Clemson	Gail W. Cline
560 Spartanburg	George Goings	1082 Summerville	Patricia Whitely
772 Newberry	Deborah Hill	1180 Rock Hill	Judithanne P. Hare
934 Aiken	John W. Geiger	2258 Hilton Head	Robert Huisman
960 Florence	Jesse Adams		

Official Ballot

South Carolina NARFE Federation 2020 Election

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, check the box opposite the name of your choice, like this:

To write-in a candidate not on the ballot, clearly print the name on the line provided for the office and check the box opposite the write-in line, like this:

ELECTED OFFICES

For President		For Executive Vice President	
One Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE	One Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE
George Blaine Lotz, Chapter 2258, Hilton Head/Bluffton (Incumbent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patricia Whitely, Chapter 1082, Flowertown/ Summerville	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Write-in) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Write-in) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
For Secretary		For Treasurer	
One Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE	One Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE
Kevin Toevs, Chapter 1180, Rock Hill (Incumbent)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Betty Hawkins, Chapter 87, Columbia (Incumbent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Write-in) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Write-in) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Enter your NARFE membership ID # _____

Find your NARFE membership ID # on your narfe magazine label

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 JANE SMITH
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 ANYTOWN, WA 12345-6789



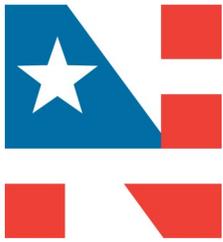
Fold the ballot in half, seal by taping or stapling it closed, and add first class postage. Mail to the address shown on the outside of your ballot. There is also a fillable ballot you can use on the sclarfe.org website. When finished entering the information in the sclarfe.org fillable ballot, **save it** and then email it to ejohnwjr@earthlink.net.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To be counted, your ballot must contain your NARFE membership ID # (as shown on the label on the front of the NARFE magazine you receive at your home address) and be received by Ernest Williams **no later than April 10, 2020.**

FROM

PLACE
FIRST CLASS
STAMP
HERE

Ernest Williams
Post Office Box 8722
Columbia, SC 29202



REGISTRATION FORM

**56TH ANNUAL SC NARFE FEDERATION
CONFERENCE — APRIL 27-APRIL 29, 2020**

SIGN-IN: APRIL 27 (NOON TO 3:45 PM & 5:30 PM TO
6:30 PM) & APRIL 28 (7:30 AM TO 8:30 AM)

OPENING CEREMONY: APRIL 27 AT 4:00 PM

Make hotel room reservations for SC NARFE Conference direct with:

Hilton Garden Inn — 406 Sigma Drive — Summerville, SC 29486

Toll Free Reservation: 1-877-STAY-HGI or On Line Reservation: www.hilton.com.

Use the **group code NARFE** to get the special conference rate. **Cut Off Date for Hotel Room Reservations is April 3, 2020.**

The special conference rate is \$129.00, plus 11% tax and \$2.18 destination fee for a **total cost of \$145.37** per night. The special rate is good for three days before April 27 and three days after April 29, 2020. Late reservations are subject to availability and prevailing rate.

The Hilton Garden Inn is just off I-26, within a mile of local dining and major retailers. Parking is complimentary. The hotel is just 30 minutes from Charleston and Lake Moultrie. Relaxation's easy with a resort-style pool and several walking trails nearby. Cooked-to-order breakfast is complimentary. The two-story conference center has meetings covered and WiFi's free.

Note: Use a separate conference registration form for each registrant.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE.

First Name _____ **Last Name** _____

Badge Name, if different from First Name _____

Mailing Address: Street or PO Box # _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Home Phone (___) _____ **Cell Phone (___)** _____

E-mail _____

(ONLY CHECK ONE) NARFE non-chapter member ___ Chapter member ___ Guest ___

NARFE Chapter No. ___ Chapter Name/Location _____

Current **Chapter Officer** Position/Positions _____

Current **Federation Officer** Position/Positions _____

Past **Federation President** (show dates of service) _____

SC NARFE Federation Conference registration fee is \$75.00 per person. The fee includes the reception Monday evening (at 6:30 pm) and banquet buffet (with two entrée selections) Tuesday evening (at 6:00 pm). **Please submit payment in full by April 7, 2020.** Late registration fee postmarked after April 7, 2020, is \$85.00.

Registration cancellations between April 8 and April 15, 2020, will be charged a \$15 handling fee and any cancellation between April 16 and April 27 will be charged a \$35 fee. Any cancellation fee will be waived if it is due to hospitalization or other serious problem depending on what meal function guarantees have been made. Payment shall be made by check payable to SC NARFE Federation Conference and mailed with this registration to: SC NARFE Federation Conference, ATTN: Pat Whitely, 411 Woodward Blvd., Summerville, SC 29483

Special dietary needs — check boxes that apply.

Vegetarian

Gluten-free

Dairy-free

Kosher

or other (please specify below)

Do not write in this area; it is for Treasurer use only:

Item No _____ Received _____ Check No _____ \$ Amount _____ Registrations _____ Deposit Date _____

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National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association
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Columbia, SC 29223

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TIME SENSITIVE

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR FEDERATION ELECTED OFFICES

Blaine Lotz/Candidate for President: Blaine is a retired USAF intelligence officer (colonel with 26 years on active duty) and a retired senior career civilian in the Defense Department. His civilian career, largely in the Senior Executive Service, culminated in his appointment as Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Oversight.

A member of the NARFE chapter in Hilton Head, Blaine is a former president of the Hilton Head World Affairs Council, past president of the Hilton Head chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, former board chair of the local Hilton Head Habitat for Humanity Affiliate and former chair of the Beaufort County Democratic Party. Blaine is involved in church life leadership at First Presbyterian Church. He is currently the SC NARFE Federation president.

He earned a B. A. in History from The George Washington University and a Masters in Public Administration from Auburn University. He also completed post-graduate work at Harvard University and at MIT. He and his wife Lynne have two adult children and four grandchildren.

Patricia Whitely/Candidate for Executive Vice President: Retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District as the Human Resources Officer with 37 years federal service. Spent most of her federal career as a Human Resources professional serving in Army, Navy and Air Force commands in CA, MI, TN, AL, FL, IL and SC. Responsibilities included staff supervision and administering all aspects of human resources including recruitment, classification, employee & labor relations, and employee benefits programs. In addition, Pat is a retired U. S. Navy veteran with 23

years of Navy Reserve service. She served in various commands performing administrative officer type work. Education includes an AA degree in Business Administration from Grossmont College, El Cajon, CA. Joined NARFE in 1999 while an active federal employee and has held various positions within the Summerville Chapter. Currently serves as Chapter president of Summerville Chapter 1082 as well as Federation Service Officer. When not volunteering with NARFE, she also volunteers with Intrepid Hospice. She and husband Richard have three adult children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Kevin Toevs/Candidate for Secretary: Retired Special Agent/ Division Chief with the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), serving for 28 years. Worked in both the criminal investigations and counter-intelligence areas. The last years of service were spent at NCIS Headquarters in management roles. A member of the NARFE Tri-County #1180 Rock Hill chapter. Hobbies include woodturning and riding his Harley Davidson Ultra Classic-Electric Glide. Kevin has never been married and has no children. Current SC NARFE Federation secretary.

Betty Hawkins/Candidate for Treasurer: Began work career as an adult education teacher and continued teaching in junior high school. For a few years she was a stay-at-home mom for two sons. Federal service of 19 years with Internal Revenue Service in the Taxpayer Service Division. After retirement, joined NARFE and served as membership chair and eight years as chapter president. Active in her church including a lap quilt ministry. For the last 11 years, she has been an election poll manager. Betty grew up in Missouri known as the "Show Me" state. She claims that label describes her too. Current SC NARFE Federation treasurer.