

# ETCOG HAPPENINGS

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### FAREWELL, WENDELL HOLCOMBE, DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS EAST TEXAS

After 40 years of service at ETCOG, beginning in 1972, Wendell Holcombe retired on December 31, 2012, ending his years of service as the Director of Workforce Solutions East Texas. Friends, family, colleagues and coworkers joined to bid Wendell farewell at Miss Mary's Place in Kilgore on January 31. Wendell was the longest tenured employee at ETCOG, joining just a few short years after its inception. At the reception, many heartfelt and comical stories were told, all reflecting on his tremendous service and dedication to the region. Through the years, Wendell's service literally impacted thousands of lives, and he humbly expressed gratitude just to have a small part in it. It is clear that Wendell dedicated a lifetime to the East Texas Workforce. We hope he works just as hard relaxing and enjoying retirement as he did in his long career. We will miss you, Wendell!



### BENEFITS COUNSELING SERVICES

The Benefits Counseling Program is designed to answer questions for seniors age 60+, caregivers, or for those individuals receiving Medicare regardless of age. We answer important questions you may have concerning public benefits and private insurance.

Effective benefits counseling will result in improved financial circumstances and quality of life for the client. You will be given information you need to make an informed decision about your benefits. Our benefits counselors will be available at the following community event:

TJC Respiratory Symposium, March 7th  
 Seniors Celebrating Life Health Fair, Harvey Convention Center,  
 Tyler, 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



### KILGORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP GIVES ETCOG THIRD AND FINAL EXPANSION CHECK

In 2009, ETCOG entered into an economic development agreement with Kilgore Economic Development Corp to retain 50 full-time jobs physically in Kilgore by renovating offices and bring our Transportation team from Longview to the main offices in Kilgore. Kilgore offered \$100,000 provided over a three year period to contribute for this plan.

Kilgore EDC presented the third and final check for \$33,333 for the project. ETCOG renovations were completed in 2012 and now house our Transportation GoBus dispatch center on premises.



## LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR TO BE HONORED



We are pleased to announce State Representative Dan Flynn as the 2012 Texas Legislator of the Year. The Texas Legislator of the Year Award recognizes a Texas Legislator that has demonstrated valuable and dedicated service to regional cooperation.

Representative Flynn was selected as this year's recipient by the ETCOG Chief Elected Officials board which is comprised of the County Judge of each of our fourteen counties and the City of Longview and City of Tyler mayors. The Board reviewed nominations submitted by the ETCOG Executive Committee and online survey results submitted by the general public.

Representative Flynn will be presented with the Texas Legislator of the Year award during the program at the East Texas Reception.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANTS DUE

FY2014 Criminal Justice Grant Applications are due to the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division (submitted and certified) before midnight on February 28, 2013.

Applicants needing technical assistance should contact Stephanie Heffner, Public Safety Director at 903-984-8641 ext. 251 or at [stephanie.heffner@etcog.org](mailto:stephanie.heffner@etcog.org).

## EAST TEXAS RECEPTION, FEBRUARY 19TH

The East Texas Council of Governments will soon host a lunch reception on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at the elegant and historic Mansion at Judges Hill to honor the work of our legislators as they are in session. Approximately 150 East Texas elected officials, civic, business and not-for-profit leaders will join us as we visit with our legislators in Austin and let them know what is important to East Texans.

We have until February 11<sup>th</sup> for last minute reservations to attend the event. Please call (903) 984-8641 if you have not submitted your reservation. Admission will not be granted at the door without prior registration.

This event is solely paid for by sponsors and event ticket sales. Thank you to our 2013 sponsors!

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Wood County Industrial Commission

### CONTRIBUTORS

Meals on Wheels Ministry of Tyler  
Mission Critical Partners

## East Texas Council of Governments

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