

# SPOTLIGHT

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

NOVEMBER 21-22, 2025

## UPDATES

### Lantern Surgery Program

- The State Health Plan has launched a new program that will give active employees and non-Medicare retirees free surgeries if they choose a specified provider.
- We're hosting series of Town Hall event to answer your questions about the program. Our first one took place virtually on Nov. 12, and you can watch it on our YouTube channel or Facebook page. We also hosted an in-person event on Morganton on Nov. 13.
- Our next Town Hall will be on Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Wayne Community College. Representatives from the State Health Plan and Lantern will be on hand. Please make plans to attend.
- We're also planning an event in Raleigh in December. Details will follow soon.

### Ethics Policy - Director of Operations Brenda Johnson

- The board passed an updated Ethics Policy for SEANC.
- The Ethics Officer is Carri Derrick. Contact her at [cderrick@seanc.org](mailto:cderrick@seanc.org) with any concerns.

### Convention - Director of Operations Brenda Johnson

- The SEANC Convention will be held Sept. 9-12, 2026, in Greensboro. This year's theme is "Excellence in Action – Shaping tomorrow together" and the banquet theme is "A night to shine – illuminating the path ahead."
- The room rate this year is 182.66 per night. There will be a \$25 registration fee per delegate, alternate, and guest. Entrepreneur Avenue vendors will pay \$80 per day. District table and banquet ticket prices haven't been determined yet. The banquet price will increase because of the increase in food costs.
- Please have district registration and room list, hospitality room request, district table and banquet ticket payments turned in by the July BOG meeting (July 18, 2026). Invoices will be email on Friday, July 24, 2026.

### New SEANC website

- SEANC's communications and IT departments are working on a new website, member portal, and mobile app for the association. The board got a sneak peek at the site, which will be a significant upgrade from our current site that is almost 10 years old.
- The member portal will allow members to access everything from their contact information to the insurance products they have to their district information.
- The website and member portal will launch in mid-January, the mobile app should be ready in the spring!

### Holiday shopping

- When you're shopping this holiday season, be sure to check SEANC's member discount platform BenefitHub (formally Abenity). You can access deals on travel, tickets, auto, electronics, and more, as well as weekly giveaways. Visit <https://seanc.benefitHub.com/Welcome> to register.
- Also take advantage of our Affiliate Programs with Chewy, Amazon, and Fanatics to support SEANC with your purchases. Visit [seanc.org/affiliates](https://seanc.org/affiliates) to use the links.



BenefitHub™



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## LEADERSHIP REPORTS

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### **President's Report** – Wendell Powell

- Over the past few months, Powell attended DAC Secretaries Cup, UNC Chancellors Cup, District 24 October meeting, One Voice Leadership Training, Chester Correctional Institution, and North Carolina Institute of Public Leadership Hometown Forum.
- Met with Gov. Josh Stein on Nov. 3 to discuss agency vacancy rates, budget challenges, Stein administration's commitment to state employees and retirees, and opportunities for future collaboration.
- Organizational Engagement. Powell participated in committee chair calls and meetings, and attended several virtual committee meetings.
- Western Outreach. Attended the Lantern Town Hall at Western Piedmont Community College and toured Asheville agencies and Craggy Correctional Institution.

### **First Vice President's Report** – Emily Jones

- Attended W.A.G.E. meeting, Samarkand Probation Class, 10PL Health Care Session, NC State Employee Appreciation, NCPPA Conference and NCCA Conference.
- Attended committee meetings: Retiree Council, Emerging Leaders Council, Planning
- Please do all that you can to promote and grow SEANC. Thanks to all serving.

### **Second Vice President's Report** – Stacie Crabtree

- Attended several meetings and events. Let Crabtree know if you would like her to attend your meeting or event.

### **Treasurer's Report** – Timothy Morgan

- Attended several meetings and events.
- Morgan reviewed the final 2024-2025 budget. SEANC was able to pay all financial obligations without pulling from reserves.
- Morgan also reported that SEANC's budget is on track for the new fiscal year.

### **Executive Director's Report** – Ardis Watkins

- Watkins discussed the need for change in the national and state health care industry - particularly the need for real transparency needed.
- She discussed the Lantern program and is hopeful that it will save members and the plan money by introducing real competition in health care.
- Please listen to The SEANC View podcast and promote it each week on your social media pages. It is a great way for us to get our message out on the issues.
- SEANC is planning to host a roundtable event on mental health in 2026.
- **Finance** – Brenda Williams-Brown:
  - Please submit travel reimbursement requests as soon as possible following each event or meeting attended. Preferably no more than 30 days from the date of the meeting.
  - Committee chairs are strongly encouraged to work with the staff liaison to develop a specific plan for spending allocated funds during the fiscal year.
  - Contact the Finance Dept. before conducting any fundraisers. This is necessary to ensure your district is in compliance with all tax and reporting requirements.



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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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**Audit** – Alicia Simpson Warren

- Warren has been re-elected Chair and Regina Hill has been elected Vice Chair.
- The committee is currently working on district audits for District 10 and 11.

**Awards** – Pam Hailey

- The committee will meet in February via Zoom.

**Benevolence** – Deborah Fleming

- Please send information on members you know have passed, including address, to seancbenevolence@gmail.com.

**Building** – Janice Smith

- Smith reviewed the timeline for the ongoing restoration process at the SEANC office following flooding from a plumbing issue last summer.
- An HVAC unit went out in October and unexpectedly had to be replaced. A new sump pump has been installed as well.
- Restoration on the floors and walls will start in January 2026.
- The committee will meet again Dec. 16.

**Bylaws** – Kim Martin

- The committee has not met yet.
- Please remember updates made to your district bylaws, based on approved bylaws from convention or a letter indicating no changes to the district bylaws that is due Dec. 1, 2025. Email to bylaws@seanc.org

**Connections** – B.K. Garrett

- The committee will meet in February via Zoom.

**DHHS Study** – Stephanie Ndashie

- Ndashie has met with President Powell to discuss the committee's charge for the year
- Updates have been made to the SEANC website for the year
- Ndashie will attend the HHS and Medicaid committee meetings at the General Assembly in December.

**Emerging Leaders** – Tiffany Vaughn

- The committee met lay out its goals: professional development, leadership opportunities, partnerships, team building, community service and visibility.
- New initiative: "Getting to know SEANC" virtual sessions to familiarize members with the foundational components of the association. First session January 22, 2026.

**EMPAC** – Junior Hulen

- The statewide committee met on Nov. 12.
- We added over 450 EMPAC members from Oct. 2024 - Sept. 2025.
- Operation Embrace the EMPAC partners EMPAC, Emerging Leaders, and Growth and Expansion with a goal of empowering SEANC members to take an active role in supporting and endorsing candidates.
- Suggestions or questions? Email Junior at m.hulen@hotmail.com.

**Growth & Expansion** – Alexandra Kaulback

- The committee plans to meet in January.

**Insurance Board** – Amy Robinson

- Board met on Nov. 12 in Raleigh
- New products - Aflac Accident, Shadow Lake (property & casualty)
- Educational Sessions are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. via zoom. The first one is Dec. 2.
- Next session is Dec. 2 (TOCO, Liberty Mutual, Farmers and Travelers)



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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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**Investment Advisory** – Angela Lyght

- The committee will meet after the holidays.

**Membership** – Jamie Robinson

- SEANC recruited 375 new members in October
- No more statewide membership incentives for individuals. Districts are welcome to pay out incentives to recruiters.
- District 27 was recognized with the Shoot for the Stars award for their recent successful event.
- Recruiter the Recruiter initiative to help districts identify, develop, and support workplace recruiters.
- Encourage your members to come up with district level membership recruitment incentives/contests to share with the committee.

**Policy and Oversight** – Cliff Johnson

- This committee will review SEANC's policies, procedures and practices to make sure they are in order.
- Johnson reminded the board that SEANC's Bylaws take precedent over district bylaws.

**Policy Platform** – Kelly Russell

- The committee will meet via Zoom in January
- Questions - email [kellyrussell971@gmail.com](mailto:kellyrussell971@gmail.com).

**Prison Reform** – Deborah Harney

- Harney and President Powell attended One Voice training in October at Gettysburg. They also visited Chester Correctional in Pennsylvania, an innovated prison modeled after Swedish facilities.
- She thanked everyone who took part in a successful re-entry simulation at the convention.

**Public Education** – Mark Dearmon

- The committee sponsored and attended the Chancellor's Cup Golf Tournament in September in Waynesville.

**Retiree Council** – Benny Brigman

- The council met on Nov. 13.
- Retiree Newsletter will be emailed to all retirees after every meeting.
- 2026 Grandchild Scholarships will be awarded thanks to district donations totaling \$5,900.
- Retirement Board of Trustees meeting is Jan. 29. Council and staff will be in attendance.
- Next Zoom meetings - Feb. 12 and May 7. Encourage your Retiree Chairs to attend.

**Scholarship** – Nicole Hunter

- The board is working to update and further automate the application process which starts in January.
- Hunter showed a video created by the SEANC Communications Department to promote the launch of the applications in January.

**SEANC Cares** – Carl Elliott

- Anyone with needs or concerns is encouraged to email [seanccares@seanc.org](mailto:seanccares@seanc.org).



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## MOTIONS

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- **PASSED:** Adoption of the Agenda for the Board of Governors for November 21–22, 2025.
- **PASSED:** Approval of Board of Governors’ Meeting Minutes for Sunday, October 5, 2025 (with correction) and Minutes for the SEANC 41st Annual Convention Highlights for Thursday, September 4 – Saturday, September 6, 2025.
- **PASSED:** Approval of the SEANC Ethics Policy as amended.
- **PASSED:** To dissolve Build a Better Future and authorize staff to complete all necessary actions, including filings and financial transfers associated with closing this entity.
- **PASSED:** To dissolve Affordable Healthcare for North Carolina (AHCNC) and authorize staff to complete all necessary actions, including filings and financial transfers associated with closing this entity.
- **PASSED:** That the February and May Board of Governors’ meetings are designated as the meetings that districts will need to pay for the travel, lodging, and meals of their chairperson if they want to attend in person. There will be a Zoom option for both meetings.
- **PASSED:** The travel, lodging, and meals for statewide committee chairs who want to attend in person can be paid for out of their committee budgets when possible. Otherwise, they should attend by Zoom unless their district is willing to cover their expenses.
- **PASSED:** The travel, lodging, and meals for state officers and other members of the Executive Committee for these meetings will be paid for out of the BOG line item.
- **PASSED:** The travel to, meals and lodging on Thursday night for members of the Executive Committee for in person Executive Committee meetings will be paid for out of the Executive Committee line item.
- **PASSED:** To move forward with offering the Aflac Accident Policy.
- **PASSED:** To move forward working with Shadow Lake for property and casualty.

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## OTHER

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- A moment of silence was held to remember District 58 Chairwoman LaKeshia Jones, who recently passed.
- Insurance Board Chairwoman Amy Robinson and Retiree Council Chairman Benny Brigman were sworn in to the Executive Committee for the 2025-2026 year.

### Google Reviews

- Google reviews are the first place many prospective members look when thinking about joining SEANC.
- Currently, our rating is 3.8 out of 5 stars, which is good. But we do have several 1-star reviews bringing it down that we can't remove.
- Please scan the QR Code to easily leave us a positive 5-star review!




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**Next BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING is Feb. 20-21, 2026**

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