

National Trust Main Street Center and South Carolina Main Street Director's Meet

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October 28 was a highlight day for the State Main Street Program and the Directors of the Main Street organizations. Stephanie Redman, Assistant Director of the National Trust Main Street Center Consulting and Training Services, presented ways to partnership with the National Center. "Informative and exciting", said Beppie LeGrand, director of the South Carolina Main Street program. Frank Keel, director of See Lancaster, also felt the meeting worthwhile and educational for the future revitalization, marketing and promotion of Lancaster County's Main Streets and their distinctive assets.

The State Main Street program is returning to the basic four point concept of the National Center and expects stronger and greater involvement with the Center. Redman's advice and information on benefits and services came at an opportune time and encouraged local directors in the future of the assistance and guidance they can expect. As a part of the National Trust For Historic Preservation, the Center encourages economic development for Historic Downtowns.

The Center works with all types of situations and all stages of revitalization. Started in 1977, they offer consulting, technical assistance and training. LeGrand agreed that to work with the Center would mean having the benefits of decades of expertise, in-the-trenches knowledge, and proven revitalization know-how – all straight from the original Main Street source.

As an added encouragement, Howard Duvall Jr. of the Municipalities of South Carolina gave a short presentation about how they had observed the four point concept over the years and the resultant successes. Because of the positive results, this system, which is organization, promotion, design and economic development, will be a focus of the Municipalities. Such support can certainly strengthen the already-successful operations of the communities that are involved.

Frank Keel was recognized as the new director of See Lancaster. Recognition was also given to the fact that See Lancaster was the first county-wide program in the state, with a broader mission than others. LeGrande pointed out that Lancaster will be a model for other counties who wish to help smaller incorporated areas.