

# THE SEANC CONNECTION



District 19

Vol. 16, No. 1, May 2009

## SEANC Lobbies to Protect SPA Employees

As we go to press, SEANC is continuing to lobby to protect state employees—active, retired and future. On April 28, 2009 Governor Beverly Perdue ordered unpaid furloughs for all workers, public school teachers and higher education employees. The furloughs are expected to save North Carolina at least \$65 million, which will close a widening budget gap estimated at \$4.6 billion.

The State Health Plan is in serious trouble. It is expected that more of its cost will be shifted to members and their dependents.

SEANC urged state employees to attend SEANC Lobby Day on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at the Bicentennial Mall, in downtown Raleigh (across from the Legislative Building).

## Highlights from the Convention

Nearly 800 SEANC delegates attended the 25<sup>th</sup> annual convention at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on September 4-6, 2008. The elections took an unusual turn when the three-way treasurer's race required three ballot votes over a two-day period before a winner was declared.

SEANC officers elected to serve from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009 are:

- President Tony Smith, Morganton resident and Maintenance Supervisor in the Department of Correction
- First Vice President Pat Reighard, Blowing Rock resident and Professor Emeritus of Communication at Appalachian State University
- Second Vice President J. C. Boykin, Kenly resident and Project Manager for Design and Construction Services at North Carolina State University
- Treasurer Cheryl Moon, Knightdale resident and retired 30-year Division of Motor Vehicles employee.

## Ruth Lewter Appointed as Chair of SEANC Planning Committee

District 19 member Ruth Lewter is the Chair of the Planning Committee. This Committee facilitates the long-range planning for SEANC operations. In cooperation with the Executive Committee, the Planning Committee prepares an annual budget proposal for presentation to the Board of Governors to ensure that SEANC operates within a balanced budget.

## Kudos!



Victoria Madden

District 19 member Victoria Madden, Research Specialist in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill, received a coveted Massey Award. Madden was highly praised for her contributions to electron microscopy imaging of particles in the kidney that contain as few as 70 gold atoms. Nominator and Nobel Prize-winner Oliver Smithies explained: "These particles are smaller than most electron microscopes can image. In the course of

this work, she has been a leader in developing techniques that overcome this limitation, and all of this in a most congenial fashion....Vicky has not only done her work in a superb way, but she has made changes in the procedures that I could not have even imagined." The late C. Knox Massey of Durham created the Massey Awards in 1980 to recognize "unusual, meritorious or superior contributions by University employees." Chancellor Holden Thorp hosted a luncheon on April 25, 2009, on the 30th anniversary of the awards. Each honoree received a citation and a \$6,000 stipend.



Chelsea Perfect

The 2008 SEANC Scholarship Program awarded 48 statewide scholarships, valued at a total of \$39,500. Chelsea Perfect, District 19 Scholarship winner, was awarded a four-year \$1,000 Merit Scholarship. She is a student at Dartmouth College.

## Retiree's Corner

## SEANC Wins a Major Victory for Retirees

SEANC filed a lawsuit in June 2002 after Governor Easley diverted \$130 million from the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) to ease the budget crisis in 2001. On August 5, 2008, the North Carolina Court of Appeals upheld the 2007 rulings of Superior Court Judge Joseph R. John, Sr. that the diversion of state pension funds violated the state and federal constitutions.

## DISTRICT 19 OFFICERS

CHAIR  
Marie Tate  
732-8126

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR  
Ruth Lewter  
929-7093

1<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIR  
Angela Lyght  
962-0146

2<sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIR  
Inetha Cousin  
966-0381

SECRETARY  
Martha Fowler  
843-8676

TREASURER  
Pamela Siler  
843-8094

## Annual Meeting Draws a Big Turnout



Angela Lyght presents award to Becky Perfect



... and Blake Gore



Cathy Harrison presents award to Phyllis Fearington



... and Marie Tate



... and Jonathan Stephenson



Martha Fowler presents plaque to Mariah McPherson's son and daughter-in-law

District 19 held a very well attended annual meeting on June 17, 2008 at the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA).

Angela Lyght announced that our scholarship winners were Chelsea Perfect and Blake Gore. Chelsea's mother Becky Perfect accepted the award for Chelsea, who was in Italy. Blake was present to receive his scholarship award. He attends the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Cathy Harrison presented the Distinguished Service Award to Phyllis Fearington and a desk plate to Marie Tate to acknowledge her service to the District as Chair. Jonathan Stephenson was recognized as Member of the Year.

Martha Fowler presented a plaque and a resolution of remembrance to the McPherson family, honoring the many contributions that their mother, Mariah McPherson, made to SEANC and to the community. Accepting the plaque and resolution were Mariah's son and daughter-in-law, William Edward McPherson, Jr. and Zevalda McPherson.

The election of officers and delegates for 2008-2009 was held. Marie Tate was re-elected Chair by acclamation. Hazel Lunsford continues as Bylaws Chair. Angela Lyght is our new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair with her previous position as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair not filled at the time of the annual meeting. (Inetha Cousin was appointed as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair at the next monthly meeting.) Wendy Watkins will be Auditing Chair, Ruth Lewter EMPAC Chair, Peggy Cotton Nominating Chair, and Dorothy Bumphus Policy Platform Chair. Phyllis Fearington will continue to serve as Chair of the Retirees' Chapter.

## District 19 Plays Santa

District 19 donated gifts and gift cards from local stores to a UNC Health Care employee on medical leave and her two children at our Christmas meeting on December 16, 2008.

Under the leadership of Chair Marie Tate, we also donated blankets to the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services (IFC) in Chapel Hill, NC. The blankets will be used at the homeless shelter and were accepted by Chris Moran, Executive Director of the IFC, at the November 2008 monthly meeting.

## Local Businesses Join Member Discount Program

District 19 has added several Chapel Hill businesses (three at Eastgate Shopping Center) to our Member Discount Program:

**Design Woodwork**, owned by Robert Toscher, 524 Aberdeen Drive, telephone 602-4942, a 10 percent discount in Orange and Chatham counties.

**Carmine's Ristorante & Pizzeria**, 1800 East Franklin Street, #16, telephone 929-4300, 10 percent discount on regular menu.

**EVOS Restaurant**, 1800 East Franklin Street, #26, telephone 929-5867, free drink with any purchase.

**Ace Town & Country Hardware**, 1800 East Franklin Street, #30, telephone 942-3100, 10 percent discount.

This number of new businesses garnered a small monetary award from the SEANC Central Office for Claire Miller, who recruited the businesses for District 19.

## 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 19, 2009	Monthly Meeting
June 16, 2009	Annual Meeting
July 21, 2009	Monthly Meeting
August 18, 2009	Monthly Meeting
September 10-12, 2009	Annual Convention, Greensboro
September 15, 2009	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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