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Date

2003 HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION

HB 1342

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1342

House Finance and Taxation Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 20, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		0.6
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Janice Stein</i>			

Minutes:

**REP. WESLEY BELTER, CHAIRMAN** Opened called the hearing to order.

**REP. ARLO SCHMIDT, DIST. 7** Introduced the bill. He stated the Silver Haired Assembly did not know where to go to get funding. He stated their funding was cut off in 1995. During the last session, they tried to have a line added on the income tax forms, however, the tax department said there was no more room for any lines. This time they picked on the Watchable Wildlife.

**REP. WEILER** Asked if there was a certain age limit.

**REP. SCHMIDT** Stated he thought you needed to be 65 years of age.

**CAROL SIEGERT, REPRESENTING THE SILVER HAIRD EDUCATION ASSN.**

Testified in support of the bill. See written testimony.

**REP. BELTER** Asked if she was still employed with the Treasurer's Office.

**CAROL SIEGERT** State she was retired.

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House Finance and Taxation Committee  
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**REP. BELTER** Asked if she knew how many senior citizens were active in their local communities.

**CAROL SIEGERT** Stated she didn't have the figure, but assumed someone at the hearing would have the figure.

**LARRY WAMLER, SILVER HAired ASSEMBLY,** Testified in support of the bill. He submitted a handout giving information relating to this organization. See written copy. He stated he wanted to emphasize more, the future than the past. We can't change the past, but we can shape the future. He stated the information presented is being presented in Atlanta, this coming week-end. They are being invited to come to North Dakota in 2004 for their committee meetings. There is one representative/delegate from every county. There are eight regions who have a delegate. Every county has several towns with senior citizens, and everyone has the opportunity to vote for their delegate, which mirrors what our own government at the state and national level does. He stated senior citizens need communications and informed citizens for voter participation. He stated you have to be sixty years of age to be a member. He stated they have junior high school students and college students who participate as pages in their senior citizen centers and bring information to them. He felt doing this on a three generation level, with seniors sharing their wisdom, from experience in the community, everyone will gain information.

**CURTIS HERMAN, MAX, ND, PRESIDENT OF THE SILVER-HAired EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.** Testified in support of the bill. See written testimony plus several handouts relating to this organization.

**REP. BELTER** How much money were you hoping to raise?

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**CURTIS HERMAN** Stated, in his conversation with seniors in North Dakota, which is approximately 180,000, each one said they would be willing to give at least one dollar. I am hoping we can raise about fifty thousand dollars. If we were to set up an office and start all over again, it would cost anywhere from twenty to thirty thousand dollars.

**REP. BELTER** As policy makers, the next bill which is coming before us, removes all check-offs from the income tax form. As a legislator, I have no problem with your organization, my problem, where does it end, as far as the number of organizations, that would like to be put on the form and have a check-off. You have fifty thousand members, that would be one dollar per year in dues, was that approach ever looked at?

**CURTIS HERMAN** That is how we have continued to operate, since 1997.

**REP. BELTER** Asked if there was a lot of objection to that.

**CURTIS HERMAN** No, but it is hard to go out and beg for the money. It is not our intent to take away from any other organization, but I guess that is what is happening.

**REP. DROVDAL** The check-off we are talking about is on the short form, is it not?

**CURTIS HERMAN** I believe it is on both forms.

**REP. WEILER** You said this was written after the Missouri Silver Haired Association, how do they get their funding?

**CURTIS HERMAN** To my knowledge, it has been from senior centers.

**LARRY WAMPLER** Intervened and stated in many states, they have received funding from the tobacco settlements.

**REP. WEILER** Asked whether they had any administrative costs.

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**CURTIS HERMAN** At this point, we pay expenses from the Steering Committee. We meet twice a year, our hope is to set up an office again and have a director.

**REP. WEILER** Have you considered writing a letter to these fifty thousand members and asking for donations, has that been tried?

**CURTIS HERMAN** We have done this since 1997.

**BERNIE WAGNER, SILVER-HAIRED DELEGATE FROM BARNES COUNTY,**

Testified in support of the bill. See written testimony.

**JIM COATS, PRESIDENT OF THE MANDAN GOLDEN AGE CLUB** Testified in support of the bill. He stated there are thirteen hundred members. They have begged their members to send two delegates to the Silver-Haired Legislature. It is a worthwhile learning experience. They are willing to learn and willing to support themselves by this one dollar check-off.

**BILL PFEIFER, ND WILDLIFE SOCIETY,** Testified in opposition of the bill. He stated he was not opposed to the Silver-Haired Organization, but questioned the position it put the legislators in to have to decide between this or that. He didn't think that was proper legislation. He didn't think legislators should be put in a position to remove one organization and install another.

**RON LUETHE, CITIZEN OF BISMARCK** Testified in opposition of the bill. He stated he has seen what the Watchable Wildlife has done for North Dakota. He uses the education material for seminars he puts on. He stated he attended the Market Place of Ideas in Grand Forks, and that Market Place was based on nature based tourism. It brings people into North Dakota, and the education material this fund provides, fits very nicely with the nature based

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tourism. I belong to several organizations, and the funds they raise come from dues from their members.

**DEAN HILDEBRAND, DIRECTOR OF THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME & FISH**

**DEPARTMENT** Testified in opposition of the bill. He submitted several handouts relating to birds and wildlife in North Dakota. See written testimony. He stated that if the 180,000 people over sixty years of age pay one dollar each, it will bring in much more money than the check-off would.

**REP. SCHMIDT** Stated, when this bill was drafted, they did not know that you couldn't access this by law.

**DEAN HILDEBRAND** I didn't know until I read the bill, that the bill was coming in. I am sort of with you, I would certainly endorse an alternative method of funding. He gave an example of the different calls they get from other areas requesting handouts relating to wildlife, etc. They really encourage nonresidents to birdwatch in our state.

**MIKE DONAHUE, REPRESENTING THE NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE**

**FEDERATION AND THE UNITED SPORTSMEN OF NORTH DAKOTA,** Testified in opposition of the bill. Stating this fund applies to everybody from six months old on up to grandpa and grandma.

**DAVE ANGELL, TEACHER IN BISMARCK,** Testified in opposition of the bill. He stated he has personally been involved with creating an owl site at Bismarck High School, below their marquee on the intersection of seventh street and Ave. C. Students in the environmental club helped construct that and design that. I don't know if you can go to a school in North Dakota that does not have posters for wildlife, and birds. We have had kids make, in the neighborhood

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Hearing Date January 20, 2003

of two hundred boxes which have been distributed throughout the state. I would hate to see this check-off go, because it has been very positive for our state.

With no further testimony, the hearing was closed.

**COMMITTEE ACTION** Later in the day, Tape #2, Side A, Meter #15.5

**REP. BELTER** Stated he felt he could not support taking one organization off of the check-offs and putting another organization on as in the situation of HB 1196 and HB 1342. He felt he would rather get them all off.

**REP. KLEIN** Submitted handouts relating to the Watchable Wildlife fund and the programs it covers. He felt it was a worthwhile program and that it does a lot of good for the schools, and should stay on the state tax form.

Other committee members felt that there are a lot of good programs, but, they cannot all be on the tax forms.

Some committee members felt the two programs in question are different than other programs as they are being administered by state agencies.

After discussion, Rep. Belter stated the bill would be acted on at a later date.

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**COMMITTEE ACTION** 1-21-03, Tape # 1, Side B, Meter #35.9

**REP. DROVDAL** Made a motion for a **DO NOT PASS**.

**REP. KLEIN** Second the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**.

11 YES      3 NO      0 ABSENT

**REP. IVERSON** Was given the floor assignment.

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**FISCAL NOTE**  
 Requested by Legislative Council  
 01/15/2003

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1342

1A. **State fiscal effect:** Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.

	2001-2003 Biennium		2003-2005 Biennium		2005-2007 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				(\$33,000)		
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.

2001-2003 Biennium			2003-2005 Biennium			2005-2007 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2. **Narrative:** Identify the aspects of the measure which cause fiscal impact and include any comments relevant to your analysis.

If enacted, HB 1342 would remove the optional contribution to the nongame wildlife fund that is currently allowed on the individual income tax return and replace it with the silver-haired education association fund. Over the past two years, the nongame wildlife fund received \$33,000 in voluntary contributions. It is unknown how much revenue the silver-haired education association fund would receive in voluntary contributions.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:

A. **Revenues:** Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.

B. **Expenditures:** Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.

C. **Appropriations:** Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, of the effect on the biennial appropriation for each agency and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget. Indicate the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations.

<b>Name:</b>	Kathryn L. Strombeck	<b>Agency:</b>	Tax Dept.
<b>Phone Number:</b>	328-3402	<b>Date Prepared:</b>	01/17/2003

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Date: 1-21-03  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1342

House FINANCE & TAXATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Rep. Drovdal Seconded By Rep. Klein

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
BELTER, CHAIRMAN	✓				
DROVDAL, VICE-CHAIR	✓				
CLARK	✓				
FROELICH		✓			
GROSZ	✓				
HEADLAND	✓				
IVERSON	✓				
KELSH	✓				
KLEIN	✓				
NICHOLAS	✓				
SCHMIDT		✓			
WEILER	✓				
WIKENHEISER		✓			
WINRICH	✓				

Total (Yes) 11 No 3

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Iverson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

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**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)**  
January 21, 2003 1:26 p.m.

Module No: HR-11-0844  
Carrier: Iverson  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1342: Finance and Taxation Committee (Rep. Belter, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (11 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1342 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.**

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

HR-11-0844

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2003 TESTIMONY

HB 1342

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1342

My name is Carol Siegert. I am here to testify in support of HB 1342, optional contributions to the Silver Haired Education Association.

North Dakota seniors provide leadership in addressing grass roots concerns, which can assist our seniors in improving the quality of life for our state's elderly. They are also to be commended for their dedication and concern in addressing the needs of our young people.

Since 1993, I have been the Chief Clerk for the North Dakota Silver Haired Legislative Assembly.

In 1993, when I first performed the duties of Chief Clerk for the Assembly there were two Silver Haired Assembly delegates from each county in North Dakota. Now there is only one delegate from each county and in some instances there are no delegates from the county.

Previously delegates were given financial assistance with monies delegated to the Silver Haired Assembly. This is no longer the case. There are many folks capable and interested in serving in the Assembly, however they are unable to serve due to the fact they are responsible for all their own expenses. Many of these Silver Haired potential delegates exist only on Social Security and are unable to absorb these expenses. These expenses include hotel/motel, food and travel. With this Appropriation they would have financial assistance to enable them to participate in the Silver Haired Assembly.

The Silver Haired Assembly also elects two delegates to the National Silver Haired Assembly in Washington D. C. They also are responsible for their own expenses.

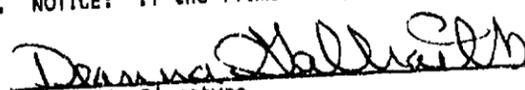
Delegates to the Silver Haired Assembly offer a wealth of information and initiatives that in some cases become bills and eventually laws through the North Dakota Legislative process. I personally feel we are not accessing information from a valuable component in our society by limiting their participation in the Silver Haired Assembly process because of costs.

I realize these silver haired delegates have the options of contacting Legislators and also testifying in committees during the Legislative Assembly. However, this too is costly while living on a limited budget.

I would ask for your support on HB 1342.

Thank you.

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**HB1342**  
**FORT TOTTEN ROOM**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2003**  
**9:00 A.M.**

Chairman Belter and members of this committee—**GOOD MORNING**

My name is Curtis Hernan from Max, North Dakota. I am President of the North Dakota Silver-Haired Education Association (NDSHEA) and am also Chairman of the Steering Committee which is the governing body of the NDSHEA. I am in favor of HB1342 because of the need to have adequate funding necessary to continue the work of SHEA.

The goal of the SHEA is to make a difference in the livelihood of the Seniors in North Dakota. The North Dakota Silver-Haired Education Association is an organization composed of Senior Citizens from throughout North Dakota who are 60 years of age and older. SHEA is a 501-C-3 non-profit tax exempt corporation. Originally SHEA was funded by contract with (Federal Older American Act) dollars channeled through the Aging Network of North Dakota (ANND), local match and additional contributions. SHEA lost this Federal funding in 1997 and although the office closed its doors, the vision of the Silver-Haired Assembly remained strong in the hearts and minds of many people. Since 1997 SHEA has been able to continue with contributions from senior clubs and other organizations. It is our hope that with the passage of HB1342 we will again be able to organize an office staff and continue to improve the health and welfare of the approximate 190,000 senior citizens of North Dakota. According to the last census North Dakota persons aged 60 and older comprise 23 per cent of our population and this percentage number is growing in leaps and bounds. Thus the need for an organization such as the North Dakota Silver-Haired Education Association.

One delegate is elected from each county in North Dakota to represent that county at the North Dakota Silver-Haired Legislative Assembly. The term of office is for two years. During the first day of the Assembly a Steering Committee is formed. The steering committee composed of one delegate is elected from each of the Governor's eight regions is elected to serve on the Steering Committee. The President, President Pro Tem and the representative from the Reservations are also members of the Committee.

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The last SHEA was held on July 30, 31 and August 1, 2002 in the North Dakota House Chambers with forty three of the fifty three counties represented. The state of Missouri held the first Silver-Haired Legislature in 1972 and has convened one every year since. At the present time there are 36 states that have an organized Silver-Haired Education Association. The first NDSHEA was convened in 1980 and is a pattern of the Missouri experience. A Silver-Haired Legislative Assembly has been held every other year since 1980. The Silver-Haired Legislature is a model legislative session whose purpose is to provide an educational experience for older citizens, informing them about the legislative process through actual involvement in it and to provide a forum through which the needs of their constituents can be brought forth and addressed.

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### How and When Did the Interest In Silver-Haired Assemblies Begin?

Commentators characterized the 1970's as a time of political apathy among Americans. However, it was during the 1970's that the emergence of our senior citizens became activated.

Missouri held the first Silver-Haired Legislature in 1972 and convened a session annually since.

The first North Dakota Silver-Haired Assembly was convened in 1980 and was patterned after Missouri. A Steering Committee was appointed with broad representation from service agencies and organizations, state leaders, and legislators.

The first Assembly decreed a resolution to hold a second session in 1982. Sessions have been held every two years since then: 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002. The 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly is held in 2002.

The North Dakota Silver-Haired Assembly is successful and will continue to provide input on senior issues at the state level.

### What Is the National Silver-Haired Congress?

There are senior issues, which by their nature, complexity and magnitude, transcend state boundaries and must be addressed at the national level. Through a NATIONAL SILVER-HAIRED CONGRESS, a national senior citizen congressional forum is established to provide:

- A legislative focus for concerns of Older Americans
- "Elders legislation" in bill form
- National visibility of aging issues
- A national forum for involvement of the elderly in the federal legislative process
- Necessary follow-up on aging issues involving ongoing communications with Congress
- Provides "grassroots" input to our National Congress

The Inaugural National Silver-Haired Congress was held in Washington, DC, February 1997. This was an opportunity of a lifetime for older adults to meet and determine actions necessary to solve some of the nation's most vexing problems—not only for the older generation but for generations to come. The philosophy of the group goes beyond addressing needs of the elderly and includes issues that affect all generations.

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While the National Silver-Haired Congress emulates the United States Congress in its size, and its internal system of checks and balances, the Silver-Haired Congress only makes recommendations to the US Congress.

The National Silver-Haired Congress explores and debates important matters affecting the elderly. The National Silver-Haired Congress discusses alternative approaches and solutions to problems and shares them with other senior groups and individuals. Suggested bills are brought to the attention of the National Congress.

**When and Where Does the National Silver-Haired Congress Meet?**

Meetings are held annually in February or March in Washington, DC. A midyear meeting is held in various parts of the country in August or September.

**How Can I Be a Delegate?**

North Dakota delegates are elected during the Silver-Haired Assembly. Delegate must be at least 60 years old, a citizen of the United States, and lives in their assigned Congressional district. Two Senators and one Representative (same as National) serve. The Senators are elected for four year terms which are staggered for carry over. The Representative is elected for two year term.

**How Much Does It Cost?**

Each delegate is responsible for their own expenses.

**What Type of Committees are Assigned?**

The committees are: Social Services programs; Civil/Criminal Justice; Finance and Taxation; Health; Commerce/Consumer Affairs and General. Each delegate receives a committee appointment.

**What happens to the Resolutions after Adjournment?**

The delegates are presented with a list of the top ten resolutions for distribution to their respective Senators and Members of Congress. The top ten resolutions are also distributed to the leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate and the White House.

Delegates are urged to serve as an additional educational resource for seniors and senior service agencies in their respective communities and state.

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## Silver-Haired Assembly Announces Bills and Resolutions For Session

The Steering Committee has prioritized bills and resolutions which will be reviewed during the session scheduled for the latter part of July. Delegates are divided in to four committees: Human Services, Long Term Care, Medical Education and Geriatrics, and Senior Services Committee. Each committee will study bills and resolutions assigned to that topic, and conduct hearings before voting on all bills.

### Bills

- Requires medical doctors to have completed geriatric courses
- Relates to tax exemption for assisted living facilities
- Funding for mill match program
- Adult protective services program funding
- Optional funding for Silver-Haired Assembly
- Check on history and background of health care workers
- Appointment of Judicial Liaison
- Appoint long term ombudsmen funded from tobacco settlement
- Provide choice for needy in assisted living or nursing home care

### Resolutions

- Requires ND Medical School to provide geriatric courses
- Urge Legislative Council to study need for use of generic drugs
- Indian Reservation assistance
- Tax free dollars for nursing home insurance premiums
- Recognize and encourage convening of Silver-Haired Assembly
- Prepare for next White House conference
- Reuel Harrison memorial

Delegate terms are for two years. Each delegate will be responsible to report to the senior clubs, and to the regional senior organization.

The Silver-Haired Assembly is only one of the activities provided by the Silver-Haired Education Association. The purpose of the Assembly is to provide training in the legislative process. Seniors are encouraged to become active in determining needs and services for their communities.

Curtis Herman, Max, is Chairman of the Steering Committee. He can be reached at (701) 722-3225 for further information.

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**National Silver-Haired Congress  
Sixth Session - 2002**

**Top Ten Resolutions**

- 1. Providing a prescription drug benefit through Medicare**
- 2. Geriatrics Medical education**
- 3. Retain Social Security as a guaranteed benefit**
- 4. Alzheimer's victims and caregivers face a crisis**
- 5. Long term home care**
- 6. Protect Social Security and Medicare funds**
- 7. National background check and registry for caregivers**
- 8. Medicare prescription drugs**
- 9. Tax incentives for long term care insurance**
- 10. Social Security payment related to surviving spouse**

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Deanna Halliwell  
Operator's Signature

10/3/03  
Date

**North Dakota Silver-Haired Assembly  
12<sup>th</sup> Session  
July 30, 31, and August 1, 2002**



**Evaluation of Session**

<b>President of the Assembly</b>	<b>Curtis Herman of Max</b>
<b>National Silver-Haired Congress</b>	<b>Dr. Larrie Wanberg, Senator Ray Siver, Representative Dallas Knudson (2 years remaining on 4 year term) Serves as National Board of Directors as Chairman of Region VIII.</b>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Assembly Delegates</b>	<b>47% new to Assembly 53% attended session previously</b>
<b>Division of males/females</b>	<b>53% females 47% males</b>
<b>Professions represented</b>	<b>34 different professions were listed among Delegates. This provided a nice variety of grassroots input in discussions.</b>
<b>Steering Committee</b>	<b>New committee will be composed of 87% new members. Some have served on other aging committees but were not on the past Steering Committee.</b>
<b>Official Logo Developed</b>	<b>Developing an official logo which identifies the Silver-Haired Assembly/Education Association has been a positive step toward recognizing this association. Logo will be used on all communications associated with the organization.</b>
<b>Evaluation of Session</b>	<b>Evaluations were very positive. Sound system was mentioned as being a problem. System worked well when used properly. Use of the microphone was necessary to project sound and most forgot to use it when addressing the group.</b>

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*Dorinda Hallquist*  
Operator's Signature

10/3/03  
Date

**TV coverage**

Had adequate coverage between the TV stations. Some comments were made that guests instead of delegates were shown on TV in the audience. We had no control over the audience that was filmed. Curtis Herman did a nice job on the interviews.

**Regional Aging Newsletters, Project Directors Newsletters and local Senior Center newsletters.**

Information for the newsletters was sent to the Directors and included in their monthly newsletter. Distribution reached Senior Centers across the state.

**Local Press Releases**

Giving the delegate the press release and picture for the local/county newspaper was an excellent way to ensure the articles were printed. Delegates had the responsibility for their own area newspapers. Spot checks were made to see if papers printed both picture and article.

Regional newspapers: Williston, Minot, Grand Forks, Fargo, Jamestown, Bismarck, and Dickinson were slower in including article.

**Reimbursement form**

Delegates were given the option of the Bismarck State College dorm facilities or staying at a motel. A new reimbursement form was developed to simplify the process of reimbursing the delegate. Motel receipts had to be attached. The Treasurer stated this process went well.

**Letters to Senior Centers for Donations**

The response from the letters has been significant. Suggestion was made that the Treasurer send out letters each January to all the Senior clubs in the state.

**Social evening for delegates**

The informal get-together for Delegates on the first evening was very favorable. Delegates appreciated the opportunity to get acquainted. Session was planned for one hour.

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<b>Certificates to delegates</b>	<b>Delegates received an attendance certificate at the closing session. This is important documentation as they return to local communities.</b>
<b>Directory of Delegates</b>	<b>Pictures and short write ups from the delegates will be compiled in a Directory for the Silver-Haired Assembly.</b>
<b>Training of Volunteers</b>	<b>Volunteers understood what their duties were and carried them out well.</b>
<b>Name tags, meal tickets,</b>	<b>Placing color coded meal tickets in the name tags worked well. The Capitol Cafeteria commended this process.</b>
<b>Binders</b>	<b>Placing the name of the delegate on the cover insert of the binder helped a few get their binders returned to the owner.</b>
<b>Communications to Delegates</b>	<b>Delegates received:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Notification letter of the election</li> <li>&gt; Information on session</li> <li>&gt; Follow-up letter before session</li> </ul> <b>Delegates felt they were well informed.</b>
<b>Options for lodging</b>	<b>Delegates appreciated the option of choosing their lodging arrangements. Giving the same rate at the college or motel was considered fair and equitable</b>
<b>Handicap parking</b>	<b>Delegates requested more handicap parking spaces. Checked with the Highway Patrol and it was not possible at this time to designate more spaces.</b>
<b>Closing Ceremony</b>	<b>Delegates enjoyed a closing ceremony following the adjournment of the session. Delegates joined hands forming a circle, sang "God Bless America" and Mitch Olsen, National Guard, sang "I am Proud To be an American". It was a "touching" closure!</b>

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*Dennis Hall*  
Operator's Signature

10/3/03  
Date

# SilverLink.us

Mining the wisdom of experience

[Home](#) [Voter Issues](#) [Committee Work](#) [State Assembly](#) [Resource Directories](#) [Contact](#)

## Welcome



Being well informed builds knowledge that leads to wisdom over time.

In the information age, seniors in day-to-day life rely on factual information to add to their personal knowledge, as well as to fulfill their role to guide younger generations from the value of their experience over a generation or two. As delegates to the State Assemblies and the National Congress, seniors voice the concerns and issues of their constituencies to elected officials at State and National legislative bodies.

As an educational organization, the purpose is to inform, guide and lead.

### Vision

The National Silver-Haired Congress is a mirror educational organization of the U. S. Congress that is made up of Congressmen and Senators in the same numbers as each state is apportioned. The North Dakota Silver-Haired Legislature likewise is a mirror of the State Legislature, with delegates from each county and from Native American populations.

The Vision of the National Silver Haired Congress is: To become an effective, non-partisan, well-funded organization with a small permanent staff and a membership that matches the U.S. Congress in size, that mirrors it in its actions, and that has the ear and respect, not only of the Congress but of other senior organizations as well.

The National Mission is: To provide an advocacy forum for older Americans to express their needs directly to the Congress of the United States by passing resolutions that will help to educate and inform Congressmen and Senators alike and that will raise public awareness not only among seniors but also the general public.

### Affiliations

National and State delegations work collaboratively with other associations aiding older Americans, such as AARP, NARFE, American Society for Aging, Coalition on Aging, the Graying of America and other service organizations that define and support mutual concerns on senior issues.



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## Silver Link

<http://www.silverlink.us/>

1/19/2003

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*Donna Hallmark*  
Operator's Signature

10/3/03  
Date

their fields of endeavor. Both of these individuals grew up in North Dakota, fought in World War II, and then returned home to our state to accomplish incredible things.

Both of these recipients show that you can live and work in North Dakota and still achieve national acclaim. Tom Clifford could not be with us today, but Chet Reiten is here. Chet, would you please stand and be recognized.

For all of our seniors, we must be committed to them, just as they have been committed to us. We provide high quality medical care, and the support we provide for our nursing homes is the highest in our region of the country.

We will continue that support, but we can do more. We can empower our seniors to live at home longer, and we can help those with limited income to afford the prescriptions drugs they need. To do that, I have proposed -- and I ask you to support -- funding for Healthy SeniorsRx, our new prescription drug program, as well as increased funding for more home-based services for our seniors and disabled.

The approach I am proposing is cost effective -- but most importantly, our seniors have earned it. They deserve no less.

We also need to remember that we have formidable strengths. Too often, we overlook where we are making progress.

Today, in North Dakota we have balanced our budget.

We have communities that are growing.

Over the past two years, we have increased wages and income.

Enrollment at our universities is up -- a sign of confidence in our academic and business community.

We are one of the most technologically prepared states in the country, with a statewide, broadband, voice, data, and video network.

North Dakotans enjoy good health. The UnitedHealth Foundation recently ranked North Dakota the 12th healthiest state in America.

We remain one of the nation's most dynamic agricultural states, leading in the production of 11 major crops.

We are pushing ahead aggressively on value-added agriculture, with new startups in dairy, pasta, alfalfa, pulse crops, and organic foods.

We are opening new markets abroad, such as in Cuba.

And we are the sixth largest energy producing state in the country.

Whether it's strong support for seniors, keeping North Dakota safe, or creating better-paying jobs for our citizens, we must be committed to a positive, unified vision for the future of our state. We must also recognize that it will take a strong, team effort over time. Like Lewis and Clark, and Sakakawea, we are on a journey. We won't reach our destination overnight. It will take a sustained effort, commitment, and teamwork.

The vision of Smart Growth for our state is attainable. It will require initiative and teamwork at every level. It will require that we build on our strengths and values -- strengths and values we've always had -- like faith, family, concern for our fellow citizens, a love of our state, and

<http://mail.divisionstechnology.com/wm/mail/genimage/text.htm>

1/11/2003

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Larry Wampler HB 1342

**North Dakota  
Silver-Haired Legislature**




**An Educational Association Advising State Legislators and National Congress Delegates on Voter Issues Affecting Seniors and Inter-Generational Family Members.**

**Purpose of ND Silver-Haired Education Association, Inc.**

- Encourage good citizenship
- Awareness of legislative processes
- Promote well-being
- Conduct training for seniors in voter issues
- Provide forum to identify needs
- Projects to improve quality-of-life
- Conduct biennial S-H Assembly to prioritize proposed bills
- Participate in non-partisan research
- Provide technical assistance to legislative members or committees
- Inform members of general issues and bills

**National Silver-Haired Congress Representation from North Dakota**

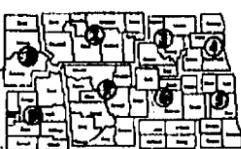


**Three National Delegates**

- Dallas Knudson
  - S-H Senator to '04
- Dr. Larrie Wanberg
  - S-H Senator to '06
- Ray Siver
  - S-H Congressman '04

Legation is small in numbers; In potential impact for growth

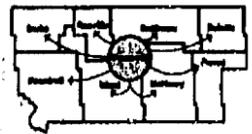
**ND Executive Board has 8 State Regional Reps to Steering Committee**



ND 8 Regions

President: Curtis Herman  
Vice President: Ray Siver  
Secretary: Bernie Wagner  
Treasurer: Martha Becker  
Native Rep: Ed Hall Sr.  
8 Regional Reps  
3 National Delegates

**Regional Delegate Reports to Each County in District**

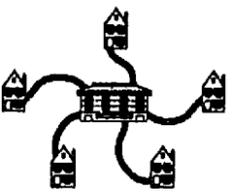


North Dakota's 8 Regions

Region delegate interacts with all counties for mutual exchange of information

- Each County has a delegate to the State Assembly
- Each County delegate works with County Commissioners and are agency councils
- Coordination flows between Counties and Region

**Each County May Have Several Towns in a County Council**



County Seats may have a number of towns with Senior Centers and each town center will serve a number of households

- Each town has an active Senior Citizens Center
- County government supports local Center through a mill levy
- Each Center has a Board of Directors and a voting membership

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Operator's Signature

10/3/03  
Date

### Each Center is Self-Governed

- Senior Citizens Centers reach out to all seniors and elderly and host meetings and social activities of interest to members
- All State and Regional services intersect with Center and community members
- Information is posted on a bulletin board
- Centers may have computers for access to web sites, health materials or sending e-mail

### Seniors Carry Information Home, often to 3-Generational Family

- Every senior citizen belongs to a family- usually three generations- and family units are voter groups where common concerns get discussed
- At the last S-H Assembly, a unanimous vote was cast to include issues or concerns of working families (children of seniors as today's parents) and youth (grandchildren)
- Some concerns are prioritized that are issues only for retired, seniors or elderly

### Modern Communications Open Dialogue at All Leadership Levels

- Electronic communications is dominating the way that information is distributed
- E-mail, instant messaging, net meetings and interactive Internet is becoming the standard for business and organizations
- Web sites store volumes of information for the use of consumers and constituencies
- Seniors are beginning to feel comfortable in the world of technology

### Seniors Sustain Leadership Model with Inter-Generational "Family"

- ND S-H Assembly approved a plan to involve youth as community-based "pages," similar to legislative or congressional pages, to collect Internet messages and distribute printed information to senior citizen centers
- College students from hometowns serve as volunteer community "interns" to S-H Delegates in each Region
- In this way, the political process is engaged at multiple levels in County and State government
- Thereby, Seniors create a sustainable leadership model with an inter-generational outreach to inform all citizens

### Comparing State Information to a National "SilverLink.us" Teleport

US		Select State (ND)	
Regional Directory	10	Regional Directory	8
Leadership	Chairman	Leadership	Delegates
Vision/Goals	Stated	Vision/Goals	Stated
Committees	6	Committees	4
Events	Annual Congress	Events	Bi-annual Assembly
Background Info	Archive	Background Info	Archive
Accomplishments	Posted	Accomplishments	Posted
Future Challenges	Forum	Future Challenges	Forum

### Proposal to National Silver-Haired Executive Committee

- "An Interstate, Internet Model Consolidating the State Silver-Haired Issues on Aging into a National On-Line Forum"
- Approval to pursue funding to develop a centralized model and web site
- Contracting the administration of NSHC to an Event Management Team in North Dakota
- To create and develop a sustainable leadership model involving seniors and inter-generational members- students (seek experience), staffers (service providers) and seniors (share experience)

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*Dennis Holmquist*  
Operator's Signature

10/3/03  
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**Chairman Belter and members of the Finance and Taxation Committee,**

**I am Bernie Wagner, Silver Haired delegate from Barnes County, part of the 24th Legislative District and part of the 20th Legislative District. I am also the Secretary of the Silver Haired Steering committee. I am appearing here this morning asking for support on HB1342. This is the voluntary contribution to the Silver Haired Education Association. If we are successful in this proposal we could provide staff to organize Senior Silver Haired delegates in each County in the state of NDak that would provide a state forum for a nonpartisan evaluation of grassroots solutions to concerns shared by an increasing number of older Americans.  
Thank you very much for your consideration on this matter.**

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10/3/03  
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Dean Hildebrand  
HB 1342

Draft Statement on Bill to eliminate Nongame wildlife tax checkoff

The North Dakota Nongame Wildlife Tax checkoff was established by the legislature in 1987, to provide citizens with an opportunity to voluntarily contribute to management of nongame animals.

This was important legislation, because up until then, hunting and fishing license dollars and excise taxes on sporting equipment did an admirable job of funding management of game animals, game birds and fish. But little was available for the more than 200 North Dakota species -- about 80 percent -- that are not hunted, fished or trapped. In fact, federal laws severely restrict the ways for which sportsmens' dollars can be spent on nongame wildlife.

The Nongame Wildlife Checkoff gives citizens who do not buy licenses to hunt, fish or trap, a way to contribute to wildlife management. Surely, anyone at any time can make a donation to the Game and Fish Department for that purpose, but the checkoff on the state tax form is a convenient annual reminder.

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Dean Hildebrand  
Operator's Signature

10/3/03  
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Since 1987, state citizens have contributed nearly \$300,000 through the nongame checkoff. This money has helped provide hundreds of bluebird nest boxes to people who want to help bluebird populations recover. It has delivered bird feeders to dozens of nursing homes around the state. It has funded numerous educational seminars and publications that help citizens appreciate not just nongame, but all wildlife.

Checkoff contributions have helped fund grants for people who help injured wildlife, and Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites at many North Dakota schools. It provides for an annual winter bird survey that helps biologists monitor songbird populations.

In recent years the checkoff has generated about \$18,000 annually, which adds \$36,000 to the Game and Fish Department's biennial budget. This money can be used to match federal money, at a ratio of 3 federal dollars for every state dollar, for nongame purposes.

The nongame wildlife fund is a very small portion of the Game and Fish Department's budget, but it is a very large portion of the money the agency can effectively use for education and management of nongame species.

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Support North Dakota's  
**Watchable  
Wildlife Fund**

To contribute, see your state tax form  
or consult your tax preparer.

**Your Contributions Have Helped Fund:**

- Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites (OWLS)
- Bluebird Conservation Workshops and Bluebird Trails
- Cross Ranch State Park Nature Center
- Nursing Home Bird Feeder Project in Over 100 ND Communities
- Endangered Species Habitat Protection Projects
- Outdoor and Wildlife Photography Workshops
- Wildlife Viewing Guides for North Dakota
- Grants to Scouts and Other Civic Organizations for Wildlife Projects
- Watchable Wildlife Workshops
- Educational Wildlife Programs to Schools and Communities
- Grants to Wildlife Rehabilitators
- Winter Bird Feeding Survey and Workshops

The Watchable Wildlife Fund is a program of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. All contributions are tax deductible.

For more information, contact:  
North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
100 N. Bismarck Expressway  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
701-328-6300

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*Donna Hall*  
Operator's Signature

10/3/03  
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# Help Promote and Develop Watchable Wildlife Opportunities in North Dakota Contribute to the Watchable Wildlife Fund

Photo by Chris Grohdahl

North Dakota's unique landscapes provide wildlife viewers with extensive outdoor opportunities. Each place offers something special and leaves you with a story to tell. It simply depends on when .... and .... where you go looking.

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Chris Grohdahl Date 1/17/73  
Operator's Signature Date

## Please Support "TREES FOR NORTH DAKOTA" Enhance our Health, Safety and Economy

Tree planting is part of North Dakota's past, its present and its future. Planting the right trees in the right places can enhance the **Health, Safety** and the **Economy** of North Dakota.

### **HEALTH:** "Trees Improve the Environment"

**Water Quality** – Trees planted in streamside areas, known as "riparian buffers," stabilize stream banks; prevent sedimentation and reduce downstream flooding. Riparian buffers function as filters to improve water quality and stabilize stream flow. Sedimentation of streams and water bodies has been labeled as the major source of non-point water pollution in the United States. This soil loss can be reduced by planting riparian buffers.

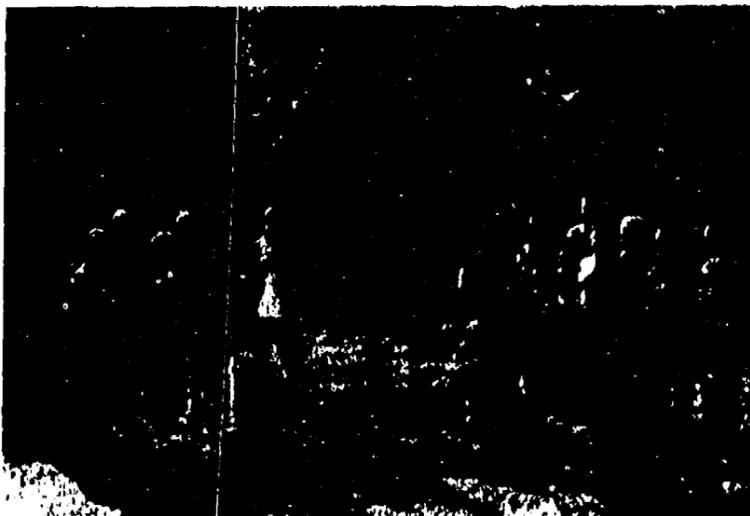
### **SAFETY:** "Trees Protect North Dakota"

**Living Snow Fences** – Managing blowing snow is an annual problem in North Dakota. We are continually reminded that we cannot control the weather. Fortunately, tree planters can help make North Dakota roads safer during the winter by properly designing and planting living snow fences. A statewide Living Snow Fence Initiative establishes living snow fences to make North Dakota a safer place to live and reduce snow removal costs.

### **ECONOMY:** "Trees are a Vital Part of Economic Development"

**Quality of Life** – Providing a quality environment is essential to attract and keep people in North Dakota. Trees make significant contributions to the quality of life, and play an important role in the economic well-being of North Dakota communities. More than half of North Dakota's residents live in cities and towns. They come in daily contact with shady city parks, tree-lined streets and yards landscaped with trees and shrubs. Parks, green spaces and trees affect our everyday moods, activities and emotional health.

Donations to the "Trees for North Dakota" trust fund help emphasize the role that tree planting plays in meeting social, economic and environmental needs of both rural and urban residents. To contribute, consult your tax preparer or enter a voluntary contribution on the 2002 North Dakota Individual Income Tax Return. On the ND-1, look for Line 29 on the *Overpayment Return* and Line 33 on the *Tax Due Return*. On the ND-2, use Line 19 on the *Overpayment Return* and Line 23 on the *Tax Due Return*.



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## "Trees for North Dakota"

### **HEALTH:** "Trees Improve the Environment"

Since 1989, school children have learned about the benefits of trees and how to make environmentally sound decisions. Together they have planted more than 544,615 trees as a result of the School Tree Program! Over 270 schools participate each year, helping children understand that planting trees exemplifies our willingness to take an active role in the present, and devotion to improving our future in North Dakota.



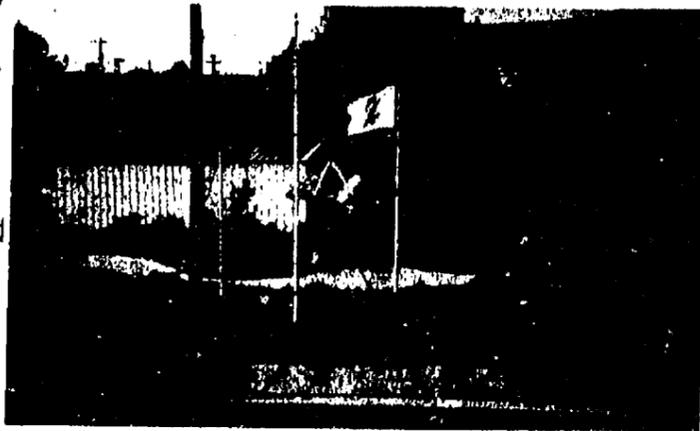
### **SAFETY:** "Trees Protect North Dakota"

As a result of the disastrous winter of 1996-1997, 37 counties across the state have initiated 327 living snow fence projects. Approximately 540 miles of trees have been planted to protect 150 miles of roads. Planting trees can help make North Dakota roads safer during the winter by establishing living snow fences to trap blowing and drifting snow.



### **ECONOMY:** "Trees are a Vital Part of Economic Development"

In honor of each family in the state, the North Dakota Forest Service promotes the establishment of **Community "Family Forests."** Every family is encouraged to plant a tree representing their family or, better yet, plant one for every child, parent and grandparent! Since 1996, over \$170,000 in Trees for North Dakota trust funds have been provided to enhance the quality of life in 95 communities. More than 52,000 trees have been planted in 211 community "Family Forest" grant projects.



For more information contact:

Office of the State Forester - North Dakota Forest Service  
307 First Street East, Bottineau, ND 58318-1100

Tel: 701-228-5422 Fax: 701-228-5448 Email: [forest@state.nd.us](mailto:forest@state.nd.us) Visit our website:  
[www.state.nd.us/forest](http://www.state.nd.us/forest)

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