

From the Commissioner

The budget season is underway and I have had the opportunity to address the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources overseeing our budget on two separate occasions thus far. Last week, I addressed the governor's proposed budget and used that opportunity to remind NER members that while I understand the reality of our state's budget situation, to please take into consideration the fact that our department has taken its fair share of cuts over the years.

I reminded the members that the N.C. Department of Labor has not received, nor have we asked for, any new state money since 2008—probably not something many state agencies can say—and that since 2009, we have seen our appropriation reduced by more than \$4 million. Considering that our current funding is about \$16 million, this is a substantial hit. If you look at where we started four years ago versus where we are now, our budget has shrunk to less than 85 percent of what it was.

I take pride in the fact that we operate on one of the leanest budgets in state government; but at some point if the cuts continue, it will affect our ability to carry out our jobs. I will keep you posted on any new developments as the budget process continues.

I'd like to thank those of you who greeted Lt. Gov. Dan Forest during his recent visit to both the Labor and Old Revenue buildings. Lt. Gov. Forest has been visiting many state offices to gain a better understanding of the state government system and to thank employees for their service to the state. I am pleased that he is taking an interest in learning about our department so that he can better help us accomplish our goals.

The Annual Report is now available online. I look forward to sharing our accomplishments with the public and I would like to thank each of you for your role in carrying out our overall mission. Whether your function is behind the scenes or on the front lines, what you do matters and what we do collectively is very important work. Please take a minute to review the report here.

Keep up the great work.

Cherie



Lt. Gov. Dan Forest meets Amanda Carroll and Gary Franks (above) during his visit to the Labor Building. Forest meets Rose Gray, Allen McNeely and Krish Chhabria (below) during his visit to the Old Revenue Building.



Employee News

- Congratulations to Chris McManaman, Budget and Management, who graduated from the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College in Fort Rucker, Ala., on March 27.
- Congratulations to Howard Walters, Consultative Services, on the birth of his second grandchild. Breydon Michael-Lee Walters was born March 5 in Dixon, Ill. He was 6 pounds, 4 ounces. Mother and son are doing well.

- Our condolences to Allen McNeely, OSH, on the death of his mother, Doris Louise Murph McNeely, on March 9.
- Our condolences to Ben Harris, West Compliance, on the death of his father, Alva Harris, on March 19.

New Hires

- Jerrick Valerio, wage and hour information specialist, Wage and Hour, Raleigh.
- Reggie Matthews, ETTA safety training specialist, ETTA, Raleigh.
- Nathan Benz, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Raleigh.
- Mark Allen, health compliance officer I, OSH, Charlotte.
- Justin DeLancey, special assistant for governmental and constituent affairs, Raleigh.

Separation

- Rick White, safety compliance officer I, OSH, Raleigh.

Retirement Planning Conferences

BY STACEY THOMPSON, BENEFIT COORDINATOR

The N.C. Retirement System conducts retirement conferences that provide an orientation for new members and pre-retirement planning information for members closer to retirement. Prudential Retirement, the state's deferred compensation plan provider, offers information at these meetings as well. Below is a listing of the conferences scheduled for April and May.

- Lumberton, April 4 at Robeson Community College, ADL Auditorium, 5160 Fayetteville Road.
- Farmville, April 9 at the Town of Farmville, Upstairs Courtroom, 3672 N Main St.
- Carthage, April 23 at the Moore County Agriculture Center, 707 Pinehurst Ave.
- Lincolnton, April 25 at the James W. Warren Citizens Center, Auditorium, 115 W. Main St.
- Ahoskie, April 30 at Roanoke-Chowan Community College, Community Room/Freeland Building Room 140, 109 Community College Road.
- Clayton, May 7 at The Clayton Center, Council Chambers, 111 E. Second St.
- Sylva, May 14 at Southwestern Community College, Myer's Auditorium Section 148-B, 447 College Drive.

Upcoming Birthdays

4-1 Bob Kastenhuber	4-9 Sam Kirkman	4-24 Anita Henderson
4-2 Brandon Barnhardt	4-9 Tom Savage	4-24 Larry Watts
4-2 Marcia Page	4-10 Timothy Juneau	4-26 Sara Hymel
4-3 Andrew Gunto	4-14 Ed Lewis	4-27 Andy Frazier
4-4 Dennis Bruce	4-15 Doug Lucas	4-27 Chuck Murdock
4-6 Angela Buckner	4-17 Rob Jacobson	4-27 Mike Tolley
4-6 Bart Evans	4-18 Shay Wingate	4-27 Elizabeth Cruz
4-8 Kathryn Castelloes	4-20 Wesley Tart	4-30 Hoyle Hoffman
4-8 Mark Cole	4-22 Sandra Allen	
4-9 Blair Byrd	4-23 Dean Johnson	

- Asheville, May 15 at A-B Technical Community College, Simpson Lecture Hall Room 115, 340 Victoria Road.
- Hickory, May 22 at City of Hickory, Julian Whitner Municipal Building – Council Chambers, 76 N. Center St.
- Greenville, May 31 at Pitt County Agriculture Center, Auditorium, 403 Government Circle Suite 2.

The conferences begin at 9:30 a.m. Registration is not required, but some locations may charge a parking fee. Attendance at a retirement conference does count as work time, but please get your supervisor's approval prior to attending. Click [here](#) for more information.

For members planning on retirement in the near future, please note that the months of June through August are the time of year when the Retirement System receives an increased number of retirement applications. If you are planning to retire, you should submit your retirement paperwork 120 days ahead of your planned retirement date. Please contact Human Resources if you are thinking about applying for retirement benefits.

Safety Awards Schedule

The following Safety Award banquets are scheduled for March, April, May and June. For more information about the Safety Awards Program, contact Eursula Joyner at 919-807-2908 or eursula.joyner@labor.nc.gov.

Date	Time	City	Location
Tuesday, March 26	7 p.m	Lincolnton	Lincoln Cultural Center
Tuesday, April 2	6:30 p.m	Rocky Mount	Gateway Convention Center
Tuesday, April 16	6 p.m	Roxboro	Old Country Club Steak House
Thursday, April 18	6 p.m	Shelby	LeGrand Center
Tuesday, April 23	6 p.m	Greenville	Hilton Greenville
Thursday, April 25	Noon	Monroe	South Piedmont Community College
Friday, April 26	Noon	Charlotte	Hilton Charlotte Executive Park
Tuesday, April 30	Noon	Asheboro	AVS Banquet Center
Wednesday, May 1	Noon	Goldsboro	Lane Tree Country Club
Friday, May 3	Noon	High Point	Deep River Events Center
Tuesday, May 7	6 p.m	Lumberton	Candy Sue's Downtown
Wednesday, May 8	Noon	Burlington	TBA
Thursday, May 9	Noon	Rockingham	Richmond Community College, Cole Auditorium
Tuesday, May 14	6 p.m	Morganton	Morganton Community House
Wednesday, May 15	Noon	Statesville	Ramada Inn
Friday, May 17	Noon	Raleigh	The Raleigh Marriott Crabtree
Thursday, May 23	6:30 p.m	Ahoskie	Ahoskie Inn
Monday, June 3	6 p.m	Wilmington	Wilmington Community College, North Campus
Tuesday, June 4	6 p.m	Oxford	Vance-Granville Community College, South Campus
Tuesday, June 11	6 p.m	Gastonia	Gastonia Country Club
Thursday, June 13	Noon	Lexington	J. Smith Young YMCA
Friday, June 14	Noon	Mount Airy	Cross Creek Country Club
Tuesday, June 18	11:30 a.m	Sanford	Pfizer
Wednesday, June 19	Noon	Kinston	Select Foods
Thursday, June 20	Noon	Wilson	Wilson Chamber of Commerce
Thursday, June 20	6 p.m	Clinton	Clinton-Sampson Expo Center, Expo Room
Monday, June 24	Noon	Albemarle	Stanly Regional Medical Center
Tuesday, June 25	6 p.m	Asheville	Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park
Wednesday, June 26	6 p.m	Hickory	Crowne Plaza Hickory
Thursday, June 27	Noon	Concord	Cabarrus County Governmental Center

What's New @ Your Library

BY NICK VINCELLI, LIBRARIAN

New Titles

- *For Arboricultural Operations—Safety Requirements* (ANSI Z133-2012). International Society of Arboriculture, 2012.
- *Gas Food Service Equipment* (ANSI Z83.11-2006—includes 2007 and 2009 addenda). ANSI/Canadian Standards Association, 2006.
- *A Strategy for Assessing and Managing Occupational Exposures*. AIHA, 2006.
- *Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Management—Standard Practices (Pruning)* (ANSI A300—Part 1—2008). Tree Care Industry Association, 2008.
- *Vehicle-Mounted Bridge Inspection and Maintenance Devices* (ANSI/SIA A92.8-2012). Scaffold Industry Association, 2012.

New DVDs

- *Hazard Communication and the Global Harmonizing System: Employee Training* (DVD 726—English and Spanish). Aurora Pictures; 23 min.; 2012.
- *Hazard Communication: How to Comply With GHS* (DVD 727—English and Spanish). Training Network; 15 min.; 2012.
- *Hazard Communication: In Sync With GHS* (DVD 728—English and Spanish). DuPont; 16 min.; 2012.

Online FYIs

- *Filing Whistleblower Complaints Under the ACA*
<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/whistleblower/OSHA3641.pdf>
- *Hazard Communication Standard: Labels and Pictograms*
<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3636.pdf>
- *Hazards of Operating Unguarded Stone Cutters and Splitters in Landscaping and Other Worksites*
<http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib01252013.html>
- *Illness and Injury Prevention Programs*
http://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/safetyhealth/i2p2_jan2013/index.html
- *Illness-Related Work Absences in January 2013 Highest Since February 2008*
http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2013/ted_20130219.htm
- *Mechanics Working in “the Yard” during Marine Terminal Operations QuickCard*
<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3561.pdf>
- *Mechanics Working in “the Yard” on Powered Equipment during Marine Terminal Operations QuickCard*
<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3562.pdf>
- *Methylene Chloride Hazards for Bathtub Refinishers*
http://www.osha.gov/dts/hazardalerts/methylene_chloride_hazard_alert.pdf
- *Training Requirements for the Revised Hazard Communication Standard*
<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3642.pdf>