2019 Legislative Victories

## **Best raise in a decade!**

SEANC followed up its historic victory of moving the minimum salary of most state employees up to \$31,200, or \$15 per hour, in 2018 with even more gains in 2019. This year, we won the largest two-year pay increase in a decade for most state employees — 5% over the next two years — even though legislators and the governor could not agree on a full state budget!

## Secured Pay Raises, Bonuses and Bonus Leave

SEANC won:

- » A 2.5% pay raise in each of the next two years.
- » Five days of bonus leave.
- » Supplements of up to \$7,500 for correctional personnel serving in prisons with high vacancy rates.
- » Maintained the defined benefit retirement plan.
- » Maintained longevity pay.
- » Maintained full funding for State Health Plan and retirement systems.

## **Other Victories**

- » \$15 million for safety upgrades at our prisons.
- » A joint study committee to look into needed changes at our state's prisons, including separating corrections into its own cabinet-level agency.
- » More than 25,000 providers signed on to the Clear Pricing Project, which save state employees and retirees money on health care by increasing transparency and lowering costs.

## To Be Continued ...

- » Without a full state budget in place, UNC system, community college and non-certified school personnel were left without raises.
- » Retirees also have yet to receive an increase or bonus.
- » The legislature will return in April. SEANC will continue to lobby for those employees to receive the same 5% two-year increases as other state employees.
- » We are also advocating for a 2% retiree bonus to be paid for by non-recurring funds.
- » We will also advocate for making those raises retroactive to July 1, 2019, so those employees and retirees will receive the full amount this year.
- » We ask that members to contact their legislators to help us in this fight.