It’s a special 30th anniversary reprint edition of the first NECAC agency newsletter, “NECAC In the News”. The newsletter was originally named “The NECAC ReCap” and the first edition was published for January-February 1986.

The publication of an agency newsletter was part of the newly-hired Executive Director Don Patrick’s initiatives and goals to improve the agency’s public image.

Mr. Patrick had started as executive director of NECAC on Oct. 1, 1985. One of his ideas was to establish a regular newsletter that would be informative to board members, legislators, funding sources, civic leaders, employees and others in the communities served by the 12-county agency.

The first years of the newsletter were a collaborative effort between Mr. Patrick and his newly-appointed newsletter editor Carla Potts, who was also serving as the agency’s In-Home Services Program Director. The debut issue had six pages, all of which are re-printed here.

Stories included an announcement and introduction to the new executive director, award presentation from then-Missouri Gov. John Ashcroft, the Missouri cold weather rule, the U-Help program, a transportation grant, Christmas holiday donations and much more.

Mr. Patrick and then-Board Chairman Lawrence Bross of Marion County wrote columns. Everyone should read the “From the Desk” column by Mr. Patrick (Page 4) to see how achievable goals were set and promises of changes were designed to make NECAC an even better agency.
THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lawrence N. Bross

TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHEAST MISSOURI:
Thank you for your cooperation and support.

TO THE AREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Thank you for your dedication and patience.

TO THE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS:
Thank you for your efforts and concern.

TO THE OTHER VOLUNTEERS:
Thank you for giving your time and talent.

TO THE STAFF:
Thank you for your expertise and for going the extra mile.

The recipe for Community Action Agencies is the blending of all the above ingredients into a workable organization to serve the less fortunate people in our communities. Community Action Agencies are dedicated in assisting the disadvantaged and improving their quality of life. NECAC has performed well in this area over the years and with support of all involved should continue to be of service.

Thank you!
Lawrence N. Bross

Editor's Note:
This is the first edition of "The NECAC RecAP". This newsletter will be published bi-monthly with the next edition due in March.

If there are articles concerning County Advisory Board activities; County Outreach Center programs, etc., please send them to: Carla Potts, NECAC RecAP Editor, NECAC, 1201/2 West Main Street, P. O. Box 470, Bowling Green, Missouri 63334.

We welcome any questions and/or comments and look forward to providing you with news about NECAC, your local "Community Action Agency."
Officers/ Members Seated at Board Meeting

The NECAC Board of Directors elected officers at their October Board Meeting as follows:

PRESIDENT: Lawrence N. Bross, Marion County Public Official

VICE PRESIDENT: Judge Warren Womack, Lincoln County Public Official

SECRETARY: Viola Boland, St. Charles County Public Official

Other Public Official Representatives on the Area Board are: Judge Dennis McCutchan (Lewis County); Judge George Simmons (Macon County); Judge Paul Quinn (Monroe County); Judge Howard Werges (Montgomery County); Judge Jack Huffy ( Pike County); Leona Lake; (Ralls County); Judge Guy Cottingham (Randolph County); Judge Sam Buckman (Shelby County); and Leiland Johnson (Warren County).

Representing Other Interest on the NECAC Area Board are: Edgar Orr (Lewis); Cathy Griggs (Monroe); Helen Womack (Montgomery); Hugo Hinghaus ( Pike); Dyas Keith (Ralls); and David Caddie (Warren).

The Low Income Sector of the Area Board is represented by: Paul Dykstra (Lewis); Rebecca Walsh (Monroe); Barbara Rose (Montgomery); Betty Wilkinson ( Pike); Helen Keith (Ralls); Elma Smith (Randolph); Florence Heine (St. Charles); and Irene Jackson (Warren).

NECAC extends congratulations and appreciation to officers and members for their continued, dedicated service to the Board of Directors and the Corporation.

New Executive Director Settles In

Donald D. Patrick, North East Community Action Corporation Executive Director, has been actively settling into his job since being named to this position October 1, 1985.

Mr. Patrick has become a resident of Louisiana and has become very active in community affairs including the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce, the Louisiana Chamber, the Bowling Green Rotary Club and the Louisiana Lions Club, and the Louisiana Presbyterian Church.

Since coming to NECAC, Mr. Patrick has visited all 12 County Outreach Centers and met with the Advisory Committees. He has started a regular agenda of visiting County Courts and has already visited six.

He has been meeting with allied agencies including: Mark Twain Regional Planning Commission, Northeast Area Agency on Aging, Private Industry Council, Douglass Community Center, Regional Center for the Developmentally Disabled, etc.

Mr. Patrick, originally from Granite City, Illinois, previously served as the Executive Director for the Greater St. Louis Council of Camp Fire Girls and Boys.

Patrick holds degrees from Belleville Area College and the University of Missouri in Public Administration.

He is a Vietnam War Veteran and was awarded the U.S. Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces on May 27, 1971, in the Can-Tho Delta.

Active in local Community Affairs, Patrick was elected to the office of Governor to Illinois Lions District 1-6 in 1962. As District Governor, he served as the Executive Officer to the district's 51 Lions Clubs, in 13 Southwestern Illinois counties and 2,300 Lion members.

Missouri Cold Weather Rule

This rule is in effect from November 15-March 31. It is for heat-related utilities only. Customer must apply for energy assistance. They must pay $75 or 25% of their total outstanding bill.

Monthly payments will be set up according to verified income. Utilities will work with customers on the 25% if the bill is very high ($1000 or more).

If the service remains off for 30 days or more, the customer must pay the total past due. Elderly must be notified of past due accounts 6 days prior to cut-off.

The company must attempt to notify other customers (one phone call is required) at least 4 days before cut-off.
Donald D. Patrick, executive director for North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC), is signing leases. Standing left to right are Bowling Green Mayor James "Whitey" Betz, Jim Frye and Jim Welch, new lessors, and Rodes Hood, president of Bowling Green Growth, Inc.

NECAC Holds Press Conference Concerning Signing of Leases

A press conference was held in the Bowling Green NECAC office where Donald D. Patrick, NECAC Executive Director, signed leases for a Central Administration Office and for the Pike County Outreach Center.

In attendance at the Press Conference were: Rodes Hood and Mayor James "Whitey" Betz who were instrumental in helping us find prospective rental property; Jim Frye and Jim Welch, owner of the property which will serve as the Central Administration Office; Jim Welch, owner of the property which will serve as the Pike County Outreach Center; and Mike Bronson, News Editor of the Bowling Green Times.

The NECAC Central Administration Office provides support to our service area consisting of the 12 Northeastern counties of Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Randolph, St. Charles, Shelby and Warren. The 12 NECAC County Outreach Centers provide assistance programs for the low income, elderly and handicapped.

The Central Administration Offices will be located at 1201/2 West Main, Bowling Green. The office will be located above Marion County Mutual and McPike's Jewelry Store.

The Pike County Outreach Center will be located at North Main Cross, Bowling Green.

U-Help Keeping Area Families Warm

Funds from Hannibal's U-Help organization are being spent to help eligible families keep warm during the current cold weather season.

U-Help funds are administered by the North East Community Action Corporation. As of November 15, 1985, when the heating season began, U-Help has aided 7 households representing 26 individuals with heating help. The total spent so far is $372.91.

However, the U-Help season is just starting. NECAC expects to help many more families. The agency, also, has available $12,939 in state funds available for heating help under the Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP).

NECAC usually helps a family through ECIP funds first and then, if additional help is needed, U-Help funds are used.

During the last heating season, U-Help spent $6,700 to help 140 families with heating bills.

Residents of Hannibal are asked to give to U-Help when they pay their utility bills at Hannibal City Hall or at the Great River Gas Co. Contributions canisters have been placed at both locations.

Contributions also may be mailed to U-Help in care of the First United Methodist Church, 901 Broadway, Hannibal, MO 63401.
From the Desk of
The Executive Director
Donald D. Patrick

I would like to begin my first column in the new NECAC ReCAP by saying hello and expressing my happiness at being a part of the NECAC family and a new resident of the Northeast Missouri area. I have been treated very warmly by the NECAC staff, Board members, volunteers and the residents of the area.

Whenever a new Executive Director is hired by an agency, it represents a change by the agency itself. When the new Executive Director starts to implement his/her own style, many more changes within the agency occur.

I have accepted as my responsibility the goal of making a good agency even better. If I fail to do this, I then fail to give the Board of Directors and the agency its monies worth. Even to make a good agency better, some changes must occur. The question is, are we willing to accept change?

Over the next year, I will be recommending many new changes to the Board of Directors. These changes will be targeted at cutting the cost of current operations, providing more services to our clients, and promoting the name of NECAC throughout the 12-county NECAC service delivery area (the NECAC ReCAP is a change toward promoting NECAC).

At the November Board of Directors meeting, I recommended a number of policy changes that will save the Agency over $51,000 in current operation costs. These changes include an office move, a new telephone system and the dropping of number of current lines; the elimination of a position title; 10% cross-the-board cut in supplies, postage, travel, phones and utilities; and the elimination of 3 current Central Office staff.

The goal of this first round of cuts is to place a county coordinator on a full-time basis in each of our 12 counties. (When I arrived, we had only 5 county coordinators serving our 12 county area.) This will help NECAC provide more and better services to the people.

Also, monies from the cuts will be directed to promote NECAC. Our County Outreach Centers are our number 1 source of services to the people and our number 1 source of Public Relations. Thus, we will move to make our Outreach Centers more professional in appearance and in operations.

Let us start thinking as a NECAC Family; an agency that serves the people of 12 counties (not my county). Our first goal should be rather clear: To become the best Community Action Agency in the State of Missouri. If we start working together, for the good of the whole NECAC agency, we can accomplish our goal.

MACA Executive Director Speaks To NECAC Board of Directors

Elaine West, Executive Director of Missouri Association for Community Action, spoke to the North East Community Action Corporation’s Board of Directors at their October meeting.

Mrs. West stated that the Missouri Association for Community Action (MACA) was organized in 1975 to serve as the statewide association acting on behalf of the Community Action Agencies, their employees and their target population in Missouri.

She stated that MACA provides a strong, united voice speaking on behalf of the Community Action Agencies and employees in the state. By working together, MACA can insure that Missouri’s Community Action Agencies receive their fair share, now and in the future.

The Board Members expressed their thanks to Mrs. West and to the fine job that MACA has done and is doing.

Elderly Advocacy Day Held

Elderly Advocacy Day was held January 21, 1986 in Jefferson City. This was an annual day bringing to light elderly concern and needs.

Special workshops were offered on: 1) Home Care; 2) Legislature; 3) Long-term care; 4) Healthy Elderly; 5) Consumerism and 6) Area Agencies on Aging.

An opening address was given by Governor John Ashcroft in the Capitol Rotunda. An opportunity was given to meet with state legislators.

For more information, please contact your local Area Agency on Aging, and/or the State Division of Aging.
CHRISTMAS DONATIONS TO NECAC: NECAC Extends Thanks to All Donors in the 12-County Service Area

Many businesses throughout NECAC’s 12-county service area have donated generously this past Holiday Season. Because of these donations, the assistance provided to the low-income, elderly and handicapped has been greatly increased.
Union Electric Awards Energy Aid Grants To NECAC

Union Electric District offices located in Wentzville, Louisiana, St. Charles, Mexico and Kirksville have announced the award of Energy Aid grants to North East Community Action Corporation (NECAC).

The Energy Aid grant entitled "Energy Aid - A Guide to Savings", will provide two plastic window kits to each household served in the program. The program will serve households in Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Ralls, Randolph, St. Charles, Shelby and Warren Counties.

Union Electric, in addition to the Energy Aid grant, has funded a public awareness program in the Wentzville district. The program, entitled "Energy at the Crossroads" will provide an energy forum which will provide a set of no-cost or low-cost energy conservation techniques. These forums will air on radio stations in Montgomery City and in Warrenton.

For further information, please contact the NECAC Central Office at 314-324-2231.

NECAC Awarded Grant To Provide Transportation Services in Pike and Montgomery Counties

The State Division of Family Services has awarded a contract to NECAC to provide transportation services for clients in Montgomery and Pike Counties.

The program will provide services on a demand-responsive basis, Monday through Friday, with hours flexible to meet the needs of clients.

NECAC has operated transportation programs in the past through the Missouri Highways and Transportation Department and with contributions from the United Ways in both Pike and Montgomery Counties.

In the past year, with the money from the United Ways, NECAC has logged 10,000 miles transporting clients in Pike and Montgomery counties.

This grant is for a one-year period and was effective the end of December.

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