



## South Carolina State Employees Association

### Richland/Lexington Chapter

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

Volume I - November 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: *Pat Lawter*, President, SCSEA Richland/Lexington Chapter



*President Pat Lawter*

ON April 12, 2011, the Richland/Lexington Chapter of the SCSEA held its annual meeting to elect officers and the board of directors for the 2011-2012 term. I was honored to be elected as your President. You will find a complete list of the Officers and Board of Directors in this edition of the Newsletter.

**MUCH** has happened since that meeting. In conjunction with the staff at the SCSEA office we have helped in membership drives, attended public hearings concerning the State Retirement Systems, and worked at the State Fair booth. We are making plans for the Legislative Breakfast that will be held on December 3rd.

**WE HAVE** scheduled the 2011 Legislative Breakfast for Saturday, December 3rd at the First Baptist Church in Columbia from 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM. All 15 members of the Richland/Lexington Delegation will be invited to meet with us. We hope to have members to represent each member of the delegation. The 2012 Legislative

agenda will be presented to them at that breakfast. **You must be a member of the Association or bring your completed application in order to attend.** To register, follow the instructions located in the Newsletter.

**MORE THAN** ever your membership in the SCSEA is essential. If you think that 'I am just one person', you are ... but if you are a member of SCSEA you can say 'I am one of 12,000+'. That makes a difference when you approach your legislator and ask for help with the SCSEA platform. There is a membership application in this Newsletter. Note that there is a membership campaign in process – join before December 31<sup>st</sup> ... the 1<sup>st</sup> year is half price.

**COMMUNICATION** is important for you as well as the Association and the Chapter. In this age of electronics and budget cuts we are trying to use email as much as possible. So, we need your personal email address. Contact the Association office [scsea@scsea.com](mailto:scsea@scsea.com) or 803-765-0680 to have your address added to the database for better communication.

**I LOOK FORWARD** to working with you. You may contact me at [lawterp@bellsouth.net](mailto:lawterp@bellsouth.net)

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## LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST, 2011

*Submitted by: Ford Mason, Chair, Legislative Committee*

**THE ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST** will be held at the First Baptist Church Banquet Hall, located at 1306 Hampton Street, in downtown Columbia on Saturday, December 3, 2011, from 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM. Our Legislative Breakfast is one of the strongest links we have with state legislators, and it is important for state employees to demonstrate, by their attendance, that we expect our Legislative Agenda to be understood and supported. Richland and Lexington Counties are where approximately half of all state employees live and work. Consequently, we have more political influence on legislators than anywhere in the state. In this critical election year, it has never been more important to exercise our political influence and to strongly encourage the Richland-Lexington delegation to stand up and support our Legislative Agenda.

*continued at **Breakfast**, page 2*

## **Breakfast** *continued from page 1*

**AS YOU KNOW THINGS HAVE NOT BEEN GOOD** for state employees and retirees in South Carolina and around the country. Many people feel that state governments are balancing their budgets on the backs of state employees. Here in South Carolina, we have had more than our share of problems. We haven't had a cost of living raise or a merit pay increase in some time, health insurance is going up 4.5% in January, employee salaries are being reduced through furloughs and lay-offs, and job terminations are continuing. Also, there is talk about ending the defined benefit retirement program, retiree COLAs, and 28 year retirement.

**THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TIME FOR YOU TO LEARN** how to maximize your political effectiveness in this difficult time for state employees. Here are some good suggestions.

- 1) **Determine** who your state House Member and Senator are. Obtain their address and phone number and be prepared to contact them throughout the year on SCSEA business. Provide the SCSEA office with your email address so you can receive important information and directions in a timely manner.
- 2) **Attend** the Legislative Breakfast and encourage other SCSEA members to attend with you. To register, follow the instructions located in the newsletter.
- 3) **Call** your House and Senate members and ask them to attend the Legislative Breakfast.

**OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CARLTON WASHINGTON**, is working hard to make our organization a stronger political force. He is counting on you to work with your representatives to help us attain our organizational goals.

**YOU MAY PARK IN THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** back parking lot off Washington Street between Sumter and Marion Streets or on the nearby streets. Avoid parking on Sumter Street due to the Christmas Day Parade later that morning. Enter the Banquet Hall through the blue awning doorway facing the back parking lot. The Banquet Hall is down the hall on your right. **SEE YOU THERE!**

## **MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

*Submitted by: Sandra Best, Membership Committee Chair; and Pat Lawter, President, SCSEA Richland/Lexington Chapter*

The membership committee is hard at work recruiting new members and our efforts are paying off. Currently, there are **2908** members [2421 active employees and 487 retirees] in the Richland/Lexington Chapter.

### **Membership Activities:**

- The chapter participated in a Membership Drive Fish Fry on August 25th at the DHEC/DSS/DMH complex.
- SC-NABCJ hosted a Membership Drive Fish Fry on October 30th; 2 members were recruited.
- TBA- Fish Fry- for members and prospective members in the Broad River Road Complex/Area. Members of the Richland/Lexington Chapter will participate in the following membership drives:
  - November 8th -11th**- South Carolina Law Enforcement Conference- Myrtle Beach SC, will be vendor for recruitment efforts.
  - December 2nd**- SC-NABCJ Annual Conference- Brookland Banquet & Conference Center.

The importance of being or becoming a member is to continue or have an association that advocates (pleads in behalf of) for state employees and retirees, as it relates to compensation and benefits; to include COLA, insurance, etc.

If you are interested in having a membership drive at your agency please contact:

Sandra Best [bestsan09@yahoo.com](mailto:bestsan09@yahoo.com) or  
Margaret West [mwest@scsea.com](mailto:mwest@scsea.com)

We thank you in advance for any and all support!

*South Carolina State Employees Association  
Richland/Lexington Chapter*

**LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
1306 Hampton St – Columbia - 7:30 am – 9:00 am**

**TO REGISTER:**

**Send an email to me at: [lawterp@bellsouth.net](mailto:lawterp@bellsouth.net)  
Deadline for registration: Monday, November 28th**

**Include the following information:**

**Name – Agency of employment – contact phone # - Address  
House & Senate Districts**

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**Richland / Lexington Legislative Delegation**

**Richland County**

**Senate**

[John E. Courson, District 20](#)  
[Darrell Jackson, District 21](#)  
[Joel Lourie, District 22](#)  
[John L. Scott, Jr., District 19](#)

**House**

[Dr. Jimmy C. Bales, District 80](#)  
[Nathan Ballentine, District 71](#)  
[Joan B. Brady, District 78](#)  
[Mia Butler Garrick, District 79](#)  
[James H. Harrison, District 75](#)  
[Christopher R. Hart, District 73](#)  
[Leon Howard, District 76](#)  
[Joseph A. “Joe” McEachern, District 77](#)  
[Joseph H. Neal, District 70](#)  
[J. Todd Rutherford, District 74](#)  
[James E. Smith, Jr., District 72](#)

**Lexington County**

**Senate**

[John E. Courson, District 20](#)  
[Ronnie W. Cromer, District 18](#)  
[John M. “Jake” Knotts, Jr., District 23](#)  
[Nikki G. Setzler, District 26](#)

**House**

[Todd K. Atwater, District 87](#)  
[Nathan Ballentine, District 71](#)  
[Kenneth A. “Kenny” Bingham, District 89](#)  
[Marion B. Frye, District 39](#)  
[Chip Huggins, District 85](#)  
[Walton J. McLeod, District 40](#)  
[Harry L. Ott, Jr., District 93](#)  
[Rick Quinn, District 69](#)  
[L. Kit Spires, District 96](#)  
[McLain R. “Mac” Toole, District 88](#)

**“SCSEA’S BRAND NEW LOGO”**



**Richland/Lexington Chapter  
PO Box 7651, Columbia, SC 29202-7651**

# CHAPTER MEMBERS RECEIVE TOP AWARDS FOR 2011

Submitted by: *Victory Washington*

**S**HARON DORN received the Outstanding Female State Employee Award at the SCSEA Annual Meeting that was held on April 12, 2011, at the Brookland Banquet & Conference Center. This award was presented to Sharon by the Richland/Lexington Chapter of the Association “in recognition of her exceptional services to the State of South Carolina, its Employee’s Association, her Chapter and community.” Sharon became a member of the SCSEA in 1993 and currently serves on the Board of the Richland/Lexington Chapter. Sharon has served on the following committees: Annual Meeting, ETV, Membership, and Nominations. She is currently employed with the SC Human Affairs Commission where she serves as the Senior Investigator over the Treasury for the Benevolent Funds. Sharon was quite surprised when this award was presented to her at the Chapter’s Annual Meeting. Although surprised, she was thankful and grateful for the award and to the individuals who nominated her. Sharon currently serves as Treasurer for the Chapter.

**H**ANK MACDONALD received the Outstanding Male State Employee Award at the SCSEA Annual Meeting that was held on April 12, 2011 at the Brookland Banquet & Conference Center. This award was presented to Hank by the Richland/Lexington Chapter of the Association “in recognition of his dedication and services to the State of South Carolina, its Employee’s Association, his Chapter and community.” Hank became a member of the SCSEA in 2000 and currently serves on the Board of the Richland/Lexington Chapter. Hank served as the chair of the Awards Committee for 2011. He is currently employed with the SC Department of Social Services in

the IT department as the Video Conferencing Coordinator. Hank was quite surprised when this award was presented to him at the Chapter’s Annual Meeting. Although surprised, he was thankful for the award and felt it was such an honor coming from the individuals who nominated him.

**M**URIEL ANDERSON was the 2011 recipient of the Outstanding Retiree of the Year Award that was held on April 12, 2011 at the Brookland Banquet & Conference Center. This award was presented to Muriel by the Richland/Lexington Chapter of the Association “in recognition of her dedication and services as a retiree to the State of South Carolina, its Employee’s Association, her Chapter and community.” Muriel retired from the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School in June 2000 after 33 & 1/2 years of public service. She became a member of the SCSEA in 1997 and currently serves on the Board of the Richland/Lexington Chapter. Muriel has served on the following committees: Annual Meeting, Awards, ETV, and Membership and was most recently elected as Vice President of the State Retiree Association for the Richland/Lexington Chapter. Muriel was quite honored by the award and to the individuals who nominated her. She is very proud of her years of service to the state and plans to continue her services well into her retirement.

**W**e wish to extend our congratulations to Sharon, Hank, and Muriel for their continued dedication, hard work, and services to the State of South Carolina and for receiving their respective awards!

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## REFLECTIONS OF PAST SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Submitted by: *Barbara Cheeseboro, Chair, Scholarship Committee*

“In 2009 I was privileged to receive a generous SCSEA scholarship for which I am still grateful. I will be graduating from Columbia College in May of 2012 and plan to continue my education at USC Law School.”

**CYNTHIA DANIELLE LEFEBVRE**

“The scholarship I received from the SCSEA in 2007 was helpful in so many ways. I used it to purchase books and other miscellaneous items, which helped made me a successful student and was able to obtain my degree in 2010. I am currently residing in Harrison, New Jersey and working with the New Jersey Nets as an account manager for inside ticket sales.”

**CHAZ Q. CHEESEBORO**

Updates will be forthcoming for SCSEA 2011 scholarship awards.

# ETV TELETHON – MARCH 2011

Submitted by: *Victory Washington*, Chair, ETV Telethon

**THE RICHLAND/LEXINGTON CHAPTER OF THE SCSEA** conducted its annual community service at SCETV during their annual ETV Telethon and spring public television membership drive on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 6 PM at 1101 George Rogers Blvd., Columbia, South Carolina.



*Past President Veronica Reynolds chats with lady at ETV Telethon.*

**PAST SCSEA CHAPTER PRESIDENT VERONICA REYNOLDS**, and other Richland/Lexington Chapter Members Sharon Dorn, Eva Gourdine, Marietta Boykin, Alleen Ernst, Synaya Jones, Hank MacDonald, and Victory Washington volunteered their time and service, and shared the evening's spotlight along with Workshop Theatre, who were truly a great group to work with in receiving and responding numerous calls from ETV subscribers and pledgers from 6:00-11:00 PM. President Reynolds was the spokesperson for the Chapter. She was asked to speak briefly on the SCSEA's mission and goals as it related to State Employees and its contributions to SCETV on behalf of the Richland/Lexington Chapter.

**THE CHAPTER HELD ITS MONTHLY MEETING DURING THIS TIME**, which is normally held prior to the telethon's event. The evening began promptly at 6:00 pm with dinner and refreshments provided to volunteers and ETV staff by Southern Way Catering. The menu was raved about and enjoyed by everyone and was given an A+ for the evening.

**EVERYONE GATHERED AFTER DINNER FOR A QUICK BRIEFING** with Ms. Fran Johnson, Volunteer & Community Relations Coordinator, and other members of ETV staff, Ms. Debbie King and Mr. Keith Henry, were on site to help greet, train, and assist volunteers during the night's event.

**VOLUNTEERS RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR CALLS** throughout the evening from subscribers and pledgers. Financial contributions totaled \$18,771 in support of ETV's public broadcasting. It was an evening of financial success and fun that ended at 11:00 PM. Volunteers from both the Chapter and Workshop Theatre were given several on-air mentions throughout the evening for their continued support of ETV and it was also stated that the Chapter and Workshop Theatre would be thanked in ETV's monthly program guide, the SCENE magazine that is distributed to 35,000+ South Carolinians, and also acknowledged in its e-newsletter that goes out to 60,000+ subscribers.



*Richland/Lexington Chapter members work at ETV Telethon.*



*Richland/Lexington Chapter members work at ETV Telethon.*

**IT WAS A GREAT EVENING OF FUN WITH CHAPTER MEMBERS ON LIVE TV!**

*South Carolina State Employees Association  
Richland/Lexington Chapter  
Board of Directors*

**Officers**

**Board Election - April 12, 2011**

President	Pat Lawter	Retired -DSS
Vice President	Barbara Cheeseboro	Workers Comp
Secretary	Etta Williams	DHEC
Treasurer	Sharon Dorn	Human Affairs
Legislative Chair	Ford Mason	Retired-DoC
Membership Chair	Sandra Best	SCDoC
Past President	Veronica Reynolds	LLR

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Term</u>
<b>[Active]</b>					
Vivian Baxter	DHEC	2011-13	Marietta Boykin	PPP	2011-13
Deborah Carter	HHS	2011-13	Joe Fortune	USC	2011-13
Rosalind Harriot	House of Rep	2011-13	Jean S. Jackson	DHEC	2011-12
Synaya R. Jones	DJJ	2011-13	Hank MacDonald	DSS	2011-13
Kathy Wilson	B&CB-DIT	2011-13	Mack Williams	LLR	2011-13
Wendy G. Hollingsworth	DOT	2011-13			
<b>[Retired]</b>					
Bobbie Adkins	Retired	2011-13	Muriel Anderson	Retired	2011-12
Florist Bowman	Retired	2011-13	Alleen Ernst	Retired	2011-13
Rosalind Funk	Retired	2010-13	Faye L. Hollingsworth	Retired	2011-13
Victoria Washington	Retired	2011-13	Mary Wells	Retired	2011-13
<b>[Outstanding Service awards]</b>					
Sharon Dorn	Female	2011-12			
Hank MacDonald	Male	2011-12			
Muriel Anderson	Retiree	2011-12			

*Newsletter edited and formatted by Etta R. Williams, Chapter Member.*

**SCSEA OFFICE USE ONLY**

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_  
 County \_\_\_\_\_ Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Date Recd \_\_\_\_\_

**WHERE MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!**

**Mail Completed Form To:**

SCSEA  
 P.O. Box 8447  
 Columbia, SC 29202-8447

**THE SCSEA**  
**www.scsea.com**

**Special Offer**

**New Membership Enrollment**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Agreement**

**Renewal Agreement**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SSN \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

State Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Recruited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SSN \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

State Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Recruited by: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Take 50% off regular dues schedule)**

**(Use Normal Dues Schedule)**

**PAYROLL DEDUCTION (Active Employees)**

I hereby authorize my employer to withhold from my paycheck \$ \_\_\_\_\_ semi-monthly.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**RETIREMENT SYSTEM DEDUCTION**

I hereby authorize the Retirement System to withhold from my retirement income \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYROLL DEDUCTION (Active Employees)**

I hereby authorize my employer to withhold from my paycheck \$ \_\_\_\_\_ semi-monthly.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

**RETIREMENT SYSTEM DEDUCTION**

I hereby authorize the Retirement System to withhold from my retirement income \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

<b>DUES SCHEDULE</b>			
	Semi-Monthly	Monthly	Annual
<b>Annual Income:</b>			
To \$35,000	\$2.50	\$5.00	\$60.00
Over \$35,000	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$120.00
Associate Member			\$60.00

*If you wish to pay the total amount of annual dues, include your check, cash, or money order. OR*

**VISA/MASTERCARD PAYMENT**

Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for becoming a part of a movement to protect OUR pay and benefits!**