



South Carolina Association of Counties

August 7, 2009

Diane B. Anderson, President
Laurens County

Michael B. Cone
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHOTO ATTACHED

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PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR**

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT, LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL VICE CHAIR DIANE B. ANDERSON

SCAC ELECTS OTHER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) elected officers for 2009-10 at its 42nd Annual Conference (July 30 - Aug. 2). The SCAC also elected board members (*see page 2*).

Elected PRESIDENT was Diane B. Anderson, Laurens County Council Vice Chair.

"Today, South Carolina's 46 county governments are facing many challenges," said Michael B. Cone, SCAC's executive director. "But we are confident that we will successfully meet these challenges under the most capable leadership of Diane Anderson."

"It is a great honor for me to be elected by you as President of the Association of Counties for the coming year," Anderson said after she was elected SCAC president. "Under the outstanding leadership of SCAC President Greg Pearce (2008-09), we have weathered one of the most challenging years in recent memory. I look forward to continuing to guide this Association where he left off."

"I will continue to be a strong advocate for county government and to effectively communicate our message to the citizens of our respective counties," she added. "For us to move forward, however, we must be mindful of what has worked in the past to bring us success as an organization of county officials. The key to our success is our unity. We must set aside our differences and work together to achieve our common goals as leaders of our communities. I will be calling on many of you in the coming months as we develop our legislative agenda for the 2010 legislative session. It will take time, commitment and vigilance. I am asking for and I need your help to face the challenges we must all face. But if we speak with a common voice, we will succeed."

Anderson has served on Laurens County Council since she was first elected in 1993. She served on the Laurens County School District No. 56 Board of Trustees from 1984 to 1992.

Before retiring in June 2000, Anderson was an advanced special needs education teacher at Whitten Center, S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (1987- 2000); unit director at Whitten Center, S.C. Department of Mental Retardation in Clinton (1980-87); program supervisor at Hallett School in Clinton (1978- 80); special education teacher at the Circle School in Clinton (1976-79); rehabilitation associate at the Whitten Center School in Clinton (1973-76); and a teacher's aide at Bell Street Middle School, School District No. 56 in Clinton (1970-73).

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She is a board member and past president of the Upper Savannah Council of Governments; a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Steering Committee on Policy; president of the National Council of Negro Women; president of the Laurens County Higher Education Commission; and a board member of Habitat for Humanity.

Anderson is also an active member of the New Bethel A.M.E. Church, a Sunday school teacher, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5932; a member of the New Bethel Chapter No. 195, Order of the Eastern Star; and a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

SCAC ELECTS OTHER OFFICERS

The SCAC elected other officers as follows: **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT** — Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Union County Supervisor; **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT** — R. Carlisle Roddey, Chester County Supervisor; **THIRD VICE PRESIDENT** — Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council Member; **SECRETARY** — William T. Noonan, Sumter County Administrator; and **TREASURER** — Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County Treasurer.

SCAC ELECTS ONE NEW BOARD MEMBER

The SCAC elected Robert L. Waldrep, Jr., Anderson County Council Member, as a board member (2009-13).

SCAC REELECTS FOUR BOARD MEMBERS

The SCAC reelected four board members (2009-13): Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court; William C. Derrick, Lexington County Council Member; Gracie S. Floyd, Anderson County Council Member; and Weston Newton, Beaufort County Council Chairman.

The SCAC, chartered on June 22, 1967, is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization whose membership includes all 46 counties in South Carolina. Governed by a 29-member board of directors selected each year by county officials at the association's annual conference, the SCAC is the only state organization representing county governments in the state.

The association provides a number of services, programs and activities to county governments and their officials, including: research and technical assistance; education and training; legal assistance; policy development, advocacy and legislative information; publications, including a magazine and newsletter; meetings and conferences; public information, including an annual directory and website; and financial services, including a self-funded workers' compensation pool and a property and liability pool.

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