

Complete Count Committees Key to Successful 2010 Census

Every 10 years, as mandated by the U.S. Constitution, our nation conducts a census — an effort to count every person living in the United States.



Bill Whitney, Census Partnership Specialist, discusses ways to improve the Upstate Census counts with ACOG's Carol Andersen.

The key to this endeavor is having every household fill out and mail back a completed census form. Participation is critical, as the results determine how more than \$300 billion in federal funds are distributed annually to state, local and tribal areas.

Unfortunately, South Carolina has one of the worst response rates in the nation for returning the census questionnaire. Our region desperately needs full participation to get our fair share of program funds for the next decade.

One way to help ensure that everyone is counted is to form Complete Count Committees in cities, counties, states, municipalities, and communities across the country.

Complete Count Committees are volunteer teams consisting of com-



It's Time To Be Counted.
The 2010 census questionnaire is coming. Look for it. Fill it out. Mail it back. Help your community.
April 1, 2010, is Census Day. Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to your home in March. The 2010 Census is safe, easy and important. Your participation is vital to your community. Census numbers are used to reapportion congressional seats, redraw legislative districts and distribute over \$400 billion in federal funds yearly. All personal census information is confidential by federal law. Take time to be counted!

It's In Our Hands
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**United States
Census
2010**

munity leaders, faith-based groups, schools, businesses, media outlets and others who are appointed by elected officials and work together to make sure entire communities are counted.

"We want the 2010 Census to be the most accurate yet, and we are calling upon Complete Count Committees to help us achieve that goal," said Tom Mesenbourg, acting director of the U.S. Census Bureau. "To ensure an accurate count and distribution of funds for schools, roads and elderly services, the support of local Complete Count Committees is vital."

Complete Count Committees, when combined with the Census Bureau's paid advertising and partnership program, made a huge improvement in the quality and accuracy of Census 2000. These committees developed targeted outreach plans specific to their communities to inform local residents of the importance of responding to the census. Extra attention is needed in Hispanic communities.

Complete Count Committees can start now to create awareness within their communities about the upcoming 2010 Census. They can donate space for testing and training temporary census workers, publicize recruiting efforts and obtain endorsements from local leaders. They can conduct census rallies or pa-

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ADC Has a New Home!



The Appalachian Development Corporation has a new home just off of Pelham Road in Greenville.

After many aches, bruises, and sore backs, the Appalachian Development Corporation (ADC) has finally completed the move to their new offices, located in Greenville near the intersection of Pelham Road and I-85.

Although the office has a Pelham Road address, the building does *not* actually front Pelham. To get there if traveling west on Pelham Road (heading away from I-85 and toward East North Street), turn right at the stoplight by Ruby Tuesdays. The office is in the second building on the left, across from the Goodyear Store.

The new physical address is: 3531 Pelham Road, Suite 100, Greenville, SC 29615. The ADC also has a new phone number, 864-382-2350, and the phone "auto-attendant" will direct you to the party you seek. Please stop by if you're in the area!



Michael Stogner Receives an Excellence in Aging Award



Former ACOG Aging director Michael Stogner recently received the Jane Kennedy Excellence in Aging Award.

At the recent Southeastern Aging Network (SE4A) Conference, Michael received the Jane Kennedy Award, one of the top two awards presented annually through SE4A. This award recognizes an individual who has made a significant impact on the quality of life of older persons.

Michael served as the ACOG director of the Appalachian Area Agency on Aging for 23 years before retiring in 2007. He dedicated most of his professional life to the aging field, and he worked tirelessly to improve the skills and knowledge of workers in the field of aging in South Carolina and the Southeast. He served on the planning committees for all of the education and training programs in the state to make sure that training needs of staff were addressed. He was a devoted member of the Summer School of Gerontology planning committee for over 20 years. He served on the planning committee for three S.C. White House Conferences on Aging. Michael was instrumental in establishing the S.C. Leadership Institute for the S.C. Aging Network. His efforts prepared staff to provide a better level of service to seniors in South Carolina, the Southeast and in the nation.

Michael was a mentor to many aging agencies, both in South Carolina and in the Southeast, and a key leader in South Carolina's aging network. Throughout his career, he was generous

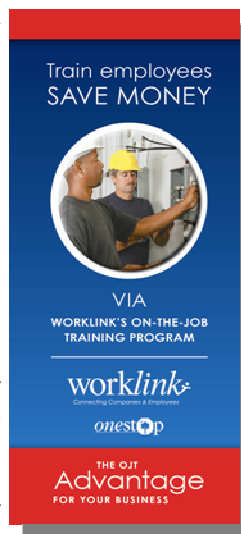
in sharing his time, experience and assistance. Many remember how he provided critical services to seniors in the Charleston area following Hurricane Hugo in 1989. He came to Charleston and worked out of the senior center there, helping to organize the delivery of emergency services to seniors, including food, water, clothing, emergency supplies and assistance with storm clean up.

We at ACOG would be hard pressed to think of a more appropriate award for a most deserving person.

WorkLink Job Training Benefits Businesses

As part of its mission to connect companies and employees, WorkLink Workforce Investment Board provides training for new hires and incumbent workers, along with reimbursements or reduced costs to businesses that meet eligibility requirements for each program.

Since July 2009, WorkLink has signed Incumbent Worker Training agreements utilizing more than \$300,000 to upgrade the skills of more than 200 incumbent workers in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. Businesses that have at least one full-time employee and are current on all state tax obligations can receive reimbursements of training expenses for Incumbent Worker Training – ranging



from basic academic skills to company-specific skills and industry certifications. Applications are accepted year-round, though funding is on a first-come, first-served basis.

On-the-Job Training (OJT), a counterpart program for new employees, aims to place adults and dislocated workers in jobs throughout the region. Since July 2009, 74 individuals have found work through the program, thereby removing many of them from dependence upon unemployment insurance. Through a WorkLink Workforce Investment Board grant, the South Carolina Employment Security Commission will reimburse a company for 50 to 75 percent of the new employee wages paid during a six- to ten-week training period.

The benefits include more than cost savings for businesses. According to officials at Kongsberg Automotive, "We attribute a large amount of our success to the fact that we had an enormous amount of support in training from WorkLink, which has allowed us to be on a continuous improvement journey throughout all of our processes."

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rades, media luncheons, and interfaith breakfasts and weekend events as we get closer to Census Day on April 1, 2010.

The 2010 Census will have one of the shortest census questionnaires in U.S. history. The 2010 Census will ask just name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether the householder owns or rents their home. The census form will take only about 10 minutes on average to complete, and answers are protected by law and strictly confidential.

Please call a Census Partnership Specialist for more information about joining a Complete Count Committee:

- For Anderson and Pickens counties, call Bob Gabbard (803)354-6891, robert.c.gabbard@census.gov.
- For Oconee, Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Greenville counties, call Bill Whitney (864)356-1978), William.b.whitney@census.gov

Celebration of Residents' Rights

Each year in October, Residents' Rights Week is celebrated in long term care facilities across the nation. It is a time for facilities to focus on and celebrate awareness of dignity, respect and the value of each individual resident. The Appalachian Council of Governments' Long Term Care Ombudsman Program assists in this celebration each year.

B	I	N	G	O
Keep and use personal clothing and possessions	Be treated with respect and dignity	Be free from working or performing services for the facility	Approve or refuse release of your personal records	Choose your own personal physician
Participate in any social, religious, and community group activities	Have privacy during treatment	Be free from physical or chemical restraints	Have your family/friends visit you	Manage your personal finances
Share a room with your husband or wife	Communicate privately with others		Have security in storing your personal possessions	Be free from mental or physical abuse
Send and receive mail with freedom and privacy	Meet with legal guardian or family to discuss the facility	Have privacy when visiting with your spouse		Participate in planning the care and treatment you receive
Refuse to participate in experimental tests or research	Receive from your physician a complete and current description of your medical condition	Have medical records kept confidential	Refuse to see visitors	

BINGO! A really sweet way to teach long term care residents their legal rights.

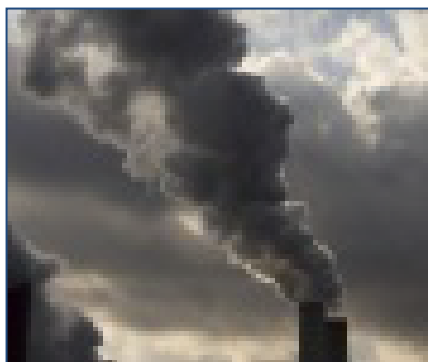
This year, during the week of October 5th through October 10th, Ombudsman staff traveled across the region to bring awareness of the Residents' Bill of Rights to nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the Upstate. A total of 16 facilities throughout the region were visited during this week.

Ombudsman staff provided in-services to staff in several facilities to teach them the importance of Residents' Rights. Activities were provided for the residents as well. A big hit among the residents was the Residents' Rights Bingo game, developed by staff to bring some fun into learning about the Bill of Rights. Other activities included a word search and presentations at several resident council meetings. In addition, a special card reminding facility staff to recognize Residents' Rights Week was sent out to all 52 nursing homes in the Appalachian region.

It is very important to foster awareness of the Bill of Rights among all those working, living, or helping to care for someone in a long term care facility. If you are a caregiver or family member of someone living in a facility, please share with them the Bill of Rights and help empower them today!

If you would like a brochure on the Residents' Bill of Rights, please contact your local Ombudsman, Nancy Hawkins, Rhonda Monroe, Jessica Winters, Jamie Guay, Sandy Dunagan, or Kim Bridges at (864) 242-9733.

Upstate To Get a Brief Reprieve from New Ozone Standards



Since March 2008, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) first announced the strengthened National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, many Upstate communities have been concerned with the region's ability to meet the new standard. EPA revised the ozone standard from 0.080 parts per million (ppm) to a level of 0.075 ppm. Five of the six Upstate counties currently are at risk of not meeting the new standard and being designated in whole or part as non-attainment areas. That designation would bring additional permitting re-

quirements for new industry and roads, as well as a potential loss of federal funds for roadway projects, which could negatively affect the region's future growth.

The EPA was set to make final non-attainment designations in the next few months, but recently announced it would reconsider the 2008 NAAQS for ground-level ozone. EPA will now propose any needed revisions to the ozone standards by December 2009 and issue a final decision by August 2010. The stay will postpone the non-attainment designation process while the standard is reconsidered. Once a decision is made, there will be an accelerated ozone designation process for the reconsidered standards, which will be completed by August 2011.

EPA's review of the new ozone standards will focus on ensuring that they protect public health with an adequate margin of safety and are also sufficient to protect the environment. While possible, it is unlikely that the review will lead to the standard being less stringent than .075 ppm, which the region currently has trouble meeting. In fact, the review could actually lead to the lowering of the proposed .075 ppm standard, which would make compliance an even bigger challenge for our region.

The stay of the new Ozone standard provides our region a short reprieve from non-attainment designation, but does not remove the threat. It will be important that current efforts to improve air quality are maintained and also that new initiatives are identified as we move forward. During this stay, DHEC will continue to work with EPA, ACOG, and local governments to implement the best course of action to bring cleaner air to South Carolina. For questions or clarification, please contact ACOG's Chip Bentley at 864-242-9733.



ARC Awards Grants for Infrastructure and Job Training Projects



The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) recently awarded seven grants to enhance economic development, infrastructure, and job training efforts in the region.

The Anderson Regional Water System, which serves 14 municipalities and water districts in Anderson and Pickens Counties, was awarded \$500,000 to upgrade and expand the capacity of the water transmission system. The total project cost is estimated at \$7.1 million.

Pickens County was awarded \$500,000 to assist with the construction of sewer lines along a 5-mile section of Highway 123 to serve new school facilities currently under construction and to foster growth and development along the corridor. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$2.3 million.

An ARC grant of \$500,000 was approved to assist **Pioneer Rural Water District** in the construction of 46,000 feet of water transmission main and improvements to a pump station. The project, estimated to cost \$3.7 million, is necessary to meet DHEC requirements, improve system reliability, and to prepare for and promote economic development.

The **City of Pickens** will receive \$500,000 in ARC funds to assist with the upgrade of their water treatment plant. The Project is being undertaken to meet current drinking water standards and to better serve the residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial customers of the City of Pickens and of the two water districts that purchase water from the City.

ARC has approved a grant of \$500,000 for the upgrade of the Pendleton/Clemson Wastewater Treatment Plant, operated by the **Town of Pendleton**. The \$3.5 million project will allow



this regional wastewater facility to remain in DHEC compliance and continue to serve the growth needs of the Town of Pendleton, the City of Clemson and Anderson County within its service area.

Goodwill was awarded \$250,000 to expand the Goodwill Three-Month Education and Training Program. This program provides curriculum learning and hands-on work experience in Retail, Certified Nursing Assistance, or Food Services; instructs clients in life skills; and familiarizes them with employability/retention. Goodwill provides a client wage/stipend to ease the stress of poverty, allowing students to focus on learning and reaching goals. The program also features an additional 12 months of case management follow-up services. This includes post-placement follow-up, assistance in addressing work-relevant issues such as transportation and childcare, financial management and positive workplace conduct.

The **Greenville County Recreation District** was awarded \$250,000 to complete the south end of the Swamp Rabbit Trail. This 2-mile southern section of the 17-mile trail will lead residents and visitors to the Lake Conestee Nature Park and the GCRD recreation complex.

For additional information on these projects, or the Appalachian Regional Commission programs, call Dirk Reis at the ACOG.



November is National Caregiving Month

National Caregiving Month is set aside to recognize the efforts and sacrifices of caregivers across the nation. Caregivers often include spouses, sons, daughters, in-laws and friends – either living nearby, or perhaps in another location. Caregivers step up to the plate when loved ones are in need – they care and take action. This special month is meant to encourage those individuals who serve with such untiring devotion.



ACOG Family Caregiver Support team (L-R) Debra Brown, Sam Wiley and Jean Stegall.

Caregivers are important, not only to those whom they serve directly, but to society as a whole. Caregivers are the reason so many care recipients are able to remain in their homes long after their abilities to maintain themselves fail. Unmet needs, even simple daily requirements, can lead to an emergency in which loved ones end up being institutionalized. Dedicated caregivers can make the difference between people living a quality life or falling through the cracks of society.

The Family Caregiver Support Program (FCSP), based in the Appalachian Council of Governments, would like to partner with those caregivers in the Upstate providing care to people in need. The team is available to be a resource for information, assistance and encouragement to those serving in this role. If you – or someone you know –

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Partnerships Streamline Workforce Services

The OneStop Consortium, a group of program representatives that come together in an effort to coordinate the effective delivery of employment and training services, has reconvened as the operator for OneStop Workforce Centers in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens Counties. Authorized by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the Consortium provides a fo-



rum for streamlining services and for sharing resources to serve more participants. WorkLink staff has met with several federally mandated partners to update Memorandums of Understanding, Resource Sharing Agreements and Cost Allocations. The Consortium hosted a Partnership Meeting in October, at Tri-County Technical College's Industrial Business Development Center, located on the Pendleton campus, and more than 30 program representatives participated in the event.

OneStop On-the-Go

In order to meet the increased demand of job seekers, WorkLink Workforce Investment Board has outfitted two OneStop On-the-Go vans. Functioning as a mobile employment service, OneStop On-the-Go brings the core services of area OneStops to locations in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. Each van carries laptops that are Internet capable and connected to a printer/copier/scanner combination.



The units are available for Rapid Response meetings, community events, job fairs and group certifications, and they also schedule stops at schools, community organizations and libraries. At recent JobWise events at the Anderson County Library, coordinators led workshops on résumé writing and online job applications.

(Caregiving continued from page 4)

could use the support of the FCSP, please refer them to Debra Brown or Sam Wiley, FCSP Advocates for the six-county ACOG region. For information and assistance, call 864-242-9733, or 800-925-4077, or contact us by e-mail at brown@scacog.org, or swiley@scacog.org.



ACOG's executive director Steve Pelissier presents a plaque to Mrs. James Batchler honoring her late husband. Mr. Batchler was posthumously awarded the Jack E. Millwood Helmsman Award for exemplary service to the Upstate of South Carolina.

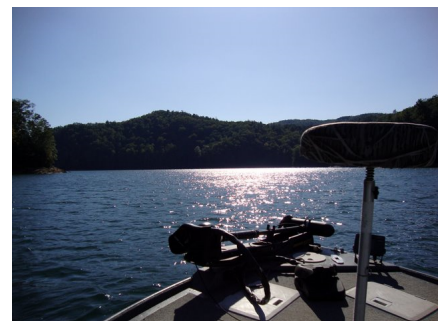
Early October Morning on Lake Jocassee



Lake Jocassee, located in Oconee County, is arguably the most beautiful body of water in the Southeastern United States.



Spartanburg county council member and ACOG board member O'Neal Mintz shows off a bass on its way to the frying pan.



Beats yard work ...



VIEWPOINT

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The Blacksburg Town Council recently met to establish long and short term goals and objectives for their community. These folks realize that worthwhile things don't just happen, but a good plan can *make* them happen.