

# THE ADMINISTRATOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE N.C. CITY & COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

MAY 2015, ISSUE 5

## HOW A DISEASE CURED HIS SOUL

**Harry Jones, retired** Mecklenburg County manager and past president of the N.C. City & County Management Association, has faced his share of challenges through the years. None, however, were tougher than when he battled cancer.

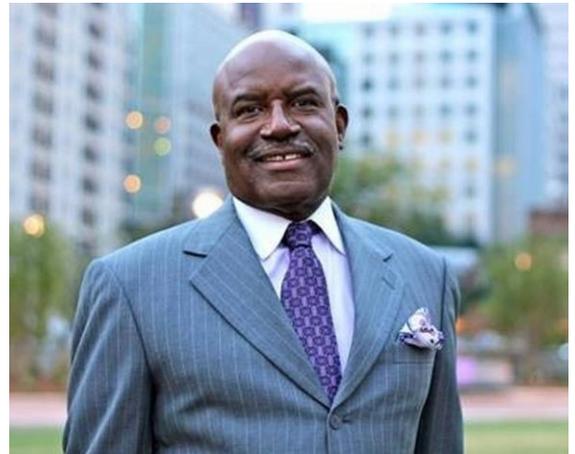
In late 2011, Jones was told he had an incurable form of pancreatic cancer.

"I was afraid that this disease was going to conquer me," Jones told a large crowd at the YMCA of Greater Charlotte Prayer Breakfast

on April 30, according to the *Charlotte Observer*. "I have never in my life felt that way – I've been a fighter all my life."

As Jones told the crowd, that Christmas Eve, he walked his dog while listening to Aretha Franklin sing carols. He began to pray the same simple prayers he'd learned as a boy in Southern Pines.

He decided to fight. And out of that battle against a horrible disease came a feeling of being cleansed, of his "soul being cured," Jones told *The Administrator*.



Jones felt he had a story to tell. So he began telling it. He embraced the chance to talk about his journey; he even spoke to the NCCCMA

**Continued on page 4**

## EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP TRAINING: INTENSIVE, INSPIRING, HANDS-ON

**Jonathan Franklin** had been out of graduate school and manager of Maysville, North Carolina, for a year and a half when he was selected to be a 2013 Local Government Federal Credit Union (LGFCU) Fellow. He joined a cohort of 25 professionals who

participated in the School of Government's intensive leadership training that includes a course, Leading for Results, one-on-one professional coaching, and other activities designed to build leadership skills.

Franklin, a graduate of Appalachian State

University's Master of Public Administration program, said, "The LGFCU Fellows program looks to develop young leaders in local government management, and that's exactly what it did for me."

**Continued on page 4**

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Administrator is a monthly newsletter of the North Carolina City and County Management Association, a professional association for city and county managers and assistant managers from counties and municipalities throughout the state of North Carolina.

For comments or suggestions, please contact Matt Lail, editor, at 919-819-3979, or email at [collards12@yahoo.com](mailto:collards12@yahoo.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 NCCCMA Summer Seminar

Wilmington Riverside  
June 18-20, 2015

2016 NCCCMA Winter Seminar

Sheraton RTP  
February 3-5, 2016

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINEES OFFERED UP

The membership of the N.C. City & County Management Association (NCCCMA) will have an opportunity to elect officers and board members during the 2015 NCCCMA Summer Seminar.

This year's Summer Seminar will take place June 18-20 at the Hilton Riverside in Wilmington/New Hanover County. (Go to the Association's website to register.)

The slate of potential officers was announced during the Business Meeting at the Winter Seminar, back in February. The membership will elect officers and directors during the Business Meeting during Summer Seminar where additional nominations can be made from the floor.

The nominations committee has nominated the following, which the Executive Committee approved:

President Scott Hildebran, Morganton Assistant City Manager

Immediate Past President Tasha Logan-Ford, Rocky Mount Assistant City Manager

1st Vice President Craig Honeycutt, Alamance County Manager

2nd Vice President John Connet, Hendersonville City Manager

Secretary/Treasurer Grant Goings, Wilson City Manager

Directors – Terms Expiring in 2017

Martha Wheelock Paige, Morrisville Town Manager

Rodney Dickerson, Garner Assistant Town Manager

Dena Diorio, Mecklenburg County Manager



## JONES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

membership during the 2012 Winter Seminar in Research Triangle Park. That was one of the first times he had shared his struggles.

"The support became overwhelming," said Jones. "Emails and cards that came from association members of support and love and prayer was just overwhelming. The feedback from the speech I gave was beyond measure. There's no way to describe it.

"But I almost expected that reaction from that group because of the business they're in -- they're very caring individuals," he continued. "We're as collegial as any organization there is that cares about one another. I wasn't surprised by the reaction because of the caring souls of the people that are in the industry that we're in."

As he gave more speeches, the story became more cohesive. And more and more people encouraged him to put pen to paper and document his story – and his inspiring thoughts.

So in 2012, Jones began the first steps toward a book.

"I started taking some notes, and then procrastinated on it for a while."

Jones left Mecklenburg County in May 2013. He had more time to devote to his book. It didn't take long for the themes from all of those speeches to come together. The finished product – published in April 2015 – is "How Cancer Cured My Soul".

"There was a central theme to my soul being cured. I had used nursery rhymes – Jack and Jill going up the hill. I used the symbolism of the bucket in that we're all going to be confronted with afflictions and sometimes we're gonna fall down and break our crowns," he said. "But Jack and Jill

didn't meet their demise. The bucket was filled with blessings."

Jones said he wrote the book to hopefully encourage and inspire those who are going through tumultuous times, to folks who "think they may be facing insurmountable odds."

"I would hope that book would end up helping at least one person."

Jones has a second book in the works. A book about hope – something he knows about.

"Someone going through sickness has hope for a cure, for healing," he said. "I'm still fighting the good battle."

To purchase Jones' book, go to Amazon.com and search for Harry L. Jones Sr., or search for "How Cancer Cured My Soul."

## COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Interested in getting involved with NCCCA?** There are number of committees within the membership of the NCCCA. If you are interested in volunteering for one of the following committees, visit

<http://www.ncmanagers.org/about/Pages/Volunteer.aspx> to apply and learn more about the various committees.

**-Civic Education Project Committee**  
**-Membership Support Committee**

**-Sustaining Membership/ ICMA Relations Committee**  
**-Seminar Program Committee**  
**-Professional Development Committee**  
**-Retirement Committee**

## EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 2014, Franklin recommended Maysville's finance officer, Hans Kalwitz, apply to the program. Kalwitz subsequently was selected as a 2014 LGFCU Fellow. "I wanted Hans to attend for two reasons—to help him in his career goals but also to help the Maysville community," said Franklin. "Any time you can improve someone's leadership ability, you contribute to your organization."

The program helps participants identify their personal leadership strengths and weaknesses and build added skills needed to maneuver through leadership challenges. "In the program, I identified my leadership style as team-based and collaborative," said Franklin. That will serve him well as he transitions, on June 1, to be town administrator of Louisburg. He is leaving a manager/council organization and joining a mayor/council government.

Nearly 150 Fellows have graduated from the program since its first offering in 2012. Many have made strides in their careers and for their communities in a variety of ways—from



taking on additional responsibilities to achieving promotions toward their career goals.

Applications for two 2015 cohorts are due on June 5. For more information, visit [www.sog.unc.edu/programs/leadingforresults](http://www.sog.unc.edu/programs/leadingforresults).

### **2015 LGFCU Fellows program dates:**

**Cohort I: August 24–28 and September 21–25**  
**Cohort II: October 19–23 and November 9–13**

### **Who should apply?**

Qualified candidates include local government

department heads, supervisors, managers of small jurisdictions, or assistant managers of larger jurisdictions. Two cohorts of 25 participants will be selected for 2015 sessions that include a course held at the School of Government, Leading for Results, and one-on-one professional coaching.

Application deadline is June 5, 2015. Applications, including a letter of

support, for both of the cohorts are due on June 5. For more information and to download an application, visit [www.sog.unc.edu/programs/leadingforresults](http://www.sog.unc.edu/programs/leadingforresults) or contact Program Manager Alycia Inserra at 919.843.6518 or [aginserra@sog.unc.edu](mailto:aginserra@sog.unc.edu).

**Tuition:** With the generous support of Local Government Federal Credit Union, individuals selected as LGFCU Fellows attend this program tuition free. Participants' organizations pay for hotel and travel expenses to attend the classes held in Chapel Hill.