



Visit With Former WEOC, Inc., Board of Director member and Civil Rights Movement and National Tenants Rights Activist

By: Crystalyn Foster



I have enjoyed working for and with the Agency and appreciate the support provided to me during my tenure on the Board of Directors of Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. Thank you all.

John W. Battiste

Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council Incorporated (WEOC, Inc.), Executive Director/CEO James L. Pasley, Jr., along with two board members Mr. Harold Phillips and Mr. Roderick Smith had the opportunity to visit with former Civil Rights and National Tenants Rights Activist, Community Organizer and WEOC, Inc., board member Mr. John W. Battiste on Wednesday, April 3, 2019. Mr. Battiste is at Encompass Rehabilitation Hospital in Florence, SC. where he is recovering after surgery.

Mr. Battiste daughters Mrs. Vera Battiste, Mrs. Lashanda and her husband Mr. Bengaman Sellers currently are his primary caregivers. Ms. Lashanda stated that “He has been in rehabilitation for the better part of two weeks and is making incredible strides. The family is making plans to transition Mr. Battiste back home to Ohio.” Mrs. Lashanda shared some good advice for those of us who may have elderly parents, the need to have certain medical and financial information readily available such as a list of medications, physicians, health insurance coverage and a durable power of attorney; a little advance planning will go a long way.

Mr. Battiste, a Williamsburg County native, served on WEOC, Inc. Board of Directors from 2010-2015. During his tenure, he worked diligently to make a difference in the socio-economic lives of children, families, individuals, and communities throughout the Tri-County area. He represented the interests for the citizens of Williamsburg County and beyond. Mr. Battiste civic and humanitarian contributions are currently featured in two exhibits in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian and African American Museum because of his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement.



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