



Our new 2010-2011 NCRSP year will begin September 8, 2010. We will be meeting at **Groce Methodist Church** on Tunnel Road at 12:00 PM. Howard Bridges will be catering lunch. I am looking forward to serving you as President.

Again this year we will be focusing on membership. Thanks to you, we have shown a positive increase in our local membership. Talking to new retirees about the importance of being involved has really helped. As a retiree, it is important to know what is happening. District 1 received an award for having the highest growth in membership in the state. The higher NCRSP membership numbers, the louder our voice will be in Raleigh. Our motto this year is **EACH ONE REACH ONE**. If each member talked to a retiree about joining NCRSP, we would see a significant difference in membership. Vicky Rogers will be your membership chairman for 2010-2011.

We will also be working to improve communication. We would like to send important legislative alerts by email. We will not bug you with emails. We will only send them when something is important. Sandra Mueller will be your communications chairman.

See you September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Janet Brown President**

**Volunteer Hours by Alice Pfirrmann  
Community Participation Chair**

It is now time to report all the volunteer hours you have given over the summer. At our next meeting there will be a new form at each table to record your volunteer hours. Everyone will sign on the same form. If you have not reported your hours, get out your calendar and start counting. Remember each volunteer hour has value of \$20.85. If you are unable to come to the meeting, give your hours to your caller.

**NCRSP Legislative Report  
By Vicky Rogers, State Legislative Chair**

During the Short Session of the NC General Assembly, the NC Pension Fund concerns were left unfulfilled for 2010-2011. The state still has a significant deficit stalled by a weak economy. State Treasurer, Janet Cowell, has recommended that the state contribute \$181 million to the NC State Pension Fund. This amount is based on the Annual Required Contribution (ARC.) This money will not be added to the Pension Fund this year, because the state is still dealing with a deficit of \$3 million. This is the first time in the NC Pension Fund's history that the ARC has not been funded. This amounts to a Pension Fund deficit by 2020 of \$10 billion.

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**Officers and Committee Chairman**

- President- Janet Brown 252-3715**
- Vice President -Donna Brown 699-4080**
- Treasurer- Susan Laney 298-2344**
- Secretary- Judy Ward 683-9818**
- Membership and Past President-Vicky Rogers 456-1830**

- Legislative- Beverly Burks 258-2035**
- Communications- Sandra Mueller 374-3780**
- Community Participation and Past President-Alice Pfirrmann 692-4970**
- Corresponding Secretary- Diane Livingston, Pre Retirement- Jerry Plemmons,**
- By Laws and Grant-in-Aid- Ben Spangler,**
- Memorials- Peggy Ramsey**



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NC State Retirees will not see a cost of living adjustment (COLA) this year. This has only occurred a few times in the Pension Fund’s history.

The need to maintain the health of the Teachers and State Employees Pension Fund is very important. Continued increments in the Employer Contribution Rate will be the key factor in this situation.

**Important facts regarding the Pension Fund from the Short Session of the General Assembly:**

- The Teachers and State Employees Pension Fund is sound, vested at 99.6%. Do not worry; retirees will continue to receive their monthly retirement checks as usual.
- The Employer Contribution Rate of 3.57% (what the state as employer puts into the retirement fund) remains the same for another year. That means nearly \$364 million goes into the fund account in this budget year. Our agenda was to raise this rate to 4.93%, and with extremely positive hopes, to 6.71%. The NCRSP Legislative agenda supports bringing the Pension Fund Employer Contribution Rate consistent with the actuaries’ recommendations or 6.71%.
- A reserve of \$139 million was set aside for Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) funds. When the FMAP dollars are sent to the state, the reserved money will be moved to the Pension Fund and raise the Employer Contribution Rate to 4.93% and a total \$503 million for 2010-2011. Federal money has been approved by the US Congress. In 2010-2011, General Assembly funding remains at 3.57% or \$364 million.
- Treasurer Cowell’s recommendation to add \$181 million to the Pension Fund would be added above the \$139 million. If this money (ARC) is delayed, the Pension Fund would see a \$645 million deficit for needed growth, and a resounding \$10 billion deficiency by 2020.

The budget decisions were being settled before the session officially began, so the session could end on time. During this busy time, legislators seemed to listen to concerns from NCRSP and other retirement groups.

Our voices have been important throughout the years. They have helped shape future legislation initiatives. As we always tell our members, “Remember to speak to legislators with appreciation for their hard work in the General Assembly,” and respect their points when you talk with them. I was astounded and impressed with the supportive attitude I received in our meetings with legislators in Raleigh. Retirees consistently make a positive impact on legislators. Our Stump meetings and talks with legislators have become an important tool in our grassroots lobbying efforts. Please remember, too, that politics is a two-way street—locally we need to continue to support our legislators because of their known actions toward retirement and education issues.

**Directions to Groce Methodist Church**

**240 East:**

*Take Exit #7 for Tunnel Road/70 East  
Stay straight through exit light and turn left at the next light*

*This road merges onto 70 East - continue on this for 2 miles*

*You will pass an Exxon station on the right and a fire station on the left*

*The church is located on the left at the next intersection, which is on the corner of Beverly and Tunnel Roads*

**Heading I-240 West:**

*Take Exit #7 for Tunnel Road/70 East  
Take a right off the exit. This road merges onto 70 East - continue on this for 2 miles*

*You will pass an Exxon station on the right and a fire station on the left*

*The church is located on the left at the next intersection, which is on the corner of Beverly and Tunnel Roads*

**Dates to Remember for Fall Meetings**

- September 8, 2010
- October 13, 2010

- November 10, 2010



Late Summer 2010

News for Asheville/Buncombe

Issue 1

Mail To:

**Name**  
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Each One Reach One