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Vol. 30, No. 3

Newsletter of the South Carolina Association of Counties

May 2018

SCAC to Host 51st Annual Conference Aug. 5 – 8

SCAC will host its **51st Annual Conference** from August 5 to 8 in Hilton Head.

Designed to help county leaders lead and serve more effectively, the conference will offer training sessions, workshops and other opportunities for county leaders to network and discuss challenges they face. The conference will also permit county leaders to meet with SCAC's corporate supporters, the conference's exhibitors and others.

New SCAC officers and board members will be elected. Top county programs and projects will be presented and recognized. Awards will also be presented. (See **Program at a Glance**, P. 2)

General Session

Conference Speakers

NACo First Vice President Greg Cox (San Diego County, Calif., Supervisor) will speak at the general session on Tuesday, August 7.

Cox has been active in NACo since 2002, serving on the association's board of directors as well as on the Large Urban County Caucus, and task forces on health care and immigration reform. He oversees a regional government with a \$5.4 billion budget and 17,396 employees.

Since joining the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in 1995, Cox has worked to implement innovative, comprehensive ways to deliver valuable services to the more than three million people living in the region. He began his public service career as a high school teacher.

Cox was elected to the Chula Vista City Council and later served two terms as mayor of Chula Vista. He is the only elected official in California

Speaker for General Session



Greg Cox
NACo
First Vice President

Keynote Speaker for General Session



Ted Abernathy
Managing Partner
Economic Leadership LLC

Speaker for Betty T. Roper Luncheon



Dr. Mary Thornley
President
Trident Community College

to have been elected by his peers to serve as both president of the California State Association of Counties and president of the League of California Cities.

He has been acknowledged as Legislator of the Year by numerous state and local organizations throughout his career. As San Diego County Supervisor, Cox serves on the Board of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. He was appointed by the California Assembly Speaker to the California Coastal Commission.

His leadership is also recognized on the federal level. The White House appointed him to the National Ocean Council's Governance Coordinating Committee, a group that advises the president on ocean policy issues.

Ted Abernathy, an economic and workforce development leader for 35 years, is the Managing Partner of Economic Leadership LLC—an economic and workforce strategy consulting firm. Working with more than a dozen states and regions across the country, he is currently designing an economic

development and innovation ecosystem for a new city in Kenya. His work also includes evaluating cluster opportunities ranging from value-added agriculture to advanced technologies.

Abernathy has served as executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Research Triangle Regional Partnership and as economic development policy advisor to the Southern Governors' Association. He has also developed manufacturing and innovation best practices for the U.S. Economic Development Administration, as well as assisted the Organization for International Investment in creating a coalition to better attract foreign investment.

(Continued on next page)



Abernathy has also served as executive director of the Southern Growth Policies Board—a public policy think tank that provides economic development research, strategy and marketing advice to states and communities across the South. In this role, he worked with the Delta Regional Authority to publish an in-depth analysis on the state of the workforce and the changing dynamics of workforce training in the American South.

Born in Dallas, N.C., Abernathy received his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. He is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute and is an Eisenhower Fellow for global economics.

Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon

Dr. Mary Thornley will speak at the Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, August 6. Thornley has been president of Trident Technical College since 1991. She believes in the transformational power of education and the community college's role in making our communities stronger and more adaptable.

Thornley holds a doctorate from the University of South Carolina, a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a bachelor's degree from Mars Hill College in North Carolina. She has received numerous awards, including the Joseph P. Riley Leadership Award, the Southeast Region Chief Executive Officer Award, Trident United Way Women's Leadership Award, the ThinkTEC Outstanding Leadership in Advancing the Knowledge Based Industry in the Region Award, the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Vision Award, and the Equity Award from the Association of Community College Trustees.

Other Conference Highlights

(See *Program at a Glance* at left for details)

J. Mitchell Graham and Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

The 2017 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition will begin at 1 p.m. on Sun-

Program at a Glance for SCAC's 51st Annual Conference

Hilton Marriott Hotel, Hilton Head Island

NOTE: Meeting room locations will be announced once confirmed.

August 5 – 8, 2018

Sunday, August 5, 2018

Worship Service	8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Registration	10:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Exhibit Area Open	10:30 – 5:00 p.m.
J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition	1:00 p.m.
Clerks to Council	2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Nominating Committee	3:00 p.m.
Constitution, Resolutions and Bylaws Committee	3:30 p.m.
Exhibitors' Reception	6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 6, 2018

Exhibit Area Open	8:30 a.m. – 12 noon
Registration	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
County Council Coalition	9:00 a.m. – 12 noon
County Managers, Administrators & Supervisors Meeting	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon (Ticket Required)	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
WORKSHOPS	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

- Preventing and Mitigating Cyberattacks
- The Role of HR During Emergency Planning and Response
- Designing Safer Communities
- Opioid Epidemic Roundtable
- 2018 Legislative Update

President's Reception	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
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Tuesday, August 7, 2018

Registration	8:30 – 12:00 noon
General Session	9:30 – 12:00 noon
Annual Conference Banquet (Ticket Required)	6:45 – 9:00 p.m.
Dance	9:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. midnight



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SCAC PRESIDENT
Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County Council Chairman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Michael B. Cone

EDITOR & PHOTOGRAPHER
W. Stuart Morgan III



day, August 5.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, established in memory of past SCAC President and Charleston County Council Chairman J. Mitchell Graham, recognizes excellence in governmental performance.

The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award, established in memory of past SCAC President Barrett S. Lawrimore, recognizes the most outstanding regional cooperative effort of two or more political subdivisions.

County Council Coalition Meeting

The County Council Coalition Meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, August 6. During the meeting, the S.C. Commission of Disabilities and Special Needs will present the annual Golden Palmetto Award.

Association Group Meetings and Workshops

Several county official groups will hold meetings on Sunday and Monday.

The following five workshops, focusing on issues facing county government, will be offered from 2 to 4 p.m. on Monday:

- Preventing and Mitigating Cyberattacks
- The Role of HR During Emergency Planning and Response
- Designing Safer Communities
- Opioid Epidemic Roundtable
- 2018 Legislative Update

Institute of Government for County Officials

The Institute of Government for County Officials will be held on Saturday, August 4, and Sunday, August 5 preceding the annual conference.

The Institute will offer the following courses:

Saturday, August 4

- Public Budgeting
- Developing Good Leadership Skills
- Orientation
- Employment Law: What Counties Need to Know
- Measuring and Reporting County Performance
- Going from Good to Great: The Journey for Communities

Sunday, August 5

- Planning and Land Use
- Current Issues Facing County Government: Building Resilient Communities.



SCAC President Meets U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley



SCAC President Henry H. Livingston III (Newberry County Council Chairman) and his wife, Rhonda (left), met U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, former South Carolina governor, at NACO's 2018 Legislative Conference in March. (Photo by Bob Lyon, SCAC)

SCAC's 51st Annual Conference

Aug. 5 – 8, 2018

Institute of Government

Aug. 4 & 5, 2018

Hilton Head Marriott

Additional information on SCAC's 51st Annual Conference—including hotel accommodations and registration fees—can be found on the Association's website at SCCounties.org.

Register and pay online!



S.C. Supreme Court's Ruling in *Florence County v. West Florence* Gives County Home Rule a Boost

By John K. DeLoache, SCAC Senior Staff Attorney

On March 7 of this year, the South Carolina Supreme Court gave county home rule a boost by further limiting the General Assembly's power to create county specific "special legislation." The ruling came in the case *Florence County v. West Florence Fire District*.

In early 2014, Florence County Council consolidated the county's numerous fire districts into a single countywide fire service to provide taxpayers with a more equitable millage rate scheme and to provide adequate funding for fire protection. However, after the county's consolidation effort was completed, the General Assembly passed Act 183 of 2014.

The Act created a new special purpose district (SPD) called the West Florence Fire District. The district was to provide the same type of fire service that the county was then providing countywide. The district encompassed primarily the western part of Florence County, but also included a small number of parcels in Darlington County. Florence County brought suit challenging the legislature's creation of the district on the grounds that it violated the state constitution's prohibition on legislation affecting a single county.

With the enactment of "home rule" in the 1970s, Article VIII of the state constitution was amended to prohibit the General Assembly from enacting legislation, "relating to a specific county which relates to those powers, duties, functions and responsibilities, which under the mandated systems of government, are set aside for counties." Since the creation of home rule, the courts have consistently held that SPDs limited to a single county are unconstitutional.

Until now, however, the question of whether the constitution prohibited multicounty SPDs was left unresolved. Prior to this case, the closest the courts had come to answering that question involved a property tax levied by the General Assembly to fund the Richland-Lexington Airport District, which encompassed all of Richland and Lexington counties. In upholding the tax, and the constitutionality of the district, the court held that both a SPD's physical boundaries and the nature of its governmental functions must be taken into account when determining constitutional questions. The court held that the airport district was created to serve the two counties as a region and neither county could regulate the airport operation on their own. Second, the court pointed to the fact that the district's function of providing regional air service triggered a statewide interest rather than one that had been specifically granted to counties.

The court recognized that the fire district in this case was significantly different from the earlier case. They found that the district was primarily created to serve a portion of Florence County, and that the district's area located within Darlington County (one-tenth of a square mile) represented less than one-percent of the district.

The court concluded that the district was not created to serve a multicounty area. The court then held that fire protection service was one of the enumerated powers reserved to the counties under S.C. Code section 4-9-30(5). Accordingly, the court held the General Assembly had acted to curtail the county's home rule authority, and therefore Act 183 was unconstitutional under Article VIII, Section 7.

The court's ruling in this case should be viewed as a win for home rule. It will limit the General Assembly's future ability to create new SPDs unless there is evidence that the SPD is both truly multicounty and has as its function something that is not reserved to county government.



Southland Log Homes Holds "Log-Cutting" Ceremony to Open New Mill in Saluda

Southland Log Homes, America's largest designer and manufacturer of log homes, held a unique grand opening ceremony on April 30 for its new manufacturing facility (mill) in Saluda.

U.S. Congressman Jeff Duncan (R-S.C., 3rd District) joined Saluda County officials and other government officials at a "log-cutting" ceremony, held by Southland's executive team to symbolically and officially open the new mill.

Southern Log Homes recently ramped up production in the 160,000-square-foot facility, acquired in 2017 but previously used as a textile warehouse.

"Southland's new facility will further support the company's leadership of the U.S. log home industry," said Ken Sekley,



Grand opening ceremony for new Southland Log Homes facility, April 30, Saluda (Photo by Rob Lyon, SCAC)



Shown with U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan (center) are: (left to right) Saluda County Council Vice Chairman Gwendolyn C. Shealy; Council Chairman Derrick Jones; and Council Members Jones P. Butler and James Frank Daniel Sr. (Photos by Rob Lyon, SCAC)



With guidance from Saluda County Council Chairman Derrick Jones, U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan pushes a button on a log-cutting machine to cut a log and symbolically and officially open the new Southern Log Homes facility (mill) at the grand opening ceremony in Saluda.

Southland's President and CEO. "We are proud that the nation's largest log home company makes its home and does all of its manufacturing of log cabin kits right here in South Carolina."

Southland Log Homes provides its customers with personalized designs and high quality log home plans, as well as support in working with quality log home builders, understanding financing options, and identifying available land anywhere in the

U.S. Southland's log homes range from beautifully rustic traditional designs to the latest in modern design trends and sustainability.



Lexington County Receives International CALEA Accreditation

Lexington County 911 Communications and Dispatch Center recently received its fourth consecutive international Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accreditation.

However, this accomplishment is unlike others that have been awarded to the county's 911 Center in the past. This is the first accreditation that comes with zero file maintenance and

non-compliant findings.

"The accomplishment of this accreditation is a result of the commitment to excellence by county council, administration and staff," said Council Chairman Debbie Summers. "The 911 team puts an emphasis on providing the highest-quality of ser-

(Continued on next page)



Lexington County Council stands in the background for a group photo shortly after recognizing members of the Lexington County 911 Communications and Dispatch Team at a council meeting on Apr. 10 during National Telecommunicators Week (Apr. 8 – 14). The county's 911 Communications and Dispatch team recently received its fourth consecutive international accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Holding the framed CALEA accreditation are: (left to right) Lt. Melissa Patrick, Communications Chief Nikki Rodgers and Accreditation Manager Vicki Spires. (Photo by Harrison Cahill, Lexington County PIO)



vice to their community through constant process improvement and teamwork.”

The CALEA Board of Commissioners voted to award the accreditation to representatives of the Lexington County’s 911 and Public Safety team in Frisco, Tex., on March 24. The coun-

ty’s dispatch and call center is one of five CALEA accredited 911 centers in the state of South Carolina.



Florence County Opens New Judicial Center

Florence County held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 23 to officially open a new \$32 million judicial center that includes technology and safety features designed to make the building safer and more secure.

The 120,000-square-foot complex, which opened in stages between March and April, is located on North Irby Street directly across the street from the county’s administration building.

The three-story facility houses: a jury assembly room; clerk of court and probate courts; Sheriff’s Office Civil Division offices with high-security cells capable of holding 84 inmates; a family court system and seven courts, including family court, probate court, circuit court and space to add a fourth; solicitor’s office; and much more.

The judicial center was designed by Stevens and Wilkinson of Columbia.

Florence County’s new judicial center will be the cover story for the upcoming spring issue of *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 29, No. 1).



Florence County Judicial Center, 181 N. Irby St., Florence

South Carolina’s 2018 Directory of County Officials

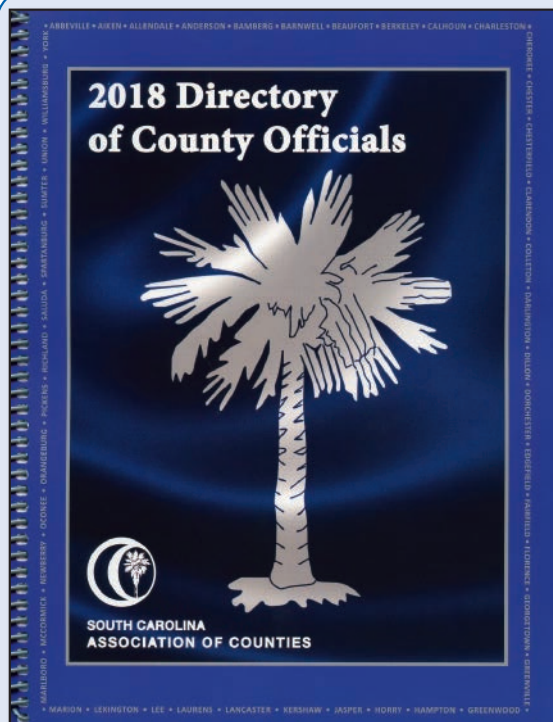
South Carolina’s 2018 *Directory of County Officials* was published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know “Who’s Who” in South Carolina county government.

The directory identifies all elected and appointed county officials in the state. This popular, award-winning publication also identifies SCAC’s officers, board of directors and corporate supporters; regional councils of government; federal and state officials; and state senators and representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling).

● To order your copy of the 2018 *Directory of County Officials*, please contact:

Public Information Director
South Carolina
Association of Counties
P.O. Box 8207
Columbia, S.C. 29202-8207
(803) 252-7255
E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc





Pickens County Conducts First Countywide Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz, Kicking Off County's TeamUpAndCleanUp Campaign

More than 300 Pickens County employees, and hundreds of business and resident volunteers conducted the county's first countywide Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz on March 23, officially kicking off the county's TeamUpAndCleanUp Campaign and the county's year-long 150th anniversary celebration.

Volunteers picked up 17.3 tons of trash in the county's first Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz, designed to encourage citizens to pick up five pieces of trash on day five, Friday, of each week. It was probably the first such countywide effort ever conducted in South Carolina, according to Sarah Lyles, executive director of PalmettoPride, the state's legislative anti-litter initiative. Lyles spoke at a pep rally, held at the Pickens County Performance Arts Center in Liberty immediately before Pickens County's recent anti-litter blitz. PalmettoPride provided safety vests, gloves and supplies.

"It was a full day cleaning and my deputies and we were committed to cleaning up one of the county's busiest roadways, Highway 123," Pickens County Sheriff Rick Clark said. "We could see the difference immediately and so could everyone else. We got several calls and messages from residents thanking us for what we did out there and what we do every day."

Pickens County Council Chairman Roy Costner said he is proud of the county's employees, resident volunteers, and business sponsors, Chick-Fil-A of Easley and Powdersville, South State Bank and Pet Dairy.

"We love the beauty of Pickens County, and we want to highlight everything it has to offer," Costner added. "But before we open our doors and invite people in to help us celebrate our sesquicentennial anniversary, we wanted to dedicate a full day to clean up our county and introduce a weekly initiative to keep



Members of Pickens County's legislative delegation participated in the county's first countywide Five on Five Anti-Litter Blitz on March 23. Shown left to right are: Pickens County Council Chairman Roy Costner; Council Member Chris Bowers; Rep. Gary Clary (District 3); Pickens County Council member Ensley Feemster; Rep. Neal Collins (District 5); and Rep. David Hiott (District 4).

it clean."

An in-depth article on Pickens County's First Annual TeamUpAndCleanUp Campaign will be published in the upcoming spring issue of *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 29, No. 1).



SCAC's 50th Anniversary Celebration Effort Wins NACo Achievement Award!

SCAC's "Celebrating the History of Government & the South Carolina Association of Counties 50th Anniversary"



has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized SCAC's 50th Anni-

versary Program in the category of Civic Education and Public Information. Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

NACo will recognize award-winning counties and associations representing counties, boroughs and parishes nationwide

(Continued on next page)



Webcasts & Webinars for 2018

Webcasts and webinars will be published on this calendar when scheduled. So, please check this calendar often.

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

SCAC's 2018 Conference Calendar

Aug. 4-5
Aug. 5-8

Institute of Government
Annual Conference
Hilton Head Marriott

Aug. 16

Setoff Debt/GEAR
Embassy Suites Hotel, Columbia

TBD

Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers, Etc.

Oct. 24
Oct. 25

Institute of Government
County Council Coalition
Embassy Suites Hotel, Columbia

Nov. 16

S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute
DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia

Nov. 29-Dec. 1

Legislative Conference
Renaissance, Charleston

Dec. 11

Newly-Elected Council Member Orientation
Embassy Suites Hotel, Columbia

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



NACo's 2018 Conference Calendar

July 13-16

Annual Conference and Exposition
Nashville, Tenn.

at its 2018 Annual Conference and Exposition, to be held July 13-16 in Nashville (Davidson County), Tenn.

NACo's annual Achievement Awards program was started in 1970.



Lexington County Celebrates the Completion of Two Renovation Projects

Lexington County celebrated the completion of two renovation projects in March aimed at delivering more efficient service to the public and enhancing employee workspace.

On March 16, Lexington County officials, joined by the Lexington County's legislative delegation, cut the ribbon to celebrate the renovation of the county's Auxiliary Administration Building. The building houses the County's Elections Commission and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The three-year project makes it easier to distinguish the two departments providing each department its own entry ways and exit ways, and improves work and meeting space for future utilization.

On March 26, Lexington County officials, joined by members of the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, cut the ribbon to celebrate the completion of the runway widening project at the Lexington County Airport. The widening of the runway is critical to the airport's future because it allows larger aircraft to land, the first step needed before the runway can be lengthened to accommodate jet aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration provided \$3.6 million in funding for the project. Lexington County provided approximately \$200,000, which was matched by the S.C. Aeronautics Commission.

