



# THE REPORTER

State Employees Association of North Carolina

## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

STRENGTHENING THE STATE HEALTH PLAN

SAVING JOBS

MEMBER

ACTION

PRISON SAFETY

COLLABORATION

lobbying

SKILL

values success

growing leaders

LONGEVITY PAY

Pay Raises

# POWER

vision

# OF OUR PAST,

# FORCE FOR OUR

SECURING COVID TESTS & FRONT LINE HAZARD PAY

# FUTURE

Clear Pricing Project

SCHOLARSHIPS trust

Protecting Employee Rights

PREVENTING PRIVITAZATION

DISASTER

RELIEF

RETIREMENT

SECURITY

\$15 MINIMUM WAGE

# BUSINESS SESSIONS



District 56 Chairman Danny Rose reviews materials during the bylaws debates.



President Kirk Montgomery calls the 40th Annual SEANC Convention delegation to order on Thursday, Sept. 5 in Greensboro, North Carolina.



A delegate casts a vote.



Convention scholarship recipient Sasha Vann (District 39) shares her Convention experience with the delegation.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

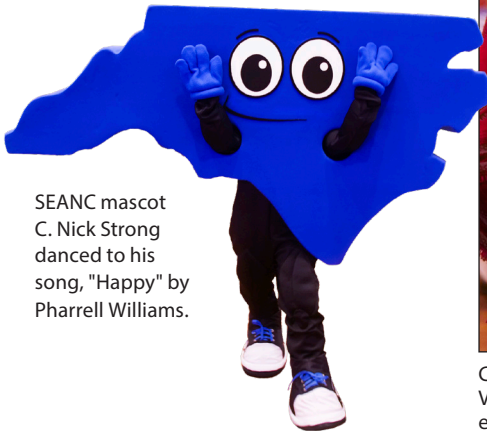
Breakout sessions were scheduled on Thursday and Friday giving delegates the opportunity to participate in trainings designed to enrich their personal and professional lives.



Past President Martha Fowler facilitated the session titled, "So, you want to be a SEANC leader?"



The State Employees' Credit Union offered delegates trainings on several topics including retirement planning.



SEANC mascot C. Nick Strong danced to his song, "Happy" by Pharrell Williams.

# BUSINESS SESSIONS



## NEW DELEGATE ORIENTATION

New delegates met on Thursday morning before the session started. SEANC officers and Past Presidents were on hand to discuss what to expect over the three days of the convention.



Second VP Emily Jones, President Kirk Montgomery, and First VP Wendel Powell are in the middle photo. Past President Linda Rouse Sutton is in the photo at left.

SEANC delegates gathered in Greensboro in early September for the 40th Annual SEANC Convention. Each year, around 800 members are selected by their districts to make decisions vital to the association's success in the coming year.

Delegates are tasked with electing officers and representatives on various committees, considering bylaws amendments, updating SEANC's policy platform, listening to reports from President Kirk Montgomery, Executive Director Ardis Watkins and other officers and committee chairs.

During the Community Service cash call, delegates pledged to donate more than \$12,000 to support the American Cancer Society.



This year, the EMPAC-endorsed candidates for statewide Council of State races visited to thank SEANC members for their support in the upcoming election. Department heads from the governor's cabinet also gave updates on their various agencies.



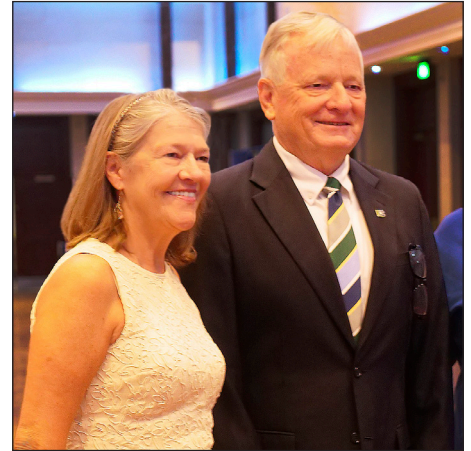
DHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley



DAC Secretary Todd Ishee

A highlight of the weekend came on Saturday, when State Treasurer Dale Folwell gave his final address to the convention after eight years of advocating for state employees and retirees.

We also unveiled SEANC's new mascot, C. Nick Strong, named by District 1 member Jim Rowell, and handed out prestigious statewide awards.



State Treasurer Dale R. Folwell and his wife Synthia greet delegates.



NCDPS Secretary Eddie Buffaloe poses with District 44 member Linda Johnson-Spence.



Executive Director Ardis Watkins delivered her report on Friday morning highlighting major victories and changes for SEANC in the past year and the challenges that lie ahead.

## PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

President Montgomery hosted a festive evening on Wed., Sept. 4 that included delicious food, fun and fellowship for delegates and guests.

# Mardi Gras



First Vice President Wendell Powell, President Kirk Montgomery, Executive Director Ardis Watkins, Chief Financial Officer Brenda Williams, Second Vice President Emily Jones, Past President Chuck Stone, are pictured with State Employees' Credit Union CEO Leigh Brady, Deputy Chief Operations Officer Stacey Waddell and board members.



District 3 members Doris Greer, Kathy Howell and SECU Deputy Chief Operations Officer Stacey Waddell (center) smile for the camera.



Delegates enjoy a line dance.



Connections Committee Chairman B.K. Garrett, Exe. Director Asst./Meeting & Convention Coordinator Jacque Chatman, and Member Services Director C.J. Stephens enjoy similar hairstyles.

## PAST PRESIDENTS



Each year we honor SEANC Past Presidents and spouses at convention.

## EMERGING LEADERS COUNCIL LUNCHEON

The Emerging Leaders Council hosted its annual luncheon on Sept. 6 in the Imperial Ballroom. SEANC officers, council members and all new delegates were invited to attend. The following 2023-24 awards were presented:

**Emerging Leaders Exceptional Leaders**

DuBoris Peterkin (District 28)  
Pamela Montgomery (District 25)

**Perfect Attendance**

Kimberly McKoy (District 25)  
Carl Elliott (District 69)

**Exceptional Staff Liaison**

Lobbyist Christopher Hailey, Jr.



**EMPAC Endorsed  
CANDIDATES  
RECEPTION**

EMPAC hosted its Legislative Reception on Fri., Sept. 6 in the Imperial Ballroom. Delegates had the opportunity to meet with our endorsed legislators, Congressional members and candidates, and other leaders to discuss SEANC issues.



Pictured above are Rep. Jeff Jackson, Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Attorney General Josh Stein and Rep. Wesley Harris.



Pictured above are Congresswoman Valerie Foushee, District 25 member Pam Montgomery and State Auditor Candidate Jessica Holmes.



Pictured above are SEANC Chief Financial Officer Brenda Williams, Orange County Board of Education member Wendy Padilla and Representative Renée A. Price.

# 2023-24 Awards

The **State Awards** were presented to recipients by Awards Chairwoman Marie Tate.



**District of the Year**  
**District 41**  
(Award accepted by  
Chairwoman Kelly Russell)



**Distinguished Service**  
**Kathy Merritt**  
(District 59)



**Member of the Year**  
**Angela Moore**  
(District 64)



**District Chair of the Year**  
**Shirley Bell**  
(District 42)



Retiree Council Chairman Jamie Robinson presented District 38 Chairwoman **Margaret Reader** with the **Bob Hopper Award**.



Past President **Stanley Drewery** and District 25 Chairman **James Holman** were presented with the **President's Awards**.



President Montgomery and Membership Chairman Cliff Johnson presented Member Relations Representative **Celia Wilson** with the **Membership Rock Star Award**.



EMPAC Chairman Mark Dearmon presented District 17 member **Walton Jones** with the **Gloria Upperman Award**.



Membership Chairman Cliff Johnson (wearing a hat) with the **Top Membership Recruiters** from left to right Patricia Moore, Junior Hulen and Emily Jones.

**First Place**  
(\$350)

**Emily Jones**  
2nd Vice President/  
District 41 member

**Second Place**  
(\$250)

**Patricia Moore**  
District 67  
Chairwoman

**Third Place**  
(\$200)

**Junior Hulen**  
District 22  
member

## — Darrell Arnold Awards —



Executive Director  
**Ardis Watkins**



Exec. Director Asst./Meeting & Convention Coordinator  
**Jacque Chatman**



President Montgomery chose the winning tickets for the **Scholarship Foundation Cash Raffle Winners**.

**Grand Prize**  
(\$5,000)

**District 4**  
(The district  
bought all of  
their tickets).

**First Prize**  
(\$3,000)

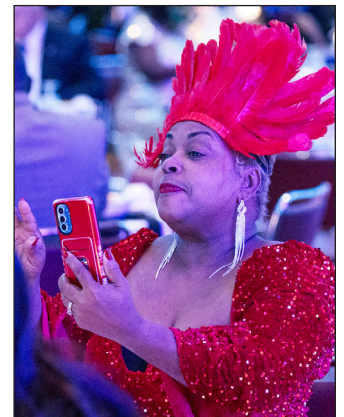
**Audra Holsapple**  
District 69  
member, sold by  
District 69

**Second Prize**  
(\$2,000)

**Charles Dana Ross**  
District 12  
member, sold by  
District 12

Awards Banquet/Masquerade Ball: ARIEL PEREZ PHOTOGRAPHY

# Masquerade Ball



# 2023-24 President's Address

## President Montgomery intends to broaden our horizons



*The following is SEANC President Kirk Montgomery's address to the delegates at the 40th Annual SEANC Convention on Sept. 7.*

As we close another successful SEANC convention, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your dedication and spirit. Your commitment shines as a beacon of what we can achieve together.

This year, we have focused heavily on nurturing a blend of youth and experience within our organization. We must continue to open doors for young people, integrating their fresh

perspectives and boundless energy into our framework. But equally, we rely on the wisdom and guidance of our more seasoned members, who mentor and lead with unmatched expertise. This collaboration is not just beneficial—it's essential for our growth and resilience.

Looking ahead, our strategy involves broadening our horizons. We are committed to exploring new ways to market SEANC and collaborating with other entities and organizations that share our vision and values. This is a journey of growth, adaptation, and alignment with the needs of our members and the communities we serve.

Furthermore, we recognize the importance of working closely with our staff and management to enhance our training programs. We aim to equip our team with the tools and knowledge necessary to excel and innovate. By fostering an environment that encourages the contribution of ideas, we ensure that SEANC remains at the forefront of advocacy and service.

On a personal note, I must extend a special thanks to my wife, whose support and understanding have been my foundation through the countless commitments and challenges. Her support empowers me to serve our organization with undivided attention and energy.

I cannot conclude without acknowledging the immense efforts of our statewide committee chairs. Your hard work and dedication

have not gone unnoticed. The hours you've invested and the initiatives you've championed are the backbone of our success. Thank you for your tireless work and for steering our committees with such commendable leadership.

As we look to the future, let us carry forward the momentum from this convention. Together, we will continue to grow, innovate, and lead. Together, we will make a difference. Thank you for your continued passion and commitment. Let's keep striving for excellence in all that we do.

Thank you all once again, and I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the coming year.



President Kirk Montgomery and his wife Pam at the Banquet on Saturday night.