

Keep Oconee Beautiful Association

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Official Association Newsletter - Winter, 2002

Personnel Requirements

Things have been going too well for KOBA: We are getting grants, and we have identified new projects, but we are short on volunteers to assist in reaching our goals. Therefore, we varied our format this quarter to provide space for two articles on our needs for staffing. Read *The View From the Chairman's Chair* on page 2 and *Good News—Bad News* on page 4, to learn how to become part of our growing effort to keep Oconee beautiful. We cannot do it without **YOU!**

Next quarter, KOBAn of the Quarter will return along with more articles on the activities of the association.

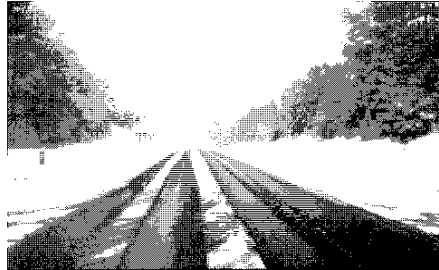
Annual Meeting in April

Spring is rapidly approaching, and we are happy to report that Liz Kuemmerer has agreed to chair the Annual Meeting this year. Liz did a fabulous job last year with displays for the committees and we look forward to her *encore* with this year's meeting.

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Look Mom—No Litter!!



Yes, when it snows in Oconee County, we have no problem with unsightly litter. However, we have very few days where the weather hides the litter cluttering our highways. There is a more consistent way to eliminate the litter eyesore.

For sixteen years, KOBA has been working to keep Oconee beautiful with educational programs and remediation through the Adopt-A-Highway program for the county. We have made progress, but there is more to be done. With your assistance, the battle can be won.

In this issue, you will find opportunities to join programs of the Association. Read *From the Chairman's Chair* on page 2 and *Good News—Bad News* on page 4. You'll find a fun way to help KOBA keep Oconee beautiful.

Lottery Litter Likely

South Carolina's lottery could cause harm to the environment, according to a college student's research.

Harriss Cottingham, a Greenville Tech student who wrote a term paper detailing how much trash the lottery could bring to the state, estimates the tickets could generate 27 tons of garbage a year. Mr. Cottingham called the ticket printer's paper supplier to find out how many pieces of paper are in a case. He multiplied the amount with the number

Palmetto Pride Grants KOBA Education \$7,500

Palmetto Pride, the Governor's Task Force on Litter, has announced the award of a \$7,500 grant to the KOBA Education committee to support their anti-litter program in the Oconee County Elementary Schools. This represents a 50% increase over last year's award. In light of state budget restrictions, the larger award is taken as a significant compliment to the Education Committee.

More details on the grant will be provided next quarter. However, particular notice is made of Barbara Laughter, owner/operator of the Sunrise Farm Bed and Breakfast in Salem. Barbara contributed her considerable expertise in grant writing to the committee, providing us with a very professional submission.

KOBA recognizes that its success in keeping Oconee Beautiful is dependant upon support from individuals like Barbara and organizations like Palmetto Pride. To get an overview of the functioning of the education program, read the article on page 3. Next quarter we will tell you about a typical day in the program.

of lottery tickets that fit on each sheet. Then, he multiplied that amount with the projected ticket sales.

Mr. Cottingham said he did the study because there was no one looking at the environmental issues concerning the lottery. "It is a beautiful place", said Cottingham, who lives near Jones Gap State Park. "We hope it doesn't turn into the littery." [from Associated Press feed]

The View From the Chairman's Chair

When KOBA was organized in 1985, the emphasis was on volunteerism. The primary concern at that time was the growing problem of litter along the roads of Oconee County. The original group of four county residents decided to take action, to enlist the support of hundreds of volunteers, and to work together in partnership with the County and State Highway Departments. They chose a name that would identify their agenda: Keep Oconee Beautiful Association.

KOBA has worked with county and state officials for 17 years as partners in an ongoing effort to improve the environment. The effort is performed by a volunteer pool of more than 1,250.

These volunteers give of their time through a number of committees, including law enforcement, records management, recycling, education, adopt-a-highway, promotions, publicity, awards, newsletter, website and community relations. The chair of each committee becomes a voting member of the board and joins the board meetings on the third Tuesday of each month in the Agricultural Building in Walhalla.

The year 2001 was a time of change. We bid farewell to several Board members whose term of office ex-

pired, or who 'retired' from active service on the board. Those who left the board are greatly missed and include Barbara Kolze, Chairperson; Bill Miller, Treasurer; James Beard, Recycling; Bob Buse, Adopt-A-Highway; Dan Dietrich, Liaison to FOLKS; Arlie Harmon, Education; Vi Schroder, Awards/Historian; and Mal Schroder, Law Enforcement. We also bid farewell to Rebecca Angstadt who has worked tirelessly on our membership records and David Lasier who was the folks Liaison to KOBA. The Board was saddened by the untimely death of our Membership Records Chair, Judy Valentine. She is missed.

The need for new board members and committee chairpersons was immediate. We are thankful that several KOBA members have accepted the yoke of responsible service on the Board. Larry Dunster served as the Adopt-A-Highway Chairman for a year and has turned this committee over to Fred Bailine. Mary Roche has done an outstanding job as the chairperson for Hospitality, and each meeting now begins with a time of refreshment and fellowship.

Lina Haycraft is doing a great job as Membership Chair, and we are very thankful that Bill Tighe, a non-board member, is working with local car dealers to provide an introductory

membership for those who purchase new cars. Bill is projecting membership increases by the hundreds. Liz Kuemmerer is off and running with great ideas on increasing the volume of recycled waste for the county and has already joined hands with the county staff to implement new and exciting programs. Steve Sokol, Vice-Chair, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster, is filling in as our financial record keeper and will be moderating board meetings until Larry Dunster returns from a world cruise.

Our Education Committee has won statewide admiration and has been awarded Palmetto Grants for two years. Lynne Dee Barth reports to the Board in the absence of a chairperson for this committee.

Perhaps the most exciting event of the year, in addition to our annual membership meeting in April, was the announcement of our new logo. The Promotions Committee, under the direction of Phyllis Sanderson, one of the founding members of KOBA, introduced our new logo on Tuesday, September 18th. Senator David Thomas joined us for a luncheon meeting at the county recycling center, followed by the public introduction of the logo at the County Council meeting.

KOBA is alive, and its impact is noted. The reports of our various Adopt-A-Highway volunteers indicate lower volumes of litter along the highways. Deputy Earl Rhudy, Oconee County Litter Control Officer, also reports that KOBA is having a profound effect on litter removal. After 17 years of education, public events, and promotions we can see some light at the end of the tunnel.

We commend each of our KOBA partners who give unselfishly of their time and energy. Your financial support and participation in our volunteer programs is greatly appreciated.

Important Contacts within KOBA

Chair		Promotion	
Larry Dunster	972-5215	Phyllis Sanderson	882-1300
Vice-Chair		Membership	
Steve Sokol	886-8700	Lina Haycraft	944-2346
Secretary		Newsletter/Webmaster	
Adam Rumoshosky	882-5314	Steve Sokol	886-8700
Treasurer		Recycling	
[Interrim] Steve Sokol	886-8700	Liz Kuemmerer	638-6009
Adopt-A-Highway		Awards/Historian	
Fred Bailine	888-0190	[Interrim] Vi Schroder	972-9398
Education		Litter Control Officer	
Lynne Dee Barth	885-0465	Earl Rhudy	638-4111

KOBAs Education Committee — Getting the Show on the Road!

Before our mascot, Kobie Bear, gets into the classrooms to help KOBAs Volunteers give anti-litter presentations to the 4800 children attending the eleven Oconee County elementary schools, much preparation takes place. It takes Donna Wexler and Sandra Stricker nearly 100 volunteer hours each session just to arrange the scheduling for our program in the schools.

As soon as the number of children in each of the grades has been determined, Lynne Dee Barth orders the Kobie Bear Adventure series of booklets. These stories are read during presentations to each of the grades, one through five. They contain the heart of the program's anti-litter messages, and a copy will be given to each child to take home to read themselves and share with their family. The 4800 books are sent to Lynne Dee, who counts them out and makes bundles for each teacher in each grade in each school (she says it gives her a project when she wakes up in the wee hours and cannot sleep). The books are then placed in a "Book Bin" for each school.

Donna Wexler orders the shirts for presentation to all the second grade students. The shirts have been a huge success - even teachers and school helpers are asking for them. [Our decision to phase out the fifth grade shirt presentations and give them to second graders instead was going to leave this year's fifth graders (and the two succeeding classes) without shirts, but we were able to cover this year's fifth graders, and proposals are on-going to find ways to cover the other two classes.] The shirts also have to be counted out and sacked in bundles for each class in each school and put in "Shirt Bins". That process took place this year in Lynne Dee's basement with the help of volunteers (see photo), enticed to the job by Lynne Dee's offer of tea and Krispy Kreme donuts.

There is also a "KOBAs Bin" for each school which contains all of the paraphernalia used in the classrooms presentations (Kobie Bear himself, boom box, music tapes, etc.), and Jan Brannon checks those out to be sure everything is "shipshape", then takes

charge of getting all the "Bins" to the appropriate schools, so when the education volunteers arrive, "The Show can Begin".

Sen. Alexander to Speak

Senator Thomas Alexander will speak on issues effecting the quality and quantity of water in our watershed on Feb. 15th at St. Marks gym at 10:30 AM. [St. Marks is located at 616 Quincy Road, near the Shaver Recreational Center in Seneca.] Water shortages and contamination problems are a critical issue to Oconee County. We encourage you to attend this meeting and hear the plans of our legislative delegation leader.

KOBAs Photo Contest

Planning is underway for a KOBAs photo contest. A dozen winning photographs will be chosen for a calendar to be sold as a KOBAs fundraiser.

The final rules and prizes will be announced in our Spring Newsletter and the media. Initial plans include a ten dollar entry fee and cash prizes of \$500, \$200 and \$100 plus nine honorable mentions. Additional honorable mentions may be published, depending on the number of entries.

We will select a panel of judges from the local art community. We will also arrange for the works to be displayed in appropriate locations around the County.

Get your camera ready and watch for the formal announcement of the contest. You could be our winner. If you are interested in photography, but do not intend to enter the contest, please contact us—we would welcome additional assistance with the planning and execution of the contest.



From left, celebrating the organization of the Education Committee materials are, Sandra Stricker, Nancy Kankula, Jan Brannon, Donna Wexler, and Lynne Dee Barth.

Good News—Bad News

KOBAs is moving into the final quarter of one of its most bountiful years. Membership retention was good, and we are completing a new program that should put us in a strong growth phase. Our Palmetto Pride grant was not only renewed, but funding was increased by fifty percent. We have also received an unrestricted grant from WalMart. We are serving more students in the elementary program than ever before, and the number of Adopt-A-Highway groups is at an all time high. The resurgence of patriotism arising from 9/11 has heightened the pride in our country and the desire to keep it "Oh beautiful..."

It is a "good news" year for KOBAs. We have funding; we have interest; we have opportunities; we need volunteers! There is only one place that the volunteer support can come from and that is you, the members. We need you to help us meet the challenge of keeping Oconee beautiful.

Listed below are some of the intriguing positions we have available. With each position, the responsibilities are stated and, if quantifiable, an estimate of the time required is provided. Look over the list and find an area of interest. Give Lina Haycraft, our Membership/Volunteer Chair a call or get further information from the appropriate board member (see contacts on page 2).

Leadership Roles

Education Programs: Our elementary school education program is winning state-wide praise. Now, we need a middle school coordinator to develop an appropriate program at that level. We can provide the contacts and assistance - you keep everyone working in the same direction. We also need an adult education coordinator to provide the same type of effort for a program to convince adults to dispose of trash responsibly. It is a new arena, and you would define the parameters. We

also need an energetic individual to tie the three elements of the education program together and make sure each aspect compliments the other two. This board level position is the 'link pin' to guarantee the success of our program.

Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator: The coordinator assists the chair in identifying groups to 'pick up' segments of highway. This position develops candidates to take over the Adopt-A-Highway program leadership.

Communications Programs: We need a person to chair the effort to keep our message current and relevant. It requires no technical knowledge, but a willingness to actively follow the activities of the committees and forward them to the appropriate people to keep them in the public view. This person will be the liaison between the committee chairs and the people responsible for information dissemination. We also need a Newsletter editor to gather information and make sure that the appropriate articles are written. The person will NOT have to develop the Newsletter layout. He or she simply ensures that the necessary articles are forwarded to the composer. Likewise, we need a webmaster to provide the information for posting to the website. The technical staff will develop the necessary page scripts, but we need a person to determine the information to be displayed.

Public Relations Chair: We have an important message to get out: We need everyone in Oconee County to understand not only what we do, but also how we are doing it. We have an excellent success story to tell, and we need someone to put together releases to tell the County our story. We have the contacts, but need the person to carry the message to them.

Workers

Adopt-A-Highway: Does your community or organization have an

Adopt-A-Highway team? If not, there are still many state and county roads in Oconee County that need to be cleaned. All it takes is three or four hours four times a year. A little effort generates a big return.

Education Support: We will soon be recruiting school volunteers for the elementary education program beginning in the fall of 2002. All it takes is two hours a month reading to the students and discussing litter problems. The enjoyment of working with these students is hard to beat.

Creative Artist: The growth in our activities has created a need for an artist with either digital or manual skills. We need help with layout and illustrations for brochures, posters, newsletters and the web site. If you do not have publishing experience, we can provide that. The time spent would be entirely up to you. We need your skills and creativity.

Spreadsheet/Database Clerical Support: We have consolidated all of our files into a single master file and now need someone to do the clerical maintenance of the file and the report generation. We can put the files into the program of your choice, and technical support is available. The time required will depend on how well our membership drive is received and how many people we can get to assist with updates.

Public Representative: KOBAs will be expanding our presence at civic activities to increase our local recognition. We need volunteers to man booths at festivals and talk to people about elimination of litter. If you like to talk and visit, this is the job for you.

Please consider the great value of keeping Oconee beautiful, and then volunteer to assist us in one of these capacities. We have made great headway, but we need to continue the effort and build on our successes. Find the best job for you and call to volunteer. If the proper job for you is not on the list, give us a call, and we will help find you it.

Litter Watch Report Form

Call the Sheriff's Office (litter Control Officer): 638-4111 or 638-4112
Or mail to the address on the reverse side

Date: ____/____/____ Time: ____ (AM/PM) Location: _____

Car Description: License Number: _____ Make: _____

Body Style: _____ Color: _____ Peculiarities: _____

Type of Littering: _____

Describe Who and What You Observed: _____

Reported by: _____
[Please print] Name Telephone number

Street address City State Zip code

**Your report can not be accepted unless you identify yourself.
However, your identity will not be revealed, and you will not be required to testify**



Member Application/Dues Renewal/Special Support Gifts Form

Name: _____
[Please print] Last First Spouse's Name(if applicable)

Home Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Mailing Address: _____
(if different from above) Street City State Zip Code

Telephone: (h) _____ (w) _____

Membership status: New Renewal

To join a committee,
check it below.

- Adopt-A-Highway
- Awards
- Community Rel.
- Education
- Legis/Enforcement
- Membership
- Newsletter/Web
- Publicity
- Recycling
- Not sure

Annual Dues Classifications

Individual/Family Membership: \$10.00
Commercial/Organization (up to 25 employees): \$25.00
Commercial/Organization (25 – 50 employees): \$50.00
Commercial/Organization (over 50 employees): \$100.00

Special Gifts

Donor: \$25.00
Friend: \$50.00
Patron: \$100.00
Benefactor: Over \$100.00

Please mail your most appreciated check to: KOBA, P.O. Box 1491, Seneca, SC 29679

Amount Enclosed: _____ Check Number: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Note: You may also enter this information at the KOBA web site: <http://falserv.com/koba>

**Place
Stamp
Here**

**Litter Control Officer
Oconee County Sheriff's Office
415 South Pine St.
Walhalla, SC
29691**

af

**Place
Stamp
Here**

**Keep Oconee Beautiful Association
P.O. Box 1491
Seneca, SC
29679**

Why Did You Get the Newsletter

We have recently upgraded the database for KOBA membership, and you may be receiving this Newsletter for the first time. The reason for your subscription is shown in the upper right-hand corner of your mailing label. If you have an annual membership, your expiration date shows on the label. Please check it: If it is expired or soon to expire, you can save us the cost of sending you a bill by submitting your renewal.

The explanation of subscription reasons are:

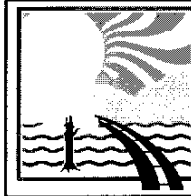
Reg mm/yy: A regular family membership which expires in *mm* month of *yy* year.

Bus mm/yy: A business membership which expires in *mm* month of *yy* year.

Life: A Life member. [no longer available]

Volunteer: A member of one or more of our committees who is not a paid member but considered a member by nature of *in kind* service.

Government: Subscription to holders of local, state or federal government positions.



Official **KOBA** Newsletter

Winter Quarter 2001

Editor: Steve Sokol

Education: Administrative officials of schools.

Media: Representatives of media organizations.

Advertisers: The companies that pay to advertise in this Newsletter. [see page 7]

Support: Honorary memberships given to individuals and organizations that are closely associated with the goals of KOBA.

Inactive: A past member who has been changed to inactive status for non-payment of dues.

If you are in one of the non-dues categories, we appreciate your efforts on our behalf. We need the support. However, if you would consider becoming a dues paying member, the funding would be appreciated and would be put to very good use keeping Oconee beautiful.

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