List of Candidates for 2023 SC NENA Board

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

 Sam Gaither

Sam Gaither is the Communications Chief of Berkeley County 911 Communications. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Coastal Area Cooperative. Sam has achieved the designation of Emergency Number Professional from the National Emergency Number Association (NENA).

Outside of the 911 Center, Sam is a Major in the South Carolina Army National Guard. He has two Active-Duty Deployments to Germany and Middle East as a Brigade Logistics Officer and a Company Commander. Sam has been in the fire service since 2002 and has served at all ranks from Firefighter/EMT to Battalion Chief. Sam hold a Master’s in Business Administration from American Military University and a Bachelors of Criminal Justice from The Citadel.

 La Shawn Jefferson

I am La Shawn Jefferson with Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office. I am the Hazardous Materials Coordinator for the Agency. I have operated in this capacity for about two and a half years. I am responsible for maintaining accurate records on the chemicals stored, sold or used in all businesses within Beaufort County. I also hold the responsibility of ensuring that the chemicals listed within the database is electronically shared with all Emergency Services Responders through our CAD system.

Prior to transitioning into this role, I served as the Communications Manager for four years (2016-2020). Before becoming Manager over the 911 Communications Center, I served as a 911 Shift Supervisor and created avenues for advancement with those under my direction. I have a total of twenty-six-years’ experience in the Public Safety sector. In 2018, I also successfully completed the CMCP Program. I have been a member of APCO & NENA for many years and served in various capacities. I have also served as the Southern Region Director for four years on the SC NENA Board and my tenure ended in December of 2021.

While continuing to build a well-rounded resume, I am inspired to continue sharing my knowledge & positive attitude among my peers and return to serve on the SC NENA Board.

 Carl Thompson

I am the CALEA & Quality Assurance Coordinator for York County Department of Public Safety in York County, SC.  My career began with York County as a telecommunicator in 2009.  During the last several years in my current position I have helped PSC with our CALEA reaccreditation and have reworked our Quality Assurance program to help our staff better assist our community.   I have been on several boards, and committees within my community serving from positions from Treasury, Vice President and President.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

 Wendi Rooney

Wendi Rooney is the Deputy Director for Spartanburg County’s Communications/9-1-1 Department, having begun her career as a 9-1-1 call-taker with the department in 1996. Wendi is the Accreditation Manager for Spartanburg 9-1-1 which has been nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 2004. She is a nationally certified Emergency Number Professional (ENP) and graduate of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Communications Management Certification Program (CMCP). Wendi is actively involved in state and national 9-1-1 related professional organizations; serving as national co-chair of the NENA Development Steering Committee which establishes operational standards and recommended best practices for the 9-1-1 industry and is the Northern Regional Director on the South Carolina NENA board. Wendi earned her bachelor’s degree from the College of Charleston in 1995 and her Master of Public Administration (MPA) in Emergency Management in 2005 from Jacksonville State University.

PEE DEE REGION

 Lizzie Robertson

My name is Lizzie Robertson. I am the Quality Assurance Specialist for the Florence County Emergency Management Department / 911. My career began August of 2017 as a Telecommunications Officer. Through my training as a new Telecommunicator we were always taught the importance of caller and responder safety, which is when my passion for Quality Assurance began. During my time on shift I always strived to ensure my callers got the best care they could get until responders arrived. By 2019 I had already began training for the Quality Assurance Specialist, so when the time came for that position to become available I would already have knowledge. In August of 2020 I had the opportunity to become a Training Officer to help guide and provide knowledge to others just beginning their career at our agency. As of January 2022 I have had the honor of being promoted to the Quality Assurance Specialist. My goal in my career is to educate my peers, to ensure the citizens are receiving the best care, and responders are kept safe. Also I strive to gain new knowledge that will better assist telecommunications officers. I aspire to be an example for the younger generations that through hard work and dedication, you can make your dreams come true.

MIDLANDS REGION

 Angela Gunter

Angie Gunter currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Lexington County Communications.  Angie began her career with 911 seventeen years ago as a dispatcher and has progressed through all positions to become a renowned leader within the division. Angie’s knowledge, experience and  compassion and are just a few of her qualities that make her a remarkable leader. She utilizes her experience and level-headedness to mentor her team into becoming exceptional leaders themselves.

Angie loves serving the community and being part of a team that she knows will take care of not only the citizens of Lexington County, but those visiting too. Angie also takes an active role in Public Education. She loves getting out in the community and educating on the proper use of 911.

In her spare time, Angie loves spending time with her family, especially the newest member of the family, her granddaughter Ryleigh. They love all things outdoors and family camping trips are one of her favorite ways to relax.

Angie has dedicated her 911 career to serving both the public and the field units.  She is excited for the opportunity to serve her fellow 911 professionals on the NENA board representing the Midlands of South Carolina.