

General Assembly Supports The Older Worker

By Ernest B. Messer, Assist. Sec. DHS Division of Aging
Special To The Post

Legislation to abolish mandatory retirement at the age of 70 was passed by the General Assembly during its recent short session. The repeal of the age 70 compulsory retirement law is an important step forward in helping the older worker.

The new legislation, which be-

comes law October 1, 1984, will affect 170,000 state, county and municipal employees. However, over 67,000 employees of the university system and public education are exempt from the bill and are still subject to compulsory retirement at the age of 70.

The bill states that has passed legislation abolishing mandatory retirement. The federal government has re-

moved age as a basis of retirement, but 51 percent of the older American workers not employed by government still face a mandatory retirement when they reach age 70. These workers cannot be forced to retire earlier than age 70 because they are protected by the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. As the population ages there will be a shortage of younger workers in the future. In light of this, most

employers believe that company policies will have to be restructured in the future to abolish mandatory retirement and retain rather than retire older workers. Eliminating mandatory retirement throughout the nation would result in an increase of 195,000 older adults in the labor force by the year 2000. Some companies are already changing their retirement policies.

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Donna Blackwell
.....Executive assistant

Donna Blackwell Named Director Of Community Relations

Donna L. Blackwell has been appointed director of community relations for Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. The appointment was announced by Wayman F. Smith III, vice president of corporate affairs.

In her new position, Blackwell will be responsible for directing corporate social responsibility programs and directing community relations programs for the company's 11 breweries across the country.

Making the announcement, Smith commented, "At Anheuser-Busch, we have developed a nationally recognized posture as a responsible and responsive corporate citizen. We place a high priority on social responsibility programs throughout the country, and with the professional and educational background of Donna Blackwell, we have greatly enhanced our efforts and capabilities in this area."

Blackwell joined Anheuser-Busch in 1981 as executive assistant to the vice president of corporate affairs, a position she held until her recent appointment.

She holds a doctorate degree from Washington University in St. Louis, which she received in 1984. She also received a master's degree in counseling from Washington University in 1976. She obtained her undergraduate degree in psychology in 1971 from the University of Missouri in Columbia.

"It is a tremendous honor and a tremendous challenge for me to coordinate and expand the many programs and projects that Anheuser-Busch is involved in to ensure that they remain current and meaningful to bring about the best possible results in addressing the complex and constantly changing issues of our society."

Prior to joining Anheuser-Busch, Blackwell was a project director and research associate at the Fanon Research and Development Center in Los Angeles. Additionally, she has had a number of key administrative positions at Washington University.

She has received several awards for various community relations involvements, including an award honoring her for her efforts on behalf of the United Negro College Fund. One of the programs she will oversee in her new position is the "Lou Rawls Parade of Stars" program, which benefits the UNCF. Over the past four years, the Budweiser-supported program has generated some \$16.5 million for the 42 private historically black member colleges and universities of the UNCF.

Contract Approved For Mecklenburg County

Raleigh - Among the contracts approved by the state Board of Transportation at its monthly meeting this week was one for Mecklenburg County.

The contract calls for grading, drainage, paving and structures on Old Monroe Rd. (Secondary rd. 1009) from south of Hollow Drive to south of Green Garden Place in Charlotte.

"The existing two-lane roadway will be widened to a five-lane highway with curb and gutter and a berm area to allow for a future sidewalk," said state Board of Transportation member J. Q. Burnett of Charlotte.

The contract also provides for replacement of a bridge over McAlpine Creek and approaches on Old Monroe Road. The bridge will be constructed south of the existing structure. No detour will be required.

The contract was awarded to Blythe Industries of Charlotte for \$2,100,470.91. Construction will begin in September and is scheduled for completion in October, 1985.



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