

Legislative Advocacy for Seniors

April~June 2010 Newsletter

from the Chair . . . by Hannah Timmons

Attendance at our 13th Annual Session was hampered by member illnesses, family emergencies, and two blizzards that paralyzed the east coast and produced more snow than some of us had ever seen. The efforts of those who did attend produced strong resolutions as our Top Five, the endorsement of Concurrent Resolution #59 (US House resolving, US Senate concurring), one proclamation, and a number of “also passed” resolutions. Thanks to everybody who contributed!

I am looking forward to seeing familiar faces at our Midyear Meeting in August. We are trying to schedule a city tour of Charleston and a visit to the USS Yorktown and the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum. Details will follow as soon as possible. We are trying to get good prices, but Charleston is expensive.

Now is the time to begin working on resolutions for next year. Our best resolutions are always the ones that are carefully considered, well researched, and accurate in every detail. One of the best sources of information is the US Senate Special Committee on Aging, chaired by Senator Herb Kohl from Wisconsin. Press Secretary Ashley Glacel sends regular updates to those who ask to be on her list. E-mail her at Ashley_Glacel@aging.senate.gov to be included. Also helpful is the Special Committee’s Website at www.aging.senate.gov.

Organizations that send e-mails about aging issues include AARP, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), National Council on Aging, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, and many others. Some require membership, but many do not. If you find a good source of material for our advocacy efforts, let me know for the newsletter and let Pat Porter know for the Website.

If we had an originality award, it would go to Gladys Britt (NC) for her “have

a cup of tea” fundraiser. Donations totaled \$550.

(I’m sorry to be so late with the newsletter and the booklet, but I have not been able to get what I have to have to pull things together. We need to reconsider our “all volunteer” NSHC. We are putting a whole lot of work on a few people.)

Results of Elections ~ 2008 Annual Session

OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL SILVER HAired CONGRESS

Chair ~ Hannah Timmons, SC 2nd Vice Chair ~ Ann Collins, VA Treasurer ~ Pat Porter, TX
1st Vice Chair ~ Carlos Higgins, TX Secretary ~ Laurell Marker, WY Past Chair - Wally Daeley, MT

OFFICERS OF THE SILVER SENATE

President ~ Herb Perry, NV President *Pro Tem* ~ Dallas Knudson, ND

OFFICERS OF THE SILVER HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker ~ Lloyd Steen, NC Speaker *Pro Tem* ~ Lee Perry Roy, LA

REGION DIRECTORS

Region #1 Director ~ Norma Lee Millett, MA ~ 978-448-2824 ~ normalee5@verizon.net
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Region #2 Director ~ Catherine Stone, NY ~ 585-768-2055 ~ katystone@frontiernet.net
New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands

Region #3 Director ~ Lue Chandler ~ 39 Brown Street ~ 304-548-6923 ~ luegene@verizon.net
Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

Region #4 Director Gloria Bonali, SC ~ 843-347-2374 ~ bonali@scoast.net
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Region #5 Director ~ Diane Saunders, IL ~ 630-985-4544 ~ saunders-family@sbcglobal.net
Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Region #6 Director ~ Homer Lear, TX ~ 210-677-8136 / cell 210-414-4754 ~ hwl315@aol.com
Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Region #7 Director ~ Thelma Bray, KS ~ 785-582-4898 ~ tildy425@yahoo.com
Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Secretary - Region #8 Director ~ Laurell Marker, WY ~ 307-331-2152 ~ lmarker@wyoming.com
Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Region #9 Director ~ Lucy Peres, NV ~ 702-363-7566 ~ rlperes@cox.net
American Samoa, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada

Region #10 Director ~ Chuck Richards, OR ~ 503-363-4627 ~ silverhairedworker@yahoo.com
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Ann Collins, VA Carlos Higgins, TX Pat Porter, TX Hannah Timmons, SC

ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (in order of vote count)

A. J. Benintende, AL ~ Bill Cummings, TX ~ Linda McCartney, MT ~ Charles Watson, OK ~ Dolores Olson, CA ~ Audria Huntington, IL

STATE CHAIRS

California ~ Dolores Olson Minnesota ~ Jonathan Green Oklahoma ~ Charles Watson
Florida ~ Norm Bungard Missouri ~ Ginnie Boyle Oregon ~ Chuck Richards

Georgia ~ Carolyn Thomas	Montana ~ Wally Daeley Nevada ~ Herb Perry	South Carolina ~ Lamar Bailes
Illinois ~ Audria Huntington	New York ~ Catherine Stone	Texas ~ Charlynnne Elliott Virginia ~ Ann Collins
Kansas ~ Bea Bacon	North Carolina ~ Gladys Britt	West Virginia ~ Lue Chandler
Louisiana ~ Jim Myrick	North Dakota ~ Sandy Arends	Wyoming ~ Dorothy Bullard
Massachusetts ~ Norma Millett		

These State Chairs were elected during the state meetings at the Annual Session, or they were named because they are NSHC members in states that do not have elected State Chairs. If there are additions or corrections, please notify your Region Director and please notify Hannah Timmons at 4664 Sylvan Drive, Columbia, SC 29206 or 803-782-7284 or hrtimmons@bellsouth.net.

Congress Passes and the President Signs NSHC Priorities #2 & #3

The US Congress has passed and President Barack Obama has signed the Elder Justice Act and the Patient Safety Abuse Prevention Act as part of the new US health care system plan.

The bill includes Adult Protective Services (APS) funding that will provide \$400 million in first-time dedicated funding for adult protection services. It will also provide \$100 million in state demonstration grants in order to test many different methods that will improve APS. The bill will provide \$32.5 million in grants to support long-term care ombudsmen programs. There will also be an additional \$40 million given to training programs for national organizations and state long-term ombudsmen programs.

The Elder Justice Bill will establish what is being referred to as the Elder Justice Coordinating Council that will make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the coordination of activities of federal, state, local and private agencies. The Council will also work with entities concerned with elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

The Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act creates a national program of criminal background checks for persons seeking employment in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

According to Coalition National Coordinator Bob Blancato, “The Elder Justice Coalition is pleased that Congress has recognized and responded to the growing national problem of elder abuse with the passage of these bills.”

Priority #2 — Pass the Elder Justice Act

WHEREAS, The elderly population of the United States over the next 40 years will increase dramatically because of the aging of about 76 million “baby boomers”;

WHEREAS, It is estimated that a significant number (in the hundreds of thousands or perhaps even millions) of America’s elders are abused, neglected, or exploited each year, and many of these incidents are never reported because of the lack of or minimal effort at a systematic collection and analysis of data; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has recognized this issue at the national level by introducing an Elder Justice Act, which would provide a comprehensive and coordinated federal/state/local approach to detecting, preventing, treating, and prosecuting elder abuse, neglect and exploitation; now,

therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Silver Haired Congress urge the United States Congress to pass an Elder Justice Act similar to those considered in the past and recognize that such legislation is critical to improving the health and welfare of America's senior population now and in the future.

#3 — Create a National Background Check and Registry for Health Caregivers

WHEREAS, Current state and national safeguards have been inadequate to prevent abuse of patients; WHEREAS, States require nurse aide registries, but these registries are often not comprehensive or efficiently maintained, and most do not require criminal background checks of long term care workers; and

WHEREAS, Since no national registry of abusive health care workers exists, people who have histories of abuse or serious crimes in one state can travel to another state or go from nursing home to a home health agency to find work without ever undergoing a criminal background check; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That the National Silver Haired Congress urge the United States Congress to enact legislation, with strict enforcement provisions, to create a National Background Check and Registry of all employees of health care facilities, home health agencies, and residential care facilities.

NSHC Website
www.natlshc.org

Password

(must be used to access Members section)

silvermember

Included in this mailing. . .

- ◆ booklet with two proclamations, the Top Five resolutions, the “also passed,” and the membership lists
- ◆ copies of the Top Five resolutions and
- ◆ the newsletter

2010-11 STANDING COMMITTEES

- Advocacy — Herb Perry, NV
- Archives — Warner Knudson, ND
- Bylaws — Gloria Bonali, SC
- Chaplaincy — Charles Watson, OK
- Elections — Dolores Olson, CA
- Finance — Pat Porter, TX
- Fundraising — Gladys Britt, NC
- Membership — Dallas Knudson, ND
- Newsletter — Hannah Timmons, SC
- Orientation — Dorothy Bullard, MT
- Public Relations — Rosemary Bailes, SC
- Technology — Pat Porter, TX

MIDYEAR MEETING — AUGUST 9-11, 2010 — CHARLESTON, SC

Our Midyear Meeting will be held in conjunction with the National Council of Silver-Haired Legislators at the Francis Marion Hotel, 387 King Street, Charleston, SC. The NSHC Board meeting will begin at 9:00 AM, Monday, August 9. Lunch will be served to all members and guests who have registered. The meeting will continue after lunch and adjourn when business is completed, probably around 4:00 PM. The NCSHL Annual Business Meeting will begin at 9:00 Tuesday, August 10, and conclude Wednesday evening, August 11, with the traditional banquet, according to Lloyd Steen, president of NCSHL.

The Francis Marion Hotel, a \$1.5 million structure, first opened in 1924 with guestrooms that included private bathrooms, a very elegant rarity in those days. Years later, after an extensive \$12 to \$15 million renovation, its doors reopened in 1996. It is a member of the Historic Hotels of America and is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Rooms are \$99 plus 12.5% tax for a total of \$111.38 per night. This rate is available three days before and three days after the meeting. Individuals should make hotel reservations by

calling **843-722-0600** or **877-756-2121** and identifying themselves as NSHC participants. Airplanes that fly into Charleston are American Eagle, Continental, Delta, United Express, and US Airways. Transportation from the airport to the hotel is either by cab or by shuttle.

The registration fee includes Monday lunch and is \$35 for everybody.

National Silver Haired Congress
Registration Form for 2010 Midyear Meeting

Name (or names)

Address

Telephone

E-mail

Write your check for \$35 per person to National Silver Haired Congress; mail it with this form to **Pat Porter, 1651 CR 255, Big Spring, TX 79720-0704.**