

SUBJECT: AUDITORIUM BOARD MEMBER REPORTING COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS
AND CONVENTION EXPENSES

SUMMARY:

A member of an auditorium board would not be prohibited from accepting complimentary tickets to auditorium events. The member may accept travel expense reimbursement for costs associated with attending a national conference. Board members do not file a Statement of Economic Interests so no reporting requirement exists.

QUESTION:

A member of the Greenville Memorial Auditorium Board receives no pay for his service but does get four complimentary tickets to any show or event held in the auditorium. He also receives a Christmas gift and dinner each year. He also attends a national conference for which the Board pays his travel and lodging. He questions the proper procedure for reporting these matters.

DISCUSSION:

This opinion is rendered in response to a letter dated January 16, 1992 requesting an opinion from the State Ethics Commission. The Commission's jurisdiction is limited to the applicability of the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991 (Act No. 248 of 1991; Section 8-13-100 et. seq., as amended,

1976 Code of Laws). This opinion does not supersede any other statutory or regulatory restrictions or procedures which may apply to this situation.

The State Ethics Commission knows of no reason why the Board Member could not accept the complimentary tickets to Auditorium shows or events.

The Commission advised in Advisory Opinion SEC AO92-050 that members of a political subdivision may accept travel reimbursement from their agency for attending agency functions.

It does not appear that the Board Member is required to file a Statement of Economic Interests, therefore, there is no reporting requirement for the complimentary tickets or the travel reimbursement.