The Chair’s Report
by Charles “Chuck” Brink

Happy New Year University Staff!

The changing of the calendar tells us that we have a brand new year in front us and it is full of promises. The past year for the UNC Staff Assembly was a very busy one; the Staff Assembly Executive Committee participated in the development of the Guiding Principles that would be followed should Personnel Authority be legislated to the Board of Governors; the Executive and Human Resource, Diversity & Benefits committees worked together on a Salary Letter, that pointed out the compensation issues the University Staff are facing to President Ross and he responded that he would advocate for Staff raises as the University’s budget request goes forward; our Governance committee completed the revision of our By-Laws & Procedure manual; our Campus Chairs committee is in the final stages of completing a year-long project to develop a Best Practices/Principles document to educate the Staff Assembly about personnel policy and the State Personnel Manual, so we can work to improve University personnel policies; and the Staff Development Committee organized the Inaugural Chancellor’s Cup Golf Tournament to benefit the Janet B. Royster Memorial Staff Scholarship Fund. This event was a huge success thanks to the outstanding efforts of the committee. The tournament netted more than $15,000 to seed the fund. The 2nd Annual Chancellors’ Cup Tournament is currently being planned, please be on the lookout for more information in the near future.

Legislative Update

The legislature approved a 1.2% raise for State Employees and 40 hours of bonus leave to be used by June 30, 2013. This is a small but important step in the right direction. The indications from Raleigh is that the Governor and the legislature support North Carolina investing in Higher Education, however, this currently remains to be seen.

2013 has begun with a bang. President Ross and BOG Chairman Peter Hans informed the UNC Staff Assembly that the UNC Staff Assembly Chair will have “a seat at the table” on the BOG’s Personnel & Tenure committee. Since the Chartering of the UNC Staff Assembly we have been sitting in the gallery, now we are sitting at the table just as the Chancellors do to participate and contribute to the process. This is a very important first step in the right direction for Staff Representation on the UNC Board of Governors! The Faculty Assembly Chair (Dr. Catherine Rigsby, ECU) now has “a seat at the table” on the BOG Education Planning committee as well. This is all a result of years of negotiating and working to prove that these organizations are relevant and want to be part of the process.
At the January 29th video conference, the Executive Committee voted on a resolution developed by our Human Resource, Diversity & Benefits committee with information provided by the NC State delegation, requesting the Office of State Personnel to develop a Disaster Leave Policy that would help University and State employees to recover from a loss from a natural or man-made disaster. After the Spring meeting of the UNC Staff Assembly, we will be forwarding to President Ross a resolution requesting that they convey to the NC Legislature our request for a pay raise, so watch for details in our Spring Newsletter.

The UNC Strategic Directions committee presented a draft report to the Strategic Advisory Group and they gave their approval with recommendations for improvement. Staff input was for investment in University Staff Development, improved Human Resource policies and to allow campuses the ability to do higher dollar value jobs using in-house personnel, who can do it cheaper than any contractor and better because the university staff cares about their respective institutions and what goes into them.

As with the promise of new beginnings that the New Year heralds, let’s all work together with the faculty, students and administrations on our campuses to improve the working life of the University of North Carolina Staff.

Thank you all for “What you do for the U”!

Charles “Chuck” Brink, Chairman
Edwin has an outstanding commitment towards his job as Assistant Director for High School Activities and as a volunteer in the greater Winston-Salem community. If you need a volunteer, Edwin is the go-to person on his campus, and he will do so without hesitation. Edwin always brings everyone together to make things happen, and his smile and laughter are contagious.

Although Edwin has always had a wonderful attitude towards his job and community, he went on a special journey over a year ago to lead a healthier lifestyle. To date, Edwin has lost over 100 lbs. His new outlook on life has provided him with even more energy to volunteer.

As morale was coming to an all-time low on campus, Edwin took it upon himself to boost morale by offering two free Zumba classes a week at the UNCSA fitness center for students, staff and faculty. His energy in teaching these classes is undeniable. The positive impact from this initiative has lifted the spirits of the 50+ members that join in weekly from across the institution.

As the recipient of UNCSA’s recent campus wide “Staff Outstanding Service Award”, he never expected to be rewarded for “just being himself” and his modesty and appreciation of this campus wide recognition was overwhelming.

Not only does Edwin go above and beyond the call of duty on his campus, but the Winston-Salem community has been blessed by his volunteerism. Edwin currently serves on the Board of the Adam Foundation whose mission is to “promote the identity, strength and well-being of the local gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and supports organizations serving persons living with HIV and AIDS.” Edwin chairs the annual Adam Festival, which is the largest fundraiser for the organization.

Edwin also tirelessly volunteers his time with “Mrs. Pumpkin’s Eatery” by helping make Ginger Bread Houses for the Brenner Children’s Hospital, as well as, coordinating Zumbathon fundraisers for the “Susan G. Komen”, breast cancer awareness foundation and “Second Harvest Food Bank.” As an alumnus of UNCSA, Edwin supports the UNCSA local community theatre, Twin City Stage, by volunteering his time as Stage Manager for community plays.

Congratulations Edwin!

What does it mean to win the Erskine B. Bowles Staff Service Award?

The goal of the UNC Staff Assembly is to improve communications, understanding, and morale throughout the whole of our respective communities, and to increase efficiency and productivity in campus operations. In as much, the Erskine B. Bowles Staff Service Award is given to a permanent, full-time staff member who has shown exemplary understanding, empathy, and devotion to mankind and whose accomplishments are consistent with the goals exemplified by Erskine B. Bowles during his tenure as UNC President and in accordance with the University’s public service mission.

In August of each year, each campus is asked to nominate one, two, or three individuals that meet the above criteria as representatives of their institution. The Staff Assembly Executive Committee then reviews all the nominations and selects one individual to receive the Erskine B. Bowles Staff Service Award. The recipient is invited to receive the award in-person, with family, friends, and colleagues at the October meeting of the Staff Assembly.

The pool of potential award winners totals more than 32,000, and the selection as the recipient of the Erskine B. Bowles Staff Service Award is one of the highest recognitions awarded by the UNC Staff Assembly. If you know of someone that you would like to nominate for this honor, begin compiling a list of their contributions and look for the call for nominations during 2013!
The UNC Staff Assembly has issued a challenge to the more than 43,000 staff members employed by the University of North Carolina System asking them to show that they have a heart by committing to a month of service in their respected communities.

From February 1 – 28, 2013 the 17 campuses that make up the UNC System will embark upon a statewide effort to provide a month of service in North Carolina communities.

How will you and your campus “Have a Heart” today for your community?

Coming in June…

The 2013 Chancellors’ Cup Golf Tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12 at the Lonnie Poole Golf Course at NC State University. The tournament is sponsored by the UNC Staff Assembly and is organized to raise money for the Janet B. Royster Memorial Staff Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships for professional staff development activities to employees throughout the UNC system. Participants included teams from each of the system’s 17 campuses, UNC-TV, the UNC Board of Governors and the President’s Office, and the Royster family.

Winston Salem State University won the inaugural Chancellors’ Cup Golf Tournament in 2012 and this year’s event is already drumming up excitement, along with old and new rivalries between campuses and groups. Save the date and make plans to join us at the LPGC on the NC State campus and show your school spirit!

Coming in August…

The 3rd Annual Erskine B. Bowles Staff Service Award is awarded annually to a permanent, full-time staff member who has shown exemplary understanding, empathy, and devotion to mankind and whose accomplishments are consistent with the goals exemplified by Erskine B. Bowles during his tenure as UNC President and in accordance with the University’s public service mission. Start thinking of great staff members that you would like to nominate and be on the lookout for more information on the nomination process in the next few months.