



# FEDERAL VETERINARIAN

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 7

JULY 2016

## Announcements

## SPECIAL NAFV ELECTION ISSUE!

### ATTENTION!

### GLOBAL ONE HEALTH DAY

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

The goal of One Health Day is to bring attention around the world to the need for One Health interactions and for the world to 'see them in action'. The One Health Day campaign is designed to engage as many individuals as possible from as many arenas as possible in One Health education and awareness events, and to generate an inspiring array of projects worldwide.

With any questions,  
please email:  
[info@onehealthday.org](mailto:info@onehealthday.org).

### ► Inside this issue:

Executive Committee Candidates	Pgs. 2 & 3
FSIS BOD Candidates	Pgs. 3 - 6
APHIS BOD Candidates	Pgs. 6 - 9
Other Agency BOD Candidates	Pgs. 7 - 9
2016 NAFV BOD Election Ballot	Pg. 11

NAFV is celebrating its 98<sup>th</sup> year as a nonprofit association supporting federal veterinarians. Our volunteer Board of Directors and Executive Committee work continuously to promote the welfare and to further the interests of its members. I am very proud of all the past members of the NAFV Board of Directors. They have made this Association a persuasive force achieving significant progress in improving working conditions and public/animal health programs for the nation and NAFV members.

This is also an election year for NAFV. Two thousand and fourteen was the first year that members were eligible to vote electronically. We encourage every member to go online and vote, if you are able, because it significantly reduces the work involved in accurately counting the ballots. The **2016 Ballot for Officers and Members of the NAFV Board of Directors** is included on page 11 of this newsletter. Please read through the accomplishments of our candidates. I feel each veterinarian has unique qualifications that will continue to bring innovative thinking to NAFV membership.

We have created an electronic ballot on the following web site:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RLQP5HJ>

Please enter the web site information and complete the "survey" election ballots. For those with personal email addresses in our database, we will also be sending out this information via email. For the majority of members receiving the *Federal Veterinarian* electronically you can just click on the URL and it will take you to the ballots.

For those of you who prefer not to vote electronically, we have placed the mail-in ballot on page 11 of this newsletter. You can simply tear off the back page, vote for the candidates as instructed, place the ballots in an envelope, and fill out the address. Please don't forget to include your return address on the envelope and mark "ELECTION" on the lower left corner of the envelope, or it cannot be counted. We will use this information to verify you are a member and haven't voted electronically. Place a stamp on the envelope and mail it to the NAFV office at 1910 Sunderland Place NW, Washington, DC 20036. Please mail or email your votes as soon as possible.

The candidates' biographical sketches are included on the following pages. Remember to vote as directed on the ballot sheet. When voting for an APHIS, FSIS, or other agency Board member, **you can only vote for your agency candidate**. Other votes will not be counted if you are not employed by that agency.

**If you mail in your ballot, please do not sign your ballot!** When we receive your "ELECTION" envelope, your name and address will be checked against the membership roster. Once your membership has been verified, your ballot will be separated from the envelope to ensure your vote will be counted anonymously. Ballots will be held in a secure manner until turned over to the election committee for counting of the ballots manually. The results will be combined with the electronic results for the final tally. **We must receive your completed ballot by October 1, 2014.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER, IF YOU MAIL-IN YOUR BALLOT, IF YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ARE NOT ON THE ENVELOPE YOUR BALLOT CANNOT BE COUNTED!** Thank you for participating in your association's election!

Michael J. Gilsdorf, D.V.M.,  
Executive Vice President  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians

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The annual subscription rate is \$50.00 for United States and Canada and \$70.00 for foreign mailing, payable by January 1 each year. Subscriptions are not available to those eligible for membership.

Any veterinarian employed full time by the federal government may become an active member (non DoD dues \$234.00 annually, payable annually, semiannually, or by federal payroll deductions--eligibility limited solely to USDA veterinarians--of \$9.00 authorized by signing USDA Form AD 1054 (FSIS) or SF 1187 (APHIS) and DoD dues \$150.00 annually). Fifty dollars of the annual dues is for the subscription to the Federal Veterinarian.

Associate membership may be granted to active members when they retire from federal service. Associate members pay no dues. Associate mailed subscriptions are \$25.00 per year.

The National Association of Federal Veterinarians is a non-profit corporation and the purposes for which it is formed are to promote the veterinary profession, to improve the professional efficiency and material interests of the members, to acquaint the public with the activities of veterinarians in the federal service, and to cooperate with the American Veterinary Medical Association, the United States Animal Health Association and other similar groups with common interests.

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**NAFV Board of Directors****President: Dr. Ken Angel****President-Elect: Dr. Larry Davis****Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Deanna Brown****Exec Vice President: Dr. Michael Gilsdorf**

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**Candidate for President-Elect****Barbara Porter-Spalding DVM, MVPH, Dipl. ACVPM, MSU 1991**

Dr. Barbara Porter-Spalding joined NAFV in 1994. She is a Swine and Emergency epidemiologist with the USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS), in Raleigh, North Carolina. She received her DVM from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1991 and her Masters of Veterinary Public Health from North Carolina State University in 2007. In her current position, Dr. Porter-Spalding serves as an Epidemiologist/Staff Officer for Preparedness and Incident Coordination Staff.

Before joining APHIS, Dr. Porter-Spalding worked in a dairy practice in south central Pennsylvania. After spending 2 years in Morocco in the Peace Corps, she worked with the Food Safety and Inspection Service in North Dakota, joining VS as a field Veterinary Medical Officer in North Dakota in 1998. She has been active in NAFV assisting the coordinators (formerly known as Representatives) and scheduling Chapter meetings for many years.



BOD Incumbent

Barb's desire to seek the Presidency of NAFV comes from a passion for the Veterinary Medical Officers and their career aspirations. As NAFV President she will continue to support and encourage the outstanding public service that veterinarians in Federal work are known for. Whether as field investigators, or program team managers, from Active Military to FSIS, each VMO has a critical role in safeguarding American agriculture and deserves active advocacy and support.

**Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer****Deanna A. Brown, DVM, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM, MS 1990**

BOD Incumbent

I'm asking to be re-elected as the Secretary-Treasurer for NAFV. Our Association as well as our profession continues to face difficult times, and I want to continue to be a part of the team to lead us through. Federal agen-

cies face budget cuts while at the same time asking leaders to implement many changes. Veterinarians serving in federal agencies aren't spared the challenges. NAFV is our voice to speak on behalf of federal veterinarians, to promote the value and skills that we bring to our agencies, and to ensure that decisions being made to reduce costs don't reduce our ability to protect public health. I have a broad range of experience in public veterinary practice as well as with organized veterinary professional organizations. I hope to use that experience to be your voice, and to assist NAFV's leadership to advance veterinary interests and to develop solutions to the challenges that we face.

I earned my B.S. in Animal Science in 1986 and my D.V.M in 1990 from Mississippi State. After one year in a busy dairy practice in Wisconsin, I

(Continued on Pg. 3, "Dr. Brown")

(Continued from Pg. 2, "Dr. Brown")

decided that I wanted to do more. I began federal practice in 1991 as a member of the US Army Veterinary Corps. I soon decided to focus my efforts on the public health aspect of our profession. I received my MPH from the Univ. of Texas School of Public Health in 1999, and earned Diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM) the same year. Throughout my military career, I served in a variety of positions with a wide range of responsibilities in implementing and oversight of food safety, food defense, as well as animal and zoonotic disease control programs in the US and in various countries overseas.

My views on the importance of organized veterinary medicine came while serving as senior military veterinary advisor coordinating US efforts to assist the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Service in Iraq as they struggled to rebuild the organization and capacity of the government to achieve their food safety and animal disease control goals for their country. During this assignment, I worked with veterinarians from many US agencies, universities, and veterinary professional organizations as well as our counterparts in Iraq. This experience taught me how critical it is to have a team effort between federal agencies

and veterinary professional organizations to achieve national public health and animal disease control objectives. I had been a member of the AVMA, NAFV and the American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians for most of my career, but after this assignment, I decided that it was important to serve in a capacity beyond just membership. Upon return to the US in 2007, I volunteered to serve as a committee member, and then in 2010 became chairperson for the Membership and Outreach Committee for ACVPM.

I retired from military service in 2010 after 20 years of active federal service, and immediately transitioned into civilian federal service with FSIS. I initially served as an in-plant Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian, and now as a Frontline Supervisor in the Springdale District. This experience has exposed me to the difficulties faced by FSIS field veterinarians as well as to the circuit and district leadership within our agency. I believe that my previous experiences along with what I have learned working with FSIS will help me to serve you and to be your voice as NAFV and our agencies negotiate the challenges in the year ahead. If re-elected as Secretary Treasurer, I will embrace the opportunity and work hard to represent you as we strive to find effective and positive solutions to the challenges we face.

### Candidate for FSIS BOD Position

**Patty Bennett, DVM, UF 1993**

I graduated from the University of Florida in 1993. I then worked as an associate veterinarian for a year providing medical and surgical care at a small animal practice. I felt the need to expand my experiences and held a variety of positions including working as a VMO for the Western Pacific District Army Veterinary Command overseas. I came to work for FSIS in 2005 and joined the NAFV at the same time. I feel veterinarians need to give back to their profession and act as role models to their colleagues and community.

I am currently the Agency's Humane Handling Enforcement Coordinator and have held this position since June 2015. In this role, I have had the privilege to work with other veterinarians across the United States to uphold and enforce the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. It is gratifying to work in an Agency that has a mission resulting in safe food and that is committed to ensuring animals are handled in a humane manner from the moment they arrive at a slaughter facility.

In addition to the many positions I have held in FSIS, I have recently had the opportunity to propose and have accepted and then set up a \$3 million scholarship program pilot to recruit and retain veterinarians to crucial positions within the Office of Field Operations. FSIS senior executives agreed to fund 20 scholarship recipients in FY16 and another 20 scholarships in FY17. These students will become public health veterinarians in FSIS upon graduation which may be as soon as 2018. This scholarship may help to address the FSIS need to have PHVs on staff and veterinary student need to develop a career arc while re-

solving their often immense debt situations. I am also working to survey current PHVs in OFO to better understand their motivations to either continue their career in FSIS or their decision to leave. I intend to use this data as a catalyst to refine current retention initiatives or create new ones as well as to help develop the veterinary students as they move through the scholarship program. I am very passionate about the work I do in FSIS and the mission I support. This scholarship pilot and PHV survey exemplify my other interest to support colleagues and students as they work to develop themselves professionally.

I am currently representing FSIS on the NAFV Board of Directors and am interested in running for a second term. I would appreciate your vote.



BOD Incumbent



## Candidate for FSIS BOD Position

### Charles G. Edwards, DVM, LSU 2011



BOD Incumbent

Veterinary medicine is consistently rated as one of the most respected health care professions. We as veterinarians have gained that respect because of our loyalty, dedication, and knowledge. However, veterinarians are not immune from being concerned about their jobs. There are about 1,025 FSIS veterinarians and approximately 660 APHIS veterinarians who are uncertain of the

future. Amid the troubled economy and reduced government budget, the 3,100 federal veterinarians have real concerns about their jobs. Public practice veterinarians serve the people of this country by protecting our food supply, preventing animal disease, stopping the spread of disease, overseeing the use of pharmaceuticals, ensuring

public health, and even serving in Congress. It is unacceptable that you should worry about your future. I want to work with the other NAFV Board Members to ensure that you can continue to serve the citizens of this country.

“They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself”—Andy Warhol. This is a true quote. Change will always take place, but we must be active to ensure that the right changes happen. I will be that advocate. The implementation of the New Poultry Inspection System has made many federal veterinarians worry about their jobs. I will be there for you to make sure that the change to a new system is smooth and that your rights are upheld. One of the core goals of the NAFV is to educate the public to the services provided by federal veterinarians. I will be proactive in showing the public what we do and that we are at the core of making this country safe.

Having graduated from veterinary school in 2011, I have fresh ideas that will be invaluable within NAFV. I have been an alternate member of the Board of Directors for the previous two years, and I will continue to evaluate ideas and problems with objectivity and fairness, with your wellbeing as the driving force behind my decisions.

## Candidate for FSIS BOD Position

### Ahmad F. Jilani, DVM, PUN 1965

Dr. Jilani started working with Pakistan Government in 1966. He worked there for 4 years and transferred to London, England to obtain a Master's degree. He came to the US in 1974 and worked in Microbiological / pathology Labs in two large hospitals in New York until he joined USDA.

Dr. Jilani came to this country with lots of hopes and looking for opportunities for future as does every immigrant. He said, to achieve your goals you have to work hard. As President Jimmy Carter said in his inauguration speech “This is a land of opportunities, it is up to you how much you can achieve”. Dr. Jilani came with his DVM degree from University of Punjab, Pakistan and was hoping to start a new life with US Department of Agriculture. But that was not easy, he struggled like everyone else did. He had to prove myself as an equal to the veterinarians who graduated from the US as standards of education are different from foreign countries. He ‘proved’ himself to be equal to the veterinarians of this country by passing ECFG, Tofel, National Board exam, etc. He joined the USDA/ FSIS in 1986 as a caretaker of public health. He started his career from Texas in red meat inspection and within few years he moved to Boston, Massachusetts. He was working with all species of animals, covering 12 plants in New England area, consisting of 6 states. In this large territory, he inspected all species of animals including cattle, hogs, lambs, goats, horses, game animals, and poultry/turkeys. After spending

about six years there, he moved to Eastern Shore of Maryland and worked in Delaware and Maryland in large poultry plants. He is still assigned there now.

During his college life and afterward, he was very active in different organizations and associations. Dr. Jilani believes no organization moves forward without the member's strength. He joined NAFV in his first year of appointment with FSIS in 1986 and since then he has taking part in all NAFV activities. In Boston, the chapter was almost abolished. With his efforts the New England chapter became very popular within a year. He worked as secretary and president until he moved to Delmarva area. Here again he has worked hard to bring the NAFV chapter to life and once again this chapter became one of the most active chapters within NAFV. He was elected president of the Chapter and is serving his fourth term. He was elected Alt member Board of Directors the last 8 years and represented FSIS members in board meetings. Dr. Jilani believes that no association or organization can work without the strength of the mem-



BOD Incumbent

(Continued on Pg. 5, “Dr. Jilani”)

(Continued from Pg. 4, "Dr. Jilani")

bers, so he recruits newly hired veterinarians as NAFV members. He also emphasizes the value of the association and future of Federal Veterinarians.

Dr. Jilani says "this association represents all the issues related to upgrading the status and work conditions of the Federal Veterinarian. I was involved when we were struggling to approve the overtime for field Veterinarians. I was actively involved to contact the Senators and Congressman when Farm Bill was in process of approving over time for field Veterinarians by the Congress. After 12 years of constant struggle, NAFV was able to get approval for true overtime pay for field veterinarians. Pre-

viously GS-12 used to get paid GS-10/10 salary if the work overtime which was less than regular pay of GS-12.

My aims & objectives are to increase the membership as much as possible and for that I approach new hires and convince them to be member of this great association. I have been a top recruiter for NAFV, to combine efforts for upgrading the status of field veterinarians that only can be achieved if we unite and strengthen NAFV, improve the enjoyment and condition of employment, opportunities to continuous education, recognition of professional and scientific experts. I will take your voice and would be honored to serve you as member of NAFV Board of Directors for coming years. Please send your ballot with the check mark next to my name. "

**Candidate for FSIS BOD Position**

**Michael Mikhael, DVM, UAE 1978**

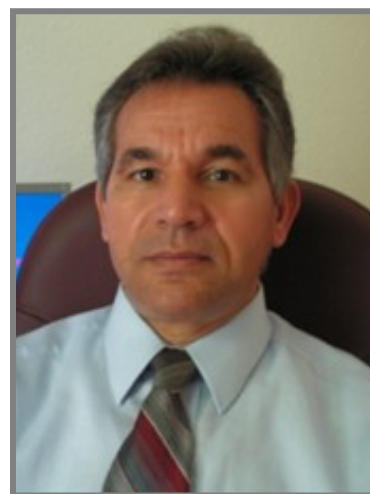
My career in Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) began more than twenty nine years ago in California. I was SPHV assigned to various red meat and poultry plants in Fresno and Hanford in California. Currently, I am SPHV in Woodland Washington, Portland Circuit and Denver District Office. I was Frontline Supervisor (FLS) in Lexington, KY in 2005. I was also a Frontline Supervisor (FLS) in Fresno, California from 2005 to 2007. I was also acting as FLS for Hanford Circuit for three months. I am also trained as an EIAO PHV and performed Food Safety Assessments (FSA) and conducted many recalls at various area / sites in California. I am a PHV mentor trainer for Alameda District and I was privileged and honored to train the majority of the newly hired PHV's in California in both red meat and poultry.

I am currently serving on the NAFV Board of Directors. I was serving as NAFV representative for the Alameda District for the past 28 years and currently the NAFV representative for the Denver District. I was enthusiastically assisted and supported my fellow veterinarians in California. During my service, I have actively assisted our General Counsel in several cases to resolve issues and disputes affecting our colleagues.

I believe that we as public health veterinarians should

be recognized by our agency as great resources and highly instrumental in accomplishing our agency missions and protecting the public health of our nation. I also believe that our issues and concerns should be addressed in a logical and professional manner.

If re-elected to the NAFV Board of Directors, I will continue to stress our professionalism and the value of our skills and knowledge. I will work hard to ensure that we do not lose the advantages that we have achieved in the past. During this time of growth and changes, I will work toward continued recognition as public health professionals focusing on protection of the public health and enhancement of the food of our food supply.



BOD Incumbent

**Candidate for FSIS BOD Position**

**Tom Vermeersch, DVM, MSU 1980**



BOD Incumbent

Dr. Vermeersch received his DVM from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1980. He practiced mixed food animal veterinary medicine for 18 years, as a practice owner, in Western Iowa from 1980 to 1997 and 1999 – 2002. He was employed as a corporate dairy veterinarian in two "start up" 1200+ cow dairies in 1998.

In 2002, Dr. Vermeersch joined FSIS. His primary FSIS work experience has been as a supervisory Public Health Veterinarian in high speed fat hog and fat cattle establishments. He also provides relief PHV services in small sow/boar and "off spec" hog establishments. Since 2004, he has been assigned to an establishment in Beardstown, Illinois, which is a swine HIMP establishment. In 2015 Dr. Vermeersch joined the FSIS Policy Development Division in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Vermeersch also serves the agency as a mentor and recruiter.

(Continued on Pg. 6, "Dr. Vermeersch")

(Continued from Pg. 5, "Dr. Jilani")

Dr. Vermeersch's goals for NAFV are: to increase membership in NAFV, collaborate with federal agencies to promote veterinarians, and to increase veterinary input into agency management and policy decisions. He has provided suggestions and advice on NAFV activities for

several years. He also served a 13 month detail to USDA Foreign Agricultural Service as an Agricultural Advisor in Kunar and Nangarhar from Dec. 2009 to January 2011 in support of the President's Agricultural Strategy for Afghanistan.

**Candidate for APHIS BOD Position**

**Dr. Gary Brickler, DVM, PUR 1975**



Gary Brickler, DVM Dr. Gary Brickler is currently the District 6 Director for USDA/ APHIS/ Veterinary Services, a district comprised of the 10 Western states and Pacific Territories. Previously, he was the Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) for California, Hawaii and Nevada and prior to that the AVIC for Washington and Alaska. He received a B.S. from the University of Kentucky and a

BOD Incumbent

D.V.M. from Purdue University.

Prior to joining the USDA, Dr. Brickler served three

years on active duty with the Army and practiced large animal medicine in Colorado for five years. With USDA he has held positions with FSIS and APHIS Veterinary Services, International Services and Animal Care. Dr. Brickler continued his military career, serving 30 years in the Army Reserve, including command of the 109th Medical Detachment during deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in 2003 during operations in Iraq.

Dr. Brickler is a 30+ year member of the NAFV and through personal experience greatly appreciates the value of the Association to all federal veterinarians and the profession as a whole. He served as President of the NAFV in 2011 to 2012 and has been very involved in Association activities since as a member of the Board of Directors. Dr. Brickler would like to continue serving the Association members as a NAFV Director.

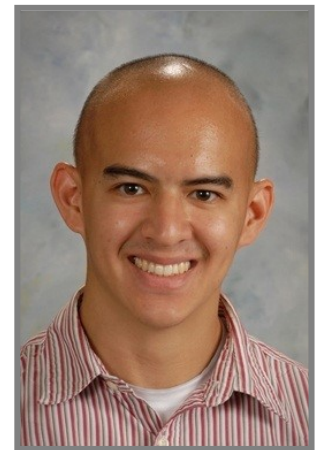
**Candidate for APHIS BOD position**

**Dr. David Hsi, DVM, MPH, UF 2006**

Dr Hsi is a 2014 graduate of the University of Florida, from which he received his DVM and MPH. During his schooling, Dr. Hsi served as President of the Public Health and Service Club and participated in multiple internships with both USDA APHIS and FSIS, experiences that peaked his interest in joining the Federal Service. After graduation he joined USDA FSIS OFO, where he was a SPHV in the Denver District. Subsequent to this, he joined USDA APHIS VS STAS CEAH SDA as a VMO/ epi, the position he is currently in.

Dr. Hsi also is the lead author of "Comparing food-borne illness risks among meat commodities in the United States", published in 2015 in the journal *Food Control*. Dr. Hsi is very interested in assisting his fellow fed-

eral veterinarians by serving on the NAFV Board of Directors.



**Candidate for APHIS BOD position**

**Dr. Rachel Cezar, DVM, MSU 2002**

Dr. Rachel Cezar is currently Director of Live Animal Imports for USDA APHIS Veterinary Services. She recently took on this role in April 2016. Previously, she served as a Supervisory Veterinary Medical Officer and National Coordinator for the USDA Horse Protection Program. In this position, she led multiple veterinarians and animal care inspectors responsible for enforcing the

Horse Protection Act to eliminate "soring," an illegal training practice designed to make a horse perform an exaggerated unnatural gait; one technique involves applying caustic painful chemicals to the horses' legs. Dr Cezar was in this position since 2007. From 2004 to 2007, she began her service in the federal government as a Veteri-

(Continued on Pg. 7, "Dr. Cezar")



(Continued from Pg. 6, "Dr. Cezar")



nary Medical Officer for USDA APHIS Veterinary Services in Michigan coordinating the Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance, Scrapie Surveillance and Wild Horse Burro Compliance Programs.

She received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 2002 from Michigan State University. Prior to beginning her career in the federal

government in 2004, Dr Cezar worked in equine veterinary hospitals in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Lexington, KY. She has also served as a Public Health Officer in the Air National Guard in Fort Wayne, IN and

Andrews AFB in Washington, DC from 2006-2012 and currently still holds her Major officer status in the inactive ready reserves.

Dr. Cezar is very engaged in organized veterinary medicine and diversity initiatives in which she currently serves as President-Elect of the Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative (WVLDI), serves as an USDA agency representative for National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV), sits on the AVMA House of Delegates for DCVMA and chairs the Leadership Development Committee for the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP).

I am interested in serving on the Board of the NAFV because I would like to support further outreach to our veterinary colleagues about exciting career opportunities in the federal government which in turn will enhance our membership for NAFV. I feel that my experience in organized veterinary medicine, diversity and recruitment initiatives I have led in the USDA will definitely help the NAFV enhance the membership and passion we need to have a successful organization.

**Candidate for APHIS BOD position**

**Stephan Schaeffbauer, DVM, UG 2006**

Dr. Stephan Schaeffbauer obtained her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia in 2006. As a student she worked with USDA-APHIS VS during the Exotic Newcastle Disease outbreak as well as being an extern at Plum Island Animal Disease Center, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Dr. Schaeffbauer started her career with USDA as an Import Risk Analyst in the National Center for Import and Export. She began working as an Epidemiology Officer in 2010 in Raleigh, NC and now holds the same position in Des Moines, Iowa. In 2014, Dr. Schaeffbauer's dedication to public service was recognized when she was presented with the APHIS Women of Character, Courage and Commitment Award. Recently she was the recipient of the 2016 Young Achiever award from the University of Georgia, College of Veterinary.

Dr. Schaeffbauer currently serves on the AVMA's Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine. Some of her past leadership positions includes serving as President of the American Association of Food Safety Veterinarians, Vice President of Education

for the Centennial Toastmasters, and serving on the AVMA Diversity Taskforce and the AVMA 20/20 Commission. She also served as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She recently earned her black belt in taekwondo and is pursuing photography. Overall her favorite thing to do is spend time with her husband Sean and their adorable son (Seth, 3 years old) and daughter (Skylar, 1 year).

I want to apply for the position on the Board of Directors because I want to serve an organization that works to protect me everyday. Being a member of NAFV gives me a sense of security, a sense that I have someone in my corner. The best way for me to say thank you is to serve this wonderful organization.



**Candidate for the Other Agency BOD position**

**John Sanders, DVM, DACVPM, TEN 1985**

Dr. John Sanders is a Veterinary Medical Officer in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Health Affairs (OHA), Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense Division (FAVD). He is the Section Lead for food protection working on improving the nation's preparedness to respond to a catastrophic food borne event.

OHA oversees efforts to coordinate medical first responders, ensure interagency alignment of health and medical preparedness grants, develop policies and programs to enhance all-hazards planning, promote integra-

(Continued on Pg. 8, "Dr. Sanders")

Continued from Pg. 7, "Dr. Sanders")



BOD Incumbent

tion of state and local response capabilities and prepare for and respond to catastrophic incidents.

Dr. Sanders' 25 year career in government has spanned four agencies across three departments: U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Services (USDA-FSIS), the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), Health and Human Services' Food and Drug Administration (HHS-FDA), and DHS' Office of Health Affairs (OHA).

His past leadership includes serving as the Vice Chair, and then the Chair for the U.S. Animal Health

Organization's Public Health and Rabies committee from 2001-2002 and then 2003-2008 respectively, and serving on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Veterinarians from 2004-2008. He is actively involved in several professional organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians, American Association of Avian Pathologists, and Society of Risk Analysis.

Dr. Sanders has received over 40 awards for his work on veterinary issues. In 2008, he received the Helwig-Jennings Award from the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine for his "Significant and lasting Contribution to Veterinary Public Health."

Dr. Sanders holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medical Degree from the University of Tennessee, and a Master of Exercise Practitioner designation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Institute.

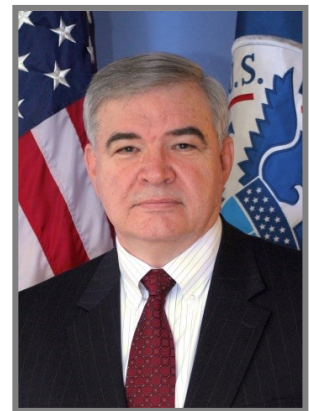
**Candidate for the Other Agency BOD position**

**Marvin Meinders, MVPM, DVM, UG 1972**

Dr. Marvin Meinders received his DVM from the University of Georgia and Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine from the University of California, Davis. He joined the Office of Health Affairs (OHA) Health Threats Resilience Division as the Veterinary Medical Officer in Epidemiology and is Chief of the Food, Agriculture and Veterinary Defense (FAVD) Branch. He brings 40 years of experience in veterinary medicine and public health to OHA. Dr. Meinders began his career as a veterinarian in a rural practice and has expanded his expertise to include environmental health, public health, medical readiness and medical epidemiology. Dr. Meinders has led medical readiness programs, including the Medical Readiness Division for the Joint Staff, and has supported significant government health programs, such as occupational health program in the AF and including the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities

in civilian industry. Dr. Meinders also served as an officer in the Air Force and retired as a Colonel in 1999.

I was introduced to NAFV while working on the Talent Management Advisory Council for a number of years and lead its Emergency Planning Action Team. I was impressed by the effort of Dr. Gilsdorf and he told me about NAFV and its activities and how it supports Federal veterinarians and I would like to become more involved in its important work



**Candidate for the Other Agency BOD position**

**Sebastian E. Heath, Vet MB, PhD, DACVIM, DACVPM, CAM '85**



After several years of lying low to focus on family (we have wonderful 4 year old daughter) I would like to re-engage in service to our profession. I look forward to bringing my expertise and energy to support and help shape the future impact of the NAFV for its members and the federal government.

People describe me as an engaging and considerate leader with nearly 25 years of experience working with government, non-profit and for profit

communities to improve public health and safety, market competitiveness and environmental protection through their relationships to animals. For example, over the last two decades I have applied my skills and perspectives to improve the overall emergency preparedness and response capacity in over 30 U.S. State Emergency Management Agencies, convinced industry to integrate the care of animals into existing operations, and led animal disease control programs. During this time I have achieved tremendous insight into how to engage in construction exchange of information, learnt to appreciate the constraints under which agencies and businesses operate

ence working with government, non-profit and for profit

(Continued on Pg. 9, "Dr. Heath")



(Continued from Pg. 8, "Dr. Heath")

and what is needed to create meaningful policies to best serve the public. I believe these attributes will benefit the NAFV as it works on issues arising for its members and federal agencies.

In my current position as Branch Chief at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) I have over a decade long track record of affecting superior efficiency, morale and employee competencies. I am an adept expert at managing, developing and improving upon work processes in as diverse areas as Incident Complexity Analysis, Environmental and Historic Preservation, grant lifecycle management, program performance, strategic budgeting and workforce planning, developing work plans and processes, job aids, implementing audit management actions, Records Management and Compliance, as well as negotiating and implementing workplace policies with Labor Unions. The breadth of issues I have dealt with and still deal with has given me a solid understanding of the perspectives of both leadership and staff and how to constructively reconcile potential differences.

Previous positions I have held include Senior Staff Veterinarian with the USDA Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS); Consultant at the Pan Amer-

ican Health Organization (PAHO); Diplomacy Fellow at USAID for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); and Chief of Large Animal Medicine, Purdue University, IN.

Volunteer positions I have held include Vice Chair of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Regulatory Advisory Panel; Technical Director, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); President and Treasurer of the District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association (DCVMA); President, Secretary and Treasurer of the American Academy on Veterinary Disaster Medicine (AAVDM), Past President of the American Veterinary Medical History Society (AVMHS) and Counselor on Basic Science, World Veterinary Association.

I think I have brought a measured perspective to each of these positions that has enabled and secured the organizations' growth, branding and financial security. I hope to bring similar strengths to the NAFV.

My education includes: Ph.D., Comparative Epidemiology, Purdue University; MPVM, University of California Davis; MVetSci, University of Saskatchewan, Canada; VetMB, Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge, England.

## NAFV Members, to cast in your vote in the 2016 NAFV Board of Directors Election:

1. Go to our online ballot at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RLQP5HJ>

OR

2. Mail in the ballot found on Pg. 11 to the NAFV National Office

With questions  
email:  
[nafv@nafv.org](mailto:nafv@nafv.org)

## Dr. Kermit Harvey speaks at MSU Pre-Vet Club Banquet



On Wednesday April 27, 2016 Dr. Kermit L. Harvey, Mississippi State Chapter President of NAFV spoke at the Mississippi State University's (MSU) Pre-Veterinary Club 2015-2016 Annual Banquet. Dr. Harvey had been invited as the Guest Speaker for the event. Dr. Harvey is an alumnus of MSU. Pre-Veterinary Student Club President (2015-2016) Travis Noto opened the banquet with an introduction that included facts of the group's sponsoring university staff/mentors and statements of appreciation of their support, the annotation of the group's size, exceeding 80 students, and introduction of Dr. Harvey.

Dr. Harvey spoke for approximately one hour on a myriad of subjects in an effort to enlighten and support the attendees' decisions and plans in making strong and supported career decisions in an intentional and in an informed manner. Dr. Harvey included

facts of the profession of veterinary medicine, some examples of which included: the historical stature of the profession as one of trust and respect, the broad career path opportunities such as education, research, clinical practice, federal veterinary service, among other opportunities. He also breached the concerning trends of the rise in costs associated with obtaining the DVM degree and spoke very frankly with the audience about a need on their part to project their vision forward to ensure that their immediate choices aligned well with a successful outcome. At this point in the presentation, Dr. Harvey offered insight into the contrast of private practice versus federal veterinary service and as he has done both, Dr. Harvey was able to demonstrate that he had found a path to career satisfaction within federal veterinary service and encouraged the students to consider all options. Dr. Harvey stressed to the student attendees that they needed a path that not only accounted for a successful educational and career outcome, but arguably more importantly, that they pursue a path and affect that path with good and supportable decisions that lead to a happy and fulfilling life.

Pictured: Dr. Harvey being welcomed by Travis Noto, outgoing Club President.

Still don't have your Federal Employee  
Professional Liability Insurance in place?



NAFV encourages you to obtain professional liability insurance. AVMA insurance DOES NOT cover personnel actions resulting from your federal employment. If you do not have professional liability insurance in place, NAFV can and will advise you, but cannot be your legal representative or provide indemnity protection if you are held personally liable in a civil suit.

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Call or visit FEDS online today as coverage must be in place prior to knowledge of an allegation, investigation, claim or suit or coverage will not apply!

## Remembering a Former Colleague

### Don A. Franco

It has been over a year since Don Alvaro Franco passed away at the age of 83 after a courageous battle with cancer. All those who had the opportunity to know him and work with him remember him fondly.

His is survived by his lovely wife of 54 years, Jovita, son Bruce (Julie), Miliza Whitfield (Jeff), and Audrey Roberts (Wade) and nine grandchildren who will dearly miss their "Pop Pop."

Don was the eldest of 11 children of the late Errol and Esme Franco. He was born in the Caribbean island of Trinidad where he attended high school at St. Mary's College. He received his diploma of Agriculture and Animal Science from Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario. He then graduated from the University of Philippines as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He received a Master's degree of Public Health from Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.

Don began his veterinary practice in Trinidad with his mentor Dr. Steve Bennett until he accepted a position with the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, and eventually became Director of the Slaughter Operations Staff. During this time he was elected President of the National Association of Federal Veterinarians, 1979-1980. On retirement from the US government, he served as Vice-President of Scientific Services and President of Animal Protein Producers for the National Renderers Association.

Don was well published and authored many books from veterinary and animal pathology textbooks to publications on the plight of poverty and public health needs in third-world countries. He truly lived by his motto, "education is not for school, but for life."

A true gentleman and scholar, Don's love of the written word and his mastery of the spoken word were unmatched. He had the rare ability to make people feel instantly loved and welcomed. He valued family and his strong Catholic faith. Don found joy in many things, but especially in his love of education, travel, books, and College Football Saturday.

NAFV members are encouraged to make a donation to the NAFV Memorial Scholarship fund in honor of Dr. Franco's legacy. The scholarship fund awards scholarship to veterinary students related to NAFV members. With any questions on how to donate email [nafv@nafv.org](mailto:nafv@nafv.org) or call 202-223-4878.

**"Years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do  
than by the ones you did do."**

**Mark Twain**

**NAFV Ballot for 2016**

**(The NAFV office must receive this ballot by October 1, 2016)**

**Every member should vote for the President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer by marking "X" in the proper ( ).**

**(Vote for one)  
PRESIDENT-ELECT**

( ) Dr. Barbara Porter-Spalding | ( ) Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**

( ) Dr. Deanna Brown | ( ) Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

**(Please do not enclose checks, letters or address changes with ballot since envelopes will not be opened until October.)**

**PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU VOTE!!!**

On this part of the ballot vote in **ONE section only**—your employing agency.

Vote for the number of candidates indicated for **your employing agency** by placing an (X) by the names you select.

**(Only FSIS members vote here)**

**FSIS Board of Directors**

**Board Member (vote for 3 names only)**

( ) Dr. Patty Bennett | ( ) Dr. Charles Edwards  
( ) Dr. Ahmad Jilani | ( ) Dr. Michael Mikhaiei  
( ) Dr. Tom Vermeersch  
( ) Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

**(Only APHIS members vote here)**

**APHIS Board of Directors**

**Board Member (vote for 2 names only)**

( ) Dr. Gary Brickler | ( ) Dr. Rachel Cezar  
( ) Dr. David Hsi | Dr. Stephan Schaeftbauer  
( ) Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

**(Only FDA/ARS/DOD/DHS/CDC & other federal agency members vote here)  
FDA/ARS/DOD/DHS and All Other Miscellaneous Agencies Board of Directors**

**Board Member (vote for 1 name only)**

( ) Dr. Marvin Meinders | ( ) Dr. John Sanders  
( ) Dr. Sebastian Heath  
( ) Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ (write-in)

**WE MUST RECEIVE BALLOT BY OCTOBER 1, 2016**

Mail this ballot to the NAFV office at 1910 Sunderland Place NW, Washington, DC 20036

Please don't forget to include your return address on the envelope and mark **"ELECTION"** on the lower left corner of the envelope, or it cannot be counted.



# Federal Veterinarians Protect and Improve Public and Animal Health and Welfare

National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
1910 Sunderland Place  
Washington, DC 20036

## **VETERINARY HAPPENINGS**

Notify NAFV of Promotions, Reassignments, Transfers, Awards, Retirements, etc. for members not listed in the "Veterinary Happenings" column so they may be included in a future issue. The following information was received by NAFV.

### **USDA FSIS Members**

Dr. Scott Leroy, Millsboro, DE, Promotion, 04/03/2016  
Dr. Valerie Goetting, Cordova, MD, Promotion, 04/03/2016  
Dr. Gary Miller, Dodge City, KS, Retirement, 04/30/2016  
Dr. Thomas Krebs, Long Prairie, MN, Retirement, 04/30/2016

### **USDA APHIS Members**

Information available next month.

Periodicals postage paid  
at Washington, DC

### **Welcome New Members**

**Dr. Phillip Carlson**, GS-12, FSIS, OSU '86, Grand island, NE  
**Dr. Matthew B. Nelson**, GS-12, FSIS, WAS '06, Molalla, OR (Recommended by Michael Mikhael)  
**Dr. Caitlin Himmel**, GS-12, FSIS, WAS '13, Wenatchee, WA (Recommended by Michael Mikhael)  
**Dr. Karen Gillette**, GS-12, FSIS, MSU '07, Milan, PA  
**Dr. William Rogers**, GS-12, FSIS, TUS '93, Whitsett, NC (Recommended by Dr. Carolyn Minnich)  
**Dr. Carolyn Cosgrove**, GS-12, FSIS, VMRCVM '01, Kalispell, MT (Recommended by Karen Gillette)  
**Dr. Camilo Potes**, GS-12, APHIS, OK '93, Laredo, TX (Recommended by Francisco Collazo-Mattei)  
**Dr. James Amend**, GS-14, APHIS, TEX '78, Buda, TX

Email Changes of Address to:

[mbarros@nafv.org](mailto:mbarros@nafv.org)

Returned Checks

NAFV charges \$10.00 for checks returned  
for insufficient funds