



The Hotline

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

North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association Annual Meeting at Croasdaile Village Retirement Community reported by Sharon Everhart

A large crowd attended the October 14th meeting. Of the 66 CCRC's in NC, 30 were in

attendance. There were two exciting speakers: Jeff Trendel, Deputy Commissioner of the NC Department of Insurance who spoke on the implementation of the new CCRC law governing CCRC's in NC, and Tommy Brewer,

Managing Director of Ziegler Sr. Living who spoke on the state of affairs of CCRC's in NC and how the need for space is greater than the availability.

Other business included approving a budget for 2025-2026, and electing and installing new officers (see photo on right and page 7 in this newsletter for details).



Our outgoing President Skip Kingan was thanked for his service by incoming President Joe Liegl, and Skip Kingan recognized Legislative Co-Chair Sindy Barker for her tireless 11 years of service.





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President's Message from Joe Liegl

You will be reading this, my first letter as President, in what is a season for gratitude. So I want to remind us all of things for which we members of NorCCRA should be grateful this season. First and foremost, by the time you read this, in December, North Carolina's new CCRC law, HB 357, P.L. 2025-58, will be in effect. This law strengthens our protections as CCRC residents, and it will materially improve DOI's oversight of our CCRCs. For this we should all be grateful.

Second, for two years now, CCRC residents have enjoyed the benefits of the exemption from sales tax on nearly all fees and charges we pay our CCRCs. NorCCRA worked hard to obtain the exemption, and it produces tangible savings for us all.

Third, we can all be grateful for the work of two key NorCCRA volunteers who have just relinquished their roles. First is Sindy Barker, who was the chair/co-chair of NorCCRA's legislative committee for 11 years. Sindy has just retired from her post and from NorCCRA's Executive Committee. Sindy's knowledge about getting legislation passed in the General Assembly has been huge for NorCCRA. Sindy's urging the Executive Committee that NorCCRA should hire a paid lobbyist and her help in choosing a lobbyist were great benefits. Sindy has provided invaluable help to NorCCRA in many other ways over the years, and we are most grateful for her service.

Then there is Skip Kingan, who has just completed three very successful years as President of NorCCRA. Skip worked with Sindy on retaining a lobbyist, and the two of them recommended the firm we hired. Skip and Sindy then worked tirelessly with our lobbyist to get legislation passed, holding key meetings with legislative leaders and cooperating with LeadingAge and others. Skip ushered in a number of other very positive changes, which you have read about in these pages and heard about at our meetings. His leadership will benefit us for years to come. Skip, we are most grateful for your ideas and service, and we are glad you remain available to us as our Past President.

Finally, we wish you and yours a happy, peaceful holiday season.



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Legislative Update from Martha Wood, Chair

Three months after Frank and I moved to Salemtowne in 2016, I attended my first NorCCRA annual meeting in Greensboro and *wondered what I was doing there*. Sindy Barker rose to give her legislative report, and I thought, “That woman knows what she’s talking about.” Back home, I wrote the check for a lifetime membership. Salemtoe NorCCRA representative Bobbie Schroeder made “NorCCRA” daily parlance during her tenure. With the bright idea that I should succeed her, Bobbie and IRC president Joan Lide proved hard to resist.

To introduce our residents to NorCCRA and its benefits, I invited Sindy to inform Salemtoe residents and encourage them to participate in this organization that represents RESIDENTS. I should have known better. Sindy soon persuaded me to be her legislative co-chair. Learning from Sindy has been an insightful, challenging, incredible opportunity. I will strive to give NorCCRA members the best of what she has taught me. Thank you, Sindy, for your tutelage and your friendship.

I am grateful for the NorCCRA leadership, all of whom have promised the benefit of their knowledge, experience, and support as I navigate this new role. We are fortunate to have knowledgeable, experienced, and committed leaders in the NC Department of Insurance to work with us in ensuring that our faith in our CCRCs is well-placed and dependable. We look forward to working with these fine professionals in implementing the **revised and strengthened CCRC statute 64A**.

Let’s always remember with appreciation, respect, and reverence **Dr. Harry Groves**, a CCRC resident who experienced and understood the need for legislative protection. **He did the necessary research, garnered public support, and convinced the legislature to pass Chapter 58, Article 64 Continuing Care Retirement Communities, to protect our rights.** Dr. Groves would be proud that we engaged Alex Miller Governmental Affairs as our lobbyist to help us meet our legislative goal to revise, update, and strengthen his original work. I look forward to working with NorCCRA members across the state as we continue building on the strong foundation of vision and leadership bequeathed to us.



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RAISING THE WOOF AT CAROLINA MEADOWS

by *Elsa Desrochers and Margaret Zircher*

Over 60 dogs are in residence in Carolina Meadows. In addition, grandchildren, former dog owners, and adult children visiting residents

stop by to enjoy the dog activity in the dog park, often bringing their own “granddogs.” The benefits of a dog park extend far beyond just Carolina Meadows dog owners and their dogs. But due to rambunctious puppies and high-spirited older dogs, the Carolina Meadows dog park had gradually lost its grass and became a mud pit.

The vision of a revamped dog park started with a shout-out to NorCCRA’s BOD Google Group asking what dog parks were like at other CCRCs, and with Elsa and Dave Desrochers visiting several dog parks in the area to determine which surfaces were best. Dog-specific astroturf was the clear winner. An appeal to the RA’s Buildings, Grounds & Safety Advisory Committee pointed out the benefits of pet ownership and the drainage issue of the current park. A meeting with CM’s Vice President of Plant Operations resulted in a plan to completely transform the dog park through a system of drainage, canine turf with french drains underneath, and mulch.

Now, to raise the funds for such an endeavor! The dog park committee worked with the Residents Association to establish the *Federation of Furry Friends* as an official RA activity, which made the

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dog park eligible for RA funds. To pay for this expensive new dog park, Dixie Spiegel led the effort with several fundraising proposals which resulted in funds from the RA, the Gift and Remembrance Committee, and from the Carolina Meadows Foundation. Carolina Meadows agreed to provide the rest of the funds, using Carolina Meadows labor. Now Carolina Meadows has a completely refurbished dog park, and the process was a genuine community effort - residents and management working together.

A Grand Reopening was held on May 9, with punch, human cookies, and dog cookies specially made by our catering manager. Every day there is a 3:00 pm gathering of dogs, but of course every dog with their owner can visit the new and improved dog park at any time. Cats, not so much. Sorry.

The Fig Buttercup (Lesser Celandine/Ficaria Verna) Infestation at Aldersgate CCRC by Terry Snyder, Aldersgate CCRC Resident, August 2025

Residents at Aldersgate CCRC looked forward to the emergence of a beautiful carpet of green and yellow in an area near a footbridge on the creek near the lake before most other flowering species appear. But in 2023, this gorgeous early spring plant was identified as a highly invasive species. The fig buttercup is a spring ephemeral plant that spends most of the year underground. The leaves emerge in late February to early March and flowering occurs from March through

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May. The plants completely disappear from the ground surface entirely by June. Unfortunately, it is a very aggressive plant that displaces many native plant species that are vital to the health of a balanced ecological system.

After becoming a resident of the Aldersgate CCRC in 2023, I joined the resident Sustainability Committee and engaged in researching effective ways to eradicate this invasive plant. I learned that manual control is the most ecologically friendly and safest method. It is not, however, the most effective method to remove it from large areas of infestation, because it is labor-intensive and it is impossible to remove all of the tubers and bulblets that can break off and spread.

During 2024, we informed Independent Living residents of the problem. We asked them to report any fig buttercup sightings in their yards, gardens and around campus. We identified and flagged some small areas of fig buttercups for manual removal and other larger areas for chemical treatment.

Volunteers from community organizations were recruited and trained to dig up the plants. A native riparian seed mix was scattered on some of the bare areas around the creek where the fig buttercups had been dug up. We planted replacement plants in one resident's garden and replaced the soil and added grass seed to some lawn areas that were dug up.

Before the end of 2025, we expect to have a chemical treatment plan in place for the large areas. Once the fig buttercup leaves emerge in early spring they will be treated with a solution of glyphosate-based herbicide with a non-toxic additive. A second application will be applied about two weeks later before other plants emerge. The small patches of fig buttercup that appear near residents' homes will be manually removed without chemical treatment. Annual treatment will probably be required for a number of years. I expect that these plans will continue to evolve as we deal with the situation.



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Your Officers & Staff for 2025-2026



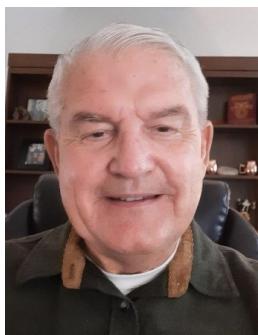
**President
Joseph "Joe"
Liegl**

President: Joe Liegl
MultiState Continuing Care Group
Carolina Meadows — josephliegl@gmail.com

VicePresident: Tom Burrell
MultiState Continuing Care Group
Porters Neck Village — tom.burrell@verizon.net

Secretary: Marcia Hoffmann
Piedmont Crossing — pcra.board@gmail.com

Treasurer: Stuart "Stu" Rosenstein
Croasdale Village — rosensteinsteins@tvc.com



**Vice President
Tom Burrell III**

OTHERS ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Skip Kingan, Past President
Croasdale Village — skingan47@gmail.com

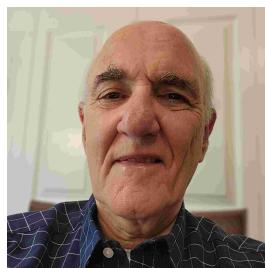
John Olmstead - Presidential Appointee
Scotia Village, - olmsteaj@erols.com

Sigmon (Sig) Huitt - Presidential Appointee
Croasdale Village - sighuitt@gmail.com

Allen Ridenour, Central Region Leader
Wellspring — acride20@gmail.com

Vacant, Eastern Region Chair

Deborah Porto, Western Region Leader
Deerfield — deborahporto65@gmail.com



**Treasurer
Stuart "Stu"
Rosenstein**



**Secretary
Marcia
Hoffmann**

Martha Wood, Legislative Affairs Chair
Salemtowne — mjswood@gmail.com

Susan Rhyne, Membership Director
Twin Lakes — morhyne@bellsouth.net

Sharon Everhart, Director of Communications,
HotLine Editor, Grace Ridge — everhartjd@gmail.com



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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 for publication, please contact her.



Skip Kingan maintains the list of NorCCRA Presidents and of NorCCRA representatives plus their access to our Forums. So when you elect your new President or NorCCRA representative please contact Skip (email: skingan47@gmail.com, phone 919-384-2234) with the name, email address, phone number and when the term of your new President or representative 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.