



**State of North Carolina
Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission
Newsletter**

January 2011 Issue 13

We wish to congratulate a retiring ABC Board Manager, several with long service records with plans to continue their careers, and pay our respects to two former ABC Board General Managers who have recently passed away.

**Sara Brewer
High Country ABC
Avery County
28 Years**

In 1998, the ABC Boards of Banner Elk, Sugar Mountain, and Seven Devils [within one mile of each other] merged their operations to become the High Country ABC Board. Sara was Manager at Banner Elk ABC at the time with 16 years' service and became the manager of the newly organized ABC Board. Today, each of the three towns receives approximately \$80,000 a year in profits from the merged ABC store operations.

Sara was hired as a clerk in October, 1982 by Banner Elk ABC Board Manager Bob Gregory. She became Assistant Manager in 1987 and Manager in 1992 upon Bob's retirement. She is glad to see the changes throughout the years such as computers, accepting credit cards, and mixed beverage accounts.

During her high school years, Sara worked in the gift shop at Grandfather Mountain and part-time in the accounting department of Grandfather Golf and Country Club. She also assisted her mother, Secretary to Hugh Morton, in public relations.



After two years of college where she was working on a degree in Probation and Parole, Sara returned to her home and married. She is proud of her son Corben's achievements during his high school years in the State and Southeastern Rodeo Association. After a bad injury riding bulls, he went on to win the bare-back horse riding state championship for two years and she accompanied him on many trips and to rodeos.

She has served two terms as Western District Supervisor Representative with the ABC Board Association and still serves on the Efficiency, Program, and Arrangements committees. She stays very active and involved with ABC matters around the state.

Sara is also proud of her high school years with the Grandfather Mountain Cloggers who were state champions in her junior year. The clogging team danced around the country in places and events such as Carolina basketball half-times, Las Vegas with Jerry Lewis' Muscular Dystrophy telethons, Oral Roberts University and the World Action Singers events, Jim Hunt's inaugural ball, on a parade float in Washington, DC for Jimmy Carter's inauguration, Easter Egg roll on the White House lawn, Wilmington Azalea festivals, and Busch Gardens to name just a few.

She attends her local Presbyterian Church, has served as Elder, and is active in the choir. As for her dancing activities, Sara says she's gone from cloggin' to shaggin'.

High Country ABC annual sales are approximately \$2.6 million.

In 1972, the first Christmas tree from Avery County was chosen by the White House for the Blue Room and the county sent an eighteen foot "Grand Champion".

Joey McAllister
Halifax County ABC
26 Years



Congratulations Joey! When visiting with Joey these days, you will notice a new photo on his desk. He is a first-time grandfather to a healthy and beautiful little girl who appears in the desk photo. He and his wife will begin commuting from Halifax County to Raleigh to visit with her in the years to come.

After six years with NC Natural Gas, Joey was asked by Halifax County ABC Manager Connie Lewis to become her warehouse manager and he began his ABC career in this position on November 1, 1985. In February, 1990, Connie passed away and Joey became Manager after some deliberations with the ABC Officer for the Board, Garland Bunting, who encouraged him to take the position.

When Joey became Manager, there were three self service and four over the counter ABC stores in the county. During his tenure changes have been made through closings, mergers, renovations and new construction.

Today, all six stores in the county are self service and all are owned by the ABC Board.

Joey is very grateful for having his bookkeeper, Cindy Allen, who was hired one month after him. She has been a great asset to both Joey and his ABC Board during their growth and transition over the years.

The former ABC Officer, Garland Bunting, was quite a character during his law enforcement career and went on to star in the movies "Bull Durham" as sports announcer Cary Garland and the movie "Blaze" as Doc Ferriday, Paul Newman's personal doctor.

Halifax County ABC annual sales are approximately \$4.3 million.

The town of Halifax is home to "The Halifax Resolves" - the name later given to a resolution adopted by the Fourth Provincial Congress of the Province of North Carolina on April 12, 1776, during the American Revolution. The resolution helped pave the way for the United States Declaration of Independence.

**Betty (Nikki) Mills
Sunset Beach ABC
Brunswick County
Retiring after 20 Years**

A native of Arkansas, Nikki moved with her husband to Eden, NC and lived there for 40 years.

She worked over the state line in Martinsville, VA with Dupont for 20 years and after her husband retired, they moved to Sunset Beach.



She began her second career with Sunset Beach ABC as Clerk and Bookkeeper and was hired by then manager James "Sarge" Borsius in 1991. In 1997 she became manager of the small over the counter store.

In 1997 a new self service store was opened at the same location and in 2007, a new and larger store was opened at its present location.

Nikki is very grateful to have had good employees over the years and credits them to the success of the ABC store. She wishes she had started much earlier in the ABC business as it has been such a pleasure to work in it all these years.

Her retirement plans include traveling and spending more time with her family in Arkansas. Nikki's son and family are nearby and there is a grand-daughter too. She also plans to volunteer at the local hospital and rock the babies.

Her retirement date is April 1, 2010. Congratulations Nikki on a job well done and best wishes in your retirement!

Sunset Beach ABC annual sales are approximately \$1.3 million.

Sue Reese
Retired Highlands ABC Manager
Macon County



Highlands - Hattie Sue Ledford Reese "our loving Mama Sue", age 74, passed away Sunday December 26, 2010 at Memorial Mission Hospital. Sue was a native of Macon County and the daughter of the late Howard and Orpha Hastings Ledford. She was a member of the Highlands First Baptist Church where she was active in GA's and Sunday school instruction during her youth. She also was a retired member of the Highlands Woman's Club at which time she helped co-found Fibber Maggie's Closet in Highlands, recognizing the need of secondhand clothing, as a mother of four children.

Throughout her life she worked many trades to help provide for her family but in the end she retired with twenty-three years of service as manager and forefather of the Highlands ABC store. The job she enjoyed the most, however, was making her homemade jams and

jellies which she sold at the Highlands Arts and Crafts Fair for twenty-seven years. She had a passion for dancing, most especially the art of clogging, of which she traveled throughout the southeast as a clogging judge. Her most important role in life, that she took most pride in, was the love and care that she gave to her family and friends as her heart was never ending.

Sue is survived by four children, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Robert L. Reese, Jr. "Dugan"; one son, and two brothers.
[End of obituary]

From the present Highlands ABC Manager, Sandy Baty and Assistant Manager, Lisa Talley:

Sue was a mentor to the employees at the ABC store. She trained us "when a customer enters the store always greet them with hello and how are you" and "to be alert when they approach the counter and have your bag ready." Sue was conscientious and precise about everything. Being a manager of the ABC Store seemed to be second nature to her. She taught us well!

Anyone who knew Sue also knew she liked to have fun and was not above kidding around and telling it like it was.

Sue's beauty, poise and grace, her gentle smile, her kind giving spirit and her joyous, blissful laughter will stay in our hearts forever.

**David Austin Lovette, Sr.
North Wilkesboro ABC
Wilkes County**



Mr. David Austin Lovette, Sr., age 44, of Shew Ridge Mission Road, Wilkesboro died Friday, December 10, 2010 at Wilkes Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday 11:00 at Reins-Sturdivant Chapel with Pastor Joey Moore officiating. Burial was in Mountlawn Memorial Park.

Mr. Lovette was born July 9, 1966 in Wilkes County to James Clayton and Carol Jean Johnson Lovette. He was Manager of the North Wilkesboro ABC Store.

He is survived by: his wife, Rebecca "Becky" Williams Lovette of the home; two sons, David Austin Lovette, Jr., Matthew Eric Lovette both of the home; his parents, James Clayton and Carol Jean Lovette of Wilkesboro; one brother, James Clayton Lovette, Jr. of North Wilkesboro; two grandchildren, David

Austin Lovette, III and Eternity Alexis Lovette. [End of obituary]

From David's Father, Jim Lovette:

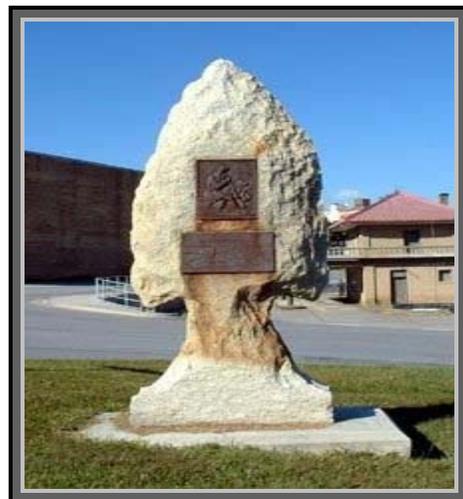
David first worked for the City as a Plant Operator and was promoted to Public Utilities Director for their Water Plant and Sewage Department. His service time was 18 years before moving over to the North Wilkesboro ABC Store.

He was appointed Manager of the ABC Store and worked there for three and one half years. During his tenure renovations were made to the building and sales area.

He was an active volunteer fireman for 21 years and a Deacon in the Hinshaw Baptist Church. He was also member of North Wilkesboro Elks Lodge for several years.

He was active in his church and his family life.

**Daniel Boone Monument
North Wilkesboro, NC**



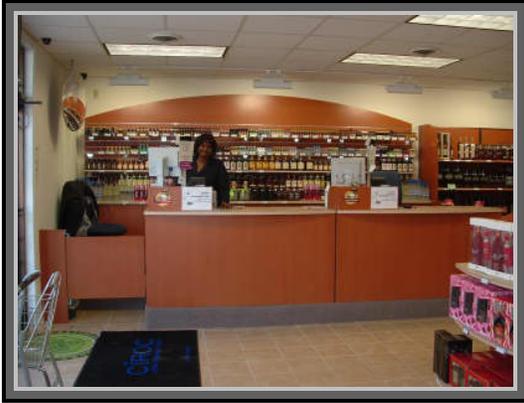
**Johnston County ABC
Office and Store Renovation**

**417 S Brightleaf Blvd
Smithfield NC 27577**



**Elizabethtown ABC
Store Renovation**

**2817 W Broad St
Elizabethtown NC 28337**



Send any retirement or other
announcements for inclusion in future
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