



# The Bulletin

newsletter of the

# South Carolina Human Affairs Commission



July/August/September 2019

Vol. 5 No. 3

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to eliminate and prevent unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations and promote harmony and betterment in the lives of South Carolina's residents.

## Vision Statement

The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission's Vision is to be well known with a positive image and a mission that is understood and accepted by the public. SCHAC is a fully resourced, customer-friendly Agency with a diverse, well-trained and efficient team working together effectively in a safe and supportive work environment in fulfillment of the Agency's mission.

## Mother Emanuel Nine Day

In recent years there have been a number of tragedies that are seared in our shared memory. It seems that every few months there is another mass shooting. In the aftermath of the horrific shooting at the Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church, the South Carolina General Assembly passed a Concurrent Resolution declaring June 17th as *Mother Emanuel Nine Day*. As a result, the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission has commemorated the **Mother Emanuel Nine Day Remembrance** in Columbia each year to reflect on the progress made in improving race relations and economic equality for minorities.



The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission has partnered with Allen University, the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and the University of South Carolina to commemorate the lives lost and the survivors. Each year, the event is held during the first week of June in Columbia to not interfere with Charleston commemorative activities.

This year, Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was the speaker. Bishop Green a powerful message. 2019 marked the first year for the Emanuel Lives Award presentation. After much deliberation, the award was presented to

continued on page 2



Thank you to Pressmark for the photographs.

# Conversations on Race Panel Discussions

A total of four panel discussions will be held this year across South Carolina. The Commission has partnered with University of South Carolina's SC Collaborative for Race and Reconciliation in this endeavor. The next panel discussion will be held in Florence County during the month of September.

The SC Human Affairs Commission hopes that people throughout the state will have the opportunity to learn about South Carolina's diverse citizenry through the "No Blame, No Shame: A Conversation About Race" panel discussions. We also hope that a dialogue will begin that will lessen the hate fueled by fear and lack of knowledge through interaction and education.



At each panel session, we work to have an ethnically diverse group from the local community.

Pictured above are the panelists from the Charleston County event held in May.

continued from

## Mother Emanuel Nine Day

Alana Simmons Grant, granddaughter of Emanuel Nine victim, Rev. Daniel Simmons. Mrs. Grant is the founder of the Hate Won't Win Movement. The award is presented to an individual, group or organization that demonstrates excellence in living and promoting behaviors that exhibit diversity, inclusion, harmony and fosters goodwill. She has also been honored by the Kay Family Award at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., awarded to individuals for extraordinary acts of courage in confronting intolerance and injustice, extremism and terrorism.

Pictured below l-r are: Dr. John Dozier, University of South Carolina Chief Diversity Officer & Senior Associate Provost for Inclusion; Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore, Rector and Dean at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University; Commission Raymond Buxton, II, South Carolina Human Affairs Commission; Dr. Ernest McNealey, Allen University President and CEO of Allen University; Alana Simmons Grant; Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Chairman, Allen University Board of Trustees; Dr. Amenti Sujai, Allen University Associate Professor of Religion; Dr. Daniel Hembree, Allen University Assistant Professor, Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary; State Representative Leon Howard, District 76.



# 2019 EEO Forum

The Technical Services Department's primary function is to assist state agencies with development and implementation of their affirmative action plans and programs. The department maintains a current database on the number of persons available by race and sex who possess the requisite skills to fill positions in various EEO categories. SCHAC is mandated to submit the status of state government agencies as it relates to Equal Employment Opportunity.

Every year the Technical Services Department hosts the EEO Forum inviting over 90 state agencies Equal Employment Opportunity officers. The Forum allows EEO Officers to gain knowledge from speakers, SCHAC staff and learn more information on Best Practices as it pertains to Affirmative Action and Equal Employment. At the Forum, the Top 10 agencies who achieve the highest level of their goal attainment are recognized.

This year the speakers pictured below were: Cheryl L. Behymer, Partner, Fisher Phillips LLP and Raymond G. Farmer, Director, SC Department of Insurance.



The South Carolina Arts Commission has achieved 100% of their Affirmative Action Goals since 2014 and have been granted an exemption.

**Exempt Agencies:** Exemptions can be granted to agencies that employ minorities and women at all levels of their workforces, at a rate that would reasonably be expected based on their availability in the labor force, and that exhibit the principles of equal employment opportunity. Even though SCHAC continues to monitor these agencies, they are not required to submit written AAPs or progress reports when in an exempt status.

Pictured on the right are: SCHAC Commissioner Raymond Buxton, SC Arts Commission Executive Director Ken May, and Arts Commission EEO Officer, Victoria McCurry and SCHAC Deputy Cmsr. Dan Koon.



Also in attendance, former SCHAC Technical Services Director Stephanie Price. Stephanie worked with SCHAC for nearly 10 years and is currently the Director of Institutional Equity, EEO and University Accessibility Services at MUSC in Charleston.



## Matrimonial Affairs at Human Affairs Commission??



The South Carolina Human Affairs Commission staff enjoyed a bit of excitement on June 28th when a couple came in with a very special request. On the day of their tenth anniversary together, they decided to get legally married. When word of the impending nuptials began spreading through the office not only did staff members come to congratulate the couple; they made space in the Board room for the ceremony, brought in a bouquet from a recently attended wedding

and called on an employee who is not only a Notary, but also an ordained minister to perform a marriage ceremony! And, with minutes to spare, a local tv station was called, informed of the unusual circumstance and their videographer arrived in a nick-of-time to interview the happy bride and groom! Needless to say, the couple was overjoyed by all of the attention and well-wishes. Congratulations again from the SC Human Affairs Commission!



## SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION



**Raymond Buxton II**  
Commissioner

## Board of Commissioners

### Chairman

*John A. Oakland*

### 1st District

*Cheryl F.C. Ludlam*

### 3rd District

*Ashley P. Case*

### 4th District

*Rev. Willie Thompson*

### 5th District

*Andrew C. Williams*

### 7th District

*Harold Jean Brown*

### At Large

*Joe F. Fragale*

## The Fair Housing Department Makes History, AGAIN!

This is the second time, since the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission began investigating Fair Housing complaints, that the Fair Housing Department has closed over 100 cases in a fiscal year. The actual number of complaints closed was over 160 complaints! Based on the population of the state of South Carolina, HUD expects SCHAC to successfully investigate and close at least 60 cases. This team closed nearly triple that amount!

Director of the Fair Housing Department, Marvin Caldwell said, "We could not have reached this accomplishment without the hard work of the entire Fair Housing Staff. The staff put in many extra hours, including after hours, and weekends to reach this goal and I thank them for a job well done."

## Procedimiento de Quejas

Si usted piensa que ha sido discriminado en la vivienda o en el empleo, debe ponerse en contacto con la Comisión de Asuntos Humanos. La Comisión investigará su queja y si hay una violación de la ley, la Comisión puede ayudarle a conseguir soluciones legales a los que usted tiene derecho. Si es necesario, la Comisión puede llevar casos de discriminación a una audiencia o a la corte. No importa su estado legal, la Comisión lo ayuda.

### Contact us:

South Carolina Human Affairs Commission  
1026 Sumter Street, Suite 101  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
Tel: 803-737-7800 Toll Free: 800-521-0725

Fax: 803-737-7835  
E: [information@schac.sc.gov](mailto:information@schac.sc.gov)  
W: [www.schac.sc.gov](http://www.schac.sc.gov)