

# SPOTLIGHT

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

MAY 17-18, 2024

## UPDATES

### State Health Plan update – SHP Director Sam Watts

State Health Plan Director Sam Watts visited the board to provide an update on the Plan's financial health and other issues. The Plan is facing serious funding challenges in the next few years because of several factors:

- FY 2023-25 State Budget funded the State Health Plan (Plan) by \$240 million less than requested.
- The Plan's funding request did not anticipate the full impact of the explosive growth in spending related to GLP-1 weight-loss medications. The board's recent actions to exclude coverage for these medications significantly improved projections but did not fully resolve the funding shortfall.
- The state has yet to reimburse the Plan for COVID testing (more than \$400 million).
- A recent, unexpected increase in Medicare Advantage premiums has added additional budget pressure.

Without significant changes or investment, the Plan will have a negative cash balance by 2026.

### SECU update – SECU Chief Lending Officer Stacie Walker and SECU Board/SEANC member Chuck Stone

Chuck Stone thanked SEANC for its help in securing his seat on the SECU Board of Governors last fall. He discussed the many issues he has already confronted in his position.

Walker provided an update on SECU's lending practices and reminded members that state employees and retirees receive a 0.5% discount on loan interest rates.

### 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 Reception 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).

The deadline for the convention delegate count is July 31.

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

### IT update – Brian Neesby

Brian Neesby of SRS Consulting provided a detailed update on the new database system project. The team is now in Phase II, which will allow more automation of SEANC processes once completed. They are starting Phase III as well, which is the final stage.

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## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

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### President's Report – Kirk Montgomery

President Montgomery read a resolution honoring Jerry Bridges, who passed away last week. Bridges was an active member of District 4 and the SEANC Audit Committee.

He reviewed his trip to Washington, DC, with his wife Pam and Executive Director Ardis Watkins to meet with members of Congress about outrageous prescription drug costs. The team met with members of the North Carolina delegation and Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Montgomery also gave testimony on the issue at the State Health Plan Board of Trustees meeting in March. He also attended the Retirement Systems Board of Trustees meeting.

He encouraged district chairs to discuss information shared at BOG meetings with their districts.



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## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

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

As chairman of the Planning Committee, Wendell Powell reported on the SEANC budget process. The committee met in March and April for preliminary discussions on options to help grow our membership while remaining fiscally responsible with our money and resources. The committee will meet in May and June and present a budget at the next SEANC BOG meeting.

Powell attended the One Voice United National Medal of Honor Ceremony in Chicago in April and has attended meetings of the Membership, Policy Platform, Audit and Growth & Expansion committees and the Insurance Board since the last BOG meeting.

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

Over the past three months, Jones has visited many agencies and departments, including (but not limited to) Burke County Courthouse, Pender Correctional, Governor Morehead School, Robeson County Community College, Whiteville Vocational Rehab, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Buncombe County Courthouse, attended the Wake County Blitz, Rocky Mount DMV, Lumberton Correctional, Pender Courthouse, Franklin Correctional, Dan River Work Farm, Caswell Correctional, Dart Cherry, D3 Golf tournament, Halifax Mall, Cumberland County Courthouse, Central Regional Hospital and Cumberland County DOT. Various committee meetings were attended as well.

### Past President's Report – Martha Fowler

Fowler reported on the NC Coalition on Aging activities, on which she represents SEANC. May is Hearing Loss Awareness Month, as well as Older Americans Month.

### Executive Director's Report – Ardis Watkins

Watkins shared a letter from Jeff Sipes, Chief of the NCDAC Special Operations Intelligence Unit, thanking SEANC for our response to the deaths of two officers (Sam Poloche and Alden Elliott) from the unit earlier this month. The letter included a challenge pin partially designed by Poloche.

Insurance Director C.J. Stephens introduced an upcoming partnership with TOCO, which sells auto warranties. SEANC hopes to launch the program on July 1.

### 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.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Audit – Alicia Simpson Warren

- The committee has finalized audits of Districts 65 and 5. Both districts are in compliance.
- The committee will have four vacancies this upcoming SEANC year, and we are accepting applications. The link is online for the applications. Applications and resumes must be submitted by July 15.
- The board passed a motion from the committee to prohibit statewide committees from directly soliciting funds from districts or corporate donors.

### Awards – Marie Tate

- 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/nomination-forms](http://seanc.org/nomination-forms).

### Benevolence – Deborah Fleming

- Please send pictures for the memorial presentation to [jowens@seanc.org](mailto:jowens@seanc.org).

### Bylaws – Kim Martin

- Jimmy Davis stepped down as Committee Chair. President Kirk Montgomery appointed Kim Martin as Chair.
- Any Bylaw changes are due at the SEANC Office 10 days after approval from district annual meetings or July 15, whichever comes first, in order to be considered at convention. All updated District Bylaws are due by Dec. 1.



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**COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)**


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**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**

- Committee Chair Kathy Merritt has attended the HHS Legislative Oversight Committee meetings and has participated in monthly NCDHHS meetings via Zoom including the State Consumer Advisory Committee, The Child Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, DMHDDUS Committee and the TBI Waiver Advisory Committee.
- 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.

**Emerging Leaders – Tracy Webb**

- The Council raised a total of \$5,903 from 160 supporters in its Double Good Popcorn fundraiser. The Council receives 50% of that amount, or \$2,951.50.
- Members participated in Adopt A Highway on May 11.
- The 2nd Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair is June 15 in Raleigh.
- Leadership Training Workshop will be held June 29.

**EMPAC – Mark Dearmon**

- The State EMPAC Committee will meet at the SEANC office on June 1 at 10 a.m. There will also be a Zoom option. Below is the schedule for this summer's endorsement process:

- Sat., June 1, 10 – State EMPAC Committee meeting at SEANC office.
- Mon., June 3 – Sat., Aug. 3 – Area EMPAC Committees conduct candidate interviews for legislative candidates, hold their endorsement meetings, and make a decision. Candidate interviews can be done in person or by Zoom.
- Council of State Interviews will be conducted by the State EMPAC Committee by Zoom in June and July.
- Sat., Aug. 17, 10 a.m. – State EMPAC Committee meeting at the SEANC office to finalize endorsement decisions.

**Growth and Expansion – Charles Streeter**

- The committee met on May 9 via Zoom, and discussed various activities, including a SEANC mascot naming contest, the creation of a virtual district, and a convention scholarship program.

**Insurance Board – Janice Smith**

- The "Educational Sessions" webinars on our insurance products have been well attended. The next session will be on Aug. 8 and will focus on our MetLife Pet Insurance and Identity Protection plans.

**Investment Advisory – Patsy Acquista**

- The committee is looking for a new chair for a subcommittee 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.

**Membership – Cliff Johnson**

- The Membership Committee set a \$10 per new member incentive for recruiters. Recruit a new member between May 20-July 19 and be entered to win \$250.
- Chairman Cliff Johnson reviewed recent membership events, including:
  - West Region Blitz (Districts 2,5,6 & 9) – 50 new members
  - District 43 – 31 new members
  - District 59 – 52 new members at Cherry, served 600 members
  - District 18 – 28 new members
- In total, SEANC recruited 407 new members in March and 364 in April.
- The winner of our Summer Splash recruiter contest was Lawanda Sutherland from District 20.

**Policy Platform – Rashia Norman**

- The statewide committee met on April 30 via Zoom.
- Policies should be voted on at annual meetings and turned in **no later than July 15** to the SEANC office. Our next meeting will be July 16 to judge policies that may have been submitted.



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**COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)**


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**Prison Reform – Deborah Harney**

- Harney represented SEANC at the NCDAC Rehabilitation and Reentry Conference as well as the One Voice United National Medal of Honor Ceremony held April 22-24, where District 2 member Kalla Hughley was honored with a Bronze Medal of Honor.
- National Correctional Family Appreciation Week is June 3-9.
- Harney attended the NCDAC Fallen Hero Memorial. The name of every life lost while on duty in NC Corrections over the years since 1917 was called. Several names were added to include the members of the US Marshall Task Force Officers Sam Poloche and Alden Elliott.

**Public Education – Mark Dearmon**

- SEANC will once again sponsor the Chancellor's Cup Golf Tournament. This year's event will be at Finley Golf Course in Chapel Hill.
- We are also hoping to grow our membership at community colleges. If your district has a community college, please hold an event there.

**Retiree Council – Jamie Robinson**

- The council met on May 7.
- Tony Smith was replaced by Dr. Pat Reighard as Western Region Representative. There is currently a vacancy in the Piedmont Region and we are working to fill that position before the next meeting.
- The deadline to **submit a nomination for a vacancy on the Retiree Council is July 15**. It must be in writing and submitted to Lynn Cote. (There is a vacancy in each region). No nominations are accepted from the floor.
- Upcoming retiree forums are listed in the BOG pre-packet. If you are having a retiree forum, please contact Carri Derrick at the SEANC Office.
- A member of the council attends each quarterly State Retirement System Board of Trustees meeting. The next meeting is July 25.
- Please encourage members to call the SEANC Office if they are retiring.
- The council renewed its membership with the NC Coalition on Aging.
- Grandparent scholarships: 28 grandparent scholarships were submitted this year.
- Our next Retiree Council meeting is Thurs., July 11, in person and via Zoom.

**Scholarship Foundation Board – Mike Bell**

- Scholarship Foundation Bowling Tournament and Silent Auction will be held July 20 from 1–3 p.m. at Buffalo Lanes North in Raleigh. We still need your help, so, if you have items or services that your district is willing to donate, please contact Phyllis Byrd.
- Applications were released to the districts for judging a couple of weeks ago. If your district did not receive an email from Phyllis Byrd, your district did not have any submitted applications that were complete.
- There are 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, contact Mike Bell. As always, we will accept nominations from the convention floor. One seat from the Western Region is unfilled and can be filled by appointment.
- Please let Bell know the total district scholarship amounts that you award this year.

**SECU – Shirley Bell**

- The credit union no longer has five tiers. Now there are only three. It was suggested that those people at the lower end of the credit scale be allowed to get a loan under the condition that they receive credit counseling.
- There have been some changes in the election's procedures, thanks to the efforts of Chuck Stone.

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**NEXT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING IS JULY 19-20**


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