**CANDIDATE FOR FEDERATION BOARD**

***Council Staff Category***

**Name: Armand DeKeyser**

**Position: Executive Director, Alabama Humanities Foundation**

**Education: BA, Auburn University**

Armand DeKeyser, a native of Mobile, Alabama, has over 35 years of leadership experience in federal, state and local government. For a number of years, Mr. DeKeyser worked in the private sector. In the late 80’s be began a career changing process of moving to the public sector. He served as Administrative Assistant to Mayor Arthur Outlaw in the City of Mobile where he served as de facto chief of staff and the manager for three City departments. In 1995, he became Chief Administrative Officer for the Alabama Attorney General and was responsible for all non-litigative activities of the 125 person staff.

Following his tenure in Alabama’s capital, Mr. DeKeyser served as Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions, building and overseeing his Congressional office and committee work from his election in 1996 until 2005. Between 2005 and 2007, Mr. DeKeyser worked in the private sector where he was a successful governmental relations specialist for a variety of clients. He returned to Capitol Hill in 2007 as Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Bob Corker, helping him through his transition and first months in office.

He then returned to private government relations practice in Washington DC until 2012 when he moved to Birmingham after being selected as the Executive Director for the Alabama Humanities Foundation where he currently manages the operation of the Alabama’s affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Since becoming the executive director of the council, DeKeyser has been very active in Federation activities. He served on the 2013 Conference Planning Committee and played a key role in the success of that year’s conference in Birmingham. He has also been a panelist for advocacy sessions at both the National Humanities Conference and Humanities on the Hill. Mr. DeKeyser also serves as a member of the Alabama Bicentennial Advisory Committee; serves as Chair of the Alabama Association of Nonprofits; serves on Ingram State Technical College Institutional Advisory Committee; is a graduate of Leadership Birmingham.

Mr. DeKeyser is a graduate of Auburn University and a 28 year veteran of Army active and reserve duty (serving 6 months in Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm), retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He is married and has four sons.