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SCAC Adopts Policy Positions for 2017 Session of the General Assembly

SCAC's Legislative Steering Committee adopted policy positions for the 2017 Session of the S.C. General Assembly on Friday, Dec. 2 at the Association's 2016 Legislative Conference in Charleston (Dec. 1–2) after reviewing recommendations from the following steering committees:

County Government and Intergovernmental Relations—Chaired by Ronald Young, Aiken County Council Chairman;

Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation—Chaired by Charles T. Edens, Sumter County Council Member;

Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial—Chaired by Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court; and

Revenue, Finance and Economic Development—Chaired by Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County Treasurer. (*See P. 7*)

SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong presided over the two-day conference, which included a state budget forecast and a legislative panel discussion.

A "Tough Year" Forecasted for the State Budget

On Thursday, Dec. 1, Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director of the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, predicted a "tough year" when providing a forecast on this year's state budget. Using charts and graphs, he provided a basic outlook on South Carolina's economy and some local economic trends. He also provided some insight into what to expect in the state budget.

South Carolina's Economy

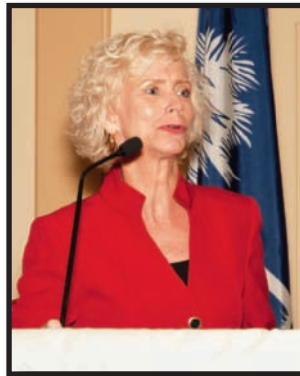
Rainwater said income growth was good during the 1980s, ranging

from 7 to 10 percent, but that it has slowed since the Great Recession (2007–09) and is expected to average about 4.8 percent per year in the long term. Income growth has also changed. Wages in the construction industry are still struggling and have not quite reached pre-recession levels, whereas wages are doing

better in healthcare—especially the business and professional services sector.

He described the growth of total wages in the state as "good" because they have grown \$19 billion since the recession. However, Rainwater explained that transfer payments from non wage-earning sources such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, state retirement, unemployment insurance and education loans have increased almost as much as wages. Meanwhile, the state's population is growing older and has more retirees. This is affecting the state's economy despite some recent stock market gains.

(Continued on next page)



Julie J. Armstrong
SCAC President



SCAC Legislative Conference, The Mills House Wyndham Grand Hotel, Charleston, Dec. 1



Rainwater said job growth began to grow after the recession before peaking a few years ago. In fact, 50,000 to 60,000 jobs were added during fiscal years 2014-15 and 2015-16. Yet, that job growth is beginning to slow.

"But it's growth, and this is good news," he said, explaining that it is important to appreciate the little growth we do have. "It's just not going to be quite as strong as what we've experienced."

Rainwater explained how the state's economy has shifted since the recession.

"We are 106 months past the peak of the recession, but we've only grown 100,000 jobs more from where we were prior to when the recession started," he explained. "If you go back to 1990 or 1991, we gained 260,000 jobs 106 months after the recession that followed the Gulf War. If you go back to the 1980-81 recession, we gained over 300,000 jobs 106 months following that one. We had much faster job growth coming out of those two earlier recessions.

"So, our growth since the Great Recession has been much different," he added. "And I believe this explains some of the struggles and frustration that we're seeing. We're growing, but not a lot of people have recovered. A lot of areas in this state are still struggling to get back to where they were prior to the recession."



Frank A. Rainwater
Executive Director
S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

Local Economic Trends

Rainwater talked about local economic trends after noting that SCAC's *County Profiles* (July 2016) provided data by county indicating that only eight of the state's 46 counties rank above the state average for per capita income.

"As you well know, we have a wide disparity in per capita income in this state," he explained. "Charleston County's per capita income is now over \$50,000 and Beaufort County's is about \$48,000. But we have some counties that are well under \$30,000 in per capita income. McCormick County had the fastest growing per capita income growth from 2014 to 2015. Lee County had some pretty good growth, too. The per capita income of a lot of counties has grown better than the state average of 4.2 percent since the Great Recession. Sadly, a handful of counties have not been able to keep up with inflation as far as per capita income growth is concerned."

County finance directors provide the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office with financial reports each year that identify county revenues by type.

According to Rainwater, data from these reports show that revenues by type are holding steady, but that revenue from property taxes decreased a bit last year. The greatest percentage of increase has been in fees and charges. State aid or state funding has been fairly constant, but it has not been increasing as a percentage of the total of county revenue.

He encouraged county officials to visit the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office website at www.rfa.sc.gov to learn more about historical trends for revenue sources.

The State Budget

Rainwater said last year's report that the state had \$1.5 billion in "new money" was incorrect. In fact, he said the state only had about one-third of that amount to spend—a little less than \$500 million—and that the mistake was a result of how the state conducted its financial forecasting.

"We're not expecting a surplus this year," he added. "So, I think it's going to be a tough budget year."

According to Rainwater, the General Assembly has about \$500 million, and competing demands—hurricane recovery money, \$65 million matched by the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA); the cost to keep up with Medicaid enrollment inflation growth, \$60 million; the cost to keep up with S.C. Education Finance Act (EFA) enrollment growth and inflation and the education lawsuit funding resulting from the Abbeville lawsuit, \$50 million; and the cost of funding the State Health Plan, about \$30 to \$60 million.

He said that the state needed about \$11 million of new money to fund the Local Government Fund (LGF) at the current level, and that it would need a total of about \$114 million to fully



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fund the LGF. He also indicated that there are study committees trying to figure out how to handle the state retirement system, which has experienced a significant shortage of funding due to the lack of investments.

“The state’s retirement system, like the LGF, is going to join the other competing demands for state funding,” Rainwater added. “I’m quite sure that the state’s retirement system is going to cost employees more. I’m also pretty sure that the system is going to cost agencies more, that it’s going to cost employers more to pay for their employees, and that there may be some benefit changes in the retirement system.”

He concluded his presentation by explaining the importance of the 2020 U.S. Census, and the role that the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office will play. The office will be responsible for coordinating with officials who will be working with local census bureau officials to make sure that counties are collecting data for the U.S. Census as accurately as possible.

“When those numbers are released in April 2021, the state aid beginning in July for fiscal year 2021-22—your pot of money, including reimbursements through the LGF—will be disbursed on those new population counts,” Rainwater explained. “A year after that, beginning in 2022, you’ll begin redistricting and holding your first county elections. So, the census is going to play a big role in determining your elections.”

He said counties could hire outside counsel or anyone else for assistance, but that his office would be available to help counties with redistricting and to guide them through the process.

Legislators Discuss Priorities for 2017 Legislative Session

On Friday, Dec. 2, SCAC’s Legislative Conference held a panel discussion that provided members of the S.C. General Assembly an opportunity to discuss what they believed would be the priorities during the 2017 legislative session.

Participating in the panel discussion were: Sen. C. Bradley Hutto (District 40), Sen. A. Shane Massey (District 25), Sen. Floyd Nicholson (District 10), Rep. Eric M. Bedingfield (District 28), |

Rep. Roger K. Kirby (District 61) and Rep. Russell L. Ott (District 93).

Sen. C. Bradley Hutto (District 40)

Sen. C. Bradley Hutto said he is optimistic about the challenges to be faced during the 2017 session of the General Assembly, and that South Carolina’s incoming governor (Gov. Henry McMaster) would provide the General Assembly unique opportunities.



Sen. C. Bradley Hutto
(District 40)

“If I asked every one of my colleagues here on this panel what they thought we ought to focus on when we get back to Columbia,” Sen. Hutto said, “I bet I could get a consensus that if we could say ‘jobs, education and infrastructure’ that everybody would say ‘amen’ because they’re all inter-related. We can’t have jobs if we don’t have an educated workforce. We can’t have jobs if we don’t have roads and the sewer and the water infrastructure to get those jobs. But you know what? I’ve been in the General Assembly 20 years, and I can tell you that at the drop of a hat, all anybody has to say is ‘burning the flag, prayer in schools, guns,’ and we’ll be off chasing a rabbit, and you’ll be able to kiss jobs, education

and roads goodbye.

“We’ve got to get away from this mentality, and I think we will,” he added. “I’m pleased that we’ve got new leadership in the Senate. Sen. A. Shane Massey is the new majority leader, and to that role he has brought a sense of camaraderie, working together and bipartisanship. I’m not going to say that this has been totally lacking, but he has certainly been putting an emphasis on that, and that’s what it’s going to take. I know South Carolina is labeled as a ‘red state,’ but this is not supposed to be a Democrat or Republican state. This is supposed to be a state where we care about people.”

Sen. Hutto said he believes that the incoming governor has

a chance during the next two years to take the initiative and lead the General Assembly by identifying problems, issues and concerns and fixing what needs to be fixed. He then concluded his presentation by stating that the General Assembly needed to keep its promise and fully fund the LGF so that counties could



LEGISLATIVE PANEL DISCUSSION—On Friday, Dec. 2, SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong (at podium) introduced legislators as they prepared to discuss what they believed would be the priorities of the 2017 Session of the General Assembly: (1 to r) Rep. Roger K. Kirby (District 61), Rep. Russell L. Ott (District 93), Rep. Eric M. Bedingfield (District 28), Sen. C. Bradley Hutto (District 40), Sen. A. Shane Massey (District 25) and Sen. Floyd Nicholson (District 10).

(Continued on next page)



have a rainy day fund to deal with calamities like those they have faced in recent years, including the ice storm of 2015 and the flooding after Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

Sen. A. Shane Massey (District 25)

Sen. A. Shane Massey said he agreed with much of what Sen. Hutto said, and that he was also optimistic about some of the opportunities ahead and the potential for getting some things done during the 2017 session.



Sen. A. Shane Massey
(District 25)

“Now, let’s not sugar-coat it because we’ve got some tough challenges we’ve got to address,” Sen. Massey warned. “But I think that there is a real opportunity for leadership as the new governor steps forward. On the Senate side, there are 46 of us representing the state. On the House side, there are 124. And Sen. Hutto and I, as you can figure out right now, work pretty well together. Sen.

Nicholson and I work pretty well together, too. So, we’re going to try to make it a priority to try to have better relationships because I don’t know why we shouldn’t be able to get along. We see the world differently in many cases, but I still believe we can work well together.

“I know that this also applies to you, who serve on county councils, and that you also recognize that some people just think differently,” he added. “But it doesn’t mean that they’re mean, it doesn’t mean that they’re bad, and it certainly doesn’t mean

that they’re evil. It just means that the good Lord gave each of us brains and expected us to use them. This also means that sometimes we come to different conclusions, and that we’ve got to work together on some things. I believe we began making some progress on this toward the end of last year’s session, and I hope we continue to do so. I do believe it’s important that this be said now.”

Sen. Massey concluded his presentation by briefly talking about roads and bridges—the issue that he receives the most phone calls about.

“I think we made some progress on roads and bridges last year,” he said, “but I think that there is a real opportunity to address this issue on a more permanent basis this year. As frustrating as this can be for some people, I believe we’re making progress as long as we’re moving forward.”

Sen. Massey also talked about the LGF, which he agreed should be fully funded. But he said that the formula for funding the LGF should be changed if it is not followed. This way, everyone at the county level would know what they would have to work with when they are preparing their county budgets in June before the state releases its budget in July.

He then addressed the state’s pension system.

“It’s a complicated issue, and it’s a big problem,” Sen. Massey said. “But one of the things that makes me optimistic about this issue is that I think some good, smart members of the committee—including members of the House and Senate—are committed to finding a good solution. It’s not going to be a solution that everybody is going to love, but hopefully, more people will like it than dislike it.”

Sen. Floyd Nicholson (District 10)

Sen. Floyd Nicholson said he agreed with everything that Sen. Hutto and Sen. Massey said, and he emphasized the importance of working together.

“We all represent certain districts but at the same time,” he added, “we have to think about our entire state, and what we can do to make our state better for everyone. I don’t think it’s good for one section of the state to advance and another to go down. We have to think about things that we can do to uplift our entire state, and one of the things I think about is education. Once elected, we serve all people regardless. So, working together is the only way that we’re going to be successful as a state.”

Sen. Floyd, who retired as a middle school administrator in 2002, said it is important that all students receive the best possible education—not the minimum—because once students finish school and enter into the workforce, they need the necessary



Sen. Floyd Nicholson
(District 10)



GASB 77 Webinar Recording Available On-Demand

SCAC hosted a webinar on Dec. 8, 2016 regarding new GASB Statement No. 77 reporting requirements. A panel of government finance and legal experts provided an overview of the disclosure requirements and steps that counties should take to be in compliance for the FY 2016-17 financial audit. A recording of the GASB 77 webinar is available for on-demand viewing on the SCAC website at:



<http://www.sccounties.org/gasb-no-77>



skills to get good jobs.

“Individuals who come from a rural area or urban area are expected to have the same necessary skills when they continue their education and go to college,” he explained. “It’s also important that we have the funding to provide the best possible education for all of our children. The state should provide the necessary funding for rural areas, which don’t have the tax bases that urban areas have, to ensure that their students can take the same courses and be as prepared to pursue higher education as everybody else.”

Sen. Nicholson described the condition of roads and bridges in the state as “terrible,” and said the gas tax needs to be increased to provide a steady source of funding to improve bridges and rural roads as well as interstate highways.

He then concluded his presentation by addressing the state’s retirement system.

“We made commitments to individuals who have been promised retirement and healthcare as incentives to work in state government,” Sen. Nicholson said. “We also need to keep our promise to attract good individuals who want to work in state government, especially considering about 80 percent of state employees don’t make more than \$50,000 per year.”

Rep. Eric M. Bedingfield (District 28)

Rep. Eric M. Bedingfield said he agreed that the top priorities during the 2017 Session would be roads and bridges, education and the state retirement system, and that it would be important to work together despite party affiliations. However, Rep. Bedingfield, who chairs the House Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committee, said he wanted to focus on the regulatory issues related to the LGF, state pension fund, state budget and more.

“You know, I’m a pretty simple guy,” he admitted. “But when I look at the state’s overall budget, and I look at the top line numbers and see \$307 million in recurring funding available in the state budget, and I know that to fully fund the LGF that I need \$104 million to do that and another \$540 million to fully fund the EFA, I can stop right there and see that there is not enough recurring money to fund these things. And I’m the type of guy who believes that if you’re going to have a program and you’re going to



Rep. Eric M. Bedingfield
(District 28)

fund the program, that yes, you should fully fund the program.

“So, in my opinion,” Rep. Bedingfield added, “we’re going to have to look at the formula for the LGF, and what the state mandates that counties pay for and the services that counties must provide. We then need to determine if the state is mandating things that counties shouldn’t be required to pay for and requiring counties to provide services that they shouldn’t be providing. I think that in many instances, what started as great ideas

have been modified over 25 or 30 years to the point that now things don’t line up anymore.”

During the short time he has chaired the House Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committee, Rep. Bedingfield said he has reviewed old, outdated regulations that had no business existing. After providing a few humorous examples, he said he wanted to eliminate such unnecessary regulations, help find solutions and help everyone understand the realities.

“The state budget has to balance, and we’re required to do that,” Rep. Bedingfield emphasized. “And sometimes, as a state, this requires us to make tough decisions and to prioritize. We need to determine what the state needs to fund most, and we need to start at the top and fund our way down until the money is gone.

“Because the worst thing that could happen to us as a state would be for us to turn into Washington, D.C.,” he added. “When you have partisanship, as we have in Washington, people borrow money, and we end up \$19 trillion in debt. South Carolina doesn’t work that way. We’re forced to make tough decisions.”

(Continued on next page)

SCAC Recognizes Retiring Board Members

On Thursday, Dec. 1, SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong recognized the following members of SCAC’s Board of Directors who recently retired:

Johnny W. Jeffcoat, Lexington County Council Member (upper photo) and Joel R. Thrift (lower photo), Oconee County Council Member. Unavailable for photos were: Carolyn B. Robinson, Fairfield County Council Chairman; K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr., Florence County Administrator; and Claude Thomas, Abbeville County Council Member.



**Rep. Russell Ott (District 93)**

Rep. Russell Ott said he basically agreed with what the previous panelists said, but believed that it was unrealistic to continue making the case to fully fund the LGF at 4.5 percent. He then recommended “thinking outside the box,” and trying to go in a different direction as far as the LGF is concerned, the same recommendation he made when participating in a panel discussion at SCAC’s 2016 Annual Conference.

“For a long time,” Rep. Ott explained, “we’ve been going to the General Assembly, and ya’ll have, too, and we’ve been making the case to fully fund the LGF. But a lot times that has been falling on deaf ears—at least with the leadership that is currently in place now over some of our committees. And I just think that there are a lot of other issues that are important to local government that we need to start focusing on, and that it’s hard to do so when we still have the issue of fully funding the LGF looming and lingering over our heads.



Rep. Russell Ott
(District 93)

“I understand,” he added, “that it is virtually impossible for each and every one of you to craft budgets when you don’t know how much money is ultimately going to come from one year to the next from the General Assembly. So, I believe it would make sense to set a base starting point and then essentially say that whatever the growth is in the general fund each year that the LGF receive a corresponding increase or decrease.”

Rep. Ott agreed with Sen. Nicholson that it is far past time to increase the gas tax in South Carolina to help fix the state’s deteriorating roads and bridges.

“The bottom line is that 33 percent of gas sold in South Carolina is sold to out-of-state drivers,” Rep. Ott explained. “And I believe they need to pay their fair share to maintain our state’s roads when they drive through our state. A lot of people buy gas here because it’s cheap, and I’m glad for that. I always want to stay competitive, and I always want our gas stations on the borders to sell gas less than what their competitors sell gas for across the bor-

County Officials Ask Questions, Voice Concerns at SCAC’s Legislative Conference



Henry E. “Sel” Hemingway
Georgetown County Administrator

County officials had opportunities to ask questions and voice concerns at SCAC’s 2016 Legislative Conference after Frank A. Rainwater’s State Budget Forecast on Dec. 1.

They also had opportunities to do so during the legislative panel discussion, and when SCAC Policy Steering Committees presented their positions for adoption on Dec. 2.



David A. Adams
Richland County Treasurer



L. Gregory Pearce Jr.
Richland County Council
Vice Chairman



W.B. Wilson
Williamsburg County
Council Member



Victor J. Carpenter
Kershaw County Administrator



Barbara B. Clark
Jasper County Council
Member



Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County Council Chairman



der. But currently, the gap in gas prices is too wide. The last time we raised the gas tax was in 1987, and I think that this is part of the reason why we find ourselves in the predicament we're in."

He warned that until something drastic is done, the price tag for fixing the state's roads and bridges will continue to grow.

"We've got to stop the bleeding now," Rep. Ott emphasized. "But I'm very optimistic that, with Henry McMaster coming in as the new governor, he'll be willing to work more with the General Assembly than Gov. Nikki Haley has been in the past. I'm also very excited that for the good of everyone—counties, municipalities and South Carolinians in general—we'll be able to find some common ground and put some of these issues behind us that continue to hang around year after year. Let's address the issues and fix them, and move on to some other issues."

Rep. Roger E. Kirby (District 61)

Rep. Roger E. Kirby, entering his second two-year term as a state representative, said he agreed with what other panelists had said about the top issues facing the state, and that he could not add anything new.

But he did offer some advice.

"I come from a small rural area of South Carolina," said Rep. Kirby, who represents Florence and Marion counties in District 61. "And we have a saying that, 'If you can't find a way do something, there are a lot of ways to skin a cat.'"



Rep. Roger E. Kirby
(District 61)

"This LGF thing has been going on for much longer than I've served in the House, and I've heard a lot of arguments both for and against the reasons that it is not funded at 4.5 percent," he added. "So, I would encourage you as a body to think about some other ways to skin that cat because I don't think, based on my limited knowledge of the history of the LGF, that we're making a lot of progress."

"My thought," Rep. Kirby suggested, "is that maybe the Association of Counties, with all of the wisdom that's shared amongst its membership, might think of some additional ways or some other means to get to the same place. I've had the unique opportunity to sit on a tax policy committee in the House of Representatives over the past couple of months, and it has been an incredibly eye-opening experience. It's just incredible the depth of knowledge that Frank Rainwater, Executive Director of the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office—who spoke yesterday at this legislative conference—has on the state budgets and how they're put together."

Rep. Kirby noted, for example, that it has been enlightening to learn how state budgets and state income sources are inter-related, and how tinkering with one thing affects another.

"I think it behooves all of us in the General Assembly to rely on the experts," he advised. "After all, I consider you to be

experts in your own fields. I know, for example, that I can always seek guidance from Florence County's finance director, Kevin Yokim, so I go to him. He knows way more than I need to know, and he has always been more than willing to give me guidance."

Immediately following the legislative panel discussion, many county officials asked questions and voiced their concerns when provided an opportunity to do so.

SCAC developed legislative policy positions this past fall, based upon input received from the four policy steering committees.

(Continued on next page)

SCAC Policy Steering Committees Present Recommendations

The following SCAC Policy Steering Committee chairmen presented their committee legislative policy recommendations at the Association's 2016 Legislative Conference on Friday, Dec. 2.



Charles T. Edens
*Chairman of the Land Use,
Natural Resources and
Transportation Committee*



Ronald Young
*Chairman of the County
Government and
Intergovernmental Relations
Committee*



Belinda D. Copeland
*Chairman of the
Revenue, Finance and Economic
Development Committee*



Julie J. Armstrong
*Chairman of the Public Safety,
Corrections and Judicial
Committee*



tees, the County Council Coalition, various association groups and other county officials.

SCAC's Legislative Committee has 75 members, including 29 members of the Association's Board of Directors and council

chairpersons (or their designees) representing South Carolina's 46 counties. Steering committees met previously at the SCAC Office in September and November.



SCAC Hosts 2016 S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute

On Nov. 18, more than 200 attorneys attended SCAC's 2016 Local Government Attorneys' Institute in Columbia. Based on the evaluations completed by attendees, the program was well received.

This program offered required ethics CLE credits for lawyers as well as credit for several specific practical areas. The programming began with Chuck Thompson, Executive Director and General Counsel of the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) and regular contributor to *County Focus Magazine*. Thompson discussed recent developments and common issues regarding the ethics laws. The group participated in an interactive discussion with the audience where many questions were asked.

Brian D'Amico of Elliot Davis Decosimo gave a presentation on accounting principles and their applicability to the practice of law. D'Amico was followed by W. Harrison Penn of Reynolds and Penn who presented an

overview of bankruptcy law. Then, Chuck Thompson took to the podium a second time to provide an update on federal case law, including recent decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court.



SCAC's 2016 Local Government Attorneys' Institute, Columbia, Nov. 18

Speakers Discuss Ethics and Other Important Issues

► W. Harrison Penn
Reynolds and Penn



Linda Pearce Edwards
Gignilliat Savitz and Bettis



Chuck Thompson
General Counsel, IMLA



Brian D'Amico
Elliott Davis Decosimo



Jack Pringle
Adams and Reese



Will Dillard
Belser & Belser



Jack Pringle of Adams and Reese gave a one hour presentation on the mental health portion of the CLE. This was a very beneficial presentation as demonstrated by the amount of participation from the audience. Linda Pearce Edwards, attorney from Gignilliat Savitz and Bettis, gave a very informative update on employment law issues. Will Dillard of Belser & Belser spoke on the recent Supreme Court opinion, *Reed v Town of Gilbert*, and the challenges it has created for sign ordinance and regulations. Josh Rhodes, SCAC Assistant General Counsel,

wrapped up the session with an overview of recent state case law and legislation pertaining to local governments.

This program is a service offered by SCAC to provide local government practitioners with relevant legal education at an economical price. The Local Government Attorneys' Institute has grown into the largest public sector legal seminar in South Carolina.



McCormick County Hosts Centennial Banquet

McCormick County hosted a centennial banquet on Nov. 19, concluding the county's year-long celebration that began at the McCormick County Courthouse on Feb. 19, 2016. Approximately 215 people attended the banquet, held at McCormick Middle School in McCormick, the county seat, and hosted by McCormick JROTC.

The Rev. Libby Ligon delivered the invocation before McCormick County Council Vice Chairman Bernard Hamby welcomed everyone to the banquet. The Rev. Sarah Juenst provided the invocation, and Charlotte Tallent explained the purpose of the Centennial Celebration. On behalf of U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), McCormick County Clerk to Council Crystal Barnes presented a U.S. Flag to the county.

The first portion of the banquet, focusing on the county's centennial celebration, included the following guest speakers: Rep. J. Anne Parks (D-District 12), Sen. Floyd Nicholson (D-District 10) and Robert E. Lyon Jr., SCAC Deputy Executive Director & General Counsel. Charles T. Jennings, McCormick County Council Chairman, spoke as well.

"The New Millenium" was the subject of the next portion of the banquet. Leah Anthony, Miss McCormick High, sang, and DeMarcus Moore, a recent McCormick High School graduate, spoke. Dr. Don Doggert, Superintendent of Schools in McCormick County, also spoke.

The final portion of the banquet focused on economic development. "South Carolina, including McCormick County," said Mike Briggs, President and CEO of Central SC Alliance, "is in a great position for economic development, and the future looks brighter." Thessa G. Smith, McCormick County Economic Development Director, then provided the highlight of the evening when she announced that Palace Foods would relocate to McCormick County in 2017.

A video was shown of Gov. Nikki Haley congratulating



McCormick County's Centennial Banquet, McCormick Middle School, Nov. 19



CELEBRATING MCCORMICK COUNTY'S CENTENNIAL—Attending McCormick County's Centennial Banquet are: (l to r) DeMarcus Moore, recent McCormick High School graduate; Rep. J. Anne Parks (D-District 12); Henry Banks, McCormick County Council Member; Charles T. Jennings, McCormick County Council Chairman; Vonnie Rochester, Palace Foods; Thessa G. Smith, McCormick County Economic Development Director; Earl R. Coleman, McCormick County Council Member; Bernard Hamby, McCormick County Council Vice Chairman; Columbus Stephens, McCormick County Administrator; Sen. Floyd Nicholson (D-District 10); Byron Thompson, McCormick County Council Member; Dr. Don Doggert, Superintendent of Schools in McCormick County; and Matt Wiggins, Area Business Manager, SC Small Business.

the company's \$5 million investment that is expected to create more than 30 new jobs. Vonnie Rochester of Palace Foods talked about the company's new venture.

The Rev. Paul Wood delivered McCormick County's Centennial Prayer after Columbus Stephens, McCormick County Administrator, provided the banquet's closing remarks.





SCAC Hosts Orientation for Newly-Elected County Council Members

On Dec. 13, SCAC welcomed newly-elected county council members from across the state to the Orientation for Newly-Elected Council Members—a program designed to help prepare them for their new duties and responsibilities.

Among the topics discussed were: roles and responsibilities of county council; forms and powers of county government; county risk management; the Freedom of Information Act; budget basics and funding sources; and the State Ethics, Government Accountability and Campaign Reform Act.

Program speakers included: Jimmy Bagnall, Senior Investigator, S.C. State Ethics Commission; Anna Berger, Director of Research and Training, SCAC; John Henderson, ARM, ALCM, Director of Risk Management Services, SCAC; Kent Lesesne, Senior Staff Attorney, SCAC; Tim Winslow, Deputy General Counsel, SCAC; and Kevin Yokim, CPA, CGFO, Finance Director, Florence County.



Anna Berger, SCAC Director of Research and Training, described some of the many useful publications that the SCAC publishes.



Kevin Yokim, Florence County Finance Director, explains how county taxes are allocated each year, how millage rates are calculated and some of the challenges of managing county budgets.

The SCAC hosts the Orientation for Newly-Elected Council Members every other year following a general election. By attending the day-long program, new council members are enrolled in the Institute of Government for County Officials and earn six hours of credit toward their Level I certificate.



Jimmy Bagnall
Senior Investigator
S.C. State Ethics Commission

SCAC's Orientation for Newly-Elected County Council Members, DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia, Dec. 13





Bamberg County Hosts Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New Courthouse Annex

More than 200 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony that Bamberg County held on Nov. 18 for the county's new Courthouse Annex, located at 1234 North St., in Bamberg, the county seat. Joey R. Preston, Bamberg County Administrator, welcomed everyone and provided opening remarks.



Bamberg County hosted the official opening ceremony for the county's new Courthouse Annex (shown above) at 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 18. (Photo courtesy of Bamberg County) Immediately afterward, Bamberg County Council Members, county officials and guests gathered at the building's front entrance (below) for a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Guest speakers included: Diane Price, Pike McFarland Hall Associates, Inc.; J. Christopher Wilson, Chairman of Bamberg County's Capital Project Sales Tax Committee; Ray E. Jones of Parker Poe Attorneys & Counselors at Law; and Leonard G. "Jerry" Bell, Director of the Bamberg County Chamber of Commerce.

Speakers also included: Darryl Booker, Bamberg County Economic Development Project Manager for Southern Carolina Alliance; Sen. C. Bradley Hutto (D-District 40); and the Rev. Isaiah Odom, Bamberg County Council

Chairman, who also provided the invocation. Joey R. Preston provided the closing remarks immediately before the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the entrance to the new Bamberg County Courthouse Annex.



SRF Offers Low Cost Infrastructure Financing

For more than 28 years, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Programs have provided low-cost, long-term financing to South Carolina's communities, allowing them to make significant investments in their water and sewer infrastructure. In fact, more than \$1.2 billion in loans have been made to local governments and utilities for wastewater treatment and collection, drinking water supply and distribution and stormwater infrastructure.

These low interest rates (currently 1.9 percent), with terms of up to 30 years, allow communities to take on big capital projects and make the investments more affordable. A recent report by the American Society of Civil Engineers noted that nationally there is a funding gap of \$105 billion in water and wastewater infrastructure needs. This loan program can help minimize the disparity between what is needed and what gets funded.

With SRF financing, debt service costs and the total amount paid over the life of the loan will result in significant cost savings which directly benefit the rate paying customers.

The SRF is jointly administered by two agencies:

- S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), which handles the technical and programmatic requirements, and
- Office of Local Government (OLG), a part of the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority, which is responsible for the financial and loan components.

To learn more about how to access financing through this program, a FREE one day workshop will be offered on Feb. 9, 2017, at the Saluda Shoals Park – River Center in Columbia. Sessions will address both the technical and financial aspects of the revolving loan program.

To register, call 803-737-0390 or visit: www.ria.sc.gov/index.php/workshops-webinars/.



SCAC'S 2017 WEBCAST CALENDAR

Thursday, May 18

9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Planning and Zoning Continuing Education

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



R. Carlisle Roddey, SCAC's President for 2010-11, Dies

Mr. Raymond Carlisle Roddey, 79, SCAC President for 2010-11, died on Jan. 9. He was one of only a few South Carolina county officials to ever receive the President's Cup—one of the SCAC's highest honors—more than once, receiving the prestigious award in 1995 and 2014. Born on Aug. 13, 1937 in Chester County, Mr. Roddey, was a son of the late Belvin Barber Roddey, Sr. and Juanita Dunn Roddey Thrailkill. He was a graduate of Chester High School and a member of the Chester Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church where he served as Deacon and

enjoyed cooking for church functions.



R. Carlisle Roddey
SCAC President
2010-11

He is survived by his wife of more than 59 years, Lois Hyatt Roddey, two sons, John Carlisle and Lee (wife, Pam), both of Chester; two grandsons, Andrew Roddey and Evan Roddey, both of Chester; one sister, Bernice Roddey Miller of Chester and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents; two brothers, B.B. Jr. and Harry Roddey; and two sisters, Aileen Knox and Eloise Bagley.

Mr. Roddey was former Civil Defense Director of Chester County, founding member of the county's rescue squad in 1964, first director of the county's emergency services and formerly employed with Wrights Home for Funerals. He was elected Chester County Supervisor in 1974 and served as such for 32 years. For more than 47 years, Mr. Roddey was known as the voice of the Chester High School Cyclones.

SCAC's 2017 Conference Calendar

Feb. 15 Feb. 16	Mid-Year Conference Institute of Government Embassy Suites, Columbia
July 29-30 July 30-Aug. 2	Institute of Government Annual Conference Hilton Head Marriott
TBD	Setoff Debt/Gear TBD
TBD	Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers TBD
Oct. 18 Oct. 19	Institute of Government County Council Coalition Embassy Suites, Columbia
Dec. 8	S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia
Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Legislative Conference (Hotel TBD), Charleston

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



NACo's 2017 Conference Calendar

Feb. 25-March 1	Legislative Conference Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, D.C.
July 21-24	Annual Conference and Exposition Columbus, Ohio

SCAC Hires Trusts' Assistant Coordinator, Two Staff Members Earn Designations

Caroline Deevey recently became the S.C. Trusts' Assistant Coordinator. With more than 20 years of insurance industry experience, she has extensive knowledge in commercial insurance underwriting, marketing and customer service.

Deevey has earned five insurance industry designations, including Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC), Certificate in General Insurance (INS), Accredited Advisor in Insurance (AAI), Certified Insurance Service Representative (CISR) and Construction Risk Insurance Specialist (CRIS). She can be contacted at CDeevey@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255.

Two other staff members recently earned their second designations. S.C. Workers' Compensation Claims Manager Lang Kohel, received her AIC (Associate in Claims) designation. Risk Manager Robert Benfield received his AINS (Associate in General Insurance) designation.