



CENTRALINA REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE CENTRAL LINES

Take a peek inside this issue. Here's what's coming up...

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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| March 9 | Diabetes Self-Management Cross Training |
| March 9 | Centralina Executive Board Meeting |
| March 15 | Centralina Regional Managers Meeting |
| March 23 | Centralina Learns: Transportation in a Post Pandemic World |

CAPITOL CORNER



Committees in the 118th Congress: A Centralina Perspective

Thousands of bills are introduced in Congress each year. However, only a few hundred are ever considered by the full House or Senate. After bills are introduced, they are sent to a committee, where the hard work of writing legislation is done. There are 20 committees in the House of Representatives and 16 committees in the

Senate, each with jurisdiction over a variety of bills, issues, agencies and

programs. Committees are the engines of Congress. Within their jurisdiction, they gather information, compare and evaluate legislative options, identify problems and propose solutions, and determine which bills to report to the full chamber for consideration. Most bills never make it out of Committee. As the state's congressional delegation changes, so does its participation in the various committees. With the retirement of U.S. Representative David Price, NC will no longer hold a seat on the powerful Appropriations Committee.

[Continue Reading](#)

Centralina's 2023 State Action Plan

The Raleigh Relations Advocacy Agenda is a formal plan that guides Centralina's state level engagement activities. Adopted by the Centralina Executive Board, the annual agenda outlines strategies for addressing specific regional priorities. These priorities include issue areas where we are seeking resources to advance our workplan initiatives, tracking legislation impacting local communities and supporting the advocacy activities of our partner organizations.



[Read the Action Plan](#)

CENTRALINA *Region of Excellence Awards*



Congratulations to all of our 2022 Region of Excellence award winners and thank you to everyone who took the time to submit nominations. Look out for articles in the coming months to learn more about these award-winning projects and local government leaders.

Aging in Action – Anna Rice (City of Statesville)

Awarded for demonstrating commitment and contribution to older adult issues, engagement and advocacy.

Cross-Community Collaboration – City of Albemarle's Firefighter Cadet Academy

Awarded for demonstrating the value of partnerships across communities to achieve better outcomes for their community.

Improving Quality of Life

Awarded for utilizing cooperative volunteerism to expand community, recreational and transportation opportunities.

- Small Community Winner: Town of Spencer – Yadkin River Park Trailhead

- Large Community Winner: Cain Arts Center (Town of Cornelius)

Local Government Innovation – City of Gastonia and Gaston County
Awarded for its partnership in building inspection services, which delivers measurable value and impact at the local government level.

Clean Cities/Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition – UNC Charlotte Energy Production and Infrastructure Center
Awarded for its PoleVolt Curbside Electric Vehicle Charging Project, which demonstrates leadership and excellence in clean transportation and alternative fuel activities.

James D. Prosser Excellence in Leadership
Awarded individuals who exemplifies and promotes excellence in government, outstanding leadership and high ethical standards.

- Large Community Winner: Mike Downs, Cabarrus County Manager
- Small Community Winner: Jonathan Blanton, Ranlo Town Manager

Centralina Board of Delegates Annual Meeting



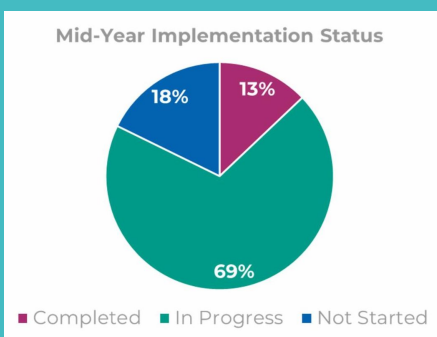
On Wednesday, Feb. 8th we welcomed the Centralina Board of Delegates to the first annual meeting in our new building where we gave attendees a short overview of our work and discussed delegate roles and responsibilities. This is also the time of year where the municipalities within each county caucus to identify which delegate will serve as their county's representative on the Executive Board. See the full list of 2023 delegates [HERE](#).

2023 Executive Board Officers:

- Commissioner Bobby Compton, Chair
- Council Member Jay McCosh, Vice Chair
- Council Member Corinthia Lewis-Lemon, Treasurer
- Commissioner Jarvis Woodburn, Secretary (*not pictured*)

FEATURED ARTICLES

FY23 Mid-Year Progress Report



The Centralina team has been working diligently on the implementation of the FY23 workplan, which includes 62 tactics that support implementation of our strategic plan. Halfway through the fiscal year we have either started or completed 82% of our activities for the year. The remainder of the strategies are scheduled to begin next quarter.

Navigating the Pandemic: Transportation + COVID



The global crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically altered the landscape of daily life, including how we choose to travel. Since early 2020, public behaviors and mindsets around transportation have drastically transformed. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of a reliable and resilient transportation network, and we have also seen the crucial role transportation plays in the supply chain and the distribution of

essential goods and services. Although we are approaching the three-year anniversary of the pandemic's onset, its consequences are far from over and continue to impact communities across the globe.

As we collaborate for a holistic, equitable recovery from the pandemic and establish a new normal, transportation remains critical to the future of planning and policy making for safe, healthy and equitable communities. Before we can make decisions about how transportation might need to transform in a post-pandemic era, we must understand the trends and insights into our transportation network revealed over the last three years. Read more to learn about key trends emerging from the height of the pandemic and what's ahead.

[Read More About Transportation Trends](#)

Register for the **Centralina Learns** session "[Transportation in a Post-Pandemic World](#)" as we imagine a future shaped by these lessons and discuss steps we can take to ensure the path to recovery leads to safe, healthy and equitable transportation for all.

CEDS Implementation Update

The Centralina Economic Development District (EDD) launched the 2023-2028 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Action Plan which serves as the region's roadmap for supporting a diverse economy that ensures coordinated growth via the prosperity for all regional lenses. The CEDS Action Plan includes 26 urgent recommendations implemented during the next 24 months being led by the 28 regional subject matter experts across the region. The Action Plan also includes 58 additional recommendations that will be implemented over the five-year CEDS time frame. The Action Plan includes a mid-point pulse check mechanism to evaluate how well the monitoring and evaluation of the CEDS goals is progressing and permits for a mid-term correction as a response.

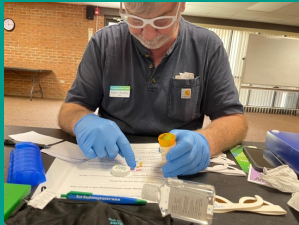
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Aging and Disability Sensitivity Training



Have you ever stopped to consider where you'll be at age 85? Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA) staff often ask this question in aging and disability sensitivity training to encourage participants to think about the aging experience. The aging population is growing in the U.S. and by 2040, about one in five Americans will be age 65. Centralina AAA, in an effort to help increase awareness of the challenges this demographic

will face, began offering aging and disability sensitivity training. These hands-on classes walk through several exercises designed to build understanding and in turn, improve customer service, when working with individuals who are older and/or living with disabilities. Centralina staff recently participated in this training exercise, wearing gloves to simulate the loss of dexterity in the hands and tinted glasses to represent vision loss and impairment. Using these props, staff then went through a series of ordinary, daily tasks including sorting medication by color, signing your name (using the opposite hand) and taking off and then putting back on an article of clothing like a shoe, watch or buttoned jacket.



[Learn More About Aging Sensitivity](#)

Region of Excellence: 2021 Award Winner Spotlights

Lake Norman Economic Development Targets Students to Grow Workforce

Lake Norman Economic Development (LNED) is a nonprofit focused on increasing economic outcomes in the community by addressing workforce gaps. In 2022, it received the 2021 Cross Community Collaboration Award (small community) for its Journey 360 program and virtual speed networking events that were developed to address workforce trends and provide high school students with educational opportunities. Partners in these workforce initiatives the Lake Norman Education Collaborative (the educational arm of the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce), the Town of Huntersville, local businesses and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. When looking to address workforce gaps, LNED found two trends...



Senior Community Connections Recognized for Excellence in Aging Services



Senior Community Connections (SCC) is a nonprofit organization that helps older adults remain independent in their homes and actively engaged in the community. This Davidson-based organization was recognized in 2022 for its work in the aging field, receiving the 2021 Centralina Region of Excellence 'Aging in Action' Award. Through a network of volunteers, SCC provides transportation, technology support, advocacy, minor household repairs, errand assistance and social activities. Centralina sat down with Board President Eliza Giduz to pick her brain on best practices and how to overcome growth challenges.

[Read the Interview to Learn More](#)

IN THE NEWS

City of Gastonia Names New Police Chief

Trent Conard, who joined the Gastonia Police Department in 1996, will be the department's new chief. Conard beat out more than 40 other applicants who applied after Gastonia advertised the position nationwide. There were eight candidates interviewed and four selected to participate in an extensive assessment center conducted by Centralina Regional Council. The assessment panel consisted of police chiefs and city managers from around the Charlotte region, along with some Gastonia community leaders. Read more on the [Gaston Gazette](#) website.

PRIDE in Care NC

It is the responsibility of long-term care providers to provide a place where individuals feel safe and are given quality care regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, religious affiliation and sexual orientation. Understanding the need for additional training and awareness in long-term care communities, **Centralina Area Agency on Aging (AAA)** launched **PRIDE in Care NC**, a virtual training program that provides train-the-trainer classes to long-term care staff and Ombudsmen. To date, Centralina AAA has trained over 100 NC care professionals. Read more on the [NC Culture Change Coalition](#) website.

Walking College - Accepting Applications Through February 28th

The Walking College is an online educational program designed to help participants understand how street design and public policy influence walkability, conduct walk audits to explore mobility challenges and opportunities, use art to encourage pedestrian traffic and more. [Learn more](#)

It's Year of the Trail in North Carolina - So What?

Trails play a vital role in the state's economy, bringing in billions of dollars in revenue. Tourism related to trails in NC sustains over 160,000 jobs. With that,

legislators in The Great Trails State introduced and easily passed [NC House Bill 554](#), declaring 2023 as...[continue reading](#).

Social Security Announces 8.7% Benefit Increase

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 8.7 percent in 2023 as a result of a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Read more](#)

North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature Celebrates 30 Years

Since its creation with the passage of Senate Bill 479 in July of 1993, the [North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature](#) (NCSTHL) has served as a nonpartisan, unicameral body tasked by the NC General Assembly to identify the most pressing issues facing older adults across the state and propose new legislation that will improve their quality of life. The NCSTHL is comprised of delegates and alternates representing each of NC's 100 counties, supported by the Area Agencies on Aging serving the state's 16 service areas.

[View Centralina Job Opportunities](#)

[Access the Member Portal](#)



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