

Replacement for Griswold named at Second Harvest

Clyde W. Fitzgerald Jr. has established roots with the agency

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Clyde W. Fitzgerald Jr. has been appointed the new executive director of Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) of Northwest North Carolina. A recognized community leader and retired senior executive of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Fitzgerald has worked closely with the agency over the years.

"Clyde Fitzgerald has been one of the Second Harvest Food Bank's most ardent and eloquent supporters," said Ken Crews, SHFB Board Chairman and Director of Employee Relations for Inmar, Inc. "We are fortunate to have someone with Clyde's executive experience and intimate knowledge of the organization to lead us confidently into the future and ensure the passionate pursuit of fighting the problem of hunger throughout our service area."

Fitzgerald replaces Nan H. Griswold, who announced in September that she would

be leaving after 26 years of dedicated service as executive director. Fitzgerald has served SHFB throughout its entire history alongside Griswold, a longtime family friend. During his tenure on the board, he has served three terms as board chair, held leadership roles on two capital campaigns and chairmanship or service on most major committees of the organization. The board named a major gifts program, the Clyde W. Fitzgerald Jr. Society, in his honor during the 25th anniversary of the agency to recognize his years as a Food Bank ambassador and champion of the fight against hunger.

Fitzgerald rose through the ranks of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's marketing department to become CEO of two of the company's international divisions. He also served as Senior Executive Vice President of Reynolds U.S. Operations, managing over 12,000 employees.



Clyde Fitzgerald



Nan Griswold

BPI

from page A1

these statistics (that negatively affect the black community)."

The BPI has identified three issues to tackle through BPF grants, Clements says. Programs that enhance education, financial literacy and parenting tactics are among the those BPI members plan to support, beginning with education, the focus of 2008 BPF grants.

Although giving back to the community is a longstanding tradition for many local African Americans, many are reluctant to give to organizations like the WSF, believing that such entities require large monetary donations, reports Annette Lynch, vice president of philanthropic services for the WSF.

"What I think people couldn't get their minds around was the fact that they were already philanthropists," she said. "(Black philanthropy is) out there, it's powerful, but it's just not identified that way."

The BPF is one of more than 1,200 separate funds housed under the WSF, and has been modest in growth comparatively speaking, says Lynch. While committee members may be lacking the level of monetary donations they had hoped to garner, they have been successful in creating a dialogue around philanthropy in the black community. Lynch pointed out.

"What they have achieved are relationships... More people in the community will be paying attention to this grants process," she remarked. "We talk a lot in philanthropic services about what philanthropy actually is, and what it is is a love for mankind. By calling this the Black Philanthropy Fund, it gives us a chance to have that conversation."

Philanthropic giving is beneficial for the giver as well, Clements says.

"If you get people involved as a group... the power is absolutely incredible," he commented. "Almost as important as the actual dollars... is letting people see that they have power. That's the part that we're really excited about."

The BPF is accepting proposals from 501(c)(3) nonprofits in the area that focus on the education of school aged children. Grants are not intended for religious activities that serve only the members of a single congregation or promote a particular faith or long term operating support or for organizations that would ordinarily receive public funding. Proposals should be returned by 5 p.m. on November 14 to The Winston-Salem Foundation, 860 West Fifth Street. For more information, contact Clements at (336) 725-2382 x114 or visit www.wsfoundation.org/leadership-initiatives/.

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Submitted Photo

Volunteers Emma Ingram and Marva Reid man the Democratic Party's booth at the Dixie Classic Fair where they registered voters and handed out literature.

Voting

from page A1

Democratic winning North Carolina.

"This (state) could be the determining factor for Barack Obama," said Watt, whose 12th District includes parts of Forsyth and Guilford counties.

Polls as recent as this week showed Obama tied with Republican John McCain in North Carolina, a state that President George W. Bush won by double digits.

"We can break this Red (Republican) State cycle," Blue said. But all parties involved acknowledge that that possibility is unlikely without the record turnout that is being pushed.

Although no one on Tuesday's conference call acknowledged it, high early voting numbers in the state could be a campaign strategy for the Obama campaign as well.

The high number of newly registered Democrats in the state alone, has already forced the McCain campaign to focus more money and spend more time in a state that should be a lock for any Republican. In the past week, both McCain and his running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, have been in the state campaigning. (Palin will return today for an appearance in Elon). If early voting turnout is as high as expected, the Republican team will be forced to spend more resources here, diverting them from the traditional battlegrounds like Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Jon Carson, the National Field Director for the Obama campaign, says the energy among the campaign's North Carolina supporters is unlike any that he has seen.



Watt

"We strongly believe this energy is going to translate into energy for early voting," he said. "This is one of the reasons why we believe that we can win this state."

Watt and Blue both stressed the importance of voters' understanding the ballot, which will basically require a three-step process. Voters will first have to make their choice for president. They will then have the option of voting straight ticket, for either Democrats or Republicans, but voting straight ticket will not cast a vote in the presidential race, that is why that choice must be made first. Lastly, voters will have to vote individually for the judicial races. Since these races are non-partisan, straight-party voting will not cast votes for any judges. In Forsyth County, voters will also be asked to vote for or against a bond referendum for Forsyth Technical Community College. Voting "yes" means that a voter approves of the measure to provide FTCC with funds for construction, expansion and renovation. The bond item is the last thing on the ballot.

Those who go to the polls during early voting and find that their name is not in the registered voting data-

bank, can simply re-register and then vote. Those who are registering for the first time during the early voting period, just have to bring some sort of documentation which lists their name and address, such as a utility or cell phone bill, a driver's license, W2 form, pay stub, school ID or other similar documentation.

Also, teenagers who will turn 18 before Nov. 4 are eligible to register and cast ballots during the early voting period.

The ballots cast during early voting count just as equally as those cast on Election Day, Watt and Blue stressed. The Obama campaign has set-up a toll-free assistance line (1-888-NC-EARLY or 1-888-623-2759) for anyone who is told that they cannot vote.

In Forsyth County, the Board of Elections headquarters in the Forsyth County Government Center, 201 N. Chestnut St., will initially be the only site for early voting. Beginning Oct. 20, several more sites will open, and even more will open Oct. 27. A list of all the sites with their dates and hours of operation are listed in the Forsyth County Board of Elections advertisement at the bottom of page A6 of this week's Chronicle.

Although Blue wants to see Obama and other Democrats - from State Sen. Kay Hagan to Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue - come away victorious on Election Day, he also wants North Carolina to come away a winner with its ambitious same day voting effort. No other state in the South has pushed through this sort of initiative; he feels others will watch and mirror North Carolina if same-day voting is the success it is expected to be.

"It says a lot about our state to set the trend in this region," he said.



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