

January 2011



# The Sounder

A publication of District 65, State Employees Association of North Carolina

## Gloria Highsmith Leads New Slate of Officers

### 2011 DISTRICT 65 OFFICERS/CHAIRMEN

Chairman: Gloria Highsmith

Vice Chairman/Member Chairman: Alicia Simpson

Past Chairman/EMPAC Chairman: Del Kingsland

Secretary: Martina Christie

Parliamentarian: Val George

Treasurer/Scholarship Chairman: Debbie Austin

Bylaws Chairman: Tammy Heller

Policy Platform Chairman: Mary Johnson

Communications Chairman: Karen Simmons

Retiree Chairman: Linda Nelson

Insurance Chairman: Doris Wrighten

Volunteer Action Chairman: Lynn Tuthill

Youth Council Chairman: Laranda Boone

Auditor: Camilla Dawson

Nominations/EMPAC at Large: Bill Dawson

Benovolent Chairman: Evelyn Hinnant

Hospitality/Delegate: Shirley Williams

Delegate: Joni McLawhorn



**Gloria Highsmith** of Williamston became the president of District 65 on October 1. Elected by the membership during the annual meeting in June, she replaces Del Kingsland, who served two terms.

Highsmith has been a SEANC member for eight years, most recently serving as district secretary (four years) and insurance chairman (two years).

She is an administrative support specialist at ECU with eight years of state service.

### DINNER CELEBRATION

District 65 board members enjoyed a delicious dinner at Texas Roadhouse following their November meeting, using the \$10 off coupons they were given by Becky Eissens, local store marketer, to celebrate their Chapter of the Year award. Pictured from left are Shirley Williams, Tammy Heller, Val George, Debbie Austin and Evelyn Hinnant.





## ***CLUB RUDOLPH***

*Each Christmas SEANC District 65 participates in the Club Rudolph Project by “adopting” two children from the Greenville Community Shelter. Money from the treasury is used to buy gifts for the children based on wish lists provided by the shelter. This year’s adoptees were two teen-aged girls. Items on their wish lists were pricier than the \$300 the board voted to allot, prompting Lynn Tuthill, District 65 volunteer action chairman, to hold dress down days in her office. “We raised over \$300 in dress down days, including a \$100 donation from a District 65 member,” Tuthill said. “We had \$285 to spend on each child and were able to get the mom a \$50 gift card.” Items purchased for the girls included a pink trick bike, a camera, clothes, shoes, coats and stockings full of goodies. Pictured with Tuthill, far left, are Pat Robinson, SEANC member; Gloria Highsmith, District 65 chairman; Debbie Austin, District 65 treasurer; and Doris Wrighten, District 65 insurance chairman.*



# October Minutes

*The SEANC District 65 executive committee met on October 19 at the Lakeside Annex Building. Here are excerpts from the minutes:*

Members present: Linda Nelson, Doris Wrighten, Tammy Heller, Debbie Austin, LaRanda Boone, Evelyn Hinnant, Bill Dawson, Martina Christie, Mary Johnson, Alicia Simpson, Del Kingsland, Karen Simmons, Gloria Highsmith, and Lynn Tuthill.

Excused absences: Val George, Joni McLawhorn, Shirley Williams, Camilla Dawson.

Chairman Gloria Highsmith called the meeting to order at 5:30. She handed out and reviewed the list of district officers and committee chairmen as well as the minutes to the Aug. 17 meeting.

There was no chairman's report since the Board of Governors had not met since the convention in September, but a meeting is planned for Nov. 5 and 6.

The board voted to send a \$165 cash gift to member Benny Brigman to honor his Nov. 30 retirement from the SEANC Member Action Department. He serves as east member action coordinator.

Del Kingsland expressed his appreciation for the hard work the board had done for the last two years during his tenure as chairman, especially in light that he had taken medical leave. He revealed that District 65 won District of the Year by only 1.5 votes.

Lynn Tuthill said that the manager of Texas Roadhouse read about our Chapter of the Year award in the paper and sent \$10 off coupons for each board member as congratulations.

Dining guides are here, and board members were encouraged to take several to sell. The guides sell for \$25 with \$10 going to District 65.

The board voted to host an appreciation luncheon for the SEANC staff in Raleigh, possibly in November or December, to thank them for the work that they do for us.

Evelyn Hinnant reminded everyone to let her know if someone is sick or has had an event so she can send a card.

Alicia Simpson attended a state meeting on October 15 on how to increase membership and show members that they are appreciated.

The board voted to have a membership event on west campus on October 27 with Oktoberfest as the theme.

An incentive will be offered to the first five members who bring friends. Theme based goodies will be given and the scrapbook will be on display. The board will assemble goodie bags at 5pm on Oct. 26 in LSA #1 Room 22.

Several people have commented that there was not enough food at the Christmas party last year. Further discussion was deferred until Hospitality Chairman Shirley Williams is present.

The board voted to adopt two

children for Christmas through the Club Rudolph program and spend \$100 on each child. Lynn said she would send a request for more donations on ANNOUNCE to help cover the cost of the gifts.

Lynn suggested the possibility of the chapter hosting a vendor fair for District 65 members.

The board decided that it would not sponsor a float in the city's Christmas parade this year. A decision whether or not to walk in the parade, which is less expensive, was tabled until the next meeting.

Gloria presented a plaque to Del in appreciation of his leadership for the past two years.



**Smiles were all around at District 65's annual holiday social on Dec. 6. Those in attendance enjoyed tasty refreshments provided by member Shirley Williams, door prizes, fellowship, and singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with each table representing a day.**



**The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina was very appreciative of District 65's recent \$500 donation. We thought you might like to read their letter of thanks.**



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October 26, 2010

Ms. Deborah Auste  
SEANC District 65  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, NC 27834

Dear Ms. Auste:

Thank you so much for your kind support of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. Your thoughtful and generous gift of \$500.00, check #1474 dated 9/22/10, will help us continue to bring life-sustaining meals to hungry people around us.

As we marked our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, we celebrate an inspiring magnitude of success, thanks to loyal and generous supporters like you. This past year we set out to collect and distribute 40 million pounds of food throughout the 34 counties we serve. Not only did we meet this ambitious goal, but we exceeded it, collecting a record 41.5 million pounds of nourishing food, an increase of nearly 13% over the prior year.

Your support remains absolutely crucial at a time when more and more families are being thrust into joblessness and homeless ... when 160,000 youngsters have to worry where their next meal is coming from ... and when senior citizens on meager fixed incomes must make the heartbreaking choice between food and life-saving medicine. Hundreds of thousands of people touched by your generosity are not able to thank you personally, but I know they are truly grateful, and I want to convey their appreciation to you.

It is wonderful to know that we can count on you, especially as tough economic times persist for many of our less fortunate neighbors. From all of us here at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, thank you again for your support, for your friendship, and for making a difference!

Sincerely,

Peter Werbicki  
President/CEO

Your wonderful gift is invaluable to us and I am very grateful to you. Peter

*How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life, you will have been all of these. ~George Washington Carver*

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, tax ID # 56-1283426.

No goods or services were exchanged for this tax-deductible donation. Please retain this letter as the official receipt for your tax records.







### **OH CHRISTMAS TREE!**

SEANC District 65 members and volunteers made more than 20 miniature Christmas trees out of wire coat hangers, strings of lights, and garland on December 2 and donated them to the residents of Universal Health Care, a Greenville nursing home. Attendees purchased supplies to make a tree and were instructed by retired state employee Evelyn Hinnant (far right with white tree) on how to put them together. "This is an annual project for our district that we look forward to each year," said Lynn Tuthill, (far left) District 65 volunteer action chairman. "Each tree brightens up a resident's room." ECU student Daniel McClure attaches lights to the frame of his tree in photo at left. Linda Nelson, bottom left, adds tinsel to a tree, and Minnie Jackson, below, shows off her completed tree.

