

## **CANDIDATES for OFFICE – 2019-2020**

**"Since only one candidate is running for each position, we will not publish a ballot. The new slate of officers will be installed at the Apr 25-26, 2019 Texas Federation Conference."**

**John L Creswell, PhD  
(Chapter 672)  
Candidate for Federation President**

I am announcing my candidacy for a second term as Texas Federation President.

You elected me President at the 59<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of the Texas Federation of Chapters, May 3-6, 2017. Thank you, for giving me this great honor and responsibility. We have accomplished a lot since then in our transition from Texas Federation of Chapters to Texas Federation - One Member One Vote and Optional Chapter Membership. I have had - and continue to have - the great pleasure of working with and leading an outstanding team of elected and appointed officers. I have visited with and learned from NARFE members around the state and nation. For more background information, I refer you to previous Texas Federation Register "Comments from the Federation President".

We are not finished with the transition; much remains to be done.

# **CHARLES GRAFFAM**

**(Chapter 559)**

## **Candidate for Federation Executive Vice President**

I am Charles Graffam and I am running for the office of Executive Vice President of the Texas Federation.

I began my civilian government career at the Veterans Administration adjudicating claims for veterans benefits. After two-and-one half years there, I advanced to become a Central Office program analyst, writing policy directives and regulations. I also edited all publications, forms, and form letters leaving the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service. My clear and concise writing became the standard for my Service for 20 years. I'd achieved the goal I'd set when joining government.

I was one of two individuals from VA selected to serve on the National Performance Review under Vice President Al Gore. I came away with a much clearer view of the need for improving governmental operations, but also the limits of possible change.

My military career encompasses over 8 years of active Army service and 20 years in the Army Reserves, performing strategic intelligence analysis and basic intelligence instruction.

Twelve years ago, I joined the Collin County Chapter of NARFE in McKinney, Texas. I've been president of the chapter for 10 of the last 11 years. I am serving in my fourth year as Northeast Area Vice President. I hope to continue to help the chapter, the Texas Federation, and NARFE's important mission as long as I am able. NARFE needs strong leadership to help us through the current transition period and to move forward and build the organization and further its goals. I intend to use all of my knowledge and experience to assist us to get the word out about NARFE and its benefits and to further the development of a better and more productive Texas Federation.

**Frances A. Hiner**  
**(Chapter 2365)**  
**Candidate for Federation Secretary**

I hereby announce my candidacy for a fourth term as Texas Federation Secretary. You elected me as your Secretary in 2013 (and re-elected me in 2015 and 2017). I have learned a lot, made some mistakes (haven't we all), and really enjoy working with the members throughout the state and the leaders over the past 6 years. I have been able to meet so many of the members and putting a face with a name is always rewarding.

The main thing is getting the job done in an efficient manner and keeping the wheels of the Federation running smoothly. At this point of transition to the One Member One Vote and Optional Chapter Membership, lots of changes had to be made and lots of work still needs to be done. The first step was to completely rewrite the TF-10 – Federation Officers Operations Manual. Team Hiner + DCreswell + JCreswell + Ploen started the task in mid-Dec 2017 and completed it on May 31, 2018. Lots of hours were devoted to developing a quality product for everyone and making it available (on the web site) for all to use.

**James Ploen**  
**(Chapter 228)**  
**Candidate for Federation Treasurer**

I hereby announce my candidacy for Texas Federation - NARFE treasurer.

I was elected your treasurer on May 6, 2017, to be effective immediately, because of the lack of a treasurer since the death of Wilbur Doehring on October 28, 2016. While it has been a challenge getting the Federation financial records back in order, I feel the need to complete the work by developing written procedures for the duties and financial reports for the future use by the Federation treasurers. To complete that work, I am seeking a second term.

If you are interested in my financial background, I refer you to the Feb-Apr 2017 TFR (available on the Federation web site).

My financial accomplishments as Federation treasurer include:

- issuance and collection of 2017 and 2018 Dues (including past due amounts from 2016);
- implementation of dues rate change from \$4 to \$2;
- design of financial statements, reports and forms (reports existed by format design was not available to existing treasurer);
- issuance of all financial statements, reports and forms for year (including final 2015-2017 reports);
- established check book balances; reconciled bank statements to check book for the year;
- cleared all old outstanding checks;
- reviewed and adjusted Federation incentive programs;
- initiated minimum property record threshold and updated Federation property records;
- participated in audit of 2017 financial transactions;
- invested Federation funds in a higher interest rate CD;
- and assisted Federation officers and members in many other projects.

# **Johnny Ortiz**

**(Chapter 1345)**

## **Candidate for Northeast Area Vice President**

### NARFE BACKGROUND -

Six years of experience as NARFE District One Representative. Visited every NARFE Chapter in District One and maintained contact with each Chapter President. Timely - submitted TF-1 and TF-2. Attended District One Conference, Texas State Conferences and Region VI Conferences.

Have served as President of Chapter 1345. Chapter 1345 has hosted yearly recruitment activities; A booth at the Bonham Veterans Center for two years. A booth at the Fannin County Resource for two years, a booth at the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Pre-Health seminar for four years. Hosted a FEHB fair in Bonham for the last two years.

Have visited with Congressman John Ratcliffe, TX 4th District and with Beto O'Rourke, Texas's 16th Congressional District and express NARFE concerns to them.

### Work Experience:

1972 - 2010 Various positions with Department of Veterans Affairs, Bonham, TX

### Education:

Southeastern Oklahoma State University, 1978 B.A. Sociology

### Military Service

United States Army 1969 - 1972

### Current Community Affiliations

2012 – present: Have served with the following organizations:

Selective Service System Board Member

American Legion Post 283, Bonham, TX Service Officer

Mulberry Cemetery Association Board Member

Fannin County Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar.

Fannin County Election Judge, for Precinct 9.

# **Martha E. Couch**

**(Chapter 607)**

## **Candidate Statement Area Vice President South East**

### ***NARFE Background –***

*Membership* – I have been a member of NARFE for 10 years.

*Local Membership* – I have been a member of Chapter 607, Bryan-College Station for 10 years.

*Chapter Offices Held* – I have served as secretary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, First Vice President and President of chapter 607.

*District and Area Offices Held* – Served as District Director – 2 years

*Area Offices Held* - Served as Area Vice President – 4 years...Currently, serving in this role.

*Attendance* -           District 6 Meetings – 6 years  
                                  Texas State Leadership Meetings - 6  
                                  Texas State Meetings – 4 years  
                                  National Meetings – 3 years

*Statement:* The National Active and Retired Federal Employees has the mission of supporting and promoting federal employee benefits and retiree retirement benefit safety.

I am inspired by this commitment to the support of such an invaluable force in the United States of America. Much of that occurs daily in our country is supported and carried forward by dedicated, hard working federal employees. They are not celebrated enough for their contributions.

Whatever I can do of service from my elected position, I will do the best of my abilities. I ask your support in carrying forward our mission. NARFE currently and in the future must reflect our membership, who are our target audience.

The time that we take in supporting and highlighting their needs and benefits will benefit our nation and the future. This is not just our mission but should be our calling.

I commit to stand with you.

## **Dora L. Benavides**

(Chapter 91)

### **Candidate for South Area Vice President**

My name is Dora L. Benavides and I am running for South Area Vice President.

As the current South Area Vice President, I attended the last Texas Federation State Convention in Austin, TX, and met South Area members from Chapter 228 Bluebonnet-Austin, Chapter 2111 Fredericksburg, Chapter 778 Boerne, and Chapter 1320 San Antonio-Northwest, and helped in revising the Bylaws that were presented and approved by the convention members. I have attended various Texas Federation Executive Board meetings and had the opportunity to visit some of the chapters that comprise the South Area and participate in their events – such as guest speaker at 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of San Antonio Chapter 1594 and attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of New Braunfels Chapter 672, participated along with Chapter 520 Mid-Valley-Harlingen, Chapter 522 Brownsville, and Chapter 1544 La Amistad – Weslaco in annual health fairs. I have participated in Walk to End Alzheimer's events sponsored by my home Chapter 91, Sparkling City by the Sea in Corpus Christi, and am so proud that New Braunfels Chapter 672 received the NARFE Alzheimer's National Team Champion traveling trophy for their fundraising efforts. I have enjoyed working with Texas Federation Executive Board members, South Area District Representatives for Districts 12, 14, and corresponding with Chapter officers and members. Time sure does go by fast when you are having fun and I thank you for allowing me to serve as the South Area Vice President and ask for your continued support.

**WILLIAM R (Bob) Cooper**  
**(Chapter 1345)**  
**Candidate for West Area Vice President**

I started my government carrier, with 12 years in the U. S. Navy, soon after graduating High School. After the Navy, I did two years in the Postal service in Bois D'Arc, Mo. I transferred to the National Weather Service in El Paso, in Dec 1980, then went to Midland, TX. I came back to El Paso in 1995. I spent 20 years with the NWS and retired in March 2000.

I went to college in Springfield, Mo. and again at Pensacola, Fl., but I only have 97 hours and an associate's degree.

I joined NARFE shortly after retirement, and was assigned to Chapter 1281 in Midland, TX. I then moved back to El Paso and Chap 1495. I became president of the chapter in 2006 and District 10 Representative in 2009. I was appointed to W-AVP on 1 June 2017.