


FROM THE CENTER OUT

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research ■ August-September-October, 1993

Center Research Leads To State Policy Changes

Before each legislative session, the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research examines past research findings to see which studies made recommendations for the legislature to act upon. Then, the Center works on a bipartisan basis with legislative study commissions, legislators who have expressed interest, or committees to see that our research influences state policy.

During its 1993 session, the N.C. General Assembly took the following actions in response to Center research:

- * Enacted legislation that allows courts to appoint temporary managers for problem nursing homes -- those that continually violate state regulations and jeopardize patient health, as recommended in a 1992 *North Carolina Insight* study.

- * Appropriated funds to the N.C. Dept. of Environment, Health, & Natural Resources to implement the first State Environmental Index, an idea conceived by the Center in a 1988 *Insight*.

- * Allocated money to the UNC system campuses to establish faculty awards for excellent teaching and to establish endowed chairs that recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching. Also set up a study commission to examine, among other things, the rewards and incentives for undergraduate teaching and assessment and evaluation of faculty teaching. These actions arose out of the Center's February 1993 report, *How Do Universities in the UNC System Identify and Reward Excellent Teaching?*

- * Enacted legislation that encourages state agencies to purchase materials, papers, and supplies with recycled content, as recommended in a 1989 *Insight*.

- * Appropriated equalization funds to small and poor county school systems in an attempt to avoid a lawsuit on public school finance.

- * Set up interim legislative study commissions on campaign finance, increasing voter participation, and mountain area land use.

In addition to these legislative actions, Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. signed an Executive Order in April requiring state agencies to purchase supplies and materials with recycled content. And, in September, the UNC Board of Governors adopted a report that would create annual system-wide teaching awards, strengthen existing teaching centers and establish new ones, and ensure that student evaluations and faculty peer reviews of teaching are conducted at least one semester each year. The Center commends the legislature, Governor, and UNC Board of Governors for taking these actions. We will continue to work on other measures arising out of our research.

Center Launches New Tool For Affecting Policy

While the legislative wheels were grinding in Raleigh this summer, the Center was cranking out a new product: op-ed pieces based on Center research. The Center shipped two opinion-editorials to N.C. newspapers urging legislative action on pending Center recommendations. The first sought money for a State Environmental Index to gauge whether the air is getting cleaner, the water purer, and so on (*Insight*, March 1988 and August 1993). Former Gov. Jim Martin endorsed the Center's index in his 1989 Inaugural Address. The idea was so promising that several states compiled similar index reports. Yet the Center found the index languishing in North Carolina due to insufficient funds. We gave the issue a nudge with an op-ed piece, and the legislature found \$50,000 to fund the project. The piece was reprinted or used for editorials nine times. The Center struck again with an op-ed piece when a bill authorizing temporary managers for problem nursing homes got bottled up in committee. The Center had recommended temporary management when research showed a few repeat violators of state nursing home rules threatened the health and safety of residents (*Insight*, May 1992). The Center's op-ed piece was reprinted in a dozen newspapers, and the legislation passed in late July.

Recent Contributors -- People Who Help Keep the Center Working

A warm welcome to our new corporate contributors:

Comm/Scope, Inc. -- \$1000
 Brian Center Management Corporation -- \$500
 N.C. Association of Convenience Stores -- \$300
 Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. -- \$500
 Centel -- \$200
 Mutual Community Savings Bank, Inc. SSB -- \$200

We give special thanks to these corporations which renewed their support:

IBM Corporation	\$2000	Bank of Granite	\$500
The Charlotte Observer	1500	N.C. Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.	500
Alcoa Foundation	1000	Nucor Corporation	500
AMP Incorporated	1000	Wachovia Bank of North Carolina, N.A.	500
Asheboro Elastics	1000	Liggett Group Inc.	350
The Bolick Foundation	1000	WTVD-11	350
Burlington Industries Foundation	1000	K.R. Edwards Leaf Tobacco Co., Inc.	300
E.I. duPont de Nemours & Company	1000	Southern National Bank	300
FMC Corporation - Lithium Division	1000	The Transylvania Times	300
Texasgulf Inc.	1000	Asheboro Courier-Tribune	250
Time Warner Cable: Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Raleigh- Durham and Chapel Hill	1000	Moore & Van Allen	250
Burroughs Wellcome Company	1000	Raleigh Federal Savings Bank	250
Martin Marietta Aggregates	750	Lee Iron and Metal Co., Inc.	200
		Trion Charitable Foundation	200

Special Gifts Support the Center

The Center thanks **IBM Corporation** and Center Board member **Beverly Blount Smith** for their recent in-kind gift of a color monitor. We also are grateful to **The Charlotte Observer** for its gift through the employee matching gifts program on behalf of Center Board member **Ed Williams** and to **Hoechst Celanese** for its matching gift on behalf of new member **George M. Britts**. We thank Board member **Ronnie Capps** for his individual gift.

The Center Board and staff appreciate the efforts of several individuals and corporations who made possible a reception and Board meeting in Charlotte in September. We thank **Hesta Properties** for its sponsorship of the reception at the Carillon's Hans and Walter Bechtler Gallery honoring Center members and contributors. Thanks go to **Carolinas Medical Center** for offering its meeting space for the Center Board's Endowment Committee meeting. For their efforts in organizing the reception and meeting, we thank current Board members **Linda Ashendorf, Ruth Shaw, Geraldine Sumter, Nancy Temple, and Ed Williams**. Thanks also go to former Board members **Mary Hopper, Betty Chafin Rash, and Jerry Shinn** for helping to make this reception and meeting a success. We also thank **NationsBank** for providing a conference room for our September Board meeting.

The Center welcomes our new full-service members and thanks our renewing full-service members:

Bessemer Improvement Company - Timothy Burnett
 * The Cape Fear Broadcasting Company WFNC/WQSM - John Dawson
 Ronnie Capps
 Currituck County Board of Education - Ronnie Capps
 The Duke Endowment -- Eugene W. Cochrane, Jr.
 Durham Herald-Sun Newspapers - Steed Rollins

Full-Service Members Continued . . .

Everett, Gaskins, Hancock & Stevens -- Gerry Hancock
 NCDPI - Financial and Personnel Services - James Barber
 N.C. Association of Educators - Donald Morrow
 N.C. Restaurant Association - Jerry Williams
 N.C. Textile Manufacturers Association - Dennis Julian
 Porter, Steel & Porter - Leslie Bevacqua
 * Rauch Industries - Marshall Rauch
 United Transportation Union - James Stem
 * WTRG-FM - Thomas Joyner (* Denotes new full-service member)

Special thanks to our new and renewing individual supporting members:

John Betts*	Nancy Brame	Dan Clodfelter & Elizabeth Bevan*
Rennie Cuthbertson*	Allyson Duncan*	Kathleen Bryan Edwards
Barbara M. Fletcher*	Joyce Gallimore	Fletcher Hartsell
Robert C. Hilton*	William Burns Jones, Jr.	Elaine F. Marshall
Robert & Cama Merritt	Mary Norris & Pat Oglesby*	Johnathan L. Rhyne, Jr.*
Carol Shaw*	Mr. and Mrs. Lanty Smith	Zachary Smith
John Winters*		(* Denotes new individual supporting member)

A warm welcome to these individuals who are new Center members:

Gayle Anderson	Margaret B. Arbuckle	A.A. Brafford	Richen M. Brame
George M. Britts	Terri D. Burnham	Robert Chandler	Larry Clubine
Mark Davis	Jimmie Dixon	Randy Fraser	Ernest J. Goodson
Margaret Holton	Vernon G. James	John R. Kernodle, Jr.	Lisa Wyatt Knowlton
Ronald C. Leatherwood	Valeria L Lee	L. Duane Long	Mark D. Martin
Helen R. Marvin	Bart Meroney	Connie Mullinix	Nancy K. Neale
Keith B. Price, Jr.	Paul Shumaker	Keats Sparrow	Marjorie W. Tate
Jennifer Taylor	Susan B. Tuman	Roberta Waddle	Barbara Zeigler

And, welcome to these new organizational members:

John Bennett -- Capital Consortium
 Lawrence Bewley & Associates
 Jennifer Bruffey -- N.C. Leadership Council
 Wanda Bryant -- N.C. Attorney General's Office
 Robert Davis -- Office of Institutional Assessment
 Martin Eakes -- Center for Community Self-Help
 Dorothy Graham -- Durham Day Care Council
 Robert P. Gruber -- N.C. Utilities Commission -- Public Staff
 Sheila Hoyle -- Southwestern Child Development Comm.
 Margaret B. Johnston -- Boone Area Chamber of Commerce
 Donald A. Kirkman -- Carteret County Economic Development Council
 Catawba County Library
 Columbus County Public Library
 Susan Moffat -- Swiss Bear Downtown Redevelopment Corp.
 Graham Pervier -- Forsyth County Government
 Joel Rosch -- N.C. State Bureau of Investigation
 Western Carolina Industries, Inc.

Hot off the Presses

In September, the Center released its newest study, *The Cost of Running for the N.C. Legislature*. The study looks at campaign fundraising and spending during the 1992 North Carolina legislative races. The Center conducted the study as a supplement to the latest edition of its legislative handbook, *Article II: A Guide to the 1993-94 North Carolina Legislature*, released in May.

"Our new reports show three major trends," Center Executive Director Ran Coble says. "First, campaign costs have more than doubled since the 1984 elections. Second, political action committees (PACs) are now the source of almost half of all contributions to legislative candidates. And third, the legislature's demographic make-up continues to change, with groups such as bankers, blacks, educators, and women growing in numbers."

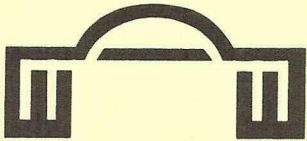
To order both publications, call Sharon Gibson at the Center at (919) 832-2839. *Article II* costs \$22.70, and *The Cost of Running for the N.C. Legislature* costs \$9.48. **Or, purchase the two reports as a set for \$26, and save \$6.18.** All prices include sales tax, postage, and handling. Full-service members receive both publications free.

Coming Attractions

Center staff are busy preparing the next edition of *North Carolina Insight*, scheduled for release in December. The next *Insight* will deal with two legislative topics: the evolution of the office of the Speaker of the House from a part-time position to one of the most powerful offices in state government, and the increasing numbers and influence of women in the General Assembly. *Insight* also will examine the accuracy of opinion polls in forecasting the results of major political races in the 1992 North Carolina elections. Plus, look for a column analyzing the implications of a recent state Supreme Court decision that allows children to sue their parents for malicious wrongdoing.

Center Seeks Board Nominations

One of the benefits of Center membership is the opportunity to nominate yourself or others to our governing Board of Directors. Board nominees should be willing to work hard, attend quarterly Board meetings, and assist with fund-raising. The Board sets overall policy and direction for the Center's work and suggests ideas for *Insight* topics and other research reports. Depending on their backgrounds and expertise, Board members also review drafts of articles and major reports for accuracy and clarity. The Board is balanced by race, gender, and geographic location in North Carolina, as well as by political party affiliation. To nominate yourself or someone else willing to serve a three-year (1994-97) term, please submit the name(s) and background information to the Chair of the Board's Nominating Committee, Nancy Temple, or to Center Executive Director Ran Coble, c/o N.C. Center, P.O. Box 430, Raleigh, NC 27602, no later than Wednesday, November 3.



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