



LEGISLATIVE Update

State Employees Association of North Carolina • www.seanc.org

P.O. Drawer 27727 • Raleigh, NC 27611 • 888-732-6242/919-833-1616 (Press 1)

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Senate Not Willing to Repay State Employees

The General Assembly returned to Raleigh for the “short session” on Wednesday, May 12. SEANC Executive Director Dana Cope, President Tony Smith, SEANC lobbyists and members hit the ground running fighting for SEANC members.

The day before session started, the Democratic Senate leadership led by President Pro Tem Marc Basnight (Dare), Majority Leader Martin Nesbitt (D-Buncombe), and Sen. Linda Garrou (Forsyth), announced the Senate budget would not repay the 0.5 percent of lost wages from last year. This action of the Senate is in spite of the fact that Gov. Bev Perdue’s budget included repayment to state employees for time already worked.

SEANC has been inundated with calls from SEANC members who are irate that the Senate is not going to repay this money. Cope and SEANC Legislative Affairs Director Ardis Watkins met with Senate leadership and clearly communicated the message that our members agree with the governor that this money should be repaid to the employees. Many state employees have not been able to take the leave due to staffing issues created by the hiring freeze in prisons and other state agencies. On every level, not repaying money for hours worked is wrong!

The Senate is telling the press that they want to roll their budget out as quickly as possible, with May 20 as the target date for release and a plan to have the budget through the Senate and House and passed in 45 days. Therefore, as a SEANC member you need to contact the Senate leadership, specifically Sen. Linda Garrou (D-Forsyth) at 919-733-5620 or Linda.Garrou@ncleg.net, and your senator now to make your voice heard.

At this point in time, we do not know what will be proposed in the Senate budget with regard to retirees. What we do know is that the retirement system is in a crisis and in dire need of funding from the General Assembly. To properly fund the system would require \$181 million. SEANC Retiree Director Mitch Leonard is leading the charge to get this funding with the support of SEANC’s legislative staff.

With so many hot issues, members need to plan to attend SEANC Lobby Day June 8. If legislators do not hear from you, they assume you are happy with the way state employees and retirees are being treated.

In the meantime, call your senator and Senate leadership today. Information on who represents your district can be found on the SEANC website at www.seanc.org. The phone number for the General Assembly is 919-733-4111. CALL TODAY!



Above: Sen. Martin Nesbitt (D-Buncombe), left, and Dana Cope



At Left: Tony Smith, left, and Rep. Nelson Dollar (R-Wake)

PLEASE POST AND SHARE IN YOUR WORKPLACE