

## NEGRC WELL REPRESENTED AT CONFERENCE

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference of the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) was held on November 5 – 7, 2014 at St. Simons Island. Councilmembers attending included Chairman **Kevin Little**, **Melvin Davis**, **Lamar Houston**, and **Tommy Lyon**. Staff members in attendance were Executive Director **Jim Dove**, Executive Assistant **Mott Beck**, Comptroller **Evans Brinson**, Workforce Development Director **Carol Cofer**, Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director **Peggy Jenkins**, AAA Assistant Director **Michelle Kelley**, and Planning & Government Services Director **Burke Walker**. There were interesting and informative presentations by **Ben Hames**, Deputy Commissioner of the Workforce Division of GDECD; **Ross King**, ACCG Director; **Lamar Norton**, GMA Director; **Jay Shaw** of the GDOT Board; **Todd Long**, GDOT Deputy Commissioner; **Gretchen Corbin**, DCA Commissioner; and **Todd Rehm**, Editor of **GAPUNDIT.COM**. Those featured during break-out sessions included **Brian Johnson** and **Saralyn Stafford** of DCA, **Chris Edwards** of McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks and Company, **Mike Beatty** of Great Promise Partnership, **Danny Bivins** of CVOIG, **Perry Hiott** of GMA, **Billy Peppers** of DCA, **Deatre Denion** of DCA, and **Mike Alexander** of ARC. In addition, the GARC Board of Directors held its quarterly meeting at the Conference.



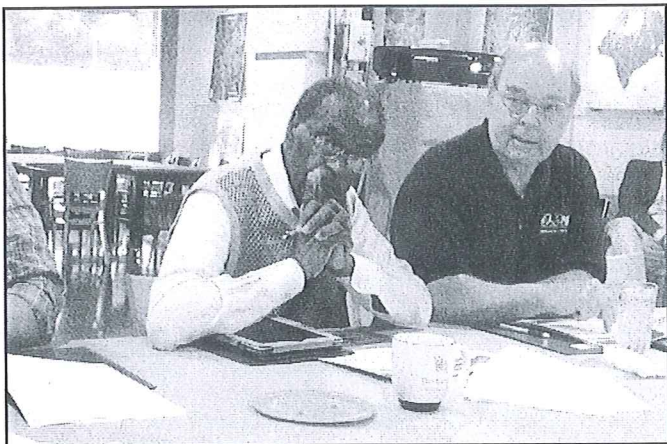
### REMINDER

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council **will not** meet in December. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 15, 2015 at the Athens Holiday Inn**. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming.



## STAFF FACILITATES OXFORD RETREAT

NEGRC Executive Director **Jim Dove** and Executive Assistant **Mott Beck** facilitated the annual retreat for the City of Oxford Mayor and Council on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Participants included Mayor **Jerry Roseberry**; Councilmembers **Sarah Davis**, **David Eady**, **George Holt**, **Terry Smith**, and **Jim Windham**; City Manager **Bob Schwartz**; Police Chief **Dave Harvey**; and City Superintendent **Jody Reid**. The session began with the FY2014 Audit Report by **Wayne Tamplin** and **Pat Malcom**. The retreat also included a compilation of the City's strengths and challenges and a review of the current Short Term Work Program. The session concluded with identification of short, medium, and long range goals.



## UNION POINT HOMETOWN CONNECTION MEETING

The Union Point Mayor and Council, Downtown Development Authority, and Mainstreet Program hosted a Hometown Connection Meeting on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 25 persons representing local government, economic development agencies, Department of Community Affairs, Georgia Municipal Association, Greene County schools, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, and candidates for office were in attendance. Mayor **Bert Mathews** led the group on a tour of facilities throughout the City and provided an overview of ongoing and anticipated projects. A lunch was hosted at the Historic Union Theater. The day's activities provided participants with an opportunity to learn more of Union Point's accomplishments and plans for the future.



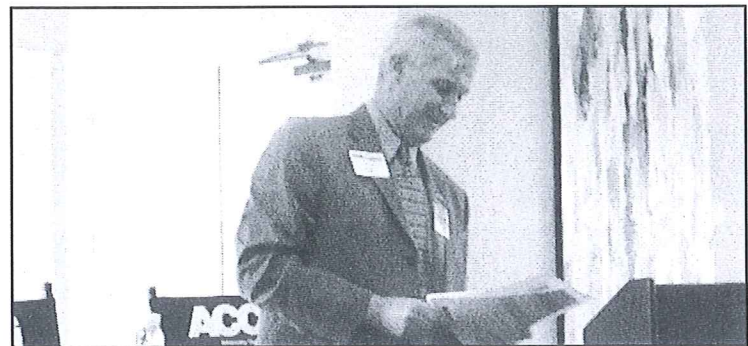
## STUDENT SAYS THANK YOU

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, **Rhonda Keeter**, Senior Planner with the Workforce Development Division, received a very nice surprise... flowers! A former student wished to thank her for motivating him to jump start his job search. After graduating from college, he was discouraged because he had not found a job in the field for which he had trained. As part of her follow-up with students completing training, Ms. Keeter encouraged this young man by



providing job leads. She advised him to continue applying for jobs, to follow-up with employers, and to have confidence in himself! He is now employed in the field he trained in, and wanted Ms. Keeter to receive credit for the encouragement.

This is just one example of how Workforce Development staff assists persons in getting training and finding employment. For further information on assistance available, please contact the Workforce Development Division at (706) 369-5703.



## STAFF ATTEND ACCG AND GMA FALL MEETINGS

The ACCG 5<sup>th</sup> District Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at The Landing at Reynolds Plantation in Greene County. Executive Director Dove and Ms. Beck attended the meeting. ACCG President and Walton County Chairman **Kevin Little**, along with ACCG District 5 Representative and Oglethorpe County Chairman **Billy Pittard** welcomed guests. After remarks by ACCG Executive Director **Ross King**, Associate Legislative Directors **Todd Edwards** and **Shaun Adams** and Representative **Tommy Benton** led a Legislative Town Hall meeting. Discussion items, in addition to ACCG's legislative priorities included Legislators' Priorities, Juvenile Justice Funding, Property Tax Reform Cleanup, and Transportation Funding.

The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) held its District 5 Meeting in Nicholson on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was hosted by GMA First Vice President **Ronnie Maxwell**, and Elberton Councilmember **Joel Seymour** presided. The evening was highlighted by the recognition of Senator **Bill Cowsert** as GMA's "**Champion of Georgia's Cities Award**" for his efforts with legislation benefiting Georgia's municipalities. GMA Executive Director **Lamar Norton** and staff provided updates on GMA programs available to our cities. In addition to Senator Cowsert, Senator **Frank Ginn** and Representative Benton were also in attendance. NEGRC staff member **Burke Walker** represented our organization.

Top: ACCG; Bottom: GMA



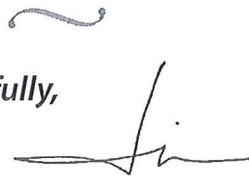


*Update*

**REGIONAL MEETINGS**  
**DECEMBER**

3	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Solid Waste Management	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
10	10:00 a.m.	NEGA Joint Development Authority	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
16	1:00 p.m.	NEGA Emergency Medical Services	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room
18	3:30 p.m.	Firefly Trails Advocacy Group	E.H. Culpepper Conference Room

*Sincerely & Respectfully,*



*The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission Council and  
Staff wish you a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!*