



THE REPORTER



State Employees Association of North Carolina

EMPAC endorses **Dale Folwell** for Governor

EMPAC, the political action committee of the State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC), endorsed Dale R. Folwell for Governor.

Folwell has been a champion for working families throughout his political career. He has made good on his promises as State Treasurer to protect the retirement system, keep State Health Plan premiums affordable, and stand up for employees against rich Wall Street Money Managers and Big Hospital Conglomerates.

“Backing Dale Folwell was not a difficult decision for us,” said EMPAC Statewide Chairman Mark Dearmon. “Since his first run for State Treasurer in 2016, he has kept his word to fight for working people. He will continue this mission in the governor’s mansion.”

Saved \$500 million in fees

With the help of EMPAC’s endorsement in 2016, Folwell won his first term as State Treasurer

and immediately went to work renegotiating harmful and one-sided contracts the state retirement system signed with Wall Street middlemen. He was able to cut more than \$500 million in fees paid annually by the system.

Clear Pricing Project

Folwell put his career on the line for state employees and retirees once again over the Clear Pricing Project, which would bring transparency and cost savings to the State Health Plan. SEANC called for cutting reimbursement rates to hospitals, some of which charge the Plan as much as nine times the Medicare rate for procedures, as early as 2010. Folwell was brave enough to take on that fight because the outrageous costs put the future of the State Health Plan in jeopardy, and he will continue that fight as Governor.

Serious times call for serious people

Dale Folwell is a pragmatic optimist who puts what’s right



above politics and petty stunts. He will serve the people of this state well as Governor, as he has as one of the state’s most influential and accomplished State Treasurers. We urge members to support him. Early voting lasts through March 2 and the primary election day is March 5.

EMPAC endorses **Wesley Harris** for State Treasurer



EMPAC has endorsed Wesley Harris for State Treasurer.

EMPAC’s statewide committee, made of up state employees and retirees from all over the state, met with each of the candidates for the office in January. It was clear that Harris has a firm grasp on the issues important to our members.

Harris’ years as a legislator and economist have given him a strong foundation on our issues. He understands the importance of keeping the retirement system healthy

with a strong investment strategy. He also pledged to continue the fight to bring transparency to healthcare costs.

“No elected official other than the Governor has more of an impact on state employees and retirees than the State Treasurer,” said EMPAC Statewide Chairman Mark Dearmon. “We must have a champion in that office who will put our needs ahead of greedy Wall Street managers and hospital CEOs. Wesley Harris is committed to doing that.”



2024 PRIMARY STATEWIDE ENDORSEMENTS



SEANC announced bipartisan endorsements in January for legislative candidates in the primary election.

The endorsements were made through SEANC's Employees Political Action Committee (EMPAC), which is a member-led subsidiary. The bipartisan endorsements in races for the General Assembly are made by the statewide committee.

SENATE



Phil Berger
District 26 (R)



Paul Newton
District 34 (R)



Dan Blue
District 14 (D)



Jay Chaudhuri
District 15 (D)



Bill Rabon
District 8 (R)



Tom McInnis
District 21 (R)



Warren Daniel
District 46 (R)



Jim Burgin
District 12 (R)



Bobby Hanig
District 1 (R)



Mike Woodard
District 22 (D)



Paul Lowe
District 32 (D)



Terence Everitt
District 18 (D)

HOUSE



Destin Hall
District 87 (R)



John R. Bell, IV
District 10 (R)



Robert T. Reives, III
District 54 (D)



Shelly Willingham
District 23 (D)



**Donna McDowell
White**
District 26 (R)



Michael H. Wray
District 27 (D)



Larry Strickland
District 28 (R)



**Ashton Wheeler
Clemmons**
District 57 (D)



Cecil Brockman
District 60 (D)



Jeff C. McNeely
District 84 (R)



Carla D. Cunningham
District 106 (D)



Kelly E. Hastings
District 110 (R)

VOTING INFORMATION

North Carolina State Board of Elections
www.ncsbe.gov

The 2024 primary election, including the presidential preference primary, is **Tuesday, March 5, 2024**. During this election, voters choose which candidates should be the party nominees to appear on the general election ballot.



2024 GENERAL ELECTION: TUESDAY, NOV. 5, 2024

IMPORTANT VOTER TIPS – Go to the Voter Search Tool

Visit vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup for more information.

- **Register, check or update your registration.** Voters can check to make sure their registration information is accurate and up to date using the Voter Search tool. There, you can also find your polling place, absentee ballot information, and more.
- **Find your sample ballot.** All eligible, registered voters will find their sample ballot(s) in the “Your Sample Ballot” section of their Voter Search profile when they become available. For even-year elections, sample ballots are typically available 50 days before Election Day.
- **Don’t forget your photo ID.** North Carolina voters will be asked to show photo ID when they check in to vote.
- **Three ways to vote:**
 1. Vote early in person
 2. Vote in person on Election Day
 3. Vote by mail

Discounted Loan Rates for State Employees and State Retirees

Invested in North Carolina and committed to you, we’re offering **an additional 0.50% interest rate discount** to qualifying* North Carolina state employees and state retirees on the following loan products:

- New and Used Auto Loans
- Closed-End Signature Loans

LEARN MORE
Contact a lending officer at your local branch, call (888) 732-8562, or visit us online at ncsecu.org.

SECU
State Employees’ Credit Union

*To be eligible for this discount, members must be a current full-time or retired employee of the state of North Carolina (including public school employees) and members’ state payroll or retirement benefits from a plan administered by the North Carolina Retirement Systems division of the Department of State Treasurer must be on direct deposit with SECU. Discount only available on new loans. Members must be at least 18 years of age or otherwise eligible for lending services to apply. Lending is limited to residents of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia. Additional terms and conditions apply.



THE REPORTER

Jonathan Owens, Editor-In-Chief • Beth Dew, Managing Editor

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TAKE ACTION!

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR 1099 FOR TAX SEASON

North Carolina Department of State Treasurer, Retirement Systems Division

1099-R tax documents available in ORBIT for retirees and benefit recipients

Tax season is coming up and you're probably going to need to access your 1099. The easiest way to access your 1099 is on-line. The on-line 1099-R tax documents are now available in ORBIT for retirees and benefit recipients. The paper version was mailed on January 31.

1. Go to **orbit.myncretirement.com**, click on the Orbit icon and login.
2. Once you open the image of the 1099, it opens a pdf that you can print from your computer. Or, you can download the image and attach it to an email.
3. Send it to whomever you would like. Or if you have a printer, you print it right there from your computer.

Video: Preparing to Access Your 1099-R
www.myncretirement.com/retirees/retiree-videos



The **Retiree Council** met on Nov. 10 in Raleigh. Executive Director Ardis Watkins gave an update on SEANC operations. Thank you to Sam Watts from the N.C. Department of State Treasurer's office for updating the Retiree Council on the plan to move UNC Health and ECU Health employees out of the state pension system.



Retiree Council Chairman Jamie Robinson attended the **Retirement Systems Board of Trustees** meeting in October. Robinson is pictured with N.C. Department of State Treasurer Dale Folwell.

2024 RETIREE PAY DATES

Dates pension checks are direct deposited to your bank account or checks are mailed:

Feb. 23	May 24	Aug. 23	Nov. 25
March 25	June 25	Sept. 25	Dec. 23
April 25	July 25	Oct. 25	

Contact N.C. Retirement Systems at 877-627-3287 with address updates, questions about your retirement check or deductions.



RETIRING SOON?

Contact the **SEANC Office.**



Your SEANC benefits do not stop on the day you retire.

Contact Carri Derrick at the SEANC Office at 800-222-2758 or cderrick@seanc.org to update your membership.

MEMBERS IN ACTION



District 57 members had a great visit at Edgecombe Community College on Sept 13.



District 25 members attended festivities at UNC Chapel Hill for International Executive Housekeepers Association Week in September.



District 26 members attended the Granville Correction Employee Appreciation Day on Sept. 21.



District 44 members sponsored lunch for the State Capitol Police on Sept. 28 in appreciation for their hard work.



District 17 members with then President Martha Fowler and Members Services Director C.J. Stephens visited the North Carolina A&T State University Benefits Fair with on Sept. 27.



SEANC's **western districts** sponsored the Western Region Juvenile Justice Appreciation Event on Sept. 21. The districts provided hot dogs and hamburgers for all employees for lunch and recruited 12 new members!



District 22 members attended the Fayetteville State University Benefits Fair on Oct. 3. Roberto Bryan Jr. (above) of Fayetteville State University Police and Public Safety Department rejoined SEANC that day.



SEANC attended the **Appalachian State Health Fair** on Oct. 6.



District 16 members attended the Winston-Salem State University Benefits Fair on Oct. 4.



The **Office of State Human Resources** presented the **2023 Governor's Awards for Excellence** on Oct. 25 to state employees who went above and beyond the call of duty. Several SEANC members were among the recipients, including:

Billy Joe Gilley
District 10

Nigel Bristow
District 17

Tabitha Chapman
District 66

Rasheeda Whitehurst
District 66

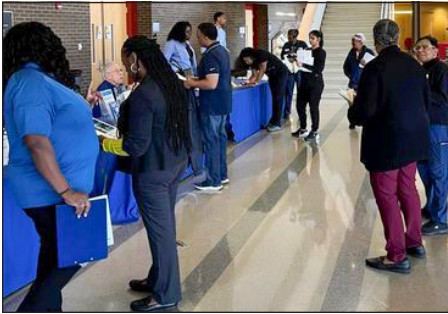
Brian Lackey
District 17

Grossie "Gigi" Smith-Jackson
District 41

Sabrina Edwards
District 66

Maylon White
District 68

MEMBERS IN ACTION



District 17 members and SEANC representatives enjoyed meeting employees at North Carolina A&T State University on Oct. 10 and added 21 new members!



District 62 visited employees at the Brunswick County Courthouse and Community Supervision on Oct. 26.



District 61 held an appreciation event for employees at Duplin County Courthouse, Community Supervision, and N.C. Works offices on Oct. 14.



District 1 hosted an ice cream social for Southwestern Community College employees on Oct. 11. Pictured are Statewide Membership Chairman Cliff Johnson and District 1 member Amanda Allen.



District 41 members Julia Foster, Angela Brown, Lakesha Lyons, Elnora Wills and N. Central Region Rep. Kelly Russell volunteered on Oct. 32 at Shepherd's Table Soup Kitchen in downtown Raleigh. Oct. 31



District 62 provided lunch for employees at the Department of Environmental Quality office in Wilmington on Nov. 1.



District 42 and EMPAC member Gretchen Williams was sworn into the Clayton Town Council on Dec. 5.



District 13 Chairwoman Linda Colbert and member Earonita Strong greeted employees at the UNC Charlotte Benefits Fair on Oct. 24 and added three new members!



District 38 provided lunch on Oct. 26 for the Department of Environmental Quality employees at the Raleigh office in appreciation for their hard work!



Former SECU CEO Jim Blaine spoke to the Board of Governors during the November quarterly meeting.

MEMBERS IN ACTION



District 42 members visited the Disability Determination Services offices in Raleigh on Nov. 2.



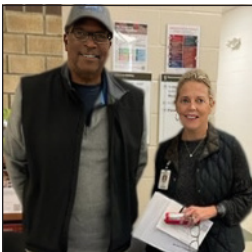
District 17 members provided an appreciation lunch on Nov. 14 for Guilford County Courthouse employees.



District 38 Chairwoman Margaret Reader and SEANC staff served an appreciation lunch in November for Department of Environmental Quality employees.



District 3 members Janice Smith and Robin Greene dropped off items such as toiletries, socks, mittens, small throws, puzzle books, old-fashioned and sugar-free candy, hand soap, and small hand sanitizers at the Watauga County Sheriff's Office for the "Santa for Seniors" project.



District 19 members visited Durham Technical Community College Campus on Nov. 1.



The nine districts in the **western region** pitched in to donate \$1,000 to the N.C. Baptist Men's Disaster Relief efforts in November. The group provided meals and other assistance to firefighters, including 200 state employees, battling at least six wildfires in the area. Pictured are Western Region Representative Jimmy Davis and District 2 Chairman Cliff Johnson with a representative from N.C. Baptist Men.



District 2 members visited Haywood County agencies in November.

MEMBERS IN ACTION



District 25 members met with Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz during the UNC Employee Forum on Dec. 23.



SEANC's past presidents and their spouses gathered on Dec. 8 at the Central Office for a holiday luncheon in their honor! We're thankful for their wealth of knowledge about state government and the association.



District 12 members volunteered at Samaritan's Purse on Dec. 13. The district also gifted Common Heart and a private citizen a token of holiday cheer! Common Heart is an agency in Union County that aids in feeding families all year long.



Emerging Leaders volunteered at SECU Family House and Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill on Dec. 9. They folded clothes, baked cookies and spread holiday cheer.



District 2 Chairman Cliff Johnson delivered goodies to state employees in their district that worked during Christmas.



District 2 Chairman Cliff Johnson and member June Watkins delivered more than 400 holiday goodie bags to five state agencies in the west. Pictured at left is SEANC member Sean Johnson at Black Mountain Neuro-Medical Treatment Center accepting over 180 goodie bags for employees working after 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve and through all of the shifts on Christmas Day.



District 65 blessed four children from Pitt County's Salvation Army's Angel Tree. In addition, they donated Coats for Kids, helped families in the local women and children's program and wrapped gifts at Greenville Mall.



SUBMITTED BY KRISTY D. WILLIAMS



District 28 Secretary Coretta Wimbush presents a check from the district to a Granville County resident who lost everything due to a fire a week before Christmas.



SEANC officers and a few of their family members visited Governor Cooper and his wife, Kristin during the holidays at the Governor's Mansion.



INSURANCE

EDUCATION SESSIONS

DENTAL & VISION	Delta Dental, Spectera	MAR 6
APR 2	ACCIDENTAL Cigna, Boston Mutual, Aflac	
WHOLE & TERM LIFE	Boston Mutual, Mass Mutual, Gerber	MAY 7
AUG 6	ID PROTECTION & PET MetLife	

Visit our Website for More Information
[SEANC.ORG/INSURANCE](https://seanc.org/insurance)



The SEANC View

Podcast

The only podcast covering state employee and retiree issues

Visit seancview.podbean.org or scan the QR Code to listen




LEADERS IN ACTION



During the November City Council meeting, Mayor Hooks recognized the City of Mebane IT Director Kirk Montgomery for being elected President of the State Employees Association of North Carolina. "The City of Mebane is honored to have such a prestigious, driven, and talented individual working for our community. His determination and work ethic are admirable and a force to be reckoned with. We want to congratulate him on all he has achieved and continues to achieve!"



During the UNC Employee Forum on Dec. 6, President Kirk Montgomery, Executive Director Ardis Watkins and Public Education Chairman Mark Dearmon updated employees on the UNC Health retirement situation and other issues. Also present in the photo are UNC-CH Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz, District 25 Chairman James Holman and Member Relations Representative Sarah Miller.

Pictured in the insert is President Montgomery recognizing District 25 members during the UNC Employee Forum.



On Dec. 7, SEANC Executive Director Ardis Watkins participated in a roundtable discussion facilitated by Business North Carolina with other association leaders to talk about the challenges facing workers and businesses as we head into 2024.



SEANC was a proud sponsor of the **North Carolina Community College System's Luncheon** in October in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The room was filled with pink in honor of this occasion!



SEANC sponsored the **NC-Cure Restoration Matters Prison Reform Conference** in October in Raleigh. SEANC leaders had discussions with Rep. Joe John and Rep. Marcia Morey, as well as DAC Secretary Todd Ishee and Deputy Secretary Brandeshawn Harris on issues facing prison staff.



District 25 Chairman James Holman and Public Education Committee Chairman Mark Dearmon attended the UNC Benefits Fair on Oct. 25.



Executive Director Ardis Watkins visited the **NC Correction Special Operations and Intelligence Unit Conference** in November. Special Operations and Intelligence Unit Director Drew Stanley and SEANC General Treasurer Stacie Crabtree attended as well.



Executive Director Ardis Watkins, Public Education Committee Chairman Mark Dearmon and UNC System President Peter Hans took a photo break during the **UNC Staff Assembly Chancellor's Cup Golf Tournament** in Greensboro on Sept. 26.



Distict 5 and 9 members attended the Judicial District 29 event for probation and parole employees from Burke, Catawba, and Caldwell counties on Oct. 18 at Catawba Meadows Park in Morganton. Pictured are Second Vice President Emily Jones and District 9 Chairman Jamie Robinson and member Amy Robinson.

SEANC scholarship applications

Are you a SEANC member going to college? Do you have a son, daughter, legally adopted grandchild or a spouse going to college? Are you a retiree with a grandchild going to college?

Then apply today for a scholarship from the SEANC Scholarship Foundation. Now is the time to work on your application for the 2024-25 academic year.

Last year, the SEANC Scholarship Foundation and SEANC's districts gave out more than \$133,000 to help members, their spouses and their dependents attend either two- or four-year institutions. This year, you or somebody in your family could be one of those deserving winners!

To find an on-line application and your district's scholarship chairperson, visit seanc.org/scholarship.

The scholarships awarded by the SEANC Scholarship Foundation and the individual districts are one of the association's largest benefits for members.

For more information, visit seanc.org/scholarship or contact Phyllis Byrd at (919)833-6436.

In addition to the local scholarships offered by the districts, the SEANC Scholarship Foundation offers funding assistance in the following categories:

Financial Need

Winners are selected based on academic performance (40%), financial need (30%), community involvement (10%), personal statement (10%) and recommendations (10%).

Merit

Winners are selected based on academic performance (70%), community involvement (10%), personal statement (10%) and recommendations (10%).

Member-Only

Winners are selected based on recommendations (30%), SEANC service (20%), career objectives (20%), personal statement (20%) and community involvement (10%).

Retiree Grandchild — Financial Need

Winners are selected based on academic performance (40%), financial need (30%), community involvement (10%), personal statement (10%) and recommendations (10%).

Retiree Grandchild — Merit

Winners are selected based on academic performance (40%), financial need (30%), community involvement (10%), personal statement (10%) and recommendations (10%).



DEADLINE TO APPLY IS
APRIL 15 — GO TO

SEANC.ORG/SCHOLARSHIP



Three ways to contribute to the SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

- 1. Payroll Deduction.** Contact SEANC to set it up!
- 2. Combined Campaign.** You may contribute by participating through the State Employees Combined Campaign. Look for number **1563** – SEANC Scholarship Foundation.
- 3. Directly to the Foundation.** You may also make contributions directly to the SEANC Scholarship Foundation. Please make checks payable to the SEANC Scholarship Foundation.