



COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

NC Coalition on Aging
January Update – January 18, 2018

Government Shutdown – Its Looking More Like It: This *Update* has been delayed hoping that there would be breaking news to report about a stopgap spending deal that would keep the federal government going after Friday. As of 6:00 p.m. this Thursday evening, however, it appears that a chance of an agreement between members of Congress is growing dim. Rather than try to relay all the development that took place today to get things to this point, this article from the [New York Times](#) gives a good overview of where things now stand. A showdown vote is expected tonight so stay tuned for more to come on this in the days ahead.

Obamacare Enrollment: Only Florida and Texas had more people to sign up for health care through the Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare, than North Carolina. Nearly 524,000 state residents signed up for plan. That's down from 549,000 in 2017 and up from 513,000 in 2016. That means that about 5% of the state's population is enrolled in Obamacare's federally-run health insurance exchange. The Trump administration shortened the enrollment period for signing up for plans from three months to six weeks this year. The state asked for an extension of the deadline to enroll, but the federal Department of Health and Human Services denied the request. The budget for advertising for Obamacare was also cut by more than 90% this year. Read more [here](#).

Rate Hike Rejected: North Carolina's Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey has rejected a proposed 18.7% increase on home insurance rates proposed by the NC Rate Bureau. The Rate Bureau, which represents the industry, had asked in November for the statewide increase, which would range from an increase of 80.5 percent in some coastal counties to a decrease of 7.1 percent in parts of western North Carolina. If the Insurance Department and the Rate Bureau can not settle the matter, Causey would preside over a July hearing and issue a decision. The Rate Bureau could appeal Causey's ruling to the state Court of Appeals. Read more [here](#).

Medicaid Work Requirements: North Carolina, along with ten other states, has received permission from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to require Medicaid recipients, with some exceptions, to either work or participate in activities such as job training and volunteering in order to qualify for benefits. The ruling from CMS affects the federal Medicaid waiver request submitted by the McCrory administration in June 2016 and amended November 20 by the Cooper administration. The state's request for the work requirement applies only if Medicaid expansion, which has been opposed by our state legislature, comes to fruition here. Governor Cooper's administration has not asked for permission to add work requirements to the state's existing Medicaid health insurance program, which covers more than 2 million people. Click [here](#) to read a NC Health News story on this.

District Maps Update: The three federal judges who struck down North Carolina's congressional map for excessive partisanship that favored Republicans refused on January 16 to delay their order and told Republican state legislators to draw new lines by next week. The denial by the judges was expected. Republican lawmakers have sought a delay from the U.S. Supreme Court in drawing new maps which is currently pending. Barring a delay by the Court, the legislature will be required to redraw its map for North Carolina's 13 congressional districts by January 24. Click [here](#) to read more on this. This denial comes at the same time that the state legislature awaits a decision by another federal judge panel about whether to accept a special master's plan to redraw about two dozen state House and Senate districts. The judges appointed the special master after it raised constitutional concerns about the legislative redistricting the General Assembly approved last summer. Meanwhile, despite the fact that the congressional and legislative district maps they have drawn have been ruled unconstitutional by federal judges, Republican lawmakers appear ready to move ahead with a redraw of the state's judicial districts. A joint House and Senate committee met for the first time on January 11 to hammer out details. At that meeting, it was clear that the two chambers have very [different ideas](#) about what the overhaul should include.

Aging Subcommittee Meeting Cancelled: The meeting of the Aging Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services schedule for January 18 was cancelled due to snow and ice. The next meeting of the Subcommittee will take place on Monday, February 12, at 1:00 p.m. in room 643 of the Legislative Office Building.

Transportation Needs: The House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions meet on January 8 and one of the items on the agenda was transportation planning for aging populations. The Committee heard from Blair Barton-Percival, Area Agency on Aging Director at the Piedmont Triad Regional Council. He shared demographics on the senior population and discussed the importance of transportation in helping older adults to live independently and to have access to appropriate services and supports. He also discussed transportation barriers and some of the challenges of public transportation. He suggested that in order to provide adequate services, the state should increase funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant, investigate changing trends and payment models in healthcare, focus funding on addressing social determinants of health and save on the high expenses of nursing home care on the back end, and find opportunities within transitioning North Carolina from a traditional fee-for-service Medicaid to managed care. Michael Walden, a Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at NC State, who also presented at the meeting, noted that as the state's population continues to age, the state's transportation system will need to adapt to these needs and as the need for a better transportation infrastructure for the this population continues, the big question that looms is how can this be paid for? To see copies of the power point presentations for speakers at the meeting, click [here](#).

Legislative Committee Looks at Access to Healthcare in Rural Areas: The Legislative Study Committee on Access to Healthcare in Rural North Carolina met for the first time on January 8. The Committee was established because of a concern about an increasing shortage of doctors and health care facilities in the state. The committee did not take any formal action at the meeting but heard a series of presentations on the issue. Among information shared at the meeting was the following: North Carolina ranks 29th in the country in the number of active doctors per

capita, 32 counties don't have a psychiatrist, five rural hospitals have closed since 2010, and three counties (Camden, Gates and Tyrrell) have no primary care doctors. It was noted that the rural healthcare shortage is tied to economic development issues. Materials from the meeting can be accessed [here](#). See a story from NC Health News on the meeting [here](#).

DMV Urges Caution in Eliminating Nurses In Evaluating Driver's Medical Condition: On January 11, in a presentation to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, state Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Torre Jessup urged legislators to be cautious if they still want to consider eliminating DMV nurses from the process used to evaluate a driver's medical condition. The 2017 state budget included a provision requiring DMV to study the issue and determine any issues that may arise from using only the recommendation of the applicant's or licensee's examining health care provider as to the ability of the applicant or licensee to operate a motor vehicle. In presenting the findings of the study, Jessup noted that the study was "too limited to explore all the issues and ramifications of eliminating nurses," and he recommended that "a more comprehensive study should be done before making a decision" on the future of DMV nurses. The study found potential problems in relying solely on drivers' healthcare providers to determine if they can safely drive. About 31 percent of healthcare providers don't provide recommendations on whether their patients should have driving privileges. The study found that the DMV's nurse reviewers were more likely than the healthcare providers to apply condition-specific driving restrictions -- such as limiting someone from driving at night -- instead of completely revoking licenses. The study said that future studies should include input from healthcare industry groups.

New Prescribing Rules for Opioids: As part of North Carolina's battle against opioid abuse, new rules for how doctors prescribe painkillers took effect on January 1. An epidemic of overdoses prompted lawmakers in 2017 to pass the Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention (STOP) Act, which set new limits on the quantity of the drugs that can be prescribed during a patient's first visit. Doctors can now prescribe only five days' worth of opioids for acute pain, such as after a car crash or a muscle injury or broken bone. After that, they can refill the prescription at their discretion. For pain that follows a surgical procedure, doctors will now be limited to a one-week prescription for opioids. After that, they can prescribe refills as needed, but that first prescription will be restricted. The new limits do not affect prescriptions of opioids for chronic pain patients, including those with long-term back injuries or people in nursing homes or hospice care. Advocates of the STOP Act say this is to reduce the chances that patients will become addicted to the medications and to reduce the number of pills being sent home with people who may not actually need them or take them. Learn more [here](#).

Expenditure and Service Data For Persons 60 and Over: The NC Division of Aging and Adult Services has posted information on the reported [public expenditures by funding source and major service categories](#) for persons in the state 60 and over for State Fiscal Year 16-17. Data is provided for Divisions within the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Transportation. Service categories listed are adult care homes, economic support, physicians and other health care, home health and in-home care, institutional care, and social supportive services. According to the report, expenditures for these agencies totaled \$4,266,067,537. In addition, the Division has posted [expenditure and service information for each county](#) in the state.

State's Population Growth: North Carolina remained the 9th most populous state in 2017, keeping pace with No. 8 Georgia and putting more distance between it and No. 10 Michigan, according to the latest estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau which were released the end of December. As of July 1, an estimated 10,273,419 people lived in North Carolina, nearly 117,000 more than the previous year. The growth rate of 1.1% made North Carolina the 12th fastest growing state, just behind South Carolina and ahead of Montana. North Carolina added another 116,730 people in the last year -- close to the entire population of Wilmington. North Carolina's growth puts it on track to pick up at least one more congressional seat after the 2020 census, at the expense of states such as Ohio, Rhode Island and Illinois, which have grown little or no growth since 2010. The state has 13 seats in the U.S. House and just missed being apportioned a 14th after the 2010 census. To read more about the census bureau report, click [here](#).

Congress Passes RAISE Family Caregiver Act: The Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act has passed Congress with bipartisan support. A broad coalition of aging and disability organizations advocated for the passage of the legislation. The [Act](#) requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop, maintain, and update a strategy to recognize and support family caregivers. An advisory committee will be formed to develop the strategy with public input. The development of the initial strategy will take up to 18 months, followed by biennial updates.

Other News and Updates

The **Fayetteville** City Council voted unanimously on January 8 in favor of a memorandum of understanding with Fayetteville State University to build the city's **Senior Center East** next to the school's wellness center. The first step of the agreement will be to take part in a feasibility study on the projects. The study will be jointly funded by the city and university and is estimated to cost \$60,000.

The News & Observer and the Durham Herald-Sun will have a new top editor starting next month. Robyn Tomlin, managing editor of The Dallas Morning News, has been chosen by McClatchy to become the first regional editor for the Carolinas. From her base at The News and Observer in Raleigh, she will also oversee newsrooms in Durham and Charlotte and at five news organizations the company owns in South Carolina, including The State in Columbia.

North Carolina was a slightly less **popular place to move** to during 2017, but remains in the top 10, according to the recently released annual United Van Lines' report. The state ranked eighth for the second consecutive year, compared with fifth in 2015 and third in 2014 and 2013. There were 5,192 inbound household shipments, down from 5,447 in 2016. The 2017 inbound totals were the fifth highest in the nation. By comparison, there were 4,021 outbound shipments, compared with 3,923 in 2016.

The NC Department of Health and Human Services reported this week that 42 people state-wide, including two children, have **died of the flu** in the state since early October. People who have not had the flu shot are encouraged to get the shot as flu season still has not peaked.

Effective January 1, **information on Medicaid recipients** in the state must now be reviewed quarterly to determine whether circumstances -- such as income, employment or lottery winnings -- could make them ineligible for coverage.

The State Treasurer's Office has announced that the agency will try to **recover disability overpayments from the estates of deceased former employees** whose estates are still open.

The **critical access hospital in Scotland Neck (Halifax County) closed** its emergency room, inpatient beds and other acute care services at the end of December. The hospital will continue to operate a 60-bed nursing home that is part of the hospital.

The National Institute of Senior Centers is conducting a **national survey of senior centers**. With nearly 10,000 senior centers in operation across the country, the Institute wants to obtain information to highlight the impact of the work of centers. The deadline to complete the survey which should take about 20 minutes to complete is February 15. [Take the survey.](#)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau created **Your Money, Your Goals** as a financial empowerment guide that organizations can use to educate consumers on the risks and benefits of financial services and products. A new companion guide contains specific information, tips, and tools based on insights from people with disabilities and the organizations that serve them. To get a copy of the companion guide, click [here](#).

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has announced the **theme for Older Americans Month** which is celebrated in May – *Engage at Every Age*. The theme is a reminder that people are never too old to take part in activities that can enrich physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Promotional resources will be posted on the ACL website in the coming weeks.

The Senate Finance Committee voted 15-12 on Wednesday to send **Alex Azar's nomination for Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** to the full Senate for final confirmation.

The Trump Administration has announced that it will create a **new conscience and religious freedom division** within the Health and Human Services Department to ease the way for doctors, nurses and other medical professionals to opt out of providing services that violate their moral or religious beliefs.

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission has voted 14-2 to **repeal and replace a Medicare payment system** that aims to improve the quality of patient care. To avoid penalties under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), physicians must follow one of two payment tracks: the Merit-based Incentive Payment System, or MIPS, or advanced alternative payment models like accountable care organizations. The Commission voted to asks Congress to eliminate MIPS and establish a new voluntary value program in which clinicians join a group and are compared to each other on the quality of care for patients.

People in the News

Mark Hensley began work January 16 as Associate State Director of AARP North Carolina for the Triad area. Prior to assuming this position, he was Dementia Services Coordinator at the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Marisette Hasan, has been named the new CEO of The Carolinas Center for Hospice & End of Life Care (TCC). She served on the TCC Board of Directors before becoming Vice President of South Carolina Operations in 2014. For the past 4 months, she has served as Interim President & CEO of TCC.

Janet Cowell, former North Carolina state treasurer, is the new CEO of Girls Who Invest, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the number of women in portfolio management and executive leadership in the asset management industry.

Donald Bryson has been named as the next president of the conservative Civitas Institute. He started on Jan. 16 and will assume full responsibility after a transition period. Prior to joining Civitas, Bryson served as the North Carolina state director of Americans for Prosperity (AFP).

Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram (D-Northampton), a state senator who represents eight counties in northeastern North Carolina has changed her name. She recently began changing her official websites to list her name as **Sen. Erica D. Smith**.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Webinar: The Flourish Care Model: Utilizing the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) to Implement A Shared-Care Approach to Health Care for Older Adults on January 23 at 1:00 p.m. To register, click [here](#).

Quarterly Webinar on the Otago evidence-based falls prevention program – January 24, 2018 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. For more information click [here](#).

Webinar on Suspicious Activity Reports and Their Role in Identifying and Remediating Elder Financial Exploitation – February 7, 2018 from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. (Webinar registration information to follow. [Join ACL's e-mail listserv](#) or e-mail aclinfo@acl.hhs.gov to receive a registration link as soon as it becomes available).

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Aging – February 12, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building in Raleigh

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services – February 13, 2018 in the morning in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building in Raleigh.

Senior Consumer Fraud Task Force Meeting – February 15, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at AARP NC (5511 Capital Center Blvd., Suite 400) in Raleigh

Modern Times, More Modern Crimes: 2018 – “In the Eye of the Storm:” How Elder Abuse, Fraud and Exploitation are Fueled by the Opioid Epidemic – February 21, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at Surf City Welcome and Visitor Center (102 N. Shore Drive) in Surf City

Senior Consumer Fraud Task Force Meeting – May 17, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at AARP NC (5511 Capital Center Blvd., Suite 400) in Raleigh

2018 Annual Information and Referral Training and Education Conference – June 3-6, 2018 in Dallas, Texas

Caregiver Summit – Dates and locations as listed below. For information and registration information, go to www.caregiverssummit.org.

- June 14, 2018 at The Sheraton Imperial (4700 Emperor Blvd.) in Durham from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- August 7, 2018 at The William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education (100 Friday Center Dr.) in Chapel Hill from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- October 2, 2018 at Campbell University, Leon Levine Hall of Medical Sciences (4350 U.S. 421 S) in Lillington from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- October 30, 2018 at McKimmon Conference Center (1101 Gorman St.) in Raleigh from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Carolinas Center 42nd Annual Hospice and Palliative Care Conference “How We Strengthen the Tools in Our Toolbox,” – September 10-12, 2018 at Hilton Charlotte University Place in Charlotte

Check out the Coalition on Aging’s [website](#) for additional meetings and events. Please send information on events and activities to Mary Bethel at mmbethel72@gmail.com to be listed in the *Update* and posted on the Coalition’s website.

Articles/News Stories/Resources

North Carolina Related:

[NC Secretary of Health Chief Pleased with Changes at Cardinal Innovations, The Mental Health Agency Criticized for Excessive Executive Compensation](#)

[What the New Medicaid Work Requirement Could Mean for North Carolina](#)

[NC Eugenics Victims Projected to Get Final State Compensation Payment Soon](#)

[Vets to Receive Better Access to Mental Health Care](#)

[Good Health Means More Than Visiting Your Doctor](#)

[Morehead Memorial Hospital to Change Its Name as It Joins UNC Health Care.](#)

[Making All Ages Welcome Here](#)

[Southeastern Wake Adult Day Center Offers Community for The Elderly and Rest for Their Caregivers](#)

[Getting a Real ID in NC? Bring These Documents to The DMV](#)

[Forecasters See NC Continuing Steady Business Growth in 2018](#)

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services – [Handouts from January 16, 2018 Meeting](#)

Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group established by General Assembly ([Link to Workgroup Meetings and Materials](#))

Other:

[Falls Prevention Tips to Use in Winter](#)

[What's New for Medicare in 2018](#)

[What to Look for from GOP Tax Law, Month by Month](#)

[Getting Retirees to Spend More Money Can Be a Hard Sell for Advisors](#)

['Crisis Mode': As Boomers Age, A Shortage of Caregivers](#)

[The Wall Street Journal: Millions Bought \(Long Term Care Insurance\) Insurance To Cover Retirement Health Costs. Now They Face An Awful Choice](#)

[New CFPB Director Puts Target on PayDay Loan Rules](#)

[Video Lecture Series on Reframing Aging from the FrameWorks Institute](#)

[Medicaid a Tool for Moral Education May Let Some Die](#)

[Social Support Can Diminish Negative Effect of Elder Abuse](#)

[Public Service Announcement: Strengthening the Structure of Justice to Prevent Elder Abuse \(Long\)](#)

[Public Service Announcement: Strengthening the Structure of Justice to Prevent Elder Abuse \(Short\)](#)

[Free Resources Available from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office for Older Americans](#)

[CMS Unveils Updated Hospital Star Ratings Formula](#)

[1 Million Americans Pool Money in Religious Ministries to Pay for Health Care](#)

[When States Make it Harder to Enroll; Even Eligible People Drop Medicaid](#)

[Justice Department Scraps ADA Guidance](#)

[Disability and Disaster Response in the Age of Climate Change](#)

[The Long Goodbye, Coping with Sadness and Grief Before a Loved One Dies](#)

[Fueled by Drug Crisis, U.S. Life Expectancy Declines for Second Straight Year](#)

[White House Greenlights CMS' Plan to Crack Down on Medicare Advantage Plans](#)

[Trump Administration Proposes New Rules for Health Plans Without Certain ACA Protections](#)

[For Elder Health, Trips to the ER Are Often a Tipping Point](#)

[Cold Weather Safety for Older Adults](#)

[Dementia Patients Often Need Hospitals, Which Are Often Ill-Prepared](#)

[Tips for Coping with Sundowning](#)

[New NIH Consortium Award to Enhance Clinical Trials for Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementias](#)

[Making the Move to Assisted Living: A Guide to Knowing When It's Right and Making the Right Choice](#)

[A Movement Against the Melting Pot](#)

[Managing Behaviors Associated with Dementia: Resource Guides](#)

[10 Key Takeaways from the Republican Tax Plan](#)

[In States That Didn't Expand Medicaid, Hospital Closures Have Spiked](#)

[Trump Officials, After Rejecting Obama Medicare Model, Now Adopt One Like It \(Medicare Bundling Payments\)](#)

[One of the Most Promising Drugs for Alzheimer's Disease Fails in Clinical Trials](#)

[Healing After the Passing of Your Parent: How to Nurture Your Grief Without Drugs or Alcohol](#)

[Guide to Keeping Your Home Through Debilitating Disease](#)

[Doing More Harm Than Good? Epidemic of Screening Burdens Nations Older Patients](#)

[Humana, Two Private Equity Firms Will Buy Kindred Healthcare for \\$4.1 Billion](#)

[What Should I Ask My Doctor During a Check-UP?](#)

[NPR Aging Series:](#)

- Repeated Head Hits, Not Just Concussions, May Lead To A Type Of Chronic Brain Damage
- Home Care Agencies Often Wrongly Deny Medicare Help To The Chronically Ill
- New Rules May Make Getting And Staying On Medicaid More Difficult
- Kentucky Gets OK To Require Work From Medicaid Recipients
- This New York Gallery Has An Unusual Age Limit: No Artists Younger Than 60
- Hospitals Nationally Hit Hard By Medicare's Safety Penalties
- Neuroscientist Predicts 'Much Better Treatment' For Alzheimer's Is 10 Years Away
- To Help Others, One Couple Talks About Life With Early-Onset Alzheimer's
- How To Work With Your Doctor On Healthier Goals For The New Year
- Home For The Holidays? Get Off The Couch!

[January Coalition on Aging Meeting:](#) The next meeting of the Coalition will be on Friday, January 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in room 104 of the Brown Building which is located at 801 Biggs Drive on the Dix Campus in Raleigh (our usual meeting location). This is the hearing room for the NC Division of Health Service Regulation. Theresa Matula, Principal Legislative Analyst with the Legislative Analysis Division of the NC General Assembly, will be the guest speaker for the meeting. Theresa is lead staff for numerous legislative committees related to health and human service issues and has addressed the Coalition in past years to provide an update on legislative actions. At the meeting on the 26th, she will talk about key things that went on in the 2017 legislative session related to aging specifically and to

health and human services in general, activities that have taken place since the long legislative session adjourned, and other relevant things pertaining to legislative developments.

Dates for 2018 Coalition Meetings: Mark your calendar for all the Coalition's meetings for the year. The schedule is as follows:

2018 Meeting Dates

January 26
February 23 (at NC Division on Aging and Adult Services' conference room)
March 23
April 20
May 18
June 22
August 24
September 28 (annual meeting at NC State University Club)
October 26
December 7

Meetings are held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in room 104 of the Brown Building on the Dix Campus (801 Biggs Drive) unless notified otherwise. For those who can not attend in person but can call in, the call in number is [1-866-215-3402](tel:1-866-215-3402) and the passcode is 5080266#.

Membership Renewal: 2018 is here, so it is time to renew membership in the Coalition for the next year. It is also a good time for those who are not Coalition members to consider joining. We have worked hard to make the Coalition a visible and effective advocate for older North Carolina which gives voice to issues that are important to seniors and their family caregivers as well as to those who work in the field of aging in the state. Our legislative, public policy, education and outreach efforts do make a difference. As an example, our efforts to advocate for the establishment of a joint legislative committee that would examine issues pertaining to the state's older adult population were instrumental in having the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services form a Subcommittee on Aging this year. We were excited that we were asked to make a presentation to this Subcommittee at its meeting on December 13.

We believe that the membership dues for the Coalition represent a good return on your investment. We are pleased that dues will remain at \$100 a year (January through December) for agencies, organizations, and groups and \$20 a year for supporting individuals. Benefits of membership in the Coalition include the following:

- Opportunity to share and network with colleagues from around the state.
- Receive in-person updates on aging issues, and hear presentations on hot topics at regular membership meetings.
- Have a collective voice in advocating for and raising awareness about issues impacting older North Carolinians.
- Be included in the selection of annual legislative priority issues.

- Receive monthly updates, including legislative updates, on issues related to aging.
- Receive action alerts with talking points when contact is needed with your legislator, member of Congress, or other policy makers.
- Get discounts on registration for the Coalition's annual meeting.

Hopefully you are aware that Coalition members recently voted to take a number of steps to strengthen the long-term viability of the Coalition which will position us to increase our visibility and presence at the table as well as our financial resources. We are in the process of establishing a work group that will take the lead in directing our efforts to move to this next level. With this in mind, if you value the work of the Coalition and are in a position to help future support what the Coalition does, we encourage you to consider making an additional contribution to the Coalition this year. Anything above and beyond the regular dues amount you pay will be put to good use and will make a difference in what we are able to do as a Coalition.

Membership registration/renewal can be done in one of two ways. You can complete and return the form attached to this *Update* along with dues payment (payable to the NC Coalition on Aging) to the address noted on the form. A second option is to go to <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/membership.aspx> and complete the registration and payment process (PayPal) on-line. Contributions in addition to dues can also be paid in this way. The Coalition has a hardship provision for those who wish to join the Coalition but are unable to pay the full dues amount. To apply for this hardship provision, please contact Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at mmbethel72@gmail.com.

Submitting Information for Updates: If you have news or information on activities and events you would like to have included in an *Update* to Coalition members, please send details to Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at mmbethel72@gmail.com. The Coalition also posts a master calendar of aging related events and activities on the Coalition's website.

Have questions about the Coalition on Aging or need more information, including information about joining the Coalition or renewing membership, please contact us at mmbethel72@gmail.com or check out our website at <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/>.