

# SE4A Spotlight

December 2016

## Save the Date - 2017 SE4A Annual Conference in South Carolina

The South Carolina Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SC4A) has the privilege of hosting the 2017 Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A) Annual Training Conference. This event will take place **September 10-13** at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Downtown Greenville, South Carolina. We look forward to our colleagues from joining us as we highlight many of the innovations in the field of aging.

Accommodations: Artfully stylish, contemporary and urbane, the Hyatt Regency Greenville is a luxury hotel ideally located on Main Street in downtown Greenville. The award-winning hotel offers a refreshing blend of Southern hospitality and modern, urban convenience.

**Greenville, SC** is an inviting destination where you can experience the city's rich heritage, from arts to outdoor adventures. Tee off on beautiful Greenville golf courses, catch a concert or sporting event at the Bon Secours Wellness Arena just minutes from our hotel, be an ultimate driver at the BMW Performance Driving Center, or walk to over 60 restaurants and shops in downtown Greenville. Escape from your schedule and discover lush parks and the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains just minutes away from one of the most refreshing Greenville hotels.



## SE4A is on Facebook – Like Us Today



Stay connected with SE4A by liking our Facebook page. Visit [fb.me/SE4ANetwork](http://fb.me/SE4ANetwork) to join the conversation and gain aging network updates, tools and connections.



## SE4A President's Address

**Greetings SE4A Network and Partners:** I want to wish everyone a world of good wishes during this Holiday Season and beyond. One of the real joys of this holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you for all that you do for the citizens in your communities, and wish you the very best for the new year as we move into a new era nationally; in our states; locally, in our regions, and cities. What we do in the Area Agency on Aging network of the Southeast, makes a difference in the lives of older adults, persons with disabilities, and caregivers every day, and we must never lose sight of our mission no matter how difficult the challenge.

Although we are embarking on a new administration at the Federal level, I am sure we can all feel the reality of change is upon us. It is my hope that we as a network, whose foundation is built on careful, caring, intelligent, intentional and deliberate advocacy, can facilitate positive and productive change for the Aging Network, and more importantly for the people we serve. It will be important for us to be alert and ready to meet all the challenges we may face; but also, embrace all the opportunities that will be presented in this new season. We cannot continue to be entangled with settling for what is handed; and, we cannot continue to be fixated on what was. Together we must move forward with the swift tides of change and continue to fight for the people we serve and the Aging Network we all have helped to build.

Wishing each of you a blessed 2017!  
Barbara Gordon, SE4A President



## Cruisin' Into The Golden Age—2016 SE4A Conference Highlights

The Mississippi Association of Area Agencies on Aging had the privilege of hosting the 2016 Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A) Annual Training Conference. The conference was held on October 2-5, 2016 at the beautiful Beau Rivage Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. More than 360 attendees participated in the event which not only offered continuing education but opportunities to network with others in the aging arena.

Janie Walters, a humorous master trainer with more than 25 years of teaching experience in communications, was the opening speaker for the conference. She challenged the attendees to strive for the best that life has to offer and also encouraged them to offer their best back to life.

Monday morning general session keynote speaker was Mississippi State Senator Terry C. Burton, President Pro Tempore. He is considered as "The Voice" of Mississippi's senior population in the Legislature. He has also developed a reputation for being a champion for the senior citizens of Mississippi and is nationally recognized for his efforts on behalf of elderly Americans.

A wide range of workshops were well attended and enjoyed by all. The lip syncing battle was held on Monday night and several gifted singers showcased their singing abilities and offered an evening of entertainment. Tuesday night event, The Cruisin' in the Park was a highlight of the conference. It was held at the MGM Park which is a minor league baseball park. There was great food and drink, a live band and games for all to enjoy.

Mississippi State Senator John Horhn was the closing speaker for the conference. He is a community development consultant and a motivational speaker. He showed us how to cruise into the golden age gracefully.

A Mississippi hospitality thank you to the 30 sponsors and exhibitors who made this event possible, and to all who attended, presented, and/or volunteered! You made the conference a tremendous success!



## 2016 SE4A Award Winners

### Jane Kennedy Excellence in Aging Award

Dr. Joseph Harris, CSRA  
Region Commission AAA, GA

### Outstanding Volunteer in Aging Award

Lisa Ugland, Centralina AAA,  
NC

### Lifetime Membership Award

Robert Crowder - Alabama  
Margaret Lennon - North  
Carolina  
Debbie Studdard - Georgia  
Steve Witt - Tennessee

### Positive Images of Aging Award

United Church Homes and  
Services, NC;  
Clinchfield Senior Adult  
Center, TN;  
Mental Health and Aging  
Coalition of the KIPDA  
Region, KY

### Outstanding Community Service Award

First United Methodist Church  
- Respite Care Ministry, AL;  
Institute for Sustainable Health  
and Optimal Aging, KY;  
Jonesborough Wellness  
Resources Program, TN

### Corporate Partnership Award

Fairfield Chair Co. and Western  
Piedmont AAA, NC;  
Walgreens and ElderSource,  
FL

### Aging Impact Awards – Local, Regional, National

Representative Travis  
Cummings, FL;  
Senator Mark Norris, TN;  
Kathy Greenlee, Former  
Assistant Secretary for Aging

### SE4A Scholarship Award

Kandra Reid, Winston-Salem  
University, NC;  
Samantha Cotton, University of  
Louisville, KY;  
Ana Herrera, University of  
North Carolina at Greensboro,  
NC



## SE4A Board News - Robert Crowder Retirement

Robert Crowder served as Executive Director of the Southern Alabama Regional Council on Aging (SARCOA) for almost 20 years. Under his leadership, SARCOA experienced tremendous growth and excellence. While he spearheaded successful efforts to benefit the older citizens of the Wiregrass region with programs such as the *Hungry to Help* meal sponsorship program and *Wiregrass Senior Leadership* program, he also worked tirelessly to expand programs and increase the ease with which seniors could have access to the many resources offered at the AAA. One of the many outstanding accomplishments of Robert's was the construction of the Wiregrass Senior Resource Center, a 20,000 square foot home for the SARCOA operations – all designed around the ADRC concept.

In addition to the strong leadership demonstrated in his region, Robert was a significant force in numerous initiatives on a statewide level. He was instrumental in the creation of the Alabama Association of Area Agencies on Aging, A4A, and served as the group's first President. During his tenure as President, he led successful efforts to secure funding from Tobacco Settlement monies for the Elderly and Disabled Medicaid Waiver program, was instrumental in the passage of legislation creating the Alabama Senior Citizens Trust Fund and worked for the inclusion of seniors in the Forever Wild Trust Fund.

For 13 years, Robert served on the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging. While serving on the Board, Robert brought his usual determination and drive to the work he did for SE4A. Serving as a Vice-President and on the Legislative, Membership, Budget & Finance Committees, Robert worked to develop strategies and make recommendations that would have a permanent impact on the Association.

Robert's strong commitment to service and absolute belief that all goals and aspirations of the aging network are achievable is what drove him to be relentless in his efforts and made him a colleague impossible to replace.



## Importance of Membership in SE4A

### Benefits of Membership in SE4A:

- Encourage the development and enhancement of a coordinated and unified network on aging in the southeast.
- Advocate actions and education to increase visibility and credibility of the aging network.
- Provide a unified group of voices to Congress, ACL, the public/private sectors, the National Coalition of Aging Organizations, and other significant groups and individuals in communicating issues on behalf of older Americans.
- Support and enhance the work of area agencies on aging and their state associations.
- Educate through specialized training to strengthen and enhance the Southeast Aging Network.

Join Now! Dues are just \$150.00. Visit [www.se4a.org](http://www.se4a.org) for more information and to join. Dues notices will be sent out in January 2017!

### SE4A Member States:

ALABAMA  
FLORIDA  
GEORGIA  
KENTUCKY  
MISSISSIPPI  
NORTH CAROLINA  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
TENNESSEE  
NEWLY ADDED: VIRGINIA

