



North Carolina Retired School Personnel

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NCRSP MONTHLY REPORT, February 22, 2017

STATE CONVENTION DELEGATE DEADLINE IS MARCH 17TH

An error in the Winter 2017 PANORAMA gave February 16 as the deadline for NCRSP State Convention delegate registration. **The correct deadline date is March 17th.** We apologize for the error. Delegate registration materials were mailed last week and all Local Units should receive those forms this week. For more information about the State Convention, see the next item. Take special note of the hotel room reservation deadline, which is **Feb. 27.** Please make your hotel reservations NOW while you can still get in at the group rate!

TREASURER FOLWELL TO SPEAK AT NCRSP STATE CONVENTION

Newly-elected State Treasurer Dale Folwell has agreed to serve as the keynote speaker at the NCRSP 2017 State Convention, which will be held on **Thursday and Friday, March 30-31, 2017.** Mr. Folwell has been an outspoken critic of the way that state Retirement System investments have been managed in the past, and it will be interesting to see what reforms he proposes. He will be speaking at the opening of the Representative Assembly around 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 30th.

The convention will be held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center located at 4700 Emperor Blvd., Durham, NC, 27703 - Exit 282 off I-40. To make hotel reservations call (800) 325-3535 and ask for the *NCRSP Retired School Personnel* room block. Room pricing is \$115 plus tax (single or double). The deadline for hotel room reservations is February 27th, and you can and should make your room reservation as soon as possible (**Note:** hotel parking is **free**).

Again, the NCRSP staff mailed State Convention delegation registration materials last week. Every Local Unit should have delegate registration forms sometime this week.

Speaking of the State Convention, if you have a New Business Item (NBI) that you want the Representative Assembly to consider, please send that item to Marilyn McClain, NBI Chairperson, at mcm1221r@aol.com, no later than March 3rd. A copy of the form can be found on the NCRSP website under Committees > New Business Items > Resources. There is also a copy attached to this message.

LEGISLATORS MAY STUDY PENSION SYSTEM AND HEALTH BENEFITS

House Bill 24, sponsored by Rep. Pat B. Hurley (R) and Rep. Rena W. Turner (R), would establish a 13-member committee to study the state pension system and state health benefits, including the prospect of

“Reducing the State’s future liability by transitioning the State’s retiree health benefit from a defined benefit approach to a defined contribution model.”

Shifting more costs to state employees and retirees has long been a goal of some the legislators now in the majority, and if HB 24 is enacted, this study committee will give those legislators—and possibly the new State Treasurer—a platform from which to do that.

The 13-member committee would include five state senators, five state representatives, the State Treasurer, the Executive Administrator of the State Health Plan (ex-officio) and a representative chosen by the Board of Directors of the State Health Plan. In addition to transitioning to a defined contribution model, other topics cited in the legislation include: (a) “increasing the assets in the Retiree Health Benefit Fund through appropriation by the General Assembly, (b) “increasing the costs of retiree benefits borne by the federal government,” (c) “reducing the number of persons eligible for retiree benefits,” (d) “requiring employees to contribute to the Retiree Health Benefit Fund” as they do to the retirement system, and (e) “increasing the amount that retirees pay for their health benefits by means such as increasing premiums or out-of-pocket costs.”

Needless to say, NCRSP and its lobbyists will watch this bill very carefully, and if the study committee is established, the NCRSP will do its best to give retirees a voice in the deliberations. It’s hard to oppose “studying” anything, but in this political environment, such studies can be the launch pad for policies that can do enormous damage to retirees and our state.

NEA-R CONVENTION & DELEGATES, 2017

The NEA-Retired Convention for 2017 will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on June 27th-28th. The convention situation this year is very different from past years. Funding—based on the availability of funds—will be provided by NCRSP for this two-day meeting. Election as a NEA-R delegate still allows a person to be a delegate to the NEA Convention. However, since NCAE has indicated that they will no longer fund retired delegates, **NO FUNDING will be provided for retired delegates to the NEA Convention**. Delegates may choose to attend the NEA Convention—but at their own expense. NCRSP regrets the necessity for this decision; however, the budget will not accommodate the approximately \$11,000 required to fund our delegates to the NEA Convention.

REGIONAL ELECTIONS

In an odd-numbered year like 2017, NCRSP holds elections for Regional officers. Leaders are reminded to follow basic policies of fairness on Regional elections: hold elections at general membership meetings that are announced well in advance, and if more than one candidate is running—secret ballots should be provided.

