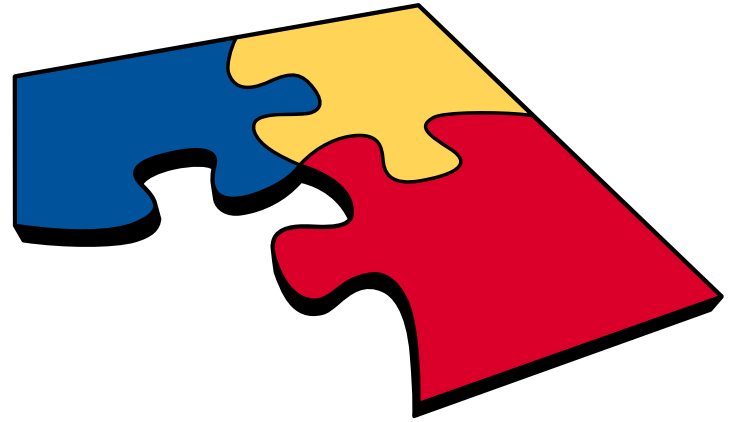


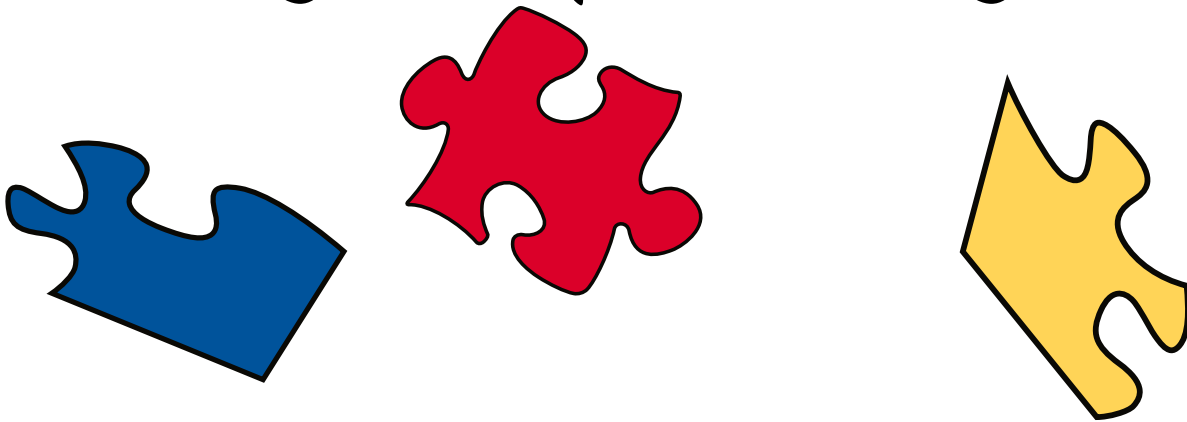


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2007 Annual Meeting**

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Program

Sunday

3:30 P.M.

Exhibit areas open for setup..... Capital Lobby, Palmetto Ballroom

5–6:30 P.M.

Registration..... Atrium

6:30–7 P.M.

Business meeting..... Capital I–III

Welcome: Pat Green, SCVRA President

7–8:30 P.M.

Reception.....Carolina A–E

Monday

8:30 A.M.–Noon

Registration..... Atrium

8:30 A.M.–5 P.M.

Exhibit areas open..... Capital Lobby, Palmetto Ballroom

9–10:15 A.M.

General Session.....Carolina A–H

Presiding: Jennie Thomas, SCVRA President

Presentation of Colors

S.C. Youth Challenge Academy, JROTC, Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

National Anthem

Jacquelyn Kennedy–Merritt, Lancaster Office

Welcome and Introduction of Speaker

Jennie Thomas

Guest Speaker

Becky McCrary, “A Passion for Your Profession—Attitudes in Action”

10:15–10:30 A.M.

Break / Visit Exhibit Areas..... Capital Lobby, Palmetto Ballroom

10:30 A.M.–Noon

VRBPN Partners meetingAlumni Room

Concurrent Sessions

(Select two 40-minute sessions)

The New People on the Block..... **Capital I**

César Blanco, employment coach in Spartanburg, looks at the increasing Hispanic population and how to handle its impact on our lives and work. Facilitated by: Toni Wilson.

What’s Your Future? **Capital II**

It’s never too early to plan for retirement. Shawn Holman of the S.C. Retirement Systems talks about when to retire, how the retirement annuity is calculated, the TERI plan and other topics. Facilitated by: Eric Moore

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Workplace Violence.....Capital III

Deputy Amanda Lee of the Richland County Sheriff’s Department discusses how to handle violence in the workplace. Facilitated by: Jeb Batten

The Calm Before the Storm Diplomat (first session)/Capital IV (second session)

DDS psychologist Dr. Lisa Varner tells how DDS counterparts along the Gulf Coast prepared for Hurricane Katrina. Learn about the damage they endured, the procedures they followed and some surprises they encountered along the way. Facilitated by: Shirley Jarrett

The Office of the Future Capital IV (first session)/Diplomat (second session)

VR network administrator Chris South presents an exciting look at how technology will continue to dictate how we do business. Venture into the future of technology and how it will change the workplace for government and private industry. Facilitated by: Jay Rolin

Noon–12:15 P.M.

Break / Visit Exhibit Areas..... Capital Lobby, Palmetto Ballroom

12:15–2 P.M.

Partners Award Luncheon.....Carolina A–H

Presiding: Jennie Thomas

Welcome

Derle A. Lowder Sr., Chairman, S.C. State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation

Invocation

The Rev. Dr. William H. Phillips, Union United Methodist Church, Irmo

Legislative Award

Presented to: Sen. Robert Wesley Hayes Jr., R-Rock Hill

Presented by: Larry Bryant, Commissioner, S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Special Recognition

Presented by: Larry Bryant

VR Business Partners Recognition

Presented by: Mark Wade, Public Information Director

VR Business Partners Awards

Presented to: Lowe’s

Presented by: Mark Wade

Assisted by: Dr. H. Lucius Laffitte, Vice Chairman, S.C. State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation
John Hornsby, Sumter Area Supervisor

Presented to: ARAMARK

Presented by: Mark Wade

Assisted by: Dr. H. Lucius Laffitte
Kathy Brownlee, Rock Hill Area Supervisor

Presented to: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Presented by: Mark Wade

Assisted by: Dr. H. Lucius Laffitte
David Turnipseed, Greenville Area Supervisor

2–2:15 P.M.

Break / Visit Exhibit Areas..... Capital Lobby, Palmetto Ballroom

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2:15–3 P.M.

General Session..... Carolina A–H

Presiding: Jennie Thomas

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Dr. Lisa Varner

Guest Speaker

Dr. Chrissy Coley, “Managing Generational Differences in the Workplace”

3–3:15 P.M.

Break / Visit Exhibit Areas..... Capital Lobby, Palmetto Ballroom

3:15–4:30 P.M.

Association Meetings

SCVRAA..... *Capital III*

SCADES..... *Capital II*

Direct Client Services..... *Capital IV*

Technical Services..... *Capital I*

SCVRD Retirees *Alumni Room*

Students..... *Diplomat*

Tuesday

8:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

Exhibit Areas Open Capital Lobby, Palmetto Ballroom

8:30–10 A.M.

Registration..... Atrium

8:30–9 A.M.

Professional Staff Association Annual Meeting..... Carolina F–G



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CHARTER

To create a rural workforce development training consortium to address the training needs of new and existing industries within the NETC service area. To involve all community workforce stakeholders as empowered and equal partners in the creation, implementation, management, and evaluation of the training program to meet the workforce needs of the employers as well as the workers. To adhere to each partners' stated policies and procedures to prevent duplication of services and provide a unified holistic training program where every applicant is assessed and referred to the appropriate service to meet his/her workforce development needs. To provide the employers with competent employees who are capable of producing quality work in an efficient, timely, and safe manner.

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S.C. Employment Security Commission (ESC)
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South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation
Community Development Corporation of Marlboro County (CDC)
Rural Crossroad Institute

Northeastern Technical College (NETC)
Marlboro County Adult Education
Marlboro County Public Schools
Department of Social Services (DSS)
Chesterfield-Marlboro EOC
Pee Dee Regional Council of Government (COG)
BCMT Community of Shalom

9–10:15 A.M.

General Session..... Capital I–IV

Presiding: Jennie Thomas

Welcome

Larry Bryant

Panel Introduction

Mark Wade

Panel Topics

Washington Update: John Hager, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education

South Carolina Update: Dr. Blease Graham, Political Science Professor, University of South Carolina

SSA National and State Update: Paul Barnes, SSA Regional Commissioner

Questions and Answers

10:15–10:30 A.M.

Break / Visit Exhibit Areas..... Capital Lobby, Palmetto Ballroom

10:30 A.M.–Noon

Association Awards..... Capital I–IV

Presiding: Jennie Thomas

Administrator of the Year Award

Presented by: George Pullie, President

Direct Client Services Award

Presented by: Bernard Grant, President

Barry Cooper Leadership Award (SCADES)

Presented by: Glenda McMichael, Vice President

Technical Services Award

Presented by: Robert Luther, President

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Special Recognition

PRIDE Award Winners, Tom Paige

Atlanta Regional DDS Program of the Year, Larry Bryant

Special Awards

Professional of the Year Award

Presented by: Jeff Hart, President

Richard M. Kuffel Excellence in Education Award

Presented by: Linda Lieser, Case Services Director

Commissioner's Medal of Excellence Awards

Presented by: Larry C. Bryant

Introduction of Guest Speaker

Jennie Thomas

Guest Speaker

Dr. Iwanna Guess Ridgill, "Take This Job and Love It"

Noon-12:30 P.M.

Break / Visit Exhibit Areas..... Capital Lobby, Palmetto Ballroom

12:30-2 P.M.

Awards Luncheon Capital I-IV

Presiding: Mark Wade

Invocation

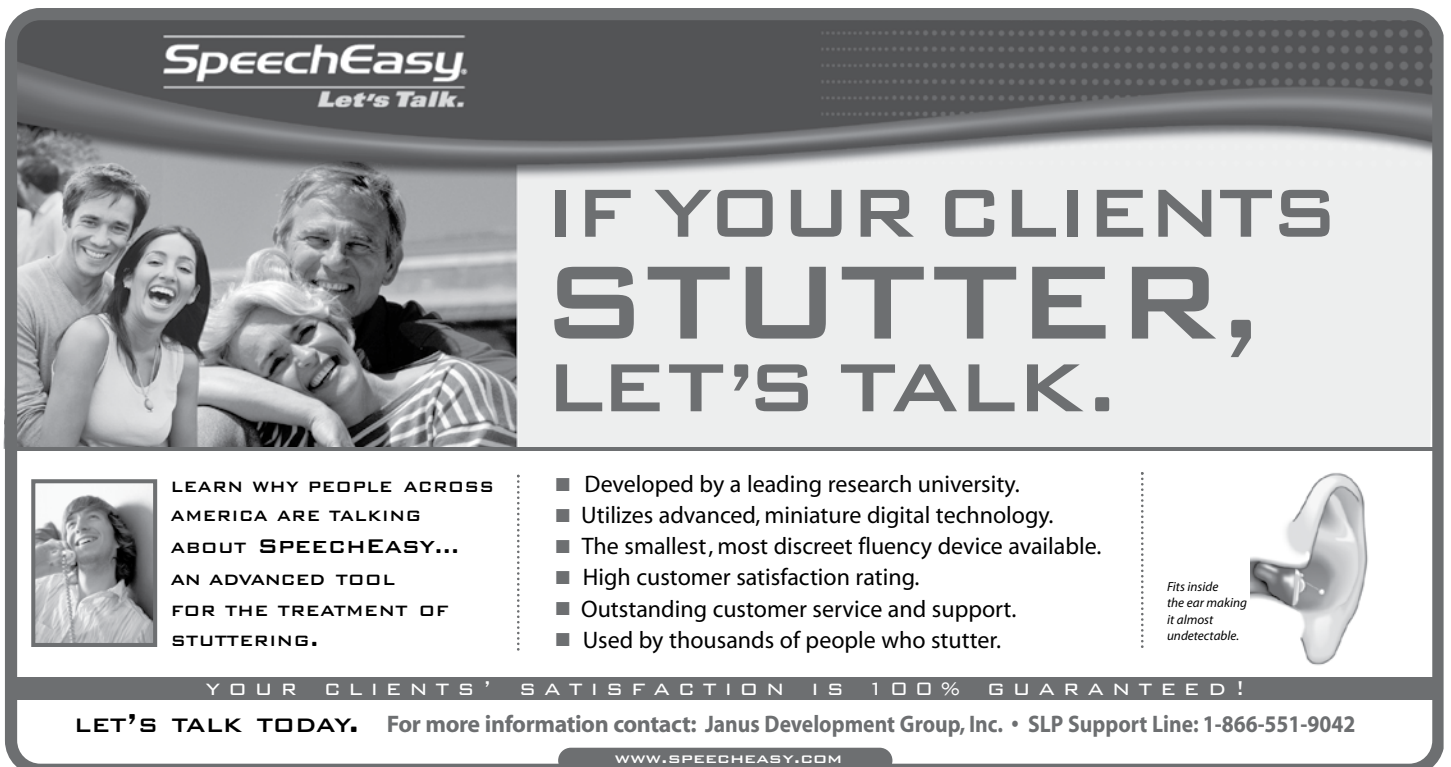
The Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Masolwa, First Northeast Baptist Church, Columbia

VR Client Partner Award

Presented to: Frances Looper, Lexington

Presented by: Barbara Hollis, Assistant Commissioner

Assisted by: Rhonda Presha, Member, S.C. State Agency of Vocational Rehabilitation
Roy Hewett, Lexington Area Supervisor



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2006 Local Client Achievement Awards

Presented by: Mark Wade

Aiken.....	Dennis Sauls, Luanna Dygas, Jan Westmoreland, Robin Taylor, Vilroy Smith, Kathy Murray, John McMurtrie, Joe Powell
Anderson.....	Jim Keogh, Jackie Nelson, Melissa Hegler, Greg Beatty
Beaufort-Walterboro	Gail Murray, John Gallagher, Evaluation Center and Rehabilitation Technology staffs
Berkeley-Dorchester	Kelly Overholser, John Wilson, Freda Washington, Elaine Ellington Tom Jackman, Rehabilitation Technology staff
Charleston	Jakki Deas, Jennifer Jerome, Ginger Ash Morgan Fancher, Deborah Johnson, Vivian Pinckney, Mary Hart
Conway	Teresa Houston, Phil Davis, Marty Graham, Johnathan Greene, Mona King, Cindy McKenzie
Florence	Samantha Murray, Jan Psillos, Susan Jordan, Audrey Nowlin, Camilla Jones, Elizabeth Parker, Prince McGill, Susan Urquhart, Obediah Kirven, Mike Harrelson
Greenville.....	Mark Daniels, Cathy Jollie, Todd Batt, Julie Jackman, Marlise Guillerault, Jim Stroman, Dr. Robert Dunn, Debby Triplett, Birt Dowling
Laurens-Greenwood	Steve Heape, Jim Williams, Keith Stewart, Chad Ulmer, Arthur Kemp, Grace Ryan, Sue Murray, Greenwood Work Training Center staff
Marlboro-Hartsville.....	Shelia Gilbert, Emily Whitney, Melody Woodle, Sophia Streater, Stacy Bakas, Rick Fountain, Tim Russell, Evaluation Center and Rehabilitation Technology staffs
Orangeburg.....	Deborah McCarty, Bessie Dowling, Raymond Cooper, Ivory Canty
Richland.....	Gardenia Coleman, Jan Campbell, Andrea Sinkler-Slaughter, Bernard Grant, Jody Varn, Jesse Farr, Joy Smith, Robert Taylor, Jeannine Gamble, Julie Jackman
Rock Hill-Lancaster.....	Vickie Manning, Jon Robinson, Linda Ransom
Spartanburg.....	Roland Salley, Cindy Sellars, Norma Grizzard, Jennie Thomas, Marlene Comer, Katie Sprouse, Belinda Gibbs, Roy Hewett
Sumter-Camden.....	Kim Ferguson, Dr. J. Robert Dunn III, Lee-Ann Danko, Janice Miller Mary Burnett, Barbara Jolly and the Rehabilitation Technology staff

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2006 Client Achievement Award

Presented to: Ryan Jennings, Lexington
Presented by: Larry Bryant
Assisted by: Derle A. Lowder Sr.
John Hager
Roy Hewett

2006 Client Achievement Staff Recognition

Presented to: Brenda Miller, Roy Hewett, Betsy Kliment, Betty Armstrong, Wanda Williamson, Todd Batt, Tom Jackman, Julie Jackman, Barbara Jolly, Mary Ann Smith, Carol Teal, Marlise Guillerault, Janice Miller and Linda Menefee
Presented by: Larry Bryant
Assisted by: Derle A. Lowder Sr.
John Hager

Closing Remarks

Jennie Thomas

Adjournment

Education for Life

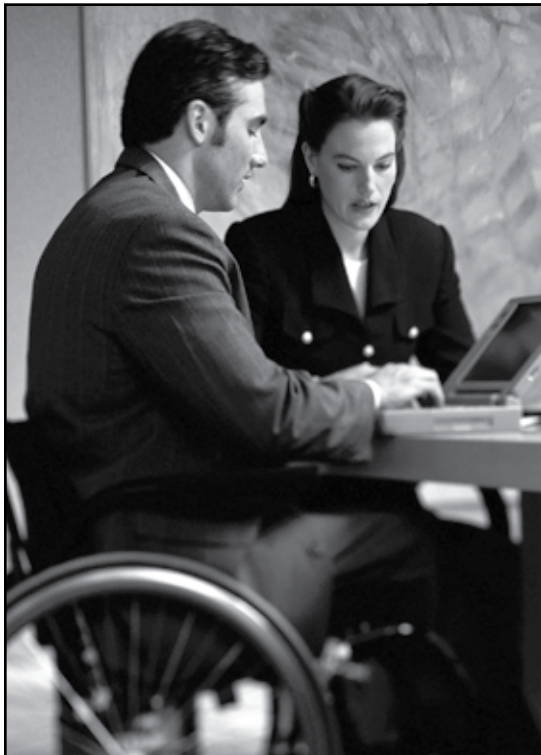
Our theme for this conference is *Education for Life: Putting the Pieces Together.*

In keeping with the theme, we are honoring several people and organizations that illustrate the various roles education plays in how we serve people with disabilities.

First, Sen. Wes Hayes of Rock Hill is the recipient of our Legislative Award. Sen. Hayes was instrumental in establishing a state standard for counselor qualifications during the last legislative session. This law enables a more diverse pool of masters-degreed counselor candidates to use additional coursework to reach the educational standards needed to provide the quality services needed by our clients.

In addition, we are honoring the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) office in Greenville for its enthusiastic participation in our High School/High Tech program. The program provides high school students with disabilities opportunities to explore career choices in technological fields.

And lastly, we recognize Sean Darcy of Greenville with the Kuffel Excellence in Education Award. Sean was an intern at NOAA through the High School/High Tech program and is now studying computer programming. He began another internship with NOAA this month.



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SCVRD: Eighty Years of Excellence

It began after World War I with a modest training program only for people with physical disabilities, especially veterans. Today, the vocational rehabilitation program in South Carolina serves people with more than 130 different physical and mental impediments, sending more than 8,000 of them into the workforce every year.

South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation marks its 80th anniversary at this conference, where hundreds of VR professionals from local offices, training centers, comprehensive programs, administrative offices and disability determination offices come together to learn, celebrate each other's accomplishments, get to know each other better and share strategies to better serve our customers in preparing them for employment. In 2007 we also mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of SCVRD as an independent agency—prior to 1957 it was part of the S.C. Department of Education.

Through the years there have been some shifts in federal legislative direction. In 1943 services were extended to people with mental retardation and expanded to include medical, surgical and other physical restoration services needed to make employment possible. In 1954 the program, which had previously featured a 50-50 state-federal match, became funded more heavily from the federal side, drastically improving services.

South Carolina led the way in many aspects, becoming the first state VR agency to provide services within state mental hospitals and among the first to work with people with mental retardation in institutions. Legislation in 1973 expanded the department's mission and emphasized services to people with the most severe disabilities. The agency was a pioneer in building and operating its own network of training centers. Its strategic planning initiatives in the 1990s began a customer-focused streamlining process that continues to evolve today as SCVRD remains a national leader in numerous efficiency and effectiveness measures.

The public VR program is the oldest and most successful federal/state human service program in the nation because of its achievements in helping people with disabilities enhance the quality of their lives through self-sufficiency and success in the workplace. They also become taxpayers who are less reliant on government assistance, paying back the cost of their rehabilitation in about five years. Exciting new employment opportunities await people with disabilities in a future of continued technological advancements. As we gather this week to "recharge our batteries," we look forward to another 80 years of innovation and leadership in making the most of those opportunities.

Meanwhile, the Social Security Administration entered into partnerships with the states in 1954 to handle disability determination decisions. VR counselors processed the early disability applications. By 1956, it was apparent that a specialized staff was needed to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the determination process and SCVRD's Disability Determination Services was born. Today, DDS processes more than 75,000 Social Security and Supplemental Security Income claims each year. Recently, DDS was recognized as the Program of the Year among the eight Southeastern states by the Social Security Administration.



Speakers

Becky McCrary is a nationally recognized expert on customer service and relationship networking. After 20 years in the financial services industry, she began her professional speaking business more than a decade ago. She inspires individuals to deliver fabulous service, build lasting relationships, and have more fun.



During her 15 years of student affairs experience, **Dr. Chrissy Coley** has served in a variety of professional capacities at the University of South Carolina, Mercer University, Appalachian State University, and Columbia College. As director of Retention and Planning at USC, she provides leadership for the institution's student success initiatives and Student Affairs assessment processes.



John H. Hager has been assistant secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services since November 2004. Prior to that, he was Virginia's Homeland Security director and served as Virginia's lieutenant governor from 1997 until 2001. He is a strong proponent of better education, improved transportation and a more effective, efficient system of governance. A U.S. Army veteran and a lifelong athlete, he has competed in many wheelchair races.



A native South Carolinian, **Dr. Cole Blease Graham Jr.** earned his doctoral degree in political science from the University of South Carolina, where he has been a faculty member since 1971. He specializes in Public Administration and Public Management and American State-Local Government and Politics with an emphasis on South Carolina politics. He has co-authored books on public organization management and South Carolina government and politics, and co-edited a book on court administration.



Paul D. Barnes has served as regional commissioner for the Social Security Administration's eight-state Atlanta Region since July 2002.


He began his career as a claims representative in Columbia, Tenn., in 1968. The son of "sharecroppers", he worked his way through college and graduated magna cum laude from Lane College in 1968. He also earned a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and is a graduate of Harvard University's Senior Managers in Government Program.



Dr. Iwana Ridgill is an adjunct faculty member in the Center for Leadership and Employee Development at Midlands Technical College in Columbia. She is an oft-requested motivational speaker at professional conferences and conventions, association meetings, staff development programs, and civic and community organizations.



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SCVRA 2007 Conference Committees

80th Anniversary: *Mark Wade

Accessibility/Parking: *Todd Batt, Tom Jackman, Jim Williams

Ads: *Brenda Williams, Lea McQueen, Todd Blake, Lisa Varner

Awards: *Mark Wade, Sharon Kelly, Joanie Hess

Door Prizes: *Neal Getsinger, Bernard Grant, Nick Shorter, Tim Russell

Exhibits/Sponsorships: *Nick Shorter, Brenda Williams, Todd Blake, Tim Russell

Host/Hostesses: Committee Members and Division Presidents

Keynote/Featured Speakers: *Debra Moses, Joanie Hess

Local Activities/Social: *Chris South, Todd Blake, Robert Luther

Membership Committee: *Joanie Hess, Bernard Grant, Lisa Varner, Robert Luther, Jennie Thomas

Program Committee: *Sharon Kelly, Mark Wade, Teri Norris, Debra Moses, Lisa Varner

Program Evaluations: *Jennie Thomas, Debra Moses, Teri Norris

Registration/Registration Bags: *Joanie Hess, Deb Huff, Chris South, Faith Raymond

Retirees: *Lamar Brown, Claudette Moreno

Website: *Sharon Kelly, Chris South (resource: Mark Gamble)

*Chairpersons

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(TRAINING FOR CLASS A LICENSE)**

866-484-6313 803-484-6313 FAX 803-484-6217

****IN CONJUNCTION WITH****

**HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
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