

12:15 – 1:15 PM LUNCH & LEARN
(Palmetto Hall)

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE LIGHTNING ROUND

- Eryn Hurley, National Association of Counties, Chief Governmental Affairs Director
- Owen McBride, SC Association of Counties, Governmental Affairs Director + Advocacy Team

The lobbying staff from SC Association of Counties and National Association of Counties will discuss updates from recent federal and state legislation that could impact counties. A boxed lunch will be provided for attendees of this workshop.

1:30- 2:30 PM CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS
(Sweet Grass Pavillion Conference Center)

THE COST OF LITTER: ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND COUNTY SOLUTIONS

- Sarah Lyles, Executive Director, Palmetto Pride
- Gary Mixon, Sumter County Administrator
- Jonathan Burroughs, Deputy County Administrator, Fairfield County

What if litter isn't just a nuisance—but a hidden cost draining our communities? This workshop reframes litter as an economic challenge impacting infrastructure, public health, and local economies across South Carolina. Leaders from Palmetto Pride and local government will explore the true cost of litter and share practical program ideas and proven strategies to help communities reduce and prevent it.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STATE RETIREMENT BENEFITS

- George Hazin, Benefits Manager, SC Retirement Systems

This workshop provides a clear, practical overview of the South Carolina Retirement System (SCRS), with a focus on the employee benefits available to county staff. The session will guide participants through how the system works, including eligibility requirements, benefit options, and key features of retirement coverage. A representative from SCRS will offer expert insight into how benefits are calculated and the factors that can influence long-term retirement security.

COUNTY LEADERSHIP FOR CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP

- Anna Huckabee Smith, Director of Conservation Grants & Strategic Outreach, SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)
- Charles Edens, Sumter County Council
- Kevin Yokim, Florence County Administrator
- Carolina Gomez-Bello, Conservation/Greenbelt Planner, Dorchester County

How are county leaders advancing conservation in ways that protect natural resources while supporting community priorities? This workshop brings together county panelists from Florence, Fairfield, and Sumter to share real-world experiences, innovative approaches, and lessons learned in conservation planning, land stewardship, and resource management. The session also features a representative from SCDNR who will introduce a new grant opportunity designed to support county-led conservation initiatives and expand local capacity.