

FOUR NEGRC COUNCIL MEMBERS RETIRING FROM SERVICE

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission will say goodbye to four members of the Council at the end of this year. Each has served with distinction in various capacities.



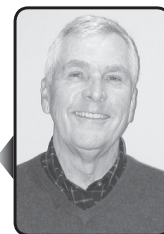
Melvin Davis, currently completing a fourth four-year term as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in Oconee County, did not seek re-election. He is a former Chairman of our Council, has Chaired the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority for 13 years, is a member of the State Workforce Board, and Past President of ACCG among various public service activities.

Madison County Board of Commissioners Chairman **Anthony Dove** is retiring from that position after serving two four-year terms. Chairman Dove has served as a member of the NEGRC Audit & Finance Committee, and was very active in the Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS).



Keith Ellis, Chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners, served one four-year term and did not seek re-election. Chairman Ellis was a devoted member of the NEGRC Program of Work Committee and utilized NEGRC staff at every opportunity regarding matters in Newton County.

Finally, Greene County Commission Chairman **Ed Bullard** retired from public service and recently relocated to Virginia. Mr. Bullard was an active member of the NEGRC Audit & Finance Committee and was very involved in Workforce Development efforts in his home County. Executive Director **Jim Dove** indicated, "The contributions made by each of the retiring members have benefited residents throughout our region. Their guidance and counsel on NEGRC matters will be sorely missed by the Council and staff."



NEGRC AND PARTNERS WALK FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENES

The month of October was designated as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The effort is comprised of several national public service organizations, professional medical associations and government agencies working in partnership to build breast cancer awareness, share information, and provide access to screening services. About one in eight U.S. women, or 12.4%, will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime.

In support of NEGRC awareness and to raise funds for the Loran Smith Center for Cancer Support at Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center, 22 persons walked on Wednesday, October 19th. Those walking included NEGRC staff, partner agency staff, and technical college students. Over \$300 was raised to help support the Loran Smith Center. We hope to have increased participation and raise an enhanced amount of funds next year!



Walk Participants

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS WELCOMED

Our partnership with the University of Georgia provides us with a unique opportunity to meet with international visitors engaged in cultural exchange programs facilitated by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, on a fairly frequent basis. On September 21st, a small group of officials from Shanghai met with Executive Director Dove and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck** to gain an overview of NEGRC roles and responsibilities and tour the facilities. The group followed up with attendance at the October Council meeting.

On October 14th, Mr. Dove and Ms. Beck met with a Korean delegation including 20 leaders. That group also heard a presentation regarding the history of regional planning in our state, along with discussion of various activities undertaken by NEGRC staff. Following the presentation, the group had numerous comments and questions which demonstrated their interest in planning, economic development, and workforce development programs.

On Friday, October 28th, the Workforce Development Division made a presentation to a delegation from Shanghai. There were also 20 persons in this delegation, and an overview of workforce development initiatives in Northeast Georgia was shared with the group. Included were efforts to assist employers in meeting their workforce needs including an overview of the local area's workplace fundamentals programming, as well as use of the area's computerized mobile learning units. Information was also shared on the new brand "WorkSource Georgia - Connecting Talent with Opportunity".



Korean visitors above



Chinese visitors above

LOCAL STAFF PRESENT AT NAWDP YOUTH CONFERENCE

NEGRC Workforce Development Division staff and partner staff from Athens Technical College presented a workshop at the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals on October 31st - November 2nd. **Kim Meadows** and **Rima Sullivan** of the NEGRC Workforce Development Division and **Stephanie Benson** and **Chris Thaxton** of Athens Technical College Adult Education Division presented on the Bridge to Success youth program funded through WIOA youth funds and operated by the College. Over 600 persons from throughout the country attended the conference, and the workshop had more than 175 participants.

For further information on WIOA funded activities in Northeast Georgia, please contact the NEGRC Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.



Meadows, Thaxton, Benson, Sullivan

GARC CONFERENCE

The Annual Training Conference of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions was held November 2nd – 4th at St. Simons Island. NEGRC attendees included Council members **Melvin Davis, Lamar Houston, Kevin Little, and Tommy Lyon**, as well as staff members **Mott Beck, Jim Dove, Michelle Kelley, Rhonda Keeter, and Burke Walker**. (Staff member **Justin Crighton** was scheduled to attend, but was unable to due to the birth of a son.) Attendance at the conference increased by approximately 20% over recent years. Participants heard from DCA Commissioner **Camila Knowles**, State Senator **Butch Miller**, GDOT Board Member **Tim Golden** and **Meg Pirkle** of the GDOT staff, Agriculture Commissioner **Gary Black**, Carl Vinson Institute of Government Director **Laura Meadows, Todd Edwards** of ACCG, and **Justin Kimon** of GMA. In addition, there were several breakout sessions of interest to Council members and staff.



Beck (c) with Boatwright & Perez

AGING STAFF ATTENDS SENIOR HUNGER SUMMIT

The first-ever Senior Hunger Summit was recently held in Stone Mountain. The Georgia Department of Human Services held the Summit to raise awareness of the issue of senior hunger in Georgia and to begin developing a plan to end it. The Summit addressed underlying issues that contribute to food insecurity for older Georgians, such as isolation, transportation, mobility and eligibility for programs that assist in providing nutrition services. The Department of Human Services was able to bring together experts, policymakers, advocates and members of the business community to kick start discussions of why Georgia ranks in the top 10 states in terms of food insecurity for seniors. The Summit also served as a foundation for Georgia's first plan to address senior hunger. Speakers and presenters from across the country convened to provide workshops including Senior Hunger: The national and local issue, Barriers to food access: How Policy can support our efforts, and Food Recovery: Getting available food to those who need it. In addition, Aging staff had the opportunity to network with other agencies and organizations. Attendees included **Melissa Driskell** (Jasper County Senior Center), **Dr. Mary Ann Johnson** (University of Georgia), and **Sarah Kruse** (Athens Community Council on Aging). Aging staff attending included **Michele Kelley** and **Anne Hansen**.

For additional information on the Summit and other issues affecting the aging community, please visit www.dhs.ga.gov. For information on aging services, food assistance programs and other resources, contact **Megan Vogt** with the **Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging** at 706-583-2546 Ext. 208.



Knowles



Dove & Black



Meadows



Golden



Lyon & Little



Register & Davis

Have a Safe
and Happy
Holiday Season!



Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS DECEMBER

6	11:30 a.m.	CARE-NET	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
9	10:00 a.m.	NEGA Senior Center Directors	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
14	12:30 p.m.	Solid Waste Management Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
14	10:00 a.m.	Joint Development Authority of Northeast Georgia	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
20	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Emergency Medical Services	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
22	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room



Sincerely & Respectfully,