

SPOTLIGHT

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

MAY 16-17, 2025

UPDATES

Convention Report - Brenda Johnson

The convention will be held Sept 3-6, 2025, at Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

Rates

Room Rates	District Tables	Saturday Night Banquet Ticket	Registration	Entrepreneurs Avenue
\$179.27 per night <i>(providing tax rate doesn't change)</i>	\$20 per day	\$65	\$25 per delegate, alternate and guest	\$60 per day

Theme

OHANA — Strength in Unity

- This year's convention will have a Hawaiian feel as we celebrate our SEANC family in the spirit of Ohana, which means family but also much more:
- **Unity and support:** Ohana emphasizes that family members should stick together and support each other.
- **Responsibility:** Being part of an "ohana" means having a role in the well-being of the group.
- **Inclusivity:** It's not limited by blood relations. Friends and community members can be embraced as "ohana."



Agenda

Tues., Sept. 2

- 1:30 p.m. - IB Annual Providers Meeting

Wed., Sept. 3

- 8 a.m. - IB Annual Providers Meeting
- 11 a.m. - Executive Committee Meeting
- Noon - Board of Governor's Meeting
- 3 p.m. - District Treasurer Training
- 3:30 p.m. - EMPAC Meeting
- 6 p.m. - President's Reception - Luau Party*
*Best Hawaiian Outfit Contest
(please remember we are a professional organization)

Day 1, Thurs., Sept. 4

- 10 a.m. - State Bylaws Committee Meeting
- Noon - Convention Business Call to Order
- 7:30 p.m. - Emerging Leaders Social Event

Day 2, Fri., Sept. 5

- 8:30 a.m. - Convention Business Call to Order
- 7:30 p.m. - EMPAC Reception

Day 3, Sat., Sept. 6

- 9 a.m. - Convention Business Call to Order
- 11:30 a.m. - Past Presidents Luncheon
- 2 p.m. - 2025/26 Board of Governors Meeting
- 7 p.m. - Awards Banquet

Deadlines: July BOG Meeting (July 19, 2025)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • District registration and room list | • District table (payment) |
| • Hospitality room request | • Banquet ticket (payment) |

\$250 penalty may be imposed after deadline (6.3 Operations Manual)

Executive Directors Contract

The Executive Director's contract was renewed until September 30, 2030.



LEADERSHIP REPORTS

President's Report – Kirk Montgomery

- President Montgomery visited the General Assembly on May 6 to lobby against HB 549, the bill to take away State Human Resources protections from employees at the State Auditor's Office. He met with appropriations committee and voiced SEANC's concern.
- The Executive Committee approved the renewal of Ardis' contract for the next 5 years.
- Montgomery told the board that SEANC needs to grow. Districts need to focus on what is important, the growth of the membership. More and more people are retiring, which reduces the dues revenue coming in unless we recruit young members.
- We can't just depend on staff to recruit. Each member needs to go out and recruit younger folks to sustain the organization. We can't stay "as is" if we want to grow.
- He asked chairs to go back to their districts and organize a membership drive or an event, and make sure their members attend state committee meetings.

First Vice President's Report – Wendell Powell

- Powell spoke during the WAGE Conference in Charlotte recently, highlighting SEANC's commitment to advocating for members' rights and engaging in meaningful dialogue with stakeholders and holding legislators accountable to their votes and actions.
- Powell also visited the General Assembly on May 6 and discussed pay raises for current employees, COLAs for our retirees and **the implications of HB 549**.
- Powell attended many meetings including Retiree Council, EMPAC, Statewide Membership and Policy Platform.
- The Planning Committee met twice reviewing last year's budget and assessing the management team's needs for the 2025-26 financial year. The next meeting is in person on June 4 at 10 a.m. at the SEANC Office.

Second Vice President's Report – Emily Jones

- Jones attended many events throughout the state spreading the importance of SEANC membership, and recruited members.
- Jones, Cliff Johnson, Jamie Robinson presented a resolution to Anika Harper for the work she and the Black Mountain folks have done for the west.

Past President's Report – Martha Fowler

- Fowler has attended several state committee meetings, SEANC Insurance Webinars, WAGE Conference and Coalition on Aging meetings.
- Reported highlights from the recent Coalition on Aging meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Emily Jones for Stacie Crabtree

- Jones reported that SEANC's budget is on track for the fiscal year.

Executive Director's Report – Ardis Watkins

- Watkins discussed the popularity of our social media videos this legislative session, which are available on X, Facebook, Instagram, and Tik Tok. She encouraged members to like and share them to boost how many people see them.
- Our weekly podcast is growing in popularity as well and is reaching the targets we want to reach -- specifically legislators.
- Watkins reviewed HB 549 and the importance of SHRA protections for state employees. The bill passed the House but has yet to come up in the Senate.
- She discussed the budget plans on the table and said SEANC continues to focus on pay raises for employees and cost-of-living adjustments for retirees.
- She also discussed HB 92, the bill to allow the State Treasurer to invest in cryptocurrencies. After SEANC raised concerns about the bill and stopped it in committee, the Speaker met with our team to hash it out. The limit of these investments was lowered from 10% to 5%, and the State Treasurer must report back in a year on the status of the investments. State Treasurer Brad Briner has told legislators and SEANC that he does not plan to invest the whole 5%.



COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

Audit – Alicia Simpson Warren

- The committee met virtually in April & May
- 8 vacancies in Audit Committee - apply: SEANC website - Audit committee - download application here. July 15 application and resume.
- Audit Committee approved: Timothy Morgan (D10) is eligible as candidate for state General Treasurer.

Awards – Marie Tate

The deadline for awards nominations is 4 p.m. Friday, July 18 (*Friday of the July BOG meeting*).

District of the Year Scrapbooks must be given to Beth Dew no later than 4 p.m. Fri., July 18.

District Chairperson, Distinguished Service and/or Member of the Year nomination forms: Either complete an electronic form online or scan and email a hard copy to bdew@seanc.org no later than 4 p.m. Friday, July 18.

- 2025 nomination forms are available online (seanc.org/awards)
- Monetary awards during Convention: Distinguished Service - \$300; Member of the Year - \$200; District Chairperson of the Year - \$200
- The Awards Committee Judging Meeting is scheduled for Aug. 6 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the SEANC Office in Raleigh.

Benevolence – Deborah Fleming

- Please send pictures for the memorial presentation to jowens@seanc.org.

Bylaws – Kim Martin

- Any amendments must be submitted by the July 15 deadline in order to be considered at the convention. Please vote on them at your Annual Meeting.
- The Statewide Bylaws Meeting will be held on July 12.

Connections – B.K. Garrett

- Guidelines gives more discretion to committee members. "Each request will be considered by the committee on a case-by-case basis.

DHHS Study – Kathy Merritt

- The committee has actively participated in various meetings via Zoom and attended NCDHHS Tele-Town meetings.
- Visited several western facilities and participated in Call to Action at the General Assembly on May 6.
- Planning an in-depth meeting with DHHS Secretary Dr. Devdutta Sangvai.
- Compiling a report to address disparities in wages and working conditions.
- For those interested in joining the committee or requesting attendance at an event, contact Kathy Merritt at: cherrykatnc@yahoo.com, (c) 919-738-8729, (w) 919-947-9130.

Emerging Leaders – Tracy Webb

- Webb reviewed the recent Adopt a Highway cleanup.
- A Community Health event in Piedmont region. Please give feedback to ELC on possible vendors. Save the Date June 18.

EMPAC – Junior Hulen

- Committee met on May 8 via Zoom.
- Hulen, Mark Dearmon and Flint Benson attended the Young Democrats of NC 2025 State Convention and had the opportunity to discuss becoming future legislators and explained the significance of EMPAC and influencing policy-making and governance.
- EMPAC hosted an event at the Durham Bulls game on May 2, and will host similar events at the Fayetteville Woodpeckers (Aug. 15) and Kannapolis Cannon Ballers (July 11) games later this summer.
- WANTED - Volunteers to assist with 2026 Candidate Endorsement Interviews.
- Suggestions or questions, contact Hulen at m.hulen@hotmail.com.



COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

Growth and Expansion – Charles Streater

- The committee will once again sponsor scholarships for five convention delegates -- one per region. Next meeting in early June.

Insurance Board – Janice Smith

- The IB committee met hybrid on May 5.
- Can add that Insurance Board nominations are due by July 15th. Please email nominations to C.J. Stephens cstephens@seanc.org, and copy Janice Smith janicesmith564@gmail.com.
- Annual Meetings - The IB members will be contacting their assigned District Chairs asking to be allowed a few minutes to address district members and to provide information on the insurance products offered.
- The next Educational Session is Aug. 5 at 6:30 p.m. It will be an overview of all supplemental insurances offered to SEANC members. Registration will be in the Aug. 1 Scoop.
- The District Insurance Chairs are encouraged to attend the next IB meeting (July 9). If interested, contact Janice Smith or CJ Stephens.
- Additional training for IB members, District Chairs and District Insurance Chairs is being planned.
- The next scheduled meeting will be held in person at the Raleigh office on July 9 at 10 a.m.

Investment Advisory – Brenda Williams for Chevella Thomas

- The committee is working on the RFP for an investment advisor, but due to the unusual volatility in the market, they do not intend to move forward in the near future.

Membership – Cliff Johnson

- Recruitment Incentives - \$10 per member May 18 - July 17. Must have a minimum of two members to submit an incentive form. Each SEANC member that recruits at least one new member will be entered to win a SEANC swag basket and \$100 gift card.
- Blitz 70 new members in west
- Rashia Tillman Storr won the drawing for drawing for a gift basket and \$100.
- The Quarterly Rocket Growth - Reach for the Stars Award went to District 27.
- April 1 is the deadline to have annual meeting scheduled.

Policy Platform – Rashia Norman

- Committee met virtually on Friday, May 2.
- Volunteers need to attend meetings to meet quorum. District Policy Platform Chairs were notified by email, but not enough showed up to hold votes..
- The committee hopes to have 10 new policy platform items to vote on at this year's convention.
- Next meeting (in-person only) - July 17 at 10 a.m. (Advisory Committee); July 17 at 1 p.m. (Statewide Committee).

Prison Reform – Deborah Harney

- The committee is examining the 2018 DAC recommendations. While the committee has already placed a strong focus on staff shortages and retention, they are tasked with what is still relevant and what new directions are needed.

Public Education – Mark Dearmon

- The committee met via Zoom on Feb. 12.
- Dearmon is meeting with the marketing firm Brasco soon to kick off a marketing effort promoting SEANC to UNC System employees.
- SEANC is planning to attend public schools systems convocations all over the state once again this year. Let us know if you can help in your area.
- Letters went out to Community College presidents recently.

Retiree Council – Jamie Robinson

- The Retiree Council met on May 8 via Zoom.
- Districts 22, 61 & 62 have retiree forums planned for August. A full list can be found in the Scoop each week.
- Please ask retirees to submit accurate email address. We currently only have around 10,000 in our database.



Scholarship Foundation Board – Nicole Hunter

- The Scholarship Board met on May 14 via Zoom.
- Additional applications oversight: Districts (Chair & Scholarship Chair) affected by the oversight should have received a letter.
- Foundation Board members will judge applications: May 19 through May 23.
- Please submit your district winners list with the amount to Nicole Hunter. Deadline is June 27
- If you are not attending convention, please contact the scholarship foundation so it can collect raffle tickets and money.
- Scholarship Bowl-a-thon will be held after the July BOG meeting.

New Business

- The board voted in February to charge districts a \$25 registration fee per attendee at convention. District 5 Chairman Willard Jobe made motion to remove the registration fee for any elected delegates. The motion died because it was not seconded.

MOTIONS

- **PASSED:** To adopt the agenda for Board of Governors' Meeting for May 16 – May 17, 2025.
- **PASSED:** To accept and approve the minutes from the Board of Governors' Meeting of March 7 – March 8, 2025.
- **PASSED:** To accept and approve the minutes from the Board of Governors' Meeting of April 24, 2025.
- **PASSED:** To increase the SEANC mileage reimbursement rate up to the new IRS mileage rate of 70 cents per mile to become effective October 1, 2025.
- **PASSED:** To make changes in the wording under the SEANC Connections Fund Policy and Procedures 9 b to read: have suffered damage as a result from catastrophic losses from declared natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires. (Natural Disaster Form). This will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election Candidates:

- First Vice President Wendell Powell announced that he will be running for SEANC President.
- Second Vice President Emily Jones announced that she will be running for First Vice President.
- General Treasurer Stacie Crabtree announced that she will be running for Second Vice President.
- District 59 Chair Kathy Merritt is running for Second Vice President.
- District 10 Chair Timothy Morgan is running General Treasurer.

NEXT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING IS JULY 18-19, 2025

