

# SPOTLIGHT

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

FEB. 16-17, 2024

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## UPDATES

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### **Operations Manual – Kim Westbrook Strach**

The board thoroughly examined and passed the latest update of the Operations Manual, which included items moved from the SEANC Bylaws at last year's convention.

### **Convention update – Jacque Chatman**

The 40th Annual SEANC Convention will be held Sept. 4-7, 2024, in Greensboro. This year's theme is "The Power of the Past as the Force of Our Future."

The community service project will benefit the American Cancer Society in the fight against lung and prostate cancer.

The Awards Banquet theme will be "Night of the Stars: Masquerade Ball," and the President's Receptions will be Mardi Gras themed.

Entrepreneur Alley will be on the third-floor lobby. The cost for a booth is \$60 per day. Entrepreneurs who are interested in participating should contact Jacque Chatman at [jchatman@seanc.org](mailto:jchatman@seanc.org).

We will hold breakout sessions once again this year. Please send any ideas for training to Jacque Chatman by March 15.

### **SECU Report – Shirley Bell**

Past President Shirley Bell urged members to get involved in the advisory boards of their local SECU branches.

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## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

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### **President's Report – Kirk Montgomery**

President Montgomery read a resolution honoring Aggie Jeanna Phillips, who passed away recently. Phillips was an active member of District 18 and the Emerging Leaders Council. The resolution will be given to her family.

He participated in the SEANC View podcast to share insights, updates, and the vision of SEANC with a broader audience, enhancing the organization's outreach and member engagement.

Since the last BOG meeting, he has conducted planning meetings for the upcoming convention, including agenda setting and logistics, to ensure that it aligns with SEANC's goals and member expectations.

He also represented SEANC at multiple external events, showcasing the organization's commitment to community engagement and fostering partnerships with other organizations and stakeholders.

Montgomery urged districts to recruit to keep the organization moving forward and open doorways for young members.

### **First Vice President's Report – Wendell Powell**

Powell presided over a Planning Committee meeting on February 2 via ZOOM to start discussions on the upcoming budget, including IT, Infrastructure, and how to serve our membership while cutting back on expenditures. The next meeting will be in March.

He also attended various statewide committee meetings, such as Membership, Policy Platform, and Awards. He participated in an interview with NC Health News and the SEANC View podcast on the ongoing correctional personnel shortage.



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## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

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### **Second Vice President's Report – Emily Jones**

Jones visited Elizabeth City State University's Staff Assembly Day, an event at UNC Charlotte, and a probation and parole vent in New Hanover County.

She also participated in meetings for the Retiree Council, Membership and Investment Advisory Committees, the Emerging Leaders Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, and meetings for Districts 24 and 45.

### **Past President's Report – Martha Fowler**

Fowler reported on the NC Coalition on Aging activities, on which she represents SEANC. The coalition has a new executive director, Carrie Dugas.

The past presidents gathered at the SEANC Central Office on December 8 for a Christmas luncheon.

Fowler has attended meetings of the Executive Committee, Audit Committee, Emerging Leaders Council, Growth and Expansion Committee, Policy Platform Committee, Membership Committee, and District Chair Training.

### **Executive Director's Report – Ardis Watkins**

Watkins started her report by recognizing Ally Kaulback, who represented District 10 at the meeting. Kaulback is a young professional who attended her first convention last year and is becoming more involved in SEANC.

Watkins led a discussion about SEANC's reserves. Currently, SEANC is required to hold a reserve equal to 12 months of operating expenses, much more than the standard for associations nationally and locally. The state itself has less than two months in reserves, and for most of SEANC's history it operated with six months in reserves.

She told the board that SEANC is not in a financial crisis, saying, "I don't want to rob reserves. I don't want to give a false impression to say we're living off reserves."

Watkins also discussed the GLP-1 weight-loss coverage debate with the State Health Plan. She told the board that we have members who are on the drugs and others who do not want to see their premiums increase because of them. Meanwhile, the drugs cost four times as much in the US as they do in other countries. She commended Past President Wayne Fish, who sits on the Plan's Board of Trustees, for fighting for members.

Watkins called on the directors for updates about their departments. Read more from their reports in the Post-BOG e-Packet.

### **Treasurer's Report – Stacie Crabtree**

Crabtree reported that SEANC's budget is on track for the fiscal year. She also reviewed SEANC's reserves and investments, both of which are strong.

### **IT Report – Brian Neesby of SRS Consulting**

Construction of Phase One of SEANC's new data management system is complete. Several staff members are now testing the system before the full rollout. We are hoping to launch it next week, barring setbacks.

Construction of Phase 2, which will include automating many processes, will begin in the next few days.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### **Scholarship Foundation Board – Nicole Hunter for Mike Bell**

The Scholarship Foundation has implemented an entirely online application process. Applications are already rolling in. District scholarship committees will now have to judge retiree grandchildren's scholarship applications.

Scholarship Training will be held via Zoom on March 12, 2024, at 10 a.m.

The Scholarship Foundation Bowling Tournament and Silent Auction will be held July 20 from 1–3 p.m. at Buffaloe Lanes North in Raleigh.



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**COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

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**Retiree Council – Cliff Johnson for Jamie Robinson**

The Council met on February 8. Johnson praised District 21 for having three retiree forums already planned and encouraged more districts to schedule forums.

The next meeting is planned for May 7.

**Public Education – Mark Dearmon**

Public Schools Liaison Brad Langhans has met with leaders of all 115 public school districts. SEANC's membership representatives continue to set up recruitment events at community colleges. We encourage you to help set up a recruitment event if you have a community college in your district.

In December, Ardis, Mark, Kirk, and James Holman met with the UNC-CH employee forum to discuss recent legislation that will enroll UNC and ECU healthcare employees hired after January 1, 2024, into an optional retirement plan and a new health plan instead of the state retirement system and state health plan. This move could come at a significant cost to TSERS and the State Health Plan.

SEANC will once again sponsor the Chancellor's Cup golf tournament. This year's event will be at Finley Golf Course in Chapel Hill.

**Prison Reform – Deborah Harney**

Deborah encouraged members to listen to the SEANC podcast with Wendell Powell on correctional personnel shortages.

The One Voice National Medal of Honor ceremony will be held in Chicago on April 26, 2024. There were three nominations from North Carolina:

- Asst. Warden Travis Steele from Lexington saved two people from a home fire.
- Sgt. Brain Lackey, Ofc. Billy Gilley, Charge Nurse Susan Glover, and Program Supervisor Jennifer from Piedmont Correctional assisted with an overturned tractor-trailer on I-85 in Davidson County on their way back from training.
- PPO Hughley assisted a juvenile who was shot three times downtown Asheville during a Juneteenth Celebrations.

**Policy Platform – Rashia Norman**

The Advisory Board met on February 5, and the statewide committee met on February 6.

Policy platform district chairpersons were informed of the advisory representative over their area. They were encouraged to communicate with members during every district meeting regarding any questions or concerns and provide them with a Member's Concerns Form.

Zoom meetings will be held on April 30 and July 16.

**Membership – Cliff Johnson**

The Membership Committee set a \$10 per new member incentive for recruiters as part of its Summer Splash promotion. Second Vice President Emily Jones won a SWAG bag in the latest recruiter prize drawing. The next drawing will be held at the May BOG meeting.

Johnson reminded the board that part-time, temporary, and contract employees can be members of SEANC. He encouraged more workplace recruiters as well.

District Chairs should give the name of their district membership chair to Lynn Cote ASAP, and work with the Member Relations Team to set up events.

The next committee meeting is April 10 via Zoom.



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**COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

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**Investment Advisory – Patsy Acquista**

The committee met on January 23 and discussed the investment risk tolerance survey results.

A subcommittee was formed to draft an RFP to select an Investment Advisor. Once selected, the Advisor can assist SEANC with developing the detailed investment strategy to be incorporated into the policy.

**Insurance Board – Janice Smith**

The board met on February 7. The insurance commission revenue reported for 2023 was \$772,000 and deposited to the SEANC General Operating Fund

CJ Stephens reviewed the Insurance Department changes that have occurred recently with the new agreements with Liberty Mutual, Farmers, and Travelers. The agreements with the addition of AFLAC Short Term Disability and Met Life (Identity Theft and Pet) have been reviewed, and the policies will be offered to SEANC Members starting in March.

**Growth and Expansion – Charles Streeter**

The committee met on February 12 via Zoom. It is tasked with developing innovative programs to promote SEANC to younger employees and retain them once they join.

Several ideas are in the works, including a mentorship program, new onboarding and outreach initiatives, contests (like creating a SEANC mascot or social media scavenger hunt), and a scholarship for younger members to attend the convention.

**EMPAC – Mark Dearmon**

EMPAC has announced its endorsements for the upcoming March Primary, including Dale Folwell for Governor and Wesley Harris for State Treasurer, as well as 13 Republicans and 11 Democrats for the legislature. The complete list is in the Post-BOG e-Packet.

EMPAC has hired Capen Consulting to help advance our fundraising efforts and will sponsor the Young Democrats of NC Convention and the Young Republicans Convention to spread the word about SEANC and EMPAC with current and future leaders.

**Emerging Leaders – Tracy Webb**

The Council completed a Community Service project on December 9 when more than 20 members visited the Ronald McDonald House and SECU Family House in Chapel Hill. It also conducted an Adopt-a-Highway cleanup of Old Crews Rd. on February 20

The Council will launch a fundraising effort on March 1 and will be looking into a leadership development session for district and state ELC members soon. The 2nd Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair will be held in June or July.

**DHHS Study – Kathy Merrit**

Merritt attended the DHHS legislative oversight committee meeting on February 6 and spoke with Sen. Jim Burgin and Sen. Donna White about the challenges at the department.

The committee plans to attend a mental health awareness 5K walk/run in Morganton at 12:30 p.m. on May 25, and the NAMI walk in NC on May 18.

**Connections – BK Garrett**

The committee has yet to receive assistance applications since the November BOG meeting. SEANC members can find the fund request forms on the SEANC website at [seanc.org/connections-committee](http://seanc.org/connections-committee)



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**COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)**


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**Bylaws – Jimmy Davis**

No report

**Awards – Marie Tate**

District of the Year nomination forms were passed out. The committee voted to put the following restrictions in place:

- The same district may only win the District of the Year Award consecutively for up to two years.
- Award recipients are not eligible to succeed in the same category two years in a row.
- Members may nominate different individuals in multiple categories per year.

The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. on the Saturday of the July BOG meeting. Judging will be held on August 6. Nomination forms are available at [seanc.org/awards](http://seanc.org/awards)

**Audit – Alicia Simpson Warren**

The committee is currently auditing Districts 65 and 5. Additional information is being requested to complete the review.

There is a vacancy on the committee. Please get in touch with Alicia Simpson Warren if you are interested.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the July 2017 BOG meeting. It determined that a motion passed stating that no SE-ANC funds, including any funds from any district account, shall be used to purchase alcoholic beverages. The board voted to make members of an anonymous district that violated this policy repay \$895 to its account.

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**PASSED MOTIONS from the Board of Governors**


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**Passed:** To accept and approve the Board of Governors' Quarterly Meeting Minutes of November 17 – November 18, 2023 and the Board of Governors' Monthly Update Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2024.

**Passed:** To accept and approve the Budget Report as of January 31, 2024, as presented by the Treasurer.

**Passed:** To keep the mileage reimbursement rate at 65.5 cents per mile and not increase to 67 cents per mile due to budgetary concerns.

**Failed:** SEANC funds are not to be used to support any viewpoint in the SHP decision on GLP-1a use in weight loss. There are other medically sound avenues for weight loss; providers have been inappropriately/incorrectly prescribing these medications, and the long-term effects of these drugs have yet to be discovered.

**Passed:** The Executive Committee shall recommend any reserve expenditures to the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors shall approve or deny any spending from the reserves.

**Passed:** To approve the Operations Manual as presented today with amendments.

**Passed:** The district that purchased alcohol for \$895 out of a SEANC district account should pay those funds back to that SEANC district account. Such funds are to be paid back by personal funds.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**


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- Junior Hulen is running for statewide EMPAC chair

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**NEXT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING IS MAY 17-18**


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