

Newsletter July 2017



President's Message By Bill Dworkin

Thirty supporters of the NCARA gathered at the Holly Ridge Golf Links in Archdale for the 6th annual Golf Outing and Tournament. Eight teams teed off at 9:00 A.M. It was a great day as everyone enjoyed the golf, luncheon, and door prize drawing. The North and South Carolina United Auto Workers CAP Council foursome had the lowest score again this year! The longest drive honors went to Meri Dworkin.

We had plenty of sponsors. We thank them. Many returned for the 6th year. Special thanks to our volunteers. Ann and Howard Young, Jim Moore, Louis Forrisi, Bill Brothers, Judy Coggins, Ed Wood, and Ann Flinchum. The photos indicate that all had a special day. Our sponsors are:

Thank You to the following NCARA Education Fund 2017 Golf Tournament Sponsors:

CWA 3060 - Golf Hole
NALC Branch 2560 - Golf Hole
Bill Dworkin - 2 Golfers
CWA 3603 - Golf Team
Ed Wood - Golf Team

Mitch Leonard - Golf Team

Judy Coggins-Golf TeamNC AFL-CIO-2 Hole SponsorLouis Forrisi-Golf Team

N. & S. Carolina UAW - Team Sponsorship & Hole Sponsor

AFSCME Sub-Chapter 165 - Golf Hole
SEANC - Gold Level Sponsor
Kevin McLaughlin - Golfer
Triad ARA - Golf Hole
UAW 3520 - Golf Team

Winston-Financial - Silver Level Sponsor



2017 Golf Tournament Attendees



UAW's Winning Golf Team and President Bill Dworkin



The Great Fundraising Team of Ann and Howard Young



CWA Golfers after the tournament



Thank You to Ann Young for all of her hard work to make the tournament a huge success!

Legislative Information by Judy Coggins



The source of the following information is the North Carolina Coalition on Aging, which presents many topics related not only to national and state legislative issues but also to topics related to being a senior and/or retiree in North Carolina. Please read this update from the North Carolina COA. You can access information about issues related to aging by checking this website periodically: nccoalitiononaging.org.



COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

NC Coalition on Aging June Update – June 13, 2017 <u>Legislative Session Winding Down (Perhaps)</u> – <u>Budget negotiations</u> between the state House and Senate continue this week and there is some speculation that an agreement on the budget plan for the next two years will be announced by the end of the week. Committee meetings are also picking up this week which is another indication that loose ends are being tied up so the session can wind down. A number of <u>bills</u> have already become law this session and before weeks end, that number is expected to grow.

<u>Voting Map Update Following Supreme Court Decision</u> – Governor Cooper and Republican legislative leaders continue to wrangle over voting maps as the <u>special legislative session</u> called by the Governor last week to redraw maps was ignored by the General Assembly. Bickering aside, the three judge federal panel that will make the ruling about when new voting maps will be due and whether or not the state will hold a special election this year or wait until the next regular cycle of elections in 2018 has notified all parties involved in this process to prepare pleadings. A final ruling from the federal panel is expected in the coming weeks.

Judge Rules for State Retirees in Health Insurance Premium Litigation – A state trial judge has ruled that it was wrong to require retired state workers and teachers to begin paying health insurance premiums six years ago. In 2012, retirees sued after the state legislature directed the state employee health insurance plan to mandate that they make monthly contributions to receive what had been standard insurance coverage for decades. In the ruling, Superior Court Judge Edwin Wilson noted that retirees had a contractual right as part of their work agreement to receive the standard coverage without a premium. He ordered the state to reimburse retirees for premium payments they made to retain the "80/20" plan and offer that plan as it existed in 2011 premium-free for the rest of their lives.

To read more about this, click here.

A News and Observer editorial can also be found here.

<u>Voter ID Appeal Rejected</u> – On May 15, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal by state Republican's to reinstate key provisions of the state's 2013 elections law overhaul which included voter identification requirements and other restrictions on voting. In rejecting the appeal, the Court left in place the ruling last summer by the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals which struck down the photo ID requirement to vote in person as well as provisions reducing the number of early voting days and prohibiting same-day registration during the early voting period.

NC Public Radio and News and Observer stories provide more information about the Court ruling.

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Report on Obamacare Repeal Bill – The CBO report on the cost and coverage impact of the American Health Care Act, the House Republicans' bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, would increase the number of uninsured by 14 million in 2018, growing to 23 million by 2026. Learn more about this and 14 additional quick facts from the CBO report by clicking <a href="https://example.com/here/budget/background-c

National Council on Aging (NCOA) Call in Day on "No to Medicaid Cuts and Caps" – NCOA is reporting this week that the U.S. Senate may try to fast-track a health care repeal bill that would make large cuts to Medicaid and cap payments to states. In response to this, NCOA is encouraging aging advocates to call their U.S. Senators at 1-866-426-2631 on Wednesday, June 14, to tell them to vote NO on Medicaid cuts and caps. NCOA notes that 6.9 million seniors rely on Medicaid and Medicaid pays for over 60% of the nation's long-term care costs. To find out more, click here.

Ending Jobs Programs for Older Adults Get Press – As reported earlier, President Trump is proposing to eliminate funding in FY18 for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SESEP), the nation's only job training and placement program specifically for older adults. Last year SESEP provided on-the-job training to 70,000 older adults who provided nearly 36 million hours of staff support to 30,000 organizations. On May 25, numerous media sources across the country, including WRAL TV in Raleigh, picked up on a story about how ending the SESEP program would cause hardship for program participants. Additional information about SESEP which is available in 98 counties in North Carolina can be found here and here.

<u>RAISE Family Caregiver Act Advances</u> – On May 11, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions advanced the <u>Recognize</u>, <u>Assist</u>, <u>Include</u>, <u>Support and Engage</u> (<u>RAISE</u>) <u>Family Caregiver Act</u> (<u>S. 1028</u>). The bill which was introduced by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Aging, in early May is aimed at improving support for family caregivers. The bill would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to create, maintain, and update a National Family Caregiver Strategy. The strategy would identify specific actions that state and federal government agencies, healthcare providers, communities, employers and others can take to support family caregivers. Some of the suggested actions include service planning, adoption of family centered care in health services, respite options, and workplace policies that allow caregivers greater flexibility.



Thank you for all that you do – Ann Flinchum and her father, Ed Wood

Calls to Sen. Burr and Sen. Tillis at 1-888-865-8089 are needed urgently.

Working people shouldn't have to give up the freedom that comes from having affordable health care so the rich can get richer, but that's exactly what will happen if legislation revealed in the U.S. Senate this week becomes law.

Senate Republicans have finally made public their version of the American Health Care Act (AHCA), which repeals the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare. You can find the full text of the Senate bill here. AFL-CIO's Government Affairs team will continue to offer analysis of the bill, but here is what we know now:

- Millions of Americans will lose their health insurance coverage over the next decade.
- This loss of coverage for millions of Americans will pay for massive tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.
- The bill maintains the so-called Cadillac tax, punishing union members who have quality, affordable employer-based health insurance plans.
- The bill includes an age tax, allowing insurers to charge older Americans as much as five times what they charge younger Americans.
- The Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion will be phased out from 2020 to 2024. Cuts to Medicaid are designed to grow larger every year.
- In the second decade beyond what the CBO will score this bill will gut Medicaid as we know it.



Ed Ablard, Heather McLaughlin, and Herb Harton deliver the AHCA Petition to Senator Richard Burr.