



Senior Tar Heel Legislature

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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By: John Thompson

Raleigh, NC – The North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL) met in Raleigh June 12 and 13 for its mid-term meeting of 2014. During the meeting, the primary focus was on the process of culling submitted resolutions that will be presented to the main STHL body at the October meeting. When the resolutions are reduced to a significant few and voted on, they then become the priorities for the STHL for the next two years.

Once committee work was completed, the remainder of the schedule for the two days included a workshop on “Advocacy”, presented by Deanna R. Gelak, President of “Working for the Future.” Also, a panel consisting of the Executive Director of the Center for Volunteer Caregiving, Lynn Templeton, a STHL Delegate from Chatham County, Anne Kissel and the STHL Speaker, Chuck Youse, presented a group discussion on “Volunteerism”, sharing data that described the typical volunteer and sharing successes and lessons learned.

The Interim Director for the Division of Aging and Adult Services, Suzanne Merrill spoke at length about Elder Abuse and that “President Obama had issued a proclamation designating June 15th as a World Elder Abuse awareness day.” Governor McCrory also issued a similar proclamation. She went on to say that the “division sponsored its first Elder Abuse summit on May 30th in North Carolina and they had a great turn out, about 50 people showed up.” Merrill went on to say that one of the high lites of the summit was the “establishment of a coalition around Elder Abuse to address prevention, detection and Prosecution.” Elder Abuse Awareness is being promoted from May 11 – June 15, 2014.



Interim DAAS Director addressing the STHL

To top off the meeting, a group of seniors calling themselves the “Piedmont Cheering Hearts” from the Winston-Salem area, ranging in age from 53 to 85 put on an exhibition of their cheers that won them gold medals at the regional Senior Games in early 2014. They had even modified their chants to include the Senior Tar Heel Legislature, thus bringing a loud applause from the STHL seniors that represent all 100-counties in North Carolina.

The STHL promotes citizen involvement and advocacy concerning aging issues before the General Assembly and assesses the legislative needs of older adults by convening a forum modeled after the North Carolina General Assembly. Please feel free to contact your local delegate or your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA). You can also visit the STHL website at <http://www.ncsth.org> as well as our Facebook page, search for North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature. The next STHL meeting will be October 9-10, 2014.