

**WELCOME**  
**Senior Scholar**





## Welcome New Senior Scholar

Thank you so much for joining our group. Our purpose as stated in our Constitution and By-laws is to develop, provide and sponsor stimulating, educational and topical programs for the membership. Our group began in 1973 as a cooperative effort of the Charlotte Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), colleges and universities of the Charlotte Area Educational Consortium, the Community Health Association, and the Senior Forum. It is structured as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is totally run by our members on a volunteer basis.

### What to Expect

Our group meets on Fridays from 10am – 11am from September through May at Providence United Methodist Church. The address is 2810 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211. Even we Senior Scholars take the summer off! Please remember to bring your membership card to enter each meeting. And you are *highly* encouraged to wear your membership name badge as a good way to meet other members. Our website is your best source of information, so please check it frequently – [www.seniorscholars.net](http://www.seniorscholars.net). Our general email address is [sscholars@yahoo.com](mailto:sscholars@yahoo.com). Within a couple of weeks of joining, you should also start to receive a weekly email regarding upcoming meeting programs. If not, please check back with the membership committee to ensure all contact information submitted is accurate. We provide a variety of information to our members through our website and via emails, including when a change in meeting location might be required or that our meeting is cancelled when the Char-Meck school district is closed for inclement weather. A listing of membership benefits is included in this packet. While weekly meetings are a primary activity, we also offer an annual educational retreat in the NC mountains, periodic field trips, pre-meeting newcomer coffees, two scheduled member luncheons and our newly launched effort for periodic informal social lunch groups.

### How to Get Involved

Some of our Scholars join primarily to hear our weekly speakers while others desire to become more involved. We have several committees that periodically seek new members. A listing of Committees, their activities and Chair names are provided in an enclosure within this packet. If you find a committee that speaks to your desire and talents to become further involved, please contact the Committee Chair. Chair contact information can be located in our Member Directory. You may obtain a copy from the Membership Committee. It is also a good source of general information about our group.

Again, I personally want to thank you for joining our group and I hope to meet you at one of our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

*William H. Parker*

William H. Parker  
President - 2018 Senior Scholars at Queens

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Our Constitution and By-Laws indicate that through opportunities that stimulate continued intellectual, cultural and spiritual growth, Senior Scholars encourages its members to be well informed, to maintain good self-images and to become actively involved in community affairs. Our organization offers varied levels of involvement to our Members. If you desire a higher level of involvement, the following committees periodically have a need for new members. Feel free to contact the Chair of any of the following to gain further information regarding how you could become involved, including time commitments and any desired specialized skills. Contact information may be found in our current Membership Directory. You may obtain a copy from the Membership Committee.

## **Curriculum – Chair Bill Thomas (& Ken Brown responsible for Great Decision topics)**

Help determine topics and find/contact speakers for our meetings. Periodic meetings scheduled.

## **Arrangements and Social – Chair Carol Kesmodel**

Arrive early before Friday meetings to help prepare, set up and (later) clean up coffee and tea service for members. Volunteers rotate one meeting per month.

## **Wildacres – Chairs Wade Alley & Jim Renger**

Our annual spring learning (and social) retreat in the lovely NC mountains. An engaging speaker leads several learning sessions. There are also social get togethers, including a voluntary member talent show. Committee members primarily assist in proposing/contacting speakers and leading onsite social activities. Periodic meetings scheduled.

## **Membership – Chair Sara Haymond**

Help prior to Friday meetings to enroll new members and renew existing members.

## **Webmaster – Chair Ed Tosto; also may contact Steve Gilbert**

Help with keeping our website up to date regarding meetings and other events. Assistance as needed.

## **Technical Services – Chair Dave Shemberg**

Help with running audio/visual equipment for our Friday meetings.

## **Field Trips - Chair John Ferguson**

Help with planning and leading periodic outings.

## **Lunch Bunch – informal group – Board member/liaison (& prior past SS president) B.G. Metzler**

This is an informal group working with a Board member to organize periodic lunches and possibly other future events to increase desired social interaction among members.

# Benefits of Becoming a Senior Scholar

Our organization offers members the opportunity to continue to broaden intellectual perspective and to get involved with other active seniors, just like you. You can learn new things and make new friends. We continue to grow; come join us!

## Membership Benefits include:

- Weekly speakers, who address a wide-ranging variety of topics (including timely Great Decisions world affairs issues, cultural and travel experiences, medical developments, educational issues, environmental programs, and other general interest subjects). Senior Scholars holds a total of 34 sessions in our September-May academic year (we enjoy the summer off). Most speakers extend their one-hour formal presentations with informal question-and-answer discussions.
- Come early before the opening 10 a.m. bell to enjoy coffee or hot tea, meet fellow scholars and make new friends who share common interests.
- An annual membership card, for a very reasonable fee, provides easy meeting access.
- Convenient, free parking at our meeting location, Providence United Methodist Church, 2810 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC, 28211, typically in Wolfe Hall.
- E-mail reminders of meetings and info on upcoming activities and news items.
- Weekly meeting quiz. Will you know the answer to the President's puzzler, or will you learn a new fact that you can then share with others?
- Ability to bring a guest to a weekly meeting (nominal requested donation).
- Exclusive Senior Scholar member access (for a very reasonable additional cost) to the Wildacres mountain retreat in the spring, and the joint Wildacres retreat with East Tennessee University Alliance for Continued Learning group in August. Cost is inclusive of dynamic speaker-led sessions, meals, morning coffee and afternoon hour fellowship, a free afternoon to enjoy and explore the beautiful mountain surroundings, and an evening member talent session (participate or just come and enjoy!).
- Two luncheons (celebrating the holidays in December, and spring in June) provide an opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow members; perhaps discuss your favorite speaker or who you would like to hear in the future.
- Local field trips to a variety of locations throughout the meeting months.
- Annual membership directory, including all current members, great for connecting with new and long-standing friends.
- Volunteer opportunities: Senior Scholars is run totally by volunteers. It's a great way to make new friends and support our group. Members are always needed to help with activities, such as coffee preparation or field trips. We welcome your talents and input!
- Access to the Queens University cafeteria. Join other members for lunch and fellowship after our meetings. Members may purchase a meal card from the Queens dining service to help reduce the cost of each meal.
- Senior Scholars "Lunch Bunch" provides the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of groups of Senior Scholars at various area restaurants, following selected Friday Meetings.
- Notification of Queens University activities - Queens provides us with information regarding certain upcoming campus cultural events and lectures that may be of interest to our members. These are noted on our website and through other communications.