

The Banner

Your SSH Neighborhood Newsletter – Fall 2019



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SSHCA Board Members

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Vice President

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Treasurer

Sharlene Hartford
Secretary

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Delegate at Large

David Harrington
Delegate at Large

Kisha Linebaugh
Delegate at Large

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Vacant

Communications
Nicki McKeirnan

Events/Membership
Tatiana Huudma

Heights Unites
Cameron Hypes

Neighborhood Watch
Vacant

Transportation/Land Use
Jordan Miller

SSHCA Commits to Improving Broward Elementary and We Need Your HELP!

The purpose of your South Seminole Heights Civic Association is to educate, promote and encourage civic pride and awareness of issues impacting the neighborhood in the area known as South Seminole Heights while revitalizing a sense of community in a safe and healthy residential neighborhood. One way that we continue to drive that sense of community is in our annual giving. The SSHCA has committed to raising \$25k over 5 years to fully endow an annual scholarship for a Hillsborough High School student, funding primarily coming from the Heights Unites Music & Arts Festival, as well as profits from Seminole Heights Flag sales.

Broward Elementary is located within our neighborhood and while they were rated an “A School” many, many years ago, the performance of the students and staff has dropped, and they consistently struggle to even meet states averages. **The school was ranked 3,309 out of 3,601 state schools.** Our neighborhood association has committed to helping improve the school which feeds into Memorial Middle and Hillsborough High School. Our goal is to start working on the simplest aspect of education: Reading and Language Arts proficiency.



The percentage of students achieving proficiency at Broward in **Reading/Language Arts is 25-29%** (which is lower than the Florida state average of 54%) for the 2016-17 school year. If students struggle to read/write, they can't learn the other aspects of schooling. We know they need our help and we have pledged our support!

The school district has funded a pilot project for 9 schools in Hillsborough County and Broward was not chosen. However, schools wishing to participate in this pilot can do so if they can privately fundraise for the costs of books. The program introduces a new resource which provides more rigorous text similar to the text they have to read and answer on the FSA. Broward's Principal and Staff feel very strongly that the student's exposure to more challenging text/books and educational planning will result in improved reading and writing proficiency.

The SSHCA has committed to raising \$2,200 to fully fund the pilot project for the entire 4th grade program. If you'd like to help us reach our goal of raising the funds needed to support our local elementary school, please reach out ASAP! You can call (813)403-9236 or email info@sshca.org for more information. All donations are tax deductible! We hope we can count on our neighbors to take pride in our community and to support our local elementary school! We know they need, and we know we can count on our community to *be the good in our neighborhood!*

From the President

Let's Make South Seminole Heights the Best Together!"

It has only been three short months since I was able to pen this column last and during that time our association has continued to gain some amazing momentum as we speed towards the end of the year. Our Board Members continue to work in unison towards their personal goals for the association, while maintaining steadfast focus on our overall goals that we would like to achieve during our tenure on the board. Those goals are listed below with examples of some of the types of activities that would support those goals:



Enhanced Focus on Transportation Issues: North Highland Complete Streets project, Improving pedestrian safety, Osborne Ave improvements

Improved Neighborhood Sustainability: Alley cleanups, park cleanups, tree canopy sustainability, commercial corridor improvements

Increased Neighborhood Connectivity: Neighborhood Watch program, neighborhood communication plans, diverse slate of community events

Since our June meeting we have seen some great progress towards supporting these goals. Based on feedback from residents we were able to have code address some of the businesses along Florida Avenue who had ignored maintenance on their properties like fence repair and overgrowth. Likewise, Code Enforcement came out and cleared many of the alleys that were overgrown. As a reminder to our residents, if you have an alley behind your property, it is your responsibility to maintain, mow and keep that portion of the alley in clean condition. By making sure we have alleys that are clean and viewable we can decrease crime and vagrancy in the alleys.

We also recently participated in park cleanups in partnership with Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful. Over 25 residents were able to clean up Rivercrest and Haya Linear Park, resulting in over 35 bags of garbage collected in the parks and along the shoreline. We also partnered with Tampa Bay Diggers, a metal detecting club, who removed many unsafe metal objects found throughout the parks underground.

Finally, I am proud to announce that in September the association was notified that we have been awarded \$23k in grants from the Hillsborough County Cultural Arts Foundation and the Florida Department of Transportation. These grants will go to support the Heights Unites Music & Arts Festival, as well as the expansion of our Street Art Trail.

While it's great to recognize those accomplishments there is still a lot to be done. We continue to focus on growing our membership and working hard to help our residents stay informed about issues impacting our community. I want to welcome all of our residents to attend the October General Meeting on 10/16 at the Seminole Heights Library at 6:30pm. Our guest speaker will be Paul Dial, Director of Parks and Recreation. More details about the meeting can be found on page 4.

Likewise, we would love to see residents participate in the Trick or Treat at Rivercrest Park Event (details on page 8). This has been a very successful event and a great way to get out and meet other neighbors. Come on out and have some fun on Halloween! Every year it get's bigger and better and we'd love to have more neighbors participating!

Thank you to all of our residents who have supported the association by becoming a member. Your membership helps us put on events, pay for this newsletter and be a positive impact on our community! If you aren't a member yet, you can join on our website (www.sshca.org). Here's to a great fall in South Seminole Heights!

Stephen Lytle
SSHCA President
Info@SSHCA.org

Neighborhood News

School is in Session at Broward Elementary!

The teachers and students at our historic neighborhood school have returned from summer vacation and as you receive this, the 2019-20 school year will already be 2 months in with Halloween fast approaching. Broward, a Title I School serves a majority of economically disadvantaged students (approx. 90% African American and Hispanic). Broward is anticipating a great year both academically and with lots of activities and the School Advisory Committee has already met twice, reviewed Broward's Mission and Vision for 2019-20 and the Title I Parent Involvement Plan.

SSHCA is a Broward Community Partner and held the third Annual School Supplies Drive in August with South Seminole Heights businesses participating including Red Star Rock Bar, Brew Bus, The Chop Chop Shop, Spaddy's, Velo Champ, and Microgroove. Many thanks to our local businesses!! The drive netted over \$1,000 in school supplies and cash donations. On August 12th, the first day of school, Broward hosted a 'Million Father March' at 7:15 a.m. Adults, and SSHCA members met students as they arrived at school, high-fiving and clapping as kids entered the school.

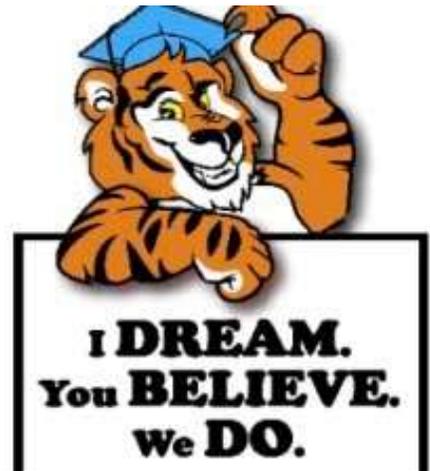
Looking ahead, on October 25th Broward will host their Annual Fall Festival and SSHCA will have a table. November 21st is The Great American Teach-In, a national program held annually at schools across the country. Adults visit schools speaking about careers, professions, hobbies, travels, sports or personal experiences. Presenters leave kids with some key messages like stay in school and the importance of education. Also, this semester Broward is beginning a new reading program with 3rd and 4th graders and SSHCE is assisting Broward by funding part of the program

As something new, Broward is initiating 'WALK TO SCHOOL WEDNESDAYS!'

Remember when you walked to school? Remember the fun? This year, Sidewalk Stompers, a 501c3, is partnering with Broward to launch a 'Walk to School Wednesdays' program encouraging students to walk or bike to school. Another partner, St. Joseph's Children's Health & Safety Center will sponsor prizes and recess equipment for students as incentives to encourage participation. For more info, contact Broward.

And don't forget, Broward always needs volunteers and there are many opportunities for our community, everything from being a 'reading buddy' to assisting with teacher grants. Interested in volunteering, go to the link <http://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/doc/1532> and fill out the appropriate forms, then contact Board Member Brian Curry.

Broward's vision is "Every Broward student will succeed!" So, let's all "Get involved, help, volunteer! Go Tigers!!"



Important Dates and Information:

10/8th-9th
Hearing Screening-Grades K/1/3

10/10
Hispanic Night 5:30-7:30pm

10/11
End of 1st Grading Period

10/25
Broward Fall Festival

11/25-29
School closed, Return 12/2

12/23-1/3
Winter break, return 1/6

Neighborhood News

We Need Your Presence at the Oct 16th General Meeting!



Your SSHCA Board would like to welcome all residents to our general membership meeting in October. This meeting will focus on Rivercrest Park in South Seminole Heights and we need residents to make their voices heard!

Our guest speaker will be Parks & Recreation Director Paul Dial. Are you tired of walking through Rivercrest Park and not being able to use the docks? Are you tired of the chain link fence and “docks closed” signs!!! Then we need you to come make your voice heard so the docks at Rivercrest Park are a priority project for the city and Parks and Recreation! We have set up the meeting, now we need you to be there!

Additionally, Mr. Dial will be sharing the plans that the SSHCA and Parks and Recreation are pursuing to sustain our tree canopy at Rivercrest Park and information about the legislation passed in 2019 related to tree removal.

Finally, we are expecting the owner of Duckweed Grocery & Liquor to come speak with residents regarding his request with the city to allow Beer, Wine and Liquor Sales at his new location that is anticipated to open in the new Avenue Lofts Building located at West Giddens and Florida Avenue.

Please mark your calendar to attend our meeting on Wednesday, October 16th at 6:30pm at the Seminole Heights Library. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!

Change Your Clock, Protect Your Flock!

Coming soon on **Saturday, November 2**, we will “fall back” one hour on the clock. But did you know that you can take one quick and simple extra step that could save your family’s life? Replace your batteries in your smoke detectors, every single one in the house. Then do it again next Spring when you “spring forward”. According to the National Fire Protection Association, almost 3 of every 5 home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (40%) or no smoke alarms that were working (17%). Early warning for the occupants to quickly escape is key to house fire survival.

Firefighters nationwide recommend replacing your smoke detector batteries twice a year. Doing so when we update our clocks provides the easiest way to remember when to comply. Sure, you could just CHECK the batteries. But there is no guarantee that they won’t stop working some time before the spring recheck, maybe even the next day. That’s why they recommend replacing your batteries twice a year.

While you are at it, please review or develop your family’s escape plan. Every member of the household should know how to safely exit your home and where to go for the pre-agreed meeting place in case of an emergency. Use the little rhyme to help you remember this twice a year, *Change Your Clock, Protect Your Flock!*



Neighborhood News

Thank You for Joining or Renewing Your SSHCA Membership

The South Seminole Heights Civic Association (SSHCA) is a non-partisan organization of community residents and business partners representing the South Seminole Heights neighborhood in Tampa, Florida. Our borders are Hillsborough Avenue to the north, Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard to the south, Florida Avenue to the east and the Hillsborough River to the west. Our goal is “to educate, promote and encourage civic pride and awareness of issues impacting the neighborhood in the area known as South Seminole Heights while revitalizing a sense of community in a safe and healthy residential neighborhood.”

Resident Memberships

- Dianna Buchli
- John Butler
- Nikki & Steve Couture
- Eric Denney
- Pete Elgers /Julie Undella
- Alice & Steve Ericson
- Taylor & Adrianna Flom
- Cody Glass
- David & Alex Harrington
- Diane Hart
- Seth Jenson
- Terrill & Diane Labit
- Linda LaChapelle
- Jennifer Messer
- Kisha & Michael Linebaugh
- Michael Manasterski
- Ryan Miller
- Elizabeth Myers
- Julia Rettig
- Kelly Santos
- Shane Taylor & Marissa Tully
- Elizabeth Wilson

Business Memberships

- ABC Autos
- Everybody Hears
- Pacific Island Kava

Join Your Neighborhood Association Today!

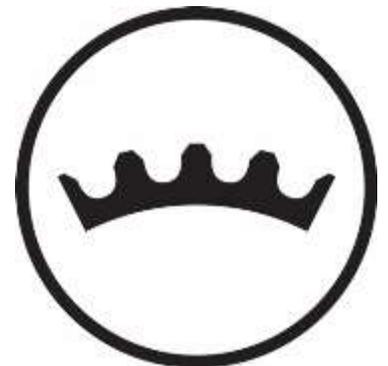
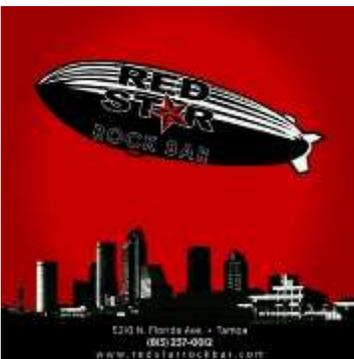
www.sshca.org/join

\$12 Annually for Individual Membership
\$20 Annually for a Household Membership
\$35 Annually for a Business Membership

All membership dues are tax deductible as the SSHCA is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit!

Dues support newsletter printing, neighborhood events, neighborhood improvement projects, philanthropic giving and more!

Thank You for Supporting Broward School Supply Drive!!



Neighborhood News

Construction Has Begun Along Violet and Highland Avenues

For the last two years the South Seminole Heights Civic Association has been working with the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Tampa to address a litany of concerns related to pedestrian and vehicular safety in the neighborhood. Representatives from both have attended recent meetings with residents and our board to hear our concerns and share proposed solutions.

Most recently FDOT has begun construction to reconfigure the turns from Florida onto Violet as well as Violet onto Highland. Additionally, they are moving forward with a “road diet” in which a lane on each road would be eliminated. This would also allow for a reduction in the speed limit on both roads. More information about this project and other components of the Heights Mobility Study can be found on the projects tab of www.fdotampabay.com. You can sign up for email alerts about any projects on that page as well.

Your SSHCA Board continues to work with FDOT and the City of Tampa to address concerns along Highland and Osborne Avenues. We will make sure to share any information we receive about timelines or proposed changes!

Keep Informed About Changes in Seminole Heights

It doesn't matter if you are a new resident (if so welcome!) or if you have lived here your entire life, South Seminole Heights is your neighborhood. Your South Seminole Heights Civic Association aims to educate, promote and encourage civic pride and awareness of issues impacting the neighborhood in the area known as South Seminole Heights while revitalizing a sense of community in a safe and healthy residential neighborhood.

We are committed to making sure you are aware of issues impacting our neighborhood. Please make sure to check out our website (www.sshca.org), social media platforms and/or attend general membership or board meetings to keep informed about events, updates and development going on in South Seminole Heights.

However, don't rely just on your Civic Association. A great way to keep up to date with changes is to subscribe to the “Tampa Cares” newsletter. This monthly newsletter details Petitions for rezoning, special use, variances, right-of-way vacating. It also identifies City Council and Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission Public Hearing and Workshop dates. To subscribe visit the following website:

www.tampagov.net/land-development/news-and-events



HOME VALUES ARE AT AN ALL TIME HIGH!

SSH 2018 Median Sold Price YTD is \$250,000.
That's up 8.7% Over 2017!

Overall inventory for SSH also remains at a historic low of 1.5 months supply. If you've been thinking about a move, there's never been a better time to sell. Give me a call for a free no obligation home valuation.

Matt S. Bailey, Broker

813-326-2569 / Matt@FindMyRoost.com

COME HOME TO ROOST!

Neighborhood News

Your Amazon Purchases Can Support Your Civic Association!

amazon

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DO GOOD



Whether you volunteer your time, make monetary donations, or participate in charitable events, you probably support an organization that aids those in need in some way or another.

If you're looking for a simple, automatic way to continue supporting your favorite charity, you should start your Amazon shopping at smile.amazon.com. You shop as you normally would on the site, at no extra cost to you, and you don't need to make a separate account.

Through AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charity of your choice, including the South Seminole Heights Civic Association.

With all those Amazon boxes we see on local porches, imagine the impact our community could make if .5% of all those purchases went back to support your own neighborhood!



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Neighborhood News

Calling all Ghouls, Goblins, and Ghosts!!! Are You Ready for the Annual Trick or Treat at Rivercrest Park?!

South Seminole Heights is an amazing neighborhood to live in and during every season we find a way to bring our community together at Rivercrest Park. If you haven't been to the Holiday Concert or East Egg Hunt you are missing out. This year our new events chair started the Summer Luau Party that was an instant hit and, of course, one of our favorite events each year is the Trick or Treat at Rivercrest Park!

For the fourth year in a row the South Seminole Heights Civic Association has worked with Tampa Parks and Recreation to allow extended hours at Rivercrest Park on Halloween to allow local children to trick or treat in the park. The extended hours will allow our residents to set up a table along the walkways in the park along Osborne Avenue to give out candy to Trick or Treaters.



We highly encourage those interested to decorate around their table, dress up for the kids, and really show the pride in our neighborhood! If you already have a good amount of Trick or Treaters who come to your home then feel free to continue your celebration from home, but if you'd like to come out and celebrate with neighbors and see all the wonderful Trick or Treaters we welcome you. Families, businesses and local organizations are all welcome to set up and celebrate! Last year we saw nearly a thousand children come through and we look forward to another amazing year!

Share the news with your friends, neighbors, and local children who would love to get more candy! We would love to see this event be a success and grow into a larger event in future years! For those coming to set up a trick or treat table we ask you to be set up and ready by 6:00 and close down by 8:30 pm.

For more information please reach out to info@sshca.org or SSHCA President Stephen Lytle at 813/403/9236.



Come
Join
in on the
FUN!!!



Neighborhood News

Rivercrest Park Tree Sustainability Plan Moving Forward!

Over the last year the SSHCA Board has noticed the removal of quite a few trees from Rivercrest Park. All of these tree removals have been the result of dead, dying or diseased trees that posed a safety risks to our residents. However, your board members have been working with Parks and Recreation and their arborist to conduct an audit in our park to ascertain the health and condition of our remaining tree canopy. Our goal as a board was to understand more about our canopy and to develop a short, mid and long term plan to sustain our canopy for future generations to enjoy.

In July the results of the audit were shared with your board and sustainability plans were developed. Paul Dial, Director of Parks and Recreation, will be coming to the October 16th General Meeting to discuss this plan with our residents in South Seminole Heights. We expect him to present a plan and timeline to plant an additional 65 trees throughout the park. More details about this plan can be found in the “Rivercrest Park Tree Plan 2019” document located on our website on the page with meeting minutes.

We look forward to learning more about the plan and funding to implement it at our General Meeting. If you can attend please do so to learn more about the project and our park improvements!



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jefflong@kw.com

What is the Construction Going on at Rivercrest Park?

You may have noticed the large “DELIVERIES” sign at Rivercrest Park. Maybe you were walking and saw the construction equipment and it caught you by surprise?! Some of you may have already been aware, but whatever the case may be, the rehabilitation project for the Louisiana Pump Station has begun in the Northwest portion of Rivercrest Park.

The Louisiana Pump Station is a major wastewater station for the City of Tampa that also serves county residents in the Carrollwood area who are outside of city limits. These gravity pipes flow under our river and the pump station helps the wastewater continue its journey to the Howard F. Current Wastewater Treatment Plant located south of Ybor City.

The rehabilitation project will upgrade the equipment and slightly expand the south portion of the building. Once completed the building will be completely repaired and painted like new. Your SSHCA Board has all negotiated to have decorative aluminum fencing and landscaping that will replace the unsightly chain link, barbed wire fence that currently surrounds the facility.

The 9 million dollar project will be ongoing with an expected completion date of late 2020.

Upcoming Events

October

- **October 11th – 13th** - *Oktoberfest TAMPA 2019* – Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park – 6pm
- **October 16th** – *SSHCA General Meeting for Residents* – Seminole Heights Branch Library – 6:30- 8:00pm
- **October 19th** – *Tampa Pizza Fest' 2019* – Water Works Park – 11am – 10pm
- **October 20th** – *October Tampa Indie Flea* – Armature Works – 11am – 3pm
- **October 26th** – *Tampa Heights: Tour of Homes* – Tampa Heights Civic Assoc. – 12pm – 5pm
- **October 31st** – *South Seminole Heights Trick or Trick* – Rivercrest Park – 6pm - 8:30pm

November

- **November 2nd** – *Tampa Riverwalk Food + Art Festival* – Water Works Park Tampa – 10am - 7pm
- **November 6th** – *Monthly SSHCA Executive Board Meeting* – Seminole Heights Branch Library – 6pm
- **November 8th – 10th** – *Tampa Greek Festival 2019* – 2418 W Swann Ave – 12pm/11am – 10pm
- **November 9th** – *Cupcake Festival* – Ybor City Saturday Market – 9am – 3pm
- **November 16th** – *River Tower Festival* – River Tower Park – 11am-10pm

December

- **December 4th** – *Monthly SSHCA Executive Board Meeting* – Seminole Heights Branch Library – 6pm
- **December 6th** – *Tampa's Tree Lighting Ceremony* – Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park – 6pm – 10pm
- **December 7th** – *Santa Fest & Christmas Parade* – Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park – 11am – 4pm
- **December 14th** – *Ybor Snow on 7th Parade* – Ybor City Chamber of Commerce – 6pm – 2am

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Pet Partner today!**

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HumaneSocietyTampa.org/PetPartner

\$19 a month will
**SAVE
A LIFE**



****PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE OR BULLETIAN BOARD AT RIVERCREST PARK FOR UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL EVENTS
WW.SSHCA.ORG****

Around the Heights

Who to Call

SSHCA Information:

Stephen Lytle– President

- 813-403-9236
- info@sshca.org

Tampa Police – Non-Emergency

- 813-231-6130

Code Enforcement

- (813) 274-5545

Flooding - Stormwater

- (813) 622-1901

Emergency Water Repair

- (813) 274-5744

Sewer/Wastewater

- (813) 274-8037

Landlord Disputes

- (813) 903-3430

Residential Permits - Construction

- (813) 274-3100

Emergency Tree Service

- (813) 274-5744

Parks and Recreation

- 813-274-8615

You can also download the City of Tampa app on your phone for many of these services and more.



July's Summer Sunset Luau at Rivercrest Park



Shoreline and Park Clean Up at Rivercrest Park





PRSR STD
 ECRWSS
 U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
 EDDM Retail

JOIN

THE SOUTH SEMINOLE HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

As an active, involved member of the association you have the opportunity to take part in the growth and development of your neighborhood. Your membership dues help fund community events, newsletters and neighborhood improvement projects.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- The Banner - SSH Quarterly Newsletter
- Quarterly Association Meeting
- Neighborhood Watch
- Quarterly Porch Parties
- Neighborhood Happy Hours
- Halloween Party at Rivercrest Park
- Holiday Concert with Santa
- Support of Other Neighborhood Causes
- Meet Your Neighbors!

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Tampa's FIRST Street Mural At Rivercrest Park
- Art Bench at Haya Linear Park
- Revival Of SSH "Beautification Award"
- 501(c)3 Status (Membership is tax-deductible)
- Purchase of Pet Chip Reader at Health Mutt For Neighborhood Use
- Increase in Park and Alley Cleanup
- Renewed Partnership with Broward Elementary
- More To Come!

Join Today!

<http://www.sshca.org/join>

Annual Dues:

- \$12.00 - One Member Household
- \$20.00 - Two Member Household
- \$35.00 - Business Membership (Additional Benefits)

For Questions Email: membership@sshca.org