



NC NARFE UPDATE ON THE LATEST NEWS, June 13, 2018

By the time you read this all the votes will have been counted. I want to express my sincere and deep appreciation for the votes I received and also for the votes electing our other statewide officers and Area Vice Presidents. I am deeply honored to serve as your new Federation President and promise to do my very best to lead us forward in addressing our challenges and opportunities. I am also very pleased to welcome our new Executive Vice President, Henry Brattlie, to his new position. Henry brings many talents and experiences and I look forward to working closely with him on such items as strategic planning, continued review of our bylaws, the technical innovations that are needed with our website, and other operations. I also want to welcome back our Treasurer, Sam Crain, and our Secretary, Dave Philips, who both perform vital functions for the operation of our Federation. In addition, I want to recognize Theron Rumsey who is returning as Area I Vice President. Theron led our Annual Meeting Host Committee and contributed greatly to our successful event in Hickory. We also have a new Area II VP, Patricia Brannin, from the Charlotte Chapter. In Area III we welcome back Chris Huber. In Area IV we welcome Paul Carew, former Federation President and National Vice President, who is returning to the Board as Area IV VP. In Area V, Richard “Ben” Benjamin is returning as Area V VP, leading a new “team approach” for chapters to work more closely together in his area. In Area VI, we welcome Victor Heinrich as our new AVP. He has the distinction of being a national member and is not affiliated with an Area VI chapter.

I also want to update you on our appointed officers. We have looked to consolidate a couple of positions and combine responsibilities, actions which are part of our Strategic Plan. Robert Allen has completed his two terms of office and we are all grateful for his stellar leadership and guidance during this period of rapid change. Robert will now be our Immediate Past President and will serve as Parliamentarian and Editor of *The Beacon*. Retiring Area II VP Vivian Vair will be our new Alzheimer’s Coordinator and will also serve as Associate Editor of the Beacon. We want to recognize and thank Margaret “Peggy” Malley for her many years of dedicated service to Alzheimer’s.

Our Former President, Ron Buffaloe, who has served as his chapter Membership Chair for several years, will be our new Membership Coordinator. We want to thank Sue Hawkins for her service as Membership Coordinator and as past Area II VP.

Sue also chaired the Award Selection Committee. While retiring from the Board she will remain on the Ballot and Teller Committee.

Charles Talley will remain our National Legislative Officer and will also have the role of NARFE -PAC Coordinator. Among other things he will be working to ensure that we have effective legislative advocacy through our Congressional District leaders and chapter officers. John Allis will continue to serve as our State Legislative Officer, with major focus on efforts to extend the Bailey Settlement to all government retirees.

Sharrill Jennings, (my better half), will continue as Federation Service Officer. Charlie Pratt will remain as our Webmaster and will be assisted by Peter Eckhoff and Glenn Marshall as IT Associates. These folks all contribute greatly to our success.

Now that the election is over we will be reviewing the results of the votes on one resolution and several bylaw amendments and will be working to implement those that passed. We are finalizing hotel arrangements for our 2019 meeting in Jacksonville, NC and beginning to plan the program. We are also reviewing our committee structure and are working to fill positions on these committees. Now that the election is over we will also conduct a review of this first ballot endeavor with a goal of identifying lessons learned and possible improvements going forward.

I will be representing us at the Federation Presidents' meeting that will be held in Jacksonville, FL in connection with FedCon 2018, the annual meeting. I hope to interact with my peers from Region X and elsewhere throughout the country and to gain insights and ideas that will help us here in North Carolina. I will also be leading our contingent, which is expected to be about 25 North Carolina members. Prior to or during this meeting, we will learn the results of the national election, both in terms of new leadership for NARFE, and the results of important national bylaw proposals that could have major impact on our future operations.

In summary, I intend to reach out to all our members to lead us forward and to do so with openness, transparency, and integrity. Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your new President.

Tom Jennings