

What Is The CCCR of NC?

An organization of residents of continuing care retirement communities in the state. Its objective is to protect and further the interests and welfare of residents of CCCRs throughout the state.

How Did It Begin?

It was incorporated in 1988 under the leadership of Dr. Harry Groves, a retired law school dean who was concerned about our inadequate state laws covering CCCRs. Its first project was to win enactment of basic legislation for the licensing and regulation of such communities. This was achieved in 1989. The position of Manager of Continuing Care Retirement Facilities was created within the NC Department of Insurance. Currently Jeffrey A.Trendel is the Manager. He has jurisdiction over 47 facilities (housing 14,000 residents) across the state. There are six more CCCR facilities awaiting licensing at this time. The Department has recently reactivated its Continuing Care Advisory committee on which CCCR of NC is represented.

What Does It Do?

CCCR of NC monitors Federal and State legislative proposals that may impact on our communities and their residents. These include health care and long term health care insurance bills before Congress and the State Legislature; Federal and State tax proposals; major changes suggested nationally in health care and HMOs; and potential changes in Social Security and Medicare.

CCCR of NC encourages development of strong, effective resident associations in every retirement community across the state and active resident participation in the formulation of policies and programs that affect them. It seeks to support the fiscal soundness and effective management of all our communities. It strives to work closely with community administrators and boards of trustees (and with all other agencies and organizations concerned) to develop the best in safe, happy and productive retirement living.

Please Join Us Now

CCCR of NC Membership

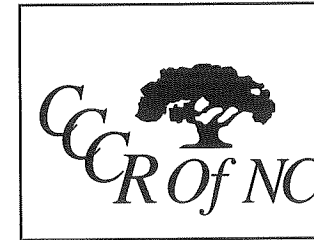
Name(s) _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____
_____ NC _____
City Zip Code

Your Retirement Community _____

Please check as appropriate: New Member Renewing Member
Individual **Couple**
 One year \$5.00 One Year \$10.00
 Life Membership \$50.00 Life Membership \$100.00

Please make checks payable to **CCCR of NC** and give to your representative. If you do not have a local representative mail to:
Management Services for Organizations
P. O. Box 1783
Salisbury, NC 28145-1783



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September, 2002

THE HOTLINE

THE HOTLINE is published four times a year for the *Continuing Care Community Residents of North Carolina* (CCCR of NC), incorporated in 1988 "to further the interests of residents of continuing care residents communities in North Carolina.

**Annual Meeting at Carol Woods
October 16th, 2002**

Members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting for 2002, to see the new and improved facilities at Carol Woods --the elegant dining room, the just-opened day care facility for children, etc.-- to hear about the very successful property tax reduction, to share in the results of a survey of member communities, to elect and install a slate of officers, and to mix and mingle to form new friendships and helpful alliances.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Linda George of the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, will speak on "Successful Aging," a topic which has been of great interest to audiences like ours-- fourteen such audiences for Dr. George in the spring of 2002 alone and still counting.

A box lunch will be served to be eaten during one's choice of three specialized programs. Two of these will be led by colleagues of Dr.George from Duke, identified and provided for us by the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development.

Dr. David J. Madden will share his research on what some of us facetiously call "senior moments," more accurately described as changes in cognitive function. This research

has implications for us and for our fellow residents who are in assisted living or other specialized care units within our communities.

Dr. Miriam Morey will lead an interactive discussion on how to incorporate exercise and physical activity into our daily lives. She will discuss simple tools for self-assessment and the factors most relevant to maintaining independence. This presentation should be of interest to sedentary types as well as the more physically active retirees.

Dr. Margaret Berry, one of our own members, and Dr. Beatrice Kovacs of UNC-Greensboro, will lead the third concurrent session which should be of interest to all library volunteers, book discussion group members, and residents who want to continue to be mentally active (See p. 7, Who cares...).

After lunch we will reconvene for a short, but very important, business meeting. We will hear a report from Pat Sprigg, Executive Director of Carol Woods, on how that community has been able to obtain the right to allocate for worthwhile community purposes, at Carol Woods' discretion, the funds that it would otherwise be required to pay to Orange County in the form of property taxes.

Responses to the survey requested at the May
Continued on page 10

THE HOTLINE

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**Board of Directors Meeting
May 2002**

The May 15, 2002 Board meeting was held at Piedmont Center in Thomasville. It was well planned and very well attended. In addition to Board officers and Representatives, there were fifty-five guests and twenty-two residents from Piedmont Center.

President Koehnline stated the North Carolina Department of Insurance has approved another CCRC, Ardenwoods of Arden, North Carolina. He also noted that a new CCCR of NC brochure is now available. It was further reported that CCCR membership as of May 14, 2002 was 3,452. President Koehnline stressed the need for nominations for next year's officers (Vice President, Secretary, Membership Development Coordinator, and Program Coordinator).

Myles Walburn reported on the AASHA and NaCCRA meetings that he had attended. He noted that Dr. Harry Groves at the NaCCRA meeting spoke about "Property" and "Contract" in the Continuing Care Industry," and how there is a declining difference between the two. This meeting focused on alternative insurance companies that are being cooperatively formed to provide liability insurance coverage in the face of escalating premiums by current companies, particularly in the state of Florida. For additional information on this issue see Continuing Care... p. 4.

Ivor Collins, at the request of President Koehnline, recommended that rather than working toward a change of statute (suggested at the April meeting) we work with the Department of Insurance to develop a set of questions that should be asked of any governing board or administration to secure pertinent financial information.

Information sharing from the floor: (1) CCCR of NC to conduct a survey of individual CCRC's regarding satisfaction/dissatisfaction of the way finances are handled at each facility, (2) endowments for educational scholarships for CCRC employees and/or children of employees, (3) policies for remuneration of visiting clergy and other visiting speakers. It was noted that when meetings are open to the public they could become a community service.

Last item on the agenda was a slide presentation by Ken Sell and Sterling Whitener. The presentation was aimed at assisting representatives and board members in fulfilling their responsibilities. Handout with illustrations and specific suggestions that can be used as reference, and copies of written reports of board meetings prepared and circulated at specific CCRC's, were available.



Editor's note: Due to space limitation Board meeting summaries are very brief. To get a better view of what happens, check with your representative or, better yet, come to the board meetings.

Registration Form

CCCR of NC Annual Meeting, Carol Woods, Wednesday October 16 2002

Please fill out **one** form for each attendee, providing all necessary information. Use additional sheets as required.

Return ASAP to Annette Rathburn, 750 Weaver Dairy Road., Apt. 3106, Chapel Hill 27514
e-mail: mamrathbun@hotmail.com
Phone: (919) 918-3306
Fax: (919)918-3349

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, IS THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS

Name _____ Community _____

Phone/e-mail _____

Lunch:

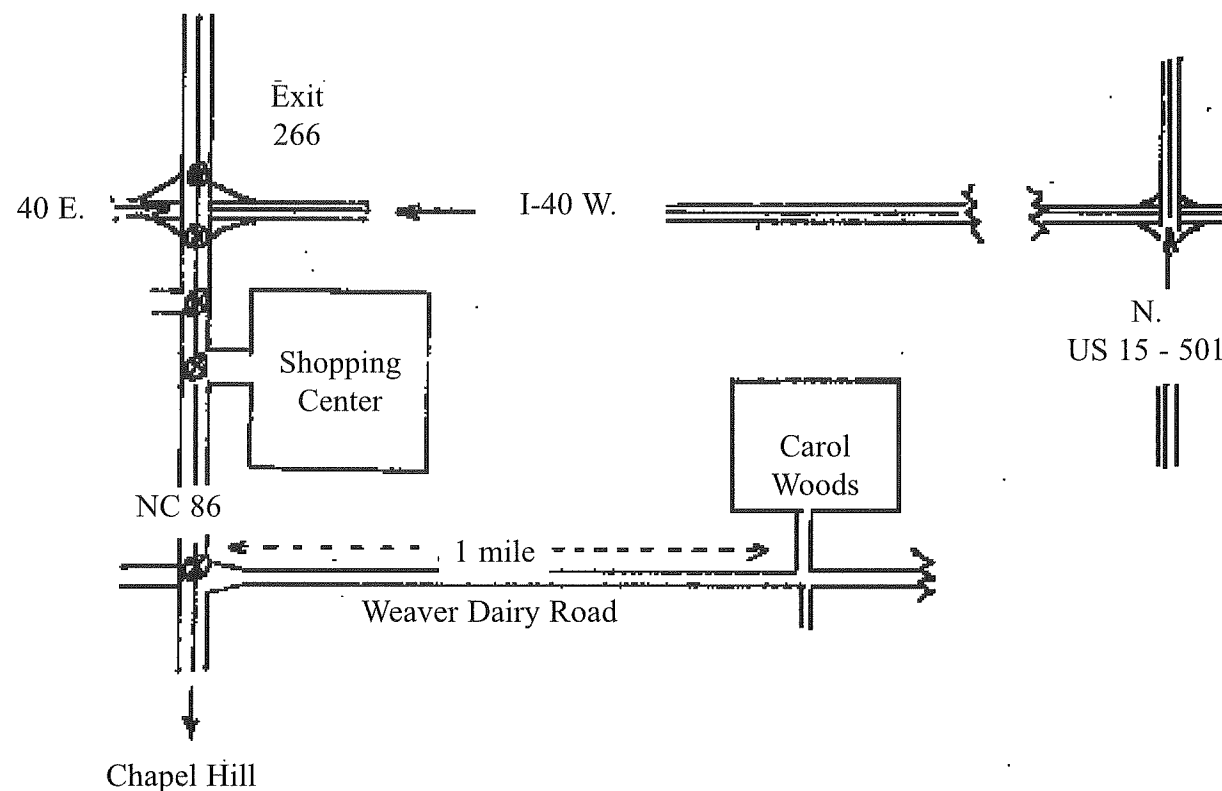
- \$7 enclosed (Check to CCCR/NC)
- Will pay at door
- No thanks

Tour desired?

- Child Center
- Garden Assisted living
- Other _____



Directions to Carol Woods, Chapel Hill



Scholarship Program

Twin Lakes Center in Burlington has had a most active auxiliary since 1985. Emphasis has been on providing amenities for their residents with funds derived from a number of activities.

The latest program initiated is a Scholarship Program for the benefit of employees' children. This program was started as a recognition for all that the employees of Twin Lakes do for the residents. Our way of saying thanks to those who are helpful and caring to us day in and day out. The program awards monies for education beyond High School, i.e. for College or other specialized education programs. Given the rising cost of education in these times it would seem a worthwhile endeavor to assist our employees with the education of their children.

The program originated, in part, from a need to look beyond our own needs and wants. The concept found interest with the Auxiliary's Board of Directors which appointed three academics to draw up the criteria for any scholarship. Following that, a scholarship committee was appointed to draft an application form, distribute same and entertain applicants, taking time to interview them personally, and recommend those qualified to the Auxiliary's Board of Financial Awards.

The first two scholarship awards were made this summer, one scholarship for two years and another for three years. The scholarship program has met with a great deal of interest and enthusiasm on the part of all at the Twin Lakes community and it will become a permanent program.

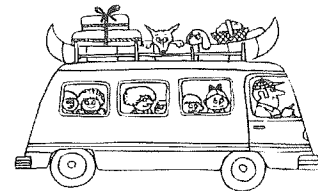
T. Stacy Wood

Twin Lakes Center

Continued from page 1

Board meeting will be presented, and all members will have the opportunity to vote for a slate of officers proposed by the Executive Committee: President, Don Hasty, Piedmont Center; Vice-President, currently vacant; Secretary, Sterling Whitener, Friends Homes West; Treasurer, Kenneth Sell, Piedmont Center. Ongoing positions of Ivor Collins, Carol Woods, as Legislative Monitor/Lobbyist and of Lisbet Nielsen, Covenant Village as Editor of *THE HOTLINE*

For information on how to find Carol Woods and assure a place and a box lunch, see p. 11.



DIRECTIONS TO CAROL WOODS, CHAPEL HILL

From West:

- 1-40 East to Exit 266; right (south) on NC 86
- Pass shopping center on left (traffic light)
- Turn left at next intersection (Weaver Dairy Rd)

At one mile, turn left into Carol Woods (wood rail fence) ~ Park as directed

From East:

- I-40 West to Exit 266; left (south) on NC 86
- Proceed same as from West above
- Turn left at next intersection (Weaver Dairy Rd)

From South:

- U. S. 15-501 North to intersection with 1-40
- Take I-40 West (left turn onto entrance ramp)
- Proceed same as from East above

Growth, Positive Change, and Promise of New Leadership



During 2000-2002, much has gone well, but there is still more that needs to be accomplished. We have continued to grow, renewed relationships with some CCRC's where there had been lapses in the relationships, mended some fences, gained some fine new Board members, continued to publish an excellent quarterly newsletter, and our website is receiving more attention from members and others.

Attendance at Board meetings and the level of participation by those in attendance have increased in 2002 over 2001. The revised property tax law, which was enacted in 2001 after more than a year of cooperative work by NCANPHA and our organization, has been implemented in the current year with no known adverse effects on any CCRC in North Carolina, and with positive effect in some situations.

At the request of Board members and guests at the May meeting, we have conducted a survey of the level of satisfaction of residents with the way the management of their communities share financial information with them twice each year, as required by law. Results of this survey will be reported at our annual meeting

On other fronts progress has been less complete. Although we have made three sets of revisions in the bylaws in the course of eight meetings, they are still not what they should be. The most important change has been the redefinition of the Executive Committee. The newly defined committee met for the first time in July, 2001, and for the last time with its original membership in July, 2002.

There are many people I would like to thank for their contributions to CCCR during these two

years, but space limitations won't permit naming them all. Therefore with regret I name none of them here.

Our biggest success has been in filling the office of Vice-President in May, 2001. My profound thanks to Don Hasty for agreeing to serve and for the many services he has already rendered.

My disappointment is that during these two years we have never had a full slate of officers in place. There has been no membership committee (called for in the bylaws and implemented intermittently before my tenure, but not during it). There has been no finance committee (not called for in the bylaws but highly desirable). Most serious of all, we have no nominee for the position of Vice President to fill that position when Don vacates it. That is my greatest regret. I leave my successor in the position I occupied in October, 2000, through April, 2001, during which time I could accomplish little or nothing. I hope he will be able to report otherwise at this point in 2004.

Finally, I have been disappointed in the response of Board members to the recommendation that each of them should identify an alternate so that when the Board member is unable to attend a meeting or conduct a membership campaign, or distribute *THE HOTLINE*, there is someone in place to do so.

Our organization is growing and improving. It has many challenges and opportunities. I will be working with Don and with all of you to meet those challenges and exploit those opportunities after October, 2002.

Thank you for letting me work with you these past two years.

Bill Koehnline

Carolina Meadows

CONTINUING CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

On August 6 Myles Walburn and I attended the bi-yearly meeting of the Continuing Care Advisory Committee of the North Carolina Department of Insurance. Two issues of major importance to us as residents were addressed.

The first was concern for explicit guidelines regarding financial information to be shared by boards and administrators with residents. We were advised that if CCCR of NC feels that the current statute should be more specific, we need to draft such legislation for the advisory committee's attention.

Second, our concern about long-term care facilities liability insurance in North Carolina was addressed by Richard M. Todd, CIC, Vice President, BB&T Insurance Services, Inc.. Mr. Todd identified several forces that are driving up liability insurance premiums.

1. The up and down cyclical nature of the insurance industry in general. Historically, the insurance industry goes through seven-to-eight-year cycles in which premiums go up and then down. The last down cycle occurred during 1991-1998. Since then the industry has been raising premiums. Several factors influence this, basically the abilities of the providers to meet the cost of claims. Also, events over which there is no industry control have an influence. September 11, 2001 is one such event which Mr. Todd called a catalyst in the present upward rate spiral. He noted that other insurances are going up as well, but liability insurance is going up to a greater degree.

2. A shortage of writers. Due to heavy claims, many providers have dropped out of the long-term care market. However, there are twenty-two companies who still have the product although they do not all offer similar products. Most specialize in providing coverage to special target groups or kinds of facilities. There are, however, enough companies providing coverage that CCRC's should have no difficulty getting liability insurance in North Carolina.

3. A legal environment that has targeted long term care facilities, particularly for-profit facilities in the southeast, for litigation. Seminars devoted to advising attorneys in how to sue nursing homes are being held in various sections of the country. There has not been such a seminar in North Carolina as yet, but they are advertised throughout the legal community, and any attorney can attend them anywhere. Some from the insurance industry have attended, from a defensive standpoint, to learn what the opposition is doing.

Mr. Todd explained that premium costs vary by level of care—i.e. independent living does not carry the same degree of risk as assisted living or nursing homes and is assessed accordingly. Factors that influence the amount of premiums are: size/space of the facility, number of beds, past performance, whether the facility is for profit or is non-profit, and how well the facility is run. Accreditation helps in assessing how well a facility is run and speaks loudly to underwriters. A problem that sometimes develops in regard to health care facilities is that risk surveyors are not always qualified to assess clinical risk. Medicare surveys are quite comprehensive, however, and can be a big factor in assessing clinical risk. In some cases third party assessments by an outside group are made to determine this.

Mr. Todd believes that premium prices have begun to stabilize in that the rate of increase has slowed. He does not expect premiums to go back to the 1998 levels. There will continue to be some increase, but we are not likely to experience the same degree of hikes in premiums in the immediate future as there has been in the last two to three years unless there are unexpected factors like 9/11.

In answer to questions, Mr. Todd stated that there has been some attempt at tort reform in Florida, and some private risk retention groups have been formed in some parts of the country. It is too early to assess their value at this point. There is some tort reform in development on the national level, which should be watched.

Hope Davis
Trinity Oaks



Lecture Series

Something new has been added to Glenaire: a lecture series open to the public. This was instigated by a late resident, Dr. Earl Droessler, a meteorologist with many intellectual interests. He wanted us to hear notable N.C. authors and speakers prominent in our community and left a provision in his will with honoraria for that purpose.

His idea was to stimulate our minds and encourage the use of our fine library. The three lectures so far we hope are accomplishing his aims.

The first speaker on June 3 was Mrs. Helen F.M. Leary on the fascinating subject of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings. Mrs. Leary, a well-known professional genealogist and careful researcher, captivated her audience with her delightful presentation of a controversial subject.

The second lecture on July 9 was by a Raleigh teacher and poet, Dr. Sally Buckner, an overview of North Carolina authors. She made us realize the wealth of good writers we have in this state, especially from the late nineteenth century to the present. She also read some of her own poems.

The third speaker will come on August 22--Dr. Orrin H. Pilkey, a professor at Duke in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences. His theories on saving the NC shore have put him in the midst of much controversy, so his talk should be stimulating. We hope to host many neighbors as well as our residents for these events.

Helen Leverton
Glenaire



Deerfield Uses Preferential Ballot

Election by majority is a fundamental tenet of democracy, yet not all of us practise it. Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community of Asheville, now beginning its 4th year as a Life Care Community with 450 residents uses a ranked ballot system of voting for Resident Council elections. In the May 2002 election nine candidates submitted resume's for 5 seats on the Council. Voters placed 1 by their first choice, 2 by the second, 3 by the 3rd etc. Vote for as many as you wish. While some ranked all the way to 9, it was unlikely that any choices beyond 6 would be needed. Because there were 5 seats, the first 5 choices were initially counted, and there were exactly 5 candidates receiving a majority. The top 3 got 2 year terms and the last 2 got 1 year terms. Had there been fewer than 5 with a majority, then ballot 6 (the #. 6 choice) would be counted, and, if necessary, the 7's would be counted. Rarely is it necessary to go beyond the number of seats to be filled. The officers of the Council are then elected from the 8 regular Council members.

National and state interest in preferential voting has ballooned because the delayed NC primary has postponed the US Senate candidate selection until the end of September. The 3 week delay for the runoff primary is wasteful, expensive for the taxpayers, and draining of the candidates in both parties. Recently, San Francisco and Oakland have adopted Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). The Utah Republican Party has already adopted IRV, and the Democrats of NC have a preferential proposal at the state level. Ireland and Australia have long benefitted from this system which is simple enough for Deerfield to employ. It is cost and time effective to benefit a nation.

Buzz Lee
Deerfield

Residents Conduct Afternoon Worship Services

Many residents in continuing care communities are active members of local churches and synagogues. For those who cannot easily leave home, congregations often send in ministers who conduct services on a regular basis. At Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill, those things are all true, but every leader of the Presbyterian services is a resident there and a member of University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, including retired Presbyterian minister, Rev. Phyllis Koehnline.

Having served for years as pastor in the Chicago area, now in retirement, she has another congregation which meets for worship on every second Sunday and every fifth Sunday for Communion. These services arose out of the interest of some of the more than seventy members of the University Church who live at Carolina Meadows, many of whom can no longer participate actively in the local congregation.

This small in-house church, which started meeting in the winter of 2000, now gathers regularly at 4:00 p.m. (after nap time) in the activities room of the Health Center, nearest to those who have most difficulty moving around. But the congregation, numbering between forty-five and fifty-five, includes more than just Health Center residents, and more than just Presbyterians. Worshipers come also from assisted living and independent living quarters all over campus, and include some who have not had a chance to go to church for a long time, even some who belong to no church at all, from a mix of denominations - a Catholic woman being among the most faithful attendees.

And so they arrive, pushed or self-propelled in wheelchairs or scooters, on walkers or canes;

those who need help are escorted in by resident volunteers who are University Church members. Those with hearing problems are seated close to the speaker, bulletins are handed out with the order of service and the words to the hymns all printed in large type. Some worshipers are blind, but because we sing mostly the old familiar hymns, many of them know the words by heart and sing along

These gatherings, which were aimed at serving those who could not go other churches, have been a blessing to the volunteers who help. They include, in addition to some who are limited in their ability to get around, members who have already attended morning worship services in town. One happy consequence is that, in some cases, people who have been inactive for years now have a chance to serve their church.

The volunteers distribute fliers to remind people of the next service. They visit in the Health Center around 3:30 to be sure residents are awake and preparing to come, and then they return to escort those who need help. Lay leaders always assist the preacher with the liturgy, and there is a small choir that sings regularly accompanied by one of the many gifted pianists who live there. These monthly services could not happen without the support of these many resident volunteers and also the cooperation and support of the Activities staff of Carolina Meadows who have worked patiently to create the best conditions for all this to happen.

These services are greatly appreciated and well-attended, each month some new-comers arrive. We talk between times and look forward to the next service. How fortunate all of us are to be part of this endeavor!

Phyllis Koehnline
Carolina Meadows



Help Stop Annoying Telemarketing

Bills are being considered that authorize the Attorney General (AG) of NC to establish and maintain a no-call registry for NC consumers who want to stop unwanted telephone solicitations, and to increase protections for consumers in transactions initiated by telemarketers. These bills would require telemarketers calling NC residents to register with the AG and pay an annual registration fee. Consumers would have their phone numbers placed on the registry at no cost to them. Penalties are provided for telemarketers who don't comply with the law. These bills are strongly opposed by business interests. Seniors, who are often targeted for these calls, should support this legislation.

Members should call their state representatives and encourage them to vote for registry of individuals who does not want to be called by telemarketers. HB 1612 and SB 1313.

NaCCRA Position Paper Liability Insurance- S 1370

Problem

NaCCRA is aware that several communities in three states (Florida, California and Texas) have been notified by their insurers that due to excessive claims they will either stop writing policies or raise rates substantially. In some cases those rates would be so excessive as to threaten financial viability. Several states are addressing this problem at that level, and we encourage that route. However, a similar effort at the national level is essential to avoid a crisis in other states.

Solution

As noted above several states have been addressing the problem but a national solution

is needed to cover those states that have not been successful in obtaining an equitable solution.

NaCCRA has looked at S1370 introduced by Senator Mitch McConnell (Kentucky).

The bill has three stated purposes that are summarized in the third one: "improve the fairness and cost-effectiveness of our current health care liability system of the United States to resolve disputes over, and provide compensation for, health care liability by reducing uncertainty and unpredictability in the amount of compensation provided to injured individuals."

The bill provides a limit of \$250,000 for noneconomic damages and the same amount for punitive damages. However, punitive damages may go as high as 3 times "the amount awarded to the client for the economic injury." Since no limit has been placed on the economic part of the claim, punitive damages could go well above the limit. But each part of the claim has been given strict standards as to the conditions under which each may be obtained.

The bill also places a limit of 25 percent of any judgment or settlement for the attorney's fee. It is also relevant to note that economic losses are defined comprehensively and include past and future verifiable losses. We believe that because this bill provides for a punitive claim that goes up as the economic losses rise, it contains a strong deterrence to poor medical service.

If this bill were to pass and its provisions enforced, we believe there would be few excessive awards and no reason to raise rates for all facilities. We recommend NaCCRA support for this bill.

Robert M Sparks 7/3/02
NaCCRA

VIRGINIA STATE ORGANIZATION EMERGING

On July 25 and 26 approximately thirty continuing care residents from nine of the CCRC's in Virginia gathered at the Westminster CCRC in Woodbridge to work on the formation of a statewide organization named Virginia Continuing Care Residents Association or VaCCRA. In cooperation with the National Continuing Care Residents Association (NaCCRA), several months of preliminary work had been done by Claude Hale and Richard Graham. They had done an outstanding job in preparing everything necessary to ensure a good meeting. The group spent the first day discussing the need for such an organization, and those present reported on the wide range of opinions and attitudes about the proposal for such an organization from their different communities. One CCRC represented felt so positive about the effort that they had empowered their representatives to commit to membership even before the structure and leadership of the organization had been defined.

On the second day a representative from the National Continuing Care Residents Association (NaCCRA) was invited to bring greetings and join with the group in reviewing the proposed bylaws. During the morning the assembly proposed and voted on several changes. VaCCRA bylaws are unique among state organizations in that, at two points, the connection of state with national is mentioned. In Article I, stating its organizational name, VaCCRA affirms its intent to be a part of NaCCRA. Also, in Article IX VaCCRA designates its president and vice president as its representatives to attend the NaCCRA annual meeting each year. The proposed bylaws, as revised, will become effective when five resident associations or councils officially become members of VaCCRA. It is anticipated that this

will occur at a meeting in October at a time and place that is still to be determined. On that occasion, which will be their Annual Meeting, there will be another opportunity to modify the bylaws, which will become permanent when ratified by a two-thirds vote of the membership.

In the afternoon the group adopted a proposed budget and elected temporary leadership. The President is Claude Hale of Westminster. Wilber Patterson of Williamsburg is a Vice President. Richard Graham of the Goodwin House West in Falls Church was elected Treasurer and Henrietta Hibbs, also from Westminster, was elected the Secretary.

Myles Walburn

Carolina Meadows

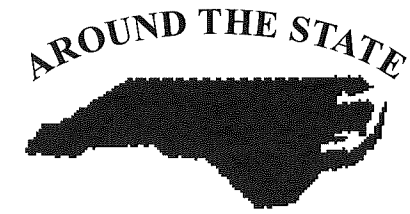
NATIONWIDE TELEPHONE SCAM



If you get a telephone call requesting you to dial 90# (9-0-pound or number symbol) and then hang up, do not comply! The request may be presented as a minor test of your telephone line, but, if you do it, the result apparently gives the caller full access to your telephone line. He or she may then make unlimited longdistance calls which will be billed to your phone.

This Scam has been confirmed by the Office of the Indian River County Sheriff in Florida. It was reported by a CCRC resident to President Milt Brummer who wanted to share the warning with all NaCCRA Members, and those of you who use the Internet may also have received a similar warning from friends.

From NaCCRA LIFELINE
Vol. 7 No. June 2002



Who Cares About Intellectual Life?

This spring, as I researched the role of in-house libraries in Retirement Communities, something extraordinary happened. Till then, for me, the library had been the major agent for intellectual growth in the lives of residents and staff. That changed. Forty-seven North Carolina continuing-care facilities had reported excellent physical care: good food service, accessible clinics, state-of-the-art aquatic centers, professionally directed exercise and motorized machines. Psychological (emotional) care seemed equally generous: social gatherings, games, presentations, outings, arts-and-crafts, professionally directed musical ensembles and religious services. But did intellectual activities and mental stimulation receive equal attention and support?

Enter the Lifelong Learning Center (LLC), a concept developed by Dr. Beatrice Kovacs of the Department of Library and Information Studies in UNCG's School of Education. With the library as hub the Center embraces diverse, systematic, sustained, and challenging intellectual programs. Among these are classes, partnerships with local institutions, theme-centered reading/writing/ research, traditional and electronic aids, film discussion, problem solving, criticism, debate, creative and productive response to knowledge newly gained, understood, or shared. Dr. Kovacs believes that an intergral part of maintaining health is to keep the mind active.

If research shows undersupported intellectual

activity in our continuing-care residences, four myths must be dispelled before the Lifelong Learning program can be implemented: 1) that residents are interested only in fiction; 2) that they are incapable and undesirous of learning elementary computer skills; 3) that they are not interested in learning more about the earth community and its relationships and interconnections; and 4) that amateur direction, volunteer help, and donated resources are adequate for sustained excellence in lifecare learning activities.

To validate her belief in the importance of Lifelong Learning Centers, Dr. Kovacs has created and carried out a survey of thirty-six North Carolina continuing-care institutions. The information from the returned surveys is surprising, indicating that there are few programs available for residents, and even fewer for those who cannot easily come to the library. Her findings will be presented October 16, 2002, during the CCCR meeting at Carol Woods, Chapel Hill. Discussion of implications for action will follow.

To learn more about the survey results and Lifelong Learning Centers, plan to attend the October 16, 2002 CCCR meeting and to share with the group your ideas about intellectual enrichment in our homes for the living.

Dr. Margaret Berry,

Well-Spring Retirement Community

