

THE SEANC CONNECTION



District 19

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SEANC Protects SPA Employees



(L to R) Jonathan Stephenson of District 19 and Tommy Griffin of District 25 talk with SEANC Chief of Staff/General Counsel Tom Harris and Legislative Affairs Director Ardis Watkins at the UNC-Chapel Hill Employee Forum

SPA employees at UNC-Chapel Hill are worried about efforts to remove them from the State Personnel Act. They are concerned over a report by UNC President Erskine Bowles' Task Force on Human Resources that recommends the creation of "substantially equivalent" human resources programs for university employees—giving management more flexibility in compensation, performance management, vacation leave and bonus pay."

The University of North Carolina System wants the General Assembly to add Article 16 to the State Personnel Act (SPA), that would grant the System increased flexibility in the management of SPA employees.

UNC-Chapel Hill employees discussed this subject at length on March 5, 2008 at a meeting of the UNC Employee Forum. SEANC Legislative Affairs Director Ardis Watkins spoke at the Forum. She said that a new flexible system may jeopardize employee protections currently in place. She commented that "there are no assurances that all staff would benefit from a separate system. Accountability would be problematic. Flexibility and discretion do not translate into better benefits for employees if money is not available to fund those benefits."

SEANC Members Learn More about Collective Bargaining



(Second row, 2nd from L) Marie Tate at the meeting in Hartford, CT

SEANC members visited the Connecticut State Employees Association (CSEA) in Hartford on November 15 and 16, 2007 to find out more about collective bargaining. District 19 Chair Marie Tate attended the meeting and learned that state employees and retirees in all 50 states face the same problems – low salaries, cost-of-living increases below par, and poor health insurance benefits.

Kudos to District 19 Members



William G. York

William G. York, Laboratory and Facilities Manager for the Department of Biology at UNC-Chapel Hill, received a coveted Massey Award. York joined the Department in 1974, and, according to his colleagues, "His institutional memory is of incalculable value, his vision is integral to our ability to stay at the forefront as technology advances, and his ability to work with faculty, staff, students and the various units on campus to move a project along is without compare."

The late C. Knox Massey of Durham created the Massey Awards in 1980 to recognize "unusual, meritorious or superior contributions" by University employees. Chancellor James Moeser hosted a campus luncheon for the recipients on April 26, 2008 where each honoree was presented a citation and a \$6,000 stipend.



Joe Hackney

On November 14, 2007 the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees presented its highest honor, the William Richardson Davie Award, to Joe Hackney, along with three other alumni.

Established in 1984, the Davie Award is named for the Revolutionary War hero who is considered the father of UNC-Chapel Hill. The Award recognizes extraordinary service to the University or society.

Joe Hackney earned both a B.A. and a law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.

He has served in the North Carolina House of Representatives as Speaker Pro Tem, House Majority Leader and House Democratic Leader and was elected Speaker of the House in January 2007.

SEANC Joins SEIU in Historic Union Vote

On May 3, 2008 the State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC) voted at the convention in Greenville, NC to affiliate with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). SEANC Executive Director Dana Cope declared, "This vote marks the largest union victory ever for working people in the South."

DISTRICT 19 OFFICERS

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Angela Lyght
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Pamela Siler
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District 19 Plays Santa for Kids at UNC Children's Hospital



(L to R) Brandy Pearson, Meghan Kelton, Phyllis Fearington, Martha Fowler, Jonathan Stephenson and Marie Tate

District 19 members donated toys, books and gift cards for infants and teenagers at UNC Children's Hospital. We presented the Christmas gifts to nurses Brandy Pearson and Meghan Kelton on December 18, 2007 at our holiday dinner at the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant in Hillsborough.

The Retirees' Chapter visited the Brookshire Nursing Home in Hillsborough on December 13, 2007 where they sang carols and gave presents to the residents.

District 19 Goes to Biltmore



On November 30, 2007 more than 50 people went to the famous Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC. Their trip began at 6:30 a.m. aboard a chartered bus in Chapel Hill. After lunch at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Asheville, the next stop was the Biltmore Estate, the largest privately owned home in the United States. The 175,000 square foot house was built by George Washington Vanderbilt II between 1888 and 1895.



Boarding the bus for the trip to Asheville

In mid afternoon everyone boarded the bus again to visit the Biltmore Winery. On the way home, travelers took time out for dinner at Ryan's Family Steak House in Asheville. By midnight the one day tour was over.



(L to R) Peggy Cotton and Angela Lyght take care of the raffle held during the trip

The trip was a rousing success and fun for all. It raised funds for the scholarships awarded annually by District 19. More all day excursions are planned for the future.

Member Discount Program Adds Local Business

In October 2007 Andrew's Heating and Air became a part of the home improvement businesses in the SEANC Member Discount Program. The business is owned by local resident Andrew Pukal and offers a 10 percent discount to all SEANC members. To learn more, call 923-1736 or go to www.andrewhsheatgandair.net.

Mariah McPherson Remembered at Memorial Service



Mariah McPherson was born on September 18, 1927 and she died on January 21, 2008. A beautiful memorial service was held in her honor on January 26, 2008 at the Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough.

"Miss Mariah" was educated in Columbia, Tennessee and she attended North Carolina College, now known as North Carolina Central University, graduating in 1950. She was an employee of the

Orange County Agricultural Extension Service for 47 years and a member of the First Community Baptist Church. Mariah was active on the SEANC Retiree Council and EMPAC Chair for District 19. She was widely respected in the community, known for her colorful outfits with matching hats, and admired for her positive outlook on life.

Mike Nelson, in his blog on January 22, 2008, commented that Mariah McPherson's death marked "The Passing of a Class Act." He explained that she "dedicated her life to helping others and to advancing civil rights. She was a citizen-activist in the noblest sense and embodied strength, determination, and selflessness. She loved mentoring and guiding younger leaders and did so with both a firm hand and a wide smile."

The Mariah G. McPherson Scholarship Fund has been established in her honor.

Mariah was a longtime and faithful member of District 19. Many of us attended the service to say goodbye to "Miss Mariah." We will miss her very much.

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.

May 20, 2008	Monthly Meeting
June 17, 2008	Annual Meeting
July 15, 2008	Monthly Meeting
August 19, 2008	Monthly Meeting
September 4-6, 2008	Annual Convention, Greensboro
September 16, 2008	Monthly Meeting

The Retirees' Chapter meets on the fourth Tuesday morning of each month at 8:30. All retirees are welcome. For information, call Phyllis Fearington at 929-2284.



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