

THE SEANC CONNECTION



District 19

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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.

October 1, 2004	Anthony Weaver continues as Chair of District 19 as the new year begins.
February 2005	SEANC Board of Governors begins a "Fairness for Working Families" campaign and Member Action Team (MAT) training.
March	Ruth Lewter and other MAT members receive intensive training at the regional MAT workshops.
March 15	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.
May	Kay Daniels becomes North Carolina Association of Educational Office Professional of the Year (NCAEOP).
May 11	Member Action Team (MAT) members attend MAT Lobby Day. District 19 sends Ruth Lewter.
June 21	District 19 awards scholarships at its annual meeting to Laura Curry, Samantha Everette, and Ashlee Knight and elects delegates and officers for 2005-2006.
September 8-10	District 19 delegates attend the annual convention in Greensboro.

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 eye-glasses 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.

DISTRICT 19 OFFICERS

CHAIR
Ruth Lewter
966-2736

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
Anthony Weaver
477-8126

1st VICE CHAIR
Marie Tate
732-8126

2nd VICE CHAIR
Martha Fowler
843-8676

SECRETARY
Shelby Sikes
966-1180

TREASURER
Pamela Siler
843-8094

Convention Re-Elects Cliff Brown as President in Historic Vote

More than 750 delegates attended the State Employees Association of North Carolina's annual convention at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro September 8-10. Cliff Brown of Aberdeen was re-elected President for a second term. The historic vote marks only the second time in SEANC history when three of the five top SEANC officers were re-elected. Brown, a 21-year State employee, is a retired correctional officer with the Department of Correction.

Other current officers who were re-elected are First Vice President Linda Rouse Sutton of Kinston and General Treasurer Sidney Sandy of Indian Trail. Rex Foster of Louisburg was voted in as Second Vice President, and Steve Lusk of Raleigh will remain in his post as Past President (which is not an elected position).

"The re-election of our leadership gives a clear message that SEANC is headed in the right direction," said Executive Director Dana Cope. "This year, more than ever before, we flexed our political muscle and, under the same leadership, we will continue to strengthen our political power through member activism and growing our PAC (Political Action Committee)."

SEANC delegates contributed \$15,517 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund for victims of Hurricane Katrina. They also donated a total of 778 teddy bears and 51 cases of school supplies for children in Iraq. In the past, teddy bear donations have been given to children in Iraq, the State Highway Patrol and the North Carolina Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Services for children involved in automobile accidents. This marks the seventh year SEANC has sponsored the drive.

The delegates from District 19 who attended the convention are:

Anna Blue
Dorothy Bumphus
Peggy Cotton
Martha Fowler
Cathy Harrison
Claude Hooker
Janie Jones
Iola Lattie
Hazel Lunsford
Angela Lyght
Mariah McPherson
Muzetta Pettiford
Mary Richards
Pamela Siler
Marie Tate
Karen Thompson
Wendy Watkins
Anthony Weaver



Delegates at convention



Delegates at the Saturday banquet (L to R) Angela Lyght, Marie Tate, Claude Hooker, Martha Fowler, Anthony Weaver

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	Monthly Meeting
September 7-9, 2006	Convention, Greensboro
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



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