



OLDER AMERICANS MONTH 2017

Getting older doesn't mean what it used to. For many aging Americans, it is a phase of life where interests, goals, and dreams can get a new or second start. Today, aging is about eliminating outdated perceptions and living the way that suits you best.

Barbara Hillary, a nurse for 55 years, dreamed of travel, and at age 75 she became the first African American woman to set foot on the North Pole. In 2011, at age 79, she set another first when she stepped onto the South Pole. Former President **George H.W. Bush** celebrated his 90th birthday by skydiving. Actress **Betty White**, now 95 years old, became the oldest person to host Saturday Night Live in May 2010, the same month recognized as Older Americans Month (OAM).

Since 1963, OAM has been a time to celebrate older Americans, their stories, and their contributions. Led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), the annual observance offers a special opportunity to learn about, support, and recognize our nation's older citizens. This year's theme, "Age Out Loud," emphasizes the ways older adults are living their lives with boldness, confidence, and passion while serving as an inspiration to people of all ages.

While the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging and local agencies provide services to older adults year-round, we will use OAM 2017 to focus on how older adults in our community are redefining aging; through work or family interests, by taking charge of their health and staying independent for as long as possible, and through their community and advocacy efforts. We can also use this opportunity to learn how we can best support and learn from our community's older members.

Visit the Official OAM Website at <https://oam.acl.gov/>. Contact the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging office by visiting <http://www.eldercare.gov/> or calling **1-800-474-7540** to find ongoing opportunities to celebrate and support older Americans.

REMINDER

The next meeting of the NEGRC Council will be held on **Thursday, May 18th at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. This meeting will include presentation of the annual awards. Further information will be forwarded prior to the meeting.

NEGRC STAFF ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCES IN DC

Two national conferences held recently in Washington, DC were attended by NEGRC staff. The Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA), including 73 local development districts in a 13-state region extending from New York to Mississippi, held its annual conference at the Crystal Gateway Marriott on March 19th – 21st. Executive Director **Jim Dove** currently serves as the Immediate Past President of the DDAA. Planning & Government Services Director **Burke Walker** also attended the conference. In addition to the DDAA Executive Board Meeting and the DDAA Annual Membership Meeting, the dinner banquet included an address by Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-Chair **Earl Gohl** and a presentation by Youngstown State University President and former Head Football Coach at Ohio State University **Jim Tressel**. Other sessions at the conference were devoted to workforce development, higher education, economic development, energy, and entrepreneurship.

Dove also attended the 2017 National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) National Policy Conference which was held on the same dates at the same hotel and overlapped with the DDAA conference. He is a nine-term member of the NADO Board. In addition to the Board of Directors meeting, various sessions focused on challenges facing the Economic Development Administration (EDA),

strengthening the regions through economic diversification, aging policy, workforce development, transportation, current political landscape, and rural policy priorities.



Mr. Dove and Mr. Tressel



Mr. Gohl

2020 CENSUS LUCA INFORMATION

The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) operation is important to local governments as it provides an opportunity to verify addresses in their community for data-gathering in the new 2020 Decennial Census.

To help local governments better prepare for the new Census, the NEGRC last month hosted an informational session to learn more about LUCA. This session covered several important LUCA topics including benefits to your community, new LUCA items, scheduling and others. The session was particularly geared to local government managers, chief elected officials, and GIS staff. **William Curry II**, Geographer from the U.S Census Bureau's Atlanta Regional Office, conducted the training in the NEGRC's E.H. Culpepper Conference Room.

For those local governments unable to attend, additional information is available by contacting **Lisa Westin** at lisa.westin@dca.ga.gov. In addition, two final sessions will be held on May 4th and May 8th in Macon and Gainesville, respectively. Visit the NEGRC

website at <http://negrc.org/local-services.php> for presentation materials from the training session. For other questions about the session and its materials, contact **Julie Ball**, NEGRC Program Assistant, at jball@negrc.org.

LUCA session participants



SAMUEL ELBERT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER OPENS

On April 6, 2017 a milestone was reached with the re-opening of the historic Samuel Elbert Hotel in Elberton. The City of Elberton oversaw the project in conjunction with the Elberton Downtown Development Authority that created a needed hotel in the City and also within its historic downtown. Mayor **Larry Guest** provided a dedication ceremony along with City Manager **Lanier Dunn** and Councilmember **Joel Seymour**. Attendees to the ceremony were invited to tour the new hotel, see guest rooms and enjoy refreshments prepared by its "White Plate" restaurant.

The historic hotel first opened in 1925 and in later years was used for other purposes. With the hotel's restoration, a new conference center and restaurant exists on the square, as it did in the last century. The new boutique hotel can accommodate small conference meetings between 20-30 persons with onsite catering through the restaurant, and 27 guest rooms.

The NEGRC provided assistance to the City in 2015 with the project in finding and selecting an architectural firm experienced in historic rehabilitations and hotels. The hotel makes overnight visits to Elberton possible for those wanting to enjoy Elbert County's many amenities including Historic Elberton's Downtown Square, the Elberton Theater, Elberton Arts Center, Jim Ree Museum, Rock Gym and Savannah River productions, Granite Association Museum, the Guidestones, Richard B. Russell State Park, Bobby Brown Park and others.

For further information on the hotel and reservations, visit www.elberthotel.com or call (762) 533-0049.



Mayor Larry Guest addresses group at dedication



REGIONAL WATER PLANS AVAILABLE

Georgia's Water Councils recently updated their respective Regional Water Plans that are now available online for review and comment.

These plans require updating every five years, and the comment period runs through May 19, 2017. The NEGRC region extends across three Regional Water Basins including Middle Ocmulgee, Upper Oconee, and Savannah Upper Ogeechee. Draft plans for each of these areas are available for review and comment at: <https://epd.georgia.gov/draft-regional-water-plans>. Alternatively, comments may also be sent via USPS mail and addressed to: Georgia EPD, Attn: **Jennifer Welte**, Watershed Protection Branch, 2 MLK, Jr. Dr. S.W., Suite 1152, Atlanta, GA 30334.

Each of these draft plans were developed with participation from members of each area's Regional Water Councils, which were created in 2009. Their role was to consider updated water and wastewater demand forecasts while also assessing available resources. Each of the draft plans lists the members of the Water Councils as well as informative details about each region.

For additional information, please contact Ms. Welte at **(404) 463-1694**.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WORKFORCE BOARD (NAWB) ANNUAL MEETING

Joe Vogt, NEGA Workforce Development Board (WDB) Chair and **Carol Rayburn Cofer**, NEGRC Workforce Development Division Director attended the National Association of Workforce Board's (NAWB) Annual Meeting and Conference in Washington, D.C., March 25th - 28th. Over 1,600 Workforce Board members and senior staff from across the country attended this meeting. There were over 50 workshops focusing on Board Development, Program Delivery, Regulations and Evaluation, Systems Approach, Sector Strategies, and Youth Programs. There were over 45 sponsors and exhibitors with cutting edge technology and products, and time was provided for conference attendees to interact with these exhibitors.

Each day started with a plenary session focused on workforce development issues facing the workforce system. The luncheons included speakers addressing related workforce challenges. Opportunities were provided to network with attendees from other parts of the country sharing best practices. Information gathered at the conference will be used to assist the Northeast Georgia Region to develop workforce strategies to better serve the residents of Northeast Georgia.

For additional information regarding the NAWB or the WDB, contact Ms. Rayburn at **(706) 369-5703**.

FELISA CREAMER SUCCESS STORY

Ms. **Felisa Creamer** is a successful graduate not only from the WIA High School program, but also from the WIA Out-of-School Youth program. She graduated from Clarke Central High School in 2009, with the guidance and support of her WIA case manager from ACTION, Inc. She participated in the Summer Work Experience Program, where she learned valuable job skills. Ms. Creamer entered post-secondary education at Clayton State University, with a goal of eventually entering the Nursing Program. As a first-generation college student, she faced many challenges as she attended college. Not only did she struggle in school, but her single, disabled mother was battling cancer. She was undergoing chemotherapy on a weekly basis, and Ms. Creamer was torn between wanting to be at home to assist her mother, and pursuing her dream of attending Nursing school.

She completed her two years of core classes, and reached one of her goals of being accepted into the Nursing Program at Clayton State University. She applied to WIA for tuition assistance in January 2013. Although she was receiving the HOPE scholarship and the PELL grant, this was not enough to cover her tuition, books, supplies and fees. With the assistance of both WIA and ACTION, Inc., Ms. Creamer was able to relieve some of the financial burden that was weighing on her. Both programs worked in tandem to provide case management to serve her throughout the remainder of her college years, providing both financial and emotional support.

Sadly, her mother lost her battle with cancer shortly after she started the Nursing Program. With encouragement from her Case Managers, she persevered and continued with her studies, overcoming other life events including the death of a close friend. Ms. Creamer graduated in May 2015 with honors!

She returned home to Athens to study for her nursing license, and continuously struggled with the absence of her mother and friend. WIA and ACTION, Inc. Case Managers continually reached out to her to make sure she didn't lose sight of her dream. She now holds the credentials of RN, BSN, and has been employed full-time as a registered nurse with Athens Neighborhood Health Center since August 2016. Ms. Creamer stated, "Every little bit of support from WIOA and ACTION, Inc. made a difference, pushed me, and I would not be here without the support of both programs".

For information on programs and opportunities available through the NEGRC Workforce Development Division, please call **(706) 369-5703**.



Ms. Creamer



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REGIONAL MEETINGS

MAY

2	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Development Youth Council	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
9	8:30 a.m.	Workforce Development Board	NEGRC Atrium
18	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
24	9:30 a.m.	Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room



Sincerely & Respectfully,