

WILLIAMS AND LOMBARD RECEIVE AWARDS

State Representative **Chuck Williams** is the 2017 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 the May meeting. He has represented District 119, including Oconee County and a portion of Clarke County, since winning a Special Election in July, 2011. Representative Williams' legislative committee assignments have included Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Appropriations, Banks and Banking, Higher Education, Information and Audits, and Natural Resources and Environment. He is a graduate of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and the University of Georgia. Representative Williams is a past chair of the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce, Oconee County Industrial Development Authority, Georgia Bankers Association, and the Georgia Future Farmers of America Alumni Association. In addition, he has served on the University of Georgia Alumni Association Board Of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Georgia Forestry Association. He and his wife **Beth** live in Oconee County.

Greene County Manager **Byron Lombard** was honored at the event as Local Government Administrator of the Year. Mr. Lombard was retained as Manager in 1999 after serving previously as Public Works Director. He is a graduate of Georgia Tech with a degree in Business Management. He is very involved in the local community serving as coach of youth sports, fire chief, emergency medical technician, and Director of the County Emergency Management Agency. As chief executive officer for the county, his responsibilities include oversight of the day-to-day activities of the county staff who are not employees of a constitutional officer. Mr. Lombard and wife **Lovette** have resided in the county since 1989.



(L-R): Mr. Dove, Representative Williams and Lamar Houston



(L-R): Jeffery Smith, Mr. Dove, Byron Lombard and Gary Usry

ABBY COX ADDRESSES NEGRC COUNCIL

Abby Cox, Director of the Georgia Division of Aging Services (DAS), addressed the NEGRC Council at its April meeting. This marked the second such presentation by Ms. Cox. She remarked that DAS has made great strides in recent years in increased opportunities and services for the senior population of our state. Aging programs benefitting greatly in the state's FY18 budget include non-Medicaid Home and Community-Based Service, Home Delivered and Congregate Meals, Adult Protective Services, and the Georgia Alzheimer's Project. Ms. Cox stressed the importance of promoting a greater awareness of all resources available to assist in providing care of our seniors. One such valuable resource at NEGRC is the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC). This program streamlines access to long-term care by serving as a one-stop shop for consumers' aging and disability related information, counseling, referral, and planning needs. In closing, Ms. Cox stressed the relevance of senior centers as they continue to advocate for our senior population.



Ms. Cox and Mr. Dove

To learn more about the NEGRC Area Agency on Aging and its services, contact **Peggy Jenkins** at (706) 369-5650.

GEORGIA'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

While attending the ACCG Annual Conference, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service staff provided a copy of **2017 AG Snapshots**, a brief focus on the state's agricultural industry. The booklet is full of great information and fun facts such as:

- Agriculture contributed \$74.9 billion in output to Georgia's \$917.6 billion economy.
- In national agricultural commodity ranking, Georgia is first in blueberries, broilers, peanuts, pecans and spring season onions; second in rye, cotton, cucumbers, total pullets, and watermelon; and third in bell peppers, peaches and sweet corn.
- Forest industry production and processing accounted for a total economic contribution of \$17.7 billion and over 73,300 jobs.
- There are more than 42,250 farms in the state, and the average farm size is 228 acres.
- You could make 516 million pairs of blue jeans from Georgia's annual cotton production.
- It takes 540 peanuts to make a 12 ounce jar of peanut butter.
- You could make 11 basketballs from the hide of one cow.

To learn more about Georgia's Agribusiness, or obtain a copy of the booklet, contact the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development at **(706) 542-2434** or **www.caed.uga.edu**.

REMINDER

The next meeting of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission will be held on **Thursday, June 15th at Noon at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.

ACCG HOLDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 103rd Annual Conference of ACCG, Georgia's County Association, was held April 27th through May 1st at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. Hosted by Elbert County Chairman and ACCG President **Tommy Lyon**, the conference provided opportunities for elected/appointed officials and ACCG partners to participate in numerous interesting and informative sessions. The opening keynote session featuring former Army Ranger **Ken Thomas** was certainly a highlight, along

with the Legislative Update and the presentation on Enhancing Broadband Access in Georgia. Executive Director **Jim Dove** was present and worked the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions' booth at the County Buyers Mart along with several colleagues. He had the opportunity to visit with representatives from each of our twelve counties.

PLANNING RETREAT HELD IN MONROE

At the request of Mayor Greg Thompson and the Monroe City Council, Jim Dove and Mott Beck facilitated a Strategic Planning Retreat on Tuesday, May 16th at the Utilities Training Center. They were assisted in coordinating the session by recently named City Administrator **Logan Propes**. After hearing extensive presentations on the recently completed Comprehensive Plan and Economic Development activities, participants identified the City's strengths and challenges. Afterwards, they determined topics on which to focus during the retreat. The Mayor and Council decided on the four short-term goals of utmost importance. These included: 1) employment of a City Planner; 2) addressing housing related matters; 3) improvements to the City's sewer system; and 4) expanding City/County relations. City officials are already looking forward to a similar session at this time next year.



Monroe Retreat Participants

SIX PIMS SLATED FOR 2018

The NEGRC's Planning & Government Services (PGS) Division meets every year with six of its member counties to review and discuss their respective planning efforts and implementation of comprehensive plans. These meetings, called Plan Implementation Meetings (PIM), require the participation of the chief-elected

officials (Chairs and Mayors) and is convened as a joint meeting with the county and their municipalities. These meetings are held as part of the regional planning efforts the NEGRC provides in partnership with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

For fiscal year 2018 that begins on July 1st, PGS staff will notify local governments about scheduling these meetings that are typically held between the months of September and December. The meetings serve as a good opportunity for PGS staff to learn of local government needs and efforts that may require assistance from the NEGRC. It also provides PGS staff the opportunity to communicate and offer information about programs that may benefit individual local governments.

This year, the following counties will be invited to hold a PIM: **Athens-Clarke, Barrow, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, and Walton.** Each of these counties and their municipalities will receive a letter between July and August 2017 with details about scheduling these meetings. In the past, these meetings have proven most successful when the county serves as the lead to host the meeting. Individual meetings, however, can be scheduled if requested by a local government.

For further information about the upcoming PIM meetings, please contact **Burke Walker**, Director of Planning & Government Services, at **bwalker@negrc.org** or **(706) 369-5650**.

CAREGIVERS OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

In Georgia, more than 1.3 million family caregivers provide billions of dollars of care to family members living with chronic illnesses, disabilities and limitations of aging. They are supported in their work by an army of dedicated volunteer and paraprofessional caregivers. The work of these individuals together makes it possible for Georgians with disabilities and chronic illnesses to live with dignity in the community.

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, in cooperation with the Northeast Georgia CARE-NET, is accepting nominations for the **Georgia Caregiver of the Year Awards**. The awards began in 2007 as a way to honor the work of caregivers and to focus public attention on the contributions of caregivers throughout the state. These awards will be presented to exemplary caregivers in three categories:

1. **Family Caregiver** (relative or non-relative perceived as family)
2. **Para-Professional Caregivers** (ex. LPN, CNA, Home Health Aide, Direct Support Caregiver, etc.)
3. **Volunteer Caregiver** (people who volunteer their time to provide care to others through community agencies, churches, or as individuals)

The Northeast Georgia CARE-NET would like to honor local individuals who demonstrate uncommon levels of caring, compassion, and resourcefulness in providing care for those in need and their families. The Northeast Georgia winners will be submitted to the Rosalynn Carter Institute to be considered for the statewide Georgia Caregiver of the Year Awards and will be honored with other regional winners during the 30th Anniversary Summit of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving on October 25th – 27th in Americus. Local caregivers will also be honored during a Caregiver Celebration on November 2nd in Athens.

To nominate an outstanding caregiver in Northeast Georgia, please request a nomination form by contacting **Michele Kelley** at **706-583-2546 Ext. 102** or **mkelley@negrc.org**. The deadline to submit nominations is July 17, 2017.

MEET JOHNQUAVIOUS ANSLEY

Johnquavious Ansley is a recent participant in the WIOA program. The father of twin girls, and unemployed, he was ready to start a career that would sustain himself and his family. When scanning newspapers and job searching on the internet, he always noticed advertisements for truck drivers. However, Mr. Ansley did not have the funds to get his Commercial Driver License (CDL) necessary to be a truck driver.

After hearing about the Workforce Investment and Innovation Act (WIOA) program, he contacted the Workforce Development Division for assistance. He was accepted into school at CDL of Georgia in Winder, and earned his license within a month. WIOA was able to cover all of his tuition and testing fee, as well as the DOT physical. A little over a month after starting the CDL program, Mr. Ansley accepted a job with a company in Athens. He is well on his way to being the provider for his family. Congratulations on a job well done!

For further information on the Northeast Georgia WorkSource Georgia (formerly known as WIA/ WIOA) services and programs, contact the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission's Workforce Development Division at **(706) 369-5703**.

*Mr. Ansley
and Susan Wilson*





305 Research Drive
Athens, GA 30605

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Update

REGIONAL MEETINGS
JUNE

14	10:00 A.M.	Joint Development Authority of NEGA	NEGRC Small Conference Room
14	12:30 P.M.	NEGA Solid Waste Management Auth.	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
15	Noon	NEGRC Council	Athens Holiday Inn
15	3:30 P.M.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
20	1:00 P.M.	NEGA Emergency Medical Services	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room



Sincerely & Respectfully,