

Legislative Advocacy for Seniors

October 2008 Newsletter

from the Chair . . . by Hannah Timmons

Our Midyear Meeting, as you know, was held August 5 – 6 in Kansas City, Missouri. Highlights of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors are on the last page of this newsletter.

Our 12th Annual Session is now scheduled for February 12 – 17, 2009. (We were able to change the dates so that Texas delegates can meet their obligation in Texas and then arrive at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center for NSHC the following week.) In the meanwhile, please pay dues if you haven't paid yet for 2008-09, please help recruit new Senators and Representatives, and *please* attend our 12th Annual Session in 2009. Our effectiveness, in fact our very survival, depends on retaining our current members, gaining new ones, and increasing attendance at our Annual Sessions.

ANNUAL SESSION SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 12 – 17, 2009

The Annual Session will be held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, Alexandria, VA, Thursday–Tuesday, February 12 – 17, 2009. Early bird registration for the 12th Annual Session will be \$350 for delegates and \$250 for guests (last year was \$400 and \$300). Postmark deadline is Tuesday, January 12; after January 12, registration will be \$400 for delegates and \$300 for guests (last year was \$450 and \$350). Registration material for the Session will be mailed in November.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Hilton at **1-703-845-1010** or **1-877-783-8258** no later than January 12. Rates for a single or double room will be \$99, plus tax, for a total of approximately \$113 (last year was \$122).

Remembering Nancy Foster . . . We have learned of the recent death of Nancy Foster, Silver Representative from Texas. A memorial service will be held in Texas and burial in New Hampshire later in October. Pat Porter will have dates and details from Nancy's son. Memorials may be mailed to Pat Porter, 1651 CR 255, Big Spring, TX 79720-0704.

Board of Directors Proposes Amendment to Bylaws

The amendment in the block below is being proposed by the Board of Directors and will be presented at the General Session in February. The membership will vote on the proposed change.

ARTICLE III — MEMBERSHIP

Current

Section 2. Silver Senators, Silver Representatives, and Silver Alternates must be US citizens, registered voters, at least *sixty* years old, and current in their dues payment.

Proposed

Section 2. Silver Senators, Silver Representatives, and Silver Alternates must be US citizens, registered voters, at least ~~sixty~~ *fifty-five* years old, and current in their dues payment.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE for 12TH ANNUAL SESSION

Thursday, February 12

6:30 – 8:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, February 13

10:00 AM– 3:00 PM Board Meeting continued (if needed)

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM Registration

4:00 – 5:00 PM Legislative Chairs & Vice Chairs

6:30 – 9:00 PM Dinner / Orientation / Speaker

9:15 – 10:00 PM Region / State Caucus Meetings

Saturday, February 14

7:00 – 8:30 AM Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 AM General Session

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Legislative Committee Meetings
Civil / Criminal Justice
Commerce / Consumer Affairs
Finance / Taxation
General / Medicare
Health
Social Service

6:30 – 9:00 PM Dinner / Speaker

Sunday, February 15

9:30 – 10:30 AM Interdenominational Worship Service

10:30 – 11:00 AM Coffee Break (in hall)

1:00 – 5:00 PM Silver Senate / Silver House Sessions

Monday, February 16

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Silver Senate/ Silver House Sessions

Midyear Meeting Set

The NSHC Midyear Meeting will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Charleston, WV, Tuesday – Wednesday, August 4 – 5, 2009. The meeting of the Board of Directors will begin at 4:00 PM, recess about 9:00 PM, reconvene the next morning at 9:00 AM, and continue until business is completed (about noon).

A joint reception Wednesday after-noon will honor both National Silver Haired Congress and National Council of Silver Haired Legislators. The Annual Business Meeting of the NCSHL will begin with the reception and continue Thursday and Friday, August 6 – 7, ending Friday evening with a banquet.

US House Passes Silver Alert Bill

By a voice vote, the US House of Representatives passed the National Silver Alert Act (HR 6064), legislation authored by Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-TX). Speaking in support of his bill, Representative Doggett stated, “I want especially to thank Bill Cummings and Carlos Higgins of the Texas Silver Haired

2:30 – 3:30 PM (NCSHL Board of Directors Meeting)
 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting
 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM Dinner / Speaker / State Night
Resolutions will be ranked as soon as ballots are ready.
Tuesday, February 17
 7:30 – 10:00 AM Breakfast / General Session / *Sine Die*
Go to Capitol Hill to promote NSHC’s Top Five priorities!

Legislature, who first asked me to develop this legislation to replicate nationally the success that Texas *Silver Alert* has had in locating missing seniors. My bill has been endorsed by groups including...the National Silver Haired Congress.”

DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTIONS IS DECEMBER 1

Any member of NSHC can submit resolutions for consideration at the Annual Session. Resolutions should identify issues related to the aging population and propose solutions that can be accomplished at the federal level for the whole United States. They should be written so that they inform the US Congress and the US President of pressing concerns of the aging population.

Proposed resolutions should be e-mailed or USPO-mailed no later than Friday, December 1, to Bob Erickson at **fliseryd@aol.com** or **1813 Cedar Flat Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89134**. Please e-mail your resolutions if you possibly can so that they do not have to be retyped.

A resolution should address only one concern, should contain no more than three statements beginning with “Whereas,” and should make only one recommendation in the statement beginning with “Resolved.” The format is illustrated in the block below.

Title (*The title should be clear and concise. It should relate closely to the statement beginning with "Resolved."*)

Whereas,

Whereas,

Whereas, (*There should be no more than three statements beginning “Whereas.”*)

Resolved, That the National Silver Haired Congress urge the United States

All proposed resolutions will be assigned to one of the Legislative Committees for action. Silver Senators or Silver Representatives may request permission of one of the

presiding chairs to appear before a Committee.

A majority vote is required for the passing of any motion or amendment. The presiding chair will vote only in case of a tie. Votes by the Committees will be tallied and recorded on the tracking sheet attached to each resolution.

Resolutions that pass in Committee will be presented to both the Silver Senate and the Silver House. Before the adjournment of the Annual Session, delegates will prioritize resolutions to establish the NSHC's TOP FIVE. A list of all resolutions in priority order will be made available to the delegates.

Highlights of the Minutes of the Midyear Meeting

Kansas City, Missouri ~ August 5 – 6, 2008

- Treasurer Pat Porter – reported July 1, 2009 balance of \$34, 963.59 (expenses - \$543.33)
- Ginnie Boyle – will accept suggestions for speakers for the 2009 Annual Session
- NSHC – will pick up difference in hotel fee for persons who arrive early for pre-session business
- Five changes to the Standing Rules – to be included in the White Book at the 2009 Annual Session
- Proposed Advocacy Committee – committee appointed to develop guidelines (Herb Perry, Betty Wisner, Roland Boucher, Charles Watson, and Carlos Higgins)
- Proposed Resolution on Fundraising by Craig Orange – committee appointed to plan implementation (Craig Orange, Roland Boucher, Charles Watson, Carlos Higgins, and Lue Chandler)
- Bea Bacon – nominated for the Roberta Roller Award for her outstanding contributions to the NSHC
- Results of Region and State elections – send to Elections Committee Chair Dolores Olson
- NSHC fiscal year changed from July 1 – June 30 to January 1 – December 31
- Roland Boucher – volunteered to coordinate advocacy information for the NSHC Website and to furnish information on tax and financial issues (other volunteers: Carlos Higgins - *Silver Alert*; Diane Saunders - Elder Justice Act; Betty Wisner - Older Americans Act; Charles Richards - Elder Abuse Act; and Hannah Timmons - geriatric student loan forgiveness)

- Lloyd Steen – reported action currently being taken in the US Congress that supports NSHC’s Top Five priorities
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THE RED STAR ON YOUR MAILING LABEL MEANS THAT . . . you have already paid your dues for 2008-09 and will not owe dues again until next year. ***If you do not have a star***, you owe dues now. Please use the form below **ASAP!**

National Silver Haired Congress

Membership Application for 2008-09

Dues for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) are \$20 and are due by July 1, 2008. Checks should be written to National Silver Haired Congress.

NAME (OR NAMES)

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

Mail to Pat Porter, 1651 CR 255, Big Spring, TX 79720-0704.