

From: Blaine Lotz <gblotz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 9:36 PM
Subject: Postponement of SC NARFE Federation Conference

Dear Fellow SC NARFE Federation leaders,

I hope you are all remaining healthy and will continue to do so. We have decided to postpone our 2020 SC NARFE Federation Conference scheduled in Summerville from April 27-29.

Some may ask why it took us time to make this decision. Let me explain our process in reaching this decision. We wanted to be and will continue to be mindful of what professional medical experts, such as the CDC, recommend. Our conference planning committee (Pat Whitely, chair; Bob Shear, Ernest Williams, Bill Greenhill, and Joe Kohut) has been terrific in their planning and subsequent contingency planning for postponing this event. Their diligent work both extricated us from our existing contract for the end of April and ensured that the hotel would agree to have us reschedule our conference at a date which would guarantee health safety for our conference attendees. Maintaining the fiscal viability of our conference is important.

We can reschedule and plan the conference as we had originally conceived it, albeit at dates of our choosing. The committee has been asked by the hotel to place a block of tentative dates on the books. Our goal will be to reschedule the conference probably in mid-summer. But those dates will meet our same specifications as before: we will only hold our conference when health officials assure us, as best they can, that no COVID-19 threat exists for large groups to convene.

So, here's where we stand today. Our conference for April 27-29 is postponed; future dates to be determined. For those of you who registered, your checks will be returned unless you notify Pat Whitely otherwise (pwhitely@scrr.com). For anyone who made hotel reservations, cancel them. We can use your assistance in seeking sponsors for our conference, in proposing subjects for discussion, including training topics, and potential speakers. To learn more about these and other opportunities, contact Pat or any member of the planning committee.

Before I close, let me say that our most important part of this process has been your health and safety going forward. It will remain so as we together travel through this coronavirus threat to the health of everyone in our nation. Please remember to stay safe, help your family, neighbors, and friends. And, pray for all of them and for yourselves. **I want to see all of you at our rescheduled conference!** Chapter Presidents, please forward this e-mail to each of your chapter members and other friends of NARFE.

Thank-you and sincerely,

Blaine Lotz, President
SC NARFE Federation