

by Jackie Perrone

# Sammy Hendrix

Sammy Hendrix retired from a varied career that he found quite satisfying. Now he's involved in a new enterprise using the skills and experience he developed over several decades and still contributing to the community whenever he can.

"I was born in Atlanta, but we moved to Lexington when I was in first grade, and I've been here most of the time since then," he says. "Lexington High, then USC, where I majored in business and marketing. I've watched Lexington grow from a small rural town to the busy place it is now."

His business career began at Lexington State Bank, then Woodmen of the World Life Insurance, followed by administration duties at the office of Representative Floyd Spence. There was a stint in Dallas, Texas, with a business records company, then back to South Carolina for Carolinas AGC (Association of General Contractors), where he was director of the highway division and also the buildings division.

Oh, and along the way, Hendrix joined SCANG (South Carolina Air National Guard), serving for 20 years both locally and overseas. He served as president and as committee chairman for the South Carolina Society of Association Executives and on the Registration and Elections Commission.

He has been an active volunteer in his community. He was appointed to Experience Columbia and to the Planning Commission of the town of Lexington. Those years of training and experience in management and planning have enabled him to contribute to Lexington's ever-expanding issues of growth and traffic and quality of life.

"Twenty years ago, we were trying to solve the traffic problems," he says. "A bypass was designed to ease the flow across town, but downtown merchants were opposed to it, along with the 'not in my backyard' residents who would have been affected. It would have been a lot more feasible then than to try it now. The latest effort involves one-way streets through midtown; it remains to be seen how effective that may be."

Sammy Hendrix also has volunteered with the fire department and the rescue squad of Lexington County. "Way back then, volunteers were the only fire department resource we had," he recalls.

His current enterprise is named Brandon Alexander Associates, specializing in event planning and community campaigns.

Sammy's wife Betty taught music at Lexington Middle School until her retirement; they are active members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Lexington. Their two sons, Chris and Scott, are both professionals in Charleston. ■

