

MINUTES
Spartanburg County
Legislative Delegation
Monday, November 13, 2006
5:00 p.m.

A public meeting of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation was held on Monday, November 13, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in County Council Chambers of the Spartanburg County Administrative Office Building. Representative Doug Smith presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

Senator Glenn Reese – Present
Senator John Hawkins – Present
Senator Jim Ritchie – Present
Senator Harvey Peeler – Absent
Representative Harold Mitchell – Present
Representative Doug Smith – Present
Representative Lanny Littlejohn – Present
Representative Scott Talley – Present
Representative Keith Kelly – Present
Representative Joe Mahaffey – Present
Representative Ralph Davenport – Absent
Representative Bob Walker – Present
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.

Invocation was rendered and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Representative Lanny Littlejohn.

Portions of the agenda were addressed out of order.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

Seventh Circuit Judge J. Derham Cole administered the Oath of Office to newly elected state House of Representative members.

Chairman Doug Smith welcomed newly elected District 35 Representative Keith Kelly to the Delegation.

28. NEW BUSINESS

a) Elect new Chairman and Vice Chairman

Representative Mike Anthony made a motion to nominate Representative Doug Smith as Chairman. Senator John Hawkins seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The motion carried.

Representative Joe Mahaffey made a motion to nominate Representative Bob Walker as Vice Chairman. Representative Scott Talley seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. The motion carried.

1. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 7, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

Representative Bob Walker moved to approve the August 7, 2006 meeting minutes as printed and mailed. Representative Joe Mahaffey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Late last year, the Spartanburg Delegation requested a study of the fire service in Spartanburg County. The study has been on-going. A report will be forthcoming prior to convening in January. Representative Talley filed a bill last year and has requested the same bill be pre-filed again this coming legislative year. Therefore, Representative Talley is requesting all Fire Commission appointments, listed on the agenda to be addressed, be carried over to the next meeting giving members a chance to review the Fire Service Task Force report before considering endorsement of the proposed pre-filed bills.

With that, Representative Talley made a motion to carry over agenda items number 18, 20, 21, 23, and 26 until the next meeting. Representative Littlejohn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

18. CROFT AREA FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of William B. Littlejohn, Jr. Applications received: M. T. Myers

A previous motion carried this item over until the next meeting.

19. SPARTANBURG COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Term of Dorothy T. Moss (House District 31), and resignation of Leland Harvey (House District 36). Application received: Steven J. McAbee (House District 36)

Representative Joe Mahaffey moved to nominate Mr. Steven McAbee to serve on the County Transportation Committee for House District 36. Senator John Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The term of Dorothy Moss (House District 31) will be carried over until the next meeting.

20. NORTH SPARTANBURG FIRE AND RESCUE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Danny E. Bridgeman, Sr. Application received: None

A previous motion carried this item over until the next meeting.

21. HOLLY SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Unexpired term of Marvin Kaye. Application received: Ronald R. Garrett

A previous motion carried this item over until the next meeting.

22. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Term of Doris Tidwell. Application received: Doris Tidwell

Representative Scott Talley moved to nominate Doris Tidwell by acclamation. The motion carried.

23. ROEBUCK FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Term of Ned Wilder. Applications received: Ned Wilder and Harold M. Gowan

A previous motion carried this item over until the next meeting.

24. CHILDREN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

Three new positions for newly formed Spartanburg County Foster Care Review Board 7C and two vacant positions for Board 7B. Applications received: Carol J. Barnette, Isaac V. McJimpsey, Jr., Monica G. Hill and William Bond.

Representative Bob Walker moved to transfer Mary Ann Riley and Zora Massing from Board 7B to 7C. Senator Jim Ritchie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Bob Walker moved to nominate Carol Barnette and Isaac V. McJimpsey, Jr. to serve on Board 7B. Representative Anthony seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator John Hawkins moved to nominate Monica G. Hill and William Bond to serve on 7C Board. Senator Jim Ritchie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

25. COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Resignations of Cleveland Harley and Darryl Owings. Application received: C. Dan Adams

Senator Ritchie moved to nominate C. Dan Adams for the seat vacated by Cleveland Harley. The motion was seconded and carried.

26. MAYO FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSION

Unexpired term of Woodrow Emory. Applications received: Charles (Chuck) M. Towery and Thomas T. Ledford

A previous motion carried this item over until the next meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

2. MR. JEFF CATON – SPARTANBURG COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BOARD INTRODUCTIONS OF MEMBERS

Spartanburg County Council established a Parks and Recreation Commission effective July 1, 2006 which incorporates all the unincorporated areas of Spartanburg County. The financial makeup that was assessed to Parks and Recreation prior to the creation of the Commission was moved from the General Fund to the Parks and Recreation Taxing District. Mr. Caton introduced Mr. Jeff Hardy, Chairman of the Commission. Other board members present were Phil McIntyre, Bruce Johnson, and Ms. Julie Lowery. Don Martin was unable to attend.

3. MR. JERRY KIEHL, VETERANS AFFAIRS - REPORT

Since July 2005, when Mr. Jerry Kiehl was appointed as the Veterans Affairs officer, the office has seen over 5000 clients, an average of about 420 per month or 22 clients per day. The number one concern continues as for development of well grounded cases and not just throwing papers to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The clients in Spartanburg County are the World War II veterans and/or spouse. When the veteran came home from World War II, he did not request anything from the government or the military. Now the veteran is in a position to apply for Medicare or Medicare Plan D. With the change of law in January 2003, the Veterans Affairs office is forced to consider the veterans financial income statements to verify qualifications. The local office is required to provide that information to Columbia; in turn, Columbia provides the information to Atlanta. Atlanta provides the judication of the decision. There is a delay all the way from the top of the Department of Veterans Affairs all the way down to the local office. The Veterans Affairs Court of Appeals is now working on cases from 2003 – 2004. President Bush identified to the Department of Veterans Affairs of a vacant judgeship and requested the Department go ahead and hire someone to move the backlog. If Veterans Affairs has a senior citizen that is in a health care situation, or based on his age, his name can be moved up to the top of the docket, but knowing what the priority is of a World War II veteran, that doesn't help because there aren't many World War II veterans requesting their name be moved to the top.

The Veterans Affairs office is able to work with the staff in the office, especially with the help of volunteers from other organizations in the county.

Mr. Kiehl does continue to answer telephone calls and messages but not in a timely manner anticipated by the concerned citizen. The veteran gets antsy when waiting on paperwork, especially

when waiting on paperwork to be approved. During that time, the veterans health is deteriorating.

The office's future goals are to educate colleagues and veterans of the available programs and entitlements. The VA is currently working with DSS and some of the other social services groups in the area with regard to getting out in the community and not being a downtown office.

The office staff has and continues to be an asset to the county and has a genuine concern for the veteran.

Mr. Kiehl was asked if Veterans Affairs has sufficient office space to conduct business. Mr. Kiehl has brought this issue to the County Administrator attention. Mr. Glenn Breed is working on a specialization report, but office space for Veterans Affairs is not the only office in the County with such a problem. Mr. Kiehl has filled seven file cabinets in a year and half. Ideally, with today's technology, the office would be a paperless office. The Department of Veterans Affairs is not a paperless office. There is currently no solution to the problem. One sight for office space has been looked at; however, the space was not acceptable for Veterans accessibility.

Mr. Kiehl has requested two additional staff for the office – one an eligibility specialist, and one administrative assistant. However, funding is an issue and was not approved for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

Spartanburg County disburses funding for the Veterans Affairs office; however, federal funding is requested for transportation. Spartanburg requested \$80,000 to transport veterans to and from medical facilities, however, grants received amounted to \$35,000. The County made up the difference. Last year \$90,000 was spent in transportation fees using Spartanburg County transportation. The prior year, the County funded \$12,000 in matching grant monies for the Disabled American Veterans to help purchase a van. Between volunteers taking veterans to and from facilities, the DAVs two vans in use, and Spartanburg County Transportation, the VA is attempting to handle the transportation needs of the veterans. The volunteers are not necessarily working through Veterans Affairs. If a veteran checks into a hospital, he can be reimbursed for his mileage. However, there are still problems when the office requests transportation for a veteran, via Spartanburg Regional or DAV. A required timeline is to be followed for services in order for Spartanburg Regional or DAV to schedule accordingly. Therein lays the problem for the veteran and the transportation source for scheduling drivers.

The delegation wants to support the Veterans Affairs office in any way possible. The delegation will be responsive to the Mr. Kiehl and certainly is willing to try to influence County Council, if possible, for assistance if needed. The delegation is of the understanding that Mr. Breed is working with Mr. Kiehl to help resolve issues of great importance. Mr. Kiehl was asked to notify delegation members if and when problems occur, and are appreciative of the office being open to the public.

Mr. Kiehl is trying to get two college work-study students approved to work, but there are delays all across the board from Veterans Affairs headquarters. Jerry is hesitant of using volunteers in the office due to privacy of files; however, volunteers can be used to answer phones and scheduling transportation. Congressmen or Senators could be contacted to try to speed up the process for work-study students' approval.

4. MR. DON BYRUN, SC VETERANS COALITION DAV TRANSPORTATION – SERVICES TO VETERANS

Mr. Byrun is the President of the South Carolina Veterans Coalition. Mr. Byrun states that veterans do have problems. All the veterans organizations are dissatisfied with the County VA office. Mr. Byrun has petitions with signatures. Don states that veterans are going out of the county and out-of-state to have their needs taken care of because it is not being done here in Spartanburg. Veterans are being put off. They have to go by the office to get simple questions answered that could be done by phone. Appointments are made but not kept.

One veteran in particular, in a manual wheelchair, went to the office for three appointments, unloaded his chair and went in the office and no one was there that he was supposed to meet with. Mr. Kiehl's people were there, but he wasn't. The veteran was not notified of the cancellation, and he did this three times. He shouldn't have been treated this way. When calls are made to the VA office to talk to Jerry and he is not there, the veterans don't want to talk to the secretary or the assistant. Mr. Byrun realizes Mr. Kiehl's office is over loaded, as has been reported. This would not leave much time for him to be out of work for 100 work days in 2005.

Mr. Kiehl was asked to respond.

Mr. Kiehl is sure that there are veterans that go from one county to another for assistance. Mr. Kiehl also treats veterans from three counties even some from out of state. As far as appointments, Mr. Kiehl knows that he has missed appointments. But also knows where he has been when he missed those appointments such as being in other veterans homes in another part of the county. Knowing this Jerry would call back to the office and inform the staff that he would be out of the office. Mr. Kiehl does know that on one particular occasion, there was one veteran in a wheelchair that did not have an appointment; he refused assistance from any of the staff members, stayed in the office for four hours and refused to leave until he saw Mr. Kiehl. Mr. Kiehl was on the other side of Landrum taking care of a veteran and his family. (The veteran happens to be deceased at this time.) Mr. Kiehl came back in the office, answered his questions which could have been answered by any staff member. Mr. Kiehl understands that when you go to an office, you want to speak to the man. However, Mr. Kiehl prefers not to be the man - the office staff is well trained to work with the veteran. If there are key issues that need identified, then there are times when the staff and Mr. Kiehl discuss the issues with the veteran to work out a solution.

As far as Mr. Kiehl's being out of the office for 100 days, his calendar will indicate which days he has been out of the office and why.

Some of the Delegation members had some questions of the Veterans Affairs office and feel questions have been answered. The veterans affairs office will be closely examined to see if modifications are made to accomplish the real issues. If not, then changes can be made to resolve the problems.

5. MS. CAROLYN DAWKINS, CHAIRMAN OF FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Dawkins is chairperson of Foster Care Review Board 7A. The boards do their best to make sure that children placed in Foster Care do not remain in Foster Care any longer than necessary.

Ms. Brock represents Board 7B and the 4th congressional district on the state board. The state board is an oversight committee. The board is a group of citizens appointed by the Governor and make recommendations to the Family Court of what the board feels is the best permanent placement for the children. Permanency is the goal of the board.

The board has spent over 224 hours reviewing children in Foster Care. The board listens to all different parties i.e., children, foster parents, and biological parents before making recommendations. The board tries not just to sight DSS, since the board is an oversight committee.

The board actually has come a long way on the calendar of DSS, because now they see foster care as an ally or partnership.

The board has done such things as purchase computers for children. The board has helped to build an additional room on a house to help foster care parents be able to take children. The board has logged 209 hours of volunteer time in clothes closets doing many different things in the community for foster care children.

The board sends quarterly reports indicating what cases have been reviewed, how many children were reviewed, and recommendations made.

The package distributed contains information specifically related to Spartanburg County. Unfortunately, over the past several years, Spartanburg has had more children coming into Foster Care and fewer children leaving, which balloons the population of children in Foster Care. This necessitated the creation of a new board. This only means there are more children in the system that are not being served. The professional staff visits Spartanburg from Columbia once a month to meet with the boards.

6. MS. BETH SUMMER-STRAIT, DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF THE PIEDMONT – UPDATE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

The Mental Health Association of the Piedmont is holding their annual meeting on Thursday, November 16. The meeting will be in partnership with the leadership event. The keynote speaker this year is Representative Mike Anthony. New board members will be elected and the association name will be changed.

At the last delegation meeting, the lack of good in-patient mental illness treatment facilities was discussed. Emergency rooms in all the hospitals are always over crowded, particularly on the weekend. There are waiting list at Patrick Harris as well as other facilities across the state. This is a

major problem for members of the community.

Chairman Doug Smith has taken the lead and pulled together a task force meeting several months ago. Members of the task force include representatives from all three counties, (Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union). Some positive ideas were addressed for review consideration.

Meeting notifications will be mailed in advance and all will be encouraged to attend. Mental Health has been an issue for quite some time. The task force will be making some recommendations that might help, particularly in the area of formulating a partnership with the other two counties to try to address the needs of the involuntary issues within the first five or six days of patient contact. Normally, patients would be sent to Patrick Harris before they are stabilized, but apparently there is not enough bed space. There might be an opportunity to address and encourage a mental health pilot program.

7. DR. SHEILA BREITWEISER, SC SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND – UPDATE OF THE SCSDB

Dr. Breitweiser announced that the annual recognition program is scheduled for December 12, 2006. The program will be an appreciation recognition luncheon to honor Mr. Norman F. Pulliam who is departing from the board after serving as chairman of the SCSDB.

The School for the Deaf and Blind has already submitted their 2007-2008 fiscal year budget requests. Dr. Breitweiser praised the delegation for their leadership on behalf of the SCSDB.

The ETV road show did a segment about the SCSDB and will do a longer segment on the renovations of Walker Hall. The show pointed out that Spartanburg has a state treasure in the SCSDB serving children from all 46 counties across the 75 school districts.

The Spartanburg delegation members leads the way for the needs, programs and services the school is developing. Those services are provided to every child who is deaf or blind in the state. The SCSDB serves these children whether they come to Spartanburg or not. All this would not be possible without the leadership and support given to the agency.

Within the next few days the SCSDB will be operating, in conjunction with the Department of Corrections, a Braille prison project at Lee Correctional facility for women. The SCSDB has been providing support to the program. The program is going to touch every child in the state, and some children in other places as well as adults who needs a Braille book. None of this would have been possible without the support and guidance given by the Delegation.

8. MS. JENNIE D. THOMAS, SC VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION – ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SC VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (SCVR/VR)

With the delegation assistance of recurring funds, the Spartanburg Vocational Rehabilitation was able to help with some needed repairs, particularly for the Gaffney center, and others across the state. VR serves about 800 clients in Gaffney. The delegation was instrumental in helping to pass

the Counselor Bill which permits hiring professionals in different and varied backgrounds of business job development.

This past fiscal year in Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union, VR served approximately 3,000 people with disabilities. VR was able to rehabilitate 777 to employment. Since July, VR has helped 267 clients return to work. This October VR had two great open houses. The open house in Spartanburg had over 240 people join them. VR had every agency represented, every school district, and at least 50 employers who either hire clients or give contract work. Spartanburg County was honored for hiring VR clients in great numbers this year. Gaffney open house was represented well by employers such as Frank Myers and Robert Allen. Senator Peeler was the featured speaker.

The SCVR's state budget funding request is to build a vocational rehabilitation center in Lyman. The past year's state budget allowed for the purchase of approximately nine acres. Now, SCVR is asking for \$1.5M to add to the existing \$1.5M to build a 25,000 square foot facility to meet the needs for additional services in the Upstate. This unique facility will not only house and serve counselors and staff, but it will also include a work center to serve Spartanburg and Greenville County clients. The uniqueness of the facility is that SCVR can serve people with severe disabilities who ordinarily have to go to Columbia. SCVR will have a management program, and services for people with brain injuries, stroke, accident victims, as well as amputee clinics and many other services to help people with spinal cord injuries prepare for and go back to work. These people currently are not served as they do not go to Columbia because they cannot leave their obligation to be away for a week or two weeks, or a month at a time. The Lyman facility would serve the entire upstate – Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union, Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Laurens, Greenwood, Chester, Rock Hill, Edgefield and Abbeville. VR has an opportunity to create some computer training programs, but they would only be available in Columbia.

The second item on the state budget is a request for recurring funding in the amount of \$500,000 to serve high school students with disabilities. Every year about 6,000 students from ages 16 to 21 exit school after receiving special education services. Many of these students could benefit from VR services. Last year VR only served about 2700 students. There are 30,000 disabled high school students in special education. VR is hoping that \$500,000, along with a federal match of \$1.85M, could fill existing vacant FTEs to fund twenty staff members which could serve about 2,000 more students with disabilities.

VR continues to increase presence in local schools. One example is published in the *Breakthrough* of how VR is using funds in the high school high tech programs. Currently, in Cherokee County, VR is partnering in a program called Students with Disabilities in the Cherokee Technology and Vocational Center. They are in the post secondary training job placement in the technology field. VR helps provide field trips, internships, and hands-on experience which only opens the door sooner to people who want to go to college, technical schools, and selected careers. VR will continue to serve IT students in the regular program, but want to enhance partnerships with job opportunities in the job readiness training program, on-the-job training, and direct placement.

9. MS. PAULA OWENS – KEEPING SEX OFFENDERS OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS

DRAFTED LEGISLATION

Judge James Fender gave custody to a registered sex offender which opened the doors for sex offenders to go on school grounds, ballgames, etc. Ms. Owens then started getting telephone calls from parents. Paula then spoke to Senator Larry Martin and he was sure there was a law to keep sex offenders off school grounds. Ms. Owens was asked to get the law for him and give him a copy of the court order and Senator Martin would take it to the judge for reconsideration. However, research discovered there is no federal or state law. Ms. Owens then called senate judiciary and the Speaker's office as well as other attorneys. From researched information, a bill is being drafted. Ms. Owens knows that until a bill has been drafted and reviewed by the General Assembly, no one will commit to endorsing the bill. Bill Lindsy is committed to getting a bill drafted to prohibiting sex offenders on school grounds. Ms. Owens is hoping the bill will include open sex offenders as that tells how many sex offenders are on the DSS central registry.

Ms. Owens then asked the school superintendents in Spartanburg County if they have any policy that states sex offenders cannot be permitted on school grounds, and found no such policy. The Day School doesn't have one; some of the Christian schools do, because they do DSS background checks. Other than that, the other schools are not even doing a DSS background check.

There are 3,186 people that have committed sex offenses to children that could be working at the schools as aids, bus drivers, substitutes, etc.

Schools are paying \$8.00 for a SLED check when that information can be verified by computer. A list is pulled off the computer once a month and sent to the schools, but there are many of them that pictures are not available. The School superintendents and Ms. Owens are meeting on the 14th of December. They have received this information and are concerned and thinking background checks need to be done.

The legislature does not have any way to control or to investigate any person subcontractor or whoever, that is working on school property whether it be for janitorial services or builders. There is nothing to stop contractors from having a sex offender in their employment left in the school while the children are there. This will also be addressed in the Bill. The Bill will probably fall under the Judiciary committee or could fall under the education committee.

Rep. Walker is working day in and day out ready to start their own program to investigate or check every employee because of concern for liability of the company if one of their employees were to do something.

Charges associated with background checks will be addressed in the bill.

10. MS. JANET AGNEW – CONCERNS ABOUT THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATORS, AND RETIREES FROM THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ms. Agnew has teachers calling her to discuss problems associated with public school educators. Teachers salaries should be addressed as teachers are leaving the field to other professions. Something is wrong with the system, but there is also something wrong with the way

schools are funded. Enough money is needed to take care of students with average and above average needs, as well as children with disabilities. Every state student has the right to the same public education.

One of the things that concerns teachers of today, and retired teachers, is the fact there seems to be a mood to move from a defined benefits program to a defined contribution program. Retiring teachers requires some kind of guarantee they will have some sort of retirement. When retirees are given a COLA that doesn't match the federal government's COLA, there is a problem.

Most of the teachers in this state don't teach for money, they teach because they love children. The Southeastern teachers salaries are up, but younger teachers are pushed out of the profession because the state is not giving teachers the equipment needed to deal with the students of today. Today classrooms have special needs students as well as the average and upper level students. There are good programs for teacher education in this state but other programs are needed for a better education. Test scores have got to come up.

Ms. Agnew would like for everybody to work together to get things accomplished.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. REPRESENTATIVE LANNY LITTLEJOHN, COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG)

Representative Littlejohn introduced Mr. Steve Pelissier, the new executive director of Council of Governments.

Mr. Pelissier looks forward to the opportunity and challenge to build on the successes already seen under Mr. Bob Strother's leadership.

The South Carolina Councils of Governments, Partnerships, Progress and Promise brochure was put together for county council, but also includes some benefits provided to citizens of Spartanburg County.

Spartanburg County gives COG an annual appropriation of \$111,436. In 2006, COG returned to the County \$8.8M, a return on the investment of 79 to 1. Of that, the entrepreneurial loan program money (\$386,000) is a fairly small figure, but that generated almost twice its amount in private sector investment, and created 60 new jobs in one year in Spartanburg County.

In addition to the return of investment, COG provided a multitude of services to Spartanburg County residents. Last year COG responded to over 150 requests for economic and demographic information by businesses that were looking to locate in the County. COG is one of six councils that have asked for and received obligation from DHEC to do water quality performance reviews. The main advantage to the county is that somebody looking to develop, build an industrial facility, or a business center in Spartanburg County, submits their environmental conformity to COG rather than Columbia. COG has a goal of a 24 hour turn around and have met that goal 92% of the time last year. The other six council regions that go directly to DHEC have a turn around goal of ten business

days. COG feels a valuable service is provided by reducing the time frame while in no way deprecating environmental quality.

COG also provides extensive technical assistance to municipalities across the county. In recent years, COG has worked with Duncan, Chesnee, and Woodruff in grappling some very serious financial issues. COG also provides assistance in planning and community development. And, probably what remains their most popular service is helping local governments find grants and fill out the grant applications.

Last year, COG received \$177,555 from the state. State appropriation money is used to leverage federal funds. Although the return on the state appropriated money isn't quite 79 to 1, COG did get about \$3.36 per each dollar invested.

Finally, the brochure describes the Councils of Governments' services across the state. COG also provides broad ranges of expertise and asked the delegation to give them a call and refer citizens to them if and when needed.

12. REPRESENTATIVE BOB WALKER, COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (CTC)

Representative Bob Walker reminded the delegation members to turn in their C Fund set-aside request on or before November 15.

The CTC is making progress, but as usual there is not enough money to appropriate for all the projects requested.

13. SENATOR JIM RITCHIE, SPARTANBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Senator Jim Ritchie introduced Mr. David Cordeau who has just joined the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce as President. Mr. Cordeau has arrived in Spartanburg with about thirty years of experience from Chambers of Commerce and economic development.

Mr. Cordeau is struck by the optimism of the people in the community. People are excited about what they believe their economic future could be and what they like about the community. It is something that they like and is something shared by people around the country when they think about what makes a community great, forward thinking and progressive.

Mr. Cordeau is mostly struck by the opportunities seen before the Chamber, especially in regard to economic development. There are opportunities for enticement to bring companies here as well as enhancement and retention of existing companies.

The third item is in the area of entrepreneurialism. There are untapped resources, brains, and intelligence in the community that the Chamber can use to turn into jobs and economic progress. Indeed that will be the Chambers highest priorities.

Mr. Cordeau is also struck by the quality of public and elected officials. These people work

for the citizens. Most communities would be proud to have representing them.

Economic development will be the Chambers key priority. The Chamber has already started to build partnerships, enhancing existing efforts, and adding new dimensions to those.

Government relations will continue to be a high priority for the Chamber.

The Chambers business community is engaged in speaking on behalf of the delegation to use the Chamber as a tool for the community and do whatever possible to grow the economic base, to grow the involvement of relationships with government for a brighter future all the way around.

Mr. Cordeau will come back to meetings routinely to give updates on things unfolding and look forward to participating with delegation members.

14. REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD MITCHELL, SPARTANBURG CHILDREN'S SHELTER

Representative Harold Mitchell reported the Children's Shelter Anchor House will have a grand opening in December. Currently the Children's Shelter served more than 149 young girls that have been sexually abused. The Anchor House will be a 16 bed addition for long-term care.

15. REPRESENTATIVE DOUG SMITH, SPATS

Senator Hawkins will take on the chairmanship of SPATS.

16. REPRESENTATIVE DOUG SMITH, SPARTANBURG COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Representative Smith anticipated a report of pending good news, but will give a report at the next delegation meeting.

17. SENATOR GLENN REESE, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

No report.

27. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to address.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

Doug Smith, Delegation Chairman

Attested:
Carol Crowe