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SCAC Policy Positions Presented, Other Issues Addressed at County Council Coalition Meeting

On October 19, SCAC steering committees presented policy positions for the 2018 Session of the S.C. General Assembly at the S.C. County Council Coalition (CCC) Meeting in Columbia. Guest speakers also talked about several top state issues.

CCC President Sammie Tucker Jr. (Kershaw County Council Vice Chairman) presided over the meeting, and SCAC Board Member Waymon Mumford (Florence County Council Member) provided the meeting's invocation.

Steering Committees Present Policy Positions

The following four SCAC steering committees previously met at the Association's office in Columbia on September 20 and 21 to discuss policy positions:

- **County Government and Intergovernmental Innovations**, chaired by Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council Member;

- **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, SCAC Treasurer.

At the recent CCC meeting, committee chairmen presented their committee reports. Delegates, representing

South Carolina's 46 counties, then reviewed and discussed each committee's recommendations to help shape SCAC's legislative policy positions for the 2018 Legislative Session.

SCAC steering committees met again on November 8 and 9 at the Association's office to finalize their positions prior to presenting their recommendations to SCAC's Legislative Committee at the Association's 2017 Legislative Conference in Charleston (Nov. 30 – Dec. 2).

Speakers Address the S.C. Retirement System, State Ethics Act and State Budget

Michael Hitchcock, Chief Executive Officer, S.C. Retirement System Investment Commission (RSIC), provided an update on the state's retirement system, *(Continued on next page)*



Sammie Tucker Jr.
President of the
County Council Coalition



S.C. County Council Coalition Meeting, Embassy Suites, October 19

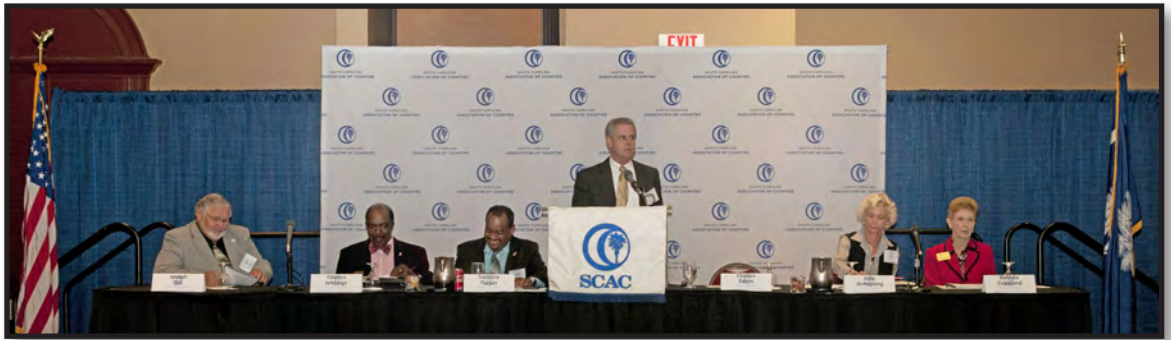


which serves approximately 500,000 beneficiaries.

He said the RSIC “went back to the basics” in the summer and fall of 2015 regarding its investment portfolio. Since then, the RSIC has tried to make sure it is doing everything possible to improve the Retirement System’s returns and to contribute as much as possible to the portfolio.

“We challenged everything, and every asset class had to prove itself in the portfolio,” Hitchcock said. “We split our organization up into teams, we had debates, and we took a zero-based budgeting approach to our asset allocation. We found that historically we had underperformed our peers, and that the driving factor behind this underperformance was our asset allocation—how the RSIC divided up its portfolio into the various asset classes in which it invested.

“So, in February 2016,” he added, “we adopted a brand new asset allocation that went live on July 1st of 2016—the first year



HEAD TABLE, COUNTY COUNCIL COALITION MEETING—Sumter County Council Member Charles T. Edens (podium), Chairman of the Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation Committee, speaks at the CCC meeting. Seated (left to right) are: Greenville County Council Member Joseph B. Dill, Chairman of the County Government and Intergovernmental Relations Committee; SCAC First Vice President Charles T. Jennings (McCormick County Council Chairman), Chairman of the SCAC Legislative Committee; Sammie Tucker Jr., President of the CCC for 2016-17; Charleston County Clerk of Court Julie J. Armstrong, Chairman of the Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Committee; and SCAC Treasurer Belinda D. Copeland, Chairman of the Revenue, Finance and Economic Development Committee.

of a three-year allocation. We moved about \$8 billion in assets last June so that the new allocations could go live on July 1st of 2016, and the changes were significant.”

The RSIC had a \$28 billion portfolio in June 2016 before the changes. By the end of Fiscal Year 2017 after the changes, the RSIC had a \$30.1 billion portfolio. In fact, the RSIC had achieved a \$3.25 billion return. Because a little more than \$1.1 billion in benefit payments were made, the RSIC was able to add a net \$2 billion to the retirement fund.

“The RSIC’s return benchmark is 11.82 percent, but it achieved a benchmark of 11.88 percent for the fiscal year ending in June 2017,” Hitchcock explained. “We raised the bar by 1.25 percent, and brought in more than \$400 million in additional return.



Michael Hitchcock
Chief Executive Officer
S.C. Retirement System
Investment Commission

“We’re only two months into the new fiscal year (2018),” he added. “For the first two months of the fiscal year, we have achieved a 2.8 percent return. So, we’re right at \$31 billion. We’ve added \$840 million of investment performance, and our

net benefit payments are \$81 million so far.”

The RSIC has set a new strategic goal to achieve a three-year rate of return that exceeds the policy benchmark and the median return of the state’s peer pension funds.

“We’ve made significant progress on a return basis,” Hitchcock said. “This gives me confidence that we’ve charted a new course, and that we’re heading in the right direction.”

He assured county officials that the RSIC understands the burden that the additional contributions are going to place on them at the local government level, that the sacrifices they are



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W. Stuart Morgan III



going to have to make are not lost on anyone at the RSIC, and that this is why the RSIC is working so hard to do better.

"It's our job at the RSIC," Hitchcock said, "to fulfill the sacred promise that we have made to our beneficiaries, and I can assure you that we are doing everything that we can to improve the retirement system and make it better.

Responding to concerns about the security of state retirees' benefits expressed during the question and answer session that followed, Hitchcock said: "There are very few things in life that are constitutionally guaranteed, and your retirement is one of them. The state constitution guarantees that the General Assembly has to appropriate enough money to pay the accrued benefits of people in the system. So, your retirement is guaranteed."

Steven W. Hamm, Interim Executive Director, S.C. State Ethics Commission, talked about the top 10 aspects that county officials needed to know about the state ethics act.

But first, Hamm noted that the level of complaints against government officials is increasing due to publicity of the ongoing ethics investigation. Next, he explained the steps that the State Ethics Commission takes when it receives a complaint to submitting a case for possible review by the Commission.

"State ethics laws are very significant from a public standpoint," Hamm said. "The Commission's statute says that we're supposed to promote public confidence in public officials. But I want your goal—as a county council member—to be willing to demonstrate by your ongoing activities and conduct that you're fully aware of the requirements of the ethics statute, and that you're doing your best to comply with it. Overall, you should

have a course of conduct that demonstrates to the citizens you serve that you're in compliance.

Overall, his message to county officials was that he wanted them to protect themselves. Hamm encouraged county officials to consider whether something is consistent with the state ethics law before taking an action. He also encouraged them to become experts on the definition of recusal under South Carolina law and to pay attention to definitions in the state statutes.



Steven W. Hamm
*Interim Executive Director
S.C. State Ethics Commission*

Michael Shealy, Budget Director, S.C. Senate Finance Committee, provided an overview of the state budget. Shealy said his objective was to help county officials understand issues related to the state budget and not to justify policies, including whether or not it is a good policy to fully fund the Local Government Fund.

Instead, he said he wanted to help county officials understand issues related to the state budget and for everyone to know

(Continued on next page)

County Council Coalition Elects Officers for 2017-18

Richland County Council Member Greg Pearce (right), who chaired the S.C. County Coalition's nominating committee, announced the slate of officers for 2017-18 at the end of the recent CCC Meeting. (See below)



Greg Pearce

President

Jeanie Brown-Burrows
Williamsburg County Council Member

Vice President

Willis H. Meadows
Greenville County Council Member

Secretary

W. Brian Carnes
Lancaster County Council Member

Treasurer

Calvin "Chip" Jackson
Richland County Council Member



Sammie Tucker Jr. receives a plaque of appreciation from Jeanie Brown-Burrows, newly-elected President of the County Council Coalition. The plaque recognizes Tucker's service and dedication as 2016-17 CCC President.



what is happening. This, Shealy explained, could help county officials have better conversations with their elected state officials and help facilitate the emergence of good policies.

“Good information doesn’t necessarily guarantee good policy, but it certainly doesn’t hurt,” Shealy noted.

He said the current U.S. recovery, now more than eight years long, is the third longest in the nation’s history. Shealy then provided an economic and budget outlook for the state, using many illustrations in the process.

Most important, he said:

- Employment and income continue to increase but at a slower rate, and the state’s aging population and decreasing labor force are two reasons for concern.
- The state’s General Fund revenue growth will likely be consistent but less than robust, and the impact of federal tax reform on South Carolina taxpayers and the General Fund is unknown at this point.
- Factors such as the phasing in of additional tax cuts from the roads bill over multiple years; implementation of Phase I in the pension plan, including increasing employer costs; and the cost of health care were among many that could have an effect.



Michael Shealy
Budget Director
S.C. Senate Finance Committee

Shealy also said H. 3726 addresses pension reform and funding, as follows:

- Phase I of Act 13 of 2017, which was signed into law on April 25 and took effect on July 1, focuses on funding and governance changes. Since then, the General Assembly has provided additional funding for FY 2017–18 in the general appropriations act to help fund required contribution rate increases. For example, employees’ rates increased, effective July 1, but will not increase in future years.

County Officials Speak, Ask Questions at County Council Coalition Meeting



W.B. Wilson
Williamsburg County
Council Member



Barbara B. Clark
Jasper County
Council Member

SCAC Steering Committees Meet

The County Government and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, chaired by Joseph B. Dill (inset-right), met at the SCAC Office in Columbia on September 21. The committee was one of four SCAC policy steering committees that met at the office on September 20 and 21 to discuss policy positions.

Delegates, representing South Carolina’s 46 counties, reviewed and discussed each committee’s recommendations at the County Council Coalition Meeting on October 19.

The steering committees then met again on November 7 and 8 at the SCAC Office to finalize their positions before presenting their recommendations to SCAC’s Legislative Committee at the Association’s 2017 Legislative Conference in Charleston (Nov. 30 – Dec. 2).





- Phase II focuses on the plan design of the state's retirement systems. The Joint Committee on Pension Systems Review, which began meeting in May, is discussing possible changes in the retirement system, including changes for non-vested employees.

He also talked about Act 40 of 2017, part of H. 3516, that is expected to generate \$630 million in new funding for roads. Among other things, Act 40:

- creates an infrastructure Maintenance Trust Fund at SC-

DOT with revenues/increases to be used only on the existing system;

- increases the motor fuel user fee by 2 cents per year over six years to 28 cents per gallon in 2022; and
- increases biennial motor vehicle registration fees by \$16.

Shealy said that the takeaways of his presentation were that the state's budget cycle will be similar to the past several years, but recurring revenue growth will be slightly muted and there might not be any non-recurring revenue; and the costs for pensions are going to increase over the next five years, essentially to pay for benefit increases that have already been granted, and a new retirement benefit model may emerge, which could affect recruitment for public sector positions. He also said that for the short and intermediate terms, transportation funding has been addressed. Still, because transportation funding hasn't been indexed for inflation again, it would be debated again in the future.

In closing, Shealy said he wanted to leave one last thought with county officials as they begin to grapple with their policy positions in the early stages of the budget process: "A budget is just a method of worrying before you spend money, as well as afterward."



R. Ensley Feemster
Pickens County
Council Member



J. Frank Hart
Union County
Supervisor/Chairman

Institute of Government for County Officials Offers Courses

The Institute of Government for County Officials offered two Level I courses and two Level II courses on October 18, the day before the S.C. County Council Coalition Meeting.

Shown at right are photos of the Effective Communications class, a Level II course, and the two instructors who taught it.

The SCAC—in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, and the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University—holds the Institute of Government for County Officials three times per year.

The Institute of Government provides county officials the opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities to function more effectively.



Teaching the Effective Communications Class are Stephany Y. Snowden (right), Director of Community Initiatives, Richland County Sheriff's Department, and Robert L. Butt (left), President, Marketing Performance, LLC.





Insurance Trusts Host Continuing Education Meeting

By Robert C. Collins, CPCU, CIC
Director of Insurance Services, SCAC

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) and the S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust (SCCP<) held the annual continuing education seminar on September 14 in Columbia. The 110 attendees heard several speakers address a myriad of risk management topics.

Robert Collins, Director of Insurance Services, opened the meeting and briefly addressed the history of both Trusts. He reminded attendees that cyber liability coverage is provided to all members in the SCCP<. He also addressed the importance of obtaining certificates of insurance and the numerous coverages that can be displayed on certificates of insurance, depending on the nature of operations.

Next, Terry Booker, Spartanburg County Risk Manager,

Rachael Stephenson, Ariel TPA, and Lang Kelly, SCAC, explained the importance of communication in reducing workers compensation claims costs. Some 2,344 workers compensation claims were reported during policy year 2016. Eighty-three percent of claims filed are medical only claims. Lost time claims account for 89 percent of claims costs.

Next, Linda Edwards, Gignilliat Savitz & Bettis Law Firm, provided a legal update on employment law issues. In her opening comments, she said that lawsuits against elected officials are



Robert Collins

Director of Insurance Services

increasing. She

mentioned that an employer cannot discriminate against an employee who has depression or PTSD unless the employee poses a "direct threat" to safety or unless the employee simply cannot perform the requisite job functions. Employees with disabilities are held to the same standards as other employees. An employer can refer an employee to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), but the employer cannot force the employee to engage the services of the EAP. Please remember to check SLED's SC Sex Offender Registry on all job applicants.

The always popular Round Table Forum featured Angela Pinson, Berkeley County; Barry Catoe, Kershaw County; Linda Edwards, Gignilliat Savitz & Bettis; and Van Henson, LLR, Training Supervisor.

The importance of stressing risk management and safety with all new hires was discussed at length. The new hire information literature should have a signature form whereby the employee agrees to participate in the county's return to work program after an injury.

Next Van Henson, LLR, Training Supervisor, provided an update on recent OSHA developments.

In the final segment of the day, John Henderson, Director of Risk Management Services, and Robert Benfield, SCAC Risk Manager, provided a risk management update and made note



ROUND TABLE FORUM—Participating in the forum are (left to right): Linda Edwards, Gignilliat Savitz & Bettis; Barry Catoe, Kershaw County; Angela Pinson, Berkeley County; and Van Henson, LLR, Training Supervisor.



SCCWCT and SCCP< Continuing Education Seminar, Embassy Suites, September 14



of specific dates for upcoming risk management and insurance meetings. The complete list can be found on our website at www.sccounties.org.

Benfield discussed the complimentary online “In the Line of Duty” streaming videos with accompanying accredited hours. He also stated that “best practices” require that MVRs be reviewed at least annually on all employees who drive.

Henderson reiterated the importance of timely claims re-



Linda Edwards
Gignilliat Savitz &
Bettis Law Firm



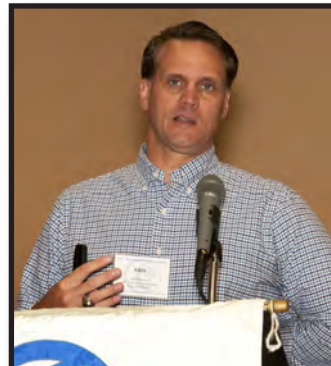
▲Explaining the importance of communication in reducing workers’ compensation claims are (left to right): Lang Kelly, SCAC; Terry Booker, Spartanburg County Risk Manager; and Rachael Stephenson, Ariel TPA.



John Henderson
Director of Risk Management
Services



▲Seated in the audience, John Jervy, SCAC, takes a microphone to answer a question concerning property and liability claims.



Van Henson, LLR
Training Supervisor



Robert Benfield
SCCWCT and SCCP<
Risk Manager

Questions Answered, Ideas and Solutions Shared

During the Round Table Discussion and at other times during the Continuing Education Meeting, county officials had opportunities to ask questions, and to share ideas and solutions. These were among the many photos taken when they had opportunities to participate.



Robert Hingst
Sumter County EMS Director

▼
Rose R. Shepherd
Bamberg County
Clerk to Council



◀ Tony Bell
Spartanburg County
Personnel Director



Richard Whiteman
Richland Count EMS



porting and the completion of accident investigation forms.

He stressed that county governments have long recognized that investment in risk management and safety programs is effective stewardship of taxpayer dollars. He also encouraged attendees to continue their hard work.





SCAC Launches 2018 Debt Collection Programs

SCAC launched the 2018 Setoff Debt Collection and Government Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR) programs for county participants with a full-day workshop held at the Embassy Suites in Columbia on August 15. These programs assist county entities with collecting debts that may otherwise go uncollected.



Hartley Powell
Director

S.C. Department of Revenue

Speakers included Hartley Powell, Director of the S.C. Department of Revenue and Alex Smith and John DeLoache, SCAC Staff Attorneys.

The Setoff Debt Collection program allows the S.C. De-

► Alex Smith, SCAC Staff Attorney

partment of Revenue (SCDOR) to collect delinquent debts through state tax return garnishments. The GEAR program allows SCDOR to use additional collection tools such as payment plans and wage garnishments.

About 300 local government officials and staff representing participating or interested entities in all 46 counties attended the free training.

SCAC staff works closely with SCDOR staff and provides comprehensive program, legal, and technical assistance to counties participating in the programs. SCAC services are offered free to those entities participating in the programs.

The Setoff Debt and GEAR Collection programs have proven very successful in allowing county participants to collect delinquent debts. SCAC is currently assisting more than 280 county entities with participation in these debt collection programs.

To date in 2018, SCAC has returned more than \$100 million to participants. Since 2002 when counties began to participate in the debt collection programs, SCAC has returned more than \$1 billion to the counties.

For additional information about the SCAC's debt collection programs and services, please contact SCAC staff at 1-800-922-6081.



Meeting to launch 2018 Debt Collection programs, Embassy Suites, August 15



John DeLoache, Senior
SCAC Staff Attorney

Want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government? The 2018 *Directory of County Officials* is scheduled to be published in February. So, pre-order your copy now by contacting:

\$25
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Railroads Develop New Safety Technology

By Christy Sammon
State Director, GoRail

Rail in South Carolina dates back to the 1850s, but the technology is on the cutting edge of innovation. Railroads rely on advanced technologies to monitor the health of the vast 140,000 mile freight rail network and the equipment moving across it.

A new mobile app called AskRail provides immediate information about railcars carrying hazardous materials and is a crucial tool for helping first responders in the case of a rail emergency. The app is a joint effort of North America's Class I freight railroads. To date, more than 6,000 first responders from around the country have already signed up. For security reasons, only qualified emergency responders can gain access to the app.

To learn more about the application process visit: www.askrail.us.

With 13 freight railroads and 2,300 track miles in South Carolina, rail safety is a top priority for the first responder community. Since 1980, railroads have invested \$600 billion of private capital back into the rail network that has enabled the development of new technologies that make a safe network even safer.

From radar used to detect problems beneath tracks to a vast network of way-side detectors used to identify equipment in need of repair, railroads are at the forefront of developing and deploying advanced technologies that further improve the freight rail industry's impressive safety record.

Drones are being tested for use in track and bridge inspections and railroads are working to fully implement positive train control, or PTC, on tracks carrying hazardous materials or passenger rail traffic—some 60,000 track miles in the United States.

Freight railroads are also working with communities and emergency personnel in South Carolina and across the U.S. on mitigation and response planning. More than 20,000 first responders are trained every year through individual railroad efforts and industry programs, like the Security and Emergency Response Training Center (SERTC) in Pueblo, Colo. SERTC is collaboration between the rail industry and

the Federal Railroad Administration. It gives the first responders hands-on experience with simulated hazmat incidents. The center also offers free, web-based training for those who cannot attend in person.

The freight rail industry's efforts will continue to grow and prepare fire and rescue personnel to safely handle any rail emergency. A safe rail network will continue to help South Carolina's economy to thrive.



For more information, contact Christy Sammon, the author, at csammon@gorail.org



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Online Video Library of SCAC's 2017 Awards Competition

The SCAC is pleased to announce an online video library of the 2017 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition that was held in conjunction with the Association's 50th Annual Conference. The award presentations are available on the Association's website at:

SCCounties.org/awards

The Association is grateful to Beaufort County and the Beaufort County Channel for providing video production resources. As a result of this partnership, all county officials are able to learn from the innovative ideas and solutions that were presented during the competition.



SCAC Updates Two County Government Publications, One on Revenue Resources, One on Home Rule

The 2017 *Supplements for Revenue Resources for County Government* and the *Home Rule Handbook for County Government* have been completed and mailed to county officials. If you consult either of these publications, it is critical to also check the 2017 *Supplement* for the publication in order to see any statutory amendments, more recent case law and Attorney General's opinions that impact the statutes.

Both publications give county officials an excellent place to start their search for answers. The statutes are more heavily annotated with summaries of legal cases and Attorney General's opinions than will be found in the *Code of Laws*, whether online or in print. These publications also include editorial material from the SCAC staff that attempts to explain difficult passages or place a provision in context.

Neither of these publications, however, is a complete source of the law. The SCAC makes no claim to cover the federal statutes or state law outside the immediate subject area addressed. It is also not feasible to address every local ordinance that may also have a bearing on these topics. For these reasons and more, it is always advisable to consult your county attorney for a specific question about the law as it applies to your county.

If you have not received a 2017 *Supplement to Revenue Resources for County Government* and the *Home Rule Handbook for County Government*, or you would like to receive a copy of the main document as well as the supplement, request both by e-mailing your request to scac@scac.sc or call 1-800-922-6081.



SCAC Releases Newly-Revised Guide to Land Use Planning

SCAC is excited to announce that it recently released a newly-revised *Guide to Land Use Planning for South Carolina*. This is an effort to provide land use planning officials with a basic guide to land use planning law and practice. It also serves as a first step when a jurisdiction without land use planning wants to consider providing this service in their jurisdiction.

One of the reasons for SCAC's excitement is the assistance the Association received from county officials who are the daily practitioners of land use planning. They provided practical insight on today's practice of land use planning, provided different perspectives on common concepts, and generously shared their rules of procedure, forms and other documents. It is SCAC's belief that these contributions have kept the focus of the publication more practical and user friendly.

Specifically, the SCAC is grateful for the assistance provided by: Penelope Karangounis, Planning Director, Lancaster County; Phil Lindler, Planning & Zoning Director, Greenwood County; Audra Miller, Director, York County Planning & Development; Stephen Strohming, Director, Aiken County Planning & Development; Janet Carter, Planning & Zoning Director, Horry County; Jeff Anderson, Lexington County Attorney; and Michael Kendree, York County Attorney.

Of course, the content of the *Guide to Land Use Planning for South Carolina* was updated to cover statutory amendments and legal concepts from more recent case law. However, the publication was also arranged in a different manner in an effort to make it easier to reference and use.

SCAC also made a specific effort to bring in more of the forms and documents from counties in an attempt to address

some of the frequent issues that arise in the daily practice of land use planning. It may be a profitable exercise to compare your county's forms and documents with the forms and model ordinances in the appendices in the publication. These form and model ordinances or rules are probably not the best for any specific jurisdiction. However, they provide an excellent checklist for features that might be useful in your county and they may contain a slightly different wording which alleviates an issue the land use planning staff or public is having on a frequent basis in your county.

The *Guide to Land Use Planning for South Carolina* was mailed to selected county officials recently. If you have questions about the publication or need additional copies, contact the SCAC at scac@scac.sc or call 1-800-922-6081. It is always important to consult your county attorney with any specific legal question, however, the SCAC staff is available to assist you in the initial phases of any research.



2017 S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute to be Held Dec. 8th, Register Now!

The 2017 S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute will be held Friday, December 8, at the Doubletree Hotel in Columbia. This is the largest continuing education seminar for public attorneys in South Carolina.

As always, the program includes two hours of legal ethics content. The S.C. State Ethics Commission Executive Director, Steve Hamm, will address recent changes to ethics statutes and the State Ethics Commission itself.

Jack Pringle will return to the faculty to speak on "Dealing With Stress in the Practice of Law." This segment will satisfy the substance abuse and mental health requirement each attorney



must fulfill every three years. U.S. District Court Judge Joe Anderson will bring his very popular trial advocacy tips presentation to the seminar. This presentation uses the movie, *My Cousin Vinny*, as a foil for an entertaining and serious examination of trial advocacy and professionalism.

A survey of recent federal case law will be the topic brought to the seminar by Amanda Kellar, Director of Legal Advocacy & Associate Counsel at the International Municipal Attorneys' Association (IMLA). Kellar is frequently the lead author of amicus briefs filed in federal and state courts on behalf of IMLA and is a wonderful speaker.

With recent statutory amendments and several significant court decisions, it was time to bring a seasoned group of public attorneys from various agencies to cover the South Carolina Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. This year's panelists include Ginny Dupont, Spartanburg County Attorney; Jeanne Lisowski,

Columbia City Attorney's Office; Adam Whitsett, SLED General Counsel; and Kent Lesesne, SCAC Senior Staff Attorney. The panel will field questions from the audience after addressing specific FOI Act issues.

No S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute is complete without nuts and bolts reviews of topics that present themselves to county and other public officials. Parliamentary procedure will be brought to the seminar by SCAC Senior Staff Attorney John DeLoache. SCAC Assistant General Counsel Josh Rhodes will present the South Carolina legislative and case law update.

Registration forms have been e-mailed, mailed by the U.S. Postal Service, and posted on SCAC's website at:

<http://sccounties.site-ym.com/event/AttorneysInstitute17>.

For more information, you may also call the SCAC Office at 1-800-922-6081.



Beverly Craven, Longtime Charleston County Clerk of Council, Retires

Beverly Craven, longtime Charleston County Clerk of Council, retired on August 22. She worked for more than 42 members of Charleston County Council during her long career, which spanned almost 30 years.

"I met Beverly Craven through her husband Judge James Craven, one of the first family court judges in Charleston County in front of whom I practiced. She has been, and still is, the graceful representative and face of Charleston County for many years," said Charleston County Council Chairman Vic Rawl. "Her retirement is a milestone for the County and the passing of an era."



Beverly Craven

In 2007, Council recognized Craven with a resolution after learning she had been named the 2007 Outstanding Older Worker of the Year from Experience Works, a national charitable organization that aims to improve the lives of older people through employment, community service and training.

In 2010, County Council dedicated Council Chambers to the longtime clerk by naming its official meeting place the Beverly T. Craven Council Chambers.

Most recently, in June, Craven was given the Lawrimore Craven award by the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau for her dedication to quality and growth in the hospitality industry. Last month, County Council named Deputy Clerk Kristen Salisbury as Clerk of Council. Salisbury has served as deputy clerk for the last 16 years.



Changes Coming for South Carolina's Driver's Licenses and I.D. Cards

You must soon change your South Carolina driver's license or identification card to a REAL ID license or ID in order to use it as your identification to pass airport security, enter secure federal buildings, and visit military installations nationwide.

If you do not change your S.C. driver's license or ID, you must have an alternate form of a federally-accepted identification (i.e. a valid U.S. Passport or a military ID) to do certain federal activities in the future.

The federal law that created REAL IDs follows the 9/11 Commission's recommendation to standardize how states issue licenses and identification cards. REAL IDs will be available during the first quarter of 2018, but you can now begin the process of changing your card.

There has been no change in the price of driver's licenses and identification cards. If you choose to change your current license to a REAL ID license, it will cost \$25. If you have an identification card and want to change to a REAL ID identification card, it is free if you are 17 or older.

You cannot have both a driver's license and an identification card. If you have a driver's license and switch to an ID, your driver's license will be revoked and becomes invalid.

For more information on REAL ID, visit: www.scdmvonline.com, or call (803) 896-5000. To ask specific questions, please e-mail REALID@scdmv.net.





Webcasts & Webinars for 2018



Planning and Zoning Continuing Education Webcast
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, May 17, 2018
S.C. Bar Conference Center

For more information, please contact Susan B. Turkopuls, SCAC, at (803) 252-7255 or sturkopuls@scac.sc. Or visit SCAC's website at: <http://www.sccounties.org/education-training>

S.C. RIA Announces Grant Funding Deadline of March 12

The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority's (RIA) Board of Directors awarded nearly \$24 million in grant funds for water, sewer and drainage projects last fiscal year.

Such projects impacted more than 50,000 residential customers and 6,000 businesses by ensuring safe drinking water for residents, providing reliability for area businesses and boosting economic opportunities.

"Funding these infrastructure projects provides a path to stronger communities, helping set the table for economic development," said S.C. Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, who also serves as board chairman. "Such investments in infrastructure support homes, schools and businesses across South Carolina and improve the quality of life for all who live, work and play in our state."

RIA, now in its fifth year of funding, supports such efforts through its state-wide financing programs. The next round of applications are due March 12, 2018, and grants are awarded through a competitive process.

There are two program categories.

Utilities may apply for Basic Infrastructure Grants to solve public health or environmental quality problems with the highest priority given to projects that will bring systems into regulatory compliance.

The second program of assistance is Economic Infrastructure Grants that help build capacity to support economic growth and employment opportunities with the greatest priority given to projects that create jobs and capital investment.

Applications available at:

www.ria.sc.gov



SCAC's 2017-18 Conference Calendar

Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Legislative Conference <i>Renaissance Charleston, Charleston</i>
Dec. 8	S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute <i>DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia</i>
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2018	
Jan. 24-25	S.C. Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting <i>Myrtle Beach Marriott, Myrtle Beach</i>
Feb. 21 Feb. 22	Mid-Year Conference Institute of Government <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i>
Aug. 4-5 Aug. 5-8	Institute of Government Annual Conference <i>Hilton Head Marriott</i>
TBD	Setoff Debt/GEAR <i>TBD</i>

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



NACo's 2018 Conference Calendar

March 3-7	Legislative Conference <i>Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.</i>
July 13-16	Annual Conference and Exposition <i>Nashville, Tenn.</i>