



## *The Hotline*

North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association. [www.norccra.org](http://www.norccra.org)

### **The Eastern Region of NorCCRA Held its Annual Meeting at Croasdaile Village on April 15, 2025**

Croasdaile Village hosted the Eastern Regional Meeting of NorCCRA on April 15, 2025 in Fassett Auditorium. 149 NorCCRA members attended the event. Representatives of 19 communities were in attendance. All three NorCCRA Regions were represented.

Bill Lambe, Leader of the Eastern Region and a Croasdaile Village resident opened the meeting by introducing Heather March, Croasdaile Village Executive Director and Stephen Harper, President of the Croasdaile Village Residents Association. Heather and Steve presented welcoming remarks from Croasdaile Village to the members attending.

The theme of this meeting was **“Aging in North Carolina”** and our speakers for the day were extremely qualified to discuss this topic.

**Mary Bethel**, the Chair of the NC Coalition on Aging’s Board of Directors was the lead speaker. The Mission of NC COA is to improve the quality of life for older adults through collective advocacy, education and public policy. They accomplish their mission through a diverse array of consumer, provider and advocacy organizations that represent North Carolina’s aging population.

Next up was **Rebecca Freeman**, the Section Chief, Service Operations, NC Division of Aging, NC Department of Health and Human Services. The Mission of the NCDHHS Division of Aging is to promote the independence and enhance the dignity of North Carolina’s older adults, persons with disabilities and their families through a community-based system of opportunities, services, benefits and protections. Among other topics, Rebecca discussed activities funded under the Older Americans Act, homelessness among senior residents in North Carolina, housing challenges, long-term care costs, and the healthcare worker crisis.

The meeting was to have a third presenter, **Heather Burkhardt** the Associate State Director for AARP in the Triangle Region. However, due to a family emergency, Heather was unable to attend.

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The powerpoint presentations for all of the presenters in the morning session are available upon request. If you would like a copy, email Skip Kingan, [skingan47@gmail.com](mailto:skingan47@gmail.com).

Attendees enjoyed a buffet lunch compliments of Croasdaile Village and the Eastern Region, followed by a short business meeting with a legislative update by Sindy Barker and Martha Wood, Co-Chairs of the NorCCRA Legislative Committee. They discussed a NorCCRA mail project urging Congress to protect our Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits.

Joe Liegl, NorCCRA Vice President, read a short note from Skip Kingan, NorCCRA President, promoting volunteering to strengthen the activities of the three NorCCRA Regions.

Croasdaile Village, its residents, management and volunteers made this meeting a success, and NorCCRA looks forward to holding its annual meeting here on October 14, 2025. Mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you then.



### *President's Message . . . . . from Skip*

#### **Why Do We Have Region Chairs and Leaders?**

The bylaws of the North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association mandate that the Board of Directors divide the State of North Carolina geographically into two or more Regions based on the location of facilities and the travel time required to reach them. Currently, NorCCRA is divided into three regions: East, West, and Central.

The responsibilities of the Region Chairs or Leaders are as follows:

1. Promote growth in membership of both CCRCs and residents of CCRCs in their respective regions.
2. Encourage the election of officers within their respective regions.
3. Facilitate the establishment of annual meetings in each region.

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4. Meet with Community Representatives to assist them in promoting NorCCRA within their communities.

What is the Distinction Between a Region Chair and a Region Leader? A Region Chair is an individual elected at a Regional Meeting to lead the Region for the subsequent year. Conversely, a Region Leader is a person appointed by the NorCCRA President to lead the Region for the next year or until a new Region Leader is appointed.

Until October 2024, the Eastern Chair has consistently been elected by the resident members of the Eastern Region. However, several factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, new construction on numerous campuses, and a decline in volunteerism, have hindered the identification of a candidate in 2024 and 2025. Consequently, the NorCCRA President appointed a Region Leader for the 2024-25 term and is likely to do so again in 2025-26.

Communication among our members regardless of the community in which they reside is important and regional officers and meetings would add to our ability to accomplish that. To reach that goal we need strong leaders in each region. Leadership at the region level also prepares members for taking state-wide roles.



### **Meet Deborah Porto - NorCCRA's New Western Region Leader**

Deborah moved into the Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community in Asheville in January 2023 with her husband Brian. She was elected to the Residents Council in June 2024 and chaired the 2024-25 Facilities Committee. In June 2025 she became the Vice Chair of the Residents

Council and chairs the 2025-26 Finance Committee. Deborah became the Deerfield NorCCRA representative in 2024. She is interested in promoting NorCCRA membership, increasing communication among

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CCRC residents, sharing best practices, and promoting an understanding of how the rights of residents are protected under the North Carolina General Statutes.

She graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a B.A. in physics, Carnegie-Mellon University with a M.S. in electrical engineering and Western Carolina University with Ed.D. in Community College Leadership. Her career was as an Electrical Engineer and an Administrator in several North Carolina Community Colleges. In retirement she served on the Haywood County Broadband Committee and was a trustee of the Haywood Regional Medical Center and Haywood Community College.

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*Legislative Update  
from **Sindy**  
and **Martha***



## Call To Action (CTA) for NorCCRA members!

At the Eastern Regional Meeting at Croasdaile in April, Legislative Chair Sindy Barker presented this request approved by the Executive Committee on April 11:

*“With current discussions in the US Congress about changes to Social Security benefits and Medicare and Medicaid coverage, the NorCCRA Executive*

*Committee encourages NorCCRA members to communicate with North Carolina Senators Thom Tillis and Ted Budd and all 14 members of Congress with letters, emails, or phone calls urging them to support*

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continued funding at the current levels for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.”

On May 9, the Executive Committee reviewed letters from the National Coalition on Aging (NCCOA) and from NC Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey.

NorCCRA has been a member of the NC Coalition on Aging for many years. The NCCOA requested our support for aging programs either eliminated or deeply cut in the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 federal budget.

Commissioner Causey urged us to oppose proposed cuts to the Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP) created in 1986. Mr. Causey knows that *“SHIP staff and volunteers have helped millions of Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers with Medicare, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D and long-term care insurance. But SHIP’s future is currently under threat, and without continued state and federal funding, North Carolinians who rely on it could be left stranded.”*

President Skip Kingan will respond to NCCOA and Commissioner Causey with NorCCRA’s support to retain services for the aging, including three that particularly impact CCRC residents:

- **Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program:** a federal program that advocates for the rights and welfare of residents in long-term care facilities.
- **Direct Care Workforce Strategies Center:** provides technical assistance in the recruitment, training and retention of direct care workers.
- **Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP):** a free national program that provides one-on-one counseling and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries and their families on Medicare and other health insurance issues.

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### **HB357: Continuing Care Retirement Communities Statute**

The NC House Insurance Committee unanimously passed HB357: Continuing Care Retirement Communities statute on April 3. The bill must now pass the full House of Representatives and go to the Senate.

Following the unanimous vote for HB357, NorCCRA and LeadingAge North Carolina (LANC) representatives met with bill sponsor Representative Chris Humphrey.



L to R: NorCCRA lobbyist Cassidy Whitley; LANC lobbyist Randolph Cloud; NorCCRA Legislative Committee Co-Chair Sindy Barker; NorCCRA President Skip Kingan; primary bill sponsor Rep. Chris Humphrey; NorCCRA VP Joe Liegl; LANC board member Jonathan Erickson; LANC President Tom Akins

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## **Your Officers & Staff for 2024-2025**



**President  
Charles (Skip)  
Kingan**

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Croasdaile Village — [skingan47@gmail.com](mailto:skingan47@gmail.com)

VicePresident: Joe Liegl  
MultiState Continuing Care Group  
Carolina Meadows — [josephliegl@gmail.com](mailto:josephliegl@gmail.com)

Secretary: Marcia Hoffmann  
Piedmont Crossing [pcra.board@gmail.com](mailto:pcra.board@gmail.com)



**Vice President  
Joe Liegl**

Treasurer: Stuart "Stu" Rosenstein  
Croasdaile Village. [rosensteins@twc.com](mailto:rosensteins@twc.com)

### **OTHERS ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

John Olmstead, Past President  
Scotia Village — [olmsteaj@erols.com](mailto:olmsteaj@erols.com)

David Teal, Central Region Leader  
Well-Spring — [tealdavid@gmail.com](mailto:tealdavid@gmail.com)

Bill Lambe, Eastern Region Leader  
Croasdaile Village — [WHLCV@outlook.com](mailto:WHLCV@outlook.com)

Deborah Porto, Western Region Leader  
Deerfield - [deborahporto65@gmail.com](mailto:deborahporto65@gmail.com)

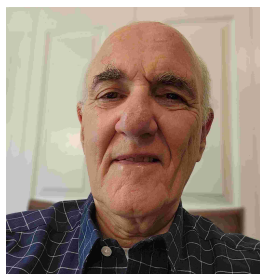
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Sharon Everhart, Director of Communications,  
HotLine Editor, MultiState Continuing Care Group  
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**Treasurer  
Stuart "Stu"  
Rosenstein**



**Secretary  
Marcia  
Hoffmann**



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The Hotline is published quarterly: March, June, September and December by the North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association (NorCCRA).

Submissions and other Hotline related communications should be

addressed to our Communications Director: Sharon

Everhart - email: [everhartjd@gmail.com](mailto:everhartjd@gmail.com), phone:

252-723-0364. If you have articles for publication, please

contact her. Sharon also maintains the list of NorCCRA

Presidents and their access to our Presidents Forum. So

when you elect your new President please contact her with

the name, email address, phone number and when the term

of your new President expires.



## **Application Form for membership in North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Fee: \$12 for individual; \$20 for couple.

Lifetime Fee: \$80 individual life membership, \$135 life membership for a couple. Please make your check payable to NorCCRA.

Give your check and application to your local NorCCRA representative, or mail to Susan Rhyne, 3913 Muhlenberg Court, Burlington, NC 27215

**Thank You.**