



North Carolina Retired School Personnel

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New “Committee Day” set for November 2

The chairs and all members of six **statewide** NCRSP committees—plus Regional Directors—are invited to the NCAE Building in Raleigh on Thursday, November 2, 2017. This is the opening event in a proposed “Project Hot Weld” intended to make the six key NCRSP committees more effective. Under the title of “Project Hot Weld,” NCRSP has applied for an NEA-R grant to support this and other events and activities designed to improve cooperation—not only between the six key state committees—but also with their counterparts on the regional and local unit level.

Regional Directors, the chairpersons, and **all members** of the **NCRSP state committees** are invited. That includes the Legislative, Membership, Communications, Community Service, Quality of Life and Recognitions committees. Participants will receive briefings and participate in work groups beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 2. A simple lunch will be served. (NOTE #1: This meeting is **NOT** for local committee chairs or regional committee members.)

(NOTE #2: A pre-meeting gathering for **just the chairpersons** of the same six committees and key NCRSP officers will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at NCAE. Dinner will be served.)

SHP Enrollment Period Ends October 31

The enrollment period for the 2018 State Health Plan began on September 30, 2017 and will end October 31, 2017. A complete list of the SHP Public Outreach meetings accompanies this report. Here are the three most important things that Medicare-eligible insureds need to know:

--Those who are currently enrolled in the **70/30 Plan** administered by Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of NC will be automatically enrolled in the United Health Care Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) Base Plan **UNLESS** they contact the state and opt to stay in the 70/30 Plan. The 70/30 Plan is premium free for Medicare eligible insureds, but there is a premium for spousal and dependent coverage. The monthly premium is \$0 for the subscriber, \$155 for the subscriber plus a child, \$425 for a subscriber plus a spouse, and \$444 for a subscriber and family.

--Those who are currently enrolled in the United Health Care Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) **Base Plan** DO NOT have to do anything if they wish to stick with this plan in 2018. This plan is premium free for Medicare eligible insureds, but there is a premium for spousal or dependent care and the insured must have Medicare Part A and Part B coverage in place. The monthly premium is \$0 for the subscriber, \$124 for the subscriber and spouse, and \$248 for the subscriber and family. A state official termed this the

“best value” of the three plans.

--Those who are currently enrolled in the United Health Care Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) **Enhanced Plan** DO NOT have to do anything if they wish to stick with this plan in 2018. This plan does require a monthly premium for Medicare eligible subscribers, a monthly premium for spousal or dependent coverage, and the insured must have Medicare Part A and Part B coverage in place. The monthly premium is \$66 for the subscriber, \$256 for the subscriber and child, \$256 for the subscriber and spouse, and \$446 for the subscriber and family.

--Note that the Consumer Directed Health Plan (CHDP) is NOT being offered in 2018.

During the open enrollment period, insureds can opt in or out of the plan, change plans, or add or delete dependents. To sign up online go to <http://orbit.myncretirement.com>, login and then click on “State Health Plan E-Enroll”. For persons who have questions about their coverage, you may contact the State Health Plan by calling (877) 627-3287. A complete list of Community Outreach events accompanies this report.

NCRSP Executive Board to meet in October

The NCRSP Executive Board will hold its first meeting of the 2017-2018 fiscal year on October 18-19, 2017 at the NCAE building in Raleigh. The Board meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017, and continue through midday on Thursday, Oct. 19. Dinner will be served on the 18th. The NCAE building is located at 700 South Salisbury Street in Raleigh.

(Note: The NCRSP Administrative Council members will meet beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2017 at the same location.)

Graham-Cassidy Bill Fails In Washington

The Republican Party’s most recent attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. Obamacare) failed last week when Senate Republicans could not muster 50 votes to assure passage of the repeal. NCRSP representatives Pat Randall, who chairs the NCRSP Legislative Committee, and Tom Bennett, NCRSP Executive Director, were in Washington to join other National Retired Teachers’ Association advocates lobbying against repeal, but the measure failed the day before they began their visits.

The repeal measure sponsored by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) would have had the most direct effect on persons covered by Medicaid and the ACA-sponsored insurance exchanges, but it would have also affected ACA provisions that are very popular with many other people—including coverage for adult children, coverage for pre-existing conditions, and coverage of “essential health benefits” such as pregnancy and mental health issues.

Graham-Cassidy would have cut federal health insurance funding by providing the states with capped block grants and shifting the burden of rationing care to the state governments. Supporters touted this proposed change as “flexibility,” but detractors denounced it as passing the dirty work to state governments

that would be authorized to “waive” certain health care protections otherwise left intact. The failure of this measure is not the end of the controversy or of the threat to current health insurance benefits. There is already talk in Washington that there might be an attempt to attach ACA cuts to a proposed tax cut bill. Stay tuned. . .

Don’t miss “Recruiting Strategies 2017” on the web site

Are you stumped for good member recruitment ideas? Be stumped no longer! In the course of the NCRSP Leadership Conferences, which were held in May and June of this year, Treasurer Vera Taylor labored to capture dozens of good recruiting ideas suggested during group discussions with local and regional leaders. Thanks to Vera, that treasure trove is available to you on the NCRSP web site (ncrsp.org) under the [Membership Committee](#) tab in the Members Only section. Help yourself!