



*\*Protecting all retirement benefits  
\*Recruiting and retaining members  
\*Working within the regional  
organization to achieve the goals of  
the State while serving our schools  
and our community*

President	<b>Charles Whitesides</b>
Vice Pres.	<b>Barbara Grau</b>
Secretary	<b>Nova Lewis</b>
Treasurer	<b>Robert Grau</b>
Past Pres:	<b>Barbara Grau</b>

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017*

**Since the last meeting of Gaston County Retired School Personnel...**

- **Barbara Grau, Bob Grau, and I attended regional Leadership Conference June 1, 2017 at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in Salisbury, NC. Focus Committees this year are Membership, Legislative, Community Service, Communication, and Quality of Life. We need Chairs.**
- **We continue to work on developing a Facebook Page and building a webpage,**
- **Some members have been vigilant in communicating with NC state legislators concerning issues important to retirees and actives.**
- **NC General Assembly approved a one percent (1%) COLA, Cost Of Living Adjustment for retirees vested prior to July 1, 2010. Governor Roy Cooper recommended a 1.5% COLA; NC Senate recommended no increase of any kind; and the House initially opted for a one-time 1.6% bonus, however, by the time the House and Senate conference completed their negotiation, the bonus became a real 1% COLA. Adequate funding for the State Retirement System, formally referred to as Annual Required Contribution was approved and included in the final budget through 2019. The downside of actions taken by the General Assembly is their passed bill that strips new state employees of State Health Plan benefits if they secure state employment on or after June 1, 2021. If teacher retirement became effective between August 1, 2016 and June 1, 2017, retiree received a pro-rated portion of 1% based on the number of months an allowance was received. Any member who retired after July 1, 2017 will not receive a COLA this year. So for this COLA success, we say thanks to our dedicated members who made contacts with legislators, our diligent state leadership, and a very special thanks to our lobbyists Pam Deardorf and Dr. Lacy Presnell.**
- **Our current local membership is approximately 186. Please invite other retirees to our meetings and encourage their membership.**
- **Current local officers, meeting dates, President's letters to members and information provided to retirees along with some photos have all been submitted to Region 3 and state as requested.**
- **Open enrollment dates for State Health plan are September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>.**
- **General membership meetings for all of Region 3 are November 14, 2017 and April 30, 2018 at South Piedmont Community College in Monroe, NC.**

(on back)

- NCAE honored the memory of the late past president Rodney Ellis Friday, May 8, 2017 by wearing WE HEART PUBLIC SCHOOLS shirts or red. His family accepted the Long Leaf Pine Award signed by Governor Roy Cooper. In addition, NCAE named its building's training center in Ellis' honor.
- Keep our scholarship recipient Kelsey Griffin in our prayers and good thoughts, and
- Let us remember the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in our prayers and with our donations.
- Let us be mindful of DACA and the impact it has on impacted students and families
- Finally, let us pray for each other and our families and work to make our organization the best we can be.

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Faithfully submitted,

*Charles H. Whitesides*

**Region 3:** Anson Cabarrus Kannapolis Lincoln Mecklenburg Montgomery Rowan Stanley Gaston