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July 24, 2026

The  View Podcast

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Hospitals continue to push back on State Health Plan tier structure

Five quick takes:

- If you have an emergency, go to the closest hospital — period. The State Health Plan covers all emergency visits at your enrolled rate, regardless of a

- hospital's tier designation.
- **Without this change, your premiums would have jumped more than 21%.** Benefits would have been cut too, meaning higher co-pays, coinsurance, and deductibles out of your pocket.
- **Hospitals in the "Nonpreferred" tier are still in-network for the Plan.** Atrium, WakeMed, and Granville Health are all covered; they just cost more because those hospitals have decided to charge more than the Plan will pay.
- **Atrium Health is a nonprofit sitting on roughly \$10 billion in reserves while its CEO earns \$25.8 million a year.** When they say the tier system is bad for patients, ask who it's really bad for.
- **SEANC shares members' concerns about rural access.** If you live in an area without a preferred or access-tier hospital nearby, we are actively working with the State Health Plan to address that gap.

The fallout from the State Health Plan's new hospital tier system continued this week, as [Atrium Health and WakeMed both took to the airwaves](#) to criticize State Treasurer Brad Briner and his staff over the tiered network structure set to take effect in January.

State Health Plan Executive Administrator Thomas Friedman visited SEANC's Board of Governors meeting Friday to brief our leadership on the plan. Members expressed serious concerns about rural areas of the state that lack access to a preferred or access-tier hospital. SEANC shares those concerns and is actively working with the plan to address them.

That said, the State Treasurer's direction is largely correct — and SEANC has said so for decades. Hospitals have long overcharged the State Health Plan to subsidize care for the broader population, with some facilities billing more than 900% of the Medicare rate for procedures that state employees need.

The numbers tell the story. Atrium Health calls itself a nonprofit, but a review of its tax records shows it sits on roughly \$10 billion in reserves — and [its CEO, Gene Woods, took home \\$25.8 million in 2024](#), a 49% jump from the prior year — roughly \$12,400 an hour.

Across North Carolina's nine largest nonprofit hospital systems, top executives collected more than \$1.75 billion between 2010 and 2021. In 2020, only WakeMed came close to matching the value of its tax exemption with actual charity care spending — meaning some pocketed their tax breaks while overcharging state employees. These are not struggling community hospitals. They are billion-dollar enterprises hiding behind a nonprofit shield and using the State Health Plan to subsidize care for the rest of the state. State employees have been footing the bill for far too long.

The new tier system is designed to change that by introducing real competition into what is widely considered the most expensive state healthcare market in the country. Preferred providers will offer better rates to State Health Plan members — a plan that covers roughly 10% of North Carolina's workforce. Without this change, premium increases for the State Health Plan this year would have exceeded 21%, and benefits would have been cut, meaning members would have paid more out of pocket in co-pays, coinsurance, and deductibles.

One important reminder: the plan covers all emergency visits at your enrolled rate. If you have an emergency, go to the closest hospital regardless of its tier designation.

[Treasurer Briner and Administrator Friedman released a video Thursday](#) announcing a scheduled meeting with Atrium and WakeMed in the coming weeks to discuss the matter before January implementation — though they stopped short of signaling that a compromise would be reached. We hope they hold firm. It is long past time for competition in North Carolina's healthcare system, and the State Health Plan has the purchasing power to demand it.

We discussed this issue at length on [this week's edition of The SEANC View podcast](#), where we answered questions submitted by members on social media who are rightly concerned about how the new tier system may affect them. SEANC is fighting for you on this issue and will continue to address your concerns.

Listen to this week's podcast

[Apple](#)

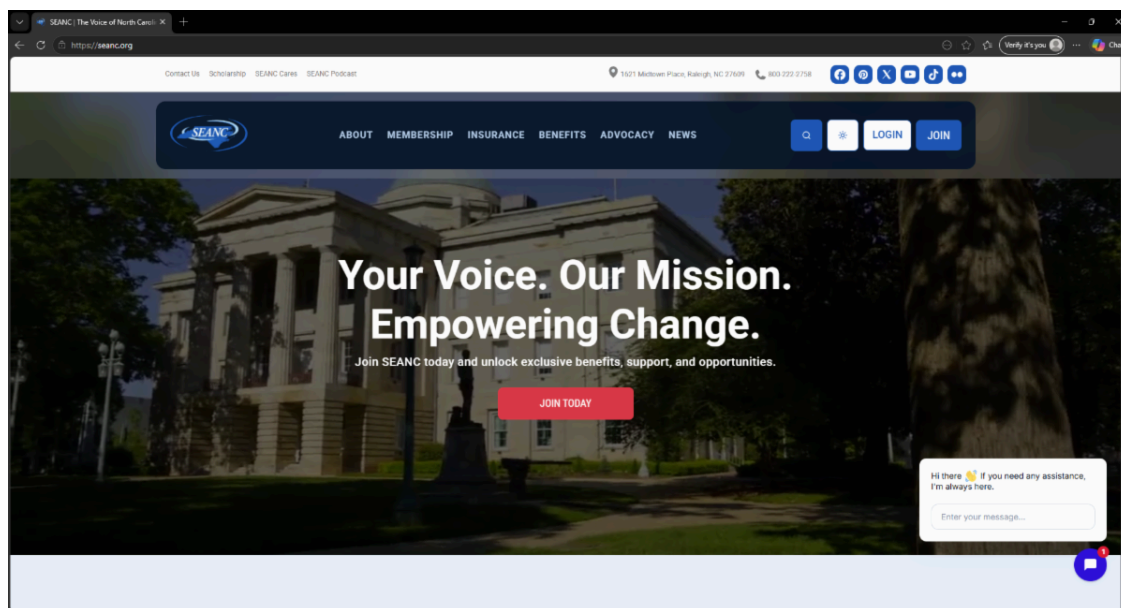
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Be sure to subscribe to our podcast and give us a 5-star rating to help more state employees and retirees find us!



SEANC just got an upgrade!

You may have already noticed: [SEANC has launched a brand-new website!](#) The redesigned site is built to better promote our organization to prospective members and the public, while expanding the services available to those of you who already count on us.

The biggest addition is a new member portal. The first time you visit the portal through the "Login" button at the top of the homepage, [you will need to create an account](#). After that, you'll have your SEANC information right at your fingertips — view your payments and contact details, look up your district, and more, all in one

secure place. The portal is currently in live testing mode and more features will be added in the coming days.

We're proud of what we've built, and we think you'll find it easier than ever to stay connected with SEANC. Take a look around and explore everything the new site has to offer.

[Visit our Website](#)

A yellow poster with a blue border. At the top, it says "Districts 9, 10, 11, 16 members & family". Below that, in a cursive font, is "Unplug and Unwind". The main title "SEANC at the PARK" is in large, bold letters, with "SEANC" in green and "at the PARK" in blue. The text is set against a background of a park scene with trees and water. Below the title, it says "AUGUST 15 * 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.". At the bottom, there are three sections: "FREE hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks!", the "DAN NICHOLAS PARK" logo, and "Fun Activities including: Fishing, Mini Golf, Splash Pad and Paddle Boats".

Districts 9, 10, 11, 16 members & family

Unplug and Unwind

**SEANC
at the
PARK**

AUGUST 15 * 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

FREE
hamburgers,
hotdogs and
drinks!

**DAN
NICHOLAS
PARK**

Fun Activities
including: Fishing,
Mini Golf,
Splash Pad and
Paddle Boats

Spend a Day in the Park with SEANC!

SEANC Districts 9, 10, 11 & 16 are inviting members and their families to a Day in the Park at Dan Nicholas Park in Rowan County on Saturday, Aug. 15!

Leave work at the gate and spend a Saturday unplugging, unwinding, and making memories with the people who matter most. We're covering the food — free burgers, hot dogs, and drinks on us — so all you have to do is show up and enjoy the day.

The park has something for everyone: paddle boats on the lake, fishing, putt-putt golf, a splash pad, gem mining, carousel rides, and more. Whether you're chasing kids around the splash pad or floating on the lake, this is your day to relax and recharge.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

[Visit the Facebook event page](#)



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North Carolina



\$37.50
(42" or Taller)



\$58.00 \$38.00
(Ages 13 and up) (Ages 3 - 12)

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\$40.99
(General Admission)



\$39.99

Tennessee



\$95.41
(Ages 10+)

\$84.19
(Ages 4 - 9)



\$52.76
(Ages 10+)

\$41.53
(Ages 4 - 9)

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

How to Purchase

Tickets are available **online only** at seanc.org/themeparks, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. No orders processed on weekends or holidays. Orders placed after 4 p.m. Monday - Thursday will be processed the next business day.

Parks may change prices throughout the season. SEANC is not responsible for lost tickets, refunds, or exchanges. See official theme park websites for park calendars with dates and hours of operation. Available through the end of park season.

Virginia



BGW Any Day Ticket + All-Day Dining (Ages 3+) **\$126.00**

BGW Any Day Ticket (Ages 3+) **\$110.00**

Water Country Any Day Ticket (Ages 3+) **\$79.00**

Spring Bounce Ticket (Ages 13 & up) **\$132.00**

Spring Bounce Ticket (Ages 6-12) **\$116.00**

Additional options including Summer Bounce tickets, All-Day add-ons, and souvenir cups available online.



\$39.99 \$34.99
(Ages 10 and up) (Ages 3 - 9)

Call SEANC Office for Promo Code.

Florida



Sea World Orlando Any Day Ticket **\$138.00**

Busch Gardens Tampa Any Day Ticket **\$135.00**

Florida Two Day Ticket (Both Parks) **\$160.00**

Florida Three Day Ticket (Both Parks) **\$187.00**

All-Day Dining add-ons available for all Florida parks. Full pricing at seanc.org/themeparks.

Your Voice. Our Mission. Empowering Change.

[Visit our theme parks page](#)



INSURANCE

Aflac BenExtend

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Member Testimonial

"Recently, I got sick while on vacation. I was able to get on a computer and talk to a doctor through my SEANC Teladoc plan. He called me in a prescription, and that was fantastic. No copay. I have also used their life coaches, which was amazing, and their nutritionist. And I also had a physical therapist. I got all of that for \$12 a month!"

Kelly R., Benson



MEMBERSHIP





We're ready to visit your worksite!

SEANC kicked off back to school season this week attending Wayne County Schools New Teacher Orientation in District 58!

Other agencies that SEANC visited this week include:

- Nash County DMV
- Randolph County Clerk's Office
- Anson County Clerk's Office

And more!

SEANC is ready to present our many benefits and recruit new members at your worksite! Click [here](#) to let us know if you'd like us to visit. We'll take care of the rest!

Request a visit from SEANC

Upcoming Retiree Forums

DISTRICT
61 & 62

AUGUST 3

9 AM

MYRTLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

5524 Myrtle Grove Road,
Wilmington, NC 28409

Continental Breakfast Provided

DISTRICT 22

AUGUST 14

10 AM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

302 Moore Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Lunch Served

DISTRICT 64

SEPTEMBER 19

10 AM

PITT COMMUNITY COLLEGE - GOESS STUDENT CENTER

169 Bulldog Run
Winterville, NC 28590

Lunch Served

[Visit our Retiree Resources page](#)

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CONVENTION

The 42nd Annual SEANC Convention is fast approaching! Delegates will gather at the Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons, September 9–12, to conduct business important to the association's future.

This year's theme — Excellence in Action: Shaping Tomorrow Together — captures what the convention has always been: four days of advocacy, fellowship, and action where the association's work gets done and lasting connections are made.

The week culminates with the Awards Banquet, "A Night to Shine — Illuminating the Path Ahead," celebrating the members and leaders who make SEANC's mission possible. We hope to see you there!



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bjohnson@seanc.org or 919-810-4879.



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[Visit SEANC's BenefitHub site](#)

Support SEANC while you shop!

When you shop through SEANC's affiliate links, the association earns a small commission that helps fund member programs and advocacy. This is a great opportunity for SEANC members, friends, family, and anyone who values state employees!

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[Click here for SEANC's exclusive Fanatics link](#)

[Click here to shop Zenni with SEANC](#)

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Roadside Reimbursement



Auto Repair Coverage



Rental Reimbursement



MEMBER RESOURCE CENTER



POST OF THE WEEK



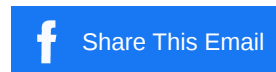
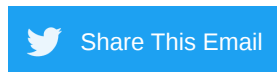
SEANC  @SEANC · Jul 23



SEANC's [@ArdisWatkins](#) joined [@WPTF](#) Afternoon News yesterday to discuss changes to the State Health Plan. Listen Here:



From rss.com



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