



North Carolina Retired School Personnel

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What Next? NCRSP Committee Day Draws 60+

More than 60 chairs and members of the six **statewide** NCRSP committees—plus Regional Directors—gathered at the NCAE Building in Raleigh on Thursday, November 2, to consider what must be done to build a stronger organization and enhance retirement security. The “Committee Day” participants included the chairs and members of the Legislative, Membership, Communications, Community Service, Quality of Life and Recognitions committees. Participants received briefings and participated in work groups that planned committee work for the year to come and beyond.

In the face of partisan attacks on public pension plans, public healthcare insurance and public-school funding, NCRSP’s leaders considered everything from new styles of lobbying to improved use of the organization’s web site. “I want to thank all the participants for a very effective day of discussion and planning,” said NCRSP President Joan Bass. “The important thing now is to turn that planning and goal-setting into effective action.”

All of the committees were urged to schedule follow-up meetings and take concrete steps to implement the goals and objectives they established. In some cases, the committees were coping with changes in leadership; others pondered financial challenges such as the increasing cost of publishing the PANORAMA three times a year in hard copy format. Stay tuned for updates.

NCRSP Wins Two NEA-R Grants

Their titles sound like Netflix dramas, but NCRSP is completely serious about two projects called “Hot Weld” and “New Blood”—in fact, one of them has already started. Back in the summer, NCRSP applied to NEA-R for two leadership grants with the titles “Project Hot Weld” and “Project New Blood.” The former is a program to strengthen the work of NCRSP’s committees (especially those six cited in the item above) and help the chairs and members develop the tools to make the committee more effective. “New Blood” is not some vendetta but an effort to train new leaders via the spring Leadership Conferences and other means. Each successful grant won \$4,228.60 for NCRSP’s use—a total of \$8,4546.64. For example, part of that sum will cover the costs of the Nov. 2 Committee Day held earlier this month as the opening to “Project Hot Weld.”

Congress Ponders “Tax Reform” Bill

Eager to pass some legislation that might finally give an air of success to its work, the majority party in the U.S. Congress is pondering a tax code bill that would cut corporate taxes from 35% to 20% while threatening programs that benefit retirees. Ironically, the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act would add an estimated \$1.5 trillion (that’s *trillion* with a “t”) to the national debt over the next ten years—the sort of move that

conservative ideologues have denounced for years. Now, they seem to support it. The House is discussing the bill this week, and if it is successful there, the Senate could take it up as early as next week.

Proponents say the corporate tax cuts will bring investments dollars home from offshore havens and create jobs. Critics worry that, in addition to boosting the national debt, the measure will open the gate to nearly \$500 million in cuts to Medicare and more than \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid over the next ten years. Businesses will receive the lion's share of the tax cuts—about \$1 trillion or two-thirds of the total, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation.

All NCRSP members are encouraged to contact their U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators and voice opposition to H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act.

NCRSP Executive Board met in October

The NCRSP Executive Board held its first meeting of the 2017-2018 year on October 18th - 19th, at the NCAE building in Raleigh. Among other items, the Board approved an official budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. They also discussed arrangements for the 2018 NCRSP State Convention, including: potential keynote speakers, breakout session topics and the cost of registration—which will increase by \$5.00 to help cover the swelling costs of meeting space and A/V support.

It Bears Repeating: Don't miss "Recruiting Strategies 2017" on the web site

Are you stumped for good member recruitment ideas? Be stumped no longer! In the course of the NCRSP Leadership Conferences, held in May and June of this year, Treasurer Vera Taylor labored to capture dozens of good recruiting ideas suggested during group discussions with local and regional leaders. Thanks to Vera, that treasure trove is available to you on the NCRSP web site (ncrsp.org) under the [Membership Committee](#) tab, then "Resources" in the Members Only section. Help yourself!

Who Does What at The NCRSP State Office . . .?

Members—and sometimes officers—ask who does what at the NCRSP state office in Raleigh. Many people don't realize that the state office has a total staff of three people and that all of them are *part-time* employees who perform a variety of overlapping tasks. Tom and Lena work Monday through Thursday. Tera works Tuesday through Friday. That means the office is staffed Monday-Friday, but not everyone is here every day, and because all staff members are part-time, the hours are not necessarily nine to five. Anyone who calls the office and doesn't receive an immediate response, should leave a message and rest assured that someone will get back to them later that day or early the next work day. E-mail requests are essentially the same.

Here—for your information—is a quick summary of who does what:

TOM BENNETT: As Executive Director, Tom is ultimately responsible for all operations. He serves as office manager, Managing Editor of the *PANORAMA*, author of the MONTHLY REPORTS, ALERTS and ADVISORIES. He works as chief meeting planner, staff member to the Executive Board and Administrative Council, official NCRSP spokesperson, drafter of the organization's budget, occasional mover-driver and one of NCRSP's 3 registered lobbyists.

TERA WILLIAMS: As Administrative Assistant, Tera’s duties vary from day to day and month to month depending on events or activities scheduled and leadership needs. She answers the main telephone line as well as her direct line to assist members and leaders with questions, requests, problems and provide essential information. She handles the processing of membership dues sent to the state office in addition to assisting the accountant with financial matters, handling dues, disbursement of monies for business operations and quarterly distributions. [PLEASE NOTE: Use Tera’s correct e-mail address: tera.williams@ncae.org. E-mails sent to Tera’s old address as “Tera Shepard” **do not** go through.]

LENA WHITFIELD: As Administrative Assistant and Webmaster, Lena takes time each week to upload documents, making them available to members on the website and reviews the overall website for updates and changes. She assists in answering telephone calls and emails in addition to processing membership dues. She has the ongoing task of keeping the leadership database current so NCRSP can maintain proper communication with all arms of NCRSP.

Pending Deadlines

- 11/15/17 NCRSP State Office Self-Nomination Submission deadline
- 11/15/17 NEA-Retired RA allocation deadline
- 12/05/17 NEA-R delegate nomination or self-nomination deadline
- 12/15/17 NEA deadline for all Cash Pay membership dues (all unpaid memberships will be cancelled)
- 12/18/17 Submission deadline for Winter PANORAMA items
- 01/09/18 Individual Volunteer Report to Local Community Svc. Chair
- 01/20/18 Local Volunteer Report & Top Volunteer Form to Reg. Comm. Svc. Chair
- 02/05/18 Memorials list submission for State Convention
- 02/20/18 Regional Top Volunteer to State Community Svc. Chair

Attachment

--NCRSP Executive Board contact list

