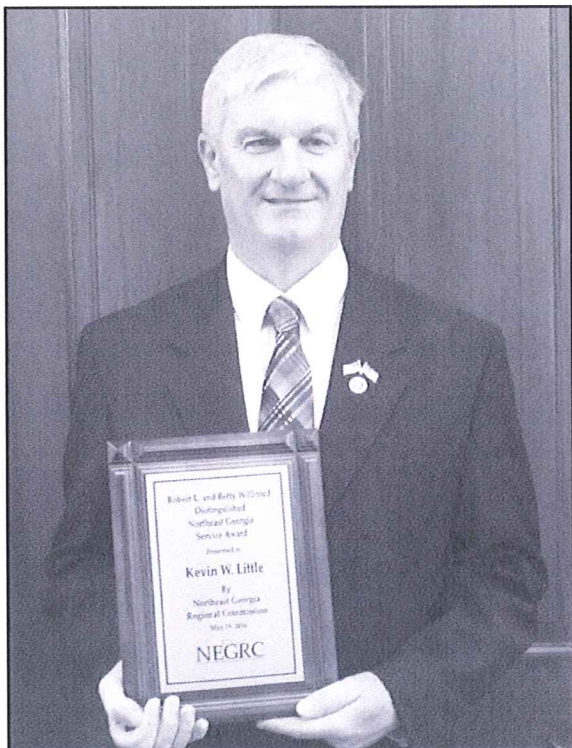


## ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTED BY NEGRC

Walton County Board of Commissioners Chairman **Kevin Little** is the 2016 recipient of the Robert L. and Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgian Award. The presentation was made at the Annual Meeting of the NEGRC Council, held in conjunction with its May meeting. Our honoree is a life-long resident of Walton County. He graduated from Monroe Area High School in 1984 and received a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Political Science from Georgia College. After graduation, he worked for three years with the Georgia Department of Transportation prior to joining Walton County as Traffic and Safety Engineer. He assumed the role of Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in 2001, and this year was re-elected to serve a fifth four-year term. He serves on the Hard Labor Creek Regional Reservoir Management Board, the Joint Development Authority of Jasper, Morgan, Newton, and Walton Counties, and the Walton County Development Authority. In 2008, he was elected to the ACCG Board of Managers representing District 5, and served as its President in 2015. He also served a two-year term as Chairman of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council in 2014-15. Also in 2015, he was appointed by Governor Deal to serve on the newly formed Department of Community Supervision. He and wife Wendy are the proud parents of four children.

Jackson County Manager **Kevin Poe** was honored at the event as Local Government Administrator of the Year. He was appointed as Jackson County Manager in December 2011. Prior to this, he served as County Manager of Floyd County, Assistant City Manager of LaGrange, and Public Works Director for Floyd County. He is District Director for the Georgia City/County Managers Association, and Vice Chairman of the Advantage Behavioral Health Systems Community Service Board. He is a member of the International City/County Managers Association, Board of Trustees of the ACCG Defined Benefit Pension Program, Jackson County Family Connection Board of Directors, and ACTION, Inc. Board of Directors. He earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a Master of Public Administration Degree from the University of West Georgia. He and wife Anne have three grown children.



*Chairman Little*

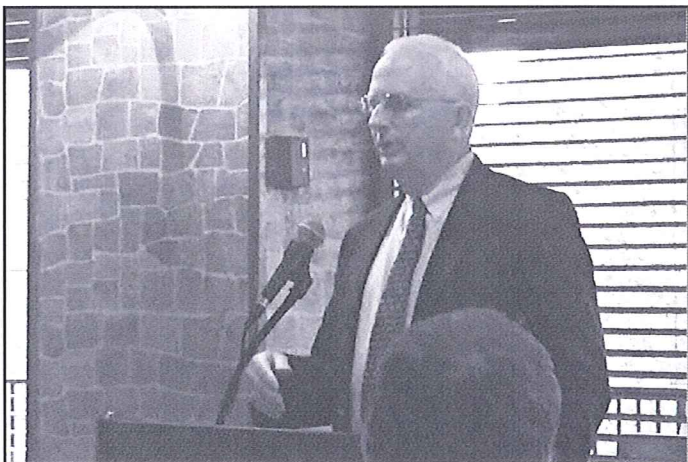


*Mr. Poe with Executive Director Dove*

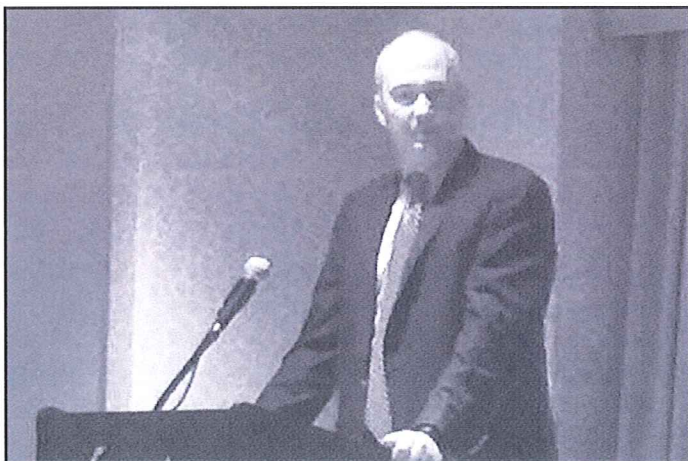


## GARC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Economic Development Conference was held on May 1-3 at Lake Lanier Islands Resort. There were more than 50 persons in attendance. NEGRC was represented by **Jim Dove**, **Burke Walker**, and Council Member **Lamar Houston**. The meeting began on Sunday afternoon with a briefing for regional commissions involved in the Appalachian Regional Commission programs. The evening's speaker was **Gary Black**, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. On Monday there were informative sessions regarding Mainstreet/Downtown Development, Georgia's Tax Incentives, Brownfields/EPA Programs, Economic Development Administration Updates, and Public Private Partnerships (P3). The featured speaker at dinner was **Christopher Nunn**, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The conference concluded on Tuesday morning with the GARC Policy Members and Executive Directors meeting and the Economic Development Committee meeting of staff. At the staff meeting, Mr. Walker was elected to serve as Committee Chairman of that group for the next year.



*Commissioner Black*



*Mr. Nunn*

## LYON TO SERVE AS ACCG PRESIDENT

Elbert County Chairman **Tommy Lyon** was installed as ACCG President for 2016-17 and will lead the association's 40-member Board of Managers for the next year. As ACCG President, Chairman Lyon will work with ACCG Executive Director **Ross King** and the Board of Managers to direct the association and guide policies over the next year. His priorities for the year include supporting the association's legislative work, fostering further development of the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy for county officials and focusing on healthcare concerns – especially in rural communities.

Chairman Lyon was first elected to serve as Elbert County Chairman in 2006 and is currently serving his third four-year term. He was first named to the ACCG Board of Managers in 2011 as the District 5 Representative.

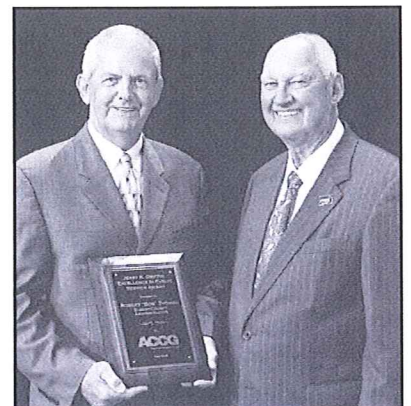
"The ACCG Board of Managers is comprised of individuals with a passion for public service. They show a willingness to serve not only as a leader in their own community but also as a leader among their peers by serving their statewide association," said ACCG Executive Director King. "Chairman Lyon has taken an active role in ACCG as a Board member and our policy making process and our commissioners' training program, the Lifelong Learning Academy. He also will be a strong voice on behalf of our organization over the next year."

Also serving on the Board of Managers are Oglethorpe County Chairman **Billy Pittard** and Past Presidents **Melvin Davis** of Oconee County and **Kevin Little** of Walton County.

ACCG is Georgia's county association and works on behalf of county officials and their communities by providing public policy and legislative advocacy, leadership development, civic and community engagement initiatives, insurance and retirement programs that specialize in local government needs and other cost-saving programs. Formed in 1914 when county officials came together to help fund the state's first highway department, ACCG today serves as a catalyst for advancing Georgia's counties.

## THOMAS RECEIVES ACCG AWARD

At the conference, ACCG also awarded Elbert County Administrator **Bob Thomas** with the 2016 Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award. Each year, ACCG presents leadership awards to county officials to recognize them for their outstanding public service and leadership in county government. The Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award is presented to an elected or appointed county official who exhibits dedication and commitment to public service.



*Mr. Thomas and Chairman Lyon*



"On behalf of ACCG, I congratulate Bob on his recent selection as the recipient of the 2016 Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award," said ACCG Executive Director King. "Bob is indeed a great example of what it means to be a public servant. It is evident through his work in Elbert County."

Thomas has served as county administrator in Elbert County for 10 years. Prior to his time with the county government, he served on the local school board both as a member and chairman, a position he held for two years. Thomas is credited with assisting Elbert County transform its finances as the county debt totaled over \$2 million when he became administrator. He was eventually able to control expenses with the implementation of conservative fiscal practices. The county now has approximately \$2 million in reserves and is no longer in debt.

In addition to reviving the county's finances, Thomas is also commended for completing numerous projects to continue to provide services to Elbert County residents during strenuous economic times. He was able to complete the projects with the county's SPLOST funds and without having to borrow. Some of those projects include the restoration of the old courthouse, completion of a new senior complex, three new fire departments, new EMS and EMA buildings, a new jail, and the purchase of eight new ambulances as well as nine tanker trucks for water shuttle which contribute to the reduction of the county's fire rating. Lastly, Thomas assisted with overseeing the rail connection between Hartwell and CSX railroads, an economic milestone for the county.

## WIOA YOUTH PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

**Fajr DeLane** is a graduating senior at Clarke Central High School in Athens. She enrolled in the WIA/WIOA In-School Youth program administered by ACTION, Inc. at the beginning of her junior year at Clarke Central. As an enrollee in this program, she had access to resources to assist her in completing her high school education including leadership development, work experience, financial literacy, college preparation and work preparation activities.



Ms. DeLane is a recipient of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Millennium Scholarship valued at \$200,000. Started in 1999, 1,000 Gates Millennium Scholarships are awarded each year to students of color graduating from high schools in the United States. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential by providing access to higher education. Ms. DeLane plans to attend Agnes Scott College in the fall majoring in public health and business management. She recently spoke to the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board.

For information on this and other Workforce Development Programs administered by the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's Workforce Division under the direction of the

Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board, please contact staff at **(706) 369-5703**.

### REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council will be held on **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

## ARC GRANT DEADLINE

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) provides financial assistance for planning and development projects in Barrow, Elbert, Jackson, and Madison Counties in the NEGRC region. The grant application process begins with submission of a "pre-application" that is due on August 15, 2016 to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

The NEGRC's Planning & Government Services (PGS) staff can assist local governments in determining project eligibility as well as developing and writing the grant application. Last month **Annaka Woodruff**, Georgia ARC Program Manager, coordinated a series of workshops intended to familiarize interested parties with the ARC application process. **Burke Walker**, PGS Director, and **Jordan Shoemaker**, PGS Project Specialist, attended the meeting for the NEGRC region. It was held on May 9<sup>th</sup> in Hartwell and included a presentation by **Ray Daffner**, ARC's Entrepreneurial Development Manager. Daffner provided an informative overview of how competitive projects are: Strategic, Collaborative, Impactful, and Sustainable. Projects also must meet one or more of ARC's goals that were also described in detail by Daffner during the workshop.

For communities interested in participating in the next round of ARC grant applications, information about the Georgia ARC program is available on DCA's website at: **<https://www.dca.ga.gov/economic/financing/programs/arc.asp>**. In addition, PGS staff is available to discuss a potential project and answer specific questions. Interested local governments, however, should contact the NEGRC for assistance with ARC grant applications by **June 15, 2016** in order to meet the August deadline. For further information, contact Mr. Walker at (706) 369-5650 or email: **[bwalker@negrc.org](mailto:bwalker@negrc.org)**.



*Mr. Walker addresses group*



305 Research Drive  
Athens, GA 30605

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT. STD.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ATHENS, GA  
PERMIT NO. 502

*Update*

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

**June**

8	12:30 p.m.	Solid Waste Management Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	10:00 a.m.	Joint Development Authority of NEGA	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
16	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
16	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
21	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Emergency Medical Services	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

~

*Sincerely & Respectfully,*