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Newsletter of the South Carolina Association of Counties

January 2019

SCAC Policy Positions Adopted, Other Subjects Discussed at Association's 2018 Legislative Conference

SCAC Steering Committees adopted policy positions for the 2019 Session of the S.C. General Assembly on Friday, November 30 at the Association's 2018 Legislative Conference in Charleston (Nov. 29 – 30) after reviewing recommendations from its four steering committees.

SCAC President Charles T. Jennings (McCormick County Council Chairman) presided over the two-day conference, which included presentations on disaster preparedness and recovery and the state's political landscape, as well as a legislative panel discussion.

On Thursday, November 30, SCAC Legislative Committee Chairman Dwight L. Stewart Jr. (Clarendon County Council Chairman) presided as SCAC Policy Steering Committee chairmen presented their committee reports as follows:

● **County Government and Intergovernmental Relations**—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;

● **Revenue, Finance and Economic Development**—Chaired by Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County.



Disaster Preparedness and Recovery: Lessons Learned

On Thursday, November 30, representatives of the S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and S.C. Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) delivered a presentation on Disaster Preparedness and Recovery: Lessons Learned.

Leland Colvin, Deputy Secretary for Engineering
(Continued on next page)

SCAC President Charles T. Jennings



SCAC's 2018 Legislative Conference, Renaissance Charleston, Nov. 29



neering, SCDOT, using Hurricane Florence (2018) as an example, said the department prepares for all phases of a disaster by planning ahead and establishing emergency procurement procedures; advancing procurement of emergency contracts for debris removal and monitoring, and local responsibility MOUs; creating a debris management plan; prioritizing routes for protection and recovery; and ordering materials and equipment before a disaster strikes.

Colvin also said SCDOT works with law enforcement to prepare for disasters every summer by practicing the counter flow of hurricane evacuation routes, and reviewing and adjusting established routes. Because safety is SCDOT's top priority, the department checks to ensure resources are available—including radios, satellite phones, fuel and back-up generators. Among other things, the department prepares for disasters by making sure assets are positioned prior to a disaster.

Colvin then explained how SCDOT helps in recovery and restoration efforts.



SCAC's 2018 Legislative Conference, Renaissance Charleston, Nov. 30



Leland Colvin
*Deputy Secretary for Engineering
S.C. Department of Transportation*



Kim Stenson
*Director
S.C. Emergency Management Division*

Kim Stenson, Director, SCEMD, discussed some of the key lessons learned following Hurricane Florence, and explained the important roles of organizations such as The National Oceanic, and National Weather Service. He also provided a storm summary for Hurricane Florence, comparing Hurricane Matthew (2016) to Hurricane Florence (2018), and discussed federal assistance that was provided.

Noting that the after-action report was still under development following Hurricane Florence, he discussed some of the lessons learned and factors contributing to the success of the state's response when Hurricane Florence struck South Carolina.

Among the many factors that contributed were: early decision making at all levels, pre-staging of emergency assets, forward deployment of SCEMD and National Guard liaisons, mutual aid provided by counties to other counties (the Emer-



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SCAC PRESIDENT
Charles T. Jennings
McCormick County Council Chairman

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gency Management Compact); and mature, experienced members of the emergency management profession in South Carolina.

South Carolina's Political Landscape: Post Election

On Friday, November 31, Gibbs Knotts, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, College of Charleston, delivered a presentation on South Carolina's Political Landscape: Post Election.

He explained in-depth what has happened politically at the national level in South Carolina since the Presidential Election of 2016 and mid-term elections



Gibbs Knotts, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair,
Department of Political Science
College of Charleston

of 2018. He then discussed some trends in voting behavior since then among younger voters, suburban voters and college-educated women, and explained results of elections at the national and state level.

Knotts also talked about hot issues—including voter I.D., the right to bear arms, felon voting rights and legalization of marijuana, and explained what one could expect politically before opening the floor to questions.

Legislators Discuss Priorities for 2019 Legislative Session

Next, SCAC's Legislative Conference held a panel discussion that provided (See *Legislative Conference, P. 5*)

SCAC Recognizes Five Retiring Board Members

At SCAC's December Board Meeting, SCAC President Charles T. Jennings recognized five retiring board members for their dedicated service and contributions to SCAC's Board of Directors: Gonza Bryant (Greenwood County Council Member), Greg Pearce (Richland County Council Member), Bill Peagler (Berkeley County Supervisor/Chairman); Lois Roddey (Chester County Probate Judge) and W.B. Wilson (Williamsburg County Council Member). Shown clockwise are three of the retiring board members who were available for photographs: Gonza Bryant, W.B. Wilson and Greg Pearce.



South Carolina's 2019 Directory of County Officials

Order your copy of South Carolina's 2019 *Directory of County Officials* when it's published in February, and find out "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

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Participating in the legislative panel discussion on Friday, December 30 were: (left to right) Rep. Roger K. Kirby (District 6); SCAC President Charles T. Jennings Jr., who presided over the panel discussion; Sen. A. Shane Massey (District 25); and Sen. Floyd Nicholson (District 10).

County Officials Speak Up and Participate

During and after the legislative panel discussion on Dec. 30, many county officials spoke up and participated when given the opportunity to do so. Shown here are some county officials who did.

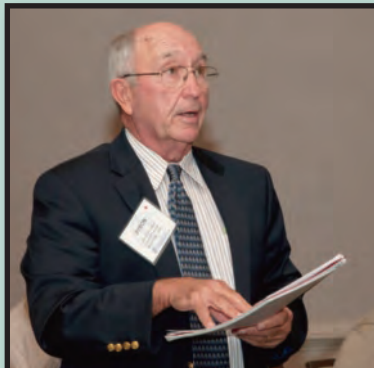


▲ Roy Costner III, Pickens County Council Chairman

► David Chinnis, Dorchester County Council Member



Debra B. Summers, Lexington County Council Chairman



Byron Thompson, McCormick County Council Member.



Barbara B. Clark, Jasper County Council Member



W.B. Wilson, Williamsburg County Council Member



Legislative Conference ...

(Continued from P. 3)

members of the S.C. General Assembly an opportunity to discuss what they believed would be the priorities during the 2019 Legislative Session. Participating in the panel discussion were: Sen. A. Shane Massey (District 25), Sen. Floyd Nicholson (District 10), and Rep. Roger K. Kirby (District 61).

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, 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 Orientation for Newly-Elected County Council Members

On December 11, 2018, SCAC welcomed newly-elected county council chairmen and council members from across the state to the Orientation for Newly-Elected Council Members—a program designed to help prepare the newly-elected officials for their new duties and responsibilities.

Among the topics discussed were: roles and responsibilities of county council; forms and powers of county government; rules of procedure; 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: Anna Berger, Director of Research and Training, SCAC; John DeLoache, Senior Staff Attorney, SCAC; John Henderson, ARM, ALCM, Director of Insurance Services, SCAC; Kent Lesesne, Senior Staff Attorney, SCAC; Josh Rhodes, Deputy General Counsel, SCAC; Meghan Walker, Executive Director, S.C. State Ethics Commission; and Kevin Yokim, CPA, CGFO, Finance Director, Florence County.

The SCAC hosts the Orientation for Newly-Elected Council Members every other year following a general election. By attending the daylong 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.



◀ Meghan Walker, Executive Director, S.C. State Ethics Commission

▲ Kevin Yokim, CPA, CGFO, Florence County Finance Director



Orientation for Newly-Elected County Council Members, Embassy Suites, Columbia, Dec. 11



Financial Resources Available for Infrastructure Improvements!

*By Liz Rosinski, Senior Program Manager, Marketing & Outreach
SC Rural Infrastructure Authority*

The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) offers two financing options for communities to improve water, sewer and storm drainage infrastructure.

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program—which offers below-market, long-term financing for infrastructure improvements—is currently calling for projects for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. The loan program is available to public water systems, public wastewater systems and municipalities for drinking water infrastructure and water quality improvement projects including surface water. It is jointly administered by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and RIA.

The low SRF interest rates—currently 2.6 percent—significantly reduce annual debt service costs, as well as the total amount paid over the life of the loan. Such savings directly benefit the rate-paying customers and the system. To be considered for SRF funding for a capital project in FY 2020, applicants must submit a project questionnaire no later than March 22. Project questionnaires that have been submitted within the past two years will also be considered for funding. Download a questionnaire at: www.scdhec.gov/srf.

To learn more about the SRF program and how to access these funds for water and sewer infrastructure improvements, a

SCAC Awards Program: What Sets Winners Apart Webinar to be Held March 25

Is your county interested in applying for SCAC's annual award programs? Would you like to know what the judges consider award-winning elements?

Please join us on Monday, March 25 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. for a webinar presented by Bill Tomes, Head Judge for SCAC's Awards Competition, and Anna Berger, SCAC Director of Research and Training. The webinar will help county leaders understand the qualifications of the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award and the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award and the rules and requirements of the competition. Topics will include an overview of the awards, common elements of winning entrants, online resources, and recommendations from award-winning counties.

To register for the webinar, please visit:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6972089389790784515>



half-day workshop has been scheduled for Feb. 20, 2019, at Midlands Technical College – Northeast campus. The workshop will begin at 9:30 a.m. To register, visit ria.sc.gov/about/news-and-events/ no later than February 13 if you would like to attend.

In addition to loan assistance, the RIA also offers grants for water, sewer and storm drainage projects. Applications for the grant programs are due March 11. More information will be shared in a one-hour grant webinar that has been scheduled for January 29, beginning at 10 a.m. The webinar is designed to assist potential applicants when applying for Basic and Economic Infrastructure grant program categories. To register for the webinar, contact Pam Gantt at (803) 737-0390 or pgantt@ria.sc.gov. Grant application forms are available at www.ria.sc.gov.



PalmettoPride Launches Litter Task Force Grant Program to Help Counties

PalmettoPride announced on January 16 that it has launched a pilot grant program to help counties with litter control enforcement.

The grant will provide a county or Sheriff's Department up to \$20,000 to pay for overtime hours for officers focusing solely on litter and illegal dumping cases. PalmettoPride will also fund the purchase of small cameras and help install the cameras, if necessary, to catch illegal dumpers.

"Enforcing state and local litter and illegal dumping laws is crucial to changing behavior," said Sarah Lyles, Executive Director of PalmettoPride. "We hope that by providing officer assistance funds to counties that do not have designated litter and code officers, we will be able to see significant change across the state."

Counties and Sheriff's Departments in counties that do not have a designated full-time code or litter control officer are eligible to apply for the grant. Grant funds will cover overtime pay only. Agencies will be responsible for all insurance and equipment needed by the officer.

For more information, contact: Sarah Lyles at slyles@palmettopride.org or (877) 725-7733. For more information about PalmettoPride's grant programs, visit www.PalmettoPride.org.





S.C. Local Government Attorneys Institute a Success!

More than 200 attorneys attended the 2018 Local Government Attorneys' Institute on November 16 at the DoubleTree in Columbia, making it very successful.

Carey Taylor Markel, Deputy Disciplinary Counsel, and William C. Campbell, Senior Assistant Disciplinary Counsel, of the S.C. Supreme Court provided very informative presentations on the legal ethics portions for the day.

William C. Dillard Jr., attorney with Belser & Belser, P.A., provided the group with an eminent domain, land use and zoning update for the second time in recent years.

Attendees were also given comprehensive updates on recent federal and state case law. Amanda Kellar, Director of Legal

Advocacy & Associate Counsel for the International Municipal Attorneys' Association (IMLA), spoke on the federal case law update. Kellar staffs IMLA's legal advocacy committee and authors some of the amicus briefs filed on behalf of local governments.

James Knox, SCAC Staff Attorney, covered the state case law update while Owen McBride, SCAC Staff Attorney, provided the state legislative update.

Perhaps the liveliest discussion was the Lessons Learned as a County Attorney portion given by Alexander "Sandy" Cruickshanks IV. Having served as the Laurens County Attorney since 1993, Cruickshanks certainly had a lot of lessons to share with the audience.

The success for the program was evident by comments made during the breaks and outstanding turnout. Now is the time to go ahead and save
(Continued on next page)



Carey Markel
S.C. Supreme Court



William C. Campbell
S.C. Supreme Court



Amanda Kellar
Associate Counsel
IMLA



William C. Dillard Jr.
Attorney
Belser & Belser, P.A.



James F. Knox
SCAC Staff Attorney



Owen A. McBride
SCAC Staff Attorney

2018 Local Government Attorneys' Institute, DoubleTree, Columbia, Nov. 16



Webinar or 2019



March 25
SCAC Awards Program: What Sets Winners Apart

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

the date for next year's S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute—November 22, 2019. As always, it will be held at the Columbia Doubletree Hotel.

Hope to see you there!



SCAC's 2019 Conference Calendar

Feb. 20 Feb. 21	Mid-Year Conference Institute of Government Embassy Suites, Columbia
Aug. 3 – 4 Aug. 4 – 7	Institute of Government Annual Conference Hilton Head Marriott
Aug. (Dates TBD)	SetOff Debt/GEAR TBD
Sept. (Dates TBD)	Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers, Etc. TBD
Oct. 23 Oct. 24	Institute of Government County Council Coalition Embassy Suites Hotel, Columbia
Nov. 22	S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia
Dec. 5 – 7	Legislative Conference Renaissance, Charleston

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



NACo's 2019 Conference Calendar

March 2 – 6	Legislative Conference Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.
July 11 – 15	Annual Conference Las Vegas, Nev.

South Carolina State Ethics Commission: Did You Know?



2019 Statement of Economic Interests

Did you know that your 2019 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) is almost due? Your SEI must be electronically filed by March 30, 2019, and failure to file by this date will result in a fine of at least \$100. Please note that you are not required to disclose income derived from retirement accounts, IRAs, disability or deferred compensation.

If you have any questions, please contact Lessie Cheeseboro, State Ethics Commission, at (803) 253-4192.