



## **All, I wish you all Happy Holidays! I thought I'd update you on a few things as we close out 2017. Hard to believe 2018 is right around the corner!**

First, the Federation Executive Board has approved a Strategic Plan that will help guide our activities for the next three years. The plan addresses our operations, from advocacy efforts to our administrative structure.

You'll be hearing about it in more detail soon because we need to implement the action items as soon as we can so we can begin to move forward. We'll look for input along the way so we can continue what works and change what doesn't.

Second, we're well on the way with planning for our 2018 annual meeting (formerly called convention). We'll be having Ms. Barbara Sido, the new NARFE Executive Director, participate and we plan to have a lunch and learn session. We'll also have a training session, probably dealing with service and the new and myriad ways NARFE interacts with our members. Call Letter 1 is on the street with hotel reservation information and instructions about registering for the meeting. The 2018 meeting will be different from our previous ones in that we won't be holding elections or voting on bylaws amendments. All that will be done immediately following the meeting by ballot sent to all members. More to follow!

I'm happy to report that our membership has actually increased in North Carolina. At last count our membership has grown by almost 100 members this year and we're only one of six federations NARFE-wide experiencing growth. Keep up the good work because we know there's strength in numbers--the more people we have speaking out on issues that affect us, the more leverage we have.

As you know we have two distinguished awards we issue every year--The Lyle Storch Award and the Charles Patton Award. I'm excited to report that we now have a third major award, the Tom Hobgood Award for legislative advocacy. Tom, who passed away this summer, was a former Federation President who was heavily and actively involved in our advocacy efforts. We'll be sending out information this award and how to nominate someone for it soon. Be on the lookout.

I'm honored that we have two North Carolina NARFEians on two 2018-2019 national standing Committees: Henry Brattlie on Strategic Planning and Advisory and yours truly on Bylaws and Resolutions. North Carolina is recognized as one of the leading federations in NARFE and having members on two committees is testament to that. Please don't hesitate to contact Henry or me if you have questions. Finally, NARFE HQ is undergoing some organizational change. HQ has added the position of Deputy

Director, Public Relations; an advocacy assistant; and a Staff Vice President, Finance and Administration. These new positions will be funded in part by the elimination of two other positions. HQ has also changed the titles of some current positions--for instance, Director, Legislation now becomes Staff Vice President, Advocacy. I imagine we'll see more about these at some point.

Robert Allen

Federation President