

August 14, 2026

The  View Podcast

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WakeMed-Atrium merger will cost you money. Make your voices heard!

Want to go?

Wake County commissioners will hold a public hearing Monday at 2 p.m. at the Wake County Justice Center, Room 2700, 301 S. McDowell St., Raleigh.

Three months ago, SEANC members and community leaders forced Wake County commissioners to pump the brakes on the proposed Atrium Health takeover of WakeMed.

What happened in the months since? [Atrium and WakeMed executives briefed small groups of commissioners in private](#) — deliberately keeping the groups to three at a time to avoid North Carolina's open meetings law. The public was told to attend listening sessions. The insiders got the contract details. Now the 90-day delay is

over, and the vote that could send your State Health Plan premiums up by \$100 a year is coming.

Here's what you need to know right now: [Wake County commissioners hold a public hearing Monday](#) (details above). No vote is expected Monday, but commissioners could act as soon as their September 8 meeting.

This deal cannot close without commissioner approval. The transaction is conditioned on commissioners amending WakeMed's articles of incorporation and transfer agreement. Without that vote, Atrium doesn't get WakeMed. Commissioners still have the power to say no.

[SEANC Executive Director Ardis Watkins explained SEANC's opposition to this merger in a joint opinion piece with State Health Plan Vice Chairman Brian Miller.](#)

This week on [The SEANC View podcast](#), we spoke with Nathan Foster of the North Carolina Justice Center and Anthony Pope, co-founder of Men of Southeast Raleigh, about what this merger would mean for the people who depend on WakeMed most.

If you can get to Raleigh, please show up. [Sign up to speak at 9 a.m. Monday at the Wake County commissioners website](#). If you can't make it, contact your commissioner directly by clicking the button below.

This merger affects state employees across all 100 counties — not just Wake. The State Health Plan covers 748,000 of us. When WakeMed loses its independence, every one of us pays more.

Click here to listen to the
podcast

Tell Wake County Commissioners
to stop the merger!

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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!

Meet us at the park tomorrow!

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

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

Spend a Saturday unplugging, unwinding, and making memories with your SEANC family and 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](#)



Summer Fun Starts Here!

2026 DISCOUNT THEME PARK TICKETS

North Carolina



\$37.50
(42" or Taller)



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

Call SEANC Office for Promo Code.



\$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.

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.

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.

Your Voice. Our Mission. Empowering Change.

[Visit our theme parks page](#)



INSURANCE

Spectera Vision

SEANC offers three nationwide vision plans through Spectera that include eye exams, eyeglass frames, and contact lenses.

With plans starting at low monthly rates and the ability to cover your entire family, it is easy to find the right plan to fit your budget and needs.

Spectera Vision offers payroll and pension deductions, as well as bank drafts. Enrollment forms received by the first of the month will be effective on the first of the month.

Spectera Vision also offers discounts of up to 80% on name-brand and private-label hearing aids.

Contact a SEANC Insurance Specialist today at 1-800-222-2758 or [visit here for more information](#).

Learn more about Spectera Vision

Member Testimonial

"When I got the renewal notice for my auto and homeowners' insurance last month, the price had increased by almost 20% despite the fact that I've made no claims or gotten any tickets. I went on the insurance page of the SEANC website and got a policy from Travelers that was significantly cheaper. The savings not only cover my dues but also put more money in my pocket."

Mark Dearmon, Raleigh

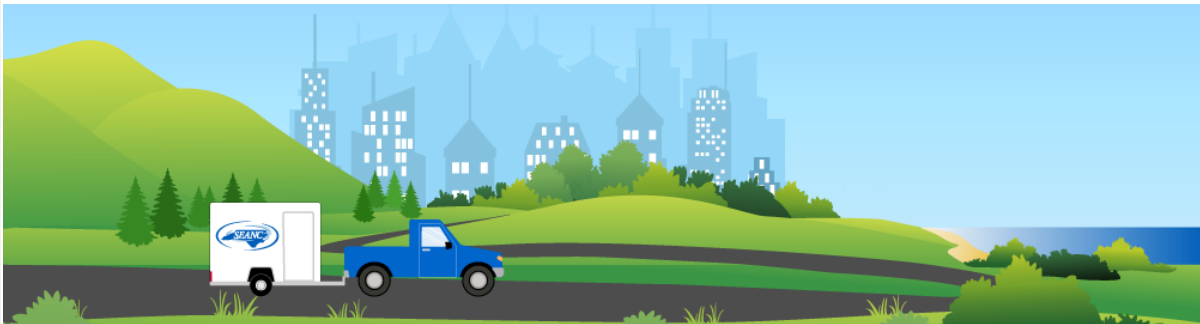


Submit your testimonial here

Submit a 5-star Google Review



MEMBERSHIP





We're ready to visit your worksite!

While SEANC Continues our Back to School tour, attending convocations across the state, we've still been making our visits to agencies essential to the health and safety of our state including the Department of Agriculture and Johnston Correctional Institution.

Some of the other agencies that SEANC visited this week include:

- Hoke County Schools
- Washington County Schools
- Cumberland County DMV
- Catawba County Schools
- Cumberland County Schools
- Alleghany County Schools
- Surry County Schools
- Richmond County Schools
- Moore County Schools
- Burke County Schools
- Watauga County Schools
- Buncombe County Schools

And many 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 64

SEPTEMBER 19

10 AM

PITT COMMUNITY COLLEGE - GOESS STUDENT CENTER

169 Bulldog Run
Winterville, NC 28590

Lunch Served

RSVP for District 64's Retiree Forum

DISTRICT 6

OCTOBER 1

12 PM

COLLETT STREET RECREATION CENTER

300 Collett Street
Morganton, NC 28655

Lunch Served

RSVP for District 6's Retiree Forum

DISTRICT 7

OCTOBER 15

5:30 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

502 W. Union Street
Morganton, NC 28655

Dinner Served

RSVP for District 7's Retiree Forum



CONVENTION



[Visit our Convention Website](#)



BENEFITS

Save money with BenefitHub!

With BenefitHub, members save an average of \$2,500 a year across dozens of categories, including travel, tickets, auto, electronics, and more. From flowers to summer vacations to holiday shopping, make BenefitHub your first stop for adding money back to your pocket. It's free for members. All you need to do is sign up!

[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!

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

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

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

Unlock Your Exclusive Auto Repair Cost Protection!

As a SEANC member, you have a unique opportunity to enroll in **Toco at Work's Member Plans**, offering comprehensive vehicle repair protection, granting you peace of mind and financial security.

Why Choose Toco at Work?

toco AT WORK



White Glove Concierge



Roadside Reimbursement



Auto Repair Coverage



Rental Reimbursement



MEMBER RESOURCE CENTER



POST OF THE WEEK



Our State Health Plan isn't the only one dealing with the pressures of outrageous hospital costs.

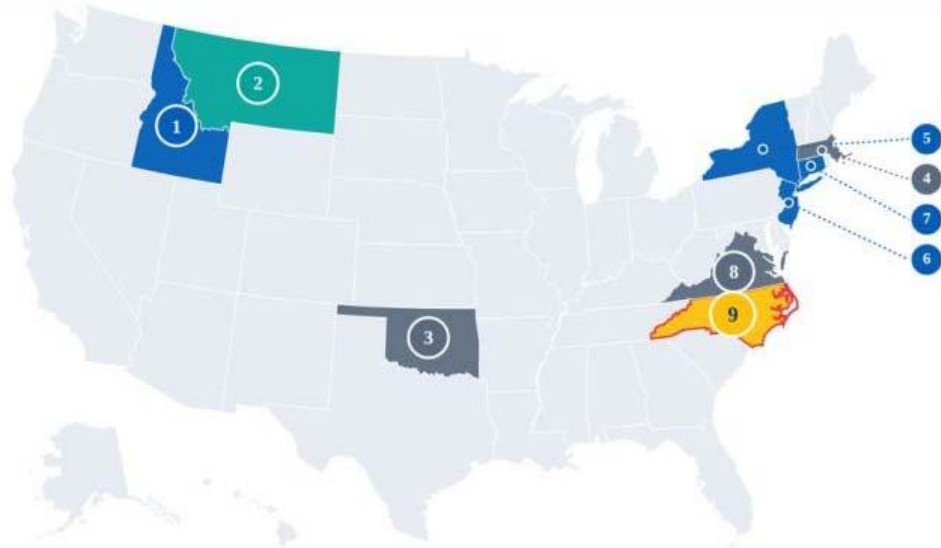


STATE HEALTH PLAN · NATIONAL SNAPSHOT

Hospital Costs Are Squeezing State Employee Health Plans

Coast to coast, rising hospital costs are driving up premiums for public workers — and North Carolina is fighting back.

Reimbursement dispute Cost-driven hike Cost-control fix



- 1 IDAHO** 7% hike averted

Insurer dropped a hospital rather than accept its rate hike — sparing 65,000 members a 7% jump.

IDAHO CAPITAL SUN
- 2 MONTANA** \$47.8M saved

Paying hospitals a share of Medicare rates cut costs by \$47.8M in two years.

GEORGETOWN CHIR
- 3 OKLAHOMA** Up to 19.5%

About 180,000 members face premium hikes up to 19.5% as costs climb.

OKLAHOMA VOICE
- 4 MASSACHUSETTS** +7.5% avg

State workers hit with a 7.5% average hike — even after cutting GLP-1 coverage.

GREENFIELD RECORDER
- 5 NEW YORK** 40,000 at risk

40,000 NYC workers nearly lost NewYork-Presbyterian access in a fight over rates.

THE CITY REPORTER
- 6 NEW JERSEY** +55% since 2022

Unions blame unchecked hospital prices for a 55%+ cost surge since 2022.

CWA
- 7 CONNECTICUT** “Rate shock”

Regulators warn of double-digit hikes as hospitals demand higher pay.

CT NEWS JUNKIE
- 8 VIRGINIA** +9.3%

State employees absorbed a 9.3% total premium increase.

VA. GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- 9 NORTH CAROLINA** **HOME** 21% hike avoided

A tiered provider network — preferred, access, non-preferred — spared members a 21% across-the-board hike.

WUNC NEWS

Your Voice. Our Mission.

Full sources & links at seanc.org



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Empowering Change.**



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