

ARC Federal Co-Chair Visits Region

Earl Gohl, Federal co-chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), visited the Appalachian region of South Carolina on September 16th and 17th. Mr. Gohl was appointed to the position by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate on March 10, 2010. Accompanying Mr. Gohl was Guy Land, ARC chief of staff. They were joined on the visit by Grant Gillespie, legislative advisor to Governor Sanford; Bonnie Ammons, assistant director of Federal programs at the S.C. Department of Commerce; and Dale Culbreth, ARC program manager at the S.C. Department of Commerce. Also accompanying the group on portions of the visit were Philip McMullen, ARC program manager for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Laura Bauld, Upstate director for Senator Lindsey Graham's office.

ACOG executive director Steve Pelissier and Dirk Reis, Grants Services director, conducted the tour, beginning with a visit to the offices of the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC). Dave Mueller, ADC's executive director and CEO, gave a presentation concerning the Appalachian Loan Fund which, in conjunction with private lenders, provides low-cost, long-term financing for businesses whose projects will result in job creation. ARC has provided \$6.4 million in seed money to capitalize the loan fund.

The Easley campus of Tri-County Technical College was the next stop, where the group was met by Dr. Ronnie Booth, president, and John Lummus, vice-president for Economic and Institutional Advancement at Tri-



Suzanne Dickerson, Earl Gohl, Guy Land and Grant Gillespie during a tour of CU-ICAR

County Tech, and Chappell Hurst, Pickens County administrator. Dr. Booth and Mr. Lummus, along with several members of the staff and faculty of the college, explained the purpose of the new QuickJobs Center and conducted a tour of the new multi-purpose classroom building, set to open to students in January. ARC had recently awarded \$500,000 to Pickens County for improvements to Powdersville Road in front of the campus. These improvements will enhance safety for students and local residents.

A tour of the Pickens County Commerce Park followed. Pickens County received ARC funds for streets and storm drainage for the park. Mr. Hurst and Ray Farley, director of Alliance Pickens, discussed the park and the six businesses that have located there, creating approximately 885 jobs. ARC also provided funds for a sewer line to serve the St. Jude Medical facility within the park, which now employs some 370 people in two facilities.

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ACOG Welcomes New Staff



The Appalachian Council of Governments is pleased to welcome Tim Womack as their new receptionist. A graduate of Easley High School and Winthrop University, Tim worked as a supervisor at Alice Manufacturing for 10 years, and then at BMW as a production associate. He is eager to forward your call to those who help serve our community.



David Shellhorse was born and raised in Cartersville, Georgia. After graduating from the University of Georgia in 2002 with a B.A. in English and Political Science, he earned his Master's of Public Administration from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. David has worked in community and

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ACOG Earns EDA Grant

The U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to ACOG to support the development of *InfoMap2*, an integrated web-based data analysis tool, to enhance economic development, planning and entrepreneurial endeavors in the Upstate.

For over 15 years, ACOG has maintained and continually upgraded the *InfoMentum* suite of services to provide economic development research tools through customized geographic information system (GIS) applications, an industrial properties database, and hundreds of socio-economic data tables. The current version of *InfoMap* is a web-based application enabling site selection consultants across the globe to explore the Upstate's offering of available industrial buildings, sites and parks. Based on outdated software, it offers only limited customization for basic interactive mapping tools. The new *InfoMap2*, built using the most current ArcGIS Server software, provides critical services on a regional scale through ArcGIS Online for imagery and centerlines, and utilizes Business Analyst Online for drive-time analysis. Innovative public/private partnerships with the Upstate SC Alliance and the EDIS Partnership enable cost savings on technology for each participating agency.

ACOG staff will use the award winning regional *Property Navigator* application (originally developed for the Upstate SC Alliance) as a template to integrate state-of-the-art mapping and data technology into the new *InfoMap2* websites for all ten counties of the Upstate if they choose to participate. Each *InfoMap2* site will reflect the unique graphic design of the host agency, focusing on the economic development assets of the county. Eventually, the enhanced web tool will also completely replace the desktop version of the *InfoMentum* decision support tool and the original *InfoMap* web application.



This project will be accomplished in two phases, first establishing a public website customized for each county to market their assets, and then implementing a password-protected area to provide more detailed research and data management tools for researchers and planners. Small business development tools will also be incorporated into web applications, eventually replacing the current version of *Plan-A-Biz*.

ACOG Executive Director Steve Pelissier comments, "In a global business market that relies on the Internet for primary information, it is important for each Upstate county to quickly and clearly present their strengths in order to optimize competitive opportunities for new capital investment and positive job growth in the region."

The transition of the region's present decision support software to a more modern, robust, flexible and maintainable format represents a crucial step in ensuring that the Upstate of South Carolina remains competitive.

This year, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) marks 45 years of public service, with a mission of leading the Federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. EDA is an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce that partners with distressed communities throughout the United States to foster job creation, collaboration and innovation. www.eda.gov

For more information about the project, please contact Carol Andersen, ACOG Information Services, at (864-242-9733) or andersen@scacog.org.

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economic development for the past six years. His professional career began as a grant writer for the CSRA Regional Commission in Augusta, Georgia. After serving as a project manager in the Augusta area, he became an economic development field representative for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, covering the 28-county area which makes up Northeast Georgia. David was responsible for administering a variety of state and federal financial programs, including CDBG and ARC.

With his knowledge and experience, he will provide support to cities and counties on a wide range of economic and community development issues. David will help local communities develop Village Renaissance Plan applications for the state's CDBG program and guide them through the planning process. He will also provide a range of assistance on economic and community development projects - from asking stakeholders to identify projects, to implementation steps such as creating development agreements and identifying funding mechanisms for projects.

He lives in Greenville with his wife, Doris, who is employed by Mitsubishi Polyester Film in Greer. Married since December 2008, they have a cat named Gloria and dog named Maggie.

Did You Know?

Anderson County was named for General Robert Anderson, a hero of the Revolution. Anderson County was created in 1827 from parts of the Old Pendleton District. This county was the site of the first successful transmission of high-voltage electricity over a long distance.

Municipalities Review and Update Comprehensive Plans

During the late 1990's the Appalachian Council of Governments' Planning staff assisted several municipalities in developing comprehensive plans to meet new state regulatory requirements. These plans have served as guides for making public policy decisions on land use, as well as infrastructure, economic, and community devel-



Comprehensive plans require review every 5 years with complete updates at least every 10 years.

opment projects. However, no plan can be effective unless the goals and strategies set forth are examined regularly to assess their effectiveness. With this in mind, the *legislation included a requirement that comprehensive plans be reviewed every 5 years and completely updated at least every 10 years.*

With current economic uncertainties, aging infrastructure and exploding regional growth, *now* is the right time to evaluate and accommodate the direction and needs of the community. Almost as important, State Planning Enabling Legislation carries clauses stating that, without an update, *land use regulations such as zoning, subdivision regulations, and design guidelines are at risk of being invalidated.*

Plan updates are important. The Appalachian Council of Governments staff can provide project management and/or technical assistance. For more information, please contact Chip Bentley at 864-242-9733.

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Steve Erwine, controller, conducted a tour of the facility, which makes components for heart pacemakers and *defibrillators*.

Buncombe Road Park, adjacent to the Swamp Rabbit Trail in the City of Travelers Rest, was the next stop. Here, City Administrator Dianna Turner and Drew Gonnick, with the Greenville County Recreation District, thanked ARC for its funding of a portion of the Swamp Rabbit Trail and explained the importance of the trail in boosting tourism and economic development.

Friday began with a presentation by ACOG staff of the ongoing work involving the *InfoMentum* and *Plan-A-Biz* efforts to support business decisions and small business development. The group also heard about the recently completed Broadband Study involving Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties, which was funded in part by a \$65,000 ARC grant. This study assisted Oconee County in securing a nearly \$10 million grant from stimulus funding.

In Fountain Inn, Senator DeMint's Upstate director, Danielle Gibbs, joined the tour. Mayor Gary Long and other Fountain Inn council members, staff, and local business owners showcased efforts to stabilize the downtown area and recruit new businesses to locate there. Those efforts included streetscape improvements, partially funded by a \$200,000 ARC grant; a farmers' market; and the historical center/visitors center. Mr. Gohl also announced that Fountain Inn was just awarded another \$250,000 ARC grant to continue streetscape activities that will connect the former Woodside Mill site to the downtown business district.

The SC Technology and Aviation Center (SCTAC), formerly Donaldson Center, was the next stop on the tour. Jody Bryson, executive director of SCTAC, and Jack Ellenburg, deputy secretary for New Investment at the S.C. Department of Commerce, spoke

about the mission of SCTAC and its importance to the Upstate. ARC funds have been used through the years for several upgrades at SCTAC, including facilities where 1000 workers are employed by Lockheed in aircraft maintenance and modification. Other projects have included the parallel taxiway, new ramp facilities, and the Automatic Weather Observation System (AWOS). The impact of the new Berkeley County Boeing facility on the SC Upstate was also discussed.

The next stop was the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (CU-ICAR). Suzanne Dickerson, manager of marketing and business development, and Dr. Imtiaz Haque, executive director of the Campbell Graduate Engineering Center, provided an overview of the activities ongoing at CU-ICAR and conducted a tour of the facility.

Dr. Para Jones, president of Spartanburg Community College, and Henry Giles, vice-president for business affairs, met the group at the Cherokee County campus in Gaffney to provide information and conduct a tour of the classroom building, constructed in part with \$500,000 in ARC funds. This facility, opened in April 2007, is the first general classroom building on the new Cherokee County campus.

Mr. Gohl and Mr. Land thanked the state officials and ACOG staff for arranging the visits to the various sites. Because of time constraints, we were unable to visit projects in all six counties in the region, but invited Mr. Gohl back to see other projects in the near future.



Fact....

Cherokee County was formed in 1897 from parts of Spartanburg, Union, and York Counties. Named for the Cherokee Indian Nation, it is also the site of Cowpens National Battlefield.

Dementia Dialogues: Becoming A Dementia Specialist

The purpose of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is to advocate for residents in long term care facilities. One way the ombudsmen do this is through educational training for the staff and families who care for the residents. One very popular program, Dementia Dialogues, educates individuals who care for persons who exhibit signs and symptoms associated with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementias.



An estimated 22 million people worldwide have Alzheimer's disease and approximately 5 million of those live in the United States. The number of people with the disease doubles every 5 years. In South Carolina alone, it is reported by the Alzheimer's Disease Registry that 7.8 percent of people over 65 and 31 percent of people over 85 have the disease. An estimated 16,000 new cases occurred between 2005 and 2010.

Although much research has been conducted on the cause and cure of Alzheimer's disease, little information is available about hands-on care. Dementia Dialogues provides the most current and practical information in the care of people with dementia.

At ACOG, ombudsman Jamie Guay has presented this program to several facilities across the region since April 2010. In that time, 148 individuals have graduated from the program, deeming them "dementia specialists." One goal of the ACOG Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is to get as many staff members as possible trained in the



Jamie Guay (left) discusses causes of dementia.

Dementia Dialogues. This will improve the care for these residents.

Throughout South Carolina, over 13,000 direct-care staff and caregivers have been trained in Dementia Dialogues, and over 6,000 have completed the course. The 5-part training program assists caregivers through the following topics:

- Part 1: The Basic Facts (An Introduction to Dementia)
- Part 2: Keeping the Dialogue Going (Communication Skills)
- Part 3: It's a Different World (Environment: Safety and Helpful Hints)
- Part 4: It's Nothing Personal (Addressing Challenging Behaviors)
- Part 5: Now What Do I Do? (Creative Problem Solving)

Each of the 5 sessions is approximately 90 minutes in length. Participants are awarded a Dementia Specialist Certificate after completion of all 5 sessions. It is recommended that participants include CNAs, PCAs, nurses, family members, activity directors, and anyone who interacts with individuals with dementia. The training is provided at no cost to participants.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Jamie Guay at (864) 242-9733.

Development Corporation News



Dave Mueller, Executive Director of the Appalachian Development Corporation, will participate in the Mid-year Meeting of the South Carolina Economic Developers' Association (SCEDA) as a presenter. He will be part of a panel discussion led by Gregg White of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Steven Hawkins, President of the Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation headquartered in Anderson. The SCEDA Midyear Meeting will be held at the Spartanburg Marriott Hotel on October 14th through the 15th, and the theme of this year's meeting is "South Carolina's Road Ahead."

Mr. White, who heads up the USDA's Rural Development Programs in Columbia, invited Mr. Mueller as a result of the ADC's efforts in lending under the Intermediate Lending Program (ILP). Mr. Hawkins was invited as a result of having received both an ADC loan and a USDA Business and Industry (B&I) loan through the ADC.

Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation, which was formed to purchase 12.74 miles of railroad line serving various businesses and industries located near Belton, Pelzer and Easley, is a current borrower from the ADC. CSX Transportation had abandoned this line and its service to Owens Corning, Hydro in Belton, the Duke Energy plant on the Saluda River in Pelzer, and several others. This important service was reinstated when Western Carolina Railway took over this rail line.

Annual Enrollment Period

Medicare Prescription Drug Program

November 15—December 31

Medicare beneficiaries can switch to a new Medicare drug plan from November 15 through December 31 each year. Coverage will begin January 1, 2011. Once enrolled in a Medicare drug plan, consumers are generally enrolled for a calendar year.



Medicare recipients may switch drug plans during the annual enrollment period, from November 15 through December 31.

For assistance in comparing plans, individuals can contact the Appalachian Area Agency on Aging. Individuals on our staff serve as Medicare SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) counselors and assist consumers by providing up-to-date information on Medicare, supplements, and health insurance to consumers. Information and application assistance on Medicare Prescription Programs and Medicare Savings Programs are also provided. It is important to note that Medicare SHIP counselors assist consumers and are not affiliated with any individual insurance product.

During the annual enrollment period, our office will be offering enrollment events in each county (Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Spar-

(Enrollment continued on page 6)

Victim's Assistance Funding Faces Stricter Monitoring



ACOG's Governmental Services staff urge local entities to be aware of expenditures from victim's assistance funding, as there have been recent changes. Proviso 89.65, Part IB, Act No. 291 of 2010 requires entities that receive funding from victim assistance to submit their budgets to the State Office of Victim Assistance (SOVA) for approval and provide expenditure/program data as requested by SOVA. This requirement is found solely in this proviso and does not exist in permanent law.

If SOVA finds an erroneous expenditure or an expenditure on unauthorized items, the local entity is afforded 90 days to rectify the error. If the entity fails to rectify within that 90-day period, a penalty in the amount of the error, plus \$1,500 is assessed. If SOVA does not receive payment within 90 days, the local governing body is to withhold the amount of the penalty from the entity's subsequent fiscal year appropriation.

The proviso also provides that, if the State Auditor finds that any county or municipal treasurer, magistrate, or clerk of court improperly allocates revenue generated from court fines, fees or assessment for purposes of crime victim funds, the State Auditor shall notify SOVA, who is authorized to conduct programmatic reviews of the entity.

Please visit www.sova.sc.gov for more information.



WorkLink Awards Incumbent Worker Training Grants

WorkLink Workforce Investment Board has awarded Incumbent Worker Training Grants to 12 businesses in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. The grant awards total \$167,400. Incumbent Worker Training grant recipients include Metco, Inc., Sargent Metal Fabricators, and South Eastern Machining in Anderson County; Covidien, Johnson Controls,

Parkway Products, Inc., Ulbrich Precision Flat Wire and US Engine Valve in Oconee County; and Cornell



Dubilier Marketing, Imperial Die Casting, Richmond Gear and Tri-Tech USA in Pickens County.

The businesses receiving IWT grants for 2010-11 will train employees in a variety of courses - from lean manufacturing standards to supervisory training. Companies will also be participating in training through the mechatronics program at Tri-County Technical College's Corporate and Community Education Division.

WorkLink Workforce Investment Board receives funds designated for training incumbent workers from the U.S. Department of Labor through the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. Employers that have at least one employee and are current on all South Carolina state tax obligations are eligible to apply for reimbursable training services and expenses. Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, and priority is given to businesses in the automotive, advanced manufacturing, energy, or bioscience industries. This year's awards were determined by a committee of the

(Training Grant continued on page 6)

QuickJobs Training Fairs Offered in October

Job seekers looking for work in advanced manufacturing or truck driving had the opportunity to meet with employers and explore job training options at the QuickJobs Training Fairs offered in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties in October. These pre-employment training fairs were held at Tri-County Technical College campuses and provided information about certifications for MSSC Production Technician, Mechatronics Technician, CNC Operator and CDL Truck Drivers.



Pickens County QuickJobs Development Center

Attendees could participate in a screening interview with potential employers and meet with representatives from area agencies who can provide financial assistance for the QuickJobs training programs. Representatives from Tri-County Technical College, OneStop Workforce Centers, and Adult Education were onsite to help job seekers reach their educational goals through GED programs, the Workforce Investment Act program and other financial aid.

Most QuickJobs courses take 90-days or less to complete and lead to an industry-recognized certificate. This statewide initiative, developed through the SC Technical College System, is designed to quickly meet the needs of dislocated workers and other eligible adults and to provide the training needed to move them into employment.

ArcGIS 10 Training Opportunities



ArcGIS 10 ESRI Authorized training classes are now available. ACOG is pleased to announce that our instructor, Amy Wright Webber, has met all of the new additional ESRI requirements to teach ArcGIS 10 classes, including earning the Certified Technical Trainer certification by CompTIA. As a result, ACOG now offers the following classes:

- *ArcGIS Desktop II: Tools and Functionality* is scheduled for November 15-17, 2010, at the ACOG offices in Greenville. The cost per student is \$695.
- *ArcGIS Desktop III: GIS Workflows and Analysis* is scheduled for November 18-19, 2010, at the ACOG offices in Greenville. The cost per student will be \$490.

Please note that tuition rates are 50 percent less than the cost charged for the same course offered at ESRI's offices in Charlotte. Please contact Amy at webber@scacog.org for more information regarding training availability and course content.

(Training Grant continued from page 5)

Local Workforce Investment Board in August.

WorkLink's business services staff will be working with these businesses throughout the grant period. For more information about WorkLink's services, visit www.worklinkweb.com.

Moving Youth Toward a Career Path

The WorkLink Workforce Investment Board Youth Council provided transportation funding for more than 5,000 eighth- and ninth-grade students in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties to attend the Business & Industry Showcase in Clemson's Littlejohn Coliseum on September 29, 2010. The event offered students, parents and educators the opportunity to learn what area businesses do, what careers are in-demand, and what education is needed for various career paths.

Students explored their career options and can now better answer the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Students must answer this question as they develop individual graduation plans required by the Education and Economic Development Act, a process that includes selecting a field of study or a career cluster to guide their academic studies.

The Pendleton Regional Education Center sponsored the event, in partnership with the Anderson County Office of Economic Development, Oconee County Economic Development Commission, Alliance Pickens, local businesses, and the school districts in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. This year's showcase expanded on the success of the Industrial Product Showcase organized annually by the Oconee County Industrial Group (OCIG) to make known the products made by local companies and to inform citizens about the importance of manufacturing.



(Enrollment continued from page 5)

tanburg, Pickens and Oconee) to assist beneficiaries. For a schedule of these events, or to request assistance in comparing plans, please contact agency staff at (864) 242-9733 or (800) 434-4036.

Election Day Facts

In honor of Election Day on November 2nd, please note these "Quick Facts" from the South Carolina State Election Commission.



- Each year South Carolina holds approximately 300 elections.
- South Carolina was the first state to have a statewide voter registration system.
- South Carolina was the second state to provide online access to its voter registration database to all county boards of voter registration.
- Nearly 18,000 poll managers serve throughout South Carolina in a statewide General Election.
- South Carolina was the first state to have its voter registration application on the Internet.
- Husbands and wives cannot vote together in the same voting booth.
- Primary elections, conducted by the county election commissions, are held to determine who will be that party's nominee.
- Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 7:00 p.m.
- You may obtain the names of your elected officials and polling place by contacting your county voter registration office.
- A person who does not live within the municipality, but who owns property within the municipality, would not be considered a resident for the purpose of voting in a municipal election.

ACOG Reports Offered Electronically

In an effort to improve efficiency in 2011, the *Viewpoint* and the Six-Month Report will be offered in Adobe PDF format for delivery by e-mail. Traditionally, these publications have been distributed by way of standard mail. If you have e-mail capability, we encourage you to choose the e-mail delivery option. If you would like to continue receiving these publications, please contact Olivia Harris at harris@scacog.org to specify your desired delivery method. As always, you can find these reports online at www.scacog.org.



Connect to WorkLink on the Web

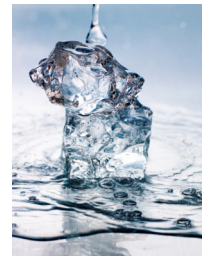
WorkLink would like to invite your business or organization to connect with www.worklinkweb.com for employment resources. By linking to the website and other social media, you can keep up with the latest workforce news in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties and enhance your own website. Please add a link to www.worklinkweb.com or friend and follow us on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/worklink> and Twitter - <http://twitter.com/WorkLinkWeb>.



Saluda River Basin Phosphorus Trading Agreement—Building a Partnership

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is currently renewing the wastewater permits along the Saluda River for Easley Combined Utilities, Renewable Water Resources, the Cities of Belton and Williamston. During this process DHEC identified the potential for levels of phosphorus in discharges to create water quality problems in the Saluda if all facilities were operating at maximum capacity.

DHEC recognized that specific changes to the phosphorus limits in these permits would require some providers to upgrade their facilities. In looking for a solution DHEC asked the ACOG to work with the providers. The goal was to find a way to protect water quality and reduce the need for additional investment in facilities through some type of partnership.



DHEC proposed the group implement a pollutant trading approach that allows sharing the total phosphorus allowed. Each discharger would have a permit limit on phosphorus, however, as long as the total for the group is not exceeded, an individual facility that exceeds its allocation is not considered in violation. This allows facilities that might have trouble meeting the new phosphorus limit to have more time to find a solution for reducing phosphorus in their discharges.

Over the last year the ACOG has worked with all the stakeholders on a partnership agreement that will help meet these goals. This agreement is expected to be finalized in the next few months. When in place, it will provide each discharger with a clear picture of the long term permitting picture so that they can plan more effectively.

VIEWPOINT

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Mauldin City Council members Bob Cook, Gabe Hunter and Patricia Gettys (not pictured), Mayor Don Godbey, Administrator Trey Eubanks and Nancy Fitzer from Upstate Forever discuss a number of city topics. ACOG staff member Olivia Harris facilitated the retreat.