

# CAROLINA COUNTIES

## At A Glance ...

- Program at a Glance for SCAC's 48th Annual Conference—P. 3
  - New Funds Available for Counties to Tackle Contaminated Brownfield Sites—P. 4
  - S.C. Chapter of the American Planning Association Offers Resources to Communities—P. 5
  - Building Community Prosperity: Six South Carolina Counties Receive Promise Zone Designation—P. 5
- More ...*

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## SCAC to Host 48th Annual Conference Aug. 2-5

The South Carolina Association of Counties will host its 48th Annual Conference from Aug. 2 to 5 at the Hilton Head Marriott.

Designed to help county leaders lead and serve more effectively, the conference will offer training sessions, workshops and opportunities for county officials to network and discuss challenges they face. The conference will also allow county leaders to meet with corporate supporters, exhibitors and others.

New SCAC officers and board members will be elected. Top county programs and projects will be presented and recognized, and awards will be presented. (See **Program at a Glance**, P. 3).

### Conference Speakers

#### General Session

El Paso County, Colorado, Commissioner **Sallie Clark**, First Vice President of the National Association of Counties (NACo), will speak at this year's general session on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

Active in NACo since 2005, Clark is a longtime member and subcommittee vice chair of the Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee. She is also a member of the Financial Services Center Advisory Committee, Large Urban County Caucus Steering Committee and Cybersecurity Task Force. Previously, Clark served on the Veterans and Military Services Committee, Membership Committee, and Arts and Culture Commission.

She believes in telling the story about the importance of counties. Key components include providing cost-effective services

and working to reduce unfunded federal mandates. El Paso County was hit by two massive and deadly wildfires in 2012 and 2013. Clark focuses her NACo leadership to collaborate with and educate other counties on the lessons her county has learned in the areas of emergency preparedness, response, recovery and communications.

Elected to serve as an El Paso County Commissioner in 2004 and re-elected in 2008 and 2012, she has served as board chair and vice chair. Clark was the fourth woman to have been elected to the El Paso County Board of Commissioners and is the third woman to have served as board chair. She has owned her own bed and breakfast business since 1986 and previously worked in the medical field.

An avid user of social media technologies, Clark has won numerous awards for excellence in public and community service and has served in many state and local leadership positions, including the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, the Colorado Child Welfare Allocation Committee and co-chair of the Waldo Canyon Fire Recovery Group.

**Molly Mitchell Spearman** will be the keynote speaker. Spearman was elected as the 18th S.C. State Superintendent of Education on Nov. 4, 2014. Native to Saluda County, her childhood laid the foundations of family, faith and hard work that tran-

scended into her professional career as an educator and civil servant.

Spearman's career has spanned 18 years as a public school music teacher and an assistant principal. In addition to teaching and administration, she has served four terms as a member of

#### Speaker for General Session



**Sallie Clark**  
NACo  
First Vice President

#### Keynote Speaker for General Session



**Molly Mitchell Spearman**  
S.C. State Superintendent of Education

#### Speaker for Betty T. Roper Luncheon



**Amy B. Brennan**  
Center for Women



the S.C. House of Representatives, six years as Deputy Superintendent of the S.C. Department of Education, and 10 years as the Executive Director of the S.C. Association of School Administrators.

Spearman received her bachelor's degree in music education from Lander University, master's degree in education supervision from George Washington University, and an education specialist degree from the University of South Carolina.

As the S.C. Superintendent of Education, she has the experience and relationships needed to move South Carolina's education system forward. Spearman strongly believes the foundation for student success lies in effective classroom teachers and principals who facilitate personalized learning for every student, every day. Her vision is for every South Carolina graduate to be prepared for the next step after graduation.

Superintendent Spearman is excited to keep a positive and forward-thinking approach to South Carolina education to promote better schools and brighter futures.

**Amy B. Brennan** will speak at noon on Monday, Aug. 3 at

this year's Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon.

Brennan joined the Center for Women in September 2013, building on a 20-year career in nonprofit management and community development. The Center for Women is a nonprofit organization, which educates and advocates so that women in South Carolina can achieve economic success and become leaders in their professional, community and personal lives. Having successfully started and directed three nonprofit organizations in Georgetown, S.C., Brennan relocated to Charleston in 2012.

As part of her work in nonprofit management, she has successfully overseen a capital campaign to raise nearly \$6 million; written and received grant funding totaling more than \$2 million from local, state and national foundations and businesses; and has worked with various nonprofit organizations in collaboration, including SCANPO, Hospice of Georgetown County, Rotary and the League of Women Voters.

Brennan received her undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky and a four-year certificate from Sewanee Theological Seminary in Education for Ministry in 2001.

## SCAC Announces Mobile App for 48th Annual Conference!



As smartphone and tablet adoption increase, mobile expectations are growing, too. County officials are relying more heavily on mobile devices and are becoming more familiar with technology tools, such as event apps. SCAC has acknowledged this trend and has designed an event app that will enhance the attendee experi-

ence, highlight speakers, and increase efficiency for the Annual Conference.

The app will contain the schedule, speaker information, exhibitor information, and maps of the venue. It will update automatically, making sure users always have the most current information right at their fingertips.

The app will also highlight speakers including biographies, contact information, photos, websites, and social media links. When a user clicks on a session, he or she will see an overview including a brief description of the session and other pertinent information. The app also includes links to session materials. The same information is available in regard to exhibitors and sponsors with an exhibition hall map and a list of exhibitors and sponsors with descriptions and contact information.

Another benefit of the app is the ability for county officials to find contact information for their legislators via a link to the S.C. Statehouse website. Users can learn about policies affecting counties and then easily reach out to legislators who help shape those policies.

The app is free and is available for download from the App Store or Google Play by searching for "SCAC." Users may need to know their App Store or Google Play password in order to download the app. For those who want to use the app on a Windows phone, on a Blackberry, or even from a desktop, the web app is available online at [www.scacapp.com](http://www.scacapp.com). Visit [www.sccounties.org](http://www.sccounties.org) for more information.

## J. Mitchell Graham and Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

The 2015 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition will be held from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 2.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, established in memory of past SCAC President and Charleston County Coun-



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P.O. Box 8207  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

[www.sccounties.org](http://www.sccounties.org)

(803) 252-7255

Fax: (803) 252-0379  
[smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc)

SCAC PRESIDENT  
**James R. Frazier**  
*Horry County Council Member*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Michael B. Cone**

EDITOR & PHOTOGRAPHER  
**W. Stuart Morgan III**



cil Chairman J. Mitchell Graham, recognizes excellence in governmental performance. The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award, established in memory of past SCAC President Barrett S. Lawrimore, recognizes the most outstanding regional cooperative effort of two or more political subdivisions.

**County Council Coalition Meeting**

The County Council Coalition Meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, Aug. 3. At the end of the Coalition Meeting, the S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs will present the annual Golden Palmetto Award.



# Call for Entries

SCAC is accepting applications for the 2015 J. Mitchell Graham/ Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition.

For 42 years, our association has recognized innovative projects completed by South Carolina's counties. The awards program accepts applications that address all areas of county government—from simple, unique ideas that maximize limited resources to major collaborative efforts that tackle complex issues.

Entries must be submitted online or delivered by 5 P.M. on June 26.

For details, visit <http://www.sccounties.org/awards>

## Program at a Glance for SCAC's 48th Annual Conference

**Sunday, August 2, 2015**

Registration	10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Ballroom Foyer
Exhibit Area Open	10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Ballroom J and West Hall
J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition	12 noon–4:00 p.m.	Sabal Palm Room
Clerks to Council	2:00–5:00 p.m.	Ballroom A
Nominating Committee	3:00–4:00 p.m.	Capt. Jack Stoney Room
Constitution, Resolutions and Bylaws Committee	3:30–4:30 p.m.	Bayleys Barony Room
Exhibitors' Reception	6:00–7:00 p.m.	Grand Ballroom

**Monday, August 3, 2015**

Exhibit Area Open	8:30 a.m.–12 noon	Ballroom J and West Hall
Clerks to Council	9:00 a.m.–12 noon	Ballroom D
Probate Judges	9:00 a.m.–12 noon	Capt. Jack Stoney Room
Regional Councils of Governments	10:00 a.m.–12 noon	Carolina Board Room
Managers, Administrators and Supervisors	9:00 a.m.–12 noon	Ballrooms E–F
Registration	8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	Ballroom Foyer
County Council Coalition	9:00 a.m.–12 noon	Ballrooms A–C
Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon (Ticket Required)	12 noon–1:30 p.m.	Conroy's Restaurant

**WORKSHOPS:**

• Building Healthy Communities	2:00–4:00 p.m.	Ballroom A
• Capital Financing Tools: Finding the Best Fit for Your County		Ballroom B
• Cybersecurity Demystified		Ballroom C
• Overview of the 2015 Legislative Session		Ballroom D
• Understanding Your Retirement Plan		Ballroom E
President's Reception	5:30–6:30 p.m.	Grand Ballroom

**Tuesday, August 4, 2015**

Registration	8:30 a.m.–12 noon	Ballroom Foyer
General Session	9:30 a.m.–12 noon	Ballrooms A–F
S.C. Coalition of Black County Officials	12:30–2:30 p.m.	Sabal Palm Room
Annual Conference Banquet (Ticket Required)	6:45–9:00 p.m.	Grand Ballroom
Dance	9:00 p.m.–midnight	Grand Ballroom



### Association Group Meetings, Workshops and Other Activities

Several county official groups will hold meetings during the conference, but most of the meetings will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, Aug. 3.

The following five workshops, focusing on specific issues facing county government, will be offered from 2 to 4 p.m.:

- Building Healthy Communities
- Capital Financing Tools: Finding the Best Fit for Your County
- Cybersecurity Demystified
- Overview of the 2015 Legislative Session
- Understanding Your Retirement Plan

An awards banquet will be held at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4.

### Institute of Government for County Officials

The Institute of Government for County Officials will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1, and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday, Aug. 2, preceding the annual conference.

The Institute will offer the following courses:

#### Saturday

- Ethical Leadership and Public Service
- Legal Issues in County Government
- Decision Making in a Political Environment
- Building and Sustaining Effective Relationships: Ingredients for Successful Communities

#### Sunday

- Orientation I
- Understanding and Seeking Differences
- Financial Management
- Sharpening Your Advocacy Toolkit: How to Impact State and Federal Legislative Issues



# Funds Available for Counties to Tackle Contaminated Brownfield Sites

**Local** governments and nonprofit entities such as economic development corporations and housing authorities are eligible to apply for a special financing program through the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to clean up contaminated brownfield sites in their communities. The Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund, or BCRLF, is a DHEC program funded primarily with EPA grant proceeds. The program is managed statewide by the Catawba Regional Council of Governments headquartered in Rock Hill. To date, the BCRLF program has financed more than \$7.5 million in brownfield cleanup activities across the state.

Counties accessing these funds include Aiken, Spartanburg and Florence. Nonprofits like the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority have also used BCRLF funding for the cleanup of hazardous waste on land or in buildings so they can be redeveloped for new uses. Most BCRLF loans range from \$200,000 to \$1 million. Currently, DHEC has more than \$2.5 million available to fund new projects. A key precondition for applying for these loan funds is that the borrower and title holder of the property must not be the responsible party that contributed to the contamination. Also, the potential borrower must have secured or be willing to secure a Voluntary Cleanup Contract with DHEC to outline how the environmental contamination will be removed or contained so as to prevent future exposure.

BCRLF loans generally have a 10-year term and carry an interest rate of 1 to 3 percent. For local governments and non-

profits, 30 percent of the amount borrowed, up to \$200,000, will be converted to a grant or forgiven after the cleanup is completed. This important provision helps finance directors reconsider projects that previously were stalled due to lack of financial resources. Businesses are also eligible to borrow from the fund, but do not get the advantage of the grant conversion provision.



Underwriting requirements for BCRLF funding are spelled out in a fact sheet available from Catawba Regional COG or by going to the web site indicated below. Applications are accepted year round and once the required underwriting material on the project and application are submitted, a funding decision is usually made in less than 30 days. Typical examples of cleanup projects in South Carolina include abandoned textile mill sites, closed landfills, inactive junk yards and other commercial and industrial property that have a documented history of hazardous contamination. Revolving Loan Fund proceeds also can be used to remove friable asbestos from existing buildings to enable their re-use.

To learn more about this opportunity call Harold Shapiro at Catawba Regional COG at (803) 327-9041 or visit the BCRLF website at <http://catawbacog.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/BCRLF-fact-sheet-2014.pdf> For more information on DHEC's Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund, see the spring issue of SCAC's *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 26, No. 1).





## S.C. Chapter of the American Planning Association Offers Resources to Communities

**Planning** and zoning affects all communities whether they are urban, suburban or rural. Understanding planning issues and concepts can be difficult, and knowing how planning-related decisions impact aspects of the community such as transportation, economic development and housing can be even more difficult. Luckily, a resource exists to navigate the complex world of land use planning. The S.C. Chapter of the American Planning Association (SCAPA) is the leading organization and resource for planning activities in South Carolina, with an active and growing membership of nearly 500 individuals. The diverse membership consists of professional planners (public, private and academic), elected and appointed officials, building officials, neighborhood group leaders, urban designers, economists and students.

### What Programs and Services Does SCAPA Provide?

SCAPA recently created a Community Assistance Program to offer pro-bono planning expertise to underserved communities in South Carolina. This program provides an opportunity for communities with limited resources to utilize free assistance and guidance in determining strategies to address local issues, whether it is community engagement, revitalization or implementation strategies.

SCAPA also serves as a professional and technical planning resource for both members and non-members. Each year, SCAPA hosts three conferences in varying locations across South Carolina. The SCAPA Summer Conference is scheduled for July 30 at the S.C. State Museum in Columbia. The Fall Conference will be held October 14-16 on the USS *Yorktown* at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant. These conferences are an opportunity to learn about planning issues happening in South Carolina and nationwide, and attendees are equipped with tools to use in their

own communities.

SCAPA also publishes quarterly newsletters to keep members informed of chapter news and planning issues. SCAPA provides several resources including manuals and best practices on their website, [www.scapa.org](http://www.scapa.org). Lastly, SCAPA works closely with the South Carolina Association of Counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina to track legislative issues. If you have a specific question about a planning issue in your area, you can always contact SCAPA by emailing [scapa@scapa.org](mailto:scapa@scapa.org). SCAPA can either answer your question or put you in touch with a local planner that could assist.



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### Interested in Joining SCAPA to Learn More About Planning?

SCAPA has a diverse membership consisting of more than just professional planners. Elected and appointed officials can join SCAPA and benefit from the many programs and services offered. As planning is a multidisciplinary field that affects transportation, economic development, housing and many other facets of communities, elected and appointed officials benefit greatly from membership. Also, community planners (such as neighborhood association board members, community elders, etc.) can benefit from membership and learn more about how to be actively involved in the planning process.

To join SCAPA, visit <https://www.planning.org/join/pdf/memberform.pdf> and fill out the form. Chapter-only membership is only \$35 per year. For more information on SCAPA's Community Assistance Program, see the spring issue of SCAC's *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 26, No. 1).



## Building Community Prosperity: Six South Carolina Counties Receive Promise Zone Designation

**Six** South Carolina counties have received the federal Promise Zone designation as announced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The South Carolina Low Country Region (consisting of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties) was among the eight communities selected from 123 applications from across the nation.

Promise Zones are high poverty communities where the federal government partners with local leaders to increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, leverage private investment, reduce violent crime, enhance public health and address other priorities identified by the community. Through the Promise Zone designation, these communities will work directly with federal, state and local agencies to give local leaders pro-



en tools to improve the quality of life in some of the country's most vulnerable areas.

"The Promise Zone designation for our region creates exciting opportunities for our people," said Southern Carolina Alliance President and CEO Danny Black. "As the lead regional organization in this effort, we look forward to working with our partners at the municipal, county, regional, state and federal levels, in both the public and private sectors, to identify, pursue and implement programs that will bring real economic development,

community development and workforce training opportunities to our communities."

Black added, "There are challenges in our rural communities that need to be addressed, including infrastructure needs, educational challenges, improved workforce training, healthcare delivery, and community and economic development assistance. We will work closely with the USDA and other federal partners to leverage public and private investment to bring real progress and opportunity to the region, especially in the creation of private sector jobs."

Each urban, rural and tribal Promise Zone applicant was asked to put together a clear description of how the Promise Zone designation would accelerate and strengthen the community's own efforts at comprehensive community revitalization. Each Promise Zone will be coordinated by a lead community-based organization in partnership with the Obama Administration. HUD will be the federal lead for the six urban designees, while USDA will serve as the lead federal partner to the tribal and rural Promise Zones.

All Promise Zones will receive priority access to federal investments that further their strategic plans, federal staff on the ground to help them implement their goals, and five full-time AmeriCorps VISTA members to recruit and manage volunteers and strengthen the capacity of the Promise Zone initiatives.

For additional information, contact Kay Maxwell, Vice President, Marketing, Southern Carolina Alliance at (803) 541-0023.





**Broadcast Location: SCAC Office**

For future webcasts, please check this SCAC Broadcast Calendar in *Carolina Counties Newsletter* and *County Focus Magazine*.

For more information, please contact Leslie Christy-Jennings, SCAC, at (803) 252-7255 or [ljennings@scac.sc](mailto:ljennings@scac.sc). Or visit SCAC's Webcast page at: <http://www.sccounties.org/webcast-training>

## SCAC's 2015 Conference Calendar

Aug. 1 & 2 Aug. 2-5	Institute of Government SCAC Annual Conference <i>Hilton Head Marriott, Hilton Head Island</i>
Aug. 17	Setoff Debt/GEAR Meeting <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i>
Sept. 24	Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i>
Oct. 22 Oct. 23	Institute of Government County Council Coalition Meeting <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i>
Nov. 20	S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i>
Dec. 3&4	Legislative Conference <i>The Mills House, Charleston</i>



## NACo's 2015 Conference Calendar

July 10 – 13      Annual Conference  
Charlotte, N.C.



The Voice of America's Counties

- Representing you before Congress and the Administration
- Helping you better serve your residents
- Saving you and your taxpayers' money
- Raising public understanding of county government, and
- Restoring the Federal - County Partnership

The Voice of  
America's Counties

[www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)