

NCSCA News Fall 2017



NC Senior Center Alliance 2nd Annual Ann Johnson Senior Center of the Year Award The Robert and Pearl Seymour Center

What is so great about the Seymour Center? How are we providing quality direct services, programs, leadership, advocacy and significant contributions locally and nationally? The Seymour Center is considered one of Orange County's best hidden secrets and it is rapidly becoming a vibrant melting pot for many of the mature adults residing in Orange and surrounding counties. On any given day, persons of all cultures and backgrounds are darting through the doors to get involved in some way or another. When you walk in our center, you will find the most beautiful faces including Asian, African-

American, Caucasian, Latino, and Middle Eastern. It doesn't stop there, you are guaranteed to meet persons from all walks of life such as the retired professor from a local university; a homeless individual that is trying to make their way back on their feet; the homemaker that enjoys socializing to the avid artists or musicians who enjoy sharing their talents. Many of our participants come for different interests, different reasons, and happily end up in one common place, which is affectionately referred to as their home away from home.

Over 450 seniors are engaged in activities ranging from wellness, theatrical arts, educational, special events, interest groups, support services, dance, crafts and many other exceptional opportunities. We are the "One Stop Shop" for any or everything one would need to age well! We are very proud of our Volunteer Services Program, VC 55+, which enables over 500 plus senior adults to connect and give back to the community on a daily basis. Our stellar lunch program is federally funded and supported through the Older Americans Act, local municipalities, Orange County Department on Aging and donations, and serves over 70 seniors five days a week. Our popular fit feet wellness program keeps our older adults on their toes providing superior foot health care by registered nurses to 112 seniors a month; this program is so popular it has a waiting list. Daily we offer 3-4 different exercise programs and bi-monthly health education classes. Every Wednesday, our OC Cares team provides an ongoing respite program for 8-10 caregivers. This supportive program, Caregiver's Respite, provides persons with dementia a creative outlet to stay active and stimulated while their loved one (s) are able to have a little down time one day a week. Our most recent and newest program with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services supplemental food programs has got off to a great start providing additional food for 40 plus low-income older adults in our county.

Congratulations!

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Senior Center Award—continued from page 1

Our staff is made up of awesome professionals who provide community engagement. Two prime examples are the MAP—Master Aging Plan(ning) process, a year-long planning effort that includes the community in the development of a County-wide aging plan, including goals and objectives for the next 5 years, 1000 completed surveys, 5 workgroups made up of more than 100 plus individuals, 3-4 interns and staff involved; and trainings such as Project EngAge, a 13-week senior leadership program whose mission is to train older adults to become resource leaders for their communities. The Dementia Friendly Business initiatives is where team members meet and train local businesses by making them aware of needs of patrons with dementia and other special needs. A new staff member, an Employment Specialist, will coach and assist seniors in job/employment searches and strategies of re-entering the workforce. Our Mandarin and Spanish speaking staff have served as remarkable assets in making language barriers easier for both staff and participants. The Aging Transitions, social work team, works tirelessly making sure seniors are aware of services and program that enhance many of their daily needs including transportation, understanding Medicare, family counseling, financial assistance and more. Then there are the super dedicated administrative and operations staff who are considered the heartbeat of the center by making registrations, program marketing, surveys, staffing support, classes, special events, and many other facility, activities and policies are run efficiently and effectively, while providing excellent customer service to both clients and staff.

Of course, many of our successes would not be possible if it were not for our Program Advisory Committee, Seymour Friends organization, and a host of other co-partnerships within the county. It's a wonderful feeling to come to work each day knowing it will be different; someone's life will change for the better; there is always someone to talk to and many issues or concerns that our seniors may have will be resolved in a safe and fun environment of the Robert and Pearl Seymour Center.

Cydnee Sims

Programs and Operations Manager

The Seymour Center



Other Nominations Included:

- Martin County Adult & Aging Services (by Carol Leggett)
- Jerry Passmore Center (by Terry Colville)
- New Hanover Senior Center (by Suzanne Black)
- Clayton Center for Active Aging (by Selena Royal)
- Garner Senior Center (by Nancy Hulbert)
- Scotland Neck Senior Center (by Hattie Staton)

****The Robert and Pearl Seymour Center will receive a \$300 mini-grant from the NCSCA****

Unity is Strength

A message from the NCSCA Chair



Many senior center professionals experience common issues and this Alliance was formed as a way to bring those professionals together and create a support system from the mountains to the sea of the Tarheel state.

The NCSCA offers support through the work of our subcommittees. Each subcommittee, made up of 5-10 individuals, works on developing quality events, programs, and ideas to make life a little easier for you! Here are some of the things these subcommittees have been working on:

- **Special Projects** recently distributed information and applications about the 2nd Annual Ann Johnson Senior Center of the Year Award. This year they are taking it one step further and have added a \$300 mini-grant to be awarded to the winner!
- **Mentoring and Training** has built an amazing resource library that can be accessed on the Alliance website in the member portal. They are also going to be launching a new mentoring program this fall.
- **Marketing** works hard to bring you these newsletters and to design e-cards and flyers that can be used by all senior centers for special events like Senior Center Month. They also created the window clings that will be distributed to all Alliance members.
- The **Advocacy** subcommittee is currently brainstorming ideas for upcoming events and they always incorporate how it can be counted for SCOPE. The subcommittee has also appointed someone to be a representative for the Alliance at the NC Coalition on Aging meetings.
- **Membership** has been working with NCAOA to come up with a smoother registration process.
- We are also in the beginning stages of planning for the Leadership Symposium and have created a new subcommittee that will be tasked with helping DAAS bring a quality training opportunity to members and non-members.

This statewide organization is one of the best because we have recognized that we cannot do this alone. Consider becoming a member today or joining one of the subcommittees and remember that "Unity is strength. . . when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." -
-Mattie Stepanek

Thanks,
Brittany Williams, NCSCA Chair



Senior Center Outcome Project



Are you ready?



Survey analysis

DAAS has committed to statewide data analysis of the senior center survey. Participating senior centers will receive the raw data from their participants to do further analysis.

Who can participate?

All senior centers, including satellite centers, that are listed on the state's Senior Center Directory

What needs to be completed?

Senior Center Participant Survey (available as electronic link or paper copy) – to be completed by all participants of the senior center location if they have not done so at another location.

Senior Center Participating Provider Survey – (available electronically) - to be completed by one applicable staff member (director, coordinator, social worker, I&A specialist, etc.) at each senior center location.

When do we conduct the survey?

The survey window will be open from **September 18 to October 16, 2017**.

How should surveys be completed?

It is recommended that senior center staff personally ask participants to complete the survey, provide a means for them to complete electronically (preferred) or by paper (if necessary), and assist them with completion if necessary.

When should data be entered?

Data from electronic surveys is entered automatically in real time. Data from paper surveys should be entered by March 30, 2018.

Why electronic completion is preferred:

Electronic survey completion is favorable over paper survey completion because it requires less resources namely in printing and data entry.

DAAS is requesting senior centers print any necessary survey copies.

DAAS is requesting senior centers enter data from paper surveys using the electronic survey link.



New Member Benefit

If you are a member of the NCSCA, you will receive a member logo window cling for your center in the coming months. Logos are being distributed during statewide training events (SCOPE trainings, AJI and Leadership Symposium). These window clings can be placed on the entrance door of your center to identify you as a proud

member of NCSCA. If you or any of your staff are not planning to attend any of these trainings in the coming year, please notify a member of the Alliance steering committee and one will be mailed to you.

NCSCA Membership Changes

The North Carolina Senior Center Alliance (NCSCA) is a program section of the North Carolina Association on Aging (NCAOA). The goal of the NCSCA is to provide a statewide organization for senior center professionals to advocate for senior centers, network and collaborate on common issues, share information, co-market initiatives, and provide for staff training and development. (Visit us at <http://ncscalliance.com/>)

With your membership, you will be able to access the member's only portal page on the website. The member section allows you to view current and past newsletters, download marketing materials, join in on upcoming advocacy events, find mentoring and training opportunities, apply for awards and recognition, and participate in special projects. The opportunities are endless!

Some changes have been made concerning the membership portion of the Alliance. There are now two enrollment opportunities. This year, membership enrollment runs from August 1 to September 30 and January 1 to January 30. If you are interested in becoming a member outside of the enrollment period, please contact us.

Online registration is now available. You can find this application at <http://www.ncaoa.org/Alliances.html>. Membership enrollment online requires payment via credit card. To enroll and pay with a different form of payment, please contact to coordinate payment.

The Senior Center Alliance membership fee will be free with any NCAOA organizational membership. If you wish to join only the Alliance, then the membership fee will be a flat rate of \$20.

Enjoy the many benefits of being a member of the NCSCA – register today!

Brittany Williams

brittany.williams@townofblackmountain.org

Lindi Cauley

lindsicauley@jacksonnc.org



Your NCSCA Steering Committee

Brittany Williams, Chair (Region B)

Town of Black Mountain

Lindsi Cauley, Vice Chair (Region A)

Jackson County Department on Aging

Sandy Scarborough, Treasurer (Region R)

Dare County Senior Center

Betsy Griffin, Secretary (Region P)

Lenoir County Council on Aging

Thessia Everhart-Roberts (Region G)

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Miranda Strider Allen (Region J)

Resources for Seniors, Inc.

Christy Southall (Region K)

Franklinton Senior Center

Rich Zeck (Region Q)

Pitt County Council on Aging

Amber Smith (Region O)

New Hanover County Senior Resource Center

Teresa Kiser (Region F)

Active Living and Parks Department

Calvin Vaughn (Region G)

City of High Point Parks and Recreation

Alex Langley (Region L)

Rocky Mount Parks & Recreation

Christie Smith (Region G)

Davidson County Senior Services

Weyland Prebor (Region C)

McDowell Senior Center

Nikki Sewell (Region N)

Hamlet Senior Center

Roxanne Powell (Region E)

Burke County Senior Services

Nicole Niegler (Region D)

High Country Area Agency on Aging

Marie Faircloth (Region M)

Sampson County Department of Aging

Rebecca Freeman (Ex-Officio)

NC Division of Aging and Adult Services

Leslee Breen (Ex-Officio)

NC Division of Aging and Adult Services

Janice Tyler (Ex-Officio; NCAOA Rep)

Orange County Department on Aging

Like the NC Senior Center
Alliance Facebook page



Check out our website
www.ncscalliance.com

As your senior center submits a new or renewal application NCSCA Alliance, you will receive a password for the **Members Only** section of the website by email. This section contains helpful tools for marketing and training.

Check out the member portal of the NCSCA website for valuable resources.

For more information on the NCSCA visit www.ncaoa.org or contact NCSCA Chair, Brittany Williams at 828-669-8610 or Brittany.williams@townofblackmountain.org

NCSCA NEWSLETTER
All the news that fits, we print.

Editor: Christie Smith

Davidson County Senior Services

Contributing Author: Lindsi Cauley

Jackson County Department on Aging

Contributing Author: Rebecca Freeman

NC Division of Aging & Adult Services

Contributing Author: Cydnee Sims

The Robert and Pearl Seymour Center

Alliance Chairperson: Brittany Williams

Town of Black Mountain

Please send pictures of your senior center including events and activities to Alex Barker, alex.barker@darenc.com