

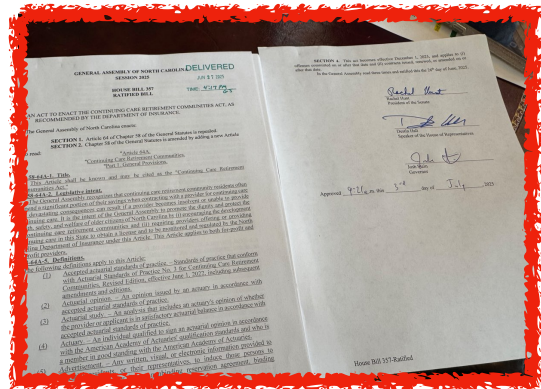


# The Hotline

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

**WE DID IT! NEW CCRC STATUTE TO BECOME LAW ON DEC. 1, 2025**  
**SIGNED, SEALED, AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY GOVERNOR**  
**JOSH STEIN** - JULY 3, 2025 from NorCCRA Legislative Committee co-  
 chairs *Sindy Barker and Martha Wood*

**H357, Continuing Care Retirement Communities**, unanimously passed the NC Senate on June 25, arrived in the Governor's office on June 27, and Governor Josh Stein, Lt. Governor Rachel Hunt, and House Speaker Destin Hall signed the bill on July 3. It will become known as Chapter 58, Article 64A when it takes effect on December 1, 2025.



NorCCRA stayed busy during the legislative session. **Representative Chris Humphrey** introduced H357 in the NC House of Representatives on March 10. Two days later the bill went to the House Insurance Committee where it was amended, received a favorable report, and moved to the House Finance Committee. It was again amended, received a favorable report, and went to the House Rules Committee, which reported favorably on June 10, and sent it to the full House where it unanimously passed second and third readings.

The Senate received H357 on June 16. **Senate Majority Whip Todd Johnson** sponsored the Senate companion bill and shepherded H357 through that chamber. The Senate Commerce and Insurance and the Judiciary Committees rendered favorable reports on June 17, followed by favorable reports from the Finance and Rules Committee. H357 unanimously passed the second reading in the full Senate on June 24 and third reading on June 25.

After more than three years of intense discussion and reaching consensus, H357 unanimously passed the House and the Senate in less than two weeks!

*continued on page 2*



# *The Hotline*

North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association.

[www.norccra.org](http://www.norccra.org)

Throughout the journey, NorCCRA lobbyist Cassidy Whitley kept bill sponsors and NorCCRA leadership fully updated and informed. NorCCRA President Skip Kingan, Vice President Joe Liegl, and Legislative Committee Co-Chair Sindy Barker always knew when and where to show up, speak up, or keep their mouths shut.

After more than 1400 days when Deputy Commissioner of Insurance Jeff Trendel began the journey to add **much needed details and increased protections** for residents, the bill landed on the Governor's desk, and he signed it on **July 3, 2025**.

We offer sincere gratitude to all NorCCRA and LeadingAge members who have joined this journey.

Following are links to both a Summary of the new statute and the entire Statute: [https://www.norccra.org/documents/2025\\_CCRC\\_Act.pdf](https://www.norccra.org/documents/2025_CCRC_Act.pdf); [https://www.norccra.org/documents/NorCCRA\\_summary\\_CCRC\\_Act.pdf](https://www.norccra.org/documents/NorCCRA_summary_CCRC_Act.pdf)



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

Just before moving into Croasdaile Village in early 2019, Jeanne and I attended a lunch for new residents. That lunch was part of an orientation program for new residents. Much to my surprise, one of the speakers was Virgil Torbert, a long-time acquaintance from golf.

I didn't know Virgil was a resident at Croasdaile Village and was curious as to what he would talk about. Virgil was the NorCCRA Community Representative, and he did a great job of selling NorCCRA to the incoming residents, including my wife.

After Virgil finished his presentation, my wife elbowed me and said, "This NorCCRA thing is something you should look into. When the meeting was over, I found Virgil and expressed my surprise that he was so involved in NorCCRA and told him if he needed help, he should call me. My mistake!

*continued on page 3*



## *The Hotline*

North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association.

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Virgil told me he was retiring, and I had just volunteered to take his place as NorCCRA Community Representative for Croasdaile Village. Six years later, here we are!

During the last six years, NorCCRA has continually fought to advocate for and protect senior citizens living in continuing care communities. This year, we were principal participants in the passage of the 2025 version of the Continuing Care Retirement Communities Act.

We have consistently grown our membership, continually provided interesting and educational programs for our members, and published the Quarterly *Hotline*. Even during the Covid years, NorCCRA has been successful because we have always had a strong team of dedicated volunteers who have worked diligently to fulfill the NorCCRA Mission.

My third and last term as NorCCRA President will end on October 14, 2025. As the incoming Past President, my main task will be to ensure the continuity of NorCCRA. As chair of the nominating committee for the next two years, I plan to start on October 15 seeking out and recruiting volunteers to help continue NorCCRA's winning ways. I urge you to make my job easier by letting me know that you are interested and willing to work on behalf of all CCRC residents in North Carolina.

It has been a pleasure serving as NorCCRA's President, and I look forward to sitting in the audience with the rest of you at our 2026 meetings.

**Plan to attend the NorCCRA Annual Membership Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at Croasdaile Village Retirement Community in Durham, NC.**

Jeff Trendel, Department of Insurance Deputy Commissioner, will discuss the regulatory changes with the recently passed CCRC Act which impact CCRCs and their residents. Tommy Brewer, a managing director of the Senior Living Team at Ziegler Investment Bankers, will talk about the impact of the new CCRC Act on our communities in the years to come.

There will also be reports from the 2024-25 officers and the election and installation of officers for 2025-2026. More information on this important annual meeting and how to register will be forthcoming from your Community Representative and in an email from NorCCRA.



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### **CAROL WOODS REACHES LEVEL II ARBORETUM STATUS**

by *Sindy Barker*

The Carol Woods grounds team has worked hard over the last year to receive Level II Arboretum status from ArbNet, the internationally recognized Arboretum Accreditation agency. Just last year Carol Woods received Level I Arboretum status, and quickly decided they wanted to achieve Level II status. The additional criteria to be met included labeling over 100 tree and woody plant taxa; providing enhanced public and educational programs; creating a collection policy; allowing public access; and holding at least one annual event open to the public.



There are only 132 arboreta in the US that have reached Level II status. Carol Woods is the only CCRC in North Carolina with a Level II and is one of only four in the country.

The road to Level II status demonstrates a total commitment of the grounds department staff. Manager Jen Schilkowski says that everything they do is a collaborative effort with a lot of creative thinking in staff meetings where there is an unwritten policy stating, “there are no stupid ideas.”

Here are some of the specific projects that make Carol Woods stand out horticulturally from other CCRCs. First, is a new walking tour brochure of the Carol Woods Arboretum marking the location of 100 trees. All trees are marked with a QR (Quick Response) Code at their base so you can focus your smartphone on the code, click it and you are immediately connected to a description of the tree courtesy of the NC State University Extension Service.

A favorite path wends its way from the top of Harkness Circle to

*continued on page 5*





# *The Hotline*

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

some garden benches where a Post Oak provides shade all summer. “Post Oak is a deciduous tree that may grow 40 to 50 feet tall and is known for its hardness and resistance to decay, making it a suitable choice for posts that would be in contact with the ground common in the poorer soils of the Piedmont but is also found in the mountains.”

Following the path over a wooden bridge, on the right is a plaque, Certified Wildlife Habitat from the National Wildlife Federation stating: “This property is recognized for its commitment to sustainably provide essential elements of wildlife habitat, food, water, cover, and place to raise young.” Further on is a path leading to the Millstone Garden where wooden benches overlook the pond – the home of an occasional great blue heron, a pair of Canada geese and perhaps a duck or two. On the other side of the path is a sign that reminds us that we are Certified Bird Friendly Habitat by the New Hope Bird Alliance.

According to the ArbNet website: “Carol Woods Retirement Community is a not-for-profit Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) founded in 1979 in Chapel Hill NC. It sits on approximately 130 acres of beautiful and diverse land, with an estimated 65% canopy coverage. Carol Woods is the proud steward of five individual oaks that are over 200 years old, dense pine forests, mature hardwood species, specimen trees, and exotic ornamentals. The community is devoted to preserving its distinctive natural habitat for years to come.”

## **An All-In Collaboration Provides a Fresh Outlook at Piedmont Crossing** submitted by Kelly Sigmon

The comments about Unity Place came gradually. “I can’t hear what they’re saying.” “This chair is uncomfortable.” “The lighting isn’t good.” “How long has that carpet been here?”

As the comments increased, the Rev. Bob Symanski, director of spiritual life at [Piedmont Crossing](#), began to think about improvements to boost the usability and comfort of the community’s main gathering space. Consulting with the Rev. Dr. Thad Austin, the [EveryAge Foundation's](#)

*continued on page 6*



## The Hotline

North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association.

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vice-president of philanthropy, the two began to plan for a robust renovation and a campaign to finance it.

They looked to residents, families, staff, partners, vendors, Board members, and organizations for support and tapped into the Foundation's funds for campus enrichment and spiritual life. The interest and the generosity were there, and in short order, wishes became project plans, and the work began, including new carpeting and luxury vinyl plank floors; muted paint measurably brightened the space; a reconceived lighting plan; a brand-new sound system; upholstered, wood-framed armchairs; accent walls of cultured stone added visual interest; and a suite of handmade furniture was commissioned from a local wood artisan.

On Tuesday, April 15, 2025, Piedmont Crossing hosted a service of rededication for Unity Place, showing off its upgrades and opening it once again for events and activities. The rededication service began with a welcome from executive director Jan Purdy-Gray and an invocation from Marcia Hoffmann, president of the Residents Association. Lee Syria, president and CEO of [EveryAge](#), the parent organization of Piedmont Crossing, thanked donors and other dignitaries and gathered attendees for the ribbon-cutting, marking the premiere of the new space (see photo below).



The delight residents felt at having Unity Place reinvigorated was palpable, and their pride in what they made happen was pronounced. While the space is certainly more beautiful and user-friendly than ever before, the true benefit of the renovation is seeing a dream transformed into reality through hope, effort, and joyful collaboration.



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



**President  
Charles (Skip)  
Kingan**

President: Charles "Skip" Kingan  
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**

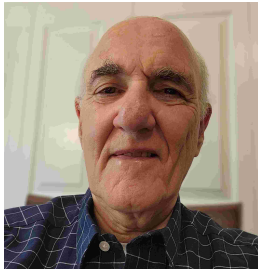
Treasurer: Stuart "Stu" Rosenstein  
Croasdaile Village. [rosensteins@twc.com](mailto:rosensteins@twc.com)

### **OTHERS ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

Central Region Leader position open

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



**Treasurer  
Stuart "Stu"  
Rosenstein**

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

Tom Burrell , President Appointee  
Porters Neck - [tom.burrell@verizon.net](mailto:tom.burrell@verizon.net)

Sindy Barker, Legislative Affairs Co-Chair  
Carol Woods — [sindydevoebarker@gmail.com](mailto:sindydevoebarker@gmail.com)



**Secretary  
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Hoffmann**

Martha Wood, Legislative Affairs Co-Chair  
Salem towne — [mjswood@gmail.com](mailto:mjswood@gmail.com)

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Sharon Everhart, Director of Communications,  
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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(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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.**