

R. DAVID SMITH MEMORIAL AWARD
George Hawkins
New River Valley – Chapter 1134

George Hawkins joined NARFE, while still employed, in 1989. He has served as President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Program Chair, Service Officer, Audit Committee Chair many times within Chapter 1134. George always “gets his man” or “woman” as Nominating Committee Chair or member. He is currently serving as Chapter Co-Membership Chair with an active record of landing non-renewals and in encouraging new members to get active in the Chapter. Most members who regularly attend the meetings are on dues withholding. George is the “go to” man in all aspects of Chapter Operation and is a leader in monitoring Congressional and agency action related to protecting our Federal Benefits. He has written several articles on **Why Membership In NARFE Is So Important**. These articles have been widely distributed in newsletters of many Chapters both in the Virginia Federation and nationally as well.

George served as VFC Area VI Vice President for eight years. During that time he organized and has mentored Chapter 2330 which serves the Abingdon-Bristol area and received a Special Achievement Award for his effort. Many Area VI Chapters, as well as the current Area V Vice President, still rely on his good judgment and knowledge. He always gives his best. George also chaired, organized and managed the VFC Convention held in Roanoke.

George is always ready to help out in the community through two major service organizations and many ad hoc “Community Betterment” efforts. He received the 1997 Outstanding Layman of the Year award from the Montgomery-Blacksburg Kiwanis Club and The Community Builders award in recognition of outstanding service to the community from the Blacksburg Chapter of the Masons.

The Hawkins family joined the Blacksburg Baptist Church when arriving in Blacksburg in 1962. George has taught Sunday School in the college age and adult departments for over 30 years. He has served several terms on the Board of Deacons and the Administrative Council and also served as chair of the Deacons. He has been chair of the Pastor Search Committee and served on Personnel, Nominating as well as the Building and Grounds committees. George also organizes, drives the bus, and leads his fellow Baptists on many outings to places of culture and history in a hundred mile radius of the New River Valley.