

Management Changes Coming at Appalachian COG



September 28th will mark the end of an era for Appalachian COG Executive Director Bob Strother, and the beginning of a new one for Steve Pelissier, who will take over for Bob upon his retirement.

Strother started at ACOG in 1976 as Director of Public Services and was appointed as Executive Director in 1988. During his tenure as Executive Director, the Appalachian COG has received numerous national and state awards for its innovative programs and cutting edge technological efforts. Other achievements included the construction of a new office building and joining the South Carolina State Retirement System.

“An organization’s success is dependent on many factors,” Strother said, “but the key elements are a strong, progressive-thinking board of directors and a motivated, professional staff. Fortunately, we have been able to provide the type of work environment and management philosophy that fosters

those two critical ingredients.”

After his retirement, Strother plans to spend more time with his family and in pursuit of a second career as a writer. “I’m a lucky man,” he said. “I’ve been able to work at something I love for the past 30 years. I look forward now to seeing your continued progress, and will take great joy in all your successes.”



Pelissier started with the agency in 1990 as its sole community and regional planner. Under his leadership, the COG’s Planning Services Department has grown significantly over the past 16 years, providing a wide variety of services to a multitude of local governments and taking on numerous issues of regional significance.

Pelissier cites the greatest benefit of working for the Council of Governments as “being able to reflect upon the impact we have made on peoples’ lives at the end of each day.” As he assumes leadership, Pelissier cites

(Changes continued on page 5)

Development Corporation News

Did you know that the Appalachian Development Corporation’s (ADC) participation in project financing comes with a below-market, fixed-interest rate? The ADC is an approved Certified Development Corporation (CDC) through the Small Business Administration. As such, the ADC offers ten- or twenty-year fixed rate financing. In August 2006, the note rate for this type of funding was 5.78 percent. The ADC’s portion of the project funding can be up to 40 percent of the project or \$2,000,000, whichever is less. With the prime rate at 8.25 percent, a note rate at 5.78 percent is beneficial to both the borrower and the primary lender.

Recent projects approved for financing using this program include:

Aim, LLC & Deel’s Transfer & Storage was approved for \$320,000 to assist in purchasing and up-fitting a former textile building in Spartanburg County.

Graham Ice Cream Company was approved for \$339,000 to assist in building and equipping a third Spartanburg County location of a Brusters Old Fashioned Ice Cream & Yogurt Shoppe on Reidville Road.

Famous Craft of South Carolina, Inc., was approved for \$1,500,000 to assist in the construction of a new manufacturing facility near the Airport in Anderson County.

TW Enterprise, Inc., was approved for \$485,000 to be used to assist in constructing and equipping a new building for a Pizza Inn to be located on

(ADC continued on page 5)

2005-2006 County Profiles: A Wealth of Information!

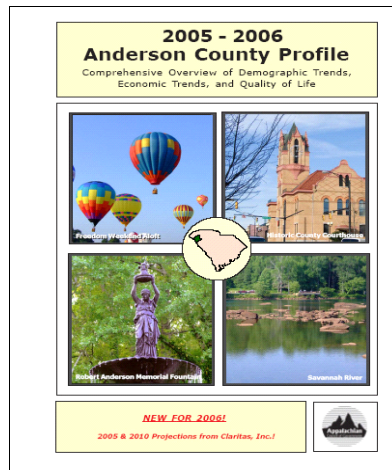
The ACOG Information Services Department is pleased to announce the release of the *2005-2006 County Profiles*. Presently available for Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Oconee, Pickens and Spartanburg Counties, these publications provide an overview of the demographic, economic, and quality of life characteristics of each county in the region.

These newly released reports are filled with updated information presented through numerous tables and colorful graphs, charts and maps. The reports also include an expanded *Quality of Life* section featuring a *Points of Interest* summary. This summary provides descriptions and photographs of features such as state parks, art museums, and historic sites, just to name a few.

The Appalachian Council of Governments researches and produces these publications annually using data from agencies such as the U. S. Census Bureau, U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, S. C. Employment Security Commission, and the State Data Center.

For the third year, persons in search of comprehensive socioeconomic data, charts and maps may now access these reports at any time of day from the convenience of their personal computers! These reports, and other publications, are now offered via online purchase. Upon secure payment through *Pay Pal*, the customer may download a full-color report, complete with data tables, charts, graphs, and maps. The online publications are available in a portable document format, so the customer can easily open the report upon downloading a free copy of the document viewer. Pre-printed reports may still be purchased from the ACOG by phone, mail, or walk-in.

Through September 30th, *County Profiles* are being offered at a reduced price! For more information,



or to take advantage of this “new-release” discount, visit our website at www.scacog.org, or contact the Information Services Department.

Getting the Family Involved

Are you a caregiver providing care for an older adult? Do you provide that care without the help of your family? Do you sometimes wish that your brothers, sisters, or even children would step in to help you? In most cases, one person is providing all of the care for their loved one, rarely receiving help from other family members. Here are a few tips that may help you make a connection with other family members and get them involved in caregiving.

Call a family meeting to discuss caregiving needs and ways for each person to help. Include everyone who is able to contribute. Consider holding the meetings in a neutral place with as few distractions as possible. If your family lives in other counties or states, you may want to consider e-mail, private web chat rooms or a telephone conference. An agenda will

need to be made ahead of time in order to keep everyone focused on the same goals.

How do you decide what decisions need to be made? If the care receiver is able, he or she should have a say in how care needs are met. The person who has the primary responsibility of providing care (or arranging care by professionals) should also have a say. Keep in mind that other family members’ views should be heard and respected, too. For health and legal reasons, the care receiver may use a Durable Power of Attorney document in order to designate someone to make decisions on his or her behalf.

What if a family member disagrees? It is common for people to disagree about the best way to approach a caregiving situation. Make sure each person’s concerns are heard. Try to reach a compromise. Avoid turning the disagreement into an argument. If an agreement is not reached, you may need to seek an individual from the outside such as a counselor, care manager, or even pastor to act as a mediator.

Remember to support the primary caregiver. Try to respect the person who is taking primary responsibility. The task they are performing is very difficult. Remember to offer solutions and support. Criticism is not a solution.

Don’t be afraid to take charge. When there are several people involved, remember to organize the tasks at hand. Be sure to make a list of what needs to be done. Ask people to volunteer for tasks. Consider having each person take responsibility for a different area of caregiving. For example, one person could take the care receiver to his or her medical appointments. Someone else could come in to sit with the person for 2 hours every other day. That might not sound like a lot to you, but to the primary caregiver it may be a huge relief.

What if others are not trying to help? Find out why. Sometimes friends and neighbors would like to help but are not sure how. Siblings may feel they are respecting the primary caregiver by not interfering. They may not

(Caregiving continued on page 4)

Facts on the National Do-Not-Call Registry and Cell Phones

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) has received several inquiries from consumers concerning e-mails that are being widely circulated claiming that cell phone numbers will soon be accessible to telemarketers if consumers do not register their cell phone numbers on the National DO NOT CALL (DNC) Registry. **The SCDCA is issuing this advisory to give consumers the FACTS.**

The Federal Trade Commission reiterated that, despite the claims made in e-mails circulating on the Internet, consumers should not be concerned that their cell phone numbers will be released to telemarketers in the near future, and that it is not necessary to register cell phone numbers on the National Do Not Call (DNC) Registry in order to be protected from most telemarketing calls to cell phones.

The truth about cell phones and the DNC Registry is:

- Cell phone numbers are NOT being released to telemarketers, and you will NOT soon be getting telemarketing calls on your cell phone.
- There is NO deadline by which you must register your cell phone number on the Registry.
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone numbers. Automated dialers are standard in the industry, so most telemarketers are barred from calling consumers on their cell phones without their consent.
- The national associations representing telemarketers have stated that their clients do not intend to start calling consumers' cell phones.
- There is only one DNC Registry. There is no separate registry for cell phones.
- The DNC Registry accepts registrations from both cell phones and land

lines. You must call from the phone number that you want to register. If you register online, you must respond to a confirmation e-mail.

- While the telecommunications industry has been discussing the possibility of creating a wireless 411 directory, according to the FCC, even if a wireless 411 directory is established, most telemarketing calls to cell phones would still be illegal, regardless of whether the number is listed on the federal government's National Do Not Call Registry.

In addition, according to the industry:

- Your number would not be included in a wireless 411 directory unless you wanted it to be (i.e. you will have to "opt-in"); and
- The wireless 411 directory would not be available in a printed, electronic, or Internet list for telemarketers. In other words, a list of numbers on the wireless 411 directory would not be made available to telemarketers.

The SCDCA continues to work to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement, and education. For information on other consumer protection issues, contact the Department at 3600 Forest Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, South Carolina 29250 or toll-free at 1.800.922.1594, or visit their Website at www.sconsumer.gov.



FACT:

The Appalachian COG was the first regional council in South Carolina. In 1965 it was known as the Appalachian Advisory Commission, which was created to advise the Governor on the use of Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds.

Watershed Leaders Forum



In 2005 the Appalachian and Upper Savannah Councils of Government began working together with the Saluda Reedy Watershed Consortium to offer a series of half-day seminars -- Watershed Leaders Forums -- for community leaders on water resource management issues of particular interest to the Upstate. Each Watershed Leaders Forum is for community leaders of all kinds, from local government officials to business executives to concerned community residents, and each forum covers a specific topic in a concise, information-rich format.

The next forum will be held Thursday, September 21, from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. in The Drummond Center at the Lake Greenwood State Recreation Area near Ninety Six. The Forum will address the methods and benefits of environmentally friendly lakeshore management. Developers will address the economic, public relations, and sales benefits of lake friendly development, and representatives from lake management organizations will speak about successes and lessons learned in their efforts to promote better lake stewardship. Experts will also address how to minimize the impacts of construction on water quality and how shoreline landscaping may be both beautiful and environmentally functional. If you would like more information on this event or more information on other topics, please contact Chip Bentley (242-9733) at the COG, or John Tynan at Upstate Forever (250-0500, Ext. 31).

WorkLink Expands Its Staff

WorkLink announced the expansion of its staff with the creation of two new positions: Youth Services Coordinator and OneStop Coordinator. According to the WorkLink Board and Director Julia Hoyle, the additions are a part of the organization's revitalized mission to connect more people to jobs in the Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties region.



Juan Luvane was appointed Youth Services Coordinator and will be responsible for serving as a Youth Council liaison, planning events such as Youth Job Fairs, managing youth service provider contracts and promoting youth programs in the region.

Luvane has considerable non-profit experience, especially as it relates to children's and families' services. He most recently served as an Outreach Specialist for A Child's Haven, and prior to that he worked for the Department of Children Services for the State of Tennessee for seven years. He earned a BS degree in criminal justice at East Tennessee State University.



Renee W. Gahan was appointed as the OneStop Coordinator and will be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the OneStop Workforce



System in the three counties, overseeing the functions of the OneStop Coordinators and OneStop partner relations, and working with the Rapid Response program to help dislocated workers connect to job resources and jobs via the OneStops.

Gahan has specialized experience and knowledge in working with both the Workforce Investment Act partners and the S. C. Employment Security Commission (SCESC).

Her most recent position was On-the-Job Training Coordinator for the SCESC. Prior to that position, she was Staffing Manager for Pinnacle Staffing of Greenville. She earned her BA degree from the University of South Carolina.

WorkLink is a non-profit organization representing Anderson Oconee and Pickens counties to connect companies to employees.



(Caregiving continued from page 2)

become involved unless asked directly. For whatever reason a person has not been involved, try talking through the issue with that person.

The Family Caregiver Support Program is here to help you as a primary caregiver work through the problems you may encounter while providing care for your loved one. If you need further information or support, please contact advocates Sam Wiley or Debra Brown at (864) 242-9733 or 1-800-925-4077.

November Constitutional Amendment Referendum — 15% Tax Assessment Cap (R.418, H.4450):



In November South Carolina voters will have an opportunity to call for a property tax assessment cap on real property. If approved, the constitutional change would allow the General Assembly to limit assessment growth to **15 percent** over each five-year reassessment cycle. Supporters claim that the cap will protect some homeowners from rapid increases in property taxes. Opponents say that the relief will apply only to a minority of homeowners at the expense of the great majority of homeowners. Your call...

The referendum question: "Must Article III and Article X of the Constitution of this State be amended to **authorize the General Assembly to establish the method of valuation** for real property based on **limits to increases in taxable value, adjusted for improvements and losses, of no more than fifteen percent over a five-year period**, unless an assessable transfer of interest occurs; to provide that, for purposes of calculating the limit on bonded indebtedness of political subdivisions and school districts, the assessed values of all taxable property within a political subdivision or school district shall not be lower than the assessed values for

(Vote continued on page 5)



New Generation Jobs from Appalachia's Natural Assets

Eastern Kentucky Exposition Center
October 11-13, 2006 • Pikeville, Kentucky

The Appalachian Regional Commission's annual fall conference will take place this year in Pikeville, Kentucky, at the Eastern Kentucky Exposition Center. The conference theme is **New Generation Jobs from Appalachia's Natural Assets**. Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher and ARC Co-Chair Anne Pope will kick off the meeting at 8:00 a.m. on October 12, followed by sessions on Natural Assets and Gateway Communities, Entrepreneurial Opportunity in the Energy Field, Alternative Energy for Local Decision-Makers, Redevelopment in Mine-Impacted Communities, Adventure Tourism, and information on ARC's Energy Blueprint.

Optional pre-conference activities on October 11 include a tour of the Pikeville Cut-Through and the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine. A post-conference excursion to Marion's Branch Coal Mine is also available on October 13.

Appalachia's lands, forests, and energy reserves have long been an important part of the region's economic base. Today, through evolving technologies and strategies, they can help lead the way to a new generation of jobs. Join the ARC in Pikeville to learn how the region's communities can build on their rich natural resources to achieve strong, sustainable economies.

For more information on the conference, accommodations, or to register, visit the conference web site at www.arc.gov/fallconference.

Ombudsman Corner



Members of the Anderson, Pickens, Oconee, Greenville Police/Sheriff's Departments and Attorney General's Office

On August 15, 2006, the Appalachian Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Attorney General's Office held the first regional training on *Elder Abuse and the Law*. It was held locally at the Appalachian Council of Governments' training room.

Ms. Nancy Hawkins presented the Ombudsman Program, along with State and Federal Regulations. Messrs. Ken Moore and Jim Bagnall, from the S. C. Attorney General's Office, presented the Omnibus Adult Protection Act (OAPA) and the responsibilities of local law enforcement agencies. The local ombudsmen each gave an overview of their cases with which law enforcement personnel have assisted.

Local law enforcement representatives learned about who the vulnerable adults are and what their needs are in regard to protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The Ombudsman Program is here to assist local law enforcement agencies in completing their investigations for those who live in long term care facilities.

Together we can all make a difference!

Your Area Long Term Care Ombudsmen: Nancy Hawkins, Jamie Guay, Rhonda Monroe, Celia Clark, Sandy Dunagan, and Jessica Arnone; phone: 864-242-9733.

(Changes continued from page 1)

the standard of excellence established during Bob Strother's tenure as both his greatest asset and greatest challenge, noting that "this is a great time to be at the helm of the Council of Governments. Our standing with the local governments across the region is as strong as it has ever been. Our ongoing programs are in great shape, and our staff has several innovative ideas for providing even greater service to the region. Maintaining the standards set by Bob will be a real challenge, but an exciting one. In addition, our continued success is supported by the highly motivated staff we have in place, as well as our active and committed Board."



(Vote continued from page 4)

2006; and to provide that the General Assembly, by general law and not through local legislation pertaining to a single county or other political subdivision, shall provide for the terms, conditions, and procedures to implement the above provisions?"

Yes [] No []



(ADC continued from page 1)

Highway 9 in the Boiling Springs community of Spartanburg County.

Skyline Exhibits was approved for \$295,000 to assist in purchasing a building in Greenville County.

The ADC has other programs that provide secondary, partial funding up to \$200,000 in fixed-rate financing. Please contact George Long or Dave Mueller at 864-242-9733 for more information on these programs.

VIEWPOINT

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