

The Delta Council REVIEW

Vol. 8, Issue No. 2

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

May 2012

Annual Meeting This Friday

Former Congressman to Offer Forecast of 2012 Election

Former Two-Term Congressman Tom Davis from the Commonwealth of Virginia will address the audience of the 77th Annual Meeting on Friday, May 11. Davis, an authority on American politics and government, will offer his insights and outlook into the fall elections for 435 House seats, 32 Senate seats, and the White House.



Davis

“While it is regrettable that I cannot be with you this year, I know that Tom Davis’ message on the current state of affairs in Washington will resonate with

my Delta Council friends of all stripes,” stated Stu Rothenberg of the Rothenberg Political Report, a longtime “regular” at previous Delta Council Annual Meetings. “He will not only entertain you, but his insights on the cause and situation of the political environment in the Nation are very powerful and thought-provoking.”

Davis’ talk in the Business Session of the Annual Meeting will be part of other activities associated with the

FORECAST *continued on page 7*

Farm Bill: Chambliss, Cochran and Boozman Stick Together for Farmers



Cochran

In an atmosphere of intensive regional contrast, U.S. Senators from the Committee on Agriculture who represent Southern crops, were placed in a position to oppose the Committee proposal offered by Chairman Stabenow of Michigan and Ranking Republican Member Pat Roberts of

FARM BILL *continued on page 7*

2012 ANNUAL MEETING May 11, 2012 Schedule of Events

2012 Salute to Delta Honor Graduates 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Lt. Governor Tate Reeves & Dr. Cass Pennington, Chairman, Delta Council Executive Committee
Location: East Side of Bologna Performing Arts Center

Business Session 10:30 a.m. -12:00 Noon

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Bowen Flowers, President, Delta Council

Presentation of Colors

Boy Scout Troop 91, Belzoni

Invocation

Rev. Andy Cotten

First United Methodist Church, Clarksdale

Patriotic Music

Presbyterian Day School, Kindergarten Class, Clarksdale

- Recognition of Special Guests
- Achievement Awards
- Recognition of Delta’s Top Honor Graduates
- Wear Cotton Recognition
- Good Middling Lady Presentation
- In Memoriam
- Tom Davis
- Introduction of New Officers

Keynote Address

Phil Bryant, Governor
State of Mississippi

Catfish Luncheon 12:00 Noon

Delta State University, Quadrangle Lawn



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Message from the President



DELTA COUNCIL

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Vice-President: WILLIE BAILEY, Greenville
Vice-President: DIEDRÉ BARRET, Belzoni
Vice-President: ROB COKER, Yazoo City
Vice-President: PAUL DEES, Leland
Vice-President: MARK KIMMEL, Itta Bena
Vice-President: MICHAEL SANDERS, Cleveland
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Layout and design of *The Delta Council Review*
Coopwood Communications
Cleveland, MS

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Bowen, Susan and Anderson
Flowers

As this organization makes its transition in leadership at our Annual Meeting over the next few days, I think it would be appropriate for us to look ahead

to the next year and speak to the agenda which I see perched at the forefront of our activities. The next group of officers and directors of Delta Council are certain to be focused on fulfilling our plan of work for workforce training. Tom Gresham, Kent Wyatt, Al Rankins, and several others are leading the effort to make Delta workforce training programs seamless.

Re-opening the east-west rail corridor between Columbus and Greenville will continue to be a priority of Delta Council and federal legislation authorizing the next round of long-term transportation infrastructure investments will surely be among the top priorities of the organization. The Delta Council area is heavily vested in the I-69 project and our Mississippi Congressional Delegation is fully aware that we are

serious in our commitment to continue construction progress on this important Mid-Continent Corridor.

At the Stoneville Research Complex, Delta Council has been working closely with Mississippi State University's Division of Agriculture to strengthen the capacity of the Delta research and extension initiatives in the areas of corn, cotton, soybeans, irrigation, and agricultural economics. Over the horizon of the next year, we anticipate positions being filled at Stoneville which will add a soybean extension specialist, an irrigation specialist, and an agricultural economist to the Mississippi State University branch location here at Stoneville. We are pressing forward with efforts to locate a corn specialist in the

.....
PRESIDENT *continued on page 5*

Local Leaders Create Jobs

By **Charlie Mitchell**

*Delta Council Development Department Chairman Tom Gresham asked Charlie Mitchell, former editor of the Vicksburg Post and now Associate Dean of the Meek School of Journalism at Ole Miss, if he could re-run this column of his from last December in *The Delta Council Review* because he felt it resonated with development efforts in the Delta.*



Mitchell

to bring new jobs to the communities where we live doesn't rest with President Barack Obama or with Gov.-elect Phil Bryant. It doesn't even rest with members of the Legislature.

The greatest potential belongs to officials who drive pickups for the most part, who campaigned with newspaper ads, yard signs and door-to-door. The greatest potential belongs to county supervisors, mayors, members of city councils and, along with them, a cadre of unelected folks serving on booster boards of one sort or another.

Who says?

Experience says.

Watching TV and listening to

those in high office certainly creates the impression that job creation is a top-down phenomenon. It's not.

Waiting for Washington to reduce your local jobless figures is like waiting for Washington to improve your local schools. There is a relationship, but it's indirect. Communities in this state prove every day they can have good schools, even with limited resources. The losers sit back, complain and wait for somebody else to fix things.

Congress has the power to set policies and create regulations conducive to job creation, but set-

.....
GUEST *continued on page 11*

Oxford – The greatest poten-



Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves



DC Chairman Cass Pennington

2012 DELTA HONOR GRADUATES & SCHOOLS

Kimberly Ables, Benton Academy
Shannequa Adams, Ray Brooks
Jalisa Allen, Coahoma Agricultural High
Kate Rivers Allen, Humphreys Academy
Hayden Anthony, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Tekerra Applewhite, Gentry High
Andrew Bell, St. Aloysius
Brooke Bell, Central Holmes Christian
Jacob Bell, Olive Branch High
Justin Bell, Leland High
Amaani Belton, Leland High
Caitlin Benson, Charleston High
Taylor Bishop, Central Holmes Christian
Ellisteonna Bracey, Drew Hunter High
Destiny Bradley, East Side High
Eric Bridgett, Broad Street High
Caitlin Brown, Tunica Academy
Abbey Bufkin, Bayou Academy
Mark Buys, Porters Chapel Academy
Dakota Byrd, Strider Academy
Lauren Calvert, South Panola High
Lindsey Calvert, South Panola High
Mildrica Cannon, Coahoma County High
Katherine Carson, Center Hill High
Mary Kendal Champion, Humphreys Academy
Jasmine Coleman, Yazoo City High
Tacorya Collins, Amanda Elzy High
Mary Chandler Cossar, Senatobia High
Kerneshia Crigler, Amanda Elzy High
Jessica Crose, Riverside High
Jalen Dagher, Warren Central High
Elizabeth Daniels, Indianola Academy
Allysa Davis, Hernando High
ShaKeyia Davis, Leflore County High
Tkeyah Davis, Lake Cormorant High
Rachel Dennis, Olive Branch High
Trey Densford, Lewisburg High
Tyler Densford, Lewisburg High
Ricky Dixon, Rosa Fort High
Ashaley Drain, Yazoo City High
Keartis Drummer, East Side High
Randy Echols, Strayhorn High
Charkyria Evans, Greenville-Weston High
JaKevin Farmer, Coldwater High
Naphateria Farrow, Gentry High
Meesha Fleming, Williams-Sullivan High
Zachary Flowers, Lee Academy
Contesa Franklin, John F. Kennedy High

Brittany Fratesi, Deer Creek
Keelyn Frey, Deer Creek
Rachel Fuller, Cleveland High
Trebtor L Gainwell, Yazoo County High
Wairterrica Galmore, Coahoma Agricultural High
Ariana Gardner, Greenwood High
Fatima Gardner, Independence High
Janandra Gooden, West Bolivar High
Terrica Gordon, Rosa Fort High
Hanna Greenlee, North Delta
Jesse Gresham, Ruleville Central High
Riley Griffith, St. Aloysius
Desiree S Haralson, Yazoo County High
Nathan Harris, Clarksdale High
Tyler Hassell, Center Hill High
Kendra Haywood, Broad Street High
QuaNiya Head, Pillow Academy
Mary Heath, Warren Central High
Anthony Hicks, Greenville-Weston High
Rebecca Hilderbrand, Benton Academy
Kaitlyn Marie Hill, Desoto Central High
Breylund Hinton, O'Bannon High
Mary Hitt, Manchester Academy
Tiffany Hobbs, J.Z. George High
Gregory Holly, Coahoma County High
Brandon Holmes, Tunica Academy
Deunta Howard, North Panola High
Kya Huell, Vicksburg High
Justin Husband, Greenville Christian
Shalisa Jackson, Shaw High
Krystal Johnson, South Delta High
Sylvia Jones, Humphreys County High
Tamaraneshia Jones, Simmons High
Samiha Karim, Washington
Darius Kennedy, Senatobia High
Covell Kent, West Tallahatchie High
Kashianna Keys, South Delta High
Catherine Anne Kronfol, Washington
Andrea Leach, Durant High
Jalen Lewis, West Bolivar High
Brittany Mabry, J.J. McClain High
Kadeja Manning, Williams-Sullivan High
Kristina Mays, Independence High
Kelsey McFerrin, Strider Academy
Rachel McLendon, Greenville Christian
Lemuel McWilliams, Ruleville Central High

Dalton Montgomery, Southaven High
Denton Morgan, Bayou Academy
Callie Musslewhite, Hernando High
Kevin Muzzi, St. Joseph High
Rebecca Erin O'Halloran, Lake Cormorant High
Gregory O'Neal, Strayhorn High
Kanesha Phillips, Ray Brooks
Raven Pitchford, S.V. Marshall High
Elisabeth Pollard, Lee Academy
Emily Nichole Rhea, Desoto Central High
Donovan Robinson, Coldwater High
Devin Sampson, O'Bannon High
Lakeeta Sanders, Leflore County High
Thomas Sherman, St. Joseph High
Sharanbir Singh, North Sunflower Academy
Heather Sit, Porters Chapel Academy
Jakeitric Smith, Charleston High
Kyle Smith, Drew Hunter High
Sabrina Smith, Madison S. Palmer High
Shalia Smith, Madison S. Palmer High
Princess Spears, Vicksburg High
J'Kea Starks, Simmons High
Kristen Stephens, Pillow Academy
Kelli Stevens, Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
Quenton Stevenson, Greenwood High
Matthew Stovall, Delta Academy
Charley Rebecca Tackett, North Sunflower Academy
Ariel Taylor, Humphreys County High
Cassandra Taylor, Carroll Academy
Trey Taylor, Carroll Academy
Melissa Toliver, John F Kennedy High
Stephanie Tosses, Riverside High
Camille Tyner, Indianola Academy
Delia Wadlington, Southaven High
Davida Walls, Clarksdale High
Whitney Wansley, West Tallahatchie High
Marquette Ware, S.V. Marshall High
Jessica Webb, North Panola High
Miranda Wieneke, Horn Lake High
Anna Wies, Cleveland High
Lacey Wiggins, J.Z. George High
Alexis Williams, Shaw High
Luke Williams, North Delta
Ian Windam, Delta Academy
Shaquita Woodson, J.J. McClain High
Victoria Wright, Durant High
John Alan Yerger, Manchester Academy
Daneille Young, Horn Lake High





Delta Council Presidents George Wade (left), 1964-65 and Frank Brumfield (1965-66) at the 1965 Annual Meeting.



1947 Annual Meeting lunch on the grounds



"Every politician loves a baby" Thad Cochran at the 2002 Annual Meeting with John Lundy's daughter, Eliza



1958 Bar-B-Q



Wyatt Emmerich, Will Mayo, Haley Fisackerly, and Tim Kalich at the 2009 Meeting



1983 Annual Meeting Congressman Sonny Montgomery



Senator Thad Cochran is surrounded by 2000-01 and 2001-02 Officers of Delta Council.



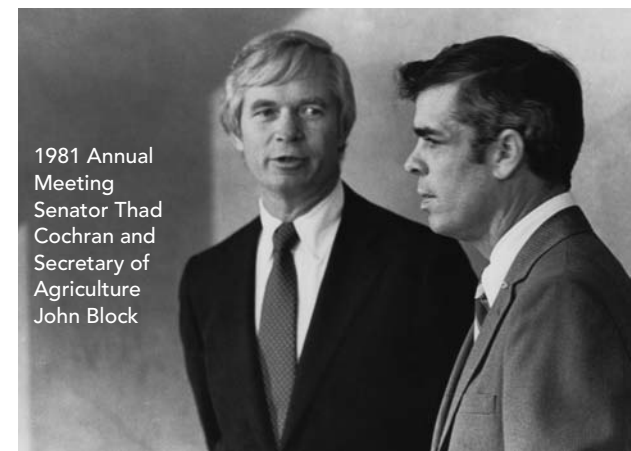
1955 Annual Meeting with Governor Hugh White (left) and Congressman Jamie Whitten (right).



John Dillard, Secretary Mike Espy, and Turner Arant at the 1992 Annual Meeting



Congressman Jamie Whitten and B.F. Smith



1981 Annual Meeting Senator Thad Cochran and Secretary of Agriculture John Block

DSU CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWS RECEPTION



Delta State University and Delta Council recently held a reception at StaplCotn in Greenwood honoring past Delta State University Congressional Fellows. Each year Delta State University, in collaboration with Delta Council and StaplCotn, sponsor the Delta State Congressional Fellows Program. A Fellow is selected to serve during the spring semester as an intern in the Washington, D.C. office of U.S. Senator Thad Cochran. Fellows gain direct knowledge of the Congressional system while developing knowledge of public policy issues that directly affect the Delta region. PJ Waldrop was among several past congressional fellows who attended the event where he spoke about his unique experience working on legislative issues and his involvement with the legislative process.

Since the program's inception, StaplCotn has made it possible for the fellowship program to continue. Delta State; Delta Council; and Congressional Fellows, Mary Huhnke, Justin Ferguson, Suzanne Simpson, PJ Waldrop, Mary W. Luther, Ryan Betz, Emily Jennings, Kate Kinnison-Van Namen, Lauren Boyd Robertson, Darrell Dixon, and Ashley Neal joined together to express their appreciation to StaplCotn for their sustained support of this important program.

Delta Council Highlights Transportation Issues with Melinda McGrath

In a meeting held recently with newly named Executive Director for the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Melinda McGrath, Delta Council transportation leaders met to emphasize numerous priority issues impacting the region. Topics of discussion included rail infrastructure, commercial air service, and outlook for I-69 throughout the region. McGrath joined the Mississippi Department of Transportation in 1985 in the

Bridge Division of MDOT, and was named Executive Director in January of this year. "We are pleased to have someone with McGrath's experience leading the charge for the future of transportation in our State," said Bill Kennedy, Chair of Delta Council's Transportation Committee. "We are certain she will prove to be a valuable asset in the many challenges we have facing transportation issues in the Delta."



(Left to right) Mayor of Greenwood, Carolyn McAdams; Executive Director of MDOT, Melinda McGrath; and Chair of the Delta Council Transportation Committee, Bill Kennedy at a recent meeting in Stoneville.

PRESIDENT *from page 2*

Delta, also. The Experiment Station and Extension Service have assumed a joint role in support of the agricultural weather programs of Stoneville, which coordinate with all of the cropping research and extension programs at the location.

It would appear to me that the newest agenda item which will begin moving to the top of the list of our priorities during the next year will be adequate funding for higher education in Mississippi. The unresolved dispute between the two Mississippi Legislative chambers regarding the State bonding for facilities maintenance and renovation, combined with the need to fully fund the Public Employees Retirement System to cause all of us to give serious thought to higher education funding. I feel certain that Delta Council will be taking initiatives to re-visit this important part of our education system in Mississippi.

And of overriding importance to this region of the State, we must either complete the process of passage of a farm bill this year or come up with an alternative means whereby we extend the current law with budget-cutting provisions that conform to the Congressional efforts aimed at deficit reduction. There are less than 50 days left on the Congressional calendar during 2012, and the opportunity to get a farm bill on the President's desk before the end of the year seem fairly ambitious to me at this time. However, all of us in Delta agriculture will remain fully engaged in this process until a new farm bill becomes law.

In summary, the new year holds terrific challenges and new opportunities for our region. I am encouraged by the large number of people in the Delta who are stepping forward to work together to address these elements of our plan of work for next year. Susan and I look forward to seeing you on May 11 at the Annual Meeting.

CTIC Partners With Delta F.A.R.M. for Conservation In Action Tour 2012

CTIC teams up with Delta Farmers Advocating Resource Management (Delta F.A.R.M.) to design an information-packed, one-day tour that will showcase innovative producers and partnerships recognized for finding solutions to Southern agriculture's conservation challenges.

Producers, legislators, government agencies, agribusiness, ag organizations, conservation groups, media and others will join the Conservation In Action Tour on May 31 in the Mississippi Delta. Area farmers and other experts will discuss water quantity and water quality concerns, monitoring, herbicide resistance, wildlife habitat management and more.

Delta F.A.R.M., an association of growers and landowners, strives to implement recognized agricultural practices that will conserve, restore and enhance the Northwest Mississippi environment.

Reese Pillow, Delta F.A.R.M. chairman, says, "It's our pleasure at Delta F.A.R.M. to partner with CTIC

and work as a local contact for the Tour. The message of conservation and environmental stewardship that the Conservation In Action Tour and CTIC stands



for aligns with the ideals of Delta F.A.R.M."

The Conservation In Action Tour 2012 offers participants a unique opportunity to see Delta conservation first hand and participate in discussions about:

- nutrient reduction strategies to address hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico,
- management strategies to battle herbicide resistance and
- the connection between wildlife habitat manage-

ment and agricultural conservation.

"Delta F.A.R.M. helped us create a fantastic tour," says Karen Scanlon, CTIC executive director. "Past tour participants have said ours is the best tour they've attended. This year will be no exception."

Learn more about the Tour at www.ctic.org/CIATours, and register today. Registration includes an evening social on May 30, snacks, bus transportation, breakfast, lunch and dinner on the Tour.

Delta F.A.R.M. membership is free to any landowner or farm operator in Northwest Mississippi. The nonprofit organization encourages members to improve their overall environmental stewardship by utilizing the recognized best management practices advocated by the organization. For more information on joining, contact Delta F.A.R.M., and for more information on the Conservation In Action Tour 2012, visit the CTIC website, or call 765-494-9555.

Celebrating the 2nd Anniversary BLUES Beacon at its best!



As Delta Health Alliance is getting ready to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of becoming a Beacon Community grant award, this is going to be the best year so far for the BLUES Beacon and the look of Beacon for the Delta is changing — more outcomes to report, more coordination of care, more education and awareness, and staffing changes.

BEACON is a federal grant program providing communities with funding to build and strengthen their health care systems using nationally recognized best practices in direct patient care and supporting and enhancing those practices with health information technology (HIT). Delta Health Alliance is one of seventeen Beacon communities in the United States and the BLUES (Better Living Using Electronic Systems) Beacon project is focused on using innovative technologies and clinical interventions to address and improve diabetes and its complications in the MS Delta.

The BLUES Beacon team may look a little different, but the direction for Beacon remains the same and is stronger than ever! Kimberly Massey, formerly in

charge of our Team Sugar Free project, has assumed the leadership role for the Beacon program. The TEAM (Training, Education, Access and Management) Sugar Free project and staff have been working in conjunction with BLUES Beacon since early 2011. Ms. Massey and her staff have been working diligently throughout the Delta to bring more education and screenings, particularly diabetic retinopathy eye screenings. Kimberly is a natural fit for the project and has hit the ground running to carry on the goals of Beacon.

Other Staff changes for 2012:

- Ashley Tucker, now Project Manager TEAM Sugar Free, worked in project support role with Kimberly and will be overseeing all of TEAM's efforts.
- Emanuel Edmond, Project Coordinator HIT, brings his research and outcomes experience from DHA's Body and Soul project, a church-based intervention designed specifically to address dietary and physical activity deficiencies.
- Rhonda Allen, Physician Liaison, has a vast experience of working with electronic health records as Rhonda was formerly part of DHA's EHR staff as a Nurse Informaticist.
- L.J. Williams, Physician Liaison, brings to the Beacon team her expertise in electronic health records implementation.



The BLUES Beacon staff (front row – left to right) Ashley Tucker, Project Manager TEAM Sugar Free, Kimberly Massey, Project Director HIT Grant, Mandy Williams, Assistant Project Manager HIT Grants. Back row left to right: Taylor Strickland, Vice President Information Systems, Emanuel Edmond, Project Coordinator HIT, Rhonda Allen, Physician Liaison, Dr. Robert Dale, Vice President Medical Affairs, L.J. Williams, Physician Liaison, and Sam Dawkins, Assistant Vice President Programs. (Not pictured: Jason Holden, Assistant Vice President Information Systems.

Delta Workforce Cabinet Meeting

The Delta Workforce Training Pilot Project recently held a Workforce Cabinet meeting where progress of the project was presented.

After over a year of successfully targeting manufacturing and large employers, the Delta Workforce Coordinator proposed to sharply focus on key employers that have not been part of the initial intervention. In order to assess needs, the Delta Workforce Training Project proposed to the Cabinet to do a pilot targeting a dozen employers in one particular county and report back to the Workforce Cabinet. There are opportunities

to impact these companies by engaging their employees in training through avenues such as community colleges' workforce development centers, WIN Job Centers, other programs of MDA, the Delta Council Adult Literacy Program, and others that are appropriate.

Tom Gresham, Chairman of the Workforce Cabinet, stated, "I want to thank Governor Phil Bryant and all of the partners for making the Delta Workforce Training Pilot Project a success. This project is an example of the Delta working hard and smart to meet our challenges headfirst."

FORECAST *from page 1*

Delta Council Annual Meeting.

Governor Phil Bryant will offer the keynote address for the meeting. Bryant, a Moorhead native, is no stranger to the Delta Council crowd, since he has served as the Featured Guest for the Delta Honor Graduate Event in past years. Also, Bryant has been active in industrial recruitment, workforce training, and at the forefront of flood control activities in the Delta during recent years.

The Delta Council business session will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Bologna Performing Arts Center with the Invocation by the Reverend Andy Cotten, of the First United Methodist Church, of

Clarksdale, the Anthem by the Senior Kindergarten Class of the Presbyterian Day School in Clarksdale, and posting of the colors by the Belzoni Boy Scout Troop 41. A noon catfish luncheon will be served to members and guests for the 77th Annual Meeting.

Before the Business Session, Lt. Governor Tate Reeves and Delta Council Chairman Cass Pennington will recognize over 140 high school seniors, who are chosen by their High School Administrators, to be Delta Honor Graduates. Each public, private, and parochial school throughout the 18 Delta and part-Delta counties select two honor graduates based on their leadership skills, civic involvement, and promise for the future. The honor grad-

FARM BILL *from page 1*

Kansas.

"It is extremely rare to witness two former Committee Chairmen opposing a Chairwoman's proposal when the measure is as significant as a farm bill and, — as this 16-5 vote moves from the Committee to the floor of the U.S. Senate, the regional differences acknowledged by Senator Chambliss of Georgia and Senator Cochran of Mississippi must be addressed or Southern agriculture will surely ask all of their

U.S. Senators to oppose the measure on the floor," stated Travis Satterfield, a Delta Council farm policy leader from Bolivar County.

Chambliss (GA), Cochran (MS), and Boozman (AR) had earlier offered recommendations which were counter to the "one size fits all" revenue plan offered by the Ranking Republican Member from Kansas and the Chairwoman from Michigan. The three Southern Senators from the 21-member Senate Agriculture Committee voiced concern that their recommenda-

MDCC HOSTS HCC IN ELECTRICAL UTILITY LINEMAN RODEO



Mississippi Delta Community College (MDCC) recently hosted the Electrical Utility Lineman Rodeo. Holmes Community College (HCC) and MDCC competed in the rodeo and were able to demonstrate their skills learned throughout the 16-week training program. Events included *Cross Arm Change Out*, *Speed Climb*, *Hurt Man Rescue*, *Switch Change Out*, *Bell Change Out*, and *Egg Climb*. Members of Electric Power Associations came to witness as students displayed the necessary skills a utility provider requires. Students from both MDCC and HCC did an exceptional job in the competition.

uates will be presented with a certificate of recognition signed by the Lt. Governor and the President of Delta Council acknowledging their achievements not only in the classroom, but also as promising future leaders of the Delta. The Lt. Governor will extend the certificates to each individual young Delta leader and share in a photo opportunity. At the business session of the Annual Meeting of Delta Council, one of the honor graduates will be presented with a \$2500 scholarship to the school of their choice. The selection committee for the top honor graduate of the Delta is composed of higher education leaders from the region.

Families and school administrators are invited to join honor graduates at

the 9:15 a.m. event under a tent outside the Bologna Performing Arts Center.

"We look forward to seeing the members and friends of Delta Council, and we feel like we have a good program headlined by Governor Phil Bryant," said Delta Council President Bowen Flowers, who will preside at the meeting.

This year's meeting is sponsored by BankPlus, Southern Ag Credit/Land Banks of Mississippi, Jimmy Sanders Inc., and five organizations representing "Voices of Mississippi Agriculture:" Catfish Farmers of Mississippi, Corn Promotion Board, Cotton, Inc., Rice Promotion Board, and Soybean Promotion Board.

tions for Southern crops had not been given serious consideration, even though they included more than a 30% reduction in outlays to meet the deficit-reduction goals of the overall farm measure.

"The revenue plan offered by the Committee leadership simply does not fit within the deficit-reduction goals and farm income protection needs of cropping systems for our region of the United States, and the farm program eligibility provisions offered in the package represent the most drastic step

backward that we have seen in the past 25 years," added Satterfield.

The Senate Committee-passed farm bill is now, reportedly, moving to the Senate floor during the month of May and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas of Oklahoma is preparing to begin Committee discussions on a House bill soon thereafter.

(Refer to Page 11 for explanation of the Senate-passed measure. And go to www.deltacouncil.org for even more side-by-side analysis of the Senate-passed bill.)

DELTA COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS



For over 100 years, BankPlus has served the people and businesses of Mississippi. BankPlus has over 60 banking offices in 33 Mississippi communities. As a bank that started in the Delta and maintains strong community values, BankPlus is proud to sponsor the Delta Council.

BankPlus offers cutting-edge services and products coupled with the best in customer service and customer care. For additional information on BankPlus, please visit www.BankPlus.net.



Jimmy Sanders, Inc., established in 1953, is one of the largest agricultural input supply and distribution businesses in the Mid-South. Family owned and headquartered in Cleveland, Mississippi, the company currently services growers through 70 retail locations in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia.

Sanders is multifaceted in its operations, which include seed production and sales, agricultural chemical distribution, bulk handling of fertilizer and, through its award-winning OptiGro® program, variable rate technology and other precision agriculture services. The company also provides wildlife food plot products and services through its Wildwood Genetics™ brand.



Part Of The Farm Credit System

Mississippi Land Bank and Southern Ag Credit provide long term and short term financing solutions for land, operation capital, equipment and farm equity. From a few acres to a few thousand acres, these Farm Credit Association lenders have been working with growers and rural land owners in Mississippi for over 95 years. They offer flexible loan programs, knowledge of the territory, expertise in land values and agricultural operation needs. As cooperatives, the borrowers are the owners of these banks and, as such, share in the profits through a patronage refund at the end of each successful year. Mississippi Land Bank has ten locations across north Mississippi. Southern Ag Credit also has eleven offices located throughout south Mississippi and North Louisiana. Both of these financial institutions are proud to support Delta Council and welcome the opportunity to discuss a financing solution designed to help you grow. Visit them online at www.MississippiLandBanks.com.



“Voices of Mississippi Agriculture” represent the farmer-funded research and market development efforts of the five major commodities produced in the Mississippi Delta — catfish, corn, cotton, rice and soybeans. Combined, these industries account for the economic chassis that the economy of the region rides upon, producing over 31,000 jobs and accounting for more than \$580 million in local, state, and federal tax revenues to support basic services, from school teachers to garbage pick-up. These farmer funded programs work to invest in the future of agriculture, so that the ag part of our Delta Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to generate a positive cash flow on the farm and provide a major contribution to the State’s economy.



Bill Battle, Tunica
 Dan Bradshaw, Yazoo
 Larry Brown, Indianola
 Brian Crawford, Carrollton
 Andy Jones, Moorhead
 Shorty Jones, Glen Allan
 Mark Koehn, Macon
 Joe Oglesby, Indianola
 Ben Pentecost, Doddsville
 Ed Pentecost, Cleveland
 Louis Thompson, President, Tchula



Rob Coker, President, Yazoo City
 Phillip Good, Macon
 Jan Hill, Meridian
 Bobby Mashburn, Bolton
 Turner Massey, Rich
 Mike Pannell, New Albany
 Charlie Pilkinton, Columbus
 Pepper Roberts, Belzoni
 Ben Robertson, Indianola
 Walker Sturdivant, Glendora
 Todd Williams, Olive Branch



Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board

Morgan Beckham, Leland
 Tim Clements, Greenville
 Paul Dees, Leland
 Jan DeRegt, Hollandale
 Wayne Dulaney, Clarksdale
 Mike Guedon, Natchez
 Keith Morton, Falkner
 C.D. “Bubba” Simmons, Hollandale
 Jerry Slocum, Coldwater
 Jimmy Sneed, President, Hernando
 Billy Tabb, Cleveland
 David Wansley, Valley Park



COTTON INCORPORATED

Buddy Allen, Tunica
 Coley Bailey, Grenada
 Kendall Garraway, Bolton
 Bernard A. “Bernie” Jordan, Jr., Yazoo City
 Norman D. “Davis” Owens, Robinsonville
 Warren W. “Tutt” Sullivan, Tunica



Ronald Aguzzi, Cleveland
 James Allison, Sarah
 Curtis Berry, Robinsonville
 Nolen Canon, Tunica
 Gip Carter, Rolling Fork
 Marvin Cochran, Avon
 Gary Fioranelli, Cleveland
 Donald Grant, Merigold
 Tom Hollingsworth, Hollandale
 Randy Howarth, Cleveland
 Doug Simmons, Hollandale
 Gibb Steele, President, Hollandale



Delta Council President R.P. Parish with keynote speaker Sinclair Weeks at the 1958 Annual Meeting.



The Dan Branton Family at the 2004 Annual Meeting.



Trent Lott, Kent Wyatt, and the late Judge Pepper at the 2006 Annual Meeting.



Dr. Benjamin Cohen, Asst. Secretary of the United Nations, is flanked by Deltans at the 1951 Annual Meeting. *Can you help us identify others?*



1962 Annual Meeting Wear Cotton Contest Winners Mrs. J.E. Bobo (right) presents the Wear Cotton award to Mr. and Mrs. George K. Wade of Greenwood.



1956 Annual Meeting, seated (l to r) David Rockefeller, Chase Manhattan, NY; Standing (with hat) Mrs WT Wynn and Walter Sillers. *Can you help us identify the other three?*



Pundit Bob Novak (left) at the 1990 Annual Meeting with Mary Eva Presley (center) and Judith Mitchener (right).



Dan Branton, Haley and Marsha Barbour present Rachael Wheeler with the first Delta Honor Graduate Scholarship check in 2004.



The 2011 Annual Meeting was altered to allow state and federal agencies to address the historic 2011 Flood.

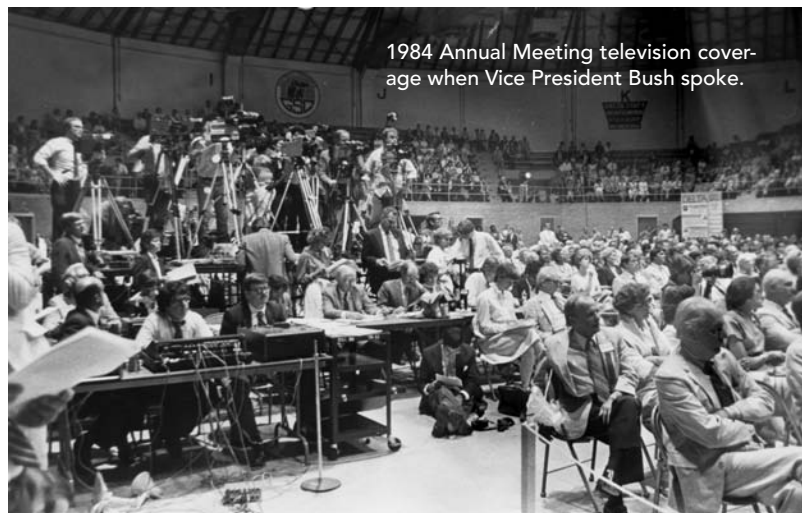


Trent Lott holding court at the 2006 Annual Meeting luncheon, with Penn Owen (standing over him) and Jimmy Palmer (standing right) hanging on every word.

Old Photos



(Left to Right) Jewell Looney, Smitty Smith, Freida Dean, Willoughdean Krinard, Virginia Fulgham



1984 Annual Meeting television coverage when Vice President Bush spoke.



George H.W. Bush and Delta Council President Dick Flowers in 1984.



Ray Mabus (left) and Bill Clinton (right) as Lt. Governor Brad Dye sits behind the podium.



Allen Capps, Chairman Kika de la Garza, Chairman Charlie Capps, Billy Percy, and Bruce Brumfield at the 1990 Annual Meeting.



A Fashion Show from the 1990's. Can you identify the year and all of the ladies?



The last Fashion Show in 2000. Can you identify the lady?



Officers from 1959-60. Miller Holmes (left), Sidney Levingston (second from left), Crawford McGivaren (third from left), Tol Thomas (second from right), and Mike Sturdivant (right).



James Hand, Jr., and an unidentified man at the 1941 Annual Meeting. Can you help us identify?

Farm-Safety-Net Summary of Senate Agriculture Committee's 2012 Farm Bill

POLICY

Direct payments, counter cyclical payments and ACRE program are repealed beginning in 2013.

ARC revenue program is for all program crops **except cotton, which is in the STAX program as part of crop insurance.**

Choice of either a farm level or county level trigger in the revenue program.

Revenue guarantee (benchmark) is calculated using the most recent 5 year Olympic average yields at either the farm or county level multiplied by the Olympic average of the most recent 5 years of national marketing year prices for county level coverage (or 10 year average of national marketing year prices for the farm level) multiplied by 89%.

There is a maximum payment band of 10%, so from 89% to 79%.

The payment factor (or payment acres) is 65% for the farm level option and 80% for the county level option.

Eligible acres for the program is determined using the simple average of all planted acres and prevented planted acres of program crops for 2009

to 2012 crop years.

Actual revenue calculated using the first 5 months of the marketing average price and either the farm or county average yield.

Reference prices in the ARC program of \$13/cwt for rice and \$530/ton for peanuts. Note this is only in the revenue program, there is no counter cyclical price-based option.

Marketing loan program is maintained with current loan rates except for cotton which is adjusted to address the WTO case.

PAYMENT LIMITS/ELIGIBILITY

\$50,000 pay limit per person **for the revenue program.**

No limits on marketing loan benefits.

\$750,000 AGI.

Includes more restrictive actively engaged provisions for determining eligibility for programs. This includes the **requirement to provide active labor on the farm, where current policy requires providing either active labor or management** for the farm. There is an exemption that allows one person

in the operation to qualify by providing management, but all other members in the operation would have to provide labor.

CROP INSURANCE

Provides a Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) program for all crops that can be purchased through crop insurance.

Up to 90% guarantee if not in ARC, but can't overlap so maximum guarantee if in ARC is 78%.

70% premium subsidy.

Makes enterprise unit discount permanent.

Allows enterprise units to be split out for irrigated and non irrigated crops.

Provides 70% yield plug for APHs.

STAX FOR COTTON

Up to 90% guarantee and can be purchased in 5% increments from 70% to 90%.

Provides 80% premium subsidy.

No reference price is included.

No acreage limitation for eligible acres.

GUEST from page 2

ting the stage is up to locals. Community incentive is often followed by significant legislative and other state support — but the local attitudes are essential.

Take the Pontotoc-Union-Lee Alliance as an example. Gov. Haley Barbour earned applause for the groundbreaking for the new Toyota plant. But the PUL Alliance recruited the company for its Blue Springs site near Tupelo. Barbour also earned the applause he received when the first Corolla rolled off the assembly line two weeks ago. But it was everyday folk in the PUL Alliance who stuck their necks out year after year. Mississippi communities that adopt the PUL model of regional cooperation will have brighter futures even if Congress continues to preen, speechify and do nothing else.

Let's talk sectors.

There are retail and service sectors — department stores, restaurants, tire

shops and heating and cooling businesses.

The "big box" operators in the service sector make decisions on where to locate (and thus how many jobs will be created in a community) on existing commerce in a ZIP code.

That means Rolling Fork isn't going to get a Macy's and Macon isn't going to get a Red Lobster. The supervisors, the mayor and the chamber of commerce people can court big chains — but they go where the data assure profitability.

There are also government, agricultural and timber sectors. They are what they are.

The two large sectors where locals can be in the driver's seat are manufacturing and tourism. (And it should be noted that retail and service sectors grow in step with manufacturing and tourism.)

What PUL Alliance members discovered was that serious competitors for factories are prepared. Locals serious

about increasing tourism get their ducks in a row, too. They don't sit in an office, waiting for a phone to ring. Companies planning to expand and relocate companies want ready sites, access to river, rail or highway routes, utilities, zoning, clear titles and much more in place at the time of their first visit. Tour operators and travel writers want to know what you have, not what you plan to have. And in both instances, what people see and experience during an initial visit has to live up to the brochures.

Few counties and cities in Mississippi have the financial depth or expertise to prepare industrial sites. It's daunting. Too, while there's absolutely no guarantee of success, ample criticism is guaranteed if a prepared site remains empty year after year.

The PUL Alliance members — not a Harvard business grad among them — took those risks, hired the expertise they needed and worked with their neighbors instead of competing with them.

Attitude got them where they needed to be when Toyota showed up, ready to be courted.

The lesson in this cannot be overstated for other Mississippi communities. If a town's mayor or a county's supervisors are always looking to Jackson or to Washington to add jobs to the local inventory, the town needs a new mayor and the county needs new supervisors.

It's not that the roles of state officials and federal officials don't matter. They do. The local component is indispensable, though.

Look at the communities doing well in this state. Look at those languishing. The most evident difference will be in local leadership.

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Cussen Completes Year as B.F. Smith Scholar

Sheena Cussen recently completed her year as a 2011-2012 recipient of the B.F. Smith Scholars Program through Delta State University, working with the Delta Council staff as part of her scholarship. Originally from Oakville, Ontario Canada, Sheena received a B.S. in Business Administration from Mississippi Valley State University in 2007, where she was also a member of the women's soccer team. She is currently completing her second year of the MBA program at Delta State University.

"The B.F. Smith Scholars Program helps Delta State recruit and retain excellent graduate students like Sheena,

as well as allowing them to enhance their studies with opportunities at places like Delta Council," said Delta State University President John Hilpert. "Her year has been positive for Sheena, Delta Council, and Delta State, and our university community is grateful for the support that Delta leaders entrusted with Delta State by allowing activities like this to be a positive experience."

"My year working at Delta Council as a B.F. Smith scholar has been an incredible experience that

provided me with many learning opportunities and experiences," said Cussen. "I feel extremely fortunate to have been given the opportunity to meet and work with many talented, intelligent people who are so passionate about optimizing the potential of the Mississippi Delta. The broad range of projects and activities that I was involved with throughout the year gave me a much better understanding and appreciation for the Delta. Witnessing the cotton ginning process with foreign

textile executives, attending Delta Workforce meetings and industry visits, assisting with updating the new MDDA website, and preparing many different kinds of reports on a wide range of topics are just a few of the ways that I was able to broaden my knowledge on Delta Council's involvement and impact in the Delta. Working at Delta Council has been a tremendously rewarding experience and I feel so privileged to have been given this opportunity. Delta Council is a wonderful organization that will continue to make a difference in and positively influence the Delta."



Sheena Cussen



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