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Important Topics Addressed at SCAC's 2016 Annual Mid-Year Conference

Approximately 140 South Carolina county officials attended SCAC's 29th Annual Mid-Year Conference on Feb. 17 at Embassy Suites in Columbia.

A legislative overview of the 2016 Session of the S.C. General Assembly was provided. Speakers also discussed preparations for the U.S. 2020 Census; flood recovery efforts since October, including some of the lessons learned; and guidelines and funding for body-worn cameras.

SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (Marion County Council Member), presiding over the conference, explained SCAC's legislative policy process. SCAC then provided a legislative overview before county officials visited the State House to meet with state legislators from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The Association's Legislative Reception was held from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Overview of 2016 Session of the S.C. General Assembly

Rep. Michael A. Pitts (District 14), providing an overview of the 2016 Session, focused on law enforcement, the Local Government Fund (LGF) and revenue streams for the State of South Carolina. He also talked about roads.



Law Enforcement

"The recession hit us very hard in 2008 and 2009," Rep. Pitts said. "We lost over \$1 billion of the state budget in one lick, and we had a \$7 billion General Fund budget at that time. The recession hit law enforcement extremely hard, because the state tried hard to protect education and healthcare as much as possible. Because education and healthcare were already 81 percent of the state budget, budgeting for law enforcement was difficult to begin with. So, when the recession hit—

SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr., presides over SCAC's 2016 Annual Mid-Year Conference

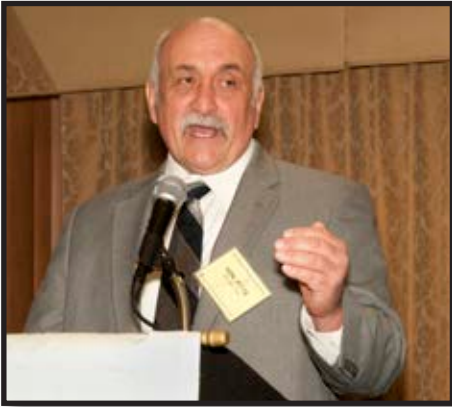


SCAC's 2016 Annual Mid-Year Conference, Embassy Suites, Columbia, Feb. 17



using the highway patrol as an example—we lost 400 troopers to the tune of about 400 from a force of 1,200.”

According to Rep. Pitts, 11 counties no longer have DNR officers, and entire divisions were cut from SLED, which supports local law enforcement. Because funding for the Criminal Justice Academy was cut significantly, important training programs for officers were eliminated. The federal government also quit funding the cleanup of



Rep. Michael A. Pitts
(District 14)

meth labs.

“I’m telling you this,” he said, “because the expenses are there for everyone, and we all felt the same pain. Recovery to the state has been slow since the recession.”

Local Government Fund

Rep. Pitts acknowledged that funding for the Local Government Fund (LGF) is underfunded and has not been increased for three years. But he said that if the state added more money to the LGF tomorrow, the current formula—based on popula-

tion—would help the richer counties and hurt the poorer ones. “There needs to be some balance here,” Rep. Pitts said. “We need to be working together to bring some equity to this issue.”

He said he fully understands mandates, unfunded mandates and underfunded mandates.

“There was a committee put together in the House that I requested—I believe it was five years ago now—that asked counties to bring back to us a list of unfunded and underfunded mandates,” Rep. Pitts recalled. “But the information we received from the SCAC was not complete. Some counties didn’t submit any information, and some counties only submitted partial information.”

He said he needed such information to make a logical attack, and encouraged county officials to re-address the subject.

“Come back through the SCAC to those of us back in the General Assembly who are willing to address the issue and work on it, and show us in a united voice what the mandates are and what the underfunded mandates are,” he recommended. “But give us a true picture, be very clear and precise. Give me something to fight with. Encourage your brothers and sisters in the counties who didn’t bother to participate last time to get involved and help provide this information. We don’t win as a state unless we work together. State, local and federal levels must work together if we’re going to continue to give our children and our grandchildren what you and I had. We’re not going to be able to do it if we fight with each other.”

Rep. Pitts said Gov. Nikki Haley had recommended the full funding of the LGF in her executive budget this year, but that he still did not know at what level the LGF would be funded.

The State’s Revenue Stream

Rep. Pitts said counties have the property tax, but unfortunately the state voted-in Act 388 of 2006 that shifted the tax burden to business property and vacation or rental homes.

“Some people liked it, but most didn’t,” he added. “Act 388 hit at the worst possible time. It hit right at the time of the recession. So, the state’s ability to collect revenue went down drastically and dramatically because the anticipated revenue from Act 388 didn’t come in, and you well know that. The state is dependent on two sources of revenue: sales tax and income tax.”

Rep. Pitts said that the Bureau of Economic Advisors (BEA) recently showed projections that indicated Act 388 had a “chilling effect.”

“We as a state,” he explained, “have been giving tax breaks incrementally for a variety of different things over the years and cutting into our revenue stream. At the same time, the state has been expanding what it was going to do. But you can’t cut the money coming to the House and keep expanding what you’re spending without running into a problem. That’s where the state is at this point. Yet, there are still people in the General Assembly—in both the House and the Senate—who don’t want to recognize that.”

The BEA provided a survey that explained how the state’s population has changed since the 1970s, how it has become top-heavy with retirees and individuals who are not paying income tax because Social Security is not taxed. The state’s population



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is becoming “inverted,” which means that it has become more expensive to support.

“I require more healthcare services now than I did when I was 19-years-old,” Rep. Pitts said. “I require different types of services in a lot of areas, and I don’t have kids in school. I have grandkids in school, and I support schools. But a lot of people, who don’t have kids in school, don’t like paying that property tax. So, we have created the situation of a perfect storm that has us in a conundrum that some people don’t want to get out of. And some don’t care.”

The state’s demographics have also changed. South Carolina’s population has grown 20 percent during the past decade, largely due to the in-migration of retirees from northern cities who have moved to locations along the coast and around lakes.

“That income level, that income tax, has not gone up,” Rep. Pitts said. “So, the state’s ability to support itself is not going up. It’s creating the situation that—if we don’t change something—the state’s income will continue to go down while the services and tax breaks will continue to rise; and in four years, it flat-lines. In five years, it goes negative. So, we’ve got to make some changes on the state level.”

Roads

Rep. Pitts talked about roads—a topic he believed would be of interest to county officials—after he completed his primary presentation.

“If I pick up the phone 10 times, probably eight of the calls have something to do with roads,” he said. “If I run into 10 people at the grocery store, seven or eight of them are going to talk about roads. I’ve been polling everywhere I go for the last year-and-a-half. And with all things considered, with DOT reform, with everything that has been passed and put on the table, I’ve asked: ‘Would you be willing to pay a higher gas tax—which is the only revenue stream that we have—to fix our roads? I’ve sent out polls. Other legislators have sent out polls. And this is what’s coming back.’”

The revenue stream on both the federal and state levels to fix roads is going down, not up, according to Rep. Pitts. But the General Assembly, he said, does not have the fortitude to do what needs to be done to fix roads.

Meanwhile, the federal government has forced foreign and domestic automobile manufacturers to increase fuel efficiency over the years. Therefore, more individuals are consuming gas, but consumers are purchasing fewer gallons of gas.

“As a result, the amount of money coming in to both the state and federal government to repair roads is going down on a steady basis,” Rep. Pitts explained. “As a matter of fact, the federal trust fund is just about bankrupt. So, we’ve got to do something to fix our roads. And the gas tax stream is the only revenue stream to do that.

“There are things on the table,” he added, “that are still go-

ing to take money out of the federal system and the state system for the next five years—not just for roads but for all things combined—and it’s going to take courage in the General Assembly to make those changes. And like I told you, not everyone is willing to do that.”

Rep. Pitts encouraged county officials to talk with state legislators and to encourage them to do the “right thing.”

“But don’t demand that they do the right thing,” he advised. “Encourage them to work with you.”

Preparations for the U.S. 2020 Census

William F. Roberts Jr., Digital Cartography Section, S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, explained why the state wants to get an early start on making sure everyone is counted in the state, and why it is important that everyone is counted. Roberts also provided an update on county boundaries.

“The census is important because everybody is looking out for money,” he explained. “And there are two words that go along with that—one, revenue, and two, representation.

The federal government distributes a lot of money based on formulas, and one of the big pieces of the formula is population.

“Based on 2014 numbers, the federal government allocated \$4,561 per person for all federal programs, including \$3,400 per person for federal programs like Medicaid, Medicare and SNAP. Currently, it is projected that \$38 will be allocated per person for State Aid to Subdivisions for counties and \$22 per person for State Aid to Subdivisions for municipalities as proposed under the current House Ways and Means budget.

“When it comes to the 2020 Census,” Roberts said, “we want to make sure we get everybody counted.”

Redistricting data programs are important.

“We’re using redistricting data programs to draw districts, and trying to stick to visible features that you can ride out to see,” he said. “It makes it easier when you’re campaigning in your district to know that your district stops at this intersection and runs up this road or this river.”

Like the State of South Carolina, Roberts added, the U.S. Census Bureau is also trying to use visible features when drawing district lines.

The S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office will work with the U.S. Census Bureau after 2020 Census Data are collected and provide the Census Bureau with a list of districts that have changed over the past decade. Prior to the 2020 Census, the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office will strive to make sure that counties and municipalities are aware of the annexations that have occurred in the municipalities.

“Municipalities can annex and redistrict someone and not



William F. Roberts Jr.
Digital Cartography Section
S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office



notify anyone, and a county might not have any idea that it has happened,” Roberts explained. “So, it’s always great that there’s communication between counties and municipalities.”

He encouraged county officials to talk to their county mapping people and 911 coordinators, and to remind everyone to provide road data—including updated addresses—when asked by the Census Bureau to do so. This, he emphasized, would help prevent “under counting.”

Roberts talked about some of the problems across the state involving citizens living in one county and voting in another, and others paying taxes in one county and voting for a council member in another county. However, he explained how the state is using GPS to more accurately determine boundary lines instead of relying on old maps.

David Ballard, S.C. Geodetic Survey, S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, talked about the state’s county boundary program that was established in September of 2013.

“It took us a little bit to get up and running,” Ballard said, “but I think we’re making pretty good progress.”



David Ballard
*S.C. Geodetic Survey Section
S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office*

He described many county boundary discrepancies and outlined plans to meet with county council members, local residents and others to correct them.

“We’re going to work our way through the state, and all of the land lines and imaginary boundaries,” Ballard said. “And we’re going to follow the statute definitions, find them on the ground, meet with representatives, and

go through the processes to make these legal.

“As it stands now,” he added, “most of the counties are following the census lines, which if you look at the census website, these are not jurisdictional lines. They’re for statistical purposes only. To further exasperate this, we have found that some GIS departments have taken survey plats of individual properties and adjusted the GIS county line to match the approximate county line shown on the survey. So, we’ve got big issues all over the state regarding these county lines. And we hope to resolve them in the next 15 years or so. It’s a pretty big project. We have more than 1,300 miles of lines to survey.”

Flood Recovery Efforts Since October, Including Lessons Learned

Col. Kevin A. Shwedo, S.C. Disaster Recovery Coordinator, provided a frank assessment of the state’s efforts to recover from the catastrophic flooding that occurred in October.

“I’m not able to push the recovery as fast and as far as I’d

like, and I’d like to explain to you why,” said Col. Shwedo, who was appointed by Gov. Haley to accelerate the recovery.

He explained step-by-step how the state has tried to accelerate the recovery effort, based on conditions established by the federal government, and the challenges that it has faced in working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Col. Shwedo then provided some figures: As of Feb. 17, FEMA had provided assistance to just over 28,000 of the 103,000 residents who asked for help. Each resident, on average, received about \$3,000. He noted that virtually all victims of the flooding were fortunate to have family and friends who provided them shelter, and that faith-based organizations continue to play a major role in the recovery process.

However, Col. Shwedo warned county officials to be careful not to create false expectations about what government will be able to do to help citizens. For example, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program money is a separate pot of money and is managed by the Emergency Management Division (SCEMD).



Col. Kevin A. Shwedo
S.C. Disaster Recovery Coordinator

However, if 25 percent of these funds were used for acquisition projects valued at \$150,000 each, SCEMD would be able to help fewer than 75 families across the state.

He also emphasized that “local primacy” is the key to success at this point. In other words, it is critically important that local communities get involved in the recovery process.

“Making sure we take care of the most vulnerable citizens is where we’re going to win or lose,” Col. Shwedo said, noting that SCEMD has informed counties that they are responsible for creating lists to prioritize Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds at the county level.

“You need to make sure,” he emphasized, “that we’re taking care of our most vulnerable citizens first.”

Col. Shwedo explained that there will be numerous mandatory federal requirements linked to spending any of the money that will make the process more cumbersome, like building Green, LEED-Certified, and ENERGY STAR compliant structures and dealing with those who may be disqualified from receiving assistance based on a structure’s pre-existing condition.

UPDATE since SCAC’s 2016 Annual Mid-Year Conference: HUD has published the distribution of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding efforts. The state will receive about \$156 million. Of this, HUD has designated that approximately \$23.5 million be designated to go to Richland County, \$20 million to the City of Columbia and \$16.3 million to Lexington County.

Mathematically, this equates to about 38 percent of the total funding streams going to two of the 24 counties designated



to receive Individual Assistance. The state has not received guidance on how to spend this money yet. That guidance will be published in the Federal Registry. When it is published, all four entities will have 90 days to submit an action plan for approval. During this time, there will be a public comment period.

"The state will work with each of you," Col. Shwedo said, "to schedule opportunities to address you and the public to ensure we build a product to support BOTH the Federal intent AND the needs of the community, especially the most vulnerable!"

Kim Stenson, Director, S.C. Emergency Management Division, followed Col. Shwedo's presentation by explaining some of the factors that have contributed to the success of the recovery since October and what needs to be done to improve recovery efforts in the future.

"This was the largest natural disaster in South Carolina since Hurricane *Hugo*, and it was pretty significant in terms of testing our response and recovery capabilities," Stenson said.



Kim Stenson
Director

S.C. Emergency Management Division

"Conservatively, the storm displaced 20,000 citizens, but the number is probably much higher than that. Oddly enough, we did not have a big sheltering issue like we would have had during a hurricane, which could have gone into the tens of thousands."

Thirty-six dams, most within Richland and Lexington counties, failed across

South Carolina when the state received record rainfall in October. The state received more than 900 requests at the state level for assistance. Law enforcement received more than 8,500 calls, and there were 3,500 vehicle collisions, some of which caused fatalities. Voluntary agencies served well over 100,000 emergency meals.

Helicopter and swift water rescues were performed to extract at least 1,500 persons. DHEC dispatched 75 emergency orders to repair dams. Although more than 500 roads and bridges were damaged, only a few still need to be repaired.

"The state's Department of Transportation, significantly helped by the National Guard, did an outstanding job helping to get the recovery process back on track," Stenson said. "We asked for assistance from other states, and people from 10 states—some from as far away as Alaska—came to help us."

In addition to the 27,000 residents receiving FEMA assistance, the Small Business Administration disbursed more than \$145 million (average of \$29,000 per individual) to help more than 5,000 residents. As of Feb. 17, South Carolina estimates it will cost about \$270 million to repair infrastructure—about the same amount the state received during Ice Storm *Pax*. Any-

where from \$36 to \$50 million more will be provided for mitigation projects to reduce the effects of future disasters.

Stenson said receiving advanced notice contributed to the success of the recovery because it allowed the state to prepare for catastrophic flooding, make early decisions and put resources in place.

"Pre-staging of emergency assets is critical, and I can't really overstate how important this is," Stenson emphasized. "Things like opening up the EOC early and getting people on board, getting them used to operating in the EOC, asking for specialized teams to be activated—whether they're incident management teams, swift water rescue teams or regional medical assistance teams—need to be addressed early on. The sooner you can get them on board, the quicker they are going to be able to respond. This shortens their response times."

He said Gov. Haley spent a lot of time at the state EOC.

"State agency directors from DOT, DPS and SLED—pretty much the gamut—operated out of the state EOC," Stenson recalled. "This was one of the first times—and I've been in emergency management for almost 20 years—that we've really ever had this level of activity from a governor, with her hands-on approach in terms of walking through the process."

The N.C. National Guard provided engineering resources and helicopters.

SCEMD liaisons and National Guard liaisons were forwardly deployed to EOCs in counties to provide instantaneous information on what was happening at the local level to provide situational awareness. Stenson said SCEMD liaisons under-

South Carolina's 2016 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's 2016 *Directory of County Officials* has been published and distributed. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government. Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling). To order a copy, please contact:

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stand how the state system works, and National Guard liaisons understand the capabilities and versatility of the Guard.

Counties helped other counties. But according to Stenson, this was one of the first times that the state has used the Emergency Management Assistance Compact to ask other states for help. He then said that he could not overstate how much the emergency management profession in South Carolina has matured and evolved over the years, and that this significantly helped recovery efforts.

Stenson credited county administrators and local officials for demonstrating strong working relationships with their county emergency managers. He also credited county emergency managers who had prepared for the disaster by planning, training and conducting exercises. He reminded county officials that individuals are responsible for taking care of their families.

Stenson, who is still reviewing data and preparing a report on the disaster's overall recovery efforts, said that the report is not likely to note any major systemic issues. But he did say that we do need to figure out a better way to validate information received during a disaster.

"We're living in the information age today," Stenson explained. "We receive reports from local authorities, the news media and social media, and we have to sort through all the data we receive to make sense of it and make sure we don't have conflicting data. We're doing better in terms of creating better situational awareness, but we need to improve."

He said better modeling needs to be done so that we know where water is going to flow when dams fail, and that we need to enhance dam regulation programs. Stenson said we also need to do a better job of staffing shelters. Although voluntary organizations are helpful, the work of such organizations needs to be better coordinated in the future to make sure all the needs are being met across the board.

"FEMA is a great help, but they're not going to do everything," Stenson said. "So, we need to figure out how we're going to meet unmet needs during future disasters. We're trying to do some of this now; but overall, we probably need to have a better system in place than what we've got today."

He encouraged county officials, as he has already encouraged county emergency managers, to contact SCEMD as soon as possible if they encounter recovery problems.

In closing, Stenson said the state is doing a better job of handling the flooding disaster that occurred in October because of the experience gained during Ice Storm *Pax* two years ago.

Body-Worn Cameras

South Carolina passed the state's Body Camera Law (S.C. Code § 23-1-240) on June 10, 2015, which required law enforcement agencies in the state to develop policies and procedures for the use of such equipment by March 7, 2016.

Adam L. Whitsett, General Counsel, S.C. Law Enforcement Division, provided an overview of the new law and related funding, and briefly discussed the Law Enforcement Training Council's Body-Worn Camera Guidelines.

Whitsett said, "The last time I checked, which was several

months ago, South Carolina is the only state in the nation that mandates the use of body cameras. Our law states that state and local law enforcement agencies shall implement the use



Adam L. Whitsett
General Counsel
S.C. Law Enforcement Division

of body-worn cameras pursuant to guidelines established by the Law Enforcement Training Council."

He then emphasized that no one is required to implement the use of body-worn cameras until they receive full funding.

"Purchasing such equipment is just the initial phase," Whitsett said. "It's the maintenance, it's the storage requirements, it's every expense included in implementing your policy

on the use of body cameras that should be considered in the full funding analysis as some of these concerns may be the most expensive."

He encouraged county officials to visit the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy's website at www.sccja.sc.gov for more information on the guidelines. The site also explains procedures that law enforcement agencies are required to follow when submitting their policies and procedures for the use of body-worn cameras.

"The best part is that while the South Carolina Legislature did mandate the use of body-worn cameras," Whitsett explained, "the legislature really left a lot of the implementation decisions to both the Law Enforcement Training Council and to the individual agencies as long as they follow the council's guidelines, which are minimum standards. The legislature recognized that there was a vast disparity in the size of law enforcement agencies and entities, avoided trying to create a one-size-fits-all requirement, and instead left it to the individual agencies to set their own policies and procedures."

He said the intent of much of this law was for uniformed officers, whose primary responsibility is to respond to calls and interact with the public, to wear body-worn cameras and to activate recordings in encounters such as violent crimes, traffic stops, motor vehicle accidents and arrests.

The legislature has created a body-worn camera fund at the Department of Public Safety, putting an initial \$3.4 million into the fund with another \$2 million of recurring money that can be used to award grants to law enforcement agencies.

"You've got to think long-term, beyond the initial purchase of cameras," Whitsett advised. "Storage of data will be a huge financial concern. Different camera systems and different storage systems are also available."

He said law enforcement agencies that have already spent money out of their own budgets for body cameras may apply for grants to get reimbursed.



SCAC Deputy General Counsel Robert S. Croom Provides Legislative Overview

SCAC Deputy General Counsel Robert S. Croom provided an overview of the current legislative session before county officials broke for lunch and then boarded buses to meet with their state legislators at the State House from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

"I don't know how you can look someone in the eye, sitting on three quarters of a billion dollars, and say I don't have a red dime for you. I'm not that smart," said Croom, referring to legislators after the state ended up with a significant surplus in this year's budget. "There are plenty of places in that budget that are tight, there are plenty of ditches that they need to fill, but the governor managed to find \$113 million to fully fund the Local Government Fund. But I don't get it."

He said that a bill to revise the LGF formula, which includes a 5 percent increase, is no bargain for county governments.

"It's not a good deal," Croom explained. "The bill explicitly repeals the section in the Local Government Fund Act by deleting this sentence: 'No section of this chapter may be amended or repealed except in separate legislation solely for that purpose.'"

The preceding sentence is deleted from the code. So, I can't tell you that going to pitch for this bill over in the Senate is good for you. It is directly opposite of the policy adopted by SCAC's legislative program."

Croom said that the Senate would be talking about roads during SCAC's Mid-Year Conference, and that it would probably discuss income tax relief, restructuring the S.C. DOT, and perhaps more.

"If I were a senator, and I did not get a visit from you today, and I knew you were in town," Croom said to county officials before ending his presentation, "I'd say you didn't care about these topics."



Robert S. Croom
Deputy General Counsel, SCAC



County Officials Voice Concerns After Presentations

Many county officials attending SCAC's 2016 Annual Mid-Year Conference voiced their concerns after presentations were made.

The following photos show some who stepped up to the microphone to voice their concerns about such topics as roads and the Local Government Fund, or to make general statements.



Mark Lazarus
Horry County Council Chairman

Barbara Clark ▶
Jasper County Council Member



W.B. Wilson
Williamsburg County Council Member



Joseph Frank Hart
Union County Supervisor/Chairman

▼ **Henry H. Livingston III**
Newberry County Council Chairman





Institute of Government for County Officials Offers Courses

The Institute of Government for County Officials was held Feb. 18, after SCAC's 2016 Annual Mid-Year Conference. The following courses were offered: Building Effective Intergovernmental Relations, Economic Development, Public Speaking, and Measuring and Reporting County Performance. A Council Chairpersons' workshop was also held.



Anna B. Berger
SCAC Director of
Research and Training



John K. DeLoache
SCAC Staff Attorney



A panel discussion held during the Council Chairpersons' workshop included: Johnnie Wright Sr., Orangeburg County Council Chairman; Debra B. Summers, Lexington County Council Vice Chairman; and Henry H. Livingston III, Newberry County Council Chairman.



Jon B. Pierce, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow
Institute for Public Service and
Policy Research, USC



Building Effective Intergovernmental Relations Class



Sara L. Nalley
Professor Emerita of
Communication and Theatre
Columbia College



William E. Tomes
Fellow
Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for
Livable Communities



Bonnie J. Ammons
Executive Director
S.C. Rural Infrastructure
Authority



◀ **Cyndy S. Turnipseed, Legal Counsel**
S.C. Department of Commerce



▼ **Helen T. McFadden**
Attorney
Kingtree, S.C.



Richard K. Blackwell, SCCED
Executive Director
Oconee Economic Alliance



Economic Development Class

Former SCAC President Steve S. Kelly Jr. Honored for Service to Kershaw County

Steve S. Kelly Jr., who served as a Kershaw County Council Member from 1977 to 1990 and as Chairman from 1991 to 2010, was honored in Kershaw County Council Chambers in Camden on March 8 for his many years of service to the county. He served as SCAC President in 2001.



Steve S. Kelly Jr.

“It was an honor and privilege to serve the people of Kershaw County and South Carolina, working with former council members, elected officials, department heads, employees and volunteers, and boards and commissions to move our county forward,” Kelly said. “Our goals and objectives were to make a better quality of life for our community, working together to improve county services, public safety, educational opportunities, job creation, and capital improvement in the most cost-efficient and effective manner. Also, to enhance recreational and cultural opportunities for our citizens and to encourage citizens’ participation in the governance process.”

Kershaw County Council unveiled a portrait of Kelly, which will hang in Council Chambers, and also presented him with a resolution. The resolution noted that Kelly is “truly a dedicated public servant and leader of the community.” Kelly has shown extraordinary leadership through his service to many organizations—including the Wells Fargo Bank Regional Board of Directors, United Way of Kershaw County, March of Dimes, and especially as a Boy Scout leader and Eagle Scout.

The resolution stated that Kelly has “exemplified professionalism” through his service with the S.C. Alliance and as a supporter of Kershaw County Mental Health, Kershaw County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs and the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. The resolution, which also explained Kelly’s service to Kershaw County, concluded with: “The superior leadership of Steve S. Kelly Jr. has resulted in Kershaw County becoming a more prosperous county, thus leaving a legacy which is an example for all of us.”

Kelly served on SCAC’s Board of Directors from 1991 to 1995, and from 1997 to 2009. He received the SCAC President’s Cup on Aug. 1, 2009.

“My service with the South Carolina Association of Counties and as president of the SCAC was one of the most rewarding times in my public service,” Kelly said. “Working with SCAC’s board, staff and the entire county government family was a tremendous pleasure. I miss seeing all of my wonderful friends.”

The S.C. General Assembly elected Kelly in 2010 to serve as an appellate judge for the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. The department’s three-member appellate judge panel, which is separate and distinct from the agency, hears and rules on appeal cases. Kelly has served as the panel’s chairman for the past five years.





York County Opens Anna K. Hubbard Fire Training Center

York County formally opened its new fire training center on Feb. 6, christening and naming the facility in honor of late Assistant County Manager Anna K. Hubbard. The new facility is



located at 2500 McFarland Road in York, the county seat. Ms. Hubbard was instrumental in the planning of the center, which required years to design and build, said David Hord, Chairman of the York County Board of Rural Fire Control. The new facility, which has large classrooms with projection screen televisions and a library, offers training for fire fighters in surrounding counties and for the fire training industry. The facility also includes two separate training towers and fire bays to house engines for maintenance. Courses, from fire fighting fundamentals to how to respond to utility emergencies, will be offered. The York County Anna K. Hubbard Fire Training Center will be featured as the cover story for the spring issue of SCAC's *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 27, No. 1).



McCormick County Kicks Off Year-long Centennial Celebration

McCormick County hosted a ceremony on Feb. 19 to kick off its year-long celebration of the county's centennial.

More than 100 local residents, including many dignitaries, attended the ceremony that began at 12 noon on the steps of the



county's historic courthouse.





The Zika Virus, and What County Officials Need to Know

By Robert Cartner

S.C. Mosquito Control Association

A virus that was originally discovered in a rhesus monkey in the Zika Forest of Uganda in 1947 was later described as Zika virus in 1952. Fourteen Zika virus human cases had been documented prior to an outbreak involving 5,250 people on Yap Island in Micronesia in 2007.

The virus spread east across islands of the Pacific Ocean before arriving in South America. The first recorded infection on the South American mainland was in Bahia, Brazil, in May 2015.

The U.S. does not currently have any confirmed cases of local transmission of Zika virus. Zika is transferred to humans by the mosquito species *Aedes aegypti*, commonly called the Yellow fever mosquito, and *Aedes albopictus*, known as the Asian tiger mosquito. One in five people infected with Zika virus will develop symptoms.

The common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis. These are usually mild and can last several days to a week. Eighty percent of people will not develop symptoms, which is the biggest difficulty with detecting the



spread of a mosquito-borne virus.

During the time that an infected person has a fever, they have sufficient virus in their bloodstream to spread the virus to a biting mosquito. This is the most important time to protect yourself from mosquito bites. The biggest concern with Zika virus is that it may be affecting the development of fetuses as well as a causing a nervous system disorder known as Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS).

In South Carolina, we have both *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, but *Ae. albopictus* is much more common and can be found in every county in the state. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is constantly updating their website with information about Zika virus, www.cdc.gov/zika.

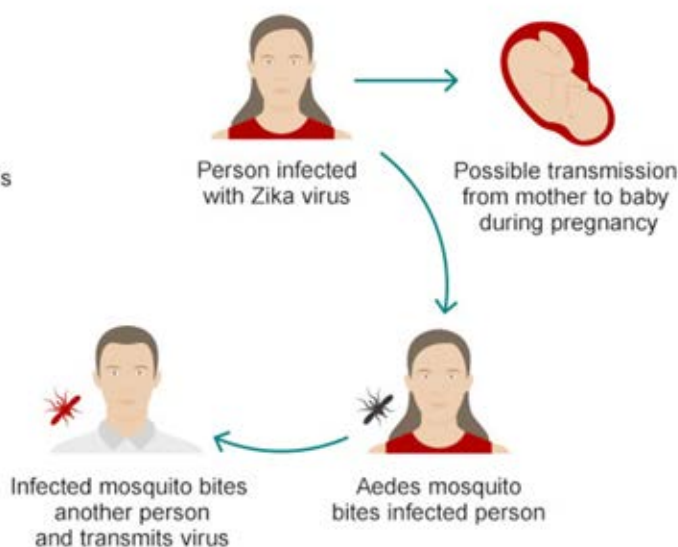
Zika virus seems to be spreading so fast largely because of the conditions in the countries currently experiencing an epidemic. Areas with poor sanitation conditions and a dense population are the perfect place for these two mosquito species to breed. *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* breed in mostly urban areas in containers that hold as little water as what can be found in a bottle cap.

Eliminating water-holding containers is very important in controlling the mosquitoes that transmit Zika virus. How Zika virus will affect us here in South Carolina is unclear, but this event has highlighted the

Zika virus transmission cycle

Symptoms

- Fever
- Rash
- Joint pain
- Conjunctivitis (red eyes)



Zika can be transmitted through blood, but this is an infrequent mechanism.

Source: PAHO/WHO

BBC

importance of having a plan in place. Not every county in the state has a mosquito control program, but there are resources available. Spraying for adult mosquitoes can be a very expensive process, so the first step should always be prevention. Removing sources of standing water on your property is the easiest way to prevent mosquitoes. The American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) has informative resources on their web-

site www.mosquito.org, under the "Mosquito Info" tab. Clemson University's Pesticide Regulatory Department has a list of the requirements for becoming a certified pesticide applicator.

The S.C. Mosquito Control Association (SCMCA) works to unite and coordinate the common interests and efforts of South Carolina's mosquito control programs. Our website, www.scmca.net, has helpful links and information for those interested in learning more about the benefits of having a mosquito control program.



For more information, contact: Olin Towery, Secretary-Treasurer, SCMCA, Richland County Vector Control, 400 Powell Road, Columbia, S.C. 29203 or (803) 576-2428.

2016 Annual Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting Held, Awards to be Announced Soon

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust (SCCWCT and SCCP<) held their annual Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting on Jan. 27 and 28 in Myrtle Beach.

The purpose of the meeting was to promote risk management education and brief members on the Insurance Trusts. Attendees heard from several speakers on a variety of risk management topics.

A detailed article on the meeting, including photos of risk management award winners, will be published in the upcoming spring issue of *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 27, No. 1).



SCAC'S 2016 WEBCASTS CALENDAR

Thursday, May 12
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Planning and Zoning Continuing Education

Thursday, Oct. 6
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Taking Charge of Change

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

SCAC's 2016 Conference Calendar

July 31–Aug. 3 July 30–31	Annual Conference Institute of Government Hilton Head Marriott, Hilton Head Island
Aug. 16	Setoff Debt/GEAR Embassy Suites, Columbia
TBD	Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers (Location TBD)
Oct. 19 Oct. 20	Institute of Government County Council Coalition Meeting Embassy Suites, Columbia
Nov. 18	S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute Embassy Suites, Columbia
Dec. 1-2	Legislative Conference The Mills House Wyndham Grand Hotel, Charleston

You can now register and pay online for SCAC conferences at www.sccounties.org/meetings.



NACo's 2016 Conference Calendar

July 22–25
Annual Conference and Exposition
Los Angeles County (Long Beach), Calif.