

# ABCConnections

*an e-newsletter for ABC Boards in NC*

## ABC Commission Chairman Jon Williams to Lead NC Energy Office

Jon Williams has begun a new phase of his career as head of the state’s energy office. He started his new job as Assistant Secretary for Energy (Dept of Commerce), Nov. 1.

He served as chairman of the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission for two full years – from October 2009 through October 2011. The 24 months of Chairman Williams’ administration marked a period of tremendous change for the Commission including:

- 2010’s historic legislative reform of the state’s “local option” retail system of liquor sales;
- the comprehensive regulatory review and rewrite of the ABC rules;
- doubling warehouse capacity;
- a third-party valuation of our retail liquor system;
- implementation of statewide public health and public safety initiatives, including Last Call Summary Suspensions
- a strong foundation for ongoing improvements in each of our operational divisions.

In addition to his active engagement at the state level, Chairman Williams also provided national leadership to the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association, serving on the board of directors and as chairman of the NABCA Regulatory Committee.

“It has been an honor to serve as chairman of the NC ABC Commission. I believe our system today is on the right track to serve communities across North Carolina and to make significant contributions to the state’s General Fund as well,” Williams said. “I want to express my thanks to the staff of the Commission and to the local ABC boards and their employees who work so hard every day and are committed to meeting the high standards of accountability and transparency that the law requires and the people expect.”

*“ I believe our system today is on the right track to serve communities across North Carolina... ”*

The Governor has not announced who she will appoint to succeed Williams as ABC Commission chairman.



Chairman Jonathan S. Williams

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**For 30 years, Charles McEntire has been part of the ABC System in western North Carolina.**

His ABC career started at Tryon ABC in July 1981 when Manager Richard Davidson hired him; Richard retired eight months later and Charles took his place. In 2003, Charles began working at Lake Lure ABC in Rutherford County under Manager R. A. Hutto. After Mr. Hutto passed away, Charles was named general manager and served in that capacity until he retired this past July. Sales were good at the time before the surrounding ABC stores in Rutherfordton, Columbus, Lake Lure, Forest City and two stores in neighboring South Carolina opened; Lake Lure ABC annual sales are approximately \$656,000. Charles continues to help the current employees when they have questions.

Before joining the ABC System, he ran a convenience store for 10 years after serving in the Army. Charles was with the Army Security Intelligence for four years, three of which were in Berlin.

Charles enjoys fishing around Lake Lure – National Geographic has called it one of the most beautiful man-made lakes in the world – and in South Carolina. He looks forward to annual fishing trips with friends. He is an avid reader and is enjoying more time with his children and 14-month-old grandson.



**After eight years in the ABC System, Mike Dickson has retired his post as General Manager at Gaston County's Cramerton ABC store in October.**

Prior to serving as the Cramerton General Manager, Mike owned a convenience store and worked part-time for the Gastonia ABC beginning in 2003. He later moved on to manage the Mt. Holly ABC, helping get the store up and running. In 2006, he started at Cramerton ABC; the Cramerton ABC store's annual sales are approximately \$1.6 million.

Born and raised in Greenville, S.C., Mike graduated from Furman University with a degree in Psychology. Interrupted briefly by a three-year stint with Prudential Life Insurance Company, Mike's first career centered around the textile industry in which he held several positions with Milliken & Company, the Draper Corporation and Tomen American Textile Company. He stayed at Tomen for 23 years, where over a 10 year period, Mike sold \$70 million in textile machinery. Tomen specializes in international marketing and distribution across a wide range of industries, and during his time at the company he traveled internationally to Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and Europe, including Germany, Paris and Milan.

Now that Mike is retired, he plans to volunteer at the Schiele Museum of Natural History and Salvation Army. Schiele Museum of Natural History, located in Gastonia, collects, studies, and preserves natural specimens and cultural artifacts.



# Tackle Public Health Issues through Education

System-wide opportunities available to local ABC Boards.

It's no secret that alcohol is the kind of product that can cause people harm – to their health, safety, finances and/or legal records. Whether it's kids drinking before they're 21, a drunk driver, or someone who doesn't realize that mixing a martini with his prescription medications can cause some nasty side effects, the misuse and abuse of alcohol ranks among the top public health concerns facing North Carolina.

As the agencies charged with regulating and selling alcohol, both the state ABC Commission and local ABC boards, have a responsibility to work toward preventing the misuse and abuse of alcohol and educate the public we serve about responsible alcohol use. Tackling public health issues can be done in a variety of ways, both on a large and small scale. And ABC stores are a great place to start. Think about it – people come into to our stores every day, so if they can receive a positive shopping experience that also provides basic information about their health and safety, it's a win-win situation for everyone.

Please  
share your  
ideas & opinions  
about prevention &  
education materials to  
display in your store.  
Please **CLICK HERE**  
to complete our  
survey!

“It can be intimidating or seem time consuming to create a prevention program, but the reality is that there are a lot of little things we can do as a system that can have a big impact,” explains Kristin Milam, director of the ABC Commission's Education and Training Division. “For example, one of my goals is to develop materials that any store in North Carolina's ABC System can use to help educate not only its staff but also its customers.”

The ABC System is already working to provide public health and safety information to store employees and permit holders by holding Responsible Alcohol Seller Program (RASP) trainings across the state. This training educates folks about North Carolina's laws and rules surrounding alcohol sales and ways to prevent underage and intoxicated sales. By incorporating RASP and other educational messages into stores, we can join the public health and substance abuse prevention communities' existing efforts to prevent the misuse and abuse of alcohol.

## New Web site Focuses on Alcohol Education and Awareness

The NC ABC Commission has created a new website focused solely on educating the public about alcohol-related public health issues; the site is called [www.ACTnowNC.org](http://www.ACTnowNC.org). The “ACT” part of ACTnowNC stands for “building Awareness and Communication about alcohol issues Together.” Meaning that by working together with organizations dedicated to substance abuse prevention – including ABC Boards – across the state and engaging the public in conversations and strategies about the misuse and abuse of alcohol, we can find solutions to these problems.

The web portal provides a “one-stop-shop” for alcohol related information – ranging from statistics and research, news coverage, treatment resources, contact information for local community groups and events, teacher and parent resources, etc. It can also serve as a resource for the prevention community, ABC boards or other agencies as



another way to get their education information to their communities.

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# In Memoriam

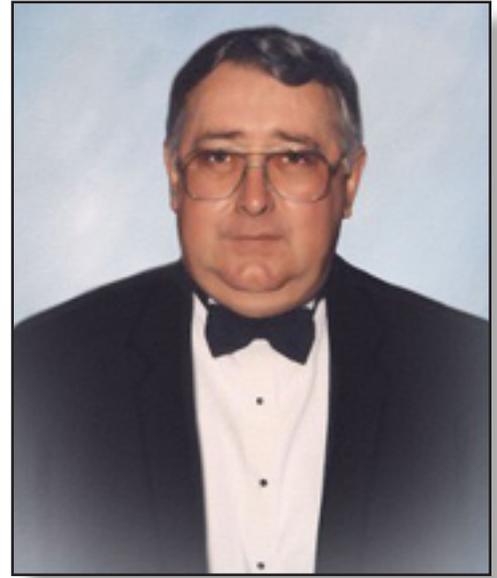
*We sadly announce that Bobby King, retired manager of the Murphy ABC store, passed away in October. Our thoughts and prayers remain with his family. The following was prepared by Townson Rose Funeral Home:*

Robert (Bobby) E. King, age 68, of Murphy, NC passed away Wednesday, October 12, 2011 in Chattanooga, Tenn.

He was a native of Cherokee County, N.C. and the son of the late Robert William and Kathryn Keener King. Bobby had been the manager of the Murphy ABC Store for 30 years. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Murphy. Bobby enjoyed fishing. He was a Master Mason and a member of the Cherokee Lodge #146. Bobby appreciated country music and gospel music. His best friend was his dog, Satch.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Grace Anne Parker Aloï King; his son, Robert Scott King of Greenville, S.C.; his daughter, Jennifer Aloï Forbes and husband, Chris of Honolulu, Hawaii; one brother, W.C. King and wife, Hilda of Murphy, N.C.; four grandchildren, Samuel James Forbes and Jacob Thomas Forbes both of Honolulu, Hawaii and Ryan King and Mason King of Greenville, S.C.; two special nephews, Jonathan King and wife, Whitney and Brian King and wife, Liz, all of Murphy.

A memorial service was held Saturday, October 22, 2011 in Murphy.



**Robert E. (Bobby) King**  
Sept. 9, 1943 - Oct. 12, 2011

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North Carolina doesn't have a portal dedicated to alcohol issues that the general public can use. Our goal is to have a dynamic and user-friendly place for people to go with their alcohol questions. It will help connect the dots from an initial question to a solution at the local level.

Right now there are a lot of different issues facing the prevention community – prescription drugs, marijuana, meth – but the abuse and misuse of alcohol remains a major problem. For example, alcohol is the No. 1 used substance by youth in our state. According to the most recent (2009) NC Youth Behavior Risk Survey, 35% of high school students report using alcohol one or more times during the past 30 days, compared to 19.8% of high school students who report using marijuana one or more times during the past 30 days.

While underage drinking is a major concern, the portal also touches on drinking and driving, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, alcohol and older adults, binge drinking and

more. As other issues arise, the site will grow to address them. It will evolve as needed to provide the most current information for North Carolinians.

Participating in this effort is easy. You can ACT now by joining the site as a partner and displaying ACTnowNC.org educational materials in your store or partnering with your local prevention coalition for awareness efforts in your community.

For more information about ACTnowNC.org, contact Kristin Milam at 919-779-0700, ext. 249 or Kristin.Milam@abc.nc.gov. Visit [www.ACTnowNC.org](http://www.ACTnowNC.org) today!

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](mailto:Guy.Potts@abc.nc.gov).