



**MINUTES**  
**Spartanburg County**  
**Legislative Delegation**  
**Monday, May 4, 2009**  
**5:00 p.m.**

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in County Council Chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Glenn Reese – Present  
Senator Lee Bright – Absent  
Senator Shane Martin – Present  
Senator Harvey Peeler – Present  
Representative Harold Mitchell – Present  
Representative J. Derham Cole, Jr. – Present  
Representative Lanny Littlejohn – Present  
Representative Mike Forrester – Present  
Representative Keith Kelly – Present  
Representative Rita Allison – Present  
Representative Steve Parker – Present  
Representative Joey Millwood – Absent  
Representative Mike Anthony – Present

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices of this meeting were mailed in advance to the local news media and other interested parties.

Representative Rita Allison served as temporary Chairman and called the meeting to order.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation was rendered by Representative Steve Parker and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Senator Harvey Peeler.

Representative Rita Allison welcomed all and recognized all elected officials as well as local board and commission members.

Representative Rita Allison asked for a unanimous consent to deviate from the printed agenda in order to address two items being the election of a chairman and vice chairman. Hearing no objections,

Representative Allison called for the elections of officers.

Senator Shane Martin moved to nominate Representative Lanny Littlejohn as Chairman. A motion was made to close the nominations and Representative Littlejohn be elected by acclamation. The motion carried.

Weighted votes calculated to 58.394% and the plurality vote amounted to ten.

Representative Keith Kelly moved to nominate Senator Shane Martin as Vice Chairman. Representative Rita Allison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Weighted votes calculated to 58.394% and the plurality vote amounted to ten.

Senator Glenn Reese was a late arrival, and asked for his vote to be counted for Representative Littlejohn to serve as Chairman and Senator Shane Martin to serve as Vice Chairman. There were no objections. Therefore, the weighted votes were re-calculated totaling 76.287% and the plurality vote amounted to eleven for each of the elected officers.

## **1. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED FEBRUARY 2, 2009, MEETING MINUTES**

Representative Steve Parker moved to approve the February 2, 2009 meeting minutes as printed and mailed. The motion was seconded by Representative Mike Anthony. The motion carried.

## **2. MR. FORREST ALTON, DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY – PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCY**

May is teen pregnancy month, a time for all to refocus and recommit to the young people of South Carolina to make sure all understand the important investments needed in this critical issue.

The South Carolina campaign is a statewide not-for-profit organization committed to the prevention of adolescence pregnancy through education, technical assistance, public awareness, conducting advocacy efforts and research. The campaign works with programs in all 46 counties, some counties more intensively than others. It happens that Spartanburg County is one of those counties that the campaign staff is working very intensively. For the last eighteen months or so, the staff has been in Spartanburg working intensely on a teen pregnancy prevention project countywide, but focusing on areas around school district 7. This project is funded by a group of joint contributors here in the county: Spartanburg County Foundation, Mary Black Foundation, United Way of the Piedmont, and Spartanburg Regional Healthcare Systems Foundation. One of the reasons that Spartanburg County is so much on radar is that when it comes to teen pregnancy, Spartanburg County has teen pregnancy rates that are significantly worse than other counties in South Carolina, especially other counties that are demographically and economically similar to Spartanburg. While there have been significant declines in teen pregnancy in South Carolina, teen pregnancy in Spartanburg continues to be very high. In fact, they have increased 12% in the last two years. That is an increase of 12% on top of teen pregnancy rates for both white and African-American youth that were already significantly higher than teen pregnancy rates in State.

Efforts in Spartanburg have been comprehensive, intense and successful. While the staff can't bring news of decline in teen pregnancy, Mr. Alton is confident that with combined efforts of other programs in the county like the Middle Tyger Community Center and Nurse Family Partnership, there are good things on

the horizon and reason to be optimistic. Work in the Spartanburg County faith community, parents, Spartanburg district 7, Converse and Wofford College, as well as with the hospital system is productive and is leading to results.

Mr. Alton asked the delegation for continued support, especially during the month of May as the staff continues to work on this critical issue, not just in Spartanburg County, but across the state. The organization provides statewide leadership and will continue to do so.

The South Carolina campaign has been nationally recognized by organizations like the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for leadership and innovation. The organization truly believes in science based programming to focus on research proven strategies that is committed to working at the county level to ensure everything is being done on a commitment to research and programs that has been shown to be effective approaches on teen pregnancy prevention. The approaches have a strong message in the first and best choice for all young people, combined with information on contraceptives for young people having sex. That approach has been shown to be effective by research. It is also an approach that 81% of registered voters in South Carolina support. It is an approach that will be effective here in Spartanburg and across the state as the campaign continues to work to prevent teen pregnancy.

### **3. MS. BETH SUMMER-STRAIT, PACE CENTER – MENTAL HEALTH MONTH**

The PACE Center is a small non-profit organization operating on a budget of just over \$300,000 each year to provide services throughout the community. May is the time of the year, nationwide, when folks and advocates in the Mental Health field work toward wanting to raise awareness that is not only mental illness but also mental wellness that is worked toward and celebrated.

One in four Americans at some point in time suffer from a mental health disorder. In Spartanburg County that represents about 60,000 people who will sometime have a mental health concern. Spartanburg County, unfortunately, has the highest suicide rate of any city in the southeast. This is something that the PACE center had to work to eradicate and turn around. This covers all ages. There was a two-week period in April of last year where Spartanburg County had three suicides within two weeks that included a seventeen year old student, a sixty-three year old retiree, and a forty-two old businessman. Much of this could have been prevented.

The PACE Center works very hard to educate family members, teachers, and the workplace as to how if you do see someone having a problem and they are not acting quite like themselves such as showing some behavior changes, you can intervene by asking questions to save a life.

Last year in the coverage area of Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties, the PACE Center, with a small staff of three full time employees and seven part-time employees, was able to provide 1800 hours of service to 450 individuals and families through direct counseling. The Center provided 9700 hours of services to 375 individuals who were court ordered due to domestic violence occurrences within their families. The Center also provided 1700 hours of service to 285 victims of crime. There is a federal mandate that states if you have been a crime victim, you are entitled to free counseling. The PACE Center has a grant through the state public safety department, which provides for a full-time license counselor to serve those individuals who have been crime victims.

With very little money and manpower, the PACE Center is doing a very good service throughout the Upstate.

The PACE Center appreciates the Delegation support. Some of the things the PACE Center would like to see in the future would be more access to services, more loosening of some of the regulations

particularly in regard to Medicaid and Medicare, so that license providers, who have been through a masters degree program and an internship, and have been licensed by the state, can see folks who use Medicare and Medicaid as their primary insurance provider.

South Carolina is a heavy Medicaid state, especially where children are concerned. When you shut out private providers from being able to treat those folks, you essentially eliminate their access to care.

Ms. Summer-Strait is aware of the Health Care Panel that Senator Harvey Peeler is working on in the legislature that is looking at mental health issues. Ms. Summer-Strait would love to meet with the group and share some of the studies and information compiled over the course of the years. Ms. Summer-Strait has been involved in mental health for about seventeen years and has seen the ups and the downs. She would love to see things go back on an upward swing and be a state that is aware of mental wellness and wants to support mental wellness in our adults and children.

#### **4. MS. WANDA FOWLER, MIDDLE TYGER COMMUNITY CENTER – PROGRESS MADE TOWARD HELPING SPARTANBURG COUNTY WITH THE COMMUNITY INDICATORS**

Ms. Fowler referred to an article that Mr. Alton and others have referred to which is Strategic Spartanburg that United Way and Spartanburg County Foundation worked on in 2004 and 2005. Staffs from the Middle Tyger Center, Social Services, various schools, health departments, and citizens at-large looked at Spartanburg County to see what were the indicators of health and wellness, and what could be done to make the county a healthier place to live, work, play, and learn. Staff found there were over sixty indicators of health and wellness. Of that, there were ten goals.

Today, Ms. Fowler focused on Goal 4 although says that the community centers like the Upstate Family Resource Center and Middle Tyger Community Center address almost all the indicators.

Goal 4 is that families will be stable and nurtured. This past December, a poster, depicting their care family life, was taken to Washington and presented for the office of adolescent family life demonstration project. The care family life serves both District 5 and 2. Their adolescent family life works with teen pregnancy and parenting teams to support those families to achieve their educational goals.

The community indicators committee asked for a one-page synopsis for the Middle Tyger Center. Sometimes, indicators appear very overwhelming. Success is being made in the county. The Middle Tyger Center is moving forward toward goals that families will be healthy and well, and adolescence will finish school.

Goal 1 was to increase education. Of the 40 girls that participated in the program last year, 95% either progressed to a higher grade level or graduated from high school. Of those, sixteen of them graduated and nine went on to college. From past experience, only one in three adolescent mothers that became pregnant during high school either graduated or moved up a grade level. These young mothers are finding that they can establish education for themselves and become a role model for their child.

Goal 2 was to prevent repeat pregnancy. This month is adolescent pregnancy prevention month. Although, this is not the initial pregnancy, it is recorded that 29% of teens experience a repeat pregnancy. None of these girls experienced a repeat pregnancy.

Goal 3 is a stronger immunization. All of the babies were immunized.

Goal 4 was to foster developmental assets. Many are familiar with the Search Institute developmental assets. The idea is that the more assets teens have, the less likely he is to take part in risk taking behaviors. The community center wants to work on those assets and help young mothers and their children develop those assets. The child in their program is enrolled in developmentally appropriate child care. The center is NAEYC accredited – that is, accredited by the National Association of Education of

Young Child. There are only four of those in Spartanburg and the Middle Tyger Center is one of those. That is just one of the goals.

If you look at goal 5 – The families will be healthy - all of their babies were born normal birth weight except one and that was a set of twins. All of them were full term whereas babies of adolescent teens are often born prematurely. Again, saving the taxpayer money.

Goal 1 is children will usually excel academically. Not only are their adolescent mothers excelling, but their children are ready to learn and take part in the opportunities that are offered in the school system.

The community center participants in child find. Any developmental delays are addressed early on.

Citizens have access to education and training. Last year at the Middle Tyger Community Center, fifty-two students received their GED, and this year forty-six have already passed the GED.

These goals are taken seriously. The community centers are the way to go because nothing is going to fly away. All want to be treated holistically to succeed, become sustainable, and self-sufficient.

Ms. Fowler distributed “Ten Years of Service: Ten Goals for the Future” which shows not only the successes the Middle Tyger Center has had, but also what they hope will happen for the county in the future.

Ms. Fowler asked the delegation members to be the advocates they always have been for our children and families in the county and state.

Ms. Kelley Ezell clarified the importance of community centers in the corners of the county. The center concept is important to health not only to specific communities, but to the entire county. The center’s goals, objectives, priorities and strategies are focused on transforming the multi-generation environment where the youngest members of the community grow and develop. Stabilizing, engaging families, and positive discipline can change negative dynamics. When community centers are successful, infants, children, and teens will be empowered to take full advantage of resources that communities offer. Early childhood education, dropout rate, juvenile delinquency, adolescence pregnancy, mental wellness, homeward poverty, and financial literacy all have one thing in common – the family unit. Centers are community places that provide total comprehensive integrated programming. Centers provide the tools to empower families to be the best they can be. It can’t be done alone. A collective effort from every corner of the county is needed. People have to start by making a difference in the corner where they live. There is no cookie cutter fix. It is important to resemble and know the fabric of the community. Programs don’t change people, people change people. There is value in social programs, but they can only reach so far. The benefit of a center that is partnering with school districts, churches, individuals, businesses and government to focus on backyards, an entire community gets involved to create a change; there is a strength that begins to grow. Some might call it social capital, networks of trust and reciprocity connections that bond a community together at every level. The special type of partnering of a community center takes time, energy, patients and teamwork. It takes negotiation, failure and conflict, but whatever it takes, the results are families, children, and community will be priceless.

**5. MR. JOHN MITCHELL, DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF, HOBBSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT – FIRE CHIEF’S ASSOCIATIONS POSITION ON SENATE BILLS 618 AND 364**

Mr. Mitchell called two pieces of legislation to the delegation attention of which the Chief’s Association has taken a position.

S 618 amends the statute that divides the Building Codes Council into two separate groups, a

commercial and a residential council. There has always been representation of the fire service on the existing council. There will be fire service representation on the commercial side, but the current wording on the residential side eliminates fire service representation. The Fire Chief's Association thinks this is a mistake. Unfortunately, Spartanburg County, over the past number of years, has been in the top five of severe fire deaths. The fire chiefs doesn't view it from a stand point of having fire representation of the fire fighters having their lives in jeopardy, but if a fire happens at 2:00 a.m. on Thursday morning at a house, how that house is built has an effect on how much time you have to get out.

The Fire Chief's Association feels very strongly that fire service should be represented on the residential Council, therefore asked the delegation to oppose S 618 as is currently written.

The second piece of legislation that is extremely important is S 364 which is V Safe. V Safe is the volunteer strategic assistance and fire equipment program. The purpose of the grant is to bring some of the smaller rural volunteer fire departments up to standards in order to participate in statewide mobility emergency responses. The V Safe grant had sunset wording. The Fire Chief's Association is asking the delegation to support the legislation which will remove the sunset wording and the funding of that grant will obviously vary according to wants and needs in the future, but it will always be there.

LLR has indicated to Mr. Mitchell that the first round of grants that were certified as V Safe picked up approximately twenty additional fire departments to become a part of the statewide mobility plan.

## **6. MR. NORMAN CHAPMAN – NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP IN SPARTANBURG COUNTY**

The Nurse Family Partnership has brought some significant dollars to Spartanburg County through a \$3.5M grant made possible by the Duke Endowment and South Carolina First Steps. The purpose of this program is to pair highly trained educated nurses with first time mothers of low income families. The nurse starts with the pregnant person, usually a teen by the sixteenth week, absolutely by the twenty-eight week of pregnancy and stays with the family until the child reaches their second birthday.

The three main goals of the program are to improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in preventive health practices including obtaining pre-natal care from their health care providers, improving their diet, and reducing their consumption of cigarettes, alcohol, and illegal substances. Goal number one is simple; a healthy mother will lead to a healthy baby.

Goal number two is to include child health in development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care for their children. Everybody knows how important the first two years of a child's life is. NFP wants to make that environment better.

Goal number three is to improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family, by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan for future pregnancies, continue their education, and find work.

To date, the Nurse Family Partnership has hired four nurses and one nurse supervisor. The program is housed at Spartanburg Regional Home Health, and the nurses are now taking county referrals. There are sixteen out of one hundred slots filled and receiving more referrals. One of the nurses discussed a referral she received where the mother thought she could put her child in the program, but unfortunately it was the second pregnancy and the child was thirteen years old.

The Nurse Family Partnership should expect long term benefits which have been backed by thirty years of research that indicate for mothers they should see 61% fewer arrests, 72% fewer conditions, and 98% fewer days in jail. For the children they should expect 48% reduction in child abuse and neglect, 59% reduction in arrests, and 90% reduction in adjudications as persons in need of supervision for behavior. All this leads to \$34,148 lifetime cost savings for every NFP mother and child or \$5.70 saved for every \$1.00

invested in high risk families. A study, published by the coalition for evidence based policy, reviewed seven home health programs of this type, reported the Nurse-Family partnership is the most effective program nationally of this kind of work.

The leadership team established consists of Cathy Dunlevey of the United Way, Norman Chapman, Alex Evans of Parker Poe, Chrissy Calvert, Family Care Counsel, Jane Hammett from DHEC, Mary Mathes from Spartanburg Regional Health Care System, Cindy Seagle, and Carolyn Brooks of Spartanburg County First Steps.

Senator Reese arrived at the meeting.

## **7. MR. JIM HERZOG, CITIZEN – HOUSE BILL 3802, SIMILAR (S 520) \$2500 TAX CREDIT**

Several months ago, Mr. Herzog spoke against a particular tax credit of \$250 for home and private schooling. Since that time, there have been other House and Senate bills raising the tax credit to a \$2500 minimum. As long as this issue is still on the table, Mr. Herzog will speak against the issue, as he feels this is public funding for private use. Citizens already pay for public schools. An article in the newspaper stated that a Senate subcommittee voted to reject S 520. If the same thing comes up in the House, all Mr. Herzog can do is to urge legislators to vote against it.

Mr. Herzog has read about Senator Peeler's tax credit measure that has passed in the Senate. Mr. Herzog applauded that bill. Tax credits would show corresponding decrease in employment expenses in the state of South Carolina. If anything comes up in the House, Mr. Herzog would urge members to support that bill.

Senate Bills 641 and 657, sponsored/co-sponsored by Senator Bright, allude to funding appropriations for state students in South Carolina's seventeen state colleges and universities. S 641 is a constitutional amendment while S 657 is a bill to amend Chapter 101, Title 59 of the 1976 state code, mandating the General Assembly equalize the amounts paid for in-state students to state colleges and universities. It seems to Mr. Herzog the same colleges and universities are getting the short end of the stick when it comes to taxpayer funding with a particular university. It needs to be an equalization ratio. Mr. Herzog urges the legislators to support the bill if addressed.

Representative Littlejohn gave examples: USC-Upstate is funded at 50% of projected student enrollment, whereas Francis Marion, College of Charleston, and the Citadel are funded at 80 - 90%.

Mr. Gene Nowak is disappointed with the legislative record, especially reforms and changes that were going to occur because of the newly elected team and they are not occurring. The bills go in committee and stay there.

The one in particular is House Bill 3047 pertaining to recorded votes. As Representative Parker has stated, at this time that is the rule, but unless a Bill becomes law, it will change with the next legislative session. Mr. Nowak thinks this should be done. Several members of this delegation are co-sponsors of the bill.

Representative Parker stated that with every recorded vote, it cost the state taxpayers \$55.00. Every vote cast last week was recorded. However, Representative Parker doesn't see the need to spend \$55.00 on recorded voting when some issues can be done by acclamation and have those present state their position as an aye vote to save that money. Representative Parker agrees that recorded votes should be on everything

else, however small issues like a local delegation naming a bridge/roadway, votes should not have to be recorded.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **8. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – SPARTANBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The Spartanburg Chamber held a reception for all the county elected officials and presented a legislative update.

The Greenville and the Spartanburg Chambers have joined with the Greenville and Spartanburg delegations to create an Upstate Caucus. The reason is because it is felt to be very important for the Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union delegations to be able to sit down and talk about common issues for a louder voice and a bigger vote for the Upstate in Columbia. A perfect example is - the port is located in the lower part of the state, but over half of what goes through that port comes from the Upstate. The Upstate has a great interest in how that port is operated and what happens with it. The Caucus has already met twice and plans to have meetings during the interim to discuss issues supporting the Upstate.

### **9. REPRESENTATIVE KELLY – COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

A detailed report of actions taken on projects for the County Transportation Committee has been included in delegation meeting notebooks. Also, a letter has been submitted from the Spartanburg City Manager, Mark Scott, requesting the Assistant City Manager, Ed Memmott, be permitted to serve the vacant position previously held by the City Engineer unless and until a new City Engineer is appointed.

### **10. REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER – COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG)**

The last COG meeting was held on April 16. Ms. Judy Gilstrap was elected as the new chairperson. Representative Forrester was appointed to the regional transportation committee for Spartanburg County. COG is being very pro-active in meeting with counties and cities in helping with grants available through stimulus funds.

Ms. Knuckles who represents Cherokee and York Counties delivered a presentation as she is trying very hard to get the road widened from Spartanburg County to the North Carolina line through Cherokee County. She is also trying to get an interchange at the Upstate Corporate Park which is a partnership between Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties.

Ms. Knuckles has heard about the Upstate Caucus. There are forty House members and fifteen Senators in the Upstate region which represents about 32% of the bodies of the General Assembly. That is just the footprint of the Upstate Caucus. There are ten counties involved. Ms. Knuckles mentioned that she would like to have York County included in the Upstate Caucus.

### **11. REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN – SPATS**

SPATS (Spartanburg Area Transportation Study) is a long range planning committee for roads in Spartanburg County. The main report, discussed at the last meeting, was about stimulus money. Many changes have been brought about as a result of the stimulus money. The committee is recommending the majority amount of the stimulus money be allocated to widen Highway 9 up to Lake Bowen which will in turn speed up this project as well as other projects that have been put on hold for quite some time.

**12. REPRESENTATIVE MILLWOOD – CHILDREN’S SHELTER**

Representative Millwood was absent, therefore, no report.

**13. REPRESENTATIVE ALLISON – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

No report as there have not been any requests submitted.

**14. REPRESENTATIVE MITCHELL – PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**a. Town of Duncan – Shipwreck Cove at Stoneledge Park @ \$40,000**

Currently there is \$38,306 available for project funding. Three requests have been submitted. The committee is recommending dividing the available funding between Duncan, Inman and Pacolet.

There is a possibility of being able to apply for new construction on some of the projects that the local municipalities may have that are so-called “shovel ready”. There is still a chance to apply for those funds from the Department of Interior. New 2010 funding may or may not be available in July.

Representative Parker stated that the committee discussed allocating \$20,000 to the Town of Duncan for Shipwreck Cove, the Town of Inman for the ball field at \$10,800, and the Town of Pacolet at \$7,500 for the Pacolet River Gateway project.

The Town of Duncan developed a wonderful age appropriate park on their own through public and private funds with no taxpayer funds. The staff actually worked and built a park on the old D.R. Hill high school site. Now they are constructing a water park which is why the request was submitted for \$40,000. They need about \$40,000 to finish up the sidewalks. They are opening the park on May 16. It will be a great asset to Spartanburg County.

The Town of Inman citizens also donated their time, effort, money. Vandalism occurred and the citizens came back and constructed a fence around the perimeter saving taxpayer dollars.

Representative Parker moved to approve \$20,000 to the Town of Duncan, \$10,800 to the Town of Inman, and \$7,500 to the Town of Pacolet. Senator Reese seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**15. REPRESENTATIVE PARKER – POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

Representative Parker reported a change would be made with regard to election of Chair/Vice Chairman based on actions of the meeting. One member would serve from the House and one member would serve from the Senate on a rotating basis.

## APPOINTMENTS

### **16. ARKWRIGHT FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Resignation of E. R. Thomas. Application received: None.

There were no applications received, therefore, this appointment was carried over until the next meeting.

### **17. SPARTANBURG AREA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

Term of Kathleen Baechle. Application received: Michael D. Raney.

Senator Martin noted that Michael D. Raney has withdrawn his application. A copy of the letter will be forwarded to the Delegation office.

Senator Martin moved to carry this appointment over until the next meeting. The motion carried.

### **18. SPARTANBURG COUNTY COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

Terms of John Edwards. Applications received: Bartlett Compton Winkler

Representative Allison moved to nominate Bartlett Compton Winkler. The motion carried with Representative Forrester abstaining.

### **19. WHITNEY FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Term of James R. Forbis. Applications received: James R. Forbis and Randy Pucetas.

Representative Parker moved to nominate James R. Forbis. Senator Martin made a motion to carry the appointment over until the next meeting. Senator Martin's motion was seconded by Representative Cole. The motion carried.

### **20. FORESTRY BOARD**

Term of Eddie W. McBride. Applications received: None

No applications were received; therefore, this appointment was carried over until the next meeting.

**21. COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Term of Sam Evatt (House District 34) and Belton Workman (House District 35). Application received: Sam Evatt (House District 34).

Representative Forrester made a motion to nominate Sam Evatt. Representative Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Kelly moved to carry over the House District 35 appointment until the next meeting. The motion carried.

**22. VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER**

Term of Gerald Kiehl. Application received: Gerald (Jerry) Anthony Kiehl

Representative Parker moved to nominate Gerald Kiehl. The motion carried by acclamation.

**23. MAYO FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Term of Jack Crocker. Application received: Jack Crocker.

Senator Martin moved to nominate Mr. Jack Crocker. Representative Cole seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**24. 7-A FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD**

Term of Juanita Thaxton. Application received: Juanita Thaxton and Weldon R. Davis.

Representative Littlejohn moved to nominate Juanita Thaxton. Representative Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A board member advised of another vacancy on the board as June Bond has resigned. Therefore, Senator Martin moved to nominate Weldon Davis. Representative Anthony seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**25. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

**26. NEW BUSINESS**

Senator Reese asked for his vote to be recorded for Representative Lanny Littlejohn to serve as

Chairman and Senator Shane Martin to serve as Vice Chairman of the Delegation. There were no objections. Therefore, the votes were re-calculated to reflect Senator Reese's vote.

### **MR. HENRY LAYE, VOTER REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS – PRECINCT NAME CHANGES FOR SPARTANBURG COUNTY**

Senator Reese and Representative Parker worked with Mr. Laye and have realized that precincts name changes are required to be finalized by January. Senator Reese had a unanimous consent to pass a bill out of the senate. The Bill needs to be amended and sent back to the Senate next week.

Mr. Henry Laye noted that the mission of the Registration Board and Election Commission is to insure citizens are registered properly for those who qualify, maintain those registrations and conduct elections fairly and impartial according to federal and state laws.

An underlining responsibility, felt to be a part of the mission, is to make the registration and election process efficient and pleasant experience. Many of the voters found the November general election not pleasant and not efficient. A post election review was conducted and the results were reported in the last meeting. Mr. Laye cited to identify areas that perhaps needed alterations. It was determined the Boiling Springs area was and is the first area to be examined and altered. The delegation fully supported the recommended changes, particularly Senator Reese and Representative Parker who bear the most impact in Boiling Springs alterations, but also Senator Martin, Representatives Cole and Millwood contributed to the review. As a result, it was recommended to add five precincts in the Boiling Springs area. Senator Reese and Representative Parker have worked with Voter Registration and Elections and have approved those changes as have Senator Martin, Representatives Cole and Millwood.

Where there were 6500 registered voters assigned at Boiling Springs High School, these changes brought to reduce that number to fewer than 1500 voters. It is thought the precincts will flow smoother in the next election.

One other change occurred to all involved. The names of many precincts do not relate to the actual polling location. This creates confusion. There are many A and B precincts. People don't know if they are to vote at precinct A or precinct B, hence the name changes. Each member received a list of the existing names and the proposed name changes. Time is of the essence, and it is felt that one full sweep for all the necessary changes will eliminate some confusion for the voters.

The commissions have heard the voice of the voters and will be working throughout the summer and the next sessions to identify the high registration areas. District lines will not be affected. Delegation members were asked to submit their approvals of proposed new precinct names.

Senator Reese reiterated the importance of submitting this to the Department of Justice before the 2010 census information is completed to eliminate a bottleneck at the Department of Justice. Therefore, legislation needs to be approved this legislative session.

Senator Peeler noted there is strength in number. Recently Senator Peeler termed the phrase ACBC, the Annual Charleston Budget Crisis. Senator Peeler has been in the senate for twenty-nine years and every year there is a budget crisis for Charleston and they always get it. Why, because they stick together. They have the Governor, Lt. Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Speaker of the House. Senator Peeler can't express enough of the importance for the Upstate counties to support the Upstate Caucus. York does need to be included in the Upstate Caucus as there is strength in numbers. Senator Peeler is requesting

the delegation write a letter in support of the Upstate Caucus. He will also request the Cherokee County delegation write a letter of support. Senator Peeler would like for the Chairman's of the delegations to at least meet and report back to respective delegations about what can be done to improve quality of life and strength for the Upstate voice in Columbia.

A joint resolution has been requested with regard to Mr. Teague retirement.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on August 3, 2009

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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Lanny Littlejohn, Delegation Chairman

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Attested:  
Carol Crowe