



## From the Desk of President Starnes

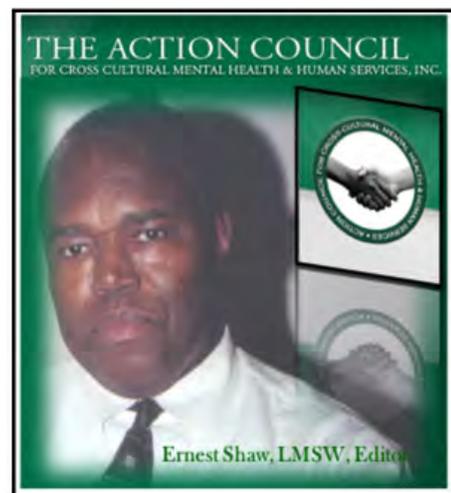


The planning for the 2016 Cross Cultural Conference is complete. The Action Council website is an excellent resource to obtain information on the Cross Cultural Conference and other Action Council events. The success of our organization results from the hard work of our members and our board of directors. Hard-working men and women with a variety of skills, work daily to ensure that all Action Council events are relevant and an overall success. In the coming year, the Action Council will continue to collaborate with other groups and individuals to reach a wider audience and make certain that our mission is accomplished. Please visit our website regularly at [crossculturalactioncouncil.org](http://crossculturalactioncouncil.org).

## From the Editor

The goal of this organization is to promote cultural competency through the various educational events that we sponsor and present throughout the year. This edition of the newsletter will provide our readers some of the highlights of the past year, thank those individuals and organizations who continue to contribute to our success, and extend an invitation to everyone to join us for future events.

I would also like to use this opportunity to ask all of our members to contribute to the content of the newsletter by submitting print-ready news items and photographs to me at [Ernestshaw2001@yahoo.com](mailto:Ernestshaw2001@yahoo.com). We know that you are doing great things out there that we all need to know about. Please remember that the opinions expressed in this publication are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the policies of our organizations. We welcome corrections, opposing opinions and constructive criticism.



## The 2015 Conference: How Did We Do?



The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Council Cross Cultural Conference is just around the corner. However, we should take one last look at this year's conference. The 37th Annual Cross Cultural Conference was held at the Landmark Resort Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC from February 19 to February 22, 2015. The theme for this year's conference was: "Building Communities of Hope and Resiliency: A System of Care Approach."

Thirty-five participants completed surveys at the end of the conference. Twenty of the thirty-five members of the Action Council. All thirty-five of whether or not their personal goals and during the conference. All thirty-five answered thirty-five said that they planned to attend the No one said that they did not plan to attend while We greatly appreciate hearing from the people conference by attending each year and we look attendance next year.

indicated that they were addressed the question objectives were met "yes." Twenty-nine of conference next year. six answered "Maybe." who support our forward your



Nadine L. Livingston

Our entire organization and the Planning many others for their recognize that our that it is without the private agencies, institutions and companies. A full report of the 2015 conference will appear in the 2016 Conference Edition of the newsletter.

would like to commend Nadine Livingston Committee, President James Starnes and so hard work in putting this event together. We conference would not be the successful event support of so many individuals, public and

## SC Chapter of NASW Honors Action Council Board Members

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) was founded in 1955 and is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world. Now celebrating sixty years of service, NASW works to "enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies."

Social workers have made invaluable and enduring contributions to the creation and maintenance of The Action Council. Dr. Corbitt was a social worker and an advocate for his profession. He attracted award winning social workers to the Action Council. Dolores Macey, Marjorie Hammock, Willie Bethune and Shirley



Furtick were named Social Workers of the Year by the SC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in recognition of their contributions to the social work profession. It is no surprise that each of the honorees have played prominent roles in the management and activities of our organization for years. The announcement of the honorees for 2015 suggest a continuation of a legacy linking the SC Chapter of NASW and The Action Council. Two of the four people honored were members of our board.

James Starnes, the Action Council President and longtime employee of the SC Department of Mental Health was presented with the 2015 Outstanding Public Citizen of the Year by the SC Chapter of NASW. Shirley McClerklin-Motley, a new board member and longtime Social Work Professor at Coker College, received the new Social Work Educator of the Year from SC Chapter of NASW.

## The Meaning of Charleston

Ernest Shaw, LMSW



The Cross- Cultural Conference has been held annually since 1979 with several cities hosting. Historic Charleston was the site of the 1986 conference. The Preliminary events were held on a Sunday at historic Emanuel A.M.E. Church. Invited participants included Joseph Bevilacqua, Commissioner of The SC Department of Mental Health and many experts from his agency. Modjeska Simkins and Septima Clark, icons of the civil rights movement, were there along with state senators Arthur Ravenel and Glenn F. McConnell, defenders of the Confederate Flag. Glenn McConnell was Lieutenant Governor when he spoke to us at a conference twenty-eight years later.

Prior to this year's conference, I was asked to speak and I prepared a presentation titled, "South Carolina Dragged Kicking and Screaming into the Present." However, the conference planning committee suggested a different topic and I complied. Nevertheless, my fascination with the slow pace of change in our state continued until events accelerated that pace this past summer.



Charleston, South Carolina, the former capital of the state, is the place where it is said "the Ashley River and the Cooper River converge to form the Atlantic Ocean." In 1816, the Black members of a Charleston Episcopal church withdrew, formed their own church, and affiliated with the Philadelphia-based African Methodist Episcopal Church. Denmark Vesey, a former slave, was one of the organizers of the church. Five years later, Vesey conceived a plan to free the slaves of

Charleston in an armed uprising. The plot was discovered and Vesey and 66 other Blacks were tried and convicted. Vesey and 34 of his followers were hanged in Charleston in the summer of 1822 for having the audacity to dream of fighting for the freedom of Blacks.

Vesey's church was also burned to the ground for good measure. The congregation rebuilt the church, but the City of Charleston banned all Black churches in 1834. Nevertheless, the

congregation continued as an underground church as South Carolina raced toward an appointment with disaster.

The degree to which the disintegration of our nation at that time can be attributed to the work of South Carolinians is as amazing as it was unfortunate. On December 17, 1860, one hundred and sixty-nine men met at Columbia's First Baptist Church and began the process of taking South Carolina out of the Union. In 1860 the majority of the members of the First Baptist Church were the slaves from area plantations. More than ninety per cent of the white men assembled there were slave owners. They owned an average of nearly sixty Black men, women and children each, and one man, John Laurence Manning of Clarendon County, owned nearly 650 slaves. Six members of his family served as governor of our state.

Diseases have altered the course of history on many occasions. Smallpox, an often-deadly contagion, has had a profound effect on human health and history. The disease probably killed more people than any other infectious disease, including the Black Death of the Middle Ages. The introduction of smallpox and other diseases to America helped to wipe out most of the native population and along with the invention of the cotton gin, fostered the increase in the importation of slaves from Africa.

An outbreak of smallpox occurred in Columbia in 1860 while the Secession Committee was in session. Undeterred, the group moved to Charleston and days later the deed was done. The cause of South Carolina's secession was unmistakably spelled out for all, and chief among those reasons was "increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding states to the institution of slavery." Former Congressman James Pettigrew from Charleston was one of the few to criticize the decision. "South Carolina is too large to be a lunatic asylum and too small to be a republic," he said. Nevertheless, South Carolinians stood at the front of a parade into darkness for our nation.

A former South Carolina legislator was governor of Mississippi from 1858 to 1860. He predicted secession of the South and his state followed South Carolina out of the Union by three weeks. Over the next two days, South Carolina-born governors of Florida and Alabama led their states out of the Union.

Eight days after Alabama left the Union the South Carolina-born Governor of Georgia led that state out of the Union. During the Civil War, the Georgia governor had frequent disagreements with the overreaching Confederate president and sought to limit deployment of Georgians in the war outside his state. Interestingly, a young man from our state graduated from the Medical College in Charleston in 1834 and in 1840 he married the daughter of the owner of my slave ancestors. He practiced medicine in Georgia and in 1861 wrote to his fellow South Carolinian in the Georgia governor's mansion offering to accompany his young son who planned to join the Confederate Army and to serve as a surgeon at his own expense.

Campaigning in our state during the 2012 presidential cycle, Texas Governor Rick Perry said, "Without South Carolina there wouldn't be a Texas." Perhaps he was right. A South Carolina native served as a Texas delegate to the disastrous 1860 Democratic National Convention in Charleston. The issue of slavery divided the country and the Democratic Party. The Democrats also held two other conventions, nominated three candidates and all three lost to Lincoln, the Republican in the 1860 presidential election. The results assured that slaveholding states would leave the Union. Texas left on March 02, 1861 and South Carolinians would play prominent roles in the next several years of Texas history. In 1861 that man from South Carolina was elected Governor of Texas and he staunchly supported the Confederacy.

The Civil War started, not with a Yankee invasion, but with South Carolinians firing on a US military instillation in Charleston Harbor. When Alabama left the Union, the governor ordered the

state militia to seize US military installations in that state and sent troops to help the governor of Florida, also a South Carolinian, to capture the federal forts in Florida.

The departing states established a “nation” that lasted just four years. No other nation recognized the Confederacy. The country was at war during its entire existence. Its citizens had few freedoms, were required to make great sacrifices and suffered greatly. An entire generation of white men were killed or crippled in the war. Slaves were even carried into battle to serve their masters and my great-great-great grandfather was one of them. During the first three days of July in 1863, more than 150, 000 Americans from north and south met on a battlefield well outside the boundaries of the Confederacy at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and fought one of the largest battles ever waged in this hemisphere. When the fighting ended; more than 60,000 of them were dead or wounded. Among them was the stepson of the master of my slave ancestors. The economic, psychological and sociological effect of defeat and occupation is still with us in the South today.

Flags are the most visible symbols of nations and armies. Several flags were employed during the brief life of the Confederacy, but all were replaced by the Stars and Stripes following the defeat of the South. Confederate forces evacuated Charleston near the end of the war and the Black troops of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment were the first to march in. The son of Denmark Vesey stood on the platform as the US flag was raised over Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. South Carolina and other Southern states rejoined the Union. The Confederate flag did not hold a place of prominence in most of the South during the next eighty years.

The defeat of the Confederacy effectively brought freedom to Blacks. In Charleston, members of the underground AME Church reorganized their church and named it Emanuel AME Church. When the church was destroyed by the Great Earthquake of 1886, President Grover Cleveland donated ten dollars towards the rebuilding fund.



Emancipation and amendments to the Constitution did not result in the elevation of former slaves to a status of equality and civil rights had to be won during the century following the end of the Civil War. Emanuel AME Church and Charleston stood at the forefront of that effort as Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King and others giants of the movement for civil rights came to this special place to speak out.

Charlestonian, Julius W. Waring was the son of a Confederate veteran. A member of the Southern aristocracy, he was appointed a Federal Judge as a “safe choice,” who would not disturb the “natural order of things.” However, Judge Waring underwent a transformation and in the 1940s and ‘50s he issued some of the most important legal decisions along the road to civil rights for Blacks. Judge Waring was so reviled in South Carolina that the state legislature passed a resolution offering to provide him and his “Northern liberal wife” one-way transportation out of the state.

As the drive for equality gained momentum, southern politicians resisted. In 1948, South Carolina’s segregationist Governor Thurmond broke with the Democratic Party and took up the banner of the

Dixiecrat Party. Confederate flags were prominently displayed at their convention in Birmingham. This flag had become the symbol of resistance to Black civil rights promoted by the federal government. Several southern states featured variations of the Confederate flag in their banners or actually flew the Confederate flag, despite its adoption by groups like the Klu Klux Klan.

The flag was raised over our statehouse on April 11, 1961, ostensibly to celebrate the centennial of the Civil War. National and state Civil War Centennial Commissions were appointed by President Eisenhower and Governor Hollings to coordinate events. The flag was raised in Columbia amid controversy in Charleston. The centennial celebration was scheduled for the segregated Francis Marion Hotel. Delegations from Missouri and New Jersey included Blacks who were refused entrance. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People protested and President Kennedy issued an Executive Order moving the event to the Charleston Navy Yard, an integrated facility. The South Carolina delegation then led other Southern delegations out of the national event and back to the hotel where they held their own segregated event.



The flag was raised in 1961, but the enabling legislation was not passed until 1962, leaving some to erroneously believe that the flag went up in 1962. Some also assumed that the flag would come down at the end of the Centennial, but the resolution did not address this issue, so the flag stayed up. Throughout the decades there were calls for the removal of the flag. The debate was divided along philosophical, racial, and political lines. The flag represented heritage to some and hate to others. Few acknowledged that it could possibly be a symbol of both.

Charleston politicians Arthur Ravenel and Glenn McConnell were the most prominent defenders of the flag. Ravenel, later honored by having a magnificent bridge in Charleston named for him, smeared the NAACP during their call for the removal of the flag by calling the organization the “National Association for the Advancement of Retarded People.” Those words were uttered by a man with a handicapped son and an ex-wife who was a tireless advocate for the mentally ill in our state.

Glenn McConnell, a powerful state senator, Lieutenant Governor, and future President of the College of Charleston, owned a Confederate memorabilia shop, was a Confederate re-enactor and the man who worked to recover and preserve the Civil War submarine credited with sinking a US Navy ship during the war. In 2000 our organization held the conference in Georgia, partially in response to the NAACP’s boycott of South Carolina. Incidentally, the father of one of the four Black girls killed when KKK members bombed a Birmingham Church in 1963 was a featured speaker at the conference. The gruesome murders galvanized support for civil rights for Blacks. As Lieutenant Governor, Mr. McConnell spoke passionately on behalf of elderly South Carolinians at the 2014 Cross-Cultural Conference.

Calls for the removal of this nineteenth century-relic intensified as we entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In 2000 I visited the South Carolina Statehouse grounds and noted the name of each building and each statue on the grounds. I quickly concluded that the statehouse of the great State of South Carolina was a Confederate Museum. It was a place where so many who did so much to deny freedom and simple human dignity to what was then the majority of the state’s population went to live forever. It was puzzling to me that a state with a rich history of nearly four hundred years would exert so much effort to glorify its worst four years.

Every Confederate hero along with more recent soldiers in the war against equality, from “Pitchfork” Benjamin Tillman to Strom Thurmond, were there standing much larger than life. Even Dr. J. Marion Sims, “the father of gynecology,” was there. This Lancaster County native treated the rich and famous in New York and Europe and his expertise was reportedly sought after President Garfield was shot in 1881. Yet this doctor who served as President of the American Medical Association reportedly conducted inhumane medical experiments on Black slave women as he was developing the skills that earned him his reputation and a place of honor among the Confederate soldiers and politicians on the grounds of our statehouse.

A 2000 compromise brought the flag down from the statehouse dome and placed it by a Confederate monument in an even more visible spot. “Off the dome and in your face,” became the rallying cry of some flag supporters. Nevertheless, the general feeling was that a compromise had been reached and the issue of the flag would not be revisited.

The debate surrounding the flag generally mirrored the political divide in this state. We must return to Charleston to see stark evidence of this. Federal Judge Waring who did so much to advance the cause of civil rights in this state before leaving the bench in 1952, was scorned and never received due honor until a year ago. However, when the statue honoring Judge Waring was unveiled last April, prominent Democrats including Attorney General Holder, Congressman Clyburn, Charleston Mayor Riley, and former Senator Hollings, were present. Our Republican governor, our six Republican congressmen and our two Republican US senators were all absent. Tim Scott, a Black Republican from Charleston was appointed to the US Senate in 2013 to fill a vacancy. Scott won a special election in 2014 for the final two years of the term. Scott was the first Black senator from our state, the first Black Republican elected to the US Senate since 1966, and the first elected from the South since 1881.



Rev. Lavern Witherspoon  
29<sup>th</sup> Pastor of Emanuel

While serving as governor Mark Sanford went all the way to Argentina to visit his lover without telling his wife of anyone else. The people of Charleston sent him to Washington in 2013 to replace Scott in the House of Representatives when Scott ascended to the senate. However, neither of these two gentlemen found their way to Charleston to honor Judge Waring.

It seemed fitting and proper to me that Charleston would be the site of events that would spark a revolution in South Carolina little more than a year later. Several years ago, a coworker asked me to research the history of her family who were members of this storied church. I was left with an indelible impression of the city and the church. The Rev. Lavern Witherspoon, long time member of our organization served as the twenty-ninth pastor of Emanuel A.M.E. Church from 2004 to 2006.

In the Columbia area, there lived a troubled young man with a fascination for the Confederate flag and similar symbols and a goal to start a race war. He knew the meaning of the flag and the history of Emanuel AME Church as well. So this young white male drove more than a hundred miles to this Charleston church. He was welcomed into a group and spent an hour studying the sacred scriptures with them. As the members prayed at the end; he pulled a gun and killed nine beautiful Black people in the church. Among them was State Senator Clementa Pinckney, the minister of Emanuel AME Church.

Like so many others, I feared that this young man would get his wish as many anticipated violence. However, family members of the victims responded with so much grace, dignity, and forgiveness

as an amazed world watched. I join others in the firm belief that their words and deeds and the response of state leaders following the tragic massacre in Charleston yielded a result exactly the opposite of that hoped for by a young man with a twisted mind.



**South Carolina Gov. Haley**

Four days after the massacre, thousands of people of all races gathered on the Charleston bridge named for Confederate Flag defender Arthur Ravenel to promote unity. Republican politicians Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney called for the removal of the flag. Two days later, Nikki Haley, South Carolina's female Republican governor and daughter of a Sikh professor from India who came to Denmark, SC in 1969 to teach biology to Black students, stood with most of the state's elected leaders and said that it was "time for the flag to come down." Her willingness to seize a moment in history and show leadership drew praise

from many quarters and she is called "the future of the Republican Party." The presidents of our colleges and universities added their support. Thousands gathered at the statehouse to ask for the removal of the flag. Marjorie Hammock, a member of our organization was one of the featured speakers.



**Marjorie B. Hammock**



**Dr. Keith sharing stage with President Obama**

Eight days after the massacre, Glen McConnell, the defender of all things Confederate and the President of the College of Charleston, called for the removal of the flag. The next day the funeral for Senator Pinckney, the pastor of Emanuel AME Church, was held on the campus of McConnell's College of Charleston. President Barack Hussein Obama, the nation's first Black president, delivered the eulogy like an AME minister. He ended his sermon in a fashion typical of Black churches with his singing of "Amazing Grace," one of the most endearing songs in our history. The image of that moment was captured forever by the media with the Rev. Juenarrl Keith, another longtime member of the Action

Council participating in the solemn program and sharing the stage with the President.

South Carolina's legislature, an often-criticized body, passed the legislation needed to move the flag. I was there along with thousands, less than a month after the massacre, as the flag was taken down in a simple, but dignified ceremony. The flag was handed over to the same honor guard that had carried the body of Clementa Pinckney two weeks earlier in Charleston. Honor guardsman Derrick Gamble, a Black native of Lynchburg, South Carolina was given the assignment of starting the folded flag on its journey to the museum where it belongs.

Events in Charleston had spurred great change in our state and the actions of South Carolinians had led others elsewhere to examine the role that historic symbols such as the Confederate flag should

play in their public places of prominence. It is a great day in South Carolina when we can get others to follow when we are going in the right direction.

## Spotlight on George and Ghussan Greene



George and Ghussan Greene are members of the Orangeburg Chapter of the Links. Their organization erected a marker on the site of Felton Laboratory School on the campus of SC State University. Greene attended Felton School as a fifth grader and later retired as Coordinator of the Counseling & Self Development Center at SC State.

Felton Laboratory School was one of hundreds of schools constructed for black students in the south between 1917 and 1932 with the assistance of Sears and Roebuck President Julius Rosenwald at a time when schools for blacks were woefully inadequate. George Greene is also a member of the Mental Health Association in Orangeburg County. He is the Chairman of the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors of the Action Council and he is responsible for

attracting many of the current board members to our organization.

Mrs. George Greene is the former Ghussan Rouse, the daughter of a United Methodist Minister who pastored churches in several South Carolina communities during her formative years. She received a Ph.D. in British Literature from SC State University. Dr. Greene served as Chair of the English Department at Claflin University. She retired as Chairperson of the Department of English and Modern Languages at SC State University. Dr. Greene has presented at Action Council sponsored events as she transmitted her love of reading to another generation of young people.

## Behind Every Successful Man

Recently the Columbia Urban League Guild honored a dozen women whose husbands made significant contributions in the Midlands of our state. Guild President Leslie Wilson called the women “silent heroes behind their husbands. Leslie Wilson is a long-time contributor to our organization. She is an expert in the field of substance abuse treatment and she is a frequent presenter at our educational events.

The women honored included Patricia Stone Motes, the spouse of Henry Motes and Valerie Aiken



the spouse of Charles Aiken. Both couple have had long associations with our organization. Patricia Motes earned a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. She has an extensive history of employment at the SC Department of Mental Health, Clemson University, SC State University and the University of South Carolina. Dr. Motes is a researcher and writer. She has made numerous presentations at our educational events and has attracted many of her colleagues to our events and provided us with opportunities that might not have been available otherwise.

Henry Motes is a graduate of SC State University and he worked at SC Department of Mental Health. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Action Council. He was also one of the principals of a company that aided the success of our organization. CarePro and associated companies worked in partnership with the Action Council for many years by providing everything from a physical address to conference management. One observer was heard saying that he did not know that the Action Council was not a part of Carepro.

CarePro Health Services was able to support us because of its remarkable success. Charles and Valerie Aiken were the force behind the company. Valerie was the first African American to win a beauty pageant at Columbia's formerly all-white Dreher High School. Charles Aiken was working at a local television station by the time he graduated from high school. They met at the University of South Carolina and were married in 1973. After college, Mr. Aiken continued his career in television, becoming one of the first black news anchors in Columbia. Mrs. Aiken followed her mother into the homecare business. In 1988, Mr. Aikens left the television business and joined his wife in the homecare business. They founded CarePro in 1988.

CarePro grew into an integral part of the local healthcare network and the Aiken Family won several awards including Outstanding Family of the Year nomination by the National Black Family Summit.

Steven Gaither worked at Waccamaw Center for Mental Health and was a member of the Local Planning Committee for the cross-cultural conferences. This is a group that has done so much to enable us to hold the Annual Cross Cultural Conference in Myrtle Beach. Mr. Gaither came to Columbia and worked for CarePro and he, the Aikens and Mr. Motes managed a company that provided crucial support for our organization for years. Mr. Gaither is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Action Council.

The Aikens are one of our leading families and a model of success. One of their daughters was crowned Miss Spellman College. Another daughter won Miss Columbia and Miss South Carolina pageants in 1993 and in 1994 she was selected Miss America. She used the plight of the homeless as her platform. Charles and Valerie Aiken were honored by the African American History Calendar in 2007.

## Spotlight on John Connery



John Connery came south from New Jersey and graduated from Charleston Southern University in 1967 and began work as a clinical counselor at the Charleston Area Mental Health Center. He later earned a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Fairleigh-Dickinson University. Upon graduation, he became the director of the Berkeley County Mental Health Clinic and developed that clinic into a comprehensive community mental health center, the last to be established in the state. From 1988 until his retirement in 2001 he served as Deputy Commissioner for Community Mental Health Services for the SC Department of Mental health.

John worked with South Carolina SHARE until 2005 when he became Interim State Director for the SC Department of Mental Health for two years. He went to work for the South Carolina Youth Advocate Program following his second retirement. John Connery has been a supporter of the Action Council for years and he is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Action Council. John is married to Dr. Hilda White, a Columbia psychiatrist.

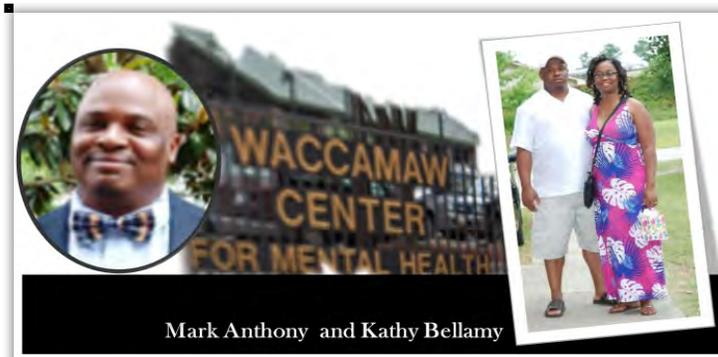


## Spotlight on Josephine Jupiter



Josephine Jupiter from Florence graduated from Wilson High School and Morgan State University. She taught for several years before beginning a career with the Florence County Department of Social Services and the S. C. Department of Social Services. Josephine concluded her career with the Housing Authority of Florence and Marlboro counties. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the local Mental Health Association and the board of the Pee Dee Mental Health Center where she served as chairwoman from 1984 to 1986. In 2000 Josephine Jupiter was appointed to the S.C. Mental Health Commission. Josephine also served on the boards of the League of Women Voters and a credit union. She participated in the Biggest Loser contest in 2015. Josephine Jupiter is a longtime supporter of the Action Council. She even ventured into politics in 2005 when she unsuccessfully challenged a longtime Florence City Councilman.

Mark Bellamy named 2015 Outstanding Employee at  
Waccamaw Center for Mental Health



Mark Anthony and Kathy Bellamy

Mark is the Multi-Cultural Disaster and Occupational Coordinator at Waccamaw Center for Mental Health. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Action Council. Waccamaw is a comprehensive outpatient facility of the SC Department of Mental Health providing services in Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties. Mark has served in

many capacities at his mental health center and the SC Department of Mental Health Center where he is Chairman of the SCDMH Multi Cultural Council. Mark and his wife Kathy have been married for a quarter of a century and she is in regular attendance at our educational events. Mark is a member of Mount Chapel Baptist Church where he also serves in several capacities. We congratulate Mark on this well-deserved honor and we appreciate his contributions to The Action Council.

