

*Serving Current and Retired
Federal Employees*

June 2019 Volume 56-Issue 3

Federation President
Blaine Lotz
gblotz@yahoo.com



On behalf of our team of newly elected SC NARFE Federation officers, we are honored and challenged to assume this leadership mantle of service to our 13 chapters and 2,500+ members. I am pleased to be working with Betty Hawkins, treasurer; Kevin Toevs, secretary; and Ernest Williams, vice-president. Ernest and I will make up a joint leadership team eager to work with you, listen to your concerns and suggestions, and endeavor to garner more respect for all of our federal public servants. Our heartfelt thanks to Bob Shear and his steadfast leadership of SC NARFE. Bob is making my transition a smooth one and I am thankful for his dedication and support.

At our recently completed conference in Columbia, I made clear that it was imperative that we work together to share with our relatives, friends, and neighbors how federal employees make all of our lives better and why each of us deserves respect from our fellow citizens and our leaders in Washington, DC, and in Columbia, SC. For far too long, a number of our Congressional members and Executive leaders have disparaged the federal workforce. This must stop and we must convince these errant leaders of their wrongheaded views on federal employees. They must stop using us as whipping posts and pawns to freeze our pay in their budget-cutting. These are the same legislators and executive leaders who never met a new weapon system or border wall they didn't like. It will not be my intention to coddle those who have disparaged us; they need to be held responsible for their misguided priorities and their opponents who share our values need to be rewarded. I vow to be your strongest advocate in demanding respect our feds deserve!

Last month, I instituted a new means of communicating our positive message throughout South Carolina through a press release blitz to more than 50 media outlets which service our state. Most are in SC, but some are in neighboring states that have a SC market, e.g., Augusta, Savannah, and Charlotte. In the press release, I conveyed who we are, what we do, and what happened at our just

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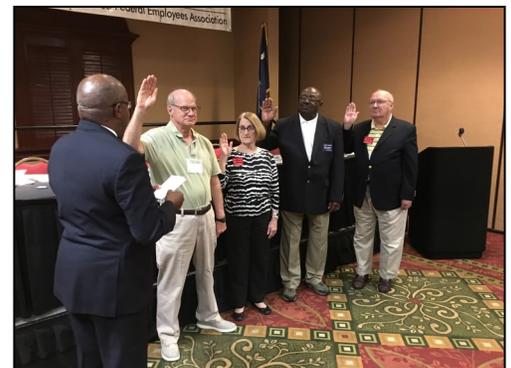
completed annual state conference. My thought is that if any of these press releases are published, our neighbors and friends will learn more about us; as a result, we might gain some new NARFE members, but, most importantly, more people will learn more about us. Additional press releases will follow, but we can all help in this process. Talk with your local media representatives, tell them what you did (if you are retired) or what you do as an active fed. Maybe they will do a local feature article in their publication or TV/radio station. Let's see if this works. We need your help to make it so.

Ernest and I plan to meet with as many of our local chapters as you would like. We can spend a portion of your meeting as part of our listening tour — hearing your suggestions, your ideas, your concerns. We need your advice on how to stop the hemorrhaging of members, how to gain new members, how to keep our chapters vibrant, and how to invoke our message in the community and beyond. We will soon be calling a Federation Executive Board meeting and I urge our chapter and state leaders to attend and share your goals, challenges, and recommendations.

While working on these issues, I sincerely hope that we can continue to positively provide for diverse SC NARFE Federation leadership, in race and in gender, both at the chapter and federation level. Let's work together to accomplish our goals. Ernest and I want to see a SC NARFE Federation that works for all federal employees: active, retired, and future. We hope to see you soon.

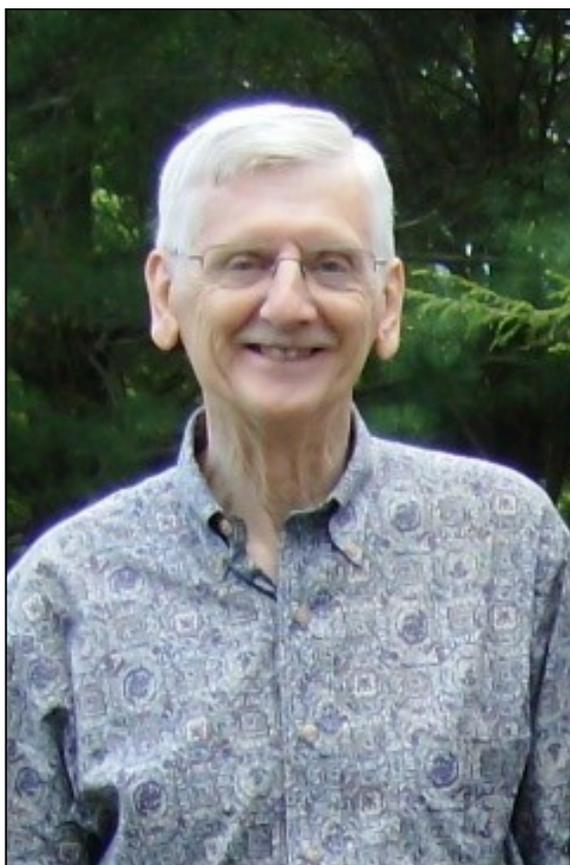
Pictured from left to right, **Clarence Robinson**, Region 3 VP, swears in new South Carolina federation officers for 2019-2020:

Kevin Toevs,
Secretary, **Betty Hawkins**,
Treasurer, **Ernest Williams**,
Executive Vice President, and **Blaine Lotz**,
President.



PICTURES FROM THE JUDY KEMP AWARD CEREMONY AT THE JUST CONCLUDED SOUTH CAROLINA NARFE FEDERATION CONFERENCE

(HELD FROM APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2019 AT THE EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL IN COLUMBIA, SC)



Pictured to the left is **Larry Shaff**, posthumous recipient of the 2018 South Carolina NARFE Federation Judy Kemp award.

Pictured above are **Bill Nichol** (on the left), past federation president from the Hilton Head chapter and recipient of the 2012 Judy Kemp award, and **Bob Huisman**, president of Larry Shaff's Hilton Head chapter. Bill and Bob jointly accepted the award on behalf of Larry's family. Bill and Bob provided touching remembrances of Larry's significant citizenship and community service contributions as a valued member of the South Carolina NARFE federation.

Pictured to the right are previous recipients of the Judy Kemp award.

From left to right are **Bill Nichol** (2012 recipient/Hilton Head chapter), **John Geiger** (2013 recipient/Aiken chapter), **Paul Donahue** (2017 recipient/Columbia chapter), **Kathy Hensley** (2015 recipient/Columbia chapter & NARFE's current national Secretary/Treasurer), and **Bob Muller** (2016 recipient/Greenville chapter).

One previous recipient, **Esther Crandall**, is deceased. Esther received the first Judy Kemp award in 2011 as a member of the North Charleston chapter. An award was not presented in 2014.



**South Carolina Federation
NARFE PAC Coordinator &
Executive Vice President
Ernest Williams
ejohnwjr@earthlink.net**



I'm writing to you today in my role as the federation's NARFE-PAC Coordinator.

NARFE-PAC is in full gear to raise funds for the new 2019-2020 election cycle. The new HQ goals for this election cycle are:

- (1) raise \$1.75 million in member contributions,
- (2) disburse \$1.25 million for political purposes,
- (3) send NARFE members to 110 in-district fundraisers, and
- (4) increase monthly NARFE-PAC sustainers by 20 percent.

Our South Carolina Federation NARFE-PAC goals for the 2019-2020 election cycle are:

- (1) \$14,650 in member contributions,
- (2) solicit 220 member contributors, and
- (3) sign-up 10 monthly NARFE-PAC sustainers.

The 2019-2020 first quarter NARFE-PAC Contribution and Disbursement Report (A250) for our South Carolina Federation can be viewed by clicking [here](#). This report reflects that as of 4/5/19, we had 40 contributors, made \$2,155.00 in contributions, and had 11 sustainers.

A new cycle also means new NARFE-PAC materials, including the latest pins and new gift, which is a 17-ounce thermal NARFE-PAC water bottle for sustainers. Chapter NARFE-PAC coordinators can obtain updated forms and materials by clicking [here](#).

I want to thank all chapter presidents and NARFE-PAC leaders for your efforts in support of NARFE-PAC and its initiatives thus far.

Please continue to solicit NARFE-PAC at each chapter meeting.



**Contribute to
NARFE-PAC today!**

**South Carolina Federation
NARFE FEEA Coordinator
Clara Gillentine
gillentinec803@aol.com**



NARFE has entered into a new memorandum of understanding with the Federal Employee Education & Assistance (FEEA) Fund to establish a new unified fund called the NARFE-FEEA Fund. The new fund combines the previously separate scholarship and disaster emergency assistance programs going forward. Donations can be made to the NARFE-FEEA fund by check using the coupon in the NARFE magazine. Please notify Clara Gillentine, NARFE-FEEA Coordinator, of your contributions so that the federation can keep a record of donations made by SC chapters.



**Federation Treasurer
Betty Hawkins
blhawkins@mindspring.com**

The Federation's 2019-2020 budget was approved by the Federation Executive

Board when it met April 11, 2019. The balance at the end of the fiscal year on March 31, 2020, is expected to be \$10,000.00.

I'm also pleased to report that all 13 South Carolina federation chapters have reported timely filing of their 2018 tax returns. Terrific compliance!



Pictured above from left to right are **Clara Gillentine, Pat Whitely, Olivia Williams, and John Geiger.**

NARFE national president, **Ken Thomas**, and South Carolina Federation President, **Bob Shear**, jointly recognized each with citations for distinguished service to the South Carolina NARFE federation. These people consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication to NARFE and all of its members.

Also recognized, but not pictured, were **Margaret Baptiste and Ray Jensen.**

Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator
Olivia A. Williams
oeashf3@gmail.com



Thanks to all the SC chapters for a job well done last year. From April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019, SC chapters raised a total of \$5,526.66, plus 50/50 Drawing of \$1,639.00. The year before, we raised \$6,607.63 plus 50/50 Drawing of \$2,029.00. As you can see, we were a little lower this year. As of March 31, 2019, NARFE members nationwide have contributed \$13,076,053.48 towards our new national goal of \$14 Million by December 31, 2020.

Highest amount raised by chapters:

- 1st Place — Columbia/\$1,257.50
- 2nd Place — Myrtle Beach/\$736.50
- 3rd Place — Newberry/\$528.25

Highest amount per capita:

- 1st Place — Newberry/\$22.01
- 2nd Place — Spartanburg/\$11.44
- 3rd Place — Rock Hill/\$8.46

Highest 50/50 Drawing amount raised by chapter (total amount raised \$2,063.00):

- 1st Place — Columbia/\$348.00
- 2nd Place — Myrtle Beach/\$321.00
- 3rd Place — Beaufort/\$295.00

Winners of 50/50 Drawing at 2019 annual conference:

- 1st Place — Ernest Williams, Columbia
- 2nd Place — Harry Smalls, Beaufort
- 3rd Place — Bob Huisman, Hilton Head

On a different subject, let me remind you of the importance of purchasing our new Semipostal Alzheimer's Stamp. Please encourage friends, family members, church members, social media friends and anyone else you know to purchase the new stamp.

Chapters are asked to go to the Alzheimer's website and look up the Longest Day which is June 21, 2019. Many chapters nationally are participating in various ways in order to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and many are forming teams to walk or just come together with some type of activity during monthly meetings in order to raise funds.

We are still on the National Alzheimer's Walk Team under Member, just not on the National Banner, as we are still a member of the Zenith Society having donated over \$13 Million. The Walk to End Alzheimer's NARFE Total for December 2018 was \$67,181.00.

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December totals for 2017 and 2016 were, respectively, \$65,536.00, and \$44,127.00. Our first year with the Walk was 2016 and our NARFE National Goal was \$100,000.00. As you can see, we did not meet the goal.

However, there is an exciting change in the how funds for the Walks are counted. Funds raised through the Walk support the full mission of the Alzheimer's Association. Beginning in 2019, funds raised by NARFE through its national Walk team will count towards our goal of raising \$14 million for the Alzheimer's cause by the end of 2020. Funds raised outside of the Walk to End Alzheimer's will continue to fund U.S.-based research. The Breakdown is: 77% Alzheimer's Care, Support, Research, Awareness and Advocacy; 17% Fundraising and 6% Administrative charges.

Chapters are asked to set up teams online to allow members to make contributions by credit card. Ensure your team is registered as a NARFE team with your chapter name and number so contributions are counted on-line for your chapter. Chapter teams must access the team account online in order for the team to get credit. It is suggested that chapters give the chapter coordinator the funds at regular chapter meetings so the money is turned in promptly to the local walk office.



Click on the purple sign for additional information about the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Walk Dates to End Alzheimer's for SC 2019			
Aiken	10/12/2019	Greenville	10/05/2019
Anderson	09/14/2019	Myrtle Beach	11/02/2019
Bluffton	10/26/2019	Rock Hill	10/12/2019
Charleston	09/14/2019	Spartanburg	10/19/2019
Columbia	10/26/2019		

Thanks to all the chapter Alzheimer's coordinators, chapter members and all of you for your continued support of this very meaningful and worthwhile effort to fight Alzheimer's.

One final note to some very special people: I want to offer my sincere thanks to Mrs. Nellie Bodenhamer, Mrs. Ruth Donahue, Ms. Belinda Robins and Mrs. Betty Wessinger for all their help and support during the past year and during the 2019 federation conference. We could not have accomplished our Alzheimer's mission without their dedicated support.

NARFE NATIONAL OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & REGION III VICE PRESIDENT

Position	Name	Email	Phone
PRESIDENT	KENNETH J. THOMAS	natpres@narfe.org	(703) 838-7760
SECRETARY/TREASURER	KATHRYN E. HENSLEY	natsectreas@narfe.org	(703) 838-7760
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	BARBARA SIDO	execdir@narfe.org	(703) 838-7760
REGION III VICE PRESIDENT	CLARENCE ROBINSON	crobin8145@att.net	(404) 312-8028

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD (FEB)

The five positions listed below are voting members of the FEB.
The position descriptions for these jobs are under revision by NARFE and updates will be included when the new F-10 manual is published.

Position	Name	Chapter	Email	Phone
PRESIDENT	BLAINE LOTZ	HILTON HEAD	gblotz@yahoo.com	(843) 363-5204
VICE PRESIDENT	ERNEST WILLIAMS	COLUMBIA	ejohnwjr@earthlink.net	(803) 783-6825
SECRETARY	KEVIN TOEVS	ROCK HILL	toevskevin@gmail.com	(443) 977-9696
TREASURER	BETTY HAWKINS	COLUMBIA	blhawkins@mindspring.com	(803) 438-6829
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	BOB SHEAR	COLUMBIA	robertshear.narfe87@hotmail.com	(803) 331-9567

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS (AVPs shown below with assigned chapters)

AVPs are voting members of the FEB
The AVP position description is under revision by NARFE. The updated version will be included within the new F-10 manual when it is published.

AREA VP (1) — VACANT Greater Charleston 72 & Summerville 1082	AREA VP (2) — EDWARD GRIFFIN, egriffin1916@earthlink.net Columbia 87 & Aiken 934
AREA VP (3) — HARRY BROWN, harry_bro@msn.com Clemson 1079	AREA VP (4) — VACANT, Greenville 121 & Spartanburg 560
AREA VP (5) — VACANT Newberry 772 & Rock Hill 1180	AREA VP (6) — MARJORIE RICKER, onthegotwo2@yahoo.com Florence 960 & Myrtle Beach 1015
AREA VP (7) — WALTER CLARKE, dscnttrvl@aol.com Beaufort 1021 & Hilton Head 2258	

LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS

The Federal and State Legislative Chairs are both voting members of the FEB.
Senatorial Leaders and Congressional District Leaders are not FEB voting members.

Click [here](#) to view NARFE's recently updated Senatorial and Congressional District Leader job descriptions.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE CHAIR — VACANT	STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR — VACANT
SENATORIAL LEADER (SENATOR GRAHAM) — VACANT	SENATORIAL LEADER (SENATOR SCOTT) — VACANT
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LEADER (1) — PAUL RUSSO, pauldots@flash.net	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LEADER (2) — VACANT
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LEADER (3) — HARRY BROWN, harry_bro@msn.com	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LEADER (4) — VIRGINIA JENKINS, vjenkins922@gmail.com
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LEADER (5) — GEORGE GOINGS, goingsgr@aol.com	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LEADER (6) — VACANT
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LEADER (7) — CATHY LINTA LEADER, clintaleader@gmail.com	

Federation Service Officer
Patricia Whitely
pwhitely@sc.rr.com
843-408-3509

Do you know your chapter service officer? Not all chapters have service officers; therefore, if your chapter does not have a service officer appointed, then your chapter president serves in this capacity. Service officers support NARFE members and are available to help with retirement and benefit related issues. For a more complete list of service officer duties, click [here](#) to view the new Service Officer Guide (FH-10) just recently updated and published by NARFE.

NARFE members have a variety of resources available to seek assistance regarding retirement and benefits questions that may arise throughout work or retirement years. These sources include websites at OPM, the retirement operations center in Boyers, PA, NARFE, Social Security, and Medicare as well as many printed free publications. As a rule, OPM and other federal benefits agencies are reducing or no longer making available paper forms. Instead, these materials are only available online. If you do not have access to a computer and need a particular form or publication, please let me know. I will be happy to download the form or publication, print it and mail it to you.

The chapter service officer is your local “go to” resource available to help individual NARFE members and their families make the proper contacts regarding the following matters that are of utmost concern to most members:

Federal life and health insurance benefits	Death benefits
Survivor benefits	State/federal income taxes and state inheritance taxes
Beneficiary changes	Social Security requirements

Your chapter service officer may also assist you with problems involving completing claims forms as well as facilitate communication with OPM. You may contact me if you have any questions regarding the benefits listed above. My contact information is shown in the blue box at the top of this article. If I don’t know the answer, I will most definitely research and respond as soon as possible. Feel free to contact me!

BE PREPARED FOR LIFE’S EVENTS

What Your Survivors Should Know

The purpose of this guide is to help you organize your personal and financial information in one location so your survivors will have the information they will need to handle your affairs upon your death or in case of a serious illness.

While one’s death is a difficult topic to discuss, reviewing this information with your family will help them to understand the steps they will need to take. Any questions that come up also can be addressed. You should ensure that your family members review the guide with you and know where it is located. You also should review the guide periodically to ensure that the information is up-to-date.

Click [here](#) to view the guide which is located on the narfe.org website. This great tool helps organize important documents so they are easy to find when needed.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On the bottom half of the previous page (p.5), I’m sure you noticed the federation has a number of job vacancies for Area Vice Presidents and Legislative Officers. These are great jobs!

Volunteers are needed to fill these positions as soon as possible. If interested, please advise your chapter president or contact a federation officer.

HEADS-UP ALERT

Be on the lookout for big changes in how NARFE federation and chapter officers are able to access and manage information. Most officers have been using the Online Activities Module (OAM) system for many years. OAM is being replaced by the Association Management System (AMS). The change is happening right now and should be fully operational sometime during June 2019.

As the change is implemented, please identify problems you encounter and pass them up through your chapter president to federation leadership so problems can be resolved quickly.

SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERAL & STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT



Donald J. Trump (R)
The White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500
Phone: 202-456-1111
<https://www.whitehouse.gov>

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES (continued)



Joe Wilson (R)
District 2
1436 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-2452
<http://joewilson.house.gov>

GOVERNOR



Henry McMaster (R)
Office of the Governor
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: 803-734-2100
<http://www.governor.sc.gov>



Jeff Duncan (R)
District 3
2229 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone 202-225-5301
<http://jeffduncan.house.gov>

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



Pamela Evette (R)
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: 803-734-2100
<http://ltgov.sc.gov>



William Timmons (R)
District 4
313 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-6030
<http://timmons.house.gov>

U.S. SENATORS



Lindsey Graham (R)
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-5972
<http://www.lgraham.senate.gov>



Ralph Norman (R)
District 5
319 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-5501
<http://norman.house.gov>



Tim Scott (R)
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-6121
<http://www.scott.senate.gov>



James E. Clyburn (D)
District 6
200 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-3315
<http://clyburn.house.gov>

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES



Joe Cunningham (D)
District 1
423 Cannon House Office Building (HOB)
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-3176
<http://cunningham.house.gov>



Tom Rice (R)
District 7
512 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-9895
<http://rice.house.gov>