

2016 NFFE Forest Service Council Officer Candidates

President

Melissa Baumann
Dave Chevalier

Secretary-Treasurer

Chris Berry
Shawn Patterson
Lisa Wolfe

Region 1 Council Vice President

Terri Anderson

Region 2 Council Vice President

Gerard Sandoval

Region 3 Council Vice President

No nominations were received

Region 4 Council Vice President

Shawn Stanford

Region 5 Council Vice President

Barry McDonald

Region 6 Council Vice President

Lisa Wolfe

Region 8 Council Vice President

No nominations were received

Region 9 Council Vice President

No nominations were received

Region 10 Council Vice President

Nancy Soriano

Research Council Vice President

Val Nelson

CCC Council Vice President

Shawn Patterson
Beverly Tobin-Ford

WO Council Vice President

Gerald Corbett
Debbie Kaufman
Sean Thomas

Note: Additional nominations will be accepted on the 2016 NFFE FSC convention floor.

Nominees may NOT accept convention floor nominations for or be deemed a candidate for **both** Council President and Council Secretary-Treasurer. However, eligible nominees may accept floor nominations for and be deemed a candidate for either Council President or Council Secretary-Treasurer and may also accept nomination for and be deemed a candidate for Council Vice President. Any candidate who is elected for President or Secretary-Treasurer and is also a candidate for Vice President, is deemed ineligible for the Council Vice President election because no one may hold more than one elected Council office. Upon completion of election for the President and Secretary-Treasurer positions, nominations shall be open from the floor for Vice President positions, prior to the election for each of these positions.

In accordance with the NFFE-FSC Bylaws, all candidates were given the opportunity to provide a brief election statement (no longer than 300 words) at the time that they accepted the nomination. The statements are provided below.

2016 NFFE FSC Candidate Election Statements

Melissa Baumann – Candidate for NFFE-FSC President

Melissa was born in Connecticut. She is married to Jim Baumann. They have two adult daughters, one of whom spent the summer of 2016 working for the Forest Service in Oregon (like mother, like daughter!)

Melissa obtained a PhD in Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin and was hired as a Research Chemist at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison in 1992. Even before she became active in the Union, Melissa served as an advocate for her coworkers through a group called “Women in Research.” The group came up with GREAT recommendations to improve the success of female research scientists; unfortunately, they fell on deaf ears. This experience taught her that the strength of the Union is essential to effectively make changes that benefit employees.

Melissa became active in NFFE Local 276 in 1995. She has served as a Local Partnership Council member, Treasurer, and President. Melissa became Council Vice-President for Research in 2004 and began taking on a national role. She became the Council Secretary-Treasurer in 2008. She served for many years on the FS Partnership Council and has taken a turn as Chairperson for the Council Grievance, Training, and Negotiation Committees.

Among Melissa’s proudest accomplishments over the past 12 years are the

- Implementation of Reasonable Accommodation Policy, when the FS had no policy;
- several arbitrations to retain employees’ jobs;
- implementation of FSC Basic Steward Training; and
- participation on three Master Agreement negotiations teams, including leading the 2015 team.

She has also been the Council lead negotiator on too many negotiations to count.

Melissa thoroughly enjoys working with Local representatives to assist with issues, develop their skills, and involve them in national decisions affecting employees across the nation. As NFFE-FSC President, Melissa hopes to continue to grow the Union in numbers, skills, and influence.

David Chevalier – Candidate for NFFE-FSC President



NFFE member since 2001, dedicated myself to advocating for our Union brothers and sisters. For 15 years I've served as your FSC Veterans Committee chair, contributing to supporting all Vets. Our FSC Veterans Committee is now recognized by USDA HRM as a FS employee special emphasis organization. I also established the NFFE National Veterans Committee where I've served as committee chair since 2012.

On our Safety Committee since 2004, I crafted a handbook stewards may use who are new to FLAs. I'm a standing member of the Coordinated Response Protocol team and Red-carded as a PIO since 2004.

Fighting discrimination through our Civil Rights Committee, I provide aid with reasonable accommodations, investigate hostile work environment incidents, and help on EEO filings. I

developed a PTSD and other hidden disabilities training program that benefits awareness for all employees. I also contribute to our Training Committee to educate, inspire and energize our young federal leaders.

FSC R4 Vice President since 2009, I established a Regional Partnership Council, accomplishing a great deal of good work, as recognized by the National Partnership Council award in 2012. Accomplishments include: field per diem MOU, a pilot survey to better identify civil rights data (soon a national CR survey), and sponsored foundational leadership trainings for aspiring leaders. I also organized the Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, significantly increasing R4 membership numbers.

I offer you a respectful, sensible, diplomatic, creative, and assertive choice as an experienced leader. We're a diverse group of people, so I always invite and encourage differences of opinions and look for winning solutions—we need healthy conversations. I treat people fairly, equally, justly. My integrity and dependability are undeniable. I've real world experience out there on the ground with field knowledge gained through fire, safety and representation. Faith placed in me to lead will not go unanswered.

Chris Berry – Candidate for NFFE-FSC Secretary Treasurer

Chris Berry is a candidate for Council Secretary-Treasurer. Hopefully, you know of him as he has served as the FS Council President since our last Convention in 2012. Prior to that he served as the Vice President for WO Units and as President of Local 1919.

During the last 4 years, Chris has sought to create a strong and cohesive Council Exec Board to take on the challenges presented to us by an increasingly indifferent centralized Bus Ops driven culture within the Forest Service. He has also tried hard to serve as an ambassador to those management officials willing to work with the Union--in his roles on the National Leadership Council and on the FS Partnership Council, he reached out and worked with management.

Chris hopes to continue to serve our Union in the number 2 national slot as he nears the end of his FS career. He believes he still has a lot to offer and contribute to the Council in the position of Secretary-Treasurer by continuing with many of the programs and issues that he has been working on, like training, safety, and strengthening the performance of our Locals. He participated on 2 Chief's reviews of employee fatalities and the follow-up Learning Review boards. He has served as the lead of the Council Training Cadre and personally taught at all of our Council sessions since his election because he feels strongly about connecting with our Stewards. He has worked hard to instill a greater sense of what and who we are including mandatory extra-curricular sessions on building recruiting skills.

Chris has worked to strengthen our ties with IAM leadership through our former IAMAW Vice President, now the International President, the staff of the Winpisinger Training Center, and participation in the Machinists Non-Partisan Political League.

Shawn Patterson – Candidate for NFFE-FSC Secretary Treasurer

I started working for the Forest Service in 2006 as a Cook at Wolf Creek Civilian Conservation Center. When I found out we had a Union I immediately joined and became a Union Member in October 2008. I have served as Steward and Local Vice President for Local 1697 until 2012. In 2012 I was elected as the CCC CVP, and have worked on issues facing the CCC's from RIF/WRAPS, to successfully rebuilding a broken partnership with management at the CCC National and local levels. I have spent hundreds of hours legislatively in Washington DC discussing issues with Congress directly affecting the CCC Program. I also had the privilege of being a member on the Master Agreement Negotiations Team. My knowledge and past experience will give me tools needs to be a successful Forest Service Council Secretary Treasure. Thank you.

Lisa Wolfe – Candidate for NFFE-FSC Secretary Treasurer

I'm a longtime member of NFFE. Since joining my local 20 years ago I've remained active in the Local as an officer – Secretary-Treasurer until the recent merger of locals in R6. And in my newly merged FL0034 I am a trustee. I've served on the FS Council's Legislative committee since attending in 2008 and in 2011 took over as chair of that committee, coordinating our efforts and helping Mark Davis to shepherd the Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act to reality. This year we introduced a new issue – Broken Promises: Injured firefighters, law enforcement officers forced out of their retirement system, which was well received. Since 2011 I've also been R6 CVP, most recently leading the merger of our 16 locals to 4 locals for the region.

Terri Anderson – Candidate for NFFE-FSC Vice President, Region 1

I am honored to serve in this important role and would appreciate serving another term. Region One is unique in that we are carrying on our important legacy: Region One Positive Work Environment (PWE). I recently completed negotiations with the new Deputy Regional Forester, Jane Darnell. We have developed the foundation and important framework for how we plan to resolve conflict in the workplace in Region One.

Gerard Sandoval – Candidate for NFFE-FSC Vice President, Region 2

My background is diverse. While in high school I worked for the Forest Service for two seasons. After High School I Attended Adams State University Where I graduated with a BA. I had dual Majors, one in Social Studies and the other in Secondary Education. In 1982, after graduating from college, I began my career as a long term seasonal employee with the Forest Service. That same year I was hired as a classroom teacher of Social Studies at the Centennial School District in San Luis, Colorado. In 1989, I earned an MA in Secondary Education from Adams State University. In 2001, I worked for and received my Principal's License. While at the Centennial School District, I served as a classroom teacher of Social Studies for twenty years and a Pre-School through 12th grade Principal for seven years. During my career in public school education, I served as union president for four years. I also have seven years of management experience. I retired from Centennial in 2009, after twenty seven years, and began a second career as a Wilderness Ranger with the USDA Forest Service. I joined FL 2004 in 2011. I joined the union in support of a fellow employee who was going through rough times. I was elected FL 2004 President in the Fall of 2013 and have served since then. I believe that my diverse experience in both Management and Labor makes me an excellent candidate for Region 2 CVP. As Region 2 CVP, I will work diligently for the rights of the Bargaining Unit Employees of Region 2.

Berry McDonald – Candidate for NFFE-FSC Vice President, Region 5



It has been an honor these past 4 years to serve as FSC Vice President for Region 5. The term was filled with many challenges, but I hung in there out of a sense of service. It is that same sense of service that causes me to again offer to serve in this capacity. However, I feel I should fully disclose that I am eligible to retire and, as such, I cannot commit to serving the full 4 year term. If you elect me to again serve as FSC Vice President, please do so with the realization that the position may need to be filled, down-the-road, in accordance with bylaws.

While I cannot commit to serving a full 4 year term, I am committed to several things before I step down. These are: 1) Finalizing the consolidation of R5 Locals; with the goal of emerging with a reduced number of Locals that are capable of operating in accordance with the IAM constitution and appropriate bylaws, 2) mentoring the next crop of Union leaders from Region 5, and 3) continuing my efforts to gain greater membership and Union participation from the Fire community.

In terms of a quick bio: I have accrued 36 years of federal service (33 years with the Forest Service and 3 years in the Army). As a Forestry Technician, I have been a jack-of-all trades and have worked in Timber Management (large sale and small sale), Recreation, Engineering (doing P-line road surveys), Silviculture, Fire, and Special Uses. I have worked in Regions 6, 10, and 5. In Union, I have served as a Steward, Local Vice President, Local President, Forest Service Council Vice President, and I have served on two Regional Partnership Councils, as well as the national Forest Service Partnership Council.

Lisa Wolfe – Candidate for NFFE-FSC Vice President, Region 6

I'm a longtime member of NFFE. Since joining my local 20 years ago I've remained active in the Local as an officer – Secretary-Treasurer until the recent merger of locals in R6. And in my newly merged FL0034 I am a trustee. I've served on the FS Council's Legislative committee since attending in 2008 and in 2011 took over as chair of that committee, coordinating our efforts and helping Mark Davis to shepherd the Land Management Workforce Flexibility Act to reality. This year we introduced a new issue – Broken Promises: Injured firefighters, law enforcement officers forced out of their retirement system, which was well received. Since 2011 I've also been R6 CVP, most recently leading the merger of our 16 locals to 4 locals for the region.

Shawn Patterson – Candidate for NFFE-FSC Vice President, CCC

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I have served as Steward and Local Vice President for Local 1697 until 2012. In 2012 I was elected as the CCC CVP, and have worked on issues facing the CCC's from RIF/WRAPS, to successfully rebuilding a broken partnership with management at the CCC National and local levels.

I have spent hundreds of hours legislatively in Washington DC discussing issues with Congress that are affecting the CCC Program. I've also had the privilege of being a member on the Master Agreement Negotiations Team. I've also helped the CCC by visiting low performing centers through partnership with management by identifying the issues and providing solutions in collaboration with the BUE's at each of the centers visited.

Thank You.

Debbie Kaufman – Candidate for NFFE-FSC Vice President, WO Units

Debbie started in the Union in 2006, where she helped rebuild WO Local 1919 and was elected Recording Secretary. She was a founding member of the first WO Partnership Council which had several successful projects such as negotiations of an MOU on Annual Leave. She later moved into CIO Local 2196 where she served as a Steward and Secretary-Treasurer.

In 2012, Debbie was elected as the FS Council VP for WO Units. Most of the WO Units (CIO, B&F, HRM, LEI, and Enterprise Bargaining Unit) are national and virtual in nature posing challenges in representation. Debbie understands their unique organizations and needs having worked in headquarters her whole career. She served as the Union Representative for the WO Headquarters renovation working hard to ensure a good work environment, fair and consistent treatment in space selection, and creating equitable processes for the BUEs.

Debbie has worked hard to support the WO locals by advising on grievances and arbitrations, Unfair Labor Practices, and negotiations while assisting the locals in building their internal skills.

Debbie has brought issues affecting WO Locals to the Council on numerous occasions, fought to get Union Officials from WO Locals into training courses, and supported requests for financial and other assistance of arbitration cases for WO Locals.

Debbie serves in many key roles at the Council level, such as Communications Committee Chair, delivering almost weekly to all of our Locals This Week in the Council--edited from the submissions of over a dozen very different voices. As the Training Committee Co-Chair, she has helped to develop and deliver courses like the Council Basic Steward Training and Collective Bargaining.

Debbie feels she has much to offer as the WO CVP and wants to continue in that role.