

# SPOTLIGHT

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

JULY 19-20, 2024

## UPDATES

### **Guest Speaker: State Treasurer Dale Folwell**

Dale Folwell visited the board for what may be the final time as State Treasurer. SEANC and EMPAC has backed him since he first ran for Treasurer in 2016. He chose not to seek re-election this year.

He told board members, "It has been an honor to be associated with SEANC," in his eight years as Treasurer, and thanked them for their continued support.

Folwell discussed the State Health Plan's upcoming move to Aetna as third-party administrator beginning in January, 2025. He expects "no mistakes" during the open enrollment process, and that plan members should see little-to-no change in their health care.

The Retirement System recently hit a new high and is 90% funded. It has been ranked as one of the best managed plans in the country. Folwell thanked SEANC for our help in calling issues such as Wall Street fees to light to make this possible.

### **Convention Update – Jacque Chatman**

The 40th Annual SEANC Convention is just six weeks away! It will be held Sept. 4-7 in Greensboro. The theme is "The Power of the Past as the Force of Our Future," and the community service project will benefit the NC Chapter of the American Cancer Society. Registration is due NOW. Please submit your information to [jchatman@seanc.org](mailto:jchatman@seanc.org).

### **2024-2025 SEANC Budget approved**

The board passed a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year developed by the Planning Committee.

---

## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

---

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

President Montgomery started his report by addressing some division he has seen in the board in recent months. He called on board members to remember SEANC's mission: "SEANC is committed to protecting and enhancing the rights and benefits of current, retired, and future state employees," and to put personal feelings aside to make decisions for our members.

Since the May BOG meeting, Montgomery attended the following meetings: Annual Meetings, Scholarship, Insurance, Growth & Expansion, Membership, Emerging Leaders, Bylaws and Retiree Council. In addition, Montgomery participated in discussions regarding the SRS contract and the Operations Manual.

Montgomery will be holding bi-weekly Zoom meetings entitled, "An Hour with the President," on Sundays from 4-5 p.m. The first meeting is scheduled for Aug. 11. All members are invited to attend and discuss anything they want.

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

Powell attended multiple committee and district meetings since the last BOG meeting. He stressed the need for board members to communicate to their members and to be "SEANC Ambassadors" in the workplace.

He also reviewed the 2024-2025 SEANC budget, created by the Planning Committee which he chairs. The budget passed.

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

Jones has attended multiple committee and district meetings and SEANC events since the last BOG meeting.

She encouraged members to become more active and take on leadership positions. She also reiterated Powell's call for chairs to share information with their members.

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

Fowler reviewed the meetings she has attended since the last BOG meeting as well as the activities of the NC Coalition on Aging, where she represents SEANC. The coalition is currently undertaking initiatives for caregivers and raising awareness about fall prevention.



---

## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

---

### Treasurer's Report – Stacie Crabtree

Crabtree reviewed progress on the current year's budget as well as SEANC's travel/meal/lodging policies. She also worked with Powell to present the budget for next year.

### Executive Director's Report – Ardis Watkins

Watkins discussed ways to reach out to younger employees, mentioning that Gen Z staffers Sam Cline, Hunter Shen, Tiana Alberts and Jamison Rhodes and District 10 member Allie Kaulback recorded an episode of the SEANC View Podcast recently. Sarah Miller is leaving the Member Relations Department to return to public schools.

Watkins has met with the university leaders including the Chancellor of Western Carolina and the UNC System Staff Senate. She is also planning to meet with the UNC-W and N.C. State chancellors soon.

Watkins sent letters to all the public school superintendents in the state asking if SEANC could attend their convocations. Many approved, and the Member Relations team will be attending their events.

---

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

---

### Audit – Alicia Simpson Warren

- The Audit Committee reviewed three options for mobile payments for districts - Square, PayPal and Cash App. The committee recommended Square because of its ease of use with the credit union as well as its safety features. The board voted to allow districts to use Square to receive funds only.
- No one applied for nomination to the committee this year. Since the deadline has passed, there will be no candidates to be considered at the convention. Per the Bylaws, current members will remain seated on the committee.

### Awards – Marie Tate

- The deadline for nominations passed on Saturday. Judging will be held on August 6.

### Benevolence – Jonathan Owens for Deborah Fleming

- Currently we have pictures from Districts 3, 7, 10, 13, 16, 38 and 39 for the memorial presentation. An updated list of deceased members since Oct. 1 is in the Post-BOG ePacket. Please send pictures to [jowens@seanc.org](mailto:jowens@seanc.org).

### Bylaws – Kim Martin

- The Bylaws Committee has voted to send 10 amendments to the convention for consideration.

### Connections – BK Garrett

- SEANC members can find the fund request forms on the SEANC website at [seanc.org/connections-committee](http://seanc.org/connections-committee).

### DHHS Study – Kathy Merritt

- The committee has participated in monthly NCDHHS meetings via Zoom.
- Committee Chair Kathy Merritt is applying for a position on the Local Consumer and Family Advisory Committee.
- If you would like the committee to attend an event at a DHHS facility, contact Lynn Cote, Suzanne Beasley or Kathy Merritt.
- If you have any concerns or would like to participate on the DHHS Study Committee, contact Kathy Merritt at 919-738-8729 or 919-947-9130.

### Emerging Leaders – Tracy Webb

- The 2nd Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair was held on June 15 in Raleigh. The committee gave back to the community by providing: Bloodmobile, mammograms, chair massages, Zumba, boxing, and line dancing with a DJ. Fifteen people donated blood and 13 ladies received mammograms. Sister to Sister Alliance received a portion of the donor proceeds.
- The next "Candid Conversations" event will be held on July 26 in Fayetteville for the South Central Region. Another is planned on Aug. 3 in Hickory for the West.
- The next Adopt-A-Highway cleanup is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 10.
- ELC Leadership Training Workshop was held on June 29.
- 2024 ELC Scholarship recipient Kimberly McKoy is applying to attend the Leadership North Carolina program.



---

**COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

---

**EMPAC – Mark Dearmon**

- Endorsement Interviews - The area committees have until Aug. 3 to complete their interviews and must hold their endorsement meetings by Aug. 10.
- Interviews for candidates for Governor and Council of State (COS) have been completed.
- The State EMPAC Committee will meet Saturday, Aug. 17, at the SEANC office to confirm area endorsements and consider endorsements for Governor and COS candidates.
- Convention - Some of EMPAC's endorsed COS candidates will address the delegates during the Friday afternoon session. The Annual Dessert Reception for our endorsed candidates is Friday, Sept. 6 beginning at 7:30 p.m. The cash raffle drawings for EMPAC investors will be held during the EMPAC report on Saturday.
- EMPAC is now accepting nominations for the Gloria Upperman EMPAC Activist Award. Submit nominations to empacchair@seanc.org no later than Aug. 15.

**Growth and Expansion – Charles Streeter**

- The committee is sponsoring five scholarships to allow members who aren't delegates to attend the convention, and has received many applications, which will be judged by a subcommittee.
- They are also holding a Mascot naming contest, and the winner will be announced at the convention

**Insurance Board – Janice Smith**

- The IB members are working hard to increase our exceptional insurance products. The commissions from these products add revenue to the SEANC General Operating Budget. Please review our products and the many benefits that are offered through these affordable policies.
- The last Educational Session webinar on our insurance products is Aug. 6 at 6:30 p.m. Register via the Aug. 2 publication of The Scoop.

**Investment Advisory – Patsy Acquista**

- The committee brought forth a motion to move money in reserves from a money market account to a CD to take advantage of better interest rates. The board approved the motion.

**Membership – Cliff Johnson**

- The next Membership Committee meeting is Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Carri Derrick if you or your Membership Chair want to attend.
- Ask your Member Relations Representative what your district can do to grow your membership. The 2024 Operations Manual requires that at least 10% of your yearly dues rebate must be used to promote your district growth and retention.
- Convention Recruitment Contest - The top three member recruiters (Oct. 1, 2023 - Aug. 15, 2024) will receive cash awards. In addition, members who recruit at least one new member between Oct. 1, 2023 - Aug. 15, 2024 will be entered in a drawing to win \$200.
- Recruitment Incentives: \$10 per member recruited, must have at least two members before a check may be cut, incentives will be processed no sooner than 30 days following the recruitment. Transfers from one district to another does count toward your district totals but are not eligible for recruitment incentives.
- Recruiter Challenge (July 13 - Friday before November BOG meeting) - Any one recruiting a new member will be entered in a drawing to win \$250.

**Policy Platform – Rashia Norman**

- The Policy Platform reviewed 12 new policies submitted by districts, and voted to send six to convention.

**Prison Reform – Deborah Harney**

- Harney reviewed major hiring practice changes at the Department of Adult Correction, including hiring of 19 year olds and Green card holders, in an attempt to combat high vacancy rates.



---

**COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)**


---

**Public Education – Mark Dearmon**

- SEANC will once again sponsor the Chancellor's Cup Golf Tournament. This year's event is Wed., Sept. 25 at Finley Golf Course in Chapel Hill. Districts are encouraged to help fund the sponsorship.
- If you have a community college in your district, contact your Member Relations Representative to help set up a membership event.
- Join the committee! If you have active education employees in you district who would like to join the committee, contact Dearmon at education@seanc.org.

**Retiree Council – Jamie Robinson**

- Robinson reviewed the committee's recent meeting that included a visit from State Treasurer Dale Folwell.
- He urged retirees to recruit new members.

**Scholarship Foundation Board – Mike Bell**

- The Bowl-a-Thon was held Saturday at Buffalo Lanes North in Raleigh following the meeting.
- Scholarship winners have been released. Awards totaled \$40,000 plus \$5,000 for the Retiree Grandchildren.
- There is at least one scholarship board seat from each of our five regions up for election or re-election at our annual convention. Anyone interested in running for one of these seats, should contact Mike Bell as soon as possible. As always, we will accept nominations from the convention floor.
- Cash Raffle at Convention - Your district is accountable for all tickets and, in the event of lost or missing tickets, must know (for auditing purposes) the ticket numbers and the name of the person(s) that held those tickets. Tickets and all monies must be turned in Friday, Sept. 6 by 4 p.m.

**SECU – Shirley Bell**

- Bell discussed the nomination process for the SECU board and expected candidates.

---

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**


---

- Margaret Reader, District 38, will be running for the Retiree Council for South Central.
- Patricia Moore, District 67 Chair, will be running for Eastern Regional Representative.
- Deborah Harney, District 22 Chair, will be running for South Central Regional Representative.
- Mark Dearmon, Incoming District 39 Chair, will be running for South Central Regional Representative.
- Cliff Johnson, District 2 Chair, will be running for Western Regional Representative.

---

**MOTIONS**


---

- PASSED -- Meals for The Board of Governors meetings will be reimbursed for lunch and dinner on Day 1 and lunch on Day 2 regardless of travel status. All other reimbursement rates would apply according to the specifications in 8.2.3 number 4 of the State Operations Manual effective immediately.
- FAILED -- Unless you receive an appropriate approval, lodging will only be reimbursed if you need to travel more than 80 miles to the destination of your meeting or other approved events. Reimbursement to come from committee meetings if you are attending a committee meeting.
- PASSED -- Vote of confidence and support to stand behind our SEANC leadership and officers.
- PASSED -- To approve the proposed 2024-2025 SEANC budget as balanced with operating funds.
- PASSED -- After reviewing options and considering costs, approve to stay with the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro and to proceed with the convention contract with them for 2025-2027.
- PASSED -- To approve the recommendation by the Audit Committee to utilize Square as an electronic method to receive funds. This is to receive funds — not to make payments.
- PASSED -- To move money from Money Market Reserves into a CD for Reserves for 12 months to earn more interest.

**NEXT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING IS SEPT. 4 (At Convention)**

