



The Hotline

North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association. www.norccra.org

The Eastern Region Annual Meeting Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at Croasdaile Village

The NorCCRA Eastern Region will hold their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at Croasdaile Village Retirement Community in Durham, North Carolina. The theme of our meeting is “Aging in North Carolina”.

The total population of North Carolina in 2022 was 10.7 million people and of those 1.85 million were 65 or older. For the last four years, NorCCRA, has devoted its efforts to strengthening the regulations governing our communities. The question arises, who is actively trying to advocate and protect the other 1.83 senior citizens



of our state. To give us some insight on that, we have invited three representatives from organizations focusing on seniors in North Carolina:

Mary Bethel is the Chair of the NC Coalition on Aging’s Board of Directors. In 2015 Mary retired as Associate State Director for Advocacy with AARP North Carolina. Prior to coming to AARP in October of 2005, she worked for almost 30 years with the N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services in a variety of administrative, supervisory and program capacities. Mary served as the first executive director of the Coalition on Aging.

Heather Burkhardt is the Associate State Director for AARP in the Triangle Region. Heather, with an educational background in social work and gerontology, has extensive experience related to the Aging Community.

Rebecca Freeman is the Section Chief, Service Operations, NC Division of Aging, NC Department of Health and Human Services. Rebecca has a Masters in Public Health Policy and Management from UNC Chapel Hill.

The morning session will be followed by lunch compliments of NorCCRA and Croasdaile Village Retirement Community. After lunch there will be a business meeting with reports from NorCCRA President, Skip Kingan and Sindy Barker, NorCCRA Legislative Committee Chairperson.

See Page 2 for information on registration for this meeting on April 15, 2025.



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Registration for Eastern Region Annual Meeting

All NorCCRA Members are invited and encouraged to attend.

When: Tuesday, April 15, 2025, starting at 10:00 AM, adjourn by 2:00 PM

Where: Croasdaile Village Retirement Community, 2600 Croasdaile Farm Pkwy, Durham, NC 27705

Lunch provided compliments of NorCCRA and Croasdaile Village Retirement Community

To Register email the name(s) of those attending, email address, residence community and any dietary restrictions

to: er41525annual@icloud.com

Registration ends Tuesday, April 1, 2024



President's Message.....from Skip

Last September, I indicated that there was a slim possibility that the North Carolina House would reconvene sufficiently to pass some of the over 280 bills then pending in the House Rules Committee. However, the House never fully reconvened and only met for brief periods to override the Governor's vetoes. Consequently, the session concluded without any progress on the CCRC proposed statute. Given that this was the final session of the biennial, the proposed statute was effectively eliminated from consideration in the House.

On December 11, 2024, the NC DOI Continuing Care Advisory Committee (CCAC) convened to review an updated version of the proposed CCRC statute. Resident members of the committee include Margaret Zircher (Carolina Meadows), Sharon Everhart (Grace Ridge), Paul Johnson (Aldersgate), and Joe Liegl (Carolina Meadows). The other members of the advisory committee are Perry Aycocock, Nicole Cook, Tim Mueller, Anita Holt, Reed Vanderslik, Pam Fox and Kevin McLeod who represent providers and industry professionals. Additionally, Skip Kingan (NorCCRA) and Tom Akins (LeadingAge) are members of the committee. Several members of the NorCCRA Executive Committee also attended the meeting to observe the proceedings.

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The CCAC meeting was dedicated to a discussion and review of the updated CCRC proposed statute, which was introduced during the 25-26 legislative session, commencing in February. NorCCRA and our lobbying team will once again assume the lead role in advocating for the passage of this proposed statute through the General Assembly.

Over the past year, NorCCRA has been diligently collecting email addresses from all members. Community representatives have been diligently gathering emails and forwarding them to the Membership Director, who subsequently adds them to the membership database. This initiative will facilitate more efficient and effective communication with all members simultaneously. The system will undergo testing in early March, during which an explanatory email will be distributed.

I would like to assure all members that the collected email addresses will exclusively be utilized for NorCCRA official purposes and will not be shared or disseminated to any third party. We extend our sincere gratitude to all community representatives who have actively participated in this project, particularly to Susan Rhyne, who has dedicated numerous hours to data entry.



Legislative Update
from Cindy
and Martha



SB105, Continuing Care Retirement Communities, passed first reading in the Senate on February 18 and was sent to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations. Senator Todd Johnson (District 35, Cabarrus and Union counties) successfully shepherded our bill through the Senate in 2023 and again is our primary Senate sponsor. He chairs the Senate Commerce and Insurance Committee and now serves as Senate Majority Whip.

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SB105 is the same as SB145, which passed the Senate, but not the House, during the 2023-24 legislative session. We await the introduction of the companion bill in the House of Representatives. NorCCRA lobbyist Cassidy Whitley is working with the NC Department of Insurance (DOI) to identify key sponsor(s) in the House. The DOI Legislative Task Force met in December 2024 and unanimously agreed to support SB105. Consensus among the stakeholders is key to a successful trip through the General Assembly.

Other issues have come up during the past two years as a result of the Aldersgate problems. DOI Deputy Director Jeff Trendell will convene the 2025 DOI Legislative Task Force to discuss three additional sections to SB105. We hope to obtain consensus on these issues. On February 14, the NorCCRA Executive Committee endorsed SB105 as written, and identified our position on the following: 1) Dividends and distributions, 2) Related party transactions, and 3) Entrance fee refunds. Our goal is to amend SB105 either in committee or at a later date once SB105 has passed the Legislature.

Helene reports from NorCCRA CCRCs

From Tryon Estates: “Most heartwarming, though, were the many incidences of neighbors helping neighbors—whether it was cleaning out refrigerators, washing dishes, or just spending time together. Two residents who had cell service allowed others to use their phones to call family. One ingenious resident rigged up wire coat hangers as rabbit ears for small televisions relocated into hallway sitting areas. Activities like rock painting, line dancing, ping pong, chair volleyball, and YouTube TV in the lobby encouraged residents to get out of their apartments and socialize with neighbors. And then there was the food. Every time we turned around, culinary was handing out ice cream bars and other snacks. As one resident says, “Interacting with the staff brought home the fact that we are truly one big family.”

From Deerfield: Their Facilities Committee did a Survey on Resident Preparedness and found that more than 80% of their residents had the following Emergency Supply items: Blanket, Medicine, Flashlight, Batteries, Walking Shoes, Hand Sanitizer, Manual Can Opener, Cash, Water for 3 days, and Food. But fewer than 80% had the following on hand: Cell Phone charged with Power Backup, Fuel Auto (four had no car), First Aid Kit, Full Bath Tub with Water, Bucket, and Battery Radio. They used this event to educate their residents on how to respond to future emergencies.



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From Givens Estates: Thanks to a massive collaborative effort, a sense of normalcy was returning to the campus by Thanksgiving. Lessons learned after Tropical Storm Helene will inform policies and programs that need improving. However responses to early Resident Association surveys suggest broad appreciation for the performance of Givens Estates leadership and staff and for volunteers like Boy Scouts of the Bucket Brigade. Of the 560 surveys sent to residents' email: 260 were completed (a 46.5% response rate); and 97% said Givens Estates, in responding to the emergency, did an "excellent" or "very good job."

From Brookside Facility Services Director, Jim Boyer:

We will long remember the last week in September 2024. First the mid-week rains, then that final blow overnight Thursday and late into Friday afternoon, until finally the sun decided to show its curious face.

Quickly we noticed the power outage, then the lack of water in our taps. Within seconds, our generators began to restore power to our healthcare center and kitchen, and to Brookside Commons, with the kitchen and dining room that sustained us through so many weeks of this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Ken Kramer, who also happens to be a trustee on the board of Mission Hospital, observed a well being drilled on the Mission property. The wheels began to turn, and the next thing we knew, Carolina Well and Pump was here! The first well location was selected by the driller, but its production rate was insufficient for our intended purpose. At that point, resident Kate Pittman stepped in and offered to provide dowsing services. We were very encouraged!

Kate directed us to a very specific location on the east side of the Brookside Apartments. Our driller hit the motherlode at that location. It's an excellent well with production of over 75 gallons per minute. In the absence of potable water from the City, we made connections to Brookside. This well continues to serve the entire Brookside Apartments, Brookside Commons with our fabulous kitchen and dining room, and the older J & K Buildings.

Are we considering well water as a permanent solution to water independence? Yes, as well as the associated regulatory challenges. Time will tell as we thirst for more information!



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From Carolina Village: We announced in August our intent to purchase the building previously known as “The Opportunity House,” located at 1411 Asheville Highway, Hendersonville, three miles from our campus. The purchase of the 19,800-square-foot facility and its 2.01 acres of property has now been completed. It was flooded during Helene, so we will likely raze the building before beginning construction on a new building at that location. The Opportunity House has a rich history as a senior center, a service central to the aging population of Henderson County. This service has been missed by many since The Opportunity House’s closure.

We still intend to honor that history and return the property to its place of service to the community through collaborative community partnerships. We plan to collaborate with other community non-profits to serve a broad range of services, from children to seniors: childcare options, senior wellness, memory care, health care.

From NorCCRA: At the 2024 NorCCRA Annual Meeting held at Well-Spring, NorCCRA President Skip Kingan announced that the NorCCRA Executive Committee had approved a \$5,000 donation to the LeadingAge Foundation to help senior residential communities that had suffered due to Hurricane Helene. He said; “Many senior residential communities in Western North Carolina were without electricity or potable water. LeadingAge through its North Carolina Foundation used the donations to gather and transport food, water, clothing and other personal items to senior communities in the affected areas. Many CCRCs from the Central and Eastern regions have been sending personnel to give some relief to the overworked and exhausted staff members in the affected communities.” Many of the staff in western North Carolina communities lost their homes, vehicles, and, tragically, loved ones. Recognizing the importance of these men and women, the NorCCRA Executive Committee authorized an additional \$10,000 donation to help continue efforts to support senior community staff members. Thanks was expressed to LeadingAge NC for taking the lead to provide aid to NorCCRA residents, their communities and the staffs that care for them on a routine basis.



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Your Officers & Staff for 2024-2025



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Kingan**

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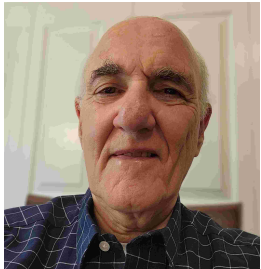
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The Hotline is published quarterly: March, June, September and December by the North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association (NorCCRA). Submissions and other Hotline related communications should be addressed to our Communications Director: Sharon Everhart - email: everhartjd@gmail.com, phone: 252-723-0364. If you have articles you would like to be considered for publication, please contact her. She 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 check payable to NorCCRA.

Give your check and application form to your local NorCCRA representative, otherwise mail to Susan Rhyne, 3913 Muhlenberg Court, Burlington, NC 27215 **Thank You.**