



South Carolina State Employees Association

Richland/Lexington Chapter

P.O. Box 7651, Columbia, SC 29202-7651

Volume I - November 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Chapter President,
Veronica Reynolds*

GREETINGS, CHAPTER MEMBERS and fellow state employees! The SCSEA Richland/Lexington Chapter held its annual membership meeting on April 30, 2009. It was a wonderful meeting and well attended. However, reflecting upon all the things that happened this past legislative year our journey leading up to the meeting was anything but a smooth ride. State employees faced furlough days, increases in insurance premiums and no cost of living pay increase. The chapter has been very active in staying involved by being that voice that represents the best interest of all state employees.

THE CHAPTER ALSO HELD its Annual Legislative Breakfast at Brookland Baptist Church in December 2008 and it was a great success and produced one of the Chapter's biggest crowds. The Legislative Delegation present addressed many issues and concerns of state employees but reiterated that the voice of state employees would make a major difference in the outcome of the 2009 legislative session. So, that is why **YOUR** membership is vital; **YOUR** involvement is equally important. **"Numbers make a difference"**. The Chapter needs your help and involvement in the 2010 session. Your membership is the voice that will continue to speak bold and loud regarding the rising cost of health insurance, decrease in salaries due to furlough days, future pay increases, and other issues such as the smokers and obesity bill.

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CHAPTER MEMBERS RECEIVE TOP AWARDS

ETTA R. WILLIAMS received the Outstanding Female State Employee Award at the SCSEA Annual Meeting that was held on April 30, 2009. This award was presented to Etta by the Richland/Lexington Chapter of the Association "in recognition of exceptional services to the state of South Carolina, its Employee's Association, your Chapter and community." Etta was a 2007-2009 board member of the Richland Lexington Chapter of the SCSEA and is employed as a staff attorney with the Department of Health and Environmental Control. ETTA was totally surprised when this award was presented to her at the Chapter's Annual Meeting. Although surprised, she was thankful and grateful to the Chapter for the award and to the people who nominated her. After receiving the recognition, Etta, who is currently the Chairperson of the Chapter's Media and Communication Committee, told the Meeting attendees that she vows to continue her work with the Association, which is dear to her heart.

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Etta Williams accepts a plaque from Nomination Committee Chairperson, Synaya Jones, for Outstanding Female State Employee.

SUGGESTION CORNER

Please submit any and all suggestions that you have for this newsletter to SCSEA.Rich-Lex@live.com.

If you have questions or suggestions that you would like to submit to our Chapter, please e-mail us at SCSEA.Rich-Lex@live.com. You will receive an acknowledgement within 5 business days. We look forward to hearing from you.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009

Submitted by: Barbara Cheeseboro, Scholarship Committee Chairperson



L-R: Ruby McClain, mother of Scholarship Recipient Jared Joshua McClain (not pictured), and Recipients, Francisco Alvarez, V, and Cynthia Danielle LeFebvre

At its Annual Meeting on April 30, 2009, the Richland/Lexington Chapter of the S.C. State Employees Association (SCSEA) awarded two scholarships for \$500.00 and one for \$750.00.

One Scholarship was presented to Cynthia Danielle LeFebvre. Cynthia, a freshman at Columbia College, is majoring in Behavioral Science. Upon graduation Cynthia plans to pursue a Master's Degree in teaching at the University of South Carolina. Her goal is to become an anthropology professor. Her grandmother is Mrs. Carol LeFebvre, a retiree of the S.C. Judicial System. This scholarship was presented this year in honor of Lenna Parker (deceased) a long time chapter supporter.

The McKellar Scholarship was presented to Jared Joshua McClain. Jared is a junior at the University of Pittsburg, majoring in industrial engineering. Upon graduation Jared then plans to pursue graduate school education. His plan is to enroll in a dual degree program for a Masters in Science in Industrial Engineering with a concentration In Operations Research and Decision Modeling and a Masters of Business Administration. His career plans are to become a consultant at an engineering firm dealing with Digital Media Applications and Retail Sectors. His mother is Ruby E. Brice, who is employed with the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. This scholarship is given by the McKellar family each year.

The Lanoe Branham Scholarship was presented to Francisco Miles Alvarez. He is currently enrolled at Midlands Technical College and will be enrolled at Charleston Southern University this fall where he will pursue a major in Sports Marketing. His career goal is to become a Sports Advertiser and a Football Coach. His father is Francisco Alvarez IV, and his mother is Colanthisa Alvarez, who is employed with the Public Service Commission. This Scholarship is given each year in honor of Lanoe Branham (deceased) who was an active member and past president of the Chapter. He gave of his time, talents and leadership to the chapter and the Association.

The Richland/Lexington Chapter would like to extend its thanks to Committee Members Barbara Cheeseboro, Veronica Reynolds, and Etta Williams. The Chapter looks forward to awarding scholarships in 2010.

Awards *continued from page 1*

ROBBIE DEFREESE was the 2009 recipient of the Outstanding Retiree of the Year Award. She retired in December 2005, with 33 years of public service. The last 26 years, Robbie worked as a Court Reporter for the South Carolina Judicial Department, assigned to The Honorable L. Casey Manning. She has been a member of SCSEA since 1985 and has served in various positions with the Richland/Lexington Chapter that include Vice-President, Awards Committee, Audit Committee, and Annual Meeting Committee. Robbie is also a member of the SCSEA State Board and has been for a number of years. She is proud of her service to the state and plans to continue her service well into her retirement.



Robbie DeFreese is presented with the Outstanding Retiree Award plaque from Synaya Jones.

Congratulations to both Etta and Robbie for their hard work and for receiving their respective awards!

SCSEA RICHLAND/LEXINGTON CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2008-2009

Submitted by: Vivian Baxter, Membership Chairperson, 2008-2009

A CAMPAIGN for new members of the Richland/Lexington Chapter of the SC State Employees Association (SCSEA) was initiated in the fall of 2008. Since the State office offers membership incentives if you recruit 5 new members, the Richland/Lexington Chapter decided to give membership incentives for each new member of the Chapter. Suggestions were requested of the Board Members. After discussion of several ideas, consensus of the group was to purchase pocket calendars as a membership recruitment tool. Cost figures were presented to the Board and discussed. Two year pocket calendars were the Board's preference, but they were not cost effective. However, 2009 pocket calendars, also known as weekly planners, were purchased. A provisional budget of \$ 500.00 was established with the Board's approval on October 21, 2008.

WORKING WITH PRESIDENT Veronica Reynolds, and Treasurer Sharon Dorn, 250 pocket calendars were ordered with the SCSEA logo stamped on the weekly planners at the total cost of \$ 450.85. This figure includes the set-up and logo fees. Each calendar included a pen for use with the calendar. The pocket calendars were received and distributed to the Board Members requesting they recruit new members and/or ask others to help them recruit. New applications were received by the State office. Each new member would receive a "Richland/Lexington State Employees Association" pocket calendar for 2009. As new member applications were completed, they were submitted to the State Office.

INDIVIDUAL BOARD Members made presentations to various staff meetings encouraging membership to strengthen our voices as state employees, and reminding state employees of the benefits obtained through SCSEA.

THE RICHLAND/LEXINGTON membership went from 3,718 in April 2008 to 3,353 in April 2009. Although our numbers have gone down, some of this can be attributed to the poor economic times we are experiencing, as well as the retirement incentives offered by many state agencies.

WITH APPROVAL of the President, all attending the Chapter's Annual Meeting on April 30, 2009, received a "Richland/Lexington SCSEA" pocket calendar. While some of the Chapter members were present, all present at the Annual Meeting were asked to recruit at least one new member. If each Chapter member would recruit just one other person, our membership would double.

ALSO NOTED by President Reynolds, the state office held a membership drive at the DSS building on Two Notch Road, Columbia. Our chapter purchased the pizza for this event and eleven (11) new membership applications were received for the Richland/Lexington Chapter.

NOTICES

If you would like to receive future publications of this newsletter or you know a member who would like to receive it, please submit the e-mail addresses to:

ettarosewill.scsea@live.com.

Thank you very much.

For a Membership Application please send us an e-mail request at SCSEA.Rich-Lex@live.com and we will mail one to you.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS SCSEA RICHLAND/LEXINGTON CHAPTER

Please place these events on your calendar and plan to attend.

12/3/09 7:30 AM to 9 AM
Legislative Breakfast
Brookland Baptist Church
1066 Sunset Blvd.
West Columbia, SC

1/26/10 **Annual Statehouse Visit at the State Capitol**

4/29/10 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Annual Meeting
Brookland Baptist Church
1066 Sunset Blvd.
West Columbia, SC

*"Remember the two **benefits** of failure First, if you fail, you learn what doesn't work; and second, the failure gives you the opportunity to try a new approach."* [Roger Von Oech](#)

SCSEA PERFORM PUBLIC SERVICE WITH SCETV TELETHON

Submitted by: Victory Washington

The Richland/Lexington Chapter of the SCSEA conducted its annual community service at SCETV during their annual telethon and spring public television membership drive on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 1101 George Rogers Blvd, Columbia, SC, at 6:00 PM.

President Veronica Reynolds, Ronald Adams, Rosemary Chase, Barbara Cheeseboro, Sharon Dorn, Alleen Ernst, Eva Gourdine, Jean Jackson, Lynda Mason, Victory Washington, Mack Williams, and Edna Wulff volunteered their time and service by spending an entire evening answering calls from ETV subscribers and pledgers from 6:00-8:30 PM. Broadus Jamerson, Executive Director of the South Carolina State Employees Association (SCSEA), was the guest speaker for the evening as well as spokesperson for the Chapter. Mr. Jamerson was asked to speak briefly on the SCSEA's mission and goals as it relates to State Employees and its contributions to SCETV on behalf of the Richland/Lexington Chapter.

The evening began at 5:30 PM with the Chapter's monthly meeting (scheduled meetings are currently held at the South Carolina Labor Licensing and Regulation (SCLLR) every third Tuesday at 5:30 PM). The meeting was called to order by President Reynolds. Afterwards, dinner and refreshments were provided by Chick Fil-A to Chapter volunteers and ETV staff. At 6:00 PM, everyone gathered for a quick briefing with Ms. Fran Johnson, Volunteer & Community Relations Coordinator, Ms. Debbie King, Director of Volunteer & Community Relations, and Mr. Keith Henry who were on site to greet and train volunteers and assist them during their shift.

Chapter members received numerous calls throughout the night



SCSEA Members who volunteered at SCETV.

from subscribers with their financial support of \$2,974.00 to public broadcasting. It was an evening of success that ended at 8:30 PM. Members were given several on-air mentions throughout the night for their continued support of ETV and it was stated that the Chapter would also be thanked in ETV's monthly program guide, the *SCENE* magazine that is distributed to 35,000+ South Carolinians, as well as thanked in their e-newsletter that goes out to 60,000+ subscribers.

The programs ETV telecasted throughout the evening were **South Carolina A to Z** and **Great Performances, David Foster & Friends**.



Mrs. Mary Sox and Mr. Frank Parker (sister and husband of deceased SCSEA member Mrs. Lanee Parker) pose with Pres. Reynolds.

MEET THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING ON YOUR BEHALF

THE MEMBERS OF THE 2009-2011 RICHLAND/LEXINGTON CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

Veronica Reynolds, *President*, Labor Licensing Regulations
Barbara Cheeseboro, *Vice President*, Workers' Compensation Commission
Victory Washington, *Secretary*, Department of Social Services
Sharon Dorn, *Treasurer*, Human Affairs Commission
Mary Wells, *Membership Chair*, Department of Health and Environmental Control
Ford Mason, *Legislative Chair*, Department of Corrections

Muriel Anderson, Retiree
Vivian Baxter, Department of Health and Environmental Control
Marietta Boykin, Pardon, Probation & Parole
Florist Bowman, Retiree, Department of Mental Health
Rosemary Chase, Labor Licensing Regulations
Robbie DeFreese, Retiree, Judicial System
Alleen Ernst, Retiree, Budget & Control Bd.
Laura Fennell, Retiree, Department of Mental Health
Karen Davis-Green, Accident Funds
Georgia Gillens, Budget and Control Board
Geraldine Goodwin, Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School
Cynthia Higgins, Department of Health and Human Services
Jean Jackson, Health & Environmental Control
Synaya Jones, Department of Juvenile Justice
Pat Padgett, Retiree Department of Juvenile Justice
Jackie Scott, Commission for the Blind
Kenny Skenes, Department of Transportation
Linda Kennerly Stokes, State Tech
Reid White, Department of Corrections
Etta Williams, Department of Health & Environmental Control
Edna Wulff, Health and Human Services



Back row (l-r): J. Jackson, M. Wells, R. DeFreese, V. Baxter, S. Jones, V. Washington, and Pres. V. Reynolds
Front row (l-r): A. Ernst, B. Cheeseboro, S. Dorn, M. Boykin, and E. Williams

WHAT?: 2010 LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST FORUM

WHERE?: BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

WHEN?: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD FROM 7:30 TO 9:00 AM

WHY?: SO THAT YOU CAN MEET YOUR LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES, INTERACT WITH FELLOW STATE EMPLOYEES, AND INTRODUCE SCSEA LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

SEE YOU THERE!

SCSEA Members recite their script to potential donors.



Here are just some of the comments made by volunteers during SCETV's radio fundraising drive:

SCETV Radio Fundraising Volunteer Interview

- Introduce yourself and your organization
- Explain your organization's mission
- Explain why your organization choose to volunteer during ETV Radio's fundraising drive
- Mention any upcoming events
- Call to action....(example "We're in the studios right now and we'd love to hear from you! Give us a call, make your pledge to support ETV Radio.)
- **They almost always ask this on TV: "What is your favorite ETV show?"

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THE CHAPTER will hold its annual Legislative 2010 breakfast in December, followed by the annual State-house visit on January 26, 2010. Please mark your calendars to attend these important events. Let's work together to turn things around as a unified voice. Saying that means membership recruitment is important and everyone has a part and if you know a co-worker or a fellow state employee that is a non-member encourage them to join today. We are all in this together and your involvement today will have an impact on our future tomorrow. Get involved!

THE RICHLAND/LEXINGTON CHAPTER holds its Board Meeting every third Tuesday of each month and you are invited to attend. If you need information please contact any Board member that is listed within this newsletter.

THANK YOU for your continuous support!
Sincerely,

Veronica Reynolds, President
SCSEA Richland/Lexington Chapter

"Thank You" Note To Chapter Members From Fran Johnson, SCETV

Dear Victory Washington and Richland/Lexington Chapter of SC State Employees Association,

Thank you very much for volunteering with ETV last night! As always, you were a wonderful group to have in the studios and we would love to invite you back for future drives. The ETV staff appreciates you all taking the time out of your schedules and traveling to our studios to support your South Carolina Public Television. And with your help, we were able to raise \$2,974 during your shift!! Thank you!

I've attached several pictures from the evening; let me know if you have any trouble opening/viewing them. Please let me know if I can ever be of any assistance to your fantastic organization.

Fran Johnson - Volunteer & Community Relations Coordinator - South Carolina ETV & ETV Radio