



## COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

NC Coalition on Aging  
November Update – November 20, 2018



**Election Update:** Going into Election Day this month, a big question in North Carolina was whether Republicans could maintain their “supermajorities” in the state House of Representative and Senate. Having a supermajority means that one party controls more than 3/5 of the vote and can override a gubernatorial veto without the need for any votes from Democrats. Now almost two weeks after the election, particularly due to seats being overturned in Wake and Mecklenburg Counties, it appears that Democrats have broken the Republican supermajority in both the House and Senate. This gives Gov. Cooper significantly more leverage to negotiate on legislation.

Only one legislative race is headed to a recount this week. Rep. Bill Brawley, R-Mecklenburg who is a Vice-Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and Senior Chair of the House Finance Committee, has announced that he is seeking a recount in his race with Democrat challenger Rachel Hunt, daughter of former Governor Jim Hunt, in House District 103 in Mecklenburg County. Hunt currently leads that race by 70 votes. If she wins the seat, her victory will reduce the Republican majority in the House from a 75-45 margin to a 65-55 margin. This net pick up of 10 seats by the Democrats easily breaks the Republican supermajority in the House.

Republicans held a 35-15 majority in the Senate going into Election Day. In order to break the supermajority, Democrats needed to win a net of 6 seats to get below the 30 vote supermajority threshold. Sen. Wesley Meredith, R-Cumberland (Senate District 19), did not seek a recount by Monday’s deadline in his race with Democrat Kirk DeViere who held a 433-vote lead. With DeViere’s win, this gives the Republicans a 29 to 21 advantage, one seat short of a supermajority.

More details on turnover in the state House and Senate and the new legislators in each chamber come January are provided below. There will be many new lawmakers for the Coalition to share our message with when the legislature convenes for its long legislative session.

## **N.C. House Races**

### **Incumbents who lost:**

- Rep. Bobbie Richardson (D-Franklin) lost to Lisa Stone Barnes (R) in NC House District 7
- Rep. George Graham (D) lost to Chris Humphrey (R) in NC House District 12
- Rep. Chris Malone (R) lost to Terrence Everitt (D) in NC House District 35
- Rep. Nelson Dollar (R) lost to Julie von Haefen (D) in NC House District 36
- Rep. Jonathan Jordan (R) lost to Ray Russell (D) in NC House District 93
- Rep. John Bradford (R) lost to Christy Clark (D) in NC House District 98
- Rep. Bill Brawley (R) lost to Rachel Hunt (D) in NC House District 103 (subject to recount)
- Rep. Andy Dulin (R) lost to Brandon Lofton (D) in NC House District 104
- Rep. Scott Stone (R) lost to Wesley Harris (D) in NC House District 105
- Rep. Mike Clampitt (R) lost to former state Representative and Senator Joe Sam Queen (D) in NC House District 119

### **New Faces:**

District 1 - Edward Goodwin (R)  
District 6 - Bobby Hanig (R)  
District 7 - Lisa Stone Barnes (R)  
District 8 - Kandie Smith (D)  
District 11 - Allison Dahle (D)  
District 12 - Chris Humphrey (R)  
District 16 - Carson Smith (R)  
District 21 - Raymond Smith (D)  
District 25 - James Gailliard (D)  
District 31 - Zack Forde-Hawkins (D)  
District 35 - Terence Everett (D)  
District 36 - Julie von Haefen (D)  
District 37 - Sydney Batch (D)  
District 57 - Ashton Clemmons (D)  
District 65 - Jerry Carter (R)

District 67 - Wayne Sasser (R)  
District 72 - Derwin Montgomery (D)  
(appointed 8/15/18)  
District 79 - Keith Kidwell (R)  
District 80 - Steve Jarvis (R)  
District 93 - Ray Russell (D)  
District 98 - Christy Clark (D)  
District 99 - Nasif Majeed (D)  
District 101 - Carolyn Logan (D)  
District 104 - Brandon Lofton (D)  
District 103 – Rachel Hunt (D) (subject to  
recount)  
District 105 - Wesley Harris (D)  
District 119 – Joe Sam Queen (D)  
(previously served)

View complete House Election results [here](#).

## N.C. Senate Races

### Incumbents who lost:

- Sen. Michael Lee (R) lost to Harper Peterson (D) in NC Senate District 9
- Sen. Tamara Barringer (R) lost to Sam Searcy (D) in NC Senate District 17
- Sen. Wesley Meredith (R) lost to Kirk DeViere (D) in NC Senate District 19
- Sen. Trudy Wade (R) lost to Michael Garrett (D) in NC Senate District 27
- Sen. Jeff Tarte (R) lost to Natasha Marcus (D) in NC Senate District 41

### New Faces:

District 4 - Toby Fitch (D) (appointed 3/23/18)

District 9 - Harper Peterson (D)

District 12 - Jim Burgin (R)

District 16 - Wiley Nickel (D)

District 17 - Sam Searcy (D)

District 19 - Kirk DeViere (D)

District 27 - Michael Garrett

District 29 - Eddie Gallimore (R)

District 34 - Vickie Sawyer (R)

District 35 - Todd Johnson (R)

District 38 - Mujtaba Mohammed (D)

District 41 - Natasha Marcus (D)

District 44 - Ted Alexander (R)

View complete Senate Election results [here](#).

**Other Election Results:** As has been widely reported, voters approved four of the six constitutional amendments on the November ballot. The amendments pertaining to filling judicial vacancies and ethics and election enforcement were defeated with over 60% of voters opposing them. In the Supreme Court race, Republican incumbent Barbara Jackson lost her seat to Democrat Anita Earls. The win by Earls increases the Democrat majority on the Court from 4-3 to 5-2. Democrat candidates were also winners in the three Court of Appeals races on the ballot. There were several close Congressional races in the state, but when all the votes were counted, Republicans maintain their 10 to 3 majority in the delegation. The only newcomer to the delegation is Republican Mark Harris who beat Democrat challenger Dan McCready by almost a thousand votes. To see complete election results go to the NC Board of Elections website by clicking [here](#).

**Legislative Leadership:** Don't expect a lot of changes in leadership positions in the General Assembly next year. House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate Leader Phil Berger have confirmed that they wish to retain their positions. House Democratic Leader Darren Jackson and Senate Democratic Leader Dan Blue have also both confirmed they want to stay in their positions.

## **November Legislative Session – Voter I.D. of Particular Concern to Coalition:**

The legislature convenes for a planned, supposedly brief, lame-duck session November 27 to take up redistricting, hurricane recovery, Voter I.D. and possibly other topics. With the passage of the constitutional amendment on Voter I.D. by voters by a margin of 55.5% to 44.5% on November 6, the NC Coalition on Aging is aware that the General Assembly is already working on developing requirements for what is an acceptable I.D. to use when voting. The Coalition is concerned that there are older adults, particularly those of advanced age, who may not have acceptable documents needed for voter verification. This may be particularly true for those who were born at home, have never had a driver's license, and never had a birth certificate or their birth certificate cannot be located. Although the exact number of older adults without a current I.D. is not known, we do know that information provided in 2013 by the NC State Board of Elections noted that there were 147,609 state residents over the age of 65 for whom the Board of Elections could not identify a DMV I.D. match. In light of this large number of residents and the fact that a substantial number of these individuals may face barriers in obtaining the documentation needed to get an I.D., including costs and physical challenges, the Coalition proposes exempting anyone who has a government issued Medicare card from having to have an I.D. to vote. This would include those who are 65+ and persons younger than 65 who are disabled. Another reason for exempting older adults and persons with disabilities is that even if those without an I.D. can produce the documents to get one, a significant number of these individuals may not have the physical stamina to wait in the long lines to get an I.D. that many DMV offices around the state are experiencing. The Coalition has communicated our concerns about Voter I.D. requirements for older adults and persons with disabilities to the leadership in the General Assembly.

### **Notice about Continuing E-mail Problems**

Unfortunately, I still continue to have problems with fraudulent e-mails coming from my e-mail account. For this reason, I will be switching to a different e-mail address for all Coalition business.

**Be on the lookout for this change coming soon.** My apologies for any problems you may have experienced with this.

Mary Bethel

**Hurricane Recovery:** Last week Mike Sprayberry, Emergency Management Director for the state, gave lawmakers on the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety a status report on recovery efforts after Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. Sprayberry reported the following: After Matthew, \$765 million has been put back into the communities --

including \$98 million that has been paid out to more than 29,000 families. A total of 680 homeowners have been awarded funds from FEMA's hazard mitigation program. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded about \$5 million to more than 160 families through the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program. The state has received \$1.25 billion from the federal government for Hurricane Matthew, and also received \$326 million from the state. ReBuild NC has increased its caps for eligible activities -- for a repair and rehabilitation, someone can receive \$125,000 instead of the previous cap of \$53,000. The reconstruction cap increased from \$125,000 to \$250,000. So far after Hurricane Florence, \$112.1 million has been awarded to residents from FEMA's Individuals & Household Programs. Small Business Administration low-interest loans have been approved for 6,800 homeowners, renters and businesses, and 14,780 claims from the National Flood Insurance Program have been paid out totaling \$408 million. FEMA has completed 99 percent of its home inspections -- a total of 95,600. Disaster assistance teams have made more than 90,000 home visits and 19 disaster recovery centers have opened. Estimates stemming from Hurricane Michael aren't ready yet – figures are being gathered. Hurricane Florence caused an estimated \$17 billion in damage, per information provided by the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management. (Lauren Horsch, THE INSIDER, 11/16/18)

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has secured more than \$8.5 million in new federal and state funding to support the ongoing behavioral health needs of those impacted by Hurricane Florence. The funds will help make recovery possible for those in the state's disaster declared counties. As part of this new funding, the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services has secured a \$3.5 million grant from the federal government to fund a door-to-door behavioral health outreach program across all impacted areas, since many needing services may be relocated. (NEWS RELEASE, 10/30/18)

**Disaster Recovery Fund for Seniors:** Hurricanes Florence and Michael have left many people in our state in great need of help. In response to this need, several aging organizations and groups including the NC Association on Aging, the NC Association of Area Agencies on Aging, AARP NC, and the Coalition on Aging have partnered to establish the NC Disaster Recovery Fund for Seniors. The purpose of this Fund is to help address the unmet needs and the long-term recovery of older North Carolinians and local aging agencies. The NC Association on Aging (NCAOA) is administering the fund. On-line donations can be made at [www.ncaoa.org](http://www.ncaoa.org) (designate for Disaster Recovery for Seniors) or checks can be made payable to and mailed to NCAOA at PO Box 10341, Raleigh, NC 27605. In the memo line note “Disaster Fund.”

**Medicaid Waiver Approved:** On October 24, North Carolina's Medicaid overhaul cleared a major hurdle with the federal government giving an official nod to plans to switch to a managed-care system. Approval by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in what's known as a Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver means the N.C. Department of

Health and Human Services is on track with its Medicaid reform plan. The department will begin transitioning three-quarters of the state's 2.1 million Medicaid patients next November to managed care and away from the current fee-for-service system. The approval also gave a green light for pilot programs to look at alternative ways to improve health, making North Carolina the first state to receive permission to use Medicaid dollars for enhanced case management tools to target what are referred to as social determinants of health such as homelessness, family violence, toxic stress, transportation issues and food insecurity. Other proposals approved by CMS as part of the waiver include using federal matching dollars to treat addictions, including opioids, and a tailored plan for those with significant disabilities and complex behavioral health needs. The state also plans on developing a specialized plan to cover children in the foster care system and provide coverage up to age 26 for those who have aged out of the foster care system, according to the CMS approval letter. Cost was one issue that was debated in the negotiation process, after the state made its initial request to CMS for the waiver in June 2016.

CMS didn't give North Carolina health officials everything they wanted, though. Among things the state asked for that was denied was the ability to use Medicaid funding to cover uncompensated medical costs the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' medical system takes on for 13,000 of its tribal members. Also denied was a request to provide short-term behavioral crisis services in non-hospital inpatient facilities, funding for a telemedicine program and Medicaid dollars to address gaps in the state's health care workforce. Also getting a thumbs down from CMS was a proposed program, Carolina Cares, that would have been an alternate way of expanding the Medicaid program to cover the hundreds of thousands of North Carolina adults who are without health care and earn too little to qualify for a subsidy. Carolina Cares was conceived as a backdoor of sorts to Medicaid expansion -- it proposed to have low-income adults in the workforce pay into a health care plan without contributions from state coffers. It has not received the approval of our state legislature. CMS advised that the state needs the support of its own legislature before coming to CMS for permission. (Sarah Ovaska-Few, NC HEALTH NEWS, 10/26/18)

**Proposals to Provide Managed Care Received:** A total of eight companies and provider-led groups are vying to manage the care of North Carolina's Medicaid patients, contracts that could pay out as much as \$30 billion over the next five years. The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services released a list of applicants in mid-October that submitted proposals detailing how they will manage the health care needs of Medicaid patients as North Carolina shifts to managed systems. The list included six managed care companies and two provider-led groups. State officials say they plan on awarding contracts in February. Some patients will begin switching over to the managed-care plans as early as November 2019, with the rest to follow. The eight interested groups are:

- Aetna
- AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina
- BSBSNC-Healthy Blue

- Carolina Complete Health (provider-led group under the N.C. Medical Society)
- My Health by Health Providers (provider-led network of 12 N.C. hospital systems)
- Optima Health
- UnitedHealth Care
- WellCare Health Plans

Medicaid is the federally mandated but state-run program that provides health care for 2.1 million low-income disabled persons, seniors and children in North Carolina. The \$14 billion program is funded largely with federal dollars, but the state contributes roughly \$1 for every \$2 of federal funding. DHHS is looking to award up to four statewide contracts for groups to manage the care of most of the state's Medicaid population, as part of a planned move away from its existing system where the state essentially cuts checks to providers for each doctor visit, operation and prescription. (Sarah Ovaska-Few, NC HEALTH NEWS, 10/23/18)

**Spectrum News “In Focus on Assisted Living in NC”:** The In Focus series, a 30-minute public affairs program hosted by Senior Political Reporter and anchor Loretta Boniti, exclusively on Spectrum News, recently focused on assisted living in the state. Below are links to watch three short videos that were released in October.

**In Focus: Advocating for Quality Assisted Living in NC**

Assisted living advocates discuss how they are fighting for top quality care for residents in assisted living communities across NC (*featuring Frances Messer, NCALA President & CEO and Jeff Horton, Executive Director of NC Senior Living Association*). [Watch the video...](#)

**In Focus: Promoting Policy Change for Assisted Living**

Discussion with lawmakers who are setting policy for improvements to assisted living care throughout the state. [Watch the video...](#)

**In Focus: Choosing the Right Assisted Living Facility**

What goes into running an assisted living community and how to choose the right place for your loved ones (*featuring NCALA members Michael Walters, Executive Director of Cambridge Hills of Pittsboro and Justin LuQuire, President of Coastal Cove of Wilmington*). [Watch the video...](#)

**#Giving Thursday – A Global Day of Giving:** Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. This November 27th, join the movement and give - whether it's some of your time, a donation, gift or the power of your voice in your local community. If you are interesting in supporting the on-going work of the Coalition on Aging with an end-of-the year donation, you can do so on-line by clicking [here](#), or by mailing a check made payable to the NC Coalition on Aging to PO Box 12762, Raleigh, NC 27605. A contribution of any amount is greatly appreciated.

## **Other News and Updates**

**November is National Family Caregiver Month.** Caregiving is demanding work with no set hours and changing expectations. It's easy to become overwhelmed when caring for a loved one. But caregivers often find it difficult to take the time they need to care for themselves, as well. During Family Caregiver Month, use these [5 options](#) for finding respite.

**2018 Home for the Holidays Campaign:** The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) and the Eldercare Locator have announced the theme for their 2018 Home for the Holidays Campaign. This annual public education campaign elevates important aging issues and provides families with tips, tools, and resources. This year's theme is "Caring Across the Miles: Resources for Long-Distance Caregivers". The focus of the 2018 campaign is recognizing the challenges of providing care from afar, including the difficulty of finding local resources and assistance. [The 2018 web page](#) will continue to be updated with additional information and resources. (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/02/18)

As families across the country gather for holiday celebrations, they have an important opportunity to **check on the health and well-being of their loved ones**. Food-borne illnesses and falls are two hazards easily addressed during this family time. These two resources can help. [Avoid food-borne illness](#) and [Get home falls prevention tips](#) (NCOA Week 11/20/18)

The Administration for Community Living has launched **a newly redesigned Eldercare Locator website** that makes it easier for older adults and their caregivers to find essential aging resources. Included in the site features are a Caregiver Corner with answers to frequently asked questions, and a "Learn More About" section that provides information on popular topics like transportation, support services, elder rights, housing, health, and benefits. Check out the new site by clicking [here](#).

**Wake County is working to develop a comprehensive plan for the county.** It is in the community outreach phase of the process now and wants to get county residents to complete their survey ([planwake.org](http://planwake.org)). Please share the word about this because only a few residents over age 66 have completed the survey. The survey will remain open until mid-December. The direct link to the survey is available at <https://publicinput.com/3025> and other information is available at [planwake.org](http://planwake.org).

According to a news release from the NC Department of Commerce last week, the state's seasonally adjusted October **unemployment rate was 3.6%**, decreasing 0.2% from September's revised rate. The national rate remained unchanged at 3.7%. North Carolina's October 2018 unemployment rate decreased 0.9% from a year ago.

North Carolina and federal authorities say they have **settled an antitrust lawsuit against Atrium Health**, reaching an agreement that could help lower health care prices for patients. The 2016 lawsuit filed against Atrium Health, formerly Carolinas HealthCare System, alleged that the multi-billion-dollar hospital chain illegally reduced competition in the Charlotte health care market. In the proposed settlement, Atrium will be banned from entering into contracts with insurance companies that would limit transparency and curb the ability of insurers to offer lower cost benefit plans. Atrium is North Carolina's largest health care system and Charlotte's largest employer. It operates Carolinas Medical Center and 43 other hospitals. With nearly \$6 billion in operating revenue last year, it is one of the nation's largest nonprofit health care systems. Atrium admitted no wrongdoing and said it did not violate the law. In other Atrium news, a group of former Atrium Health employees has filed a federal class-action lawsuit against the health care company, alleging that the massive hospital chain has cheated thousands of employees over retirement and health benefits by falsely claiming to be an arm of government. (Ames Alexander and Cassie Cope, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 11/15/18 and 11/15/18)

**Voters in three states** -- Idaho, Nebraska and Utah -- voted on November 6 to **expand Medicaid** coverage to their citizens, a sign this piece of the Obama administration program is continuing to gain support in what are typically more conservative states.

On October 22, the **State Health Plan's board of trustees unanimously passed a resolution approving a provider reimbursement strategy for North Carolina providers proposed by State Treasurer Dale Folwell**. He wants to change how health care providers are reimbursed by the Plan in an initiative that he says could save members up to \$60 million initially and could result in \$300 million in savings to the Plan. Folwell's proposal, disclosed October 6, is that the plan will shift on January 1, 2020, from a commercial-based payment model to a pricing model based on a percentage of Medicare rates. The proposal has drawn pushback from health care providers, such as hospitals and the N.C. Healthcare Association. The state of Montana moved to the same proposed reimbursement strategy for their State Health Plan members several years ago. (Richard Craver, WINSTON SALEM-JOURNAL, 10/23/18 and Lauren Horsch, THE INSIDER, 10/24/18)

A new grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will give funding to 22 North Carolina health departments to create **strategies for fighting the state's opioid epidemic**. Thirty-four counties applied for a share of \$1.8 million funds, for up to \$100,000 each, according to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. To be eligible to receive the grants, the counties agreed to implement at least one of three state-approved strategies: syringe exchange programs; connecting justice-involved individuals to treatment; and recovery options or post-overdose response teams. DHHS began implementing the state's Opioid Action Plan in 2017, with a goal of reducing opioid overdose deaths in North Carolina by 20% by 2021. Unintentional opioid overdoses killed 1,683 residents in 2017, according to DHHS. Between 1999 and 2017,

the number of opioid overdose deaths in North Carolina increased by 800 percent. (Karrigan Monk, CAROLINA PUBLIC PRESS, 11/15/18)

**Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center** has announced that it has joined the living wage movement by **raising its minimum hourly wage** by \$1.50 to \$12.50 an hour. The not-for-profit system said 9% of its workforce, or about 1,460 employees, benefit from the increase that has gone into effect. From an annual perspective, the salaries for affected employees go from \$22,800 to \$26,000. The overall additional payroll cost is projected at \$1.7 million for fiscal 2019, which ends June 30. Wake Forest Baptist said the increase is part of "an overall goal to progressively increase the living wage to at least \$15 an hour over the next several years." (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 11/09/18)

**Psychiatric advance directives** have been around for some time in North Carolina, but they're still not widely used. A psychiatric advance directive (which many people refer to as a PAD) goes into effect if a person is temporarily incapable of making sound decisions for himself. During the past legislative session, North Carolina lawmakers reaffirmed and encouraged the use of PADs as part of a bill meant to reform the process of involuntary commitment for mental health treatment. A physician is required to follow a person's psychiatric advance directive, with these exceptions: asking for something that's not standard care, if what is asked for is not available/feasible, if it's an emergency or if there are safety issues present and the person is under involuntary commitment. Once the PAD is complete, people can carry it with them, or for \$10, they can file it on a password protected part of the North Carolina Secretary of State's website. (Rose Hoban, NC HEALTH NEWS, 11/14/18)

Common Cause and the North Carolina Democratic Party are **suing for state House and Senate districts to be redrawn for the 2020 election**, claiming the districts are partisan gerrymanders that violate the state constitution. The lawsuit was filed last week in Wake County Superior Court against state legislative leaders and the state elections board. It will likely eventually be heard in the state Supreme Court. The lawsuit seeks to throw out House and Senate districts the legislature approved in 2017 to comply with a federal court ruling striking down the previous districts as unconstitutional racial gerrymanders. The new lawsuit challenges districts statewide, including House districts in Mecklenburg and Wake counties. The lawsuit says Republicans "pack" Democratic voters into districts so Democratic candidates win overwhelmingly, or "crack" Democratic voters by parceling them out over two or more districts, diluting their power and giving Republican candidates advantages. The lawsuit calls the Mecklenburg House districts "the pinnacle of packing," where Democrats are packed into seven districts to make Republicans competitive in four others. The legislature packed Democrats into six Wake House districts to maximize Republican competitiveness in four, the lawsuit said. (Lynn Bonner, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/13/18)

**Voter turnout in North Carolina** was exceptionally high in 2018, but some races drew more attention than others. More than 52% of registered North Carolina voters cast a ballot this year. That's higher than the 47% figure nationwide and the 44% turnout for North Carolina in 2014, the last mid-term election. But voters can pat themselves on the back even harder if they'd like. This year was a "blue moon" election, meaning there wasn't a high statewide election for president or senate. That happens once only every 12 years. In 2006, the last blue moon election, turnout was lower than 37%. North Carolina voter turnout in 2018 was still lower than every presidential election in recent memory, but higher than every midterm since 1990. (Jason deBruyn, WUNC RADIO, 11/13/18)

North Carolina is the latest state to join the **"Results First" program** to evaluate state government programs. The program is supported by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the MacArthur Foundation and is used in 27 states. The Office of State Budget and Management is overseeing it here.

Room 1027/1128 of the Legislative Building is **getting a new microphone system with audio streaming**. The room hosts the Senate Rules Committee, as well as the Pensions Committee and Commerce/Insurance Committee.

The **official death toll for Hurricane Florence** in North Carolina has risen to 41, after a **69-year-old man** in Robeson County **whose home was damaged in the storm took his own life**, according to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. State officials are being more careful to count deaths that may be indirectly caused by the storm, including people who died during evacuations or cleanup. The man in Robeson County is the **second suicide** on the list, after an **82-year-old** Carteret County man **who was reportedly distraught over the loss of his home from the storm**. The latest death is remarkable in that it took place October 22, a month after the last death attributed to Florence, which made landfall on September 14. The death toll in North Carolina had been steady at 40 since October 8, when a 68-year-old Onslow County man who died of "natural disease exacerbated by storm cleanup" on September 20 was added to the list. The medical examiner's office did not release any details about the Robeson County man or his death, other than to say that his home had also been damaged by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. (Richard Stradling, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/01/18)

**Haywood Regional Medical Center** is one of the nine Duke Lifepoint Hospitals in North Carolina that is in **contract negotiations with United Healthcare** to reach an agreement for employed physicians' services. The current contract with United Healthcare provides reimbursements, the hospital stated in a news release, but will expire at the year's end unless a new contract is successfully negotiated.

**Friends of Residents in Long Term Care has announced the recipients of its 2018 Awards**. Best Practice Awards went to **Carol Wood Retirement Community** in Chapel Hill for The

Quest Upstream, its participatory action-research initiative to support the inclusion of people living with dementia and the well-being of all Carol Woods' community members and to **Eckerd Living Center** in Highlands for its efforts to eliminate or minimize night time interruptions of residents so they are afforded more restorative sleep needed to maintain and enhance their quality of life. The Media Award was presented to **Sloane Heffernan and WRAL TV** in Raleigh for Sloane's expose' of the practices documented at several health care facilities. The Sharon C. Wilder Advocacy Award was given to **Barbara Venditti** from Pinehurst for her 14 years of volunteer services to the Community Advisory Committee program and the Ombudsman program.

An effort by the libertarian political network founded by the Koch brothers to **find common ground on a variety of issues** kicks off this week with digital ads and mailers sent out to some members of Congress thanking them for restraint on spending. Recipients of the thank-you notes include Sen. Thom Tillis for his position on immigration, and U.S. Reps. Mark Walker, Mark Meadows and Ted Budd for their stance on limited spending. Last week CNN reported that Americans for Prosperity was launching a post-midterm campaign to bring politicians, business executives and others to work together on criminal justice reform, immigration, fiscal spending and free trade. These North Carolina mailers and ads are part of that strategy, the organization says. (Craig Jarvis, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 11/19/18)

Raleigh has been named the **second best place to "live in right now,"** according to Money Magazine. Austin, Texas came in first.

Fewer than half of North Carolinians got a **flu shot** last winter, **the lowest vaccination rate in six years**, and one likely reason why the state saw the most deaths from the flu in a decade. Public health officials pointed to the drop-off in vaccinations released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to remind residents to get their flu shots soon before temperatures drop and the virus becomes more active. The CDC data showed that flu vaccinations declined nationwide, averaging 37.1% across the country last winter, dropping in 37 states, down from 43.3% in the previous flu season of 2016-17. That decrease is associated with 79,000 flu-related deaths nationwide, the highest flu-related death toll in more than three decades. The decline was mirrored in North Carolina, where vaccination rates have long been above the national average. Last winter, the state's vaccination rate dropped to 46% from 50.8% in the 2016-17 flu season, according to the CDC. At the same time, the state's flu-related death count rose to 391, more flu-related deaths than any year since the flu became reportable in 2009 and was tracked consistently in subsequent years. (John Murawski, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/29/18)

On October 22, Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order 79 to establish the **North Carolina Complete Count Commission** and named members to the Commission to help achieve the most accurate and complete count of North Carolina's residents in the upcoming decennial census in 2020. The Commission will coordinate North Carolina's involvement with

the census, helping the U.S. Census Bureau to recruit North Carolinians to be census workers, educate the public about the importance of the census, develop partnerships with public and private sectors to achieve an accurate count, and create a strategy to reach historically hard-to-count populations, including young children, low-income individuals, military personnel, non-native English speakers, minorities, and rural residents. (NEWS RELEASE, 10/22/18)

The N.C. Department of Transportation wants the public to help **influence the future of transportation in North Carolina**. From now until Nov. 30, residents can participate in an online survey and leave comments on an interactive map about the future transportation challenges across North Carolina and what should be the future focus of transportation in their regions. NCDOT will use the feedback to help shape the vision and goals for its next long-range transportation plan, called NC Moves 2050. (NEWS RELEASE, 10/18/18)

The Human Rights Campaign recently **ranked more than 500 U.S. cities for how inclusive they are to LGBTQ people**, and Greensboro took the top ranking in North Carolina. Greensboro beat out towns with strong progressive reputations, like Carrboro and Chapel Hill, which took second and third rankings on the non-profit's annual Municipal Equality Index. The index scores municipalities for their policies and local services. Greensboro scored especially well for its treatment of city employees. It got high marks for offering trans-inclusive health benefits to municipal employees and for having an LGBTQ liaison to the city's executive office. Greensboro also received multiple bonus points for providing specific services to the transgender community and to LGBTQ elders, youth and the homeless. But Greensboro and other highly ranked towns, like all North Carolina cities, scored a zero in the scorecard's most heavily weighted category of non-discrimination laws. (Liz Schlemmer, WUNC RADIO, 10/17/18)

**Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center is no longer participating in a prestigious certification program for nursing training and development**. In 1999, Wake Forest Baptist became the first hospital in the Carolinas to earn magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. It was re-certified in 2003, 2009 and 2014. The credentialing center touts the magnet program as "recognizing organizations worldwide where nursing leaders successfully align their nursing strategic goals to improve the organization's patient outcomes." (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 10/11/18)

On June 17-20, 2019 in Washington, DC, the National Council on Aging will convene over 800 professionals, advocates, lawmakers, and caregivers who create solutions for older adults where they live, advising them on personal decisions for optimal health and economic security. The three-day **Age+Action Conference** will connect individuals and organizations across the country to develop more integrated partnerships and to learn from each other, all in support of older adults as they face the changing realities of aging. In 2019, NCOA will spotlight the state of women and aging in America with new research and plenaries around their experience. To

find out more about the Conference and to **submit a proposal** for it by the November 30 deadline, click [here](#).

**The Prudential Foundation has awarded the National Council on Aging (NCOA) \$500,000 to support its holistic approach to empowering older adults to stay economically secure** as they age. The grant will support NCOA's education and decision support efforts to enable older adults to maximize their income, manage debt, use their home as a strategic asset, make the most of their health care coverage, access benefit programs, and explore job opportunities. (NCOA Week 11/20/18)

Numerous national news sources are reporting that after Democrats won enough seats in the mid-term election to be in the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, **the prospects have improved for Congress to pass a bipartisan Farm Bill** before the end of the year. The biggest stumbling block holding up agreement among Republicans and Democrats had been the work requirements for the food stamp program, known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Now that Democrats are in control of the House, Republicans have little leverage to continue to push for tough work requirements provisions. The bipartisan version of the Farm Bill that won Senate approval does not have the tougher requirements. See this [story](#) from NPR for more details.

There are changes in **Medicare Open Enrollment notifications in 2018**. The [Medicare's Open Enrollment Period \(OEP\)](#) started October 15<sup>th</sup> and **ends December 7<sup>th</sup>**. This is the time of year where Medicare recipients can [re-evaluate](#) their coverage to make sure they are still enrolled in the best plan for their needs. With the changes occurring this year, it is important to stay abreast of all the notices provided. To read more about the notifications changes, click [here](#). (NCOA Week, 10/2/18 and 10/16/18)

**Open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplaces runs November 1 – December 15.** During this time, individuals without Medicare or group insurance can purchase individual coverage and apply for subsidies or Medicaid to help them afford insurance. As a reminder, the HealthCare.gov portal is shut down between 12 a.m. and 12 p.m. each Sunday for maintenance. To find out more, click [here](#).

In partnership with the University of South Carolina, Feeding America recently completed a comprehensive evaluation study highlighting the issues older adults face in maintaining their health and food security status. These challenges include chronic disease, social isolation, mobility, transportation, and limited income and affordability. In addition to outlining the various problems older adults may experience with food security, this study also offers insight about the trade-offs program managers must consider between reaching as many people as possible and meeting the specific needs of individuals. The study, "**Senior Food-Assistance, Related Programming, and Seniors' Experiences Across the Feeding America Network**", engaged almost 150 older adults and 90 program managers and community agencies across 9 states. It examined 17 different program delivery models, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Commodity Food Supplemental Program (CSFP). This

study is intended to provide a baseline and prompt further research and assessment of program delivery for older adults. [Click here](#) to read more. (NASUAD Fridays Update 10/19/18)

On Friday October 12, the Administration for Community Living issued a notice in the Federal Register seeking nominations for individuals to serve on the **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Federal Advisory Council**. This Advisory Council was established as part of the [Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act](#). To find out more about the Advisory Council and to submit a nomination by the December 3 deadline, click [here](#). (NASUAD Fridays Update 10/19/18)

Also on Friday October 12, the Administration for Community Living issued a notice in the Federal Register seeking nominations for individuals to serve on the RAISE Family Caregivers Federal Advisory Council. This Advisory Council was established as part of the **RAISE Family Caregiver Act**. To find out more about the Advisory Council and to submit a nomination by the December 3 deadline, click [here](#). (NASUAD Fridays Update 10/19/18)

The **2018-2023 Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map** outlines actions state and local public health agencies and their partners can take to stimulate changes in policies, systems and environments. The goal is to ensure that initiatives to address Alzheimer's can be easily and efficiently incorporated into existing public health initiatives. The Road Map outlines 25 action items for the field of public health to promote brain health, better care for people with cognitive impairment, and increase attention to caregivers. [Click here](#) to read the full Road Map. (NASUAD Fridays Update 10/19/18)

CMS has announced **the 2019 premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance amounts for Medicare Parts A and B**. Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, and some home health care services. Many Medicare beneficiaries do not have a Part A premium since they have at least 40 quarters of Medicare-covered employment. The Medicare Part A inpatient deductible that beneficiaries will pay when admitted to the hospital is \$1,364 in 2019, an increase of \$24 from \$1,340 in 2018. Medicare Part B covers physician services, outpatient hospital services, certain home health services, durable medical equipment, and certain other medical and health services not covered by Medicare Part A. The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees will be \$135.50 for 2019, a slight increase from \$134 in 2018. CMS also announced that the annual deductible for Medicare Part B beneficiaries is \$185 in 2019, an increase from \$183 in 2018. [Click here](#) to learn more about the 2019 Medicare Parts A & B premiums and deductibles. (NASUAD Fridays Update 10/19/18)

The Social Security Act provides for annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increases based on inflation. The Social Security Administration (SSA) has measured the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2017 through the third quarter of 2018, and announced a **2.8 percent COLA for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits in 2019**. In practice, the SSA estimates that this will mean the average

monthly Social Security benefit for a retired worker will increase by \$39, from \$1,422 in 2018 to \$1,461 in 2019. Likewise, the average monthly benefit for a Social Security disabled worker beneficiary will increase by \$34, from \$1,222 in 2018 to \$1,234 in 2019. [Click here](#) to read more about the 2019 Social Security COLA. (NASUAD Fridays Update 10/19/18)

As temperatures around the country begin to drop, it's important to prepare properly for the colder weather. Some older adults may struggle to keep their home comfortably warm amidst rising energy costs. The Eldercare Locator has partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to create a **brochure highlighting economical ways to stay warm and safe at home in the winter**. The brochure refers older adults to financial energy assistance programs, offers tips for reducing energy use, and highlights important safety information. [Click here](#) to read more about winter warmth and safety. (NASUAD Fridays Update 10/26/18)

**A Comparison of Nursing Home Usage in States With and Without Medicaid Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MMLTSS):** This study from Milliman examines one objective of MLTSS: providing LTSS care in the community instead of in nursing homes. The results highlight the success that MLTSS programs have had in reducing institutional care for older adults and people with disabilities compared to states operating a fee for service system. This success is measured both in absolute numbers as well as the acuity level of consumers receiving services in nursing facilities. [Click here](#) to read more. (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/02/18)

The Center for Medicare Advocacy and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare have partnered to develop an education and outreach project to support Medicare beneficiaries and those who assist them as they enroll and re-enroll in Medicare. **[The Medicare Fully Informed Project](#)** provides comprehensive information about the full range of Medicare coverage options and includes an array of tools to assist in making the best individual enrollment choices. The goal is to aid beneficiaries, and those who help beneficiaries, make informed enrollment decisions. For information visit [www.MedicareAdvocacy.org](http://www.MedicareAdvocacy.org). (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/02/18)

The Kaiser Family Foundation has published their **annual report stemming from the 50-state Medicaid budget surveys**. Data is captured from Medicaid directors and staff through the completion of written surveys as well as structured follow-up telephone interviews. This recently released report examines the reforms, policy changes, and initiatives that occurred in FY 2018 and those adopted for implementation for FY 2019. The report focuses on changes in eligibility, managed care and delivery system reforms, long-term services and supports, provider payment rates and taxes, covered benefits, and pharmacy and opioid strategies. It highlights key trends and emerging issues across the national Medicaid landscape. [Click here](#) to read more. (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/02/18)

The National Center on Elder Abuse has published a **new brief on understanding and working with adult protective service (APS)**. This three-part brief, published in collaboration with the National Adult Protective Services Association, provides information on how collaborating with APS can help older adults and adults with disabilities who are subjected to abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Part one of the brief provides a general overview of APS, including program functions, policies, and practices. The second part covers APS abuse reporting, intake, screening, triaging, and investigation processes. Finally, the third section of this brief focuses on the importance of collaborating with APS during interventions. [Click here](#) to read more. (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/02/18)

**Helping Alzheimer's Caregivers:** This recent CDC publication brings attention to the complex issue of Alzheimer's Caregiving. It provides a number of tips for Alzheimer's caregivers, including setting expectations appropriately, maintaining routine, and practicing self-care. It also highlights programs available to help enhance caregiving skills and provides a list of links to educational resources for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. [Click here](#) to read more. (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/09/18)

**State Caregiving Infographics:** The CDC has released new state caregiving infographics. These infographics feature 2015-2016 combined national data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The infographics provide demographic information about caregivers and summarize their time commitment and tasks performed. They can be viewed online and downloaded, and may be useful to states as they undergo Alzheimer's and Healthy Aging planning. [Click here](#) to read more. (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/09/18)

On Thursday November 8, **CMS issued proposed changes to the Medicaid and CHIP Managed Care final rule** which was published in 2016. That rule has been under review by the Trump Administration for almost a year in an effort to increase state flexibility and opportunities for innovation. Many of the significant changes address actuarial soundness requirements, and directed payments. In addition, the proposed rule reduces the specific network adequacy standards states have to include in managed care contracts as well as beneficiary information included in provider directories. There were no changes to the LTSS sections of the current regulations. CMS has provided a [fact sheet](#) on the proposed changes. The NPRM won't be published in the Federal Register until November 14, but an unofficial version is available [here](#). Public comments are due by January 14, 2019. Visit the [Medicaid managed care site](#) to learn more. (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/09/18)

More than **19 percent of seniors filled at least one outpatient opioid prescription per year**, on average, in 2015-16. More than 7 percent obtained four or more. (Source: AHRQ, Medical

Expenditure Panel Survey Statistical Brief #515: *Any Use and Frequent Use of Opioids Among Elderly Adults in 2015-2016, by Socioeconomic Characteristics.*)

**Benefits Veterans Can Use to Age Well:** There are many benefit programs specifically designed to meet the needs of veterans. This guide reviews the types of veterans' benefits and where to find these programs. Programs include financial assistance, home loans, and help for caregivers. All the programs listed in this guide are also included in NCOA's online benefits screening tool, [BenefitsCheckUp.org](http://BenefitsCheckUp.org). [Click here](#) to read more about programs to support aging veterans. (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/09/18)

**Housing America's Older Adults 2018:** Affordable, accessible housing located in age-friendly communities is already in short supply. As the American population ages, demand for this housing will continue to increase. Many older adults are at risk of having insufficient resources to manage rising healthcare and housing costs in their later years and may struggle to pay for their housing and other basic necessities. This paper discusses these and other issues around housing for older Americans. The Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies published this report as a supplement to the State of the Nation's Housing Report. [Click here](#) to read more. (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/16/18)

**2019 SSI and Spousal Impoverishment Standards:** Under Medicaid spousal impoverishment provisions, a certain amount of a couple's financial resources are protected from nursing home expenses and reserved for the spouse still living in the community (if applicable). CMS has published an [informational bulletin](#) with updates on the 2019 Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Spousal Impoverishment Standards. Standards are adjusted in January in accordance with changes in the SSI federal benefit rate (FBR) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). View the 2019 Spousal Impoverishment Standards [here](#). (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/09/18)

**Guidance on Expiration of Certain Spousal Impoverishment Policies:** On November 9, CMS released an informational bulletin discussing the expiration of a requirement for states to apply spousal impoverishment policies to HCBS participants. The requirement, contained within the Affordable Care Act, mandated that states apply special financial eligibility rules for some Medicaid participants in their HCBS programs for a five-year period beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2018. CMS' guidance discusses the different ways that these eligibility rules are applied to various financial eligibility categories and HCBS options, including services provided under sections 1915(c), 1915(i), 1915(k), and 1115. In the letter, CMS outlines the options states have to continue using the special eligibility rules under certain circumstances, and also explains other instances where the state could no longer apply these different standards. The bulletin also outlines the processes that states should use to redetermine beneficiaries' eligibility after the requirements expire and provides information on potential demonstration waivers that states could explore in order to continue some or all of the special rules. [Click here](#) to read the full letter. (NASUAD Fridays Update 11/09/18)

Continuing with this issue, on November 15, the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) published an **issue brief exploring the upcoming changes to spousal impoverishment policies in Federal Medicaid HCBS policy**. The report provides an explanation of why spousal impoverishment policies exist, the changes made by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the potential implications of the expiration of these ACA changes. According to the KFF findings, five states plan to stop applying the spousal impoverishment rules to some or all of their 1915(c) HCBS waivers if Section 2404 expires at the end of 2018. Additionally, states would not be able to apply these rules to other HCBS participants receiving services through 1915(i) or 1915(k) unless they secure an 1115 waiver. [Click here](#) to read the full report.

Medicare beneficiaries living in North Carolina should have received their **new Medicare card** by now. Anyone living here who has not yet received their card should either sign into [MyMedicare.gov](#) to see if the card has been mailed, or Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to check on its status.

Got questions about Social Security. Check out the new **AARP Social Security Resource Center** by clicking [here](#).

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released **Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd edition** which include new guidelines for older adults. To learn more, click [here](#).

**Subaru Share the Love Event:** From November 15, 2018, through January 2, 2019, for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased, Subaru will donate \$250 to the customer's choice of participating charities. Meals on Wheels is one of four national participating charities and has been since the inception of the event. Check out [Subaru Share the Love Event](#) to learn more.

On October 10, the Trump administration published its [proposed changes](#) to the **“public charge” rule**, which would penalize immigrants seeking permanent status for using certain public benefits. According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) "public charge" applies only to those entering the country with a visa or hoping to acquire a green card. Numerous news outlets are reporting that due to the proposed rule, many legal immigrants are fearful to seek any public benefits. [A report](#) from the Fiscal Policy Institute estimates that 24 million people will feel a **"chilling effect,"** meaning they will be too frightened to accept benefits—even if they are not directly impacted by the rule. The publishing of the rule in the federal register kicked off a 60-day public comment period. Many health and human service advocacy groups are asking DHS to back away from the proposed changes as there is concern about the impact of the rule on the health and well-being of legal older adult immigrants who are aging and their families, as well as the impact on the 1 in 4 direct care workers who are immigrants caring for older adults and people with disabilities. Read more on this issue [here](#). **The deadline for commenting on the proposed rule is December 10.** To comment, click [here](#) and complete the comment form.

**Funding Opportunity - Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program:** The purpose of this program is to improve health outcomes for older adults by developing a healthcare workforce that maximizes patient and family engagement, and by integrating geriatrics and primary care. Eligible applicants are accredited health professions schools and programs. The deadline to submit an application for this grant is Wednesday, February 6, 2019. [Click here](#) to read more.

**Funding Opportunity - Rural Veterans Health Access:** This notice announces the opportunity to apply for funding under the Rural Veterans Health Access Program (RVHAP). The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to provide funding to states to work with providers and other partners to improve access to needed health care services and to improve the coordination of care for veterans living in rural areas. Award recipients can implement a variety of strategies to improve the capacity of critical access hospitals (CAHs) and other rural health care organizations to provide services that meet the needs of veterans living in rural areas. Award recipients can also assist providers in making connections to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system to coordinate care for rural veterans using community health care providers as well as the VA system. The deadline to submit an application for this grant is Tuesday, February 12, 2019. [Click here](#) to read more

## People in the News

**Tara K. Myers** is the new Deputy Secretary for Human Services in the NC Department of Health and Human Services. She assumed this position in October. Previous to this, she worked in a variety of positions with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

After 21 years at the Self Help Credit Union and the Center for Responsible Lending where she is currently a Senior Policy Associate, **Susan Lupton** has announced her retirement. Susan has been a key figure in helping to position North Carolina as a model for predatory lending reform, including strong mortgage protections, protections for homeowners at risk of foreclosure, and curbing payday and bank payday abuses.

**Katherine Restrepo** is the new health policy advisor for Sen. Phil Berger. She was the former director of Health Care Policy for the John Locke Foundation.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness North Carolina (NAMI NC) announced Tuesday that **Michelle Laws** will be its new public policy specialist. Laws has worked for more than three decades in health and human services. Prior to joining NAMI, she served as the assistant director of the Community Health Coalition, Inc., a nonprofit committed to improving health outcomes for historically marginalized populations. Laws' professional career also includes serving as the executive director of the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP, legislative liaison for the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, and an adjunct professor teaching undergraduate courses in sociology, research methods, and statistics at N.C. Central University, N.C. State University and in federal and state prisons. (NEWS RELEASE, 10/23/18)

The NC Chamber has announced that **Lew Ebert**, president & CEO, plans to retire effective November 30. Gary Salamido, current vice president of government affairs, has been named the chief operating officer and acting president. (NEWS RELEASE, 10/22/18)

**UNC Health Care CEO Dr. William Roper** has been named the interim president of the UNC System, succeeding Margaret Spellings, who will step down early next year. He will be paid \$775,000 -- the same base salary as Spellings. He will start the job January 1.

**Timothy J. Reeder**, an emergency medicine physician at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, has been sworn in as the North Carolina Medical Society's 165th president. He currently works at the Brody School of Medicine, Department of Emergency Medicine, as an associate professor and executive vice chair. His clinical interests include trauma care, pediatric emergency care and disaster medicine. His educational interests include health systems science including patient safety, quality and leadership. He also serves as Director of the Health System Transformation and Leadership Distinction Track. (NEWS RELEASE 10/22/18)

Winston-Salem attorney **G. Gray Wilson** has been sworn in as president of the North Carolina State Bar. He is currently a partner with the Winston-Salem office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough. Raleigh attorney **C. Colon Willoughby** has been sworn in as president-elect of the State Bar. Willoughby is a partner with the Raleigh firm McGuireWoods, where he focuses his practice on government, regulation and criminal investigations. Greensboro attorney **Barbara R. Christy** has been selected by the State Bar's Nominating Committee to stand for election to the office of vice-president of the North Carolina State Bar. And **Alice Neece Mine**, longtime assistant executive director of the North Carolina State Bar, has been installed as the agency's secretary/treasurer, succeeding **L. Thomas Lunsford II**, who had held the post since 1992. (NEWS RELEASE, 10/31/18)

The NC Chamber has announced that **Debra L. Derr** is the new director of government affairs for regulatory and economic development. Derr was previously the NC Chamber's director of cornerstone member relations, responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with nearly 350 key businesses in North Carolina. Prior to joining the Chamber in 2016, she was a partner at Market Solutions Etc., LLC, a market research, project management and public relations firm based in Raleigh. She has also served as the deputy commissioner and director of policy and compliance at the N.C. Division of Employment Security, as the chief deputy secretary at the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources and as the director of government affairs at BellSouth Telecommunications. (NEWS RELEASE, 11/01/18)

**Gene Anderson**, who helped engineer the election of North Carolina's first Republican governor in the 20th century died on October 13 in Wilmington. Anderson, 80, was the chief campaign strategist for Republican Jim Holshouser's 1972 breakthrough election as governor. During the four years of the Holshouser administration, Anderson was the governor's chief aide and person who was often in the headlines across the state. He helped Holshouser push through a moderate agenda that included the creation of the state kindergarten system and health clinics in under-served rural areas.

**James Laterza**, an Army veteran who took charge of medical care at the Fayetteville VA, one of the nation's fastest-growing veterans populations, in April has announced that he will retire before Thanksgiving. In Fayetteville, Laterza has overseen health care for more than 75,000 veterans and a network that includes an annual budget of \$332.8 million. The Fayetteville VA spans communities around Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and Wilmington. Last month, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said Fayetteville was the "fastest growing single area in the VA," with 2,000 veterans added each month. (Drew Brooks, THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, 10/15/18)

The N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, a bipartisan group representing the mayors of the state's larger cities, has elected **Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughan** as its chair, **Goldsboro Mayor Chuck Allen** as vice chair, **Apex Mayor Lance Olive** as treasurer and **Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer as past chair**. Members of the executive committee elected include **Carrboro Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines, Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger and Statesville Mayor Costi Kutteh**. The Coalition enters its eighteenth year after its Annual Meeting hosted in Asheville last week by Manheimer. During the meeting, the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition also signed an agreement with the N.C. League of Municipalities that begins a process of collaboration and affiliation between the two organizations that allows the Mayors Coalition to utilize the expertise and resources within the League of Municipalities. (NEWS RELEASE, 11/19/18)

**Steve Hammel**, who recently retired from WRAL, will become interim executive director and general manager for UNC-TV.

## **Upcoming Meetings/Events Through December and Meetings/Events New (In Bold) to the Calendar**

**November is National Family Caregiver Month. This month is about recognizing, supporting, and celebrating caregivers across the country.**

**November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month**

**November is National Home and Hospice Care Month**

**November is National Diabetes Month**

**November 26, 2018 – Dementia Alliance of North Carolina Candlelight Reflections. Speakers include ABC's John Clark. At Cary Senior Center, 120 Maury Odell Place, Cary. RSVP to Kacy Hall at (919) 832-3732 or khall@dementianc.org.**

**November 27, 2018 - Giving Tuesday - one-day annual movement focused on charitable giving.**

November 27-28, 2018 (**Rescheduled Date**) – NC Conference for NC’s Nonprofits (Power Play: Disruption for Good) at Sheraton Imperial Hotel at Research Triangle Park.

November 27-29, 2018 (**Rescheduled Date**) – NC Senior Living Association 57<sup>th</sup> Convention and Trade Show at Sheraton Greensboro Hotel at Four Seasons/ Joseph S. Koury Convention Center, Greensboro.

November 28, 2018 - 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. - NC DHHS will hold a stakeholder webinar to kick off the planning and implementation of the Medicaid Managed Care Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plans. To register: <https://goo.gl/3MTwxm>. Audio for this webinar uses computer or cell phone speakers with landline availability. More information can be found in the [Behavioral Health and I/DD Tailored Plan Concept Paper](#), issued November 9, 2017, and in the [CMS-approved Section 1115 waiver and related October 26, 2018, webcast documents](#).

November 28, 2018 - 2:00-3:00 p.m. – Webinar on Findings and Conclusions from the Outcome Evaluation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program. [Click here](#) to learn more.

November 28, 2018 - 2:00-3:00 p.m. - Webinar on SSI for Older Adults: Post Eligibility Tips from the National Center on Law and Elder Rights. [Click here](#) to register.

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 - 1:00- 2:00 p.m. - The Aging and Disability Business Institute co-hosts a webinar with Scripps Gerontology Center to discuss the Health Care Organizations: 2018 RFI Survey Results. This data provides information on contracting between community-based organizations (CBOs) and health care entities and reveals how the contracting landscape has changed over the past year. [Click here](#) to register.

November 28, 2018 - 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - The HCBS Business Acumen Center webinar titled, "Improve Quality, Improve Relationships: How one organization developed clinical systems to improve outcomes for individuals and relationships with payer." [Register for the webinar](#).

December 3-4, 2018 – Remarkable Integration: Human Services and Health Care Partnerships Conference offered by Northwest AHEC and Piedmont Regional Council AAA at Greensboro Coliseum Complex in Greensboro (Caregiver Expo offered concurrently).

December 5, 2018 and 1st Wednesday of Each Month (Except January) of 2019 – Webinar Series: Moving Mountains, SNF Provider Training, Tools and Insight to Conquer 2019 Industry Changes. Contact Leslie at LeadingAge NC at [leslie.roseboro@leadingagenc.org](mailto:leslie.roseboro@leadingagenc.org).

December 7, 2018 - NC Coalition on Aging Monthly Meeting - Brown Building on Dix campus (801 Biggs Drive) at 10:00 a.m.

**December 10, 2018 – 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - NC Alliance for Health Annual Membership Meeting at American Heart Association**

**December 11, 2018 - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. – Webinar on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Deeming. [Click here](#) to register.**

**December 12, 2018 (Reschedule Date) - Caregiver Summit at Campbell University, Leon Levine Hall of Medical Sciences (4350 U.S. 421 S) in Lillington from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm - Info. & Registration [Click Here](#).**

**December 13, 2018 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Opioids and Aging Symposium at McKimmon Center in Raleigh from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Register at [OpioidsandAging2018.Eventbrite.com](http://OpioidsandAging2018.Eventbrite.com).**

**January 7, 2019 UTC @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Join the Self-Management Resource Center, the National Council on Aging, and the Evidence-Based Leadership Council for a webinar discussion about the role of chronic disease self-management education in addressing the opioid epidemic. For information and to register, click [here](#).**

**May 21-22, 2019 – Bringing It Home Conference on Ending Homelessness in North Carolina. Call for presentation proposals now through November 30. For information go to [2019 Conference Call for Proposals](#).**

**October 8-10, 2019 – Annual Conference of the NC Assisted Living Association.**

## **Legislative Meetings:**

### **Monday, Nov. 26**

- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee, 544 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, 643 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, 544 LOB.

### **Tuesday, Nov. 27**

- 12 p.m. | The NC House of Representatives convenes, House Chamber.
- 11 a.m. | The NC Senate convenes, Senate Chamber.

### **Monday, Dec. 3**

- 8:30 a.m. | House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions, GTP, 3800 Highway 58 North, Kinston.

### **Thursday, Dec. 6**

- 9 a.m. | Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, 643 LOB

Check out the [Calendar](#) on the Coalition's Website for additional activities and events.

**Articles/News Stories/Resources (click on story to open):**

- Health Affairs: [Strengthening The Workforce For People With Serious Illness: Top Priorities From A National Summit](#)
- The Washington Post: [Medicare Expands Access to In-Home Support for Seniors](#)
- The Washington Post: [Choosing your own exit. For some who are terminally ill, hastening their own death may be the answer.](#)
- U.S. GAO: [Access to Health Care for Low-Income Adults in States with and without Expanded Eligibility](#)
- USA Today Network: [Better Training, Career Development Needed for America's Direct-Care Workforce](#)
- Food Research and Action Center: [Data Analysis Reveals that Millions of Households with Seniors Rely on SNAP to Stave Off Hunger](#)
- Politico: [Red-state governor races could bring Medicaid expansion to millions](#)
- American Bar Association: [ABA guide helps lawyers, health professionals improve advance directives](#)
- The Washington Free Beacon: [Family Doctors' Lobby Lifts Opposition to Assisted Suicide](#)
- The Commonwealth Fund: [The Potential Implications of Work Requirements for the Insurance Coverage of Medicaid Beneficiaries: The Case of Kentucky](#)
- AP: [Trump taps Maine official to be in charge of Medicaid](#)
- Modern Healthcare: [4,100 more Arkansans lose Medicaid over work requirements](#)
- Washington Post: [The Health 202: The Trump administration may not be able to force drugmakers to advertise their prices](#)
- New York Times: [A Sense of Alarm as Rural Hospitals Keep Closing](#)

- Modern Healthcare: [Medicaid expansion scores election wins and losses across the country](#)
- New York Times: [When Hospitals Merge to Save Money, Patients Often Pay More](#)

### **North Carolina Related (click on story to open):**

- NC Policy Watch: [Voter ID: A Poll Tax on Aunt Bee](#)
- Kaiser Family Foundation: [Infographic on Medicaid in North Carolina](#)
- AP; multiple outlets: [North Carolina Finally Gets Medicaid Waiver for Managed Care](#)
- Health Affairs (CMS Blog): [CMS Approves North Carolina's Innovative Medicaid Demonstration To Help Improve Health Outcomes](#)
- News & Observer: [Will charging opioid dealers with murder prevent fatal overdoses? NC prosecutors hope so.](#)
- Carolina Journal: [Kappler: Lame-duck session could offer GOP last chance to push agenda](#)
- Morganton News Herald: [Guardian told JIRDC resident was used as 'human weapon'](#)
- Asheville Citizen-Times: [Local officials say residents still have questions on Mission deal, need to hear from HCA](#)
- Charlotte Business Journal: [Novant Health, like Atrium, makes plans for new hospital south of Charlotte](#)
- News & Observer: [Why police shouldn't transport people seeking mental health treatment](#)
- AP: [Death related to hepatitis A outbreak is confirmed in NC](#)
- WRAL: [Storm worsens N Carolina city's affordable housing crisis](#)
- News & Observer: [NC leaders approve \\$850 million for Hurricane Florence recovery. How will they spend it?](#)
- ABC11: [Health department confirms 4 flu deaths in North Carolina so far in the 2018-19 season](#)

**NC Health News: (click on story to open):**

- [National Expert: Caregivers Need to Care for Themselves Too](#)
- [“Choice Overload” Can Cause Consumers Trouble During Medicare Open Enrollment](#)
- [Hello? It’s I, Robot, And Have I Got An Insurance Plan For You!](#)
- [\*\*Medicaid Changes Get Thumbs Up, as State Pushes Forward with Managed Care\*\*](#)
- [\*\*NC Counties Putting New Federal Funding to Use in Battling Opioid Epidemic\*\*](#)
- [More Than 1000 Doctors Say They’ve Stopped Prescribing Opioids](#)
- [Uncontrolled Pain: The Other Side of the Opioid Crisis](#)
- [Complex Pain Problems Put Patients in a Bind](#)
- [New Push to Help Mental Health Patients Determine Their Treatment in Emergencies](#)
- [Medicaid expansion on the horizon? Or still out of reach?](#)
- [No More Negotiations: State Health Plan Wants Clearer Process, Lower Prices](#)
- [Mental Health Concerns as Florence Ruins Farms, Crops, Harvests](#)
- [\*\*What to do with 4.2 million dead poultry after Hurricane Florence? Turn them into compost\*\*](#)
- [\*\*With homes destroyed by Florence, this tiny ENC county struggles to find a foothold\*\*](#)
- [Governor Proposes Mental Health, Housing Funds in Flood Relief Budget](#)
- [Trusted Local Nonprofit Fills Need in Florence Bashed New Bern](#)
- [A Man and His Dog: A Story of Mental Health Recovery](#)
- [Transgender People Protest Lost Access to Medical Therapies](#)
- [\*\*“This is a population we’re ignoring:” Docs share best practices for transgender health care\*\*](#)
- [Should All NC Inmates Be Screened and Treated for Hepatitis C? A Federal Court Will Decide?](#)

- [Western North Carolina Congressional Voter Guide](#)
- [Central North Carolina Congressional Voter Guide](#)
- [Eastern North Carolina Congressional Voter Guide](#)
- [DHHS Announces Results of Cheumours Neighbors' Durg, Urine Tests](#)
- [Science Board Givers Final OK to GenX Report. Leaves Health Care Unchanged](#)
- [State health officials seek input on early childhood action plan](#)

### **NPR Aging Series:**

To view any of these stories, go to <https://www.npr.org/sections/aging/> and click on the story.

- **Firearms And Dementia: How Do You Convince A Loved One To Give Up Their Guns?**
- **New Medicare Advantage Benefits Are Supposed To Help Seniors Stay Out Of The Hospital**
- **Active Ingredient In Marijuana Reduced Alzheimer's-Like Effects In Mice**
- **Language Barrier Means Millions Of Elderly Can't Access Alzheimer's Trials**
- **GOP Revives Medicare Scare Tactics As Election Nears**
- **Antipsychotic Drugs Don't Ease ICU Delirium**
- **Want To Keep Your Brain Sharp? Take Care Of Your Eyes And Ears**

**Final Coalition Meeting for 2018:** December 7, 2018

**Agenda:** Discuss and Finalize Legislative Agenda for 2019 Legislative Session. You are invited (volunteer basis) to bring goodies to share with fellow Coalition members as we celebrate the holiday season and the end of a good year for the Coalition.

**Location:** The meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in room 104 of the Brown Building on the Dix Campus (801 Biggs Drive). 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 Registration and Renewal:** Coalition on Aging membership registration/renewal can be done in one of two ways:

Option 1: Go to <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/membership.aspx>. And print off a membership registration/renewal form which can be completed and returned along with dues payment (payable to the NC Coalition on Aging) to the address noted on the form.

Option 2: 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 Executive Director, at [mmbethel72@gmail.com](mailto: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 Executive Director, at [mmbethel72@gmail.com](mailto:mmbethel72@gmail.com). The Coalition also posts a master calendar of aging related events and activities on its 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](mailto:mmbethel72@gmail.com) or check out our website at <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/>.