

ABC Connections

an e-newsletter for ABC Boards in NC

ABC Commission Adds New Faces, Roles

Over the last year, the ABC Commission has made several staffing changes that may affect you – we are happy to announce the following staffing updates to the Raleigh office:

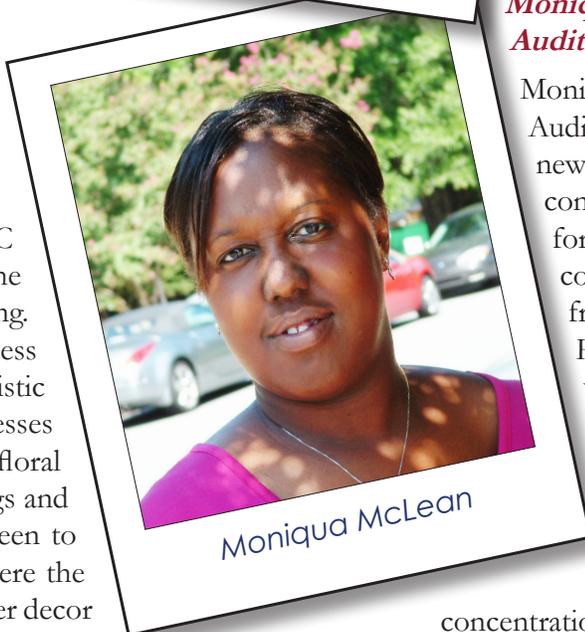
Cathy Horne, Pricing Manager

For the last year, Cathy Horne has been the ABC Commission’s pricing manager, replacing Penny Starling after she retired. She creates the quarterly price books that ABC stores and permit holders rely upon to make sure their alcohol sales are in accordance with the approved prices. While Cathy isn’t a juggler by trade, she has mastered the art of juggling all the different information from brokers and suppliers to make sure that the information in the price books is up-to-date and accurate. On top of that, she also issues broker and supplier permits and handles special orders.

Cathy has been with the ABC Commission for six years, and while she loves her job, her true passion is decorating. In the past, she had her own business decorating cakes and adding her artistic flare to her clients’ homes and businesses for the holidays; she also coordinated floral arrangements and designs for weddings and other special events. If you’ve ever been to our Raleigh offices and wondered where the beautiful flower arrangements and other decor came from, look no further than Cathy.



Cathy Horne



Monique McLean

A North Carolina native from Richlands in Onslow County, you can find Cathy supporting the Carolina Panthers – her car even sports their license plate – watching NASCAR or working in her flower garden in her spare time. Cathy also loves spending time with her daughter and three grandchildren.

Cathy would like to thank the staff at LB&B Warehouse, the ABC Boards and the ABC Commission staff for being so helpful, patient and understanding in her job transition – it is truly a group effort.

Monique McLean, ABC Board Auditor

Monique joined the ABC Board Auditing team this spring. In her new role, she is responsible for conducting performance audits for all ABC Boards. Monique comes to the ABC Commission from the University of Chapel Hill, Library Fiscal Services where she was an accountant.

A native North Carolinian, Monique was born in Asheville, but raised in Rockingham. She received her Bachelor of Arts, concentration Music, from North Carolina Central University in Durham. Later, she received her

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ABC Commission Doubles Warehouse Space

On August 1, the capacity of the North Carolina ABC warehouse doubled to 400,000 square feet.

That's thanks to a 200,000 square foot commercial warehouse the Commission authorized warehouse contractor LB&B to lease in May. During June and July, LB&B's subcontractors transformed the leased facility from a former grocery warehouse with rows of wire racks to a cavernous concrete space ready to receive pallets of liquor.

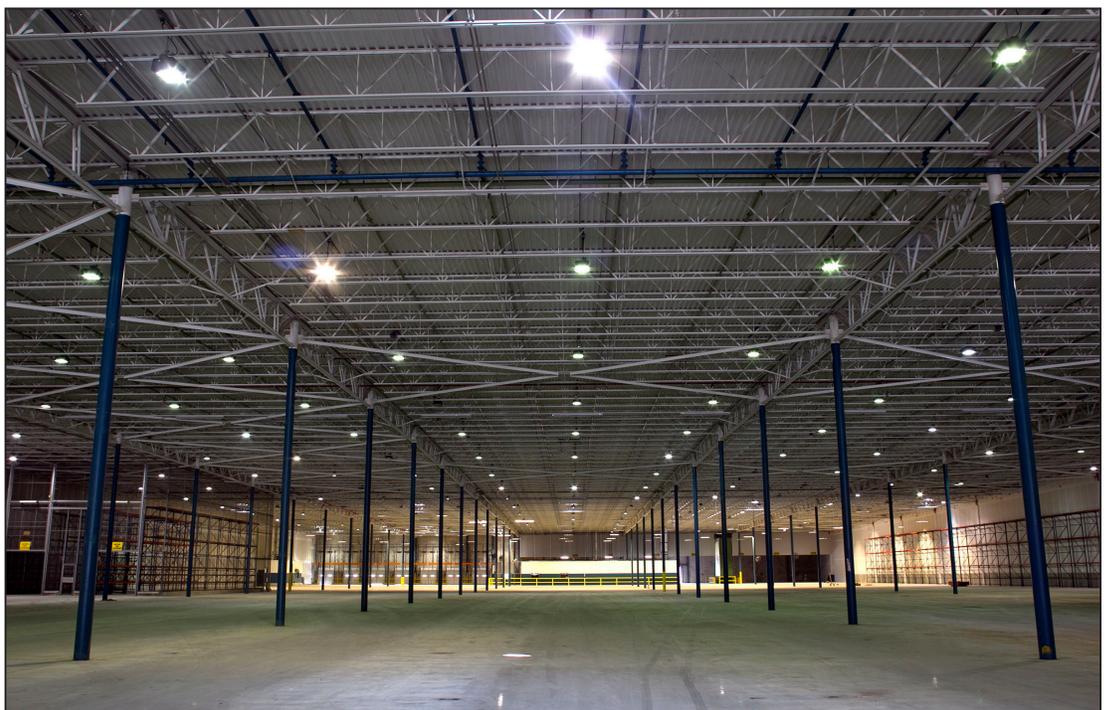
The new leased space is 10 miles east of the current warehouse in Raleigh and also convenient to Interstate-40.

Since 1984 the ABC Commission has maintained a single warehouse at the Commission's Raleigh office and warehouse complex to fill boards' orders. The old warehouse will continue to be used to receive and ship orders, but it will be supplemented by the new space, which will serve as a facility for high-volume items only.

Until the addition of the bulk storage facility, the Commission's warehouse capacity was at its maximum with 1,700 items listed.

The additional warehouse space will allow the Commission to:

- keep a 45-day inventory for domestic products and a 60-day inventory of imports (vs. the 30-day supply of domestic and a 45-day supply of imports under the single warehouse limits)
- decrease out-of-stock issues
- boost selection by as much as 15 percent
- relocate receiving for top producers to the high-volume leased facility



The new 200,000 square foot warehouse will allow the Commission to house a 45-day supply of domestic products and 60-day supply of imports.

History behind the move

In 2007, the ABC Commission commissioned a study to examine options to solve the capacity issues at the warehouse. Leasing a second warehouse was one of the solutions identified, although at the time its location was considered for the western part of the state and was to be a complete warehouse serving the western part of the state while the existing warehouse would serve the east.

In 2011, Governor Perdue, as a part of her announcement not to pursue privatization said, "I am instructing the ABC Commission to examine its warehousing and distribution operations to improve profitability. We should be able to supply local ABC stores more efficiently."

The second warehouse now in operation responds to the Governor's direction to increase efficiency and potentially profitability for the local boards served by the warehouse shipments. The Commission will continue to review longer-term options to address North Carolina's growing liquor distribution needs. 

...Moniqua McLean continued from page 1

Master's of Accounting and Financial Management from DeVry University, Keller School of Management.

Moniqua is married with two sons, ages 15 and 2. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and



Kristin Milam

Kristin Milam, Education & Training Director

I am excited join the ABC Commission, and my overall goal is to develop programs that will help us become a more active contributor to the public health community's efforts to prevent underage drinking, drinking and driving and other alcohol-related problems.

I previously worked as the Public Affairs Director for the N.C. Department of Insurance where I answered questions from often-pesky reporters, wrote articles and news releases on topics ranging Medicare to car insurance, building codes to firefighters, and coordinated public awareness campaigns and events. Before that, I worked at a nonprofit in Knoxville, Tenn. that focused on substance abuse prevention; while there I coordinated social marketing campaigns about preventing underage drinking.

I followed my college sweetheart to North Carolina after graduate school. In the seven years that we've lived here, we have gotten married, bought a house in Apex, and added two dogs and a baby boy to our family. While I'm not an obsessive college sports fan, I do enjoy living in the middle of ACC territory and supporting the best ACC team and my alma mater – the Clemson Tigers! At

least I don't have to worry about that whole dark blue/light blue debate... orange really is a much more festive color for fall tailgates.

Agnes Stevens, Public Affairs Director

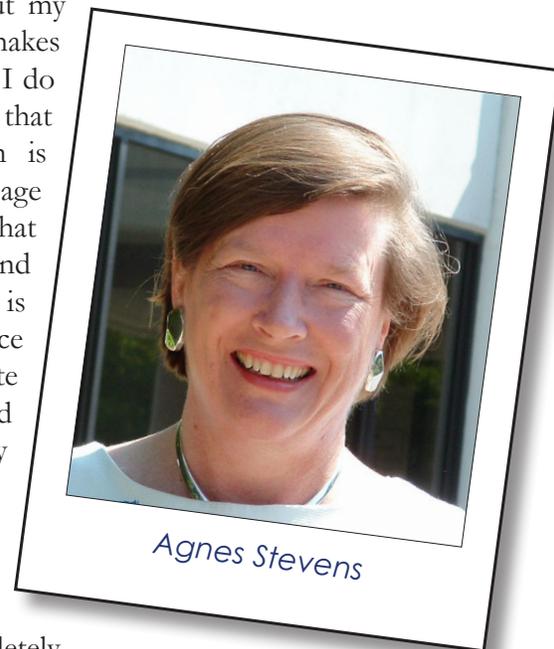
You've seen my name and face around the ABC Commission offices most mornings since October of 2009. Since last August I've been a permanent, but part-time part of the staff, and I love it.

As Public Affairs Director I get to respond to reporters' questions – and in the process learn lots of interesting things every day.

Everyone at the Commission is so approachable and has such a wealth of expertise that it makes my job easy. I also get to write news releases, speeches and coordinate announcements for the Commission. It makes my family and friends particularly happy whenever they see me quoted in the paper or interviewed on TV – that's not the part I love about my work/that part makes me cringe – But I do like making sure that the Commission is getting its message out in a way that is effective and consistent. This is my first experience working in state government, and I enjoy it very much.

I came to the ABC Commission

from a completely different world. When I started working with the Commission, I had been my own boss for five years as a public relations consultant. Five years before that I had worked as a senior staff member for a public relations agency here in Raleigh (Capstrat), and before that I lived and worked in Charlotte for 13 years, where I was a vice president of communications for First Union (Wells Fargo/Wachovia). I started my career as a reporter for daily papers in Dunn and Wilson, N.C.



Agnes Stevens

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Siler City ABC GM Drives in the President's Motorcade

submitted by Nancy Gooch, Siler City ABC General Manager

Active involvement in the Chatham County Democrats and a strategic family connection provided Nancy Gooch the opportunity to be chosen as a driver in the President's motorcade during his June visit to Research Triangle Park. Nancy describes the once-in-a-lifetime meeting with a sitting President:

"I have a relative who organizes some of President Obama's events, and when the President came to town on June 13th to speak at Cree in RTP, they needed drivers for the motorcade transporting the President's senior staff and the national press corps. I received a call asking if I would be interested in driving in the motorcade.

After providing personal information and passing the security check, I received a message from the motorcade coordinator. The night before, I met with the other drivers at Enterprise car rental for a quick orientation; we also drove the cars to the UPS hub at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. We were told to dress appropriately, bring a bag lunch, stay with our vehicles and keep up with the vehicle in front of us at all times. We would only meet the President if time allowed, and we could introduce ourselves but not speak unless he initiated it. We were not to use our phones, play the radio or take pictures while transporting anyone.

On the day of the event, I met the other six drivers at the UPS hub. Everyone was assigned to a specific 15-passenger van. I was assigned to drive the "Straggler" car,

which is there in case anyone needs to leave unexpectedly. We were placed in position and waited on the tarmac for Air Force One to arrive. I must say it was awesome to watch Air Force One taxiing beside us as we waited. After the press corps, senior staff and the President were in the cars, we were escorted out to the highway – it was also very cool to drive 80 mph on closed roads. And there were secret service people *everywhere*.

After we arrived at our destination and after a period of waiting, we went into the Cree building where we were shown first into a hallway and then into a room to meet the President and have our picture taken. The President was in an adjacent room joking with people and having pictures made. When he came out, he learned that we were the motorcade drivers. He said, "Oh, the best drivers in NC." He went down the line shaking our our hands as we introduced ourselves. I told him my name, and he said, "How are you today, Nancy?" I don't remember what I said, but I remember thinking, "Oh my god! The President of the United Sates is shaking my hand and just said my name!"

After the introductions he said "Let's do this," and got between myself and another driver. He put his arm around me, and I put mine around him – I remember thinking, "How cool is this?" Then it was over. We were ushered out of the building to our vehicles, and shortly after everyone loaded into their vehicles, we raced back to RDU. After everyone was off-loaded we waited for the plane to depart and returned the vehicles to the rental company.

No matter what your politics, he is still the President of the United States and these opportunities were awesome experiences. I hope there will be more." 🍷



President Obama poses with motorcade drivers during his June 13, 2011 trip to RTP; Nancy Gooch (left of the President) was one of seven drivers who transported the President's senior staff and national press corps.

Scotland County ABC's Buddy Lewis Retires after 26 Years

After 26 years in North Carolina's ABC system, Buddy Lewis retired from the Scotland County ABC Board effective July 31.

Prior to joining the Scotland Board, he worked in Watauga County Hospital's Admissions Department for two years. Later, he was an Eligibility Specialist with the Department of Social Services through the Scotland County hospital where he advised uninsured patients. He also worked part-time in the emergency room on weekends.

Initially, Buddy applied for a bookkeeping position at the Scotland ABC store but did not get the job. Sometime later, a chance meeting with Blue Currie, Manager of the ABC store at the time, explained the position was available and after applying again, he was hired in 1985 on a part-time basis.

In 1999, Mr. Currie retired, and Buddy became the Manager/Bookkeeper. During his tenure, he oversaw renovations – complete with new cabinets, floors and fixtures – to the ABC store, originally built in 1969.

Buddy feels fortunate to have been a part of the Scotland ABC team and work with the board members and employees who have made the store successful. He will remain a part-time employee until the new manager is fully trained.



...Agnes Stevens continued from page 3

I grew up in Dudley, N.C. (same place as Guy Potts), graduated from Southern Wayne Senior High, St. Mary's Junior College in Raleigh and Davidson College in Davidson. I chose to major in English because I loved the beauty of good writing, and I still do. I am a long-time member of a book club here in Raleigh, am active in my neighborhood (where everyone compliments me on what a good-looking dog I have), enjoy my church (that I can walk to from my house) and dote on my niece and nephew (Ada and Ben) who live about an hour away. I have never married and happily am being courted by a very fine fellow who has wined and dined me since we met a couple of years ago. 🍷

If you have retirement announcements, article suggestions or other questions about the newsletter, contact Guy Potts at 919-218-0748 or Guy.Potts@abc.nc.gov.



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NORTH CAROLINA