



The *hotline*

A REPORT ON THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN REGION OF THE NCCCRA

Morganton, April 8, 2014

Clint Smoke, Deerfield, Asheville, NC.

It was a delightful spring day when 66 members of the WNC NCCCRA representing the communities of Aldersgate, Deerfield, Grace Ridge, Southminster, and Tryon Estates gathered for their Annual Meeting at the beautiful Grace Ridge Retirement Community in Morganton, NC on April 8, 2014. Glenn Lloyd facilitated the event.

WNC CCRC Chairperson Brenda Tremoulet called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. After a few welcoming remarks she introduced Mr. Walt Boyer, president of NCCCRA. Walt Boyer welcomed those attending and introduced Mr. Tom Akin, executive director of LeadingAge NC, our keynote speaker.



Tom Akin, Executive Director, LeadingAge, NC

Mr. Akin addressed several important and relevant topics of interest to all of us. The first was a little information about his organization. LeadingAge North Carolina, based in Chapel Hill, has 67 member communities statewide that include continuing care retirement communities, assisted living communities, skilled nursing facilities, and affordable housing providers. These communities employ 14,000 mission-oriented staff serving more than 20,000 North Carolinians. In addition, LeadingAge North Carolina has 73 corporate members who provide services, products, and trusted advice to our members. The Association offers education, advocacy, networking, and shared services and is a state affiliate for LeadingAge in Washington, DC. Their purpose is advocacy and trend analysis on behalf of their members. He noted that North Carolina has the best system in the country for overseeing CCRCs. The state statutes provide direction and the NC Department of Insurance (NC DOI) insures compliance. In summary, it is all about making things better for residents and staff.

Next, he talked a about the demographics of our communities, stating with a short history lesson of how we have housed seniors throughout the years, the predecessors of CCRCs. We are now seeing a trend that takes us back to the start—back home. This translates to living in a home-like environment while having the benefits of a retirement community.

He noted that 21 percent of the world's population is over 60; in the U.S., that statistic is about 26 percent. Each day, 10,000 people in the U.S. turn 65. The baby boomers are coming to the CCRCs. However, if their average entry age is as it is today, they are 14 years away from moving. How can we prepare for their arrival?

A lesson for CCRCs: Fall in love with the marketplace and not your products. Some challenging questions: How can CCRCs provide services that future residents want? We may have to rethink how we deliver services. Can we deliver

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assisted living care in the independent living environment? How do we provide the medical support these residents need, from physicians to care givers? How do we provide workforce development for the staff? How do we use technology to support them? How are we going to pay for this?

There are about 1,900 CCRCs in the nation, about 60 in NC, and most are non-profits. (NC ranks 10th in the US by number.) In NC, they are regulated by NC DOI, the Medical Care Commission, the State Department of Health, NC OSHA, and all the local jurisdiction agencies that deal with zoning, permits, building codes, land use, etc.

Finally he talked about politics and the changing makeup of the political landscape in NC. The recent changes are significant: the changes include the governor, the legislature, and more, as the governor appoints many of those who run the various state agencies, when the governor changes, so do they. The big issue in the last session of the legislature was the budget. This included tax reform. One of these issues was the sales-tax refund for non-profits. If this had gone as proposed, it would have cost CCRCs about \$7 million. In its final form, the law did not affect CCRCs. The other issue was elimination of the property-tax exemption for non-profit CCRCs. It got nowhere in the last session, but it may return in future sessions.

Mr. Akin also explained how the changes in the state income tax laws affect us. The major change in the NC income tax laws that affect the current year's return is elimination of the medical deduction.

Our second speaker was Mary Bethel with AARP. Ms. Bethel works with the federal and state legislature on issues that affect seniors. She also talked about recent changes in the makeup of the U.S. Congress and the NC state legislature, and how these changes are shaping politics in Washington and in Raleigh.

In the last two election cycles, we have seen a change in two thirds of the members of the state legislature. The trend has favored the Republicans who enacted changes related to their agenda. In the last session, bills were introduced dealing with tax on social security benefits, prescription drugs, food, and real estate property. All of these would affect CCRCs and us as individuals. AARP went to bat to protect us on these issues. A strong response from citizens kept these ideas from becoming law. NCCCRA helped. The next session will be a short session: She expects little change in the tax laws. However, she cautioned, we must remain vigilant.



Mary Bethel, Associate State Director, Advocacy, AARP

Other big issues for seniors: Medicare and Medicaid, Voter IDs, and home health care. (People want to stay in their homes. Some changes are coming for funding for health care, food, and transportation for seniors.) Big issues at the state level—funding for Community Block Grants for essential services for seniors. Another issue: Fraud of seniors. NC is increasing systems for reporting and imposing more significant penalties.

Several interesting statistics: In NC, 80 percent of seniors over 80 derive half or more of their income from social security. The average monthly check is \$1,150. Nearly all of seniors in NC have Medicare. Retirement savings are at historic lows. And the state is maturing: Increasing numbers of counties are seeing more seniors (folks over 70) than youth (folks under 20). The collective impact is a significant concern for AARP.

A delightful lunch, including some delicious North Carolina barbeque, beans, slaw and Johnny Cake, was served at noon, followed by entertainment and a brief business meeting.

A REPORT ON THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL REGION OF THE NCCCRA

Winston Salem, April 22, 2014

Randall Edwards, Chair, Central Region.

The annual spring meeting of the NC Continuing Care Residents Association Central Region was held on April 22, 2014, at Arbor Acres in Winston Salem. Over 80 residents, representing 9 different continuing care communities, attended. Welcoming remarks were given by David Piner, CEO of Arbor Acres.



Our speaker was Dr. William B. Applegate, clinician and clinical researcher in the Department of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine at Wake Forest University Health Sciences. Dr. Applegate is a former dean of Wake Forest University School of Medicine and president of Wake Forest University Health Sciences. In 2011, Dr. Applegate stepped aside from his administrative roles to return to the faculty as a clinician and clinical researcher. His research has focused on clinical issues related to aging, including hypertension and cardiovascular disease and the impact of physical activity on function. He spoke about the implications of current research in these areas, using humor and thought-provoking questions to keep the audience actively involved.

Dr. Applegate's presentation was followed by comments from our NCCCRA State President Walt

Boyer. Lunch was served and we concluded the meeting with a brief business session. The Chair advised that we did not have a slate of officers to present for election for the coming year. He further advised that all current officers have served the maximum consecutive terms allowed by our bylaws in their respective positions. He then asked if there were any nominations from the floor for officers for next year. There being none, he stated that, in accordance with our Central Region bylaws, our current officers will continue to serve until replaced. He further advised that our regional bylaws state that the community representatives present at the next steering committee meeting shall fill midterm vacancies by vote. A steering committee meeting will be scheduled, we hope, in May or June, at which time the community representatives will choose their leadership either from among themselves or others who have indicated an interest in serving as officers. Members present were encouraged to let their community representative know if they were interested in serving in any position.

A big "Thank You" goes out to our speakers and the Arbor Acres residents and staff who helped make our meeting enjoyable and successful.

**A MODEST ENERGY PROPOSAL
FROM CAROLINA MEADOWS**

Mary Smith

Recently on TV, Governor Rick Perry of Texas was speaking about the U.S. economy and how it could be improved if “all our natural resources” were used to their full capacity. He surmised that in ten years the U.S. could be completely independent of foreign oil.

At once I foresaw the huge outcry of protest against the devastation of our countryside and its occupants that this policy would entail. How could it possibly be avoided? What other sources of power that have not already been thought of can we, as concerned citizens, develop?

Innovative Proposal

Well...what about people power? Let us consider the amount of energy expended daily in our own Exercise Room. What a waste! Just think—surely in the course of the present renovations to our building, the power company could fit a few dynamos and cables to our exercise machines, which could then furnish all the power for our new kitchen? As we are often reminded, all progressive movements have begun with the first step, in itself simple, but which has led to dramatic improvements in our daily lives.

The only drawback to this scheme is that these machines would have to be driven constantly, day and night, which leads to you, dear readers. We would ask Fitness Coordinator Michelle Marino to post a sign-up sheet on the notice board in the Exercise Room for residents to offer whatever hours they could spare in the daytime.

Now we all know how dogs love to run, so to take care of the night-time hours, those energetic pets who are large enough could be harnessed to the machines with a rabbit attached, just out of reach, to keep them motivated. Even two small dogs in tandem could be used if they are sufficiently energetic.

Benefits and Fame Predicted

The benefits in health improvement to both adults and pets are obvious, saving medical expenses and veterinarians’ fees. And imagine the kudos for Carolina Meadows when the local, then national, newspapers get hold of this story! We would be the first retirement community in the country with residents able and willing to give their time and energy

to power production, to help their country achieve preeminence in the world, setting an example for all retirees, everywhere.

Of course there would be a prize for the person who produced the greatest amount of power in a month. He or she would be honored with a coupon for a free milkshake in the café and the dog that ran the most miles would finally be allowed to reach the rabbit.

So let the Olympic spirit flourish. Rise to the challenge of Carolina Meadows Power!



MEMORIES OF SEVILLE

Jim Beales

There is a Spanish saying to the effect that “once you visit Sevilla (Seville) you will always return.” There is much truth in that, because the sheer beauty of that Andalusian capital burns in one’s memory. It is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities of the world, settled by the Carthaginians in the fifth century BC. It was captured by Julius Caesar in 45 BC. After the Roman Empire faded in the fifth century AD, the Vandals took over: then came the Visigoths who ruled until the Arab invasion of 711 AD. Moorish domination lasted for over 500 years, ending in the thirteenth century. Six previous occupiers preceded the kingdom of Spain to rule over this ancient and historic city.

Seville, although inland, is a port accessible to ocean-going ships because of its great river. Trade with the Americas opened Seville to the riches of the world, reflected in the many palaces and beautiful public buildings and parks which today overwhelm the visitor.

Traces of the early Moorish civilization are evident in the small, winding streets of Seville. One of the largest Gothic cathedrals of the world was built on the site of a 12th century Moorish mosque. It dominates the inner city. When first conceived, the city fathers said that they “wanted to build a cathedral so big and so impressive that the rest of the world will think that we have gone mad!”

They succeeded; the Cathedral is so awe-inspiring that one is overcome with emotion entering it. Exquisite carvings, precious metals and elegant stonework are present throughout. It is a feast for the eyes. In addition to the main altar and transept, there are 42 smaller altars in rooms along

the outside walls; these were once the property of wealthy families and benefactors for their own use in weddings, baptisms and funerals. Over time as family fortunes ebbed the cathedral assumed control of more and more of them.

Near one aisle of this magnificent Gothic cathedral is a huge memorial to Christopher Columbus. A large casket, believed to contain the remains of the Great Explorer, is borne by four lifelike knights in full dress. The whole display appears to be made of copper. The knights represent the four ancient kingdoms of Aragon, Castile, Leon, and Navarre. The guide told us that Columbus was first buried on the island of Santo Domingo. The remains were later moved to Cuba until that country became independent from Spain, at which time the remains were sent to the Cathedral of Seville. The island of Santo Domingo now claims that it still has the relics of Columbus. Our guide said that modern DNA testing could prove the answer for once and for all. Then, she made a most profound statement: “It is better for things to stay the way they are”, she said. “I am willing to accept, on faith that Christopher Columbus is here.”

Accepting things, on faith, is, indeed, the first step toward wisdom. The definition of faith is “belief where no proof is necessary.” Would not it be a tragic world if everything had to be proven factually? To prove the existence of faith, would you please tell me why, on a round globe, people walk with feet toward the ground, those on the opposite side of the earth have their feet pointing toward each other? Why are people not spun off as the earth spins rapidly through the heavens? Or tell me, if you can precisely how electricity works? These are but a few of the many things that we accept on faith.

And, for every one of us, that is a very good thing



A GREEN ROOF FOR CAROL WOODS

In 2013, Carol Woods Retirement Community built a sun porch on the second floor of our Health Center as a welcoming place for residents to gather. The sun porch is well used and admired. The third floor Health Center residents however, looked out of their entertainment roof on to a newly created flat roof that covers the second floor sun porch. This provided our community with an unexpected opportunity. Tony Bayless, Director of Landscaping and Grounds and Robin Holmes, private duty gardener, invited residents to explore whether a green roof might be the perfect solution to this newly created outside space. The group of more than 20 residents was enthusiastic and ready to make something happen.

And happen it did. Tony Bayless and Robin Holmes sought collaboration with North Carolina State University. A group of students in their senior year took on our green roof as their Capstone Project. They used the fall to plan the project and implemented it in the spring.

Four students working with a mentor and sponsor submitted proposals for the roof. Their presentation to Carol Woods residents and staff provided three options. Our community selected the third which provided the greatest storm water management for the flat roof. This April, the students began the installation of the green roof starting first with small river rock to cover the drains and prevent clogging. Next came a drainage mat and water retention filter fleece, then they added growing medium. Last, they unrolled a pre-seeded mat for the plants, including 15 different kinds of sedum and two species of ice plants. During the installation, the students had an ever-changing group of interested residents and staff observing and asking questions about the project. We all celebrated with lemonade and cookies when the project was completed.

NC State University awarded two undergraduate research grants to assist the students with the green roof project. The students gifted Carol Woods with more than their ideas, expertise and labor. As residents, we enjoyed their open and sharing interactions with us during the installation. The students arrived early and left late on the several days they took to produce our green roof. A great adventure for all! We're now contemplating whether we want to add art work to our green roof. Wait and see what happens next!

Sindy Barker, Co-Editor of the *Carol Woods News*

RESISTANCE TAKES MANY FORMS...

“50 reasons why we can't do it”

1. We tried that before.
2. Our systems are different.
3. It costs too much.
4. That's beyond our responsibility.
5. That's not my job.
6. We're all too busy to do that.
7. It's too radical a change.
8. There's not enough help.
9. We've never done it before.
10. We don't have the authority.
11. There's not enough time.
12. Let's get back to reality.
13. That's not our problem.
14. Why change it? It's still working OK.
15. I don't like that idea.
16. You're right, but ...
17. You're two years ahead of your time.
18. It isn't in the budget.
19. We're not ready for that.
20. Sounds OK but impractical.
21. Let's give it some more thought.
22. That's my bowling day.
23. That doesn't affect me or my child.
24. Nobody cares about that.
25. We've always done it this way.
26. It might not work.
27. Not that again!
28. Where'd you dig that one up?
29. We did all right without it.
30. It's never been tried before.
31. Let's shelve it for the time being.
32. I don't see the connection.
33. What you are really saying is ...
34. Let's not be the first.
35. Maybe that would work in your department but not in mine.
36. The administration will never go for it.
37. It can't be done.
38. It's too much trouble.
39. It's impossible.
40. You're not here to think.
41. Can't teach an old dog new tricks.
42. Let me think about that and I'll get back to you.
43. Let's wait until the next generation.
44. Legislation says (I can't remember) we can't do that.
45. We can't fight city hall.
46. That's old/new business and can't be discussed now.
47. That's too serious a subject.
48. No one is interested.
49. It's too early to think about it.
50. It's too late to start.

JAMESTOWN REDISCOVERY NEWSLETTER
**Artifact Hunt:
The Curator's Curiosity Cabinet**

Modern plastic pill bottle

What does your plastic pill bottle from the pharmacist have in common with a stalk of bamboo? More than you think!

The pill bottle of today reflects a cylindrical form that has been used to store drugs since the 14th century. Hollow sections of bamboo stalks were originally employed to store and ship medicinal substances such as spices, herbs, cosmetics, and

aromatics from the Orient to the Middle East. The Middle East, having no bamboo, began producing tin-

glazed earthenware vessels that mimicked the general shape of the bamboo containers to hold medicines on pharmacy shelves.

This tradition spread through Hispano-Moresque traders to Spain and Italy where the form became known as an albarello, seemingly derived from *elbarani*, the Arabic word for bamboo. A cylindrical vessel with a slightly everted rim, the albarello has a constricted neck and base that reflects the internodal sections of bamboo. The vessel would be sealed by tying parchment or leather over the opening.

In the 16th century, the form was introduced to England and the Low Countries where it became known as a gallipot, perhaps in reference to the flat single-decked ships called galleys that traded Spanish and Italian wares to the north. Dutch and English potters soon began producing their own tin-glazed earthenware gallipots, which are referred to by today's researchers as Anglo-Netherlandish drug or apothecary jars. The wares of the two countries are very difficult to distinguish, with both areas fabricating jars that are hand-painted with similar designs inspired by Persian and Chinese motifs. Future scientific analyses of the clays and glazes and studies of the physical attributes of the jars found in securely dated contexts may help to sort this out.

The drug jar is one of the most common ceramic forms found at early Jamestown and while some contain residues (which may be identifiable through future materials analyses) others appear to have been shipped to the colony as empty containers. This reflects not only the colony's need for drugs to treat the settlers' wounds and illnesses, but also the Virginia Company's emphasis


Two James Fort tin-glazed earthenware drug jars reflecting similarity to sections of bamboo.

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on finding new and/or proven medicinal substances in the New World. When writing of Virginia's natural bounty in 1607, for instance, Captain Gabriel Archer particularly mentioned seeing "apothecary drugs of divers sorts, some known to be of good estimation, some strange, of whose virtue the savages report wonders."

So, next time you get a plastic pill bottle from your pharmacist, think about the influences shaping the



An assemblage of some of the drug jars found in the early James Fort contexts.

modern container that came centuries before: the sections of bamboo that shipped drugs from the Orient, the cylindrical albarelli standing side-by-side on the shelves of ancient Persian pharmacies (just like your bottles in the medicine cabinet), and the colorful drug jars used to collect and store medicines from England's first successful transatlantic colony. In many ways we have returned to where it all began - with undecorated and strictly utilitarian containers for our medications.

Bly Straube
Senior Archaeological Curator
Jamestown Rediscovery

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A MEMORY RENEWED

Barely touching my consciousness, a hauntingly familiar melody reached my ears. At first I was not sure it was real, but then clearly I heard combined voices singing syllables that seemed to be Korean, "*cau-do-di-do-da*."

NO! They were not singing in Korean. They were singing "Bringing in the Sheaves." I was in the Bistro and I completely forgot the food as my mind wandered back down the decades of memory lane. How long had it been, 60 or 70 years?

Korea was not called "The Hermit Kingdom" without cause. Until 1896 it was against the law for foreigners to enter the country. The penalty was death. The Koreans of that period did not have a high opinion of Caucasians.

This is the translation of a statement by Sin Ki Son, Korean Minister of Education, written in 1896, a mere six years before my father went to that country as a Methodist missionary.

Europe and America are far removed from the center of civilization. It would not be too far from the truth to think of Europeans and Americans as more like animals than human beings. Their languages resemble the chirping of birds rather than human languages so that one finds it hard to understand them. Their religion, called Christianity, is a paganism so full of vulgarities, fallacies and superstitions that it is not worth our attention.

—*America and East Asia, Foreign Affairs, Jan 1977, p. 368*

My father, who went to Korea in 1902, told me of an incident during his early years there. He was carrying out his evangelical duties in the northern part of the country where no Caucasian had been seen since 1866 when some French Jesuit priests had been executed for entering the country. Father was on his horse—his usual form of transportation in that mountainous territory with no real roads. Like me so many years later, he said at first he couldn't believe his ears as he heard a voice singing in the distance. It sounded like *cau-do-di-do-da, cau-do-di-do-da*. Over and over again like an old, worn Victrola record. As Father drew closer to the voice, he saw a lad of ten or twelve singing the refrain as he gathered firewood. When asked, the boy explained that a man from his village had moved to the city, where he had converted to Christianity. When he returned for a visit, he brought the story he had learned about Jesus—and a hymn.

A great big thanks to the chorus for the return of a long lost memory about my father as I joined them, *cau-do-di-do-da*.

Park Gardine, Deerfield, Asheville

STARTING AN NCCCRA INTEREST GROUP FOR YOUR CCRC

1. At Carol Woods, we decided to have co-reps. (see job description for CW NCCCRA reps. *See Page 6*).
2. Two of us met and talked about our responsibilities, how to find out what our residents wanted from NCCCRA, how to generate interest in NCCCRA, how to get feedback about our own ideas, and how to utilize the wealth of talent, information, and expertise that our residents offer.
3. We decided we needed to talk to individual residents to accomplish the above, and the best way to do that was to meet regularly.
4. We began by meeting with the Executive Council of our Residents' Association. They were very supportive about our starting an NCCCRA Interest Group. The Interest Group is listed officially along with other Interests Groups in our Residents' Handbook.
5. The first thing we did was choose a date (ours is the day after our Residents' Association Meeting), time, and reserve a room. Then we announced it in our Friday Memo, and announced it at our monthly Residents' Association Meeting. We even put up posters. As co-reps we take turns with each of these duties. We also take turns facilitating the Interest Group agendas and discussions.
6. The meetings are monthly, except for July and August when many residents are on vacation and we don't meet in October and April, when we have NCCCRA Annual Conferences.
7. Agendas for the meetings are generated from information we have received from our Eastern Region, the State Executive Committee, and information about the Strategic Plan. Residents can also bring up any topic or concern. During the early meetings, we talked about the purpose and structure of NCCCRA. Some examples of topics that we have discussed at our meetings are:

NCCCRA Brochures: even before the brochures were developed and printed, our Interest Group wrote a letter of concern that the brochure was lacking in diversity. We specifically requested that the brochure be more inclusive. When nothing changed, our Interest Group made the decision not to

use the brochure because it does not reflect our Carol Woods' residents nor the residents that we hope will be a part of our community in the future..

Voter ID: our Interest Group recognized that the new laws are going to have a big impact on the elderly population. It was our Interest Group that advocated and arranged for a speaker at our annual conference last October during the box lunch. It was very well attended and attendees expressed enthusiasm about having an NCCCRA project that was important, meaningful, and something we could all do at our local level. After pursuing Voter ID through our NCCCRA Executive Council, we are currently at a standstill. We have been told that our association cannot establish Voter ID as an official project. We urge you to find out more about this as we also continue to investigate this ruling.

Website: our concern about the website not working properly was a concern of others as well. Now through the work of Walt Boyer and Heather Rodin the links are up and running.

Strategic Plan: we have shared ideas and suggestions in writing with the Executive Committee, the Central Region, and the Eastern Region concerning how to implement the Strategic Plan.

501(c)4 vs. 501(c)3: our Interest Group has concerns about changing our status. Our association was founded because the need to protect CCRC residents was recognized. We don't want to do anything to jeopardize our being able to lobby if it is needed down the road. Discuss this topic in your CCRC. What do you think?

To Summarize: We, as co-reps, have been energized by the ideas and feedback that we get from the residents that we represent. People are talking more about NCCCRA in the halls and during meals. Our Life Membership at Carol Woods has doubled from a year ago. The ideas keep coming. Soon we hope to develop an email list of residents so that we can send documents including pdf files to every member. Keeping members informed and getting their ideas and feedback is basic to providing a relevant and strong association.

Let us know what you are doing in your CCRCs.

**JOB DESCRIPTION:
CAROL WOODS REPRESENTATIVES TO
NORTH CAROLINA CONTINUING CARE RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

Purpose: The Carol Woods representatives are members of the Board of the North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association (NCCCRA) and represent Carol Woods' residents (members and non-members) and provide information about meetings and issues addressed by NCCCRA to the residents of Carol Woods.

Duties:

1. Promote resident membership in NCCCRA.
2. Prepare and distribute annual membership renewals and applications to Carol Woods residents in November of each year.
3. Receive annual and life membership payments and forward them to the Membership Secretary of NCCCRA: Ms. Susan Rhyne; NCCCRA; 3913 Muhlenberg Court; Burlington, NC 27215. Susan's email is: morhyne@bellsouth.net
4. Report address changes, deaths, etc., to the NCCCRA Membership Secretary.
5. Maintain an accurate membership list of Carol Woods residents (usually have a quarterly report from the Membership Secretary).
6. Announce to the Carol Woods Residents' Association the NCCCRA Eastern Region (April) and NCCCRA statewide (October) annual meetings.
7. Prepare and distribute annual meeting registration forms to all Carol Woods residents and arrange transportation to both annual meetings. Carol Woods covers bus expense.
8. Six to eight times a year convene a meeting of residents to discuss issues or areas of interest related to the mission of the NCCCRA.
9. Speak briefly at the monthly meeting of the Carol Woods Residents' Association to update the community about the NCCCRA.

10. Distribute the *Hotline* to all Carol Woods residents (twice a year).
11. Forward articles from the Carol Woods News to the *Hotline* for publication—or articles about Carol Woods from other sources. Editor is: Bernard Coleman (Deerfield) gothic63@charter.net

Meetings: The representatives attend one planning meeting (usually in September) of the Eastern Region NCCCRA and the annual conference (usually in April) of the Eastern Region; and one meeting of the Board of NCCCRA (usually in May) and the annual conference of NCCCRA (usually in October).

Important Dates:

September: Eastern Region Planning Meeting

April: Eastern Region Annual Conference

May: NCCCRA Board Meeting

October: NCCCRA Annual Conference

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The signature change in the North Carolina legislature makeup has ended a lengthy period of quietude and created an important recurring activity and role for NCCCRA during the next few years as the legislature continues to evolve its plans and programs for the new North Carolina Tax Code. Our write-in program to the legislature last year bore fruit in the rejection of plans to impose both sales and property taxes on not-for-profit organizations (including CCRCs). Overall, it was a huge success. However, I do not think this fight is over. We may well see a recurring attempt to impose these taxes in future years. Their impact is important to us. I have estimated that last year's proposals would have cost my CCRC \$1.5 to \$2 million each year, which burden would be seen by us in increased monthly fees. The impact on your CCRC would have been different, but certainly huge.

2014 being an election year, and a much shortened legislative session, I was anticipating a quiet period until 2015, but that was not to be. House Bill 1202, intended to restore medical expenditure deductions up to \$20,000 on state income tax returns for seniors 65 and older, provided an opportunity we could not ignore. Although the time frame was very short, your response of letters, emails and petitions was very gratifying to me. Three CCRCs have reported submitting petitions to our legislators, the total signatures on which exceeded 550 names. The likelihood for passage this year is slim, due primarily to the short legislative session. We shall pursue this again next year. The legislature has already voted down other attempts to create new deductions within the new tax code, thus the hurdle will be formidable. One of the benefits of our legislative effort this year and last has been a growing appreciation within other groups (LeadingAge North Carolina, AARP North Carolina, and the North Carolina Coalition on Aging, to be specific) of the impact NCCCRA can have with the legislature through our write-in programs. The synergism can be of major import when our views on issues coincide. These organizations can afford expensive lobbyists to work the halls of the legislature, while our write-in correspondence demonstrates the level of voter interest. I am hopeful that the cooperation and coordination

among our organizations in the forthcoming year will be even stronger. There is a downside to this cooperation. We must be careful that when our interests do not coincide that we will be willing to step back and operate independently, or should our differences be minor, look toward negotiating a common position to which we can agree. This downside has plagued the National Continuing Care Residents Association for several years. We will need to be careful that we continue to forward our own interests to the best of our abilities.

At the May 7th Board of Directors Meeting we revisited some old items, including the number of CCRCs with residents on their boards of directors (roughly 50 per cent) and smoke-free campuses (a large majority in terms of measures taken, although some grandfathering and special smoking zones were in the mix). The informal tally displayed considerable progress over the last few years due in no small measure to your efforts in pursuing these NCCCRA objectives. Not all our CCRCs were represented there, so the tally was representative, but not fully accurate. We also reviewed our progress in achieving NCCCRA's strategic plan. New mission, vision, and purpose statements are approved and on the NCCCRA website, and progress has been made on several other tasks as well. Special task committees are being formed to assist in this effort.

I am slowly learning to be a caregiver, a task that many of you have or are performing now. I want to thank the many individuals who have stepped in to help keep NCCCRA business active and on track. Especially, I thank Heather Rodin for fixing the website and bringing it up to date, Barbara Pray for extensive minutes, tracking task assignments, and updating our officers and CCRC representatives directory, Susan Rhyne for membership records, Bernard Coleman for pestering me about the HOTLINE, our region chairs for their work on the strategic plan, and our CCRC representatives and all our members for our communications with our state legislators. All of these efforts are vital, and I thank you all for them from the bottom of my heart.

Walton T. Boyer, Jr.

The *Hotline* is published quarterly by Bernard S. Coleman, Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, Asheville, NC, for NCCCRA President Walton T. Boyer, Jr, 25 Sheffield Circle, Asheville, NC 28803 (828-277-6493—walton.boyer@charter.net). Submissions to the *Hotline* and other *Hotline*-related communications should be addressed to the editor, Bernard S. Coleman gothic63@charter.net.

www.NCCCRA.org
**The NCCCRA home page
 is your source
 for information.**
Check it out!

Membership Application

One-year membership is \$7 for an individual, \$14 for a couple. Life membership is \$50 for an individual, \$100 for a couple. **Checks should be made payable to NCCCRA and given to your community's NCCCRA representative**, so he or she can keep an accurate tally of members. Please indicate whether you are a renewing or new member. If you are not sure who your community's NCCCRA representative is, you may find out by contacting NCCCRA President, Walton T. Boyer, Jr., 25 Sheffield Circle, Asheville, NC 28803; (828) 277-6493; walton.boyer@charter.net.

If your community does not have a representative, mail checks to:

NCCCRA, c/o Susan Rhyne, 3913 Muhlenberg Court, Burlington, NC 27215.

The form below is provided for your convenience.

APPLICATION FORM (please print or type)

For membership year 2014

 (Your name)

 (Spouse's name, if applicable)

Community _____

Address _____

Status (please check one): Renewal New member

Enclosed is payment for (please check one):

One year: \$7 single \$14 couple **Life:** \$50 single \$100 couple