Joseph Totten Remembered

Joseph Lee Totten was only 54 years old when he passed away on April 26, 2005. His courageous and dignified battle with cancer ended a life dedicated to others.

As a member of District 19, Joe was active in both district and state level SEANC activities and committees. In fact, our District members first knew of Joe’s medical problems at the convention a few years ago, when he was too sick to come to the floor.

Joe earned a B.A. in History and J.D. from North Carolina Central University, where he pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He went on to work for Durham College, served as Personnel Director at Winston-Salem State University, Personnel Director at Lincoln Community Health Center in Durham, Director of Counseling Services at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Human Resources Manager with the Administrative Office of the Courts in Raleigh. Joe’s job was very stressful, but he knew just how to reduce that stress. We used to tease him about seeing his car headed for the lake on regularly scheduled workdays, because he loved to relieve his stress with a fishing pole in his hand. A co-worker of Joe’s mentioned that Joe was the only boss that he ever had who encouraged him to take off to go fishing.

Joe’s love of basketball and other sports kept him active until a short time before his death. Joe refereed games for many leagues and eagerly coached young men as they became better athletes.

Approximately ten District 19 members had breakfast with Linda Totten on Friday morning at the convention and then went as a group to the memorial service honoring her husband and other SEANC members who had died during the past year. In addition to his wife of 28 years, Joe is survived by a son, Tarik.

SEANC Cuts Budget

The Board of Governors approved its budget for the new fiscal year. Committee budgets will be cut by a third and $111,787 will be spent out of the reserve to balance next year’s budget, documenting the need for additional revenue.

We Want You to Join Our Listserv

Please go to our webpage at www.unc.edu/depts/seanc19 and click the ‘Join the District 19 Email Listserv’ link.

The Year in Review

Thanks once again to Anthony Weaver for his skillful chairing of District 19 during what turned out to be an especially eventful year in the life of State employees. District 19 was equally fortunate to have the services of Karen Thompson as our very capable Secretary and Pamela Siler as our trusted and experienced Treasurer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 1, 2004</td>
<td>Anthony Weaver continues as Chair of District 19 as the new year begins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2005</td>
<td>SEANC Board of Governors begins a “Fairness for Working Families” campaign and Member Action Team (MAT) training.</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Ruth Lewter and other MAT members receive intensive training at the regional MAT workshops.</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>District 19 holds a raffle to benefit its scholarship program. Prizes include a $50 dinner for two at Spice Street in Chapel Hill, an autographed UNC women’s basketball, and a Michael Jordan Carolina jersey.</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Kay Daniels becomes North Carolina Association of Educational Office Professional of the Year (NCAEOP).</td>
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<td>May 11</td>
<td>Member Action Team (MAT) members attend MAT Lobby Day. District 19 sends Ruth Lewter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>District 19 awards scholarships at its annual meeting to Laura Curry, Samantha Everette, and Ashlee Knight and elects delegates and officers for 2005-2006.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 8-10</td>
<td>District 19 delegates attend the annual convention in Greensboro.</td>
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Vision Discount for UNC-CH Employees

The UNC Optical Shop, located on the second floor of the Ambulatory Care Center, offers a 20 percent discount on eyeglasses for all employees of the University and their immediate family. The discount does not include an eye exam or contact lenses, and it cannot be combined with vision insurance. However, it is possible to pay for new glasses interest-free over three months through payroll deduction.

The UNC Optical Shop also has a selection of 700 frames, many by well-known designers, including Polo, Gucci, Ray Ban and Columbia.

For more information, stop by the shop or call 966-8489.
State Health Plan Premiums Cost More on October 1

State Health Plan premiums will increase for family and parent/child coverage under the new budget passed by the legislature. Beginning October 1, monthly premiums for family coverage will increase from $427.48 to $480.14, while premiums for employee/children coverage will increase from $178.22 to $200.18. There continues to be no out-of-pocket premium for those enrolled in employee-only coverage. The deduction for employee coverage remains unchanged at $350. For employee/children and family coverage, the deductible is also unchanged at $1,050. Employees who paid $35 for prescription drugs will now pay $40 for a 34-day supply. Employees who paid $40 for a monthly prescription will now pay $50. Both changes went into effect August 20. Some trips to the emergency room will be more expensive with the co-payment increasing from $100 to $200 for emergency room visits that do not result in immediate hospital admission. The co-pay for outpatient services will increase from $50 to $75 and from $100 to $150 for inpatient services. Heavy consumers of medical care will also pay a higher share of the costs. The maximum allowable out-of-pocket expense was increased from $1,500 to $2,000 per member and from $4,500 to $6,000 per family.

Amid these increased expenses, one new wellness benefit was added. For women 40 or older, the Plan will start paying 100 percent of allowable charges for an annual mammogram. Routine examinations, pap smears and immunizations are wellness benefits in the Plan for which the first $150 each year is not subject to deductible or coinsurance. Enabling legislation for a pilot health plan was introduced in the General Assembly but was never considered in committee.

For answers to specific coverage questions, call the State Health Plan at 800-422-4658.

Mark Your Calendar

District 19 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., at the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro. There is plenty of free parking and refreshments are served. All State employees are welcome.

- October 18, 2005 Monthly Meeting
- November 15, 2005 Monthly Meeting
- December 20, 2005 Monthly Meeting
- January 17, 2006 Monthly Meeting
- February 21, 2006 Monthly Meeting
- March 21, 2006 Monthly Meeting
- April 18, 2006 Monthly Meeting
- May 16, 2006 Monthly Meeting
- June 20, 2006 Annual Meeting
- July 18, 2006 Monthly Meeting
- August 15, 2006 Convention, Greensboro
- September 7-9, 2006 Monthly Meeting
- September 19, 2006 Monthly Meeting

The Retirees’ Chapter meets on the fourth Tuesday morning of each month at 8:30. All retirees are welcome. For information, call Mariah McPherson at 732-2583.

For Your Information

SEANC Toll Free Telephone 800-222-2758
Hotline 888-732-6242
Web Site URL www.seanc.org

The SEANC Connection
109A Caldwell Hall, CB# 3125
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3125

Claire Miller, Newsletter Editor
Telephone 962-3313
cmiller3@email.unc.edu

State Employees Association of NC, Inc.
seanc19@unc.edu
www.unc.edu/depts/seanc19/