

HISTORY

OF

SOUTH CAROLINA CO-OP & PLACEMENT ASSOCIATION

Editors

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SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE PLACEMENT ASSOCIATION

During the Winter meeting of the Southern College Placement Association held in December of 1969 in Atlanta, Georgia the first formal discussions regarding a state association were held. Greg Hughes, Placement Director at Clemson University (55-75) and acting president of SCPA meet with educators and employers from South Carolina to determine if there was enough interest to form a state association. SCPA had recently published an article in SCOOP encouraging states to consider organizing as Virginia and Tennessee had done. While there are no records to indicate what planning activities took place in 1970, it would be safe to assume that discussions were taking place.

Based on a newspaper clipping from the State Newspaper dated February 5th 1971, the first official meeting of the South Carolina College Placement Association took place at South Carolina State College. The article referred to recently elected officers, which means the first meeting must have taken place in late January or early February, 1971.

Officers elected at that meeting were:

President	John P. Daniluk	Presbyterian College
VP College	Daisey Johnson	S. C. State College
VP Employer	Bruce Stroupe	Milliken - Deering & Co.
Secretary	Margerate Loudermilk	Baptist College
Treasurer	Frank W. Johnson	University of South Carolina

From January 1971 until it's merger with the Co-op Association in May, 1988, the South Carolina College Placement Association served the needs of both recruiters and college placement officials from throughout the state.

The South Carolina Co-op & Placement Association was founded in May of 1988, the result of a merger between the South Carolina College Placement Association and the South Carolina Cooperative Education Association.

THE IDEA

The idea of a merger grew from the success of the joint annual meetings, and the need to be more mindful of members that belonged to both associations. Some members found themselves faced with duplicate dues, conflicting meeting dates and loyalties. Both associations were also aware that a larger membership would provide financial strength, help attract stronger speakers, and allow the group to book quality conference facilities.

THE VOTE

In May 1986 the South Carolina Co-op Association held its annual state meeting as part of the Southeastern Regional Co-op conference in Charlotte, NC. During the business meeting, Dave Scherrep, Clemson University, proposed a resolution to study a merger with the South Carolina College Placement Association. After intense discussion the resolution passed, with Dave Scherrep indicating he would write to the President of the Placement Association, Tom Kosmota, United Technologies, asking if they would be interested in exploring the idea of a merger. After a positive vote from SCCPA, a joint committee was formed under the leadership of Al Mathiasen, Clemson University. The committee was tasked to review all implications of a merger, to include contacting state associations that had already merged, and report back at a joint meeting to be held in Charleston during May of 1987.

At the Charleston meeting the merger committee rendered its report to the combined membership of both associations. The committee recommended that the two groups join forces and form a new association. They found that merging had worked quite well in Georgia and Alabama, and that several other southern states were considering merging, but hadn't taken any action at this time. The mood of both groups was so positive after the committees report, that a vote was taken in joint session, rather than adjourning to vote separately. After a brief discussion, the group voted unanimously to merge.

TRANSITION YEAR

It was decided by the leadership of both associations that a transition year was necessary to accomplish a smooth merger, and that the new association would hold its first meeting in May 1988 at Myrtle Beach, SC. Ray Davis and Alisa Mosley, USC, volunteered to develop a new constitution, and the treasurers of both groups worked together to combine the treasuries. Other major issues to consider were the name of the new association, logo, and how elections would be handled during the transition. The transition committee recommended that the new association be called the South Carolina Co-op & Placement Association (SCCPA). Coincidentally this was the same acronym that had previously been used by the placement association. It was also agreed that the palmetto tree logo used by the Co-op association would continue as the logo of SCCPA. For one year only it was necessary to have an additional board member to account for the fact that there would be two previous past presidents. By May 1988, all the planning & organizing was completed and the new association was ready for its first meeting.

FIRST MEETING

It was decided by the conference planning committee that the first meeting of the new association would be held at the Ocean Dunes/Sand Dunes Hotel in Myrtle Beach, SC. The plan was to spare no expense on the first annual meeting so that it would be one to remember. Charter member plaques were secured by Lydia Arledge of Furman University, and presented to all members of SCCPA as of May 88. Lydia also designed and produced a special conference T-shirt which was presented as a gift to all members in attendance. During the business meeting Pat McCrory of Duke Power Co. was elected the first President of SCCPA along with a slate of officers that represented the interests of education and industry. It was a very strong beginning for the new organization.

FORMAT

The history of SCCPA can only be told by outlining the histories of the former Co-op and Placement Associations. Information will be presented in chronological order, beginning with the Placement Association, and will run concurrently from 1976 (Formation of Co-op Association) until the merger in 1988. The information for this history was taken from official records, minutes of meetings, newsletters, interviews, and first hand accounts. Corrections or additional information would be greatly appreciated, and should be directed to Dave Scherrep, Cooperative Education, Clemson University.

Individuals providing material or information used in the compiling of this history were:

Greg Hughes	Former Placement Director Clemson University
Bruce Stroup	Former Personnel Representative Deering Milliken
Ken Dye	Director of Placement Francis Marrion College
Alisa Mosley	Director of Placement University of South Carolina
Boyce Cox	Dean, Career Development & Placement College of Charleston

The history of the Co-op Association was drawn from official records that had been maintained by the various association secretaries, and passed from one president to the next. No such records existed for the Placement Association, requiring the authors to reconstruct the history from the few records that could be obtained, and seek first hand accounts from present and past members.