

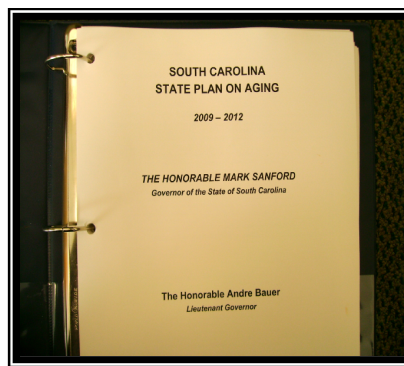
The New State Plan on Aging

Focus on the Board

The Older Americans Act of 1965, and as amended in 2006, requires that each state submit a **State Plan on Aging** in order to be eligible for federal funding. The Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging is the designated State Unit on Aging for South Carolina and, as such, is responsible for administering requirements of the Act.

This plan provides a blueprint for how the State Unit on Aging will manage programs, services, and other activities from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2012. It provides guidance on how the State Unit on Aging will carry out its mission of enhancing the quality of life of all older citizens, regardless of their participation in Older Americans Act funded programs. This four-year plan incorporates major goals and objectives developed by the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging through the submission of the FY 2006-2008 Area Plans submitted by the Area Agencies on Aging. The plan also incorporates input from the State AARP, the Silver Haired Legislature, the S.C. White House Conference on Aging, the U.S. White House Conference on Aging and the S.C. Joint Legislative Committee on Aging, and also from various needs assessments carried out throughout the state.

The State Plan impacts the Appalachian Area Agency on Aging's blueprint for services currently being provided in the Upstate, as well as future service delivery and the upcoming procurement process for aging funds beginning in FY 2009/10.



The Older Americans Act of 1965, and as amended in 2006, requires that each state submit a State Plan on Aging in order to be eligible for federal funding.

South Carolina's aging programs have undergone significant change since the submission of the 2005-2008 State Plan. The Older Americans Act was amended in 2006; the Deficit Reduction Act and the Medicare Modernization Act have been enacted. South Carolina and the nation have recognized that with growth of the baby boomer population, we will have to change the way we provide services to our seniors if we are to manage the dramatic growth in long term care costs that the state and the nation face.

Today's seniors want choice, and, as good stewards of our state, regional, and local resources, we must modernize our service delivery system to incorporate our citizens' needs in a cost effective manner.

The State Plan on Aging, and the upcoming multi-year Appalachian Area Plan, must describe how the State
(State Plan on Aging continued on page 4)



ACOG Chair Judy Gilstrap, Board member from Greenville County.

ACOG Chairperson Judy Gilstrap has been an active and valued member of the Appalachian Council of Governments for six years. She has served on ACOG's Finance, EDIS and Executive Committees, and also on the Appalachian Development Corporation Board. She is Greenville County Council's appointee to the ACOG Board.

Judy has served on Greenville County Council since 2002, representing District 26, the west side of Greenville County. She is a graduate of Carolina High School and attended Draughton's Business College, Greenville Technical College and the Wyatt Institute of Real Estate. Judy is an award winning realtor and a member of the Greater Greenville Association of Realtors.

Judy and her husband, Bob, have one daughter and three grandchildren. She is a member of Tremont Church of God.

PlanABiz.org Wins NADO Innovation Award



The Washington, D.C., based National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) recently selected **PlanABiz.org** to win a 2008 Innovation Award. Plan-A-Biz was developed as a joint project of the Appalachian Development Corporation and ACOG's Information Systems Department.

PLANABIZ.org is a web-based suite of interactive mapping and demographic analysis tools designed to support small business development in the Upstate. The PLAN-A-BIZ suite includes the ADC *Small Business Resource Directory* cataloging organizations, publications, and websites that support small business development. The *Plan-A-Biz Suitability Tool* enables entrepreneurs, bankers, and business consultants to analyze the suitability of a proposed business location based on demographic factors. Interactive mapping tools and detailed regional databases supplement the application, enabling users to refine business plans and enhance business development. A report summarizes key demographic variables for the market study area, compared to minimum values input by the user. Plan-A-Biz fills a need for support services used in conjunction with existing business development resources from local agencies.

Award winners will be showcased during NADO's 2008 Annual Training Conference on October 3-7 in Anchorage, Alaska. This honor is the *sixth* NADO Innovation Award earned by the ACOG. Past winning projects include the Saluda Reedy Watershed Leaders Forum (2006), ADC Funding programs (2006), Homeland Security Training (2002), the *InfoMentum* economic development decision support

system (2004), and *InfoMap*, the web-based mapping application (2005).

For more information, visit the PLAN-A-BIZ web site at www.planabiz.org, or contact Carol Andersen, ACOG Information Services Director, at 864-242-9733. Find out more about NADO at www.nado.org.



WorkLink's New Office Manager



Linda Davis joined the WorkLink staff as Office Manager in March 2008. A graduate of Midlands Technical College and USC with a degree in Office Management, Linda brings to this position over 25 years experience working with non-profit fundraising and educational entities. A strong advocate for volunteerism and community service, Linda has been a Hospice volunteer for 15 years and a cancer patient advocate for 14 years while living in the Columbia area. Three years ago, she married and moved to the Anderson area. Welcome to the team, Linda!

Development Corporation News



Lamar Bailes, President of the Appalachian Development Corporation, holding an award presented by the Appalachian COG Board at a recent meeting.

In May the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) held its annual meeting of the membership. During this meeting, the highlights of the past year were presented, along with some significant changes to the by-laws and overall structure of the organization as required by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Until the various organizational changes are complete, the current Board of Directors will continue to serve in their present capacity.

The membership was informed that, since its inception, the ADC has had a direct impact on the creation of 3,275 jobs and the retention of 1,850 jobs in its six-county service area. The current outstanding loan balances were reported as \$10.4 million in the Appalachian Loan Fund, \$18.8 in the SBA loan program, and \$6.9 in the CFR loan pool. This equates to total outstanding funds of \$32.5 million, comprised of 174 loans, under the ADC's control. Not included in this figure are \$1.7 million in ADC loans, \$1.4 million in CRF loans, and \$23.2 million in SBA loans that are approved, but have not yet been funded. The "approved-but-not-funded" loans equate to an additional 37 loans.

The ADC has been busy during the past year and continues to play an important role in the overall economic development efforts of the region.

South Carolina's New Immigration Act

The intense debate is over, and it is now the law, *para bien o para mal* (for better or worse). Public and private employers should familiarize themselves with the provisions of The South Carolina Illegal Immigration Reform Act (R.327), which was recently signed into being. In short, the



new and very complex legislation prohibits employers in South Carolina from hiring undocumented aliens. The legislation also specifies the manner in which employers must verify the legal status of new job applicants and further requires that public *contractors* comply.

By January 1, 2009, all **public employers** must register and participate in the U.S. government web-based E-Verify system. All employers must eventually screen new employees by either using E-Verify, requesting a valid S.C. driver's license or I.D. card issued by SCDMV, or by requiring applicants to present a driver's license from an approved state. An implementation schedule has been established based on the size of the private businesses and contractors.

The law establishes a series of fines for violations, and the state can ultimately deny a noncompliant business the right to operate in South Carolina. The law also directs the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to negotiate an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security to better cooperate with the enforcement of state and federal immigration laws.

Some questions remain as to how well and how strictly the new legislation will be enforced. Opponents of the legislation have also promised court challenges. However, while the legal wheels are turning, local governments should be prepared to comply with the law.

Greenville Tech Holds Grand Opening for New Northwest Campus



On June 18, Greenville Technical College held the Grand Opening of its new Northwest Campus. Situated on 170 acres at 8109 White Horse Road in the Berea area, the building contains approximately 100,000 square feet, featuring 21 classrooms, 8 science labs, a computer lab, and 5 kitchen labs. Programs offered include GED classes, the University Transfer Program, the Culinary Institute of the Carolinas, Animal Studies, Medical Laboratory Technology, health care programs, and various continuing education classes. The campus also includes Heritage Hall, a center designed for community events, business seminars and continuing education.

The ACOG Grant Services department worked with Greenville Tech to secure a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and a \$500,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

(Greenville Tech continued on page 4)

Anderson Home Consortium Kickoff



The Anderson County/City Home Consortium held a kickoff meeting June 12th at the Civic Center of Anderson to inform area residents about the Consortium's Housing Rehabilitation Grant Program. The Consortium, a partnership between Anderson County, the City of Anderson, and the City of Belton, received almost \$1 million in grant funds that will be used to address community development needs for low and moderate income households and neighborhoods throughout the County.

Mrs. Gracie Floyd opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and encouraging the attendees to take advantage of the new program. Mr. Michael Cunningham, Assistant County Administrator, then explained the history of the HOME Consortium partnership; the goals of the program; and introduced Mr. Chip Bentley from the ACOG. Mr. Bentley explained that the ACOG would serve as the administrative agency that would oversee the rehabilitation grant program for the County and City of Belton and outlined the application process that was being established.

The Consortium will receive annual funding from the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) through the federal Housing and Urban Development Agency. The HOME Program will provide important benefits for each community as a source of funding to improve the housing in their communities. **For more information on this program, please contact either David Acker or Chip Bentley at the Council of Governments.**

WorkLink's Second Annual Youth Job Fair is a Success

More than 700 young people attended WorkLink's second annual job fair on June 3 at Fusion Warehouse in Anderson. Attendees picked up job leads and learned valuable tips on how to land and keep good work.



There were 27 exhibitors, including 12 agencies who typically serve the youth workforce market. Employment OneStop agencies from Anderson, Oconee and Pickens had a non-stop stream of young people interested in resume writing, completing employment applications and learning about other WorkLink programs.



The event also featured a "How to Dress/How Not to Dress" Fashion Show; career-building workshops; local celebrities, including Joe Crosby and Clemson University football players; giveaways; an employer lounge/café; an interview room; and video resumes.

Although the 2008 fair was a huge success, WorkLink staff and community leaders are already planning next year's fair, with sights set on bringing in more exhibitors and more job seekers in order to make the 2009

event even bigger and better. **Contact WorkLink Interim Director Julia Hoyle at 864-646-1515 for additional details.**

New State Task Force Targets Senior Fraud

Every day senior citizens in South Carolina fall prey to unscrupulous individuals who seek to defraud and scam the elderly. In order to combat this growing problem, the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging has aggressively targeted those who victimize senior citizens by forming the Lt. Governor's

T a s k F o r c e o n S e n i o r F r a u d . The task force members represent various state, regional and local governmental and human service agencies, including the Appalachian Council of Governments and the Area Agency on Aging.

With the goal of protecting South Carolina's senior citizens by closing the door on those who seek to scam or defraud the elderly, and by working with the General Assembly, the task force members have developed an action plan that addresses several common types of scams. Included in this mix are magazine subscription scams, high-priced loans, variations of the international lottery winner notice,

"phishing" schemes, phony Medicare discount cards and charity scams, all of which have victimized far too many of our senior citizens. With greater public awareness of consumer fraud, more of our seniors will be able to recognize potential red flags to protect themselves and their families.

If you believe that you have been the target of a senior scam or fraud, or know of a senior citizen who has been victimized, please call the Department of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-922-1594, or the Appalachian Area Agency on Aging Fraud Patrol at 1-800-434-4036.

(State Plan on Aging continued from page 1) of South Carolina and the Area Agency on Aging will implement Choices for Independence over the next four years. It must also lay out a long term strategic plan that addresses future modernization of service delivery in the Appalachian region and throughout the State.

The Lieutenant Governor will host a public hearing on the State Plan on Aging on July 8, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Greenville County Council Chambers, 301 University Ridge, Greenville. The public is encouraged to attend and hear firsthand the details included in the Plan. A draft of the State Plan on Aging for 2009-2012 can be reviewed on the S. C. Lt. Governor's website at www.aging.sc.gov/.



(Greenville Tech continued from page 3)

For more information about the Northwest Campus, to schedule a tour, or to inquire about the use of Heritage Hall, please call 250-3600.

New Workforce Director



Nita Colman, WorkLink's new Director. Nita starts work on July 14.

Juanita Colman, Director of Tri-County Technical College's *Gateway to College* program, has been chosen as the new Workforce (WorkLink) Services Director, serving Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. Juanita, "Nita", will begin work with the Pendleton-based

agency on July 14.

Nita has a Master's degree from Wright State University in Business and Industrial Counseling, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Education from the College of Charleston. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership at Clemson University. Nita has extensive experience in the fields of training, education and counseling. She has worked in upper management positions at Tri-County Technical College and Central Carolina Technical College since 2000. Prior to that time, she worked as a civilian manager in training and education-related services at various Department of Defense installations in the U.S. and overseas.

Nita lives in the Anderson area with her husband, Donovan, and their two children.

WorkLink is funded through the 1998 Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and is directed at the state level by the South Carolina Department of Commerce and administered locally by the Appalachian Council of Governments. WorkLink is governed by a 35-member volunteer board of directors responsible for developing policy and overseeing local workforce development initiatives in partnership with the local elected officials. The mission of WorkLink is to develop the link between employers and the workforce in the Tri-county service area.

Picture Moments



ACOG's mobile Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). ACOG is visiting communities in the Upstate bringing information and services to seniors.



Annual ACOG Executive Committee Retreat. Staff and committee members taking a short break from the half-day planning session in June.



The Aging Advisory Committee meets monthly at the ACOG. (From the left rear) Staff member Debra Brown, member Geraldine Nantz, service contractor Sandra Owensby, and member Jack Allison.



VIEWPOINT

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