

# Members of South Carolina Education Oversight Committee



## **David Whittemore, Chairman**

David Whittemore of Easley, SC has been appointed to serve as member of the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC). Whittemore, a self-employed insurance broker, was appointed to serve as the House Education and Public Works Committee's business representative to the EOC. The appointment was made by Representative Phil Owens, Chairman of the House committee. Whittemore fills the un-expired term of Neil Willis, set to expire in 2012. A graduate of Easley public schools and Clemson University, Whittemore was a member of the Easley City Council for 19 years, including three terms as Mayor Pro Tem. He also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Pickens County Municipal Association for 18 years and served as President of the Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce. Whittemore presently serves on the Upstate Advisory Board of TD Bank. He is a member and Past President of the Easley Rotary Club, where he has twice been named a Paul Harris Fellow. He is a graduate of Leadership Pickens County, where he served on the Board of Regents. Whittemore also served on the Board of Visitors at Presbyterian College. Active in his community, Whittemore served as President of the Pickens County United Way and on the Board of the Pickens County YMCA. He is active in the District Council of the Blue Ridge Council of Boy Scouts of America and is a 20-year volunteer for Pickens County Meals on Wheels. "I am very honored and excited to be appointed to the EOC," said Whittemore. "I hope to be a contributor to this very important group in the months to follow." Whittemore is a member and Deacon at Easley Presbyterian Church. He and his wife Cindy Blackston Whittemore have three children.



### **Danny Merck, Vice Chairman**

Danny Merck, Assistant Superintendent for Administration with Pickens County School District, was appointed to serve as the House Education and Public Works Committee's education representative to the EOC. The appointment was made by Representative Phil Owens, Chairman of the House committee. Merck fills the expired term of Dr. Kristi Woodall. A classroom teacher for nine years, Merck served as Principal of Pendleton High School from 2005-2009. He also served as Assistant Principal of Easley High School from 2000 to 2005. Merck received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wofford College, where he lettered in college football and basketball. He received a Masters in Secondary and Elementary Administration from Converse College and

a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Miami, Florida. Merck has also earned his Superintendent Certification from Clemson University. An outdoor enthusiast, Merck enjoys trout fishing and deer hunting in addition to reading and exercising. He is a member and Deacon at Norris First Baptist Church. He and his wife Suzanne have four children. "It is a privilege to serve on the EOC as we work together to improve education in South Carolina," stated Merck.



### **Philip Bowers**

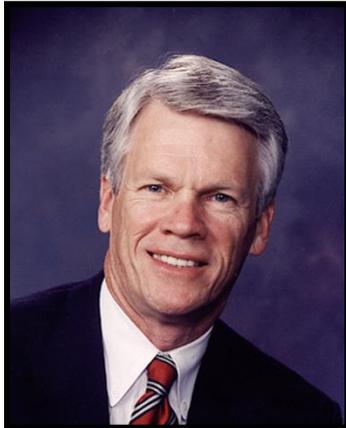
Philip Bowers of Six Mile, SC, who has worked at Duke Energy for over 30 years, was appointed to serve as the Speaker of the House of Representative's business representative to the EOC. The appointment was made by Representative Bobby Harrell, Speaker of the House. Bowers fills the un-expired term of Terry Brown, set to expire in 2015. A graduate of Pickens County Schools, Bowers received his Bachelor's degrees from Southern Wesleyan University and Limestone College. He holds a Master's degree from Clemson University as well as Associate's degrees from Tri-County Technical College. Bowers is the current Chairman of the Pickens County

Republican Party. From 2008 to 2011, he served on the South Carolina State Board of Education. During his term on the State Board, Bowers chaired the Finance committee. Active in his community, Bowers is Past President of the Six Mile Lions Club and Past Master of the Six Mile Masonic Lodge. He has also served as Vice-Chairman of the Pickens County Planning Commission. "I'm honored by this appointment and will work to ensure every child receives the best education possible," said Bowers. "I will also work to support teachers with the resources needed to educate our children, and ensure the educational system is accountable to the people of South Carolina." Bowers is a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Pickens. He and his wife Marsha have one son and one granddaughter.



### **Anne Bull**

Anne Bull, a supervisor of teacher education. Bull was appointed as Governor Haley's educator representative, replacing Dennis Drew. Bull received her Masters of Education from Clemson University and has served as a supervisor of teacher education at the University of South Carolina since 2011. Prior to 2011, she taught for 32 years in South Carolina public schools. While in Lexington School District One, Bull was a top five finalist for the district teacher of the year. She was Teacher of the Year for the Lexington Intermediate School in 2001-2002. She authored a gifted curriculum that was used in several South Carolina school districts and while in Oconee County, implemented a program of developmental therapy. Bull serves as a volunteer for Chris Meyers Children's Place in Lexington, SC and is currently serving as Vice President of West Metro Women's Club. She is a former president of the Iris Garden Club and is a member of Lexington Baptist Church. Originally from Easley, SC, Bull is married to Dennis Bull, CPA, and has two children: Sally Emory Hiott and Seth Jackson Bull. "I am honored to have been appointed by the Governor for this position," stated Bull. "It is a privilege to serve my state and I will do my best to perform the duties I am assigned."



### **Senator Mike Fair**

Sen. Mike Fair of Greenville County serves as one of legislator appointees on the S.C. Education Oversight Committee (E.O.C.). Established by the Education Accountability Act of 1998, the EOC is an independent, non-partisan; 18-member legislative committee made up of educators, business persons, and elected officials who serve by virtue of their elected position or by appointment of the legislature or governor. It bears responsibilities for the development and improvement of SC's educational accountability system and for making recommendations to ensure the continuous improvement of schools. Sen. Fair has served in the Senate since 1995 representing District No. 6 in Greenville County. In the Senate, he serves as chairman of the Corrections and Penology Committee and is a member of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, Education Committee, Judiciary Committee, and the Medical Affairs Committee. He previously served in the SC House of Representatives from 1985 to 1995 and is a former Greenville County Council member. Fair works in the insurance industry. He graduated from the University of South Carolina. He and his wife Judy have one daughter.



### **Margaret-Anne Gaffney**

Appointed to serve as the Governor's business designee, Gaffney replaces Evelyn Perry, whose term on the EOC is set to expire June 2014. A native of Lexington, SC, Gaffney owns and operates Anne Pitts Child Development Center in Lexington, which offers private preschool and afterschool programs to 140 children ages 1-12. Gaffney holds a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of South Carolina Honors College and a Masters of Business Administration from USC. She has worked for Florence & Hutcheson Consulting Engineers, NCR Corporation, and Bose Corporation. Gaffney is Past President of the Magnolia Woman's Society of Lexington and a member of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce. She serves on the School Improvement Councils for both of the schools her children attend: Midway Elementary and Lexington Middle

School. She has served on the Board of the South Carolina Child Care Association since 1999 and the Seabrook Island Board of Governors since 2012. She resides in Lexington with her husband Pearse and two children: Conor and Anna. "I am very honored and excited to have the opportunity to serve our state," said Gaffney. "With two school-aged children and over 100 students at my center, education is one of the most important topics to me on both a personal and professional level."



### **Barbara B. Hairfield**

Barbara B. Hairfield, a curriculum specialist for the Charleston County School District, was appointed to serve as the education representative designated by the President Pro Tempore of the South Carolina Senate, Senator Glenn McConnell in 2009 and has been reappointed to serve a second term on the Education Oversight Committee, where she is currently Vice-Chairman, is a member of the Academic Standards and Assessment Sub-committee, and Chairman of the Public Awareness Subcommittee. Hairfield received her B.A. in English and History from Winthrop University and earned her Master's Degrees in Social Studies/History, English, and Secondary Administration from The Citadel. She holds National Board certification in Early Adolescent Social

Studies/History and has spent the past twenty one years teaching and working in Charleston County serving in some of the most challenged schools in the state. Prior to her current position as the District Social Studies Curriculum Specialist with the Charleston County School District, Hairfield served has served as a Teacher Specialist for Social Studies and English Language Arts in CCSD and as a Teacher Specialist on-Site for the S.C. State Department of Education. Hairfield has been named Teacher of the Year at Birney Middle School, Charleston County Teacher of the Year, and also as the South Carolina Social Studies Teacher of the Year. Hairfield is a member of the executive board for the South Carolina Council for the Social Studies and also serves on the board of directors for the National Council for the Social Studies. As an advocate for improving literacy in our state, Ms. Hairfield serves on the S.C. State Dept. of Education's Literacy Panel, has been trained as a Literacy Leader, and is currently project manager for a Lowcountry Literacy in the Content Area team (LCAT). She has worked tirelessly on initiatives focused on Teacher Recruitment and Retention on the state and national levels.

As part of her goal to improve instruction and learning in South Carolina schools, Hairfield collaborates closely with teacher preparation programs as an NCATE reviewer and as a member of the Professional Education Board at The Citadel. Active in professional organizations on the local, state, and national levels, Hairfield is a member of Kappa Delta Pi Educator Honor Society, the South Carolina Professors of Middle Level Education, the South Carolina Middle School Association, the South Carolina Geographic Alliance, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Currently she serves as the Project Director for a Teaching American History grant and as the Congressional District #6 Coordinator for Law-Related Education in South Carolina. She works closely with the S.C. State Department of Education on standards writing and revision, assessment review, and support systems for teachers. "I believe that to have high efficacy inside the classroom, an educator must be involved in educational arenas outside of the classroom in order to understand the many facets that impact quality instruction and learning. If our goal in education is to give students the content knowledge, intellectual skills and civic values they need to fulfill the duties of effective citizenship in society, then I believe that, as educators, we must model those behaviors for our children to emulate. My appointment by Senator Glenn McConnell to the Education Oversight Committee is a wonderful opportunity for me to contribute and to be a part of the process for continuous and sustained improvements in South Carolina's educational system. I am very honored by his confidence in me and excited to contribute during my term of service."



### **Senator Robert "Wes" Hayes**

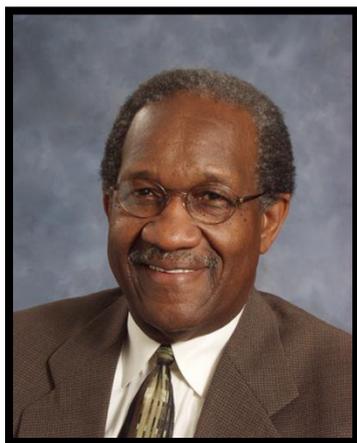
Senator Hayes, a Rock Hill attorney, was appointed to the E.O.C. in February 2005 to serve as the representative from the Senate Education Committee. He filled the term vacated by Senator Warren Giese, who resigned from the committee in 2004. Senator Hayes is a graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina and has served in the S.C. Senate since September 1991. Prior to that, he served in the SC House from 1985 to 1991. He was voted the 2006 Legislator of the year by the SC Chamber of Commerce as well as the 2010 Recipient of the David Wilkes Award from the Riley Institute at Furman University. He serves on the boards of Guardian Fidelity Mortgage Corporation, Westminster Towers, and SC Bank & Trust of the Piedmont. Hayes now serves as Chairman for the K-12 Subcommittee at both the Senate Education and Finance Committees. He served as Board Chairman of the York County Red Cross in 2004, as well as Chairman of the Rock Hill United Way Campaign in 1992. Hayes received the SC Jaycees Outstanding Young American Award in 1990. From 1975-1980, Hayes was a member of the USA, 82nd Abn. Division and is currently a member of the South Carolina Army National Guard. Hayes and his wife Sarah have three children, Robert Wesley III, James Creighton, and Margaret Mellon.



### **Charles "Alex" Martin**

Alex Martin serves as one of the educator appointees and vice chairman of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee (E.O.C.). Established by the Education Accountability Act of 1998, the E.O.C. is an independent, non-partisan; 18-member legislative committee made up of educators, business persons, and elected officials who serve by virtue of their elected position or by appointment of the legislature or governor. It bears responsibilities for the development and improvement of SC's educational accountability system and for making recommendations to ensure the continuous improvement of schools. Alex is director of Career and Technology Education for the School District of Greenville County and has 29 years of experience in

education. He is a former school principal, guidance counselor, teacher, coach and athletic director. Alex attended the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta and received a bachelor's degree in secondary, a master's degree in education administration, and is seeking a doctorate in educational leadership from Clemson University. He serves on numerous school district committees has presented at state and national education conferences. He is a member of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Greenville where he has served as a deacon, Sunday School Teacher and basketball coach and is a member of the Downtown Greenville Rotary Club.



### **Senator John Matthews, Jr.**

Senator John Matthews, Jr., has been appointed to serve as the newest member of the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC). Matthews is an original member of the EOC, having been appointed to serve in July 1998. He was replaced in 2003 when Governor Mark Sanford appointed West Columbia pastor Judy Williams to serve as his designee to the committee. Matthew's current appointment fills a vacant seat on the EOC reserved for the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, or his designee. Senator Hugh Leatherman, Senate Finance Chairman, made the appointment. "I really appreciate your years of dedicated service to the citizens of South Carolina and know that you will do an outstanding job in this position," Leatherman stated his letter appointing Matthews. Leatherman also thanked

Matthews "for all you do to ensure a quality education for our young people." Matthews received a bachelor's degree and master's degree in education from South Carolina State University. He is a former classroom teacher and school principal and former President of Zenith and Triangle Cablevisions. Matthews has served in the S.C. Senate since 1985 representing District 39. From 1975 to 1984, Matthews served in the state House of Representatives. Currently, he serves on seven Senate committees: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Banking and Insurance; Corrections and Penology; Education; Ethics; Finance; and Interstate Cooperation. He is the current Chairman of the Orangeburg County Legislative Delegation and a former Chairman of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus. He is also a member of the Southern Regional Education Board. Members of Pineville United Methodist Church, Matthews and his wife Geraldine have five children: Cynthia John, Michael Andre, Stephanie Renata, John Wesley, III, and Brian DeReef.



### **Representative Joseph "Joe" Neal**

Rep. Joe Neal of Richland County serves as one of legislator appointees on the S.C. Education Oversight Committee (E.O.C.). Established by the Education Accountability Act of 1998, the E.O.C. is an independent, nonpartisan; 18-member legislative committee made up of educators, businesspersons, and elected officials who serve by virtue of their elected position or by appointment of the legislature or governor. It bears responsibilities for the development and improvement of SC's educational accountability system and for making recommendations to ensure the continuous improvement of schools. Rep. Neal has served in the House since 1993 representing Richland and Sumter counties. In the House, he is a member of the

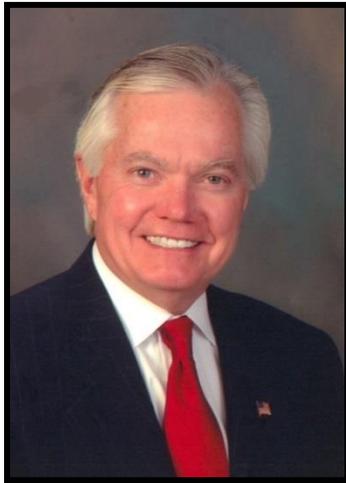
Education and Public Works Committee and the Rules Committee. He served as the chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus in 2000. Rep. Neal is the minister of Calvary Baptist Church and vice president of New Horizons Systems. Rep. Neal received a bachelor's degree from Benedict College and has completed further studies at Colgate Divinity School and Pittsburg Theological Seminary. He is a member of numerous organizations including the Citizens for Hopkins Community Organization; NAACP; Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity., Inc.; and the American Society of Software Engineers. He serves on the boards of several organizations including S.C. Fair Share, the Citizens Local Environment Action Network (CLEAN), and S.C. Environmental Watch.



### **Representative Andy Patrick**

Rep. Andrew ("Andy") Patrick, representing House District 123 in Beaufort County, was appointed to the Committee by the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee, Rep. Phil Owens. Mr. Patrick was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2010. He currently serves as Chief Executive Officer for Advance Point Global, Inc., an international risk management consulting firm. In 2004 Andy and his family moved to Hilton Head where he, his wife and five children reside. A native of New York and a graduate of State University of New York College at Brockport, Mr. Patrick served in the United States Air Force, the New York Air National Guard, the New York State Police and the United States Secret Service. He supervised

security arrangements for the President, Vice President and foreign heads of state as well as spending a great deal of his Secret Service career in a liaison role with the U.S. Intelligence community.



### **Neil Robinson**

Neil Robinson serves as one of business appointees of the S.C. Education Oversight Committee (E.O.C.). He was appointed in February 2005, to serve as the business representative of the President Pro Tempore of the South Carolina Senate, Senator Glenn F. McConnell. Founder and Past President of the Charleston Education Network, a private, non-profit advocacy organization, Robinson is an attorney with Nexsen Pruet, LLC, specializing in Real Estate. He has served as President of the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition and the Clemson University Advancement Foundation. He has served on the South Carolina Tourism Council and the Governor's Quality of Life Task Force. Robinson received his Bachelor of Science degree from Clemson University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina. He served as Assistant Dean of the USC Law School in 1973. In 1984, Robinson started Robinson Wall & Hastie, P.A., a firm that merged in 1991 with Nexsen, Pruet, LLC. He has been recognized in Best Lawyers in America, Chambers USA, and Who's Who in America. He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor David Beasley. Robinson and his wife Vicki have three children: son Neil, III (Trey); and daughters Hunter (Forstchen); and Taylor Elizabeth.



### **Representative J. Roland Smith**

Rep. Roland Smith was reappointed to the EOC by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, serving in the House of Representatives since March 7, 1989. Mr. Smith is the chairman of the House Ethics Committee and serves on the Ways and Means Committee as 3rd Vice Chair and Chair of the Transportation and Regulatory Subcommittee. . A retired rural carrier, minister and businessman, Mr. Smith represents District 84 in Aiken County. He lives in Warrentonville and is married to Peggy C. Cato. The couple has three children. He previously served on the Aiken County Board of Education and the Beech Island Rural Community Water District.



### **Patti Tate**

Patti Tate, a Program Coordinator of English and Social Studies at Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, has been appointed to serve as the newest member of the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC). Tate was appointed by Senator John Courson, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, to serve as his education appointee. She fills the unexpired term of Ann Marie Taylor of Aiken. The 2012 South Carolina Teacher of the Year, Tate received a bachelor's degree in English Education from Appalachian State University and a Masters of English Education from Converse College. She has been a classroom teacher for 27 years. Tate has served as a presenter and speaker for numerous school districts and education organizations. She

served as the Chairperson of the 2012 SC Teacher Forum and the chairperson of the CERRA Advisory Board. She is an active member of the Palmetto State Teacher's Association, the Association of Junior League International, and the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) Board of Directors. She is a 2012 Leadership South Carolina graduate, a 2012 Education Policy Fellow graduate, and she is currently serving on the board of South Carolina Learning Forward. A National Board Certified teacher, Tate was also awarded York County Educator of the Year in 2011 by the Junior NAACP.



### **John Warner**

A state leader in innovation and entrepreneurship, John Warner of Greer, SC has recently been appointed to serve member of the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC). Warner fills the unexpired term of Charmeka Bosket, which will expire June 30, 2014. Warner, Founder and Principal of InnoVenture LLC, has been appointed to serve as the business representative to the Senate Education Committee. Senator John Courson, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, made the appointment. Warner received his Master of Accountancy degree from the University of Georgia and his B.S. in Accounting from Clemson University. Since 2000, Warner has worked to connect entrepreneurs and those with "big visions" with the resources

they need to create change. His work with InnoVenture also includes the website, [www.swampfox.ws](http://www.swampfox.ws) that has 200,000 annual visitors and a weekly radio update broadcast statewide on South Carolina Public Radio to 60,000 listeners. Recognized as a champion of entrepreneurs and informed solutions to issues, Warner is often called upon to publish and speak on education, leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurial success stories. He is a member of the Inaugural Class of the Liberty Fellowship, which promotes outstanding leadership in the state. He serves on the Board of Directors of the SC Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities and the University Centers of Greenville. Since 2004, he has served as the Director of the Council on Competitiveness at New Carolina. He also currently serves as the Director of the South Carolina Venture Capital Authority, which was established by the SC General Assembly to increase the availability of equity, near-equity, or seed capital for emerging, expanding, relocation, and restructuring enterprises in the state. Active in community affairs, Warner served as the Director of the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce from 2002 to 2007 and served as the Director of Artisphere, an annual event that celebrates the arts and the rich international heritage of Greenville. For thirteen years, Warner was a leader in Greenville's Cub Scout Pack 260 and Boy Scout Troop 260. "Nothing is a more essential to the future of South Carolina than public education," said Warner. "People do what is measured, so I'm excited about the opportunity to help measure the success of our children's education.



### **Dr. Mitchell M. "Mick" Zais**

Dr. Mitchell M. "Mick" Zais took the oath of office as State Superintendent of Education on January 12, 2011. Dr. Zais grew up in a military family, attending ten public schools in twelve years. Before winning public election as the seventeenth State Superintendent of Education, he served as President of Newberry College for ten years. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he served thirty-one years on active duty in the United States Army, retiring as a Brigadier General. During his tenure at Newberry College, enrollment nearly doubled, the endowment more than doubled, facilities were constructed and renovated, academic programs were added, and athletic teams competed for NCAA regional and national titles. For the last three years of his administration, the prestigious U.S. News and World Report named Newberry College as one of America's best colleges. While at Newberry, he served as chairman of the presidents' councils of both the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities and the South Atlantic Athletic Conference. He was also a member of the board of directors for the Foundation for Independent Higher Education, the Lutheran Education Conference of North America, the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, and the Southern Regional Education Board. In addition to a Bachelor's of Science degree in engineering from West Point, Dr. Zais earned Masters of Science and Doctorate degrees in social psychology and organizational behavior from the University of Washington, a Master of Arts degree in military history from the School for Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and did post-doctoral studies in National Security Affairs at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. During his military career, Dr. Zais served in a wide variety of infantry units in Vietnam, the United States, and Korea. He commanded two rifle companies, an infantry battalion, a light infantry brigade, and served as deputy commanding general at Fort Riley, Kansas. Dr. Zais was also the Pentagon's Chief of War Plans. As an assistant professor at West Point for three years, he taught organizational behavior, leadership, and management consulting. Dr. Zais served as a White House aide and in Panama as executive assistant to the four-star commander of all U.S. forces in Central and South America. In Kuwait, he was commanding general of U.S. and Allied forces. He also served as commanding general of Operation Provide Refuge, the task force that cared for 4,000 Kosovo refugees who entered the United States. Dr. Zais' last military assignment was as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Reserve Command, the headquarters that administers the 184,000 part-time Reservists, 9,000 civilian employees, and 11,000 full-time military members of the Army Reserve. Dr. Zais' military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star; the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Medal; the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; the Humanitarian Service Medal; the Ranger, Airborne, and Combat Infantryman's Badges; and the South Carolina Meritorious Service Medal. Dr. Zais and his wife Susan are the parents of two married adult children who graduated from public schools in Newberry. The Zais family are members of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry.