

## MELVIN DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



E-mail: [mdavis@oconee.ga.us](mailto:mdavis@oconee.ga.us)

Chairman Melvin Davis was born and raised in Rome, Georgia, on a 150-acre farm. He graduated from Model High School. While there, he was a District and State 4-H Officer, as well as a State winner in the 4-H Public Speaking Program. He served in leadership roles as a Camp Counselor at Rock Eagle 4-H Center during his collegiate summers. Chairman Davis attended Mercer University and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Poultry Science and a Master's Degree in Agriculture Extension Education from the University of Georgia. He did postgraduate work at the University of Georgia and Louisiana State University. Chairman Davis worked as the County Extension Agent in Elbert County. He spent 19 years as a District Agent, 4-H Programs, for Georgia counties and was responsible for coordinating 4-H educational programs. Subsequently, he became District Extension Director for 40 Georgia counties with responsibility for supervising over 200 employees and managing a \$4 million budget. Mr.

Davis retired from the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service in 1993. He has served the Oconee County community in various positions with local organizations as follows: Member, Clarke-Oconee Cattlemen's Association; Member, Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation; Member, Oconee County Historical Society; Member, Rotary Club of Oconee County; Board of Directors, ACTION, Inc; Member and Deacon, Mars Hill Baptist Church; Past Chairman and Elections Superintendent, Oconee County Board of Elections; Past President, Church Recreation League (forerunner of Oconee County Recreation Program); Past President, local PTA.

Mr. Davis was elected as the full-time Chairman of the Oconee County Board of Commissioners in 2001 and is currently serving in his fourth, four-year term. Chairman Davis is past Chairman of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission and received the Robert L. & Betty Williford Distinguished Northeast Georgia Service Award in May 2015. Currently, he is serving as Chairman of the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority (UOBWA). Since 2001, he has been a member and/or served as Chairman of the Madison, Athens-Clarke, Oconee Metropolitan Planning Organization (MACORTS). During the past nine years, he has served the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) as a member of the Executive Committee and as an officer of the Board of Managers. Chairman Davis assumed the role of ACCG President in May of 2011, and now serves as Past President. During 2014, Chairman Davis received the ACCG Emory Greene Award which is the highest award presented by ACCG. The Emory Greene Leadership Award recognizes a county commissioner who has made significant contributions in the local community and at the state level. Governors Perdue and Deal appointed Chairman Davis to serve on the State Workforce Investment Board, Governor's Task Force for Improving State Service Delivery to Counties, Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, and Georgia Regional Water Planning Council (currently serves as Chairman). *Georgia Trend* named him as one of 2012's "100 Most Influential Georgians."

Chairman Davis and his wife, Esther, have resided in Oconee County for 48 years. They have three daughters and seven grandchildren: Diana and Troy Beckett (Tyler, Kyle, and Megan); Bonnie and John Sims (Evan and Audrey); and Amanda and Brian Kane (Chase and Amber).

## **JIM LUKE, COMMISSIONER (POST 1)**



E-mail: [jluke@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jluke@oconee.ga.us)

Commissioner Jim C. Luke is an Oconee County native. He was born and raised in Bogart, graduated from Oconee County High School, attended Georgia Southwestern College and the University of Georgia, and married another Oconee native, Phyllis Sims, in 1971. After moving to Atlanta in 1973 where he managed a manufacturing plant for Woolley and Company, he opened his first hardware business in Lawrenceville. Jim and Phyllis returned “home” in 1990 with their two children, Suzanna and Evan. Today they are enjoying retirement and spending time with their three grandchildren.

Always active in the county, Jim’s official service in Oconee County began in 1993 with his appointment to the state mandated committee to write the Oconee County Comprehensive Plan. He has since served in the following capacities:

1996-2003 Oconee County Planning Commission Secretary  
1998-2004 Oconee County Development Authority Member  
2001-2003 Oconee County Republican Party Chairman  
2003-2004 Ordinance Review Committee Member  
2005-Present Oconee County Board of Commissioners Post 1 Commissioner  
2005-Present Upper Oconee Water Basin Authority Alternate Member  
2008-Present Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Management Vice Chairman  
Current Chairman Hard Labor Creek Reservoir Management Board

Jim also completed the Certified County Commissioner Training Program in 2007. Jim and Phyllis, and Bogey the dog, currently live in Jennings Mill where Jim looks forward to getting in a few rounds of golf when he can. Jim considers it an honor to have the opportunity to dedicate his time and abilities in service to fellow Oconee County citizens and encourages his constituents to contact him at any time.

## **VACANT, COMMISSIONER (POST 2)**

## W.E. “BUBBER” WILKES, COMMISSIONER (POST 3)



E-mail: [bwilkes@oconee.ga.us](mailto:bwilkes@oconee.ga.us)

Commissioner W. E. “Bubber” Wilkes is a lifelong resident of Oconee County. He was raised on his family’s farm in Oconee County. Commissioner Wilkes, his father and brother row cropped (cotton, soybeans, wheat, grain sorghum) and raised beef cows, turkeys and broilers. During his high school years, he was involved with the Oconee County’s 4-H program. Also, he was an active member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and served as its secretary and President. After his high school graduation, he continued his education at Athens Technical School and received a degree in Mechanical Technology.

Commissioner Wilkes previously served on the Oconee County Board of Commissioners in the Post 4 seat for 20 years (1985-2004). During this time, he received his training certificate in 1992 from the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and was a member of the ACCG Public Safety Committee.

Commissioner Wilkes’ involvement in several organizations and committees spans many years of service and includes:

- Clarke-Oconee Cattlemen’s Association, past member and served as President in the early 1980s.
- Georgia Turkey Federation, 1973-1993
- Oconee County Pork Producers, 1975-1990
- Oconee Farm Bureau, Member, Board of Directors 1973-1990
- Selected as “Outstanding Young Farmer” for the state of Georgia by the Georgia Jaycees, 1981
- Oconee Farm Bureau “Farm Family of the Year,” 1981
- Oconee Chamber of Commerce, current member, and past member of the Chamber’s Ag Committee
- Oconee County Planning Commission, 1982-1984
- Oconee River RC&D Council, Inc., served 20 years
- Oconee County Board of Commissioners, 1985-2004
- Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority, past alternate member
- Antioch Christian Church, member and deacon

Commissioner Wilkes and his wife, Gwen, have been married for 45 years. They have two children and five grandchildren: Jeff and Lauren Wilkes (Kaitlyn, Elijah, Lincoln, and Jade) currently reside in Brisbane, Australia, and Michelle and Keith Walker (Keigan) reside in Oconee County.

“Bubber” considers it a privilege to serve on the Board of Commissioners and returns to the Board ready to serve the citizens of Oconee.

## **MARK SAXON, COMMISSIONER (POST 4)**



E-mail: [msaxon@oconee.ga.us](mailto:msaxon@oconee.ga.us)

Mark Saxon has lived in Oconee County for 45 years. He was born in Walton County in March 1963 to Marvin and Joyce Saxon. He attended Oconee County schools from the 1st grade until graduation in 1982. After graduation, he attended Georgia Southern University from 1982 until 1986 where he studied Criminal Justice. Mark joined the Georgia Army National Guard in 1983 and served the Guard until 1986 when he joined the active Army; serving in the military until 2007, at which time he retired with 24 years, 6 months of service as a Sergeant Major.

Married in 1987 to Marie Cooper, an Oconee native, they have lived on Clotfelter road for 26 years. They have two children, Mack, who graduated in 2009 from North Oconee High School, and Mason who graduated in 2013.

After retirement from the military, Mark served the community by working at North Oconee High

School for three years with the administrative staff and assisted the athletics program with sporting events.

Mark was elected to Commissioner Post 4 in 2013. Since his election, he completed the Certified County Commissioners Program in 2013 and completed his Associates Degree in May 2014 in Criminal Justice.

Mark is currently serving in the following capacities:

Member – Hard Labor Creek Management Board

Alternate Member – Upper Oconee Water Basin Authority

ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference Voting Delegate - Oconee County

Mark's military education includes: United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Battle Skills Course, Military Police Course, Primary Leadership Course, Basic and Advanced Leadership Course, Terrorism in Low Intensity Conflict Course, Army National Guard Recruiting Course, Radiation Course, Transportation of Hazardous Material Course, Global Command and Control System Course, Strategic Workstation Course.

Mark is honored to represent the citizens of Oconee County as the Post 4 Commissioner.