

# COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 28

Number 1



**Bamberg County's New Courthouse Annex**



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ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

**COVER PHOTOS:** Top Photo—Bamberg County's New Courthouse Annex (*Photo courtesy of Bamberg County, see story, P. 2*) Bottom Photo—Standing behind Bamberg County's seal, located on the floor immediately inside the county's new courthouse annex, are: (l to r) Bamberg County Administrator Joey R. Preston; Council Members Sharon Hammond, Kerry "Trent" Kinard, Larry Haynes and Isaiah Odom; Council Chairman Evert Comer, Jr.; Council Member Joe Guess, Jr.; Council Vice Chairman Clint Carter; and Clerk to Council Rose R. Shepherd. (*Photo by Stuart Morgan*)



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**W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor**

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# Bamberg County's New Courthouse Annex

By W. Stuart Morgan III

**Bamberg County** hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 18 for its new \$3.96 million courthouse annex, which streamlines county services and serves as a “one-stop shop.”

“I’m delighted with our new courthouse annex because it centralizes services for citizens and provides county

employees with a substantially updated and upgraded facility,” said Joey Preston, Bamberg County Administrator. “For the first time in our county’s history, the annex provides a council chambers—exclusive space for county council to hold public meetings. Council chambers also provides space for staff meetings, training sessions and even doubles as Magistrate Court.”

Bamberg County’s new courthouse annex, located at 1234 North St. behind the county’s historic courthouse in downtown Bamberg (county seat), is the county’s latest beautification and revitalization effort. The new facility is the centerpiece of the county’s courthouse complex, which includes the historic courthouse (c. 1897), main county library, Sheriff’s Department, Detention Center and Emergency Services.



Bamberg County hosted a ceremony on Nov. 18 at the performance pavillion for the county’s new Courthouse Annex, located directly across the street. (Photos by Stuart Morgan)



Immediately after the ceremony, everyone walked across the street to watch Bamberg County Council Members, county officials and guests hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new facility’s front entrance.



Bamberg County, like other communities in South Carolina, was established along a railroad line. The City of Bamberg was once the midway point of a line connecting Augusta, Ga., to Charleston.

So, the architectural style of the courthouse annex—including its large, open interior lobby—was designed to resemble a train depot and reflect this part of the county's history. Brick was chosen to match, and masonry accents were selected to compliment the courthouse.

The clock tower, located off the front corner of the annex's north side, was added to create a sense of township and to serve as a monument, symbolizing Bamberg County's progress. The clock tower includes a time capsule that local citizens will open 50 years from now in the year 2066.

### **The Courthouse Annex**

Bamberg County began planning for the courthouse annex project in May 2013 shortly after local voters approved the referendum in Nov. 2012, required to fund its construction. The project, which began in Dec. 2015, was completed in Oct. 2016.

County departments relocated from the historic courthouse to the new courthouse annex between August and September before the facility's completion to help avoid disrupting county services. Next, Bamberg County plans to expand judicial services within the historic courthouse.

The 12,800-square-foot, one-floor

courthouse annex has four main sections: 1) Administrator; 2) Summary Court; 3) Treasurer/Auditor/Delinquent Tax; and 4) Assessor/Building Permits/Fire Coordinator. (See illustration, P. 4)

These four sections include offices for:

- County Council/County Administrator
- Deputy County Administrator
- Clerk to Council
- Auditor
- Treasurer
- Controller
- Assessor
- Building, Planning and Zoning
- Code Enforcement
- Delinquent Tax
- Fire Coordinator
- Human Resources, and
- Voter Registration and Election Commission.

The north side of the courthouse annex features a

convenient drive-through window that allows citizens to pay property taxes at the window instead of having to park and leave their vehicles to conduct business inside. The drive through includes a night deposit box so customers can drop off payments after office hours.

A parking area was developed directly across the street from the courthouse annex. A performance pavillion, constructed in the center

(Continued on next page)

***“For the first time in our county’s history, the annex provides a council chambers—exclusive space for county council to hold public meetings. Council chambers also provides space for staff meetings, training sessions and even doubles as a Magistrate Court.”***

— Joey Preston

Bamberg County Administrator



**Bamberg County Courthouse Annex** (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

of the parking area, provides pedestrian friendly access to the courthouse annex. The pavillion is used for community gatherings like the Bamberg County's opening ceremony for the new annex on Nov. 18.

It's easy for anyone to find where they need to go when visiting the courthouse annex to conduct county business.

Upon entering through the facility's front or back entrance, visitors enter a large, open lobby. Signage clearly identifies each of the annex's four sections. Customer service windows are located in front of the offices providing services for the annex's four main sections. The windows provide privacy for customers as they conduct county business and protect county employees. Four televisions, positioned around the lobby, broadcast important county and community information.

The courthouse annex includes a state-of-the-art security system, which monitors the building's interior and exterior, and fire alarm/sprinkler system.

"We outgrew our historic courthouse," Preston said.

Bamberg County Council held meetings in the courtroom on the courthouse's third floor before the courthouse annex was constructed. Because Magistrate Court and other courts used the courtroom, this created significant scheduling issues.

Almost every office in the courthouse lacked sufficient space to accommodate the county's expansion of services. Some county departments were located in rooms designed originally to serve as offices. Other departments were combined.

Storage space was so inadequate that files were stored in boxes and stacked on office floors. Because county administration offices were scattered across downtown Bamberg, local citizens had to visit multiple buildings to obtain building permits, pay property taxes or conduct other county business.

Because the courthouse was constructed 120 years ago, it would have been cost prohibitive to wire the old structure for new technology.

Bamberg County's successful courthouse annex project solved all of

***"Forty county employees, who provide all essential county government services, are now centralized in our new courthouse annex."***

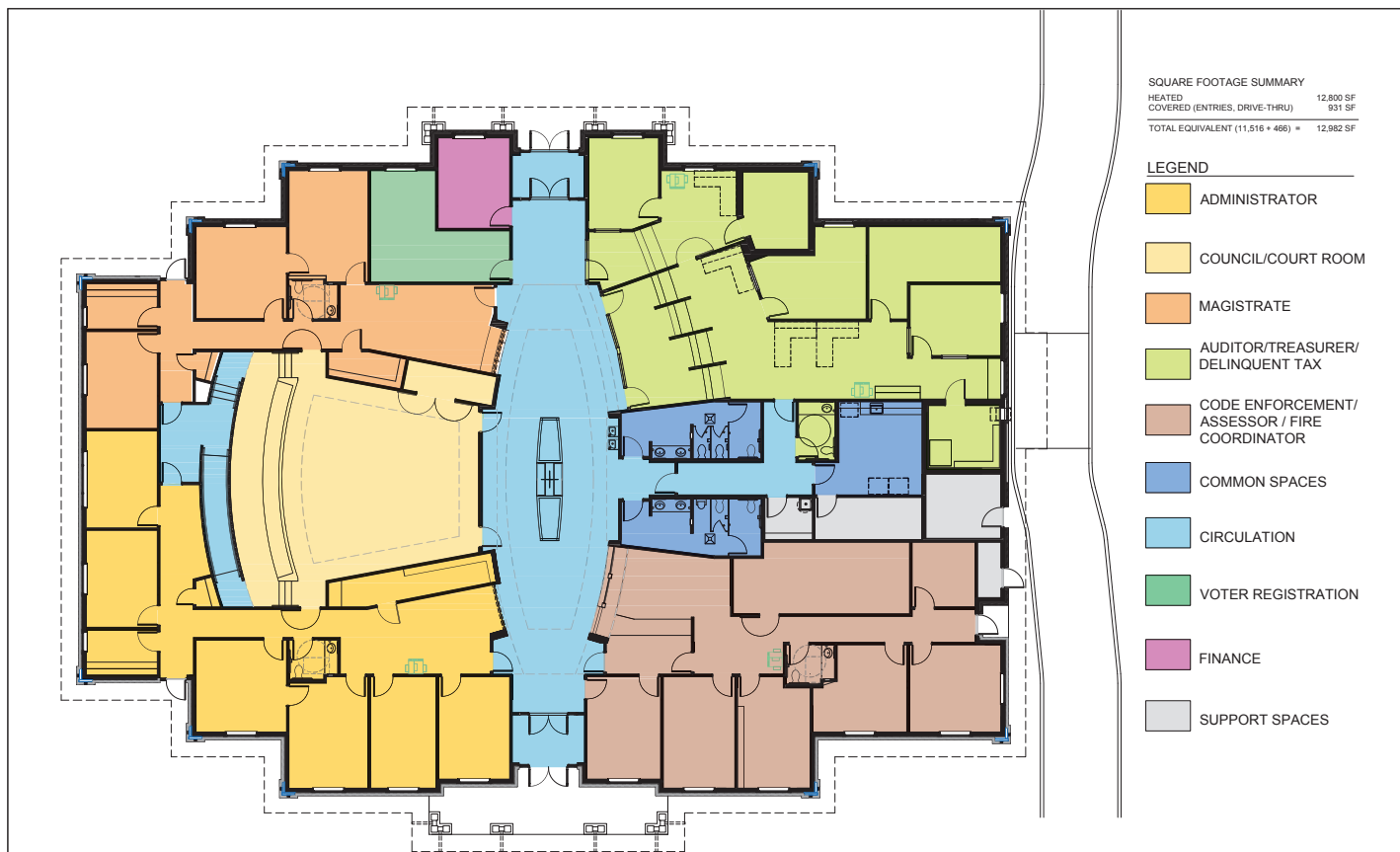
— Joey Preston  
Bamberg County Administrator

these problems.

"Forty county employees, who provide all essential county government services, are now centralized in our new courthouse annex," Preston said. "County departments and offices in the facility are designed to provide specific services, which facilitates faster and easier access to government offices.

"The courthouse annex also improves accommodations for the disabled with wider entries and doorways," he added.

(See **Courthouse Annex**, P. 7)



Bamberg County Courthouse Annex







## Bamberg County Courthouse Annex





▲Service windows are located in front of county offices. This service window provides a view of the county administration section, which includes the county administrator's office.

◀The lobby as viewed from a few feet within the facility's front entrance. To the left are: Bamberg County Council/County Administrator; Council Chambers/Courtroom; Magistrate's Office; Voter Registration; and Finance. To the right are: Code Enforcement/Assessor/Fire Coordinator; common spaces, including restrooms; support spaces; and Auditor/Treasurer/Delinquent Tax.



▲Signage, located above office service windows, makes it easy for citizens to find where they need to go to conduct county business. Some offices—like those of the Assessor, Treasurer and Delinquent Tax—have two service windows to provide services most often sought.



▲Offices are grouped to make it easier for citizens to receive county services without having to walk to multiple locations.



▲Benches, like these shown at the entrances to County Council Chambers/Summary Courtroom, are located in the lobby.



► The Council Chambers, in the courthouse annex, is Bamberg County's first. It features an arch-shaped raised platform (dais) for seating county council members. The platform includes recessed monitors that allow each council member to view presentations. Anyone who attends meetings can view the same presentations on two 60-inch monitors installed on the wall behind the platform seating council members.





▲ Offices for County Council/County Administrator are located on the left as you enter the annex's front entrance. Display cases exhibit county-related items. One of the four televisions, positioned around the lobby to broadcast important county and community information, is shown above the display case. The two wooden barrels flanking both sides of the service window add a little character to the lobby, and reflect the community's pride in one of the county's largest local manufacturers, Blackwater Barrels. The business manufactures and sells wooden barrels worldwide.



▲ The view from within the section housing work space for offices of the Assessor and Permit, looking toward the service windows and the lobby beyond.



▲ Forty Bamberg County employees, who provide all of the county's essential services, now work at one central location—the new courthouse annex. The facility includes offices for department heads, including the county assessor's office shown above. Plenty of office space is available in the new building, and gone are the days when county records and other items were stored in boxes and stacked in offices.

## Courthouse Annex ...

(Continued from P. 4)

"Because the annex only has one floor, visitors do not need to climb stairs or ride elevators. Instead, they can easily walk from office to office. This, in turn, frees up a lot of space in the historic courthouse and allows the Clerk of Court and Probate Judge's offices to expand and eliminated the need to find more space."

William "Bill" Johnson, Bamberg County Director of Operations, coordinated the design and construction of the county's courthouse annex by working closely with all county departments and the companies hired to design and construct the facility. Once Bamberg County signed the contract to build the new courthouse annex, Johnson was responsible for working with everyone to ensure the county designed and constructed the best possible facility to serve its citizens.

"Our objective," he explained, "was to design and construct a building to relieve the overcrowding issue in the historic courthouse, provide one-stop shopping and incorporate the

***"Our objective was to design and construct a building to relieve the overcrowding issue in the historic courthouse, provide one-stop shopping and incorporate the latest technology to serve our citizens for many years."***

— William "Bill" Johnson  
Bamberg County Director of Operations

latest technology to serve our citizens for many years."

According to Johnson, only two of the project's seven change orders cost the county additional money. The project was delayed shortly after grading of the site began and undesirable soil conditions were discovered. The project was delayed again when it was discovered that a tall Palmetto tree, located on the north side, needed to be relocated or removed.

Johnson said the bad soil was replaced with good soil, and the north side of the building was redesigned to accommodate the Palmetto tree. But he noted the project still came in under budget, thanks to the companies hired for the project.

Bamberg County voters approved a Capital Project Sales Tax in Nov. 2012 to raise money to provide \$4.4 million to construct the courthouse annex project and eight other projects, as follows:

- 1) \$14,604 for the Olar/Govan Water System
- 2) \$6,200 for the Olar Park Shed
- 3) \$37,000 for Olar Community Building renovations
- 4) \$589,000 for Bamberg City Civic Center renovations
- 5) \$60,000 for Denmark Dane Theatre renovations
- 6) \$60,000 for Ehrhardt downtown beautification and Town Hall restoration
- 7) \$15,000 for Govan Park Shed and Park improvements, and

(Continued on next page)



STANDING PROUDLY FOR A PHOTO IN BAMBERG COUNTY'S FIRST COUNCIL CHAMBERS—(L to r) Bamberg County Administrator Joey R. Preston; Council Members Sharon Hammond, Kerry "Trent" Kinard, Larry Haynes; Council Chairman Evert Comer, Jr.; Council Members Isaiah Odom, Joe Guess, Jr.; Council Vice Chairman Clint Carter; and Clerk to Council Rose R. Shepherd. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

8) \$82,500 to construct a Bamberg Veterans Memorial.

Since implementing the Capital Project Sales Tax (also called the Penny Sales Tax) in May 2013, all but two of the nine projects (7 and 8) have been completed.

"Voters understood that it was necessary to update certain county infrastructure, including our historic courthouse," said Evert Comer, Jr., Bamberg County Council Chairman. "Any citizen who visited the courthouse knew that it needed vast improvements. Some citizens often had difficulty finding where they needed to go because of the old building's layout and cramped department and office conditions."

Bamberg County council members recognized that they needed to think outside the box to find a funding mechanism due to the county's small population and limited resources. Ultimately, they determined that passing a Capital Project Sales Tax to raise money was the best and quickest way to make progress. The tax would permit the county to pursue nine infrastructure projects, including construction of the courthouse

annex.

Council members conducted educational campaigns to explain to local voters how other counties in the state had benefited from approving a Capital Sales Tax referendum and using money collected by the tax to successfully fund a wide range of infrastructure projects.

"We provided the facts, and let those facts speak for themselves," Comer said. "We explained that with this type of tax anyone visiting our county and making purchases here would help pay for projects specified in the referendum, and that this would help take some of the burden off our

citizens having to fund those projects."

"Without the passage of that referendum," he added, "Bamberg County and the municipalities within it would never have been able to fund the nine infrastructure improvement projects, including the courthouse annex project, within such a short period of time."

(See Courthouse Annex, P. 10)

***Bamberg County council members are happy with the new courthouse annex and consider the facility to be a landmark achievement, particularly after the county struggled to recover from the nation's economic downturn following the Great Recession in 2007.***

— Evert Comer, Jr.  
Bamberg County Council Chairman





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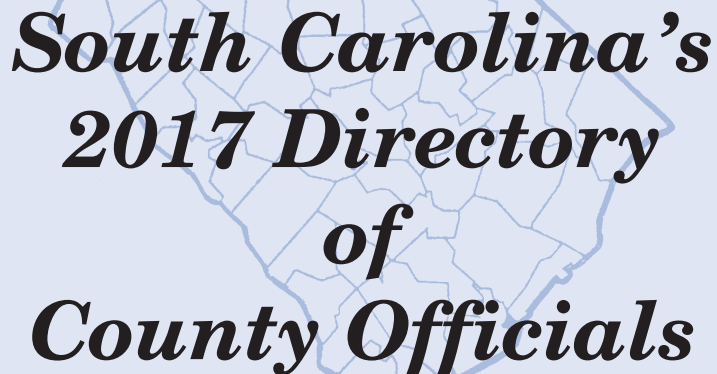
Bamberg County Courthouse

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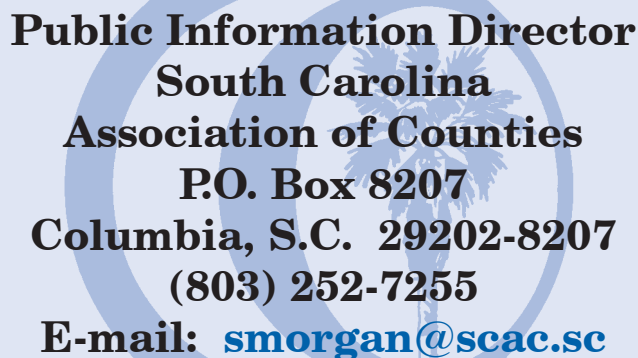
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## **Courthouse Annex ...**

*(Continued from P. 8)*

landmark achievement, particularly after the county struggled to recover from the nation's economic downturn following the Great Recession in 2007.

"With the Capital Project Sales Tax," he said, "we found a way to finance the courthouse annex and the eight other construction and renovation projects that eases the financial burden on our citizens. We want our county to be attractive and prepared to seize any opportunities for economic investment. We also believe it's important that a small county, like Bamberg, manages and maintains itself well.

"It's very difficult to attract new business when you have crumbling buildings and neglected infrastructure needs," he added, "and we *always* want our actions to serve the public, especially our citizens."



*Bamberg County hired the following companies for the courthouse annex project: Pike - McFarland - Hall Associates Inc., Alliance Consulting Engineers and Brunson Construction.*





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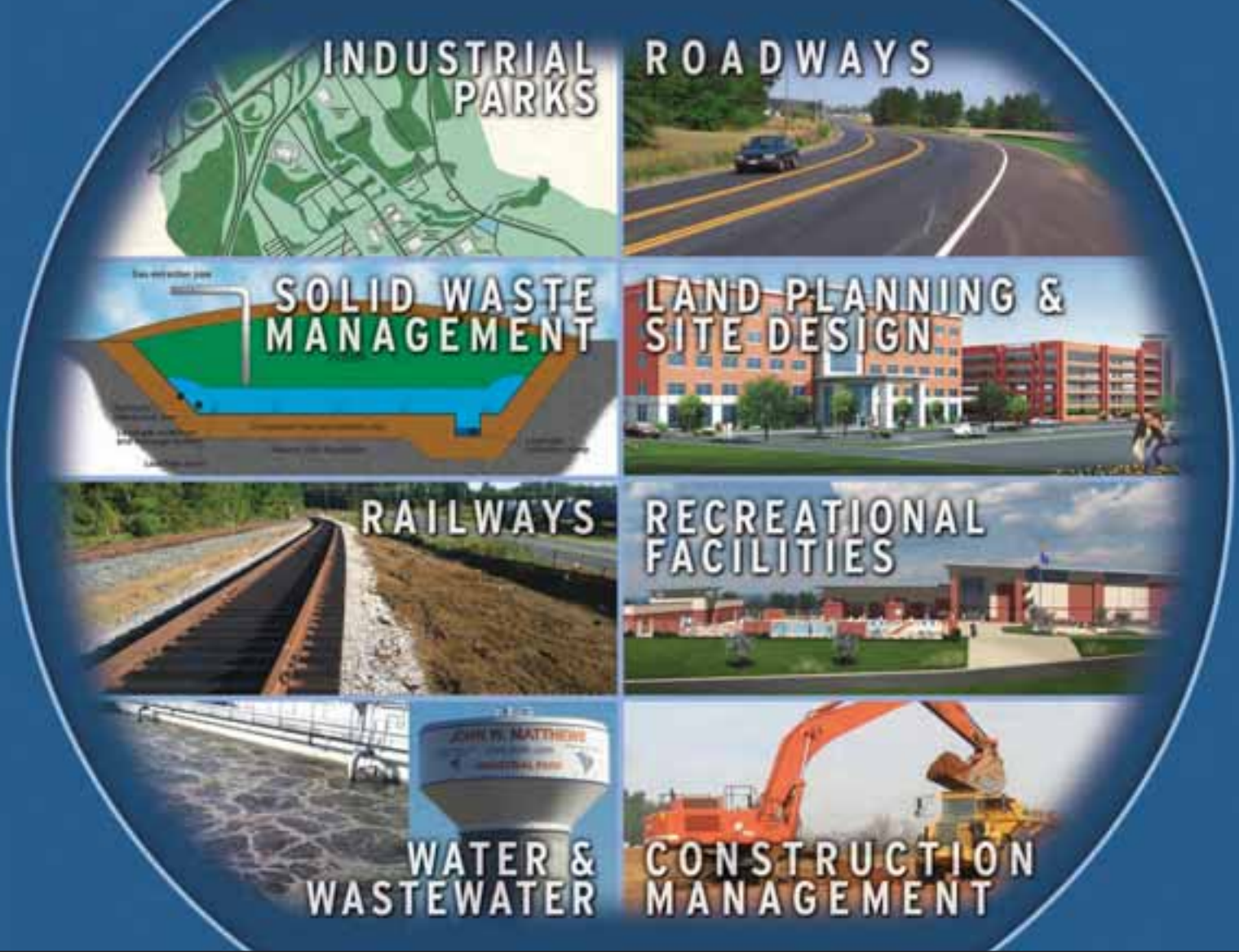
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## Purpose of the SCAC

- To promote more efficient county governments
- To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government
- To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials
- To promote and encourage education of county officials
- To collect, analyze and distribute information about county government
- To cooperate with other organizations
- To promote legislation which supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina

## Did We Publish Your Photo?

Please **e-mail** SCAC's Public Information Office at [smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc) if you want to receive a copy of any photo we publish of you in *County Focus Magazine* or *Carolina Counties Newsletter*.

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JPEGs are only available for photos taken since the SCAC switched to digital photography in 2009. Only photos selected for publication are processed, printed and archived.

✦ For more information about the SCAC, please contact:

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Association of Counties**  
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Columbia, SC 29202-8207  
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*Building Stronger Counties for Tomorrow*

### Need Information? Visit SCAC's Website at [www.sccounties.org](http://www.sccounties.org)

The South Carolina Association of Counties' website is the primary Internet resource for information about South Carolina's counties and issues affecting county government. The website is a dynamic tool that provides access to information about services such as education and training opportunities, research capabilities, and legal assistance.

Visitors to [sccounties.org](http://sccounties.org) will find conference schedules, legislative initiatives, and numerous Association publications. The website has information on key financial programs offered by SCAC, unique county-specific publications, legislative monitoring, and ad hoc surveys.

The site provides general information for all 46 counties—including contact information for county officials, links to county websites, and job postings. [Sccounties.org](http://sccounties.org) is also a conduit to a number of other resources such as the National Association of Counties, the S.C. General Assembly, U.S. Congress, federal agencies, as well as national and state associations.

The SCAC staff remains ready to receive and assist with any special requests. To facilitate this communication, please refer to the SCAC staff list on page 23 or SCAC's website to obtain respective email addresses.



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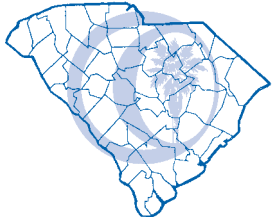
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# Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.



## WHAT IS THE SCAC?

**South Carolina Association of Counties, chartered on June 22, 1967, is the only organization dedicated to statewide representation of county government in South Carolina. A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with a full-time staff in Columbia, SCAC is governed by a 29-member Board of Directors selected by county officials at the Association's Annual Conference.**



**Counties have made tremendous progress since the enactment of the Home Rule Act in 1975. County government has also become more diverse in order to meet the increasing needs of its citizens. SCAC is dedicated to providing programs and services that equip county officials with the tools to govern effectively.**

## CONFERENCES

■ SCAC provides many opportunities for county officials to meet and learn, among them:

★ Mid-Year Conference — Held in late winter in Columbia, this conference enables all county officials to become better informed about the Association's legislative program. The Association also hosts a reception for all members of the legislature during this conference.

★ Annual Conference — Held in August, this conference is open to all elected and appointed officials. The conference includes a business session, general session, workshops, group meetings, and exhibits of county products and services.

★ Legislative Conference — Held in December, this conference allows members of the Legislative Committee to discuss and adopt a legislative program for the upcoming year. The committee is composed of each council chairman along with the Association's Board of Directors.

## EDUCATION

■ The Association, in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston and the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson University, conducts the Institute of Government for County Officials (Level I, Level II, and Advanced levels).

This certificate program helps county officials enhance their skills and abilities. Courses are offered at the Annual and Mid-Year Conferences and at the County Council Coalition Meeting in the fall.

SCAC also sponsors a number of continuing education webcasts for county officials and employees throughout the year at no charge to counties. Within a few weeks after the live broadcast, county officials and employees are able to access the session as a video on demand via <http://www.sccounties.org>.

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

■ SCAC offers a number of financial services to its member counties. The Association sponsors two self-funded insurance trusts to provide workers' compensation and property and liability coverage. The trusts are designed specifically to meet the unique needs of local governments.

SCAC also offers the following services through affiliate organizations: GovDeals internet auction of surplus assets; Tax Management Associates, Inc. property tax audit services; and competitive purchasing discounts through Forms and Supply, Inc. and the U.S. Communities purchasing cooperative.

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

■ SCAC provides legal assistance to county governments by rendering legal opinions, preparing *amicus* briefs, drafting ordinances, and consulting with other county officials.

The Association provides support to counties involved in litigation that might affect other counties. It also sponsors the Local Government Attorneys' Institute, which provides six hours of continuing legal education for local government attorneys.

## SETOFF DEBT PROGRAM

■ South Carolina counties are able to collect delinquent emergency medical services debts, magistrate and family court fines, hospital debts, as well as other fees owed to the counties through SCAC's Setoff Debt Collection Program.

Debts are submitted through the Association to the S.C. Department of Revenue to be matched with income tax refunds. The debt is deducted from a refund and returned through SCAC to the claimant.

## LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

■ The S.C. General Assembly convenes each January in Columbia and adjourns sine die in May. One in every four bills introduced affects county governments.

SCAC monitors each bill as it is introduced and keeps its members up-to-date on all legislative activity with a weekly *Friday Report*. The Association also dispatches Legislative Alerts and publishes *Acts That Affect Counties* each year.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

■ SCAC publishes an annual *Directory of County Officials* listing addresses and telephone numbers of county offices and their elected and appointed officials. The Association also publishes *Carolina Counties Newsletter* five times a year to keep the Association's membership informed about legislation and various county news. *County Focus Magazine* is published four times a year and features articles on county trends, innovation, and other subjects of interest to county officials—including a "County Update" section.

## RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

■ SCAC provides research and technical assistance in many areas to those counties that request it. The Association staff annually responds to hundreds of inquiries from county officials ranging from simple requests for a sample ordinance to more complex questions requiring considerable research. The Association also develops technical research bulletins and conducts surveys on a variety of subjects. Regular publications such as the *Wage and Salary Report*, *Home Rule Handbook*, *A Handbook for County Government*

*in South Carolina*, and *Case Law Affecting Local Government* are made available to county officials.

SCAC's website address is:

<http://www.sccounties.org>

The site provides county officials with the latest information on SCAC programs, services and meetings as well as legislative information, research and survey results, and links to other local government resources.

**Advocacy. Education. Collaboration.**



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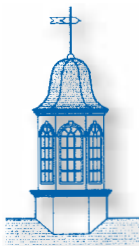
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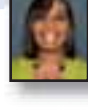
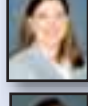
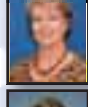
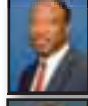
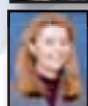
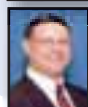
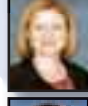
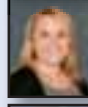
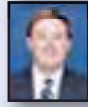
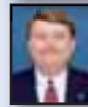
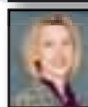
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# SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



## *History of the Trusts*

The S.C. Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) dates back to Nov. 1, 1984, when 11 counties began the fund with less than a half million dollars. More than 30 years later, the SCCWCT has grown to include 42 counties plus 47 additional agencies with ties to county government. The Property & Liability Trust (SCCP&LT) began on Aug. 1, 1995, with four members. The membership has grown to include 16 counties and 10 county-related agencies.

## *Boards of Trustees*

The Trusts were designed by and for county government with the goal of providing insurance to counties at the lowest rates possible, while providing services uniquely tailored to the needs of county governments. The Boards of Trustees are made up of county officials who are elected by the SCAC's Board of Directors. Although not a requirement, both boards currently share the same membership.

## *Risk Management*

Because member contributions (premiums) are based both on the accident histories of the individual counties (experience modifiers) and on the membership as a whole, both Trusts employ very aggressive risk management strategies. The philosophy adopted by the Trusts is that, if accidents are caused, they can be prevented. Risk Management services are provided by the SCAC staff. The payoff is lower premiums and a safer working environment.

## *Claims Administration and Management*

Ariel Third Party Administrators provides workers' compensation claims administration for the Workers' Compensation Trust. The SCAC staff provides claims administration for the Property & Liability Trust and provides the administration of both Trusts. ■

## **BOARDS OF TRUSTEES for South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and Property & Liability Trust**



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Florence County  
Council Member



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Greenwood County  
Council Member

# SCCWCT and SCCP&LT Hold 2017 Annual Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting

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

**T**he South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and the South Carolina Counties Property & Liability Trust held the annual Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting on January 25th & 26th in Myrtle Beach. The 147 county officials in attendance heard from several speakers on a variety of risk management topics. At the conclusion of the meeting risk management awards were presented to several counties.

Robert Collins, SCAC, began the meeting by introducing the Insurance Board of Trustee members in attendance. He emphatically stressed the rewards of a risk management program. County governments have long recognized that investment in risk management and safety programs is good stewardship of tax payer dollars. It also supports a healthy and safe workforce. He reminded the audience that preventing one vehicle accident may actually prevent three claims including a workers comp claim, an auto physical damage claim and an auto liability claim. He also pointed out that law enforcement personnel receive significantly more training on firearms, which are used only occasionally, as compared to driver training, which uses vehicles daily.

Next, Robert Benfield, provided an update on law enforcement liability, one of today's most popular topics. Not unexpectedly, he said that law enforcement has four times more liability claims as the runner up, emergency management services. He then displayed a chart that showed motor vehicle accidents account for seven times the amount of claims as compared to the next category which is law enforcement liability. Again, this is not surprising as law enforcement is on the road 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Moving on to detention centers, Benfield stressed that

corrections officers should never administer medications to inmates or make medical decisions. Detention centers should contract with a medical care provider to administer medications which reduces the liability faced by detention centers.

Next, Linda Edwards of Gignilliat Savitz & Bettis Law Firm next gave a legal update on employment law issues. In her opening comments, she said that lawsuits against elected officials are increasing. Edwards 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. She encouraged anyone in a hiring position to remember to check SLED's S.C. Sex Offender Registry on all job applicants.

A round table discussion was held regarding risk management best practices. Participants in this popular segment included Linda Edwards (Gignilliat, Savitz & Bettis, LLP), Linwood Vereen (Horry County Risk Manager), Angela Pinson (Director of Safety & Risk Management at Berkeley County), and Van Henson (SCLLR/OSHA). This segment opened the discussion to a wide range of topics of interest to risk managers, administrators and county council members.

On the second day of the meeting, Robert Benfield and John Henderson gave an update on areas of risk management on which members of the Trust should focus. All risk managers

*(Continued on next page)*



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Saluda County  
Council Chairman



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Orangeburg County  
Council Member



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Barnwell County  
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**Steve Willis**  
Lancaster County  
Administrator



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**Michael B. Cone**  
Executive Director, SCAC



were thanked for their continuing efforts to manage risk in their counties. The average experience modification factor for the South Carolina Counties Worker's Compensation Trust is the lowest it has been in several years. Henderson covered the Basic Risk Management Standards in depth. Henderson and Benfield reviewed the techniques which should be used to achieve effective accident investigations so that the potential for similar future accidents is reduced. The value of using transitional work for injured workers was stressed as an effective means to reduce costs

and recovery time.

Next Van Henson, SC OSHA, gave an update on recent OSHA developments.

The final segment of the meeting was devoted to the presentation of risk management awards for 2016. Many counties were recognized for their successful efforts to preserve county assets.

A complete listing of risk management awards follows below:

# **Risk Management Award Winners**

## **Best Experience Modifier**

**Chester County**

**1st Runner Up – Bamberg County & Marion County (tie)**

**2nd Runner Up – Oconee County**

## **Outstanding Safety Achievement Awards**

**Berkeley County**

**Florence County**

**Horry County**

**Kershaw County**

**Lancaster County**

**Richland County**

## **Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Awards**

**Horry County**

**Lancaster County**

**Spartanburg County**

## **Service Awards**

**Terry Booker – Spartanburg County**

**Barry Catoe – Kershaw County**

## **Most Improved County**

**Berkeley County**

## **Workers' Compensation Lag Time Awards for Counties**

**1st Place – Lancaster County**

**2nd Place – Marlboro County**

**3rd Place – Chesterfield County**

## **Non-County Entities – Workers Compensation Lag Time Awards**

**1st Place – Horry County Solid Waste Authority**

**2nd Place – Berkeley County Water & Sanitation**

**3rd Place – Old Fort Fire District**

## **Property and Liability Lag Time Awards**

**1st Place – Edgefield County**

**2nd Place – Lancaster County**

**3rd Place – Greenwood County**

# Photos of 2017 Annual Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting



Robert C. Collins, CPCU, CIC  
*Director of Insurance Services*



Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS  
*Risk Manager*

## SCAC's Insurance Staff Members Discuss Risk Management Issues



Photos by  
*Stuart Morgan*

▼ SCCWCT and SCCP&LT's 2017 Annual  
Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting,  
Jan. 25



John V. Jervy, AIC  
*SCCP&LT Claims Manager*



John D. Henderson, ARM, ALCM  
*Director of Risk Management Services*



Pam S. Collins, ARM  
*Program Coordinator*





## Speakers Provide Updates on Employment Issues and Recent OSHA Developments



Linda Edwards  
Attorney  
Gignilliat Savitz & Bettis Law Firm



Van Henson  
S.C. OSHA

## Panelists discuss Wide Range of Topics of Interest to County Risk Managers, Administrators and Council Members



**PANEL DISCUSSION**—Participating in a panel discussion on best practices in risk management on Jan. 25 are: (l to r) Linda Edwards, Attorney, Gignilliat Savitz & Bettis Law Firm; Linwood Vereen, Horry County Risk Manager; Van Henson, SCLLR/OSHA; and Angela Pinson, Director of Safety & Risk Management for Berkeley County.

## County Officials Participate in Question and Answer Sessions, Award-Winners Explain What Works in Their Counties



Tony Lewis  
Florence County Risk Coordinator



Holly Causey  
Georgetown County Risk Manager



Linwood Vereen  
Horry County Risk Manager



**Kevin Yokim**  
*Florence County Finance Director*



**Terry Booker**  
*Spartanburg County Risk Manager*



**Bidd Smith**  
*Berkeley County Safety Specialist*



## Receiving Risk Management Awards



Bamberg and Marion counties tied for this year's 1st Runner Up Best Experience Modifier Award. Shown at left accepting the award for Bamberg County are Doretta Elliott, Assessor/Risk Manager; and Evert Comer Jr., Council Chairman. Shown at right accepting the First Runner Up Best Experience Modifier Award for Marion County are Katherine Bell, Human Resources Director, and Tim Harper, County Administrator.



Accepting the Best Experience Modifier Award for Chester County is Robert Hall, Maintenance Director.



Accepting the 2nd Runner Up Best Experience Modifier Award for Oconee County is Debbie Smith, Risk Manager.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Horry County is Linwood Vereen, Risk Manager.



Bidd Smith, Berkeley County Safety Specialist, accepts an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Berkeley County.





Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Kershaw County are Barry Catoe, Risk Manager, and Victor J. Carpenter, County Administrator.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Florence County are Miranda Barber, Risk Management Technician, and Kevin V. Yokim, Florence County Finance Director.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Lancaster County is Ryan Whitaker, Risk Manager.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Richland County are Brittany Hoyle and Tamara Rodriguez.



Accepting a Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award for Spartanburg County is Terry Booker, Spartanburg County Risk Manager. Booker also received a Service Award.



Accepting a Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award for Horry County are: (l to r) Linwood Vereen, Risk Manager; Patrick Owens, Human Resources Director; and Rebecca Stanley.



► Barry Catoe, Kershaw County Risk Manager/Airport Liaison, receives a Service Award.





Accepting the Most Improved County Award for Berkeley County are: (1 to r) Bidd Smith, Berkeley County Safety Specialist; Angela Pinson, Director of Safety & Risk Management; Patricia Travis, Insurance Specialist; and William Peagler, Berkeley County Supervisor/Chairman.



Accepting the Second Place Lag Time Reporting Award for Berkeley County Water & Sanitation is Angela Pinson, Director of Safety & Risk Management.



Accepting a Sustained Excellence in Lag Time Reporting Award for Lancaster County are Ryan Whitaker, Risk Manager, and Steve Willis, County Administrator.



Accepting the First Place Lag Time Reporting Award for Horry County Solid Waste Authority is Nannette Powell, Human Resources Manager/Safety Coordinator.



Accepting the Third Place Lag Time Reporting Award for Chesterfield County are: (1 to r) Lisa Hancock, Emergency Preparedness Assistant; Harold Hainey, Emergency Preparedness/Risk Management Director; and Terrie Curtis, Emergency Preparedness and Risk Management.



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- An invitation to register at the group rate to attend SCAC's Annual Conference each year, and
- An exhibitors' notice around April 1 each year that provides an opportunity on a "first-come, first-served" basis to lease exhibit space at SCAC's Annual Conference.

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- Greater recognition in SCAC's *County Focus Magazine*, annual *Directory of County Officials* and *Annual Conference Program*.

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Accepting the Second Place Lag Time Reporting Award for Lancaster County is Ryan Whitaker, Risk Manager.



Accepting the Third Place Lag Time Reporting Award for Greenwood County is Brian McKenna, Purchasing Agent/Risk Manager.



Accepting the Third Place Lag Time Reporting Award for the Old Fort Fire District is Audrey Holzhausen, Administrator.



Accepting the Second Place Lag Time Reporting Award for Marlboro County is Keith Williams, Marlboro County Assistant Risk Manager, and Grover McQueen, Human Resources Director/Risk Manager.

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**Robert Benfield, ARM, AINS**  
*Risk Manager*  
since 1993  
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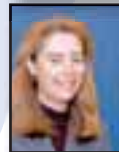
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# The IMLA Report

## 'Father Knows Best'

By Charles W. Thompson Jr.  
Executive Director and General Counsel, IMLA

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries people around the United States sought to create a system of governance that allowed for local solutions to local problems. The movement called for "Home Rule" and insisted that state legislatures whether through constitutional change or broad legislative delegation allow local governments to tackle the issues they faced without having to seek specific legislative approval from the state for every local measure.

With this authority in hand, local governments began to regulate animal control, from requiring dogs to be leashed and the owners of the dogs to pick up the dog's excrement to regulating how many animals a person might keep at a residential property. Many problems that existed in one community did not exist in another, so the solutions might have included limiting the disposal of oyster shells in one city to regulating where and how high fences might be built in another and how and where mulch could be stored in another.

The breadth of the regulatory framework expanded as each community attempted to resolve issues raised by residents. As these regulations expanded a city might prohibit owning handguns while another community not far away might have required residents to own a gun. One community might have favored more expansive telecommunications services while another resisted the number of telecommunications towers as they grew larger and taller. One



community might have welcomed oil drilling and fracking while another sought to ban them from the community. Some cities allowed adult entertainment while others sought to prohibit licentiousness.

The resulting crazy patchwork quilt of regulatory measures meant that businesses often had to adjust their business practices as they entered each community and often had difficulty maintaining a clear understanding of what each community required. And thus began the demise of "Home Rule" and the rise of preemption.

Preemption as a legal term in the context of intergovernmental relations involves the action of one government to preempt the actions of another. For the most part, preemption flows hierarchically where a superior governmental entity dictates to an inferior governmental entity what it can and cannot do. There are some forms of preemption that occur where governments are co-equal. But, when it comes to "Home Rule," preemption generally involves a state entity mandating what a local entity can or cannot do.

Generally, the courts recognize three forms of preemption: express preemption, implied preemption and conflict preemption. As its name implies with express preemption a state legislative measure specifically mandates that local governments must not enact measures involving a specific topic or otherwise expressly dictate how a local government must act. In states where a local government has been empowered to act in a specific area, where it acts but the act conflicts with a state measure, then the concept of conflict preemption generally resolves whether the state or local action prevails. Each state's jurisprudence affects how conflicts must be resolved. The most challenging questions arise over the question of whether a state intended to preempt a local action. In other words, did the state's failure to express its intent to preempt local government nevertheless result in preemption because its method of legislating implied an intent to preempt.

Implied preemption can arise in a number of ways. Among ways in which courts find implied preemption: The state may regulate an activity so broadly that there is so little left to regulate that courts will find the "field" preempted; or the history of state regulation may have existed for so long that courts will find that the area of regulation could never have been intended to have been left to local government. Many other bases exist to find implied preemption. Indeed, the

*(Continued on next page)*



concept seems so amorphous that often courts can find preemption based on nothing more than what result they prefer. Recently, the National League of Cities published a report entitled *City Rights in an Era of Preemption: A State-by-State Analysis*. The study describes recent areas where issues important to local governments have been preempted by state legislatures. While the focus of the report analyzes the effect state preemption has on cities, counties are also in the crosshairs of preemption. Regardless of how local leaders feel about specific measures and regardless of which side of the political spectrum we live, preemption destroys the fiber within the fabric of communities and mocks our American heritage.

As related in the American Declaration of Independence, a host of wrongs imposed on the colonists supported cutting ties with England. Many of those wrongs when translated to contemporary government describe the effect of preemption.

“He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

“He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

“He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.”

\* \* \*

“For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.”

Today, people who live at the farthest reaches of a state must travel to the state capitol to seek local solutions to local problems; gerrymandered districts reduce the voices of people in their state legislatures by dispersing and minimizing their votes; and locally elected officials see their powers minimized and withdrawn through paternalistic patterns of preemption.

States address “Home Rule” in different ways. Alaska’s Constitution provides simply: “A home rule borough or city may exercise all legislative powers not prohibited by law or by charter.” In Iowa, its Constitution provides:

Municipal corporations are granted home rule power and authority, not inconsistent with the laws of the general assembly, to determine their local affairs and government, except they shall not have the power to levy any tax unless expressly authorized by the general assembly.

The rule or proposition of law that a municipal corporation possesses and can exercise only those powers granted in express words is not a part of the law of this state.

In Colorado, its Constitution allows municipalities and counties to adopt Home Rule and provides that when they do:

“Such charter and the ordinances made pursuant thereto in such matters shall supersede within the territorial limits and other jurisdiction of said city or town any law of the state in conflict therewith.”

\* \* \*

“It is the intention of this article to grant and confirm to the people of all municipalities coming within its provisions the full right of self-government in both local and municipal matters and the enumeration herein of certain powers shall not be construed to deny such cities and towns, and to the people thereof, any right or power essential

or proper to the full exercise of such right.

“The statutes of the state of Colorado, so far as applicable, shall continue to apply to such cities and towns, except insofar as superseded by the charters of such cities and towns or by ordinance passed pursuant to such charters.”

Despite the broad enabling language in the Colorado Constitution, state preemption occurs when there are matters a court concludes are within a field of state interest where local regulation would limit the state program or policy. Thus, even in a constitution that specifically resolves local matters in favor of local governance, where state policy conflicts the courts will find state policy trumps local legislation. Recently, the Texas legislature acted to preempt local governments over the issue of “sanctuary cities.” Not too long ago, the North Carolina legislature acted to preempt local governments from enacting measures affecting the minimum wage or discriminatory conduct affecting people who are transgender. In other instances, states have regulated requirements for voting eligibility or identification and have attempted to restrict access to abortion or municipal broadband. While some of these issues conceivably involve broad state policies, most are issues that ought to be decided by local governments based upon the interests of their constituencies. As American colonists recognized that what worked in England or seemed a grand idea to the English the broad cloak of legislation applied to a small but growing population far away felt oppressive and unsuitable to those whose voices were not heard.

IMLA over the course of the past several years has become more involved in state and federal cases that raise issues of preemption as we argue on behalf of local governments for local autonomy. Often, our members may be split as to how they feel about the underlying policies a city or county chooses to follow, but as an organization IMLA seeks to advance that community’s right to enact measures for its community as it believes appropriate  
(See IMLA, P. 42)

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## IMLA ...

*(Continued from P. 40)*

and necessary.

In the North Carolina courts, we supported the City of Asheville in its suit to prevent the state from violating the state and federal constitutions by appropriating a water system and transferring it to a regional authority. In a federal District Court in California, we supported the City and County of San Francisco in protecting it from being commandeered to provide resources to the federal government through unfunded mandates and absorbing unreimbursed liability for civil rights violations. In Pennsylvania, we are supporting the City of Philadelphia's effort to address its increased health care costs through a measure seeking to limit the long term risks of obesity among its residents.

Whether a local government wants to require merchants to use plastic bags or prohibit them from using plastic bags, local governments ought to be able to act. Whether a local government wants to help resolve its housing issues through increases in the minimum wage or requirements for moderately priced housing, local governments ought to be able to act. Whether a local government wants to regulate short term rental housing or to protect neighborhoods from chronic nuisances, local governments should be able to act.

Home Rule gives local government the power to act and local officials need to lead a renewed effort to regain the authority to allow their constituents a voice in their daily lives. Each elected official from each local government in each state can make a difference. It is time to draft and develop a model constitutional Home Rule provision for each state. Taking provisions from those Constitutions quoted above, a good foundation might be:

Municipal corporations and counties are granted home rule power, including the police powers of this state and authority to determine their local affairs and government. A municipality or county may exercise

these powers upon adopting a charter that describes the form of government and manner in which it may exercise the powers granted under this Constitution.

Such charter and the ordinances made pursuant thereto shall supersede within the territorial limits and other jurisdiction of the county or municipal corporation any law of the state in conflict therewith. It is the intention of the people of this State to grant and confirm to the people of all municipalities and counties coming within its provisions the full right of self-government in both local and municipal matters and the enumeration herein of certain powers shall not be construed to deny any right or power essential or proper to the full exercise of such right.

Until Home Rule regains strength and attacks against it founder, IMLA will invest time and effort in supporting local governments as they fight these battles.



*IMLA provides assistance to local government attorneys whose municipalities are members and it supports local governments throughout the United States as an amicus in many cases at the U.S. Supreme Court and in the federal circuits and in state supreme courts. IMLA provides local government attorneys with a forum to seek help and to gain understanding of the law.*

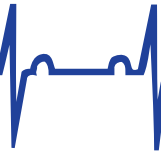
*If you or your county is not a member of IMLA, consider joining. IMLA offers a number of low-cost programs each year to help attorneys and city/county managers keep abreast of emerging issues or to refresh their knowledge of local government law.*

*For more information on membership, programs or getting involved with IMLA, contact Chuck Thompson at [cthompson@imla.org](mailto:cthompson@imla.org) or call him at (202) 742-1016.*



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# A Roadside Guide to Anderson County

## *The County's Role in the American War for Independence*

By Alexia Jones Helsley  
[www.historyismybag.com](http://www.historyismybag.com)

### Anderson County



See South Carolina  
 County Map,  
 P. 55

**W**ithout the American Revolution, Anderson County would not be Anderson County! The county owes both its name and its geographic location to the American Revolution. South Carolina acquired the territory that later became Anderson County from the Cherokee by treaty in 1777.

Created in 1826, the new county bears the name of Colonel Robert Anderson (1741-1813). Anderson, a native of Virginia, was a Revolutionary hero who served with his friend Andrew Pickens,



the legendary "Wizard Owl." Anderson fought at the Battles of Cowpens and Eutaw Springs. The former was a game-changing victory for Patriot militia and the latter, a late tactical victory for British forces and a strategic benefit for General Nathanael Greene and his Continental Army.

### The Cherokee War

The campaign against the Cherokee was the major Revolutionary engagement that affected Anderson County during the war. The origins of the conflict ran deep as the Cherokee were the largest Native American group in the Southeast. When the English settled Charles Town in 1670, a major economic thrust was the trade with the Cherokee. In 1730, six Cherokee traveled to London to negotiate a treaty. One of these was Attakullakulla, also known as the "Little Carpenter," who later was the first Beloved Man of the Cherokee. During his lifetime, Attakullakulla was intricately involved in Cherokee-Carolina relations.

In 1759, French efforts to enlist the Cherokee to attack the British led to the first Cherokee War. This conflict, a small chapter in the French & Indian

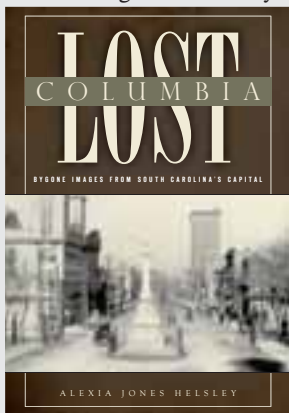
War, ended with a negotiated peace between the British and the Cherokee. In 1776, the Cherokee again posed a threat to the Carolina frontier, but this time, the new state of South Carolina faced the crisis alone. With the signing of the Declaration of Independence, British Indian agents redoubled their efforts to keep the Cherokee allied with the British government.

Frontier Loyalists also allied with the Cherokee and at times fought dressed as Native Americans. With British and Loyalist support, the Cherokee, Mohawk, and other Indian groups joined forces to attack frontier settlements in the Carolinas, Virginia and Georgia. Given the strained relations between the British and her former colonies, the Cherokee thought the time was right to push the white settlers from their land. At the same time, British forces besieged Charlestown and tried to capture the new palmetto fort (Fort Moultrie) on Sullivan's Island.

With the British defeated, the Cherokee had no military support, and in response to the threat, the government of South Carolina sent Colonel Andrew Williamson with militia and Continental troops against the Cherokee. In August 1776, Williamson's force destroyed the

### *Lost Columbia: Bygone Images of South Carolina's Capital City* (Charleston: the History Press, 2008)

*Lost Columbia* combines an overview of the turbulent history of Columbia with rare and little seen images of the city's destruction in 1865, the Assembly Street farmers' market, the changing face of Main Street and lost institutions and neighborhoods.



*Lost Columbia* is available in bookstores such as Barnes & Noble, from Amazon.com, or by mail from AJH Historical Enterprises, P.O. Box 3683, Irmo, SC 29063.

Lower Cherokee towns in the South Carolina Piedmont. He then joined forces with General Griffith Rutherford of North Carolina and successfully attacked the Middle and Upper Cherokee towns in Georgia and North Carolina.

The expeditionary force destroyed the Cherokee towns, burned fields, and captured livestock. With such devastation and military defeat, the Cherokee sought peace.

### Treaty of DeWit's Corner

As a result, in May 1777, representatives from Georgia and South Carolina met with the defeated Cherokee at DeWit's Corner near modern-day Due West to negotiate the end of the Cherokee War. Andrew Williamson led the Carolina delegation. Georgia also sent representatives. On 20 May, the negotiators for all sides signed the Treaty of DeWit's Corner. A few months later, the Cherokee also signed the Treaty of Long Island of Holston with North Carolina and Virginia.

The Treaty of DeWit's Corner differed from earlier treaties between the Cherokee and South Carolina. In 1777, the state of South Carolina determined the boundary line between the Cherokee and South Carolina and dictated the terms of the treaty. Under the conditions of the treaty,

South Carolina acquired most of the lower Cherokee towns, including much of modern-day Anderson, Greenville, Oconee and Pickens counties and established that American law governed all dealings between the Cherokee and South Carolina.

Signers of this groundbreaking treaty were Andrew Williamson, Le Roy Hammond, William Henry Drayton and Daniel Horry, Jr., all commissioned military officers. The fifth South Carolina delegate, George Galphin, an Indian trader from Silver Bluff, did not sign the treaty. The Georgia representatives were Jonathan Bryan, Jonathan Cochran and William Glascock. The Cherokee who signed the treaty were Oustassitte, Canatiskeeticowie, Cheeroonakee, Scalaluska, Cloroheta, Choowonatte, Oosuka, and Chinistisha. The South Carolina Department of Archives and History holds the original signed treaty.

### Aftermath

Yet, the treaty did not end hostilities between the Cherokee and South Carolina. Encouraged at times by Backcountry Loyalists, raids and counter raids continued through 1782 when the British finally left Charlestown. After the Revolution, South Carolina moved

*(Continued on next page)*



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the man who bought the town of Pleasantburg?

the time when Greenville was the capital of South Carolina?

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to organize the newly acquired territory and granted tracts of former Cherokee land to Revolutionary veterans and other settlers. On the national front, Dragging Canoe, leader of the Chickamauga band of Cherokee, continued the fight until 1794.

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# The Palmetto Directory

*Businesses selling products and services  
to South Carolina's counties*

*Also see advertising index, page 56*



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## ★ Counties Reporting in This Issue of County Update:

Abbeville	Greenwood
Aiken	Hampton
Allendale	★ Horry
Anderson	Jasper
★ Bamberg	★ Kershaw
Barnwell	Lancaster
★ Beaufort	Laurens
Berkeley	Lee
Calhoun	Lexington
★ Charleston	Marion
Cherokee	Marlboro
Chester	McCormick
Chesterfield	Newberry
★ Clarendon	Oconee
Colleton	Orangeburg
Darlington	★ Pickens
Dillon	Richland
Dorchester	Saluda
Edgefield	Spartanburg
Fairfield	Sumter
Florence	Union
★ Georgetown	Williamsburg
Greenville	York

# County Update



See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 55

*Keeping you informed  
about what's happening in  
South Carolina's counties.*

## COUNTY FOCUS

This section of *County Focus Magazine* provides South Carolina county officials an opportunity to submit newsworthy items that may be of interest to the magazine's readers. For more information, please contact SCAC's Public Information Office at 1-800-922-6081.

### Bamberg County

● Bamberg County recently received preliminary data from the Statewide Aviation System Plan & Economic Impact Study, which includes information on the incoming and outgoing air traffic at the Bamberg County Airport. While most of the information from the study will not be available until the report's completion in February 2018, S.C. Aeronautics



## SCAC Presidents

2016	Julie J. Armstrong <i>Charleston County</i>	2000	James H. Rozier Jr. <i>Berkeley County</i>	1984	Charlie I. Crews <i>Hampton County</i>
2015	John Q. Atkinson Jr. <i>Marion County</i>	1999	Polly C. Jackson <i>Lancaster County</i>	1983	James P. Whitlock <i>Pickens County</i>
2014	James R. Frazier <i>Horry County</i>	1998	Robert R. Nash Sr. <i>Pickens County</i>	1982	Lonnie Hamilton III <i>Charleston County</i>
2013	Joseph R. Branham <i>Chester County</i>	1997	Alzena Robinson <i>Bamberg County</i>	1981	Alfred B. Schooler <i>Georgetown County</i>
2012	Charles T. Edens <i>Sumter County</i>	1996	Betty T. Roper <i>Clarendon County</i>	1980	Howard A. Taylor <i>Charleston County</i>
2011	Joseph B. Dill <i>Greenville County</i>	1995	George E. Bomar <i>Greenville County</i>	1979	Marjorie H. Sharpe <i>Lexington County</i>
2010	R. Carlisle Roddey <i>Chester County</i>	1994	Raymond C. Eubanks Jr. <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1978	Berry L. Mobley <i>Lancaster County</i>
2009	Diane B. Anderson <i>Laurens County</i>	1993	William L. McBride <i>Beaufort County</i>	1977	E.E. Johnson <i>Hampton County</i>
2008	L. Gregory Pearce Jr. <i>Richland County</i>	1992	Belle J. Kennette <i>Greenwood County</i>	1976	Harold L. King <i>Darlington County</i>
2007	K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. <i>Florence County</i>	1991	James R. McGee <i>Orangeburg County</i>	1975	Jack Q. Gerrald <i>Horry County</i>
2006	Belinda D. Copeland <i>Darlington County</i>	1990	Kenneth R. Huckaby <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1974	Arthur H. Burton <i>Charleston County</i>
2004-05	Waymon Mumford <i>Florence County</i>	1989	Lowell C. (Butch) Spires <i>Lexington County</i>	1973	James O. Thomson <i>Spartanburg County</i>
2004	Barrett S. Lawrimore <i>Charleston County</i>	1988	David K. Summers Jr. <i>Calhoun County</i>	1972	J. Hugh McCutchen <i>Williamsburg County</i>
2003	Gonza L. Bryant <i>Greenwood County</i>	1987	Danny E. Allen <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1971	John L. Greer <i>Union County</i>
2002	James A. Coleman <i>Laurens County</i>	1986	O.V. Player Jr. <i>Sumter County</i>	1969-70	J. Mitchell Graham <i>Charleston County</i>
2001	Steve S. Kelly Jr. <i>Kershaw County</i>	1985	Sue H. Roe <i>Aiken County</i>	1967-68	Charles W. Lawrimore <i>Georgetown County</i>

(SCA) shared the airport's number of arrivals and departures, as recorded by the Federal Aviation Administration. In 2015, the county airport, located between the cities of Bamberg and Denmark, had more than 40 arrivals and departures.

The report provides a glimpse into the annual activity of the county airport, which is connected to the nation's air transportation system and has non-stop access to thousands of destinations throughout the country. To tap into the region's greater economic potential, Bamberg County is upgrading the entire airport facility, conducting an enhanced marketing strategy, and taking other steps to use the airport's location to make the region more competitive and attractive to potential industries.

● Keep South Carolina Beautiful presented (KSCB) Keep Bamberg County Beautiful (KBCB) and one of its volunteer board members awards for excellence on March 13 at the Bamberg County Council meeting.

**Sherryl Jenkins**, Director for Keep South Carolina Beautiful and Grant Coordinator for PalmettoPride, first presented the awards at the KSCB and S.C. Litter Control Conference in February. Jenkins then made a special trip to Bamberg County to present the awards in front of council and the KBCB Volunteer Board.

KBCB received one of the three Affiliate Recognition Awards given statewide. This award is given to SC KAB Affiliates who help deliver a cleaner and improved community that enhances the beauty of the environment through new technologies, improved waste handling and public space stewardship.

**Detra Salley Bruce**, a KBCB Volunteer Board Member, received the Outstanding Volunteer Recognition Award for her service to KBCB. The Outstanding Volunteer Recognition Award is given to one person

in South Carolina, and honors a deserving volunteer or community leader for his/her efforts to create and protect a cleaner community or to enhance the beauty of a neighborhood or public space.

**Mallory Biering**, KBCB Director, presented Bamberg County Council the KAB President's Circle Award in January at the

KAB National Conference. This achievement shows KBCB is active in its community, supports efforts in beautification, litter prevention and recycling, and is continuously measuring how it can improve the organization for the benefit of all citizens and guests of Bamberg County.

*(Continued on next page)*



## Webcasts & Webinars for 2017

**Tuesday, June 20**  
10 to 11 a.m.

**Freedom of Information Act – New Rules Webinar**  
SCAC Attorney Kent Lesesne and Ginny Dupont of Spartanburg County will provide an overview of the new FOIA rules.

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

## SCAC's 2017 Conference Calendar

July 29–30  
July 30–Aug. 2

Institute of Government  
Annual Conference  
Hilton Head Marriott

Aug. 15

Setoff Debt/Gear  
Embassy Suites, Columbia

TBD

Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers  
TBD

Sept. 13–14

Policy Steering Committee Meetings  
SCAC Office, Columbia

Oct. 18  
Oct. 19

Institute of Government  
County Council Coalition  
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Nov. 7–8

Policy Steering Committee Meetings  
SCAC Office, Columbia

Nov. 30–Dec. 2

Legislative Conference  
Renaissance Charleston

Dec. 8

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

**NOTE:** Important news items—especially time-sensitive items that fall between issues of SCAC's *Carolina Counties Newsletter*—will be published in this space whenever necessary. For more information, please contact SCAC's Public Information Office at 1-800-922-6081.

You can register and pay online for SCAC conferences at [www.sccounties.org/meetings](http://www.sccounties.org/meetings).



July 21–24

Annual Conference and Exposition  
Columbus, Ohio

## NACo's 2017 Conference Calendar





## Purpose of the SCAC

- To promote more efficient county governments
- To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government
- To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials
- To promote and encourage education of county officials
- To collect, analyze and distribute information about county government
- To cooperate with other organizations
- To promote legislation which supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina

❖ For more information about the SCAC, please contact:

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1919 Thurmond Mall  
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[smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc)

● Bamberg County received the first place S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) Runner-Up Award on Jan. 26 for the 2016 policy period at the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust Meeting. (See Pp. 27 – 34)

### Beaufort County

● The Public Library Foundation of Beaufort County announced in March the launch of the foundation's major fundraising campaign to raise \$250,000, and the creation of the Pat Conroy Legacy Society. The additional funds will expand the foundation's impact on the future of the library and its goal of maintaining its position as a first-class library, meeting the needs of the citizens of Beaufort County. The campaign focuses on donors designating gifts to the foundation through their wills, charitable trusts and gifts of cash.

The late **Mr. Pat Conroy**, a Beaufort author, was one of the greatest American authors of his generation. He dedicated his life to spreading his love for literature, reading and education to future generations. With the encouragement of Mr. Conroy's wife, **Cassandra King**, the Pat Conroy Legacy Society honors and continues his commitment through its support of the Beaufort County Library system and its mission.

For more information on the Pat Conroy Legacy Society, e-mail the foundation at [plfbc@outlook.com](mailto:plfbc@outlook.com). To discuss in confidence giving a gift to the Pat Conroy Legacy Society, contact **Ron Roth**, campaign coordinator, at the foundation at [plfbc@outlook.com](mailto:plfbc@outlook.com) or visit foundation's website at <http://beaufortlibraryfoundation.org>.

### Charleston County

● The Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), a body of leaders who work to coordinate systemic improvements in the local criminal justice system, announced in January that it had appointed the following 10 individuals to represent diverse sectors of the community during 2017:

- **Civil Rights**—**Dot Scott**, Charleston Branch President of the NAACP
- **Faith**—**Rich Robinson**, Chaplain
- **Hispanic**—**Lydia Cotton**, Board Chair of Art Pot Multicultural Group
- **Non-Profit**—**Byron Ray**, Intervention Specialist
- **Healthcare**—**Sharon Coleman**, Director of Residential Services
- **Business**—**Daniel Brownstein**, Director

of Marketing and Communications

- **Defense**—**Drew Carroll**, Criminal Defense Lawyer
- **Graduate Program**—**April Adams**, Graduate Student
- **Community-at-Large**—**Brad Crowther**, Consultant and Writer
- **Executive Committee Appointment**—**Everard "Rod" Rutledge**, Adjunct Professor and retired healthcare executive

The CJCC's mission is to assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to Charleston County's criminal justice system and thereby improve public safety and community well-being. Community representatives represent the needs and concerns of Charleston County residents, gather and share community input, and provide voice and feedback from the community into the CJCC decision making process. This includes attending CJCC and community representative meetings.

● Charleston County Government's Mosquito Control Division employees went door-to-door on March 6 through 9 to inform the public about mosquitos and how citizens can help control them around their property. The effort is part of the department's annual Citizen Awareness Campaign. The program's representatives visited neighborhoods to distribute educational materials and check yards for containers that could lead to mosquito breeding problems.

● Charleston County held public meetings in North Charleston on March 20, City of Charleston on March 21 and Mount Pleasant on March 22 to allow residents to view new preliminary flood maps and ask questions about potential impacts to their property. Residents were able to meet one-on-one with a variety of specialists who were available to talk about flood insurance, engineering, building permits and more.

The new preliminary flood maps were produced through a partnership between Charleston County, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Flood maps improve over time as better flood hazard and risk data becomes available. Because flood risks change due to construction and development, environmental and floodplain changes as well as other factors. So, flood maps are updated periodically to address these changes.

● Charleston County's Environmental Management Department celebrated its 18th Earth Day Festival on April 15 at Riverfront Park on the former Naval Base in North Charleston. The free event was open to the public. The festival provides hands-

on educational opportunities for all ages and highlights the county's environmental programs.

● A groundbreaking ceremony for the Harbor View Road Improvement Project was held on April 21 at Harbor View Presbyterian Church in Charleston. The project's goal was to improve traffic flow and safety for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians. Improvements were made on approximately two miles between North Shore Drive and Fort Jackson Road. Speakers included Charleston County Council Member **Joe Qualey**, James Island Mayor **Bill Woolsey** and City of Charleston Council Member **Kathleen Wilson**.

● A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Apr. 25 to celebrate the grand opening of Mid-States Packaging LLC in North Charleston. Established in 2010, Mid-States Packaging offers services such as transportation, logistics, packaging, warehousing, rail service, containers and sea bulk with locations in seven states. Speakers included City of North Charleston Mayor **Keith Summey** and Chief Operation Officer **William Deshler**, GFI Partners.

● Charleston County's Public Works Department held its annual competition to demonstrate the skills of personnel in the operation of backhoes, while providing

an opportunity to recognize exceptional performance on Apr. 26 at the county's Public Works Department Compound in North Charleston.

The competition consists of events that focus on operational requirements and emphasize safety. Competitors must use the equipment to maneuver materials through small, tight spaces under strict time limits. A backhoe is a large piece of road equipment used by public works staff to dig holes and trenches and to load trucks. Displaying "finesse" with a machine that stands eight feet tall and weighs nine tons requires special skills.

Finalists competed in the American Public Works Association Regional Backhoe Rodeo in Georgetown on May 25 and the state competition in July.

Charleston County Operator **Matthew Bishop** has won the American Public Works Association (APWA) state competition the last three years.

● **Kelsey Barlow**, recently hired to serve in Charleston County's Public Information Office, will be the primary contact for 911 calls and will help fulfill media requests.

Barlow, born and raised in New Orleans, graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in broadcast journalism. After graduating, she worked as a producer at the

CBS affiliate in Augusta, Ga. Barlow moved to Charleston in 2010 to work at Live 5 News where she produced the 6 and 11 p.m. news before becoming an executive producer.

● Charleston County's Consolidated 9-1-1 Center is partnering with Joint Base Charleston (JB CHS) to provide a more efficient 9-1-1 service. Charleston County 9-1-1 will answer and process all 9-1-1 calls and texts to 9-1-1 for JB CHS. Charleston County 9-1-1 will then send the information electronically to JB CHS, which will dispatch the information to their Security Forces and Fire Service. The new partnership will decrease emergency response time and increase information sharing with other public safety agencies. The new streamlined dispatch process with Charleston County 9-1-1 will replace an older system which required multiple agencies.

#### Clarendon County

● **Linda J. Taylor**, Benefits Coordinator, Human Resource Department, retired in May after serving 31 years.

● **Tammy Rodvansky**, who has served as Budget Analyst in the county's Finance Department for 11 years, will soon become  
(Continued on next page)



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the county's new benefits coordinator.

#### Georgetown County

● **Leslie Horton**, Dispatcher for Georgetown County's 911 Emergency Communications Center, was recently named the S.C. Emergency Medical Service Telecommunicator of the Year. She received the award at the S.C. EMS awards program on March 11 in Myrtle Beach. Horton.

● Georgetown County Public Information Officer **Jackie Broach** and other South Carolina public information officers recently completed the Advanced Public Information Course offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The week-long course is normally available only at the FEMA training facility in Emmitsburg, Md., but was offered at the S.C. Emergency Management Division's headquarters in Columbia this winter to make it more accessible.

● **Georgetown County hosted the Carhartt Bassmaster College Southern Conference Regional College Series fishing tournament**, its third consecutive Bassmaster tournament, March 2-4 at the county's Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex in Georgetown. The final weigh-in for the three-day tournament was held on March 4 along a section of Front Street downtown. Many activities, including music and a State Duck Calling Contest sponsored by the Winyah Bay Heritage Festival, were held at Francis Marion Park after the tournament's winner was announced. More than 200 student anglers, representing at least 23 southeastern colleges and universities, participated.

● Georgetown County recently partnered with Horry-Georgetown Technical College in the school's plans to put a new Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at the Georgetown Campus. The project will aid economic development efforts in the county by helping provide a well-trained workforce for new and growing companies in the area, such as SafeRack and EnviroSep.

The 25,000-square-foot facility would house training programs including advanced welding, machine tool, robotics and mechantronics.

County Council recently agreed to provide \$1.5 million in funding toward construction of the \$9 million project. The college anticipates moving forward with bidding the project this year and having the center complete by the end of 2018.

● Several Georgetown County Fire/EMS members were recognized in March by Grand Strand Regional Medical Center for going above and beyond the call of duty in their response to a call received on November 20. The medical center issued special award coins to **Battalion Chief Ryan Allen**, **Lt. John Armstrong** and **EMT Gavin Moree** who were among the responders dispatched on that date by Georgetown County 911 to respond to an industrial accident. They were credited for saving a man's life by immediately calling a Tactical Rescue Team to handle the extraction and a medical helicopter to transport the victim to Grand Strand Regional.

● **Carlethia Rudolph**, manager of the Waccamaw Library, retired in February after working for Georgetown County for 38 years. She worked for the library since its creation in 1991, through its subsequent growth and change and finally its move to a new state-of-the-art building two years ago. Rudolph started her career working in the Treasurer's Office.

● Construction on the new Northwest Regional Recreation Center on Choppee Road is moving quickly, and the facility is on track for completion this summer. The design of the \$5 million, 24,000-square-foot facility will be nearly identical to the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center. It will also include the same amenities—a gym, cardio and weight room, multipurpose rooms for classes and activities, rock climbing wall and catering kitchen. Like other county facilities, private rentals for wedding receptions, family reunions and other events will be available.

Construction started last summer.

#### Horry County

● **Joseph Huffman** assumed his duties as Horry County's new assistant administrator in May. Within the Public Safety Division, Huffman will oversee: police, fire/EMS, emergency management and E911 as well as serve as the liaison to several other elected and appointed officials, including the Coroner, Sheriff, Magistrates, Public Defender and the Solicitor.

Huffman previously served as City Manager of Pascagoula, Miss., for five years where he was responsible for all operations of a full-service coastal municipality. Prior to Pascagoula, Huffman was city manager for the City of Goldsboro (2005-11), City of Laurinburg (1999-2005) and City of Havelock, N.C. (1994-99). He was also a corrections officer/sergeant at the State of North Carolina Department of Corrections (1981-89).

Huffman received his Masters of Public Administration and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degrees from Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) recently recognized Conway area residents **Robert and Joan Czysz** as the Caught Green Handed recipients for the month of March. Mr. and Mrs. Czysz are regular recyclers at the Red Bluff Recycling Center.

The SWA recognized Conway area resident **Dave Smyth** as the Caught Green Handed recipient for the month of February. Smyth is a regular recycler at the Jackson Bluff Recycling Center.

The SWA recognized Conway area resident **Doug Leaman** as the Caught Green Handed recipient for the month of January. Leaman, a regular recycler at the Landfill Recycling Center, was surprised and honored to receive this recognition.

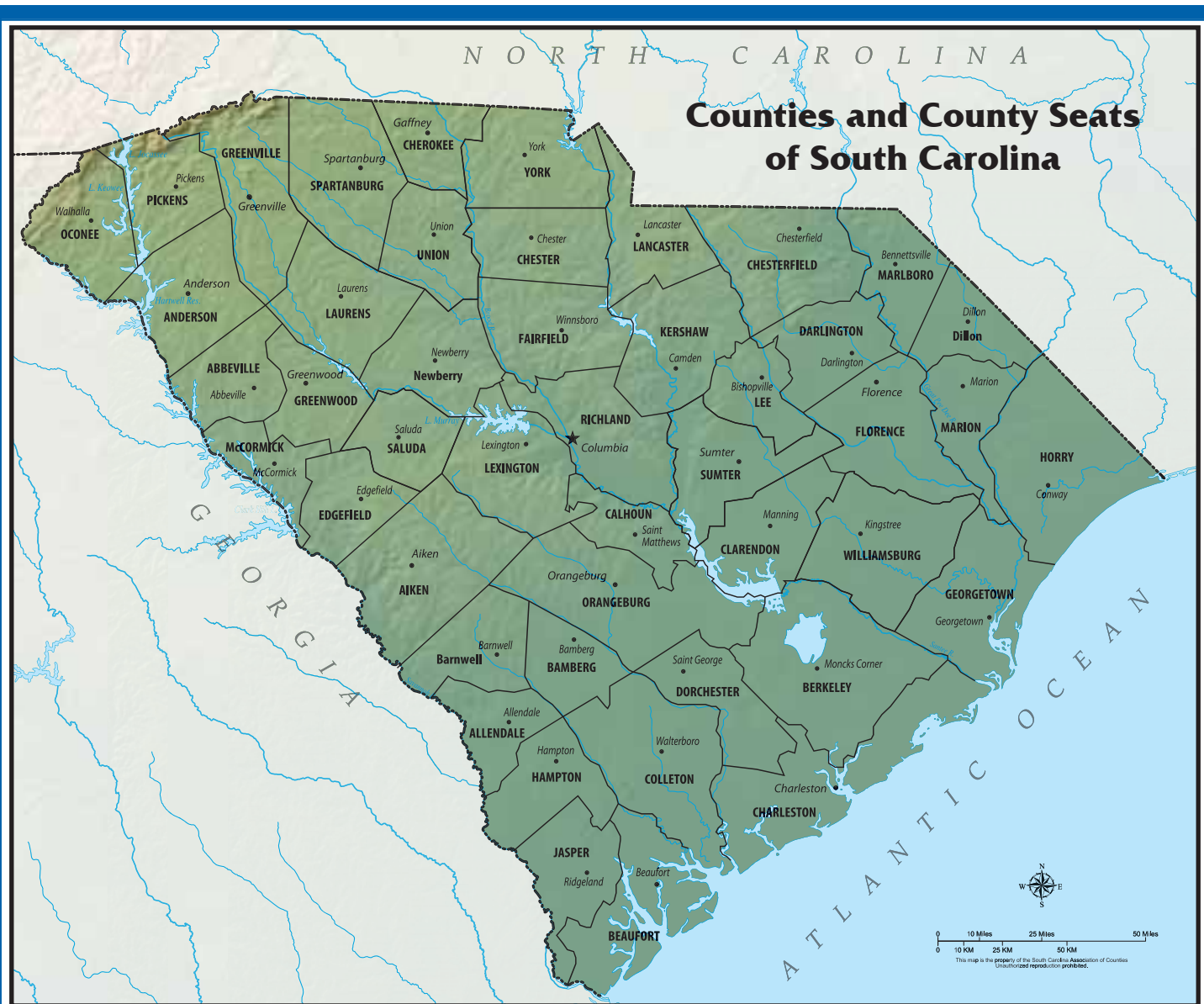
The Caught Green Handed recognition is presented monthly to an Horry County resident caught in the act of recycling. It is the SWA's way of recognizing and thanking citizens who have made the effort to recycle. Through their recycling efforts, natural resources are saved and the amount of waste being landfilled is reduced.

● Horry County began implementing a new portable digital public safety radio system in 2014 and converted all public safety portable radios to the new P-25 radio system in April. The new system replaces the analog system used by all county public safety organizations since 1989. The new digital communications system, taking advantage of the latest two-way technologies, will improve emergency response to all citizens and visitors of Horry

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County. The new system also improves Public Safety's ability to communicate in day-to-day operations and disaster situations. The new system meets or exceeds industry standards for a public safety grade radio system and is Project 25 (P25) compliant. The P25 standard was adopted by the Federal Communications Commission and the public safety standards organization to ensure all public safety grade two-way radio systems are interoperable. In other words, radio system users will be able to communicate with each other via two-way radio, whether they are local emergency responders or an emergency responder from another county or state coming to assist during a disaster.

● Horry County Government began offering a free seven-week Horry 101 class (April 6 to May 18) to all county residents, business owners and students 18 years old

and older on April 6. The class—designed to educate citizens on government services, functions and programs—offered the first 15 citizens who registered an opportunity to learn how Horry County departments such as Police, Public Works, Fire Rescue, Budget/Finance, the Airport and others play a vital role in the community.

● Horry County recently awarded **Leigh Kane** of the Horry County Planning & Zoning Department with the Randy Faulk Employee of the Year Award in March.

The County also honored two county officials with honorable mentions: **Jessica Ruggerio**, a dispatch supervisor with Horry County E-911 Communications and **Jason Aldridge**, a heavy equipment mechanic for Horry County Public Works.

The Employee Award Program is named in honor of **Mr. Randy Faulk** who

died less than three years after receiving the first Employee of the Year award in 2006. Mr. Faulk, who worked in the Horry County Maintenance Department, was a role model for all county employees and demonstrated that every employee can make a difference.

● Moody's Investors Services in January upgraded Horry County's General Obligation bond rating from Aa2 to Aa1. This upgrade means Horry County now has the second highest possible credit rating from Moody's. The upgrade gives the county the opportunity to receive lower interest rates on future borrowing and is a reflection of the improving local economy; and strong financial management by County Council and staff. Moody's recognized the county's sizeable and diverse tax base as a credit strength. Moody's also noted the county's sound fund balance

*(Continued on next page)*



reserves that are bolstered by formal financial policies.

#### Kershaw County

● **Barbara D. Ray**, Kershaw County Veterans Affairs Officer, recently received the



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S.C. County Veterans Affairs Officer of the Year Award. She was honored for her hard work and dedication to the Veterans of South Carolina. To receive the award, a recipient must be nominated by a county veterans affairs officer. **SCACVAO President Todd Humphries** (Cherokee County Director of Veterans Affairs) presented this year's award to Ray at the SCACVAO's spring conference.

#### Pickens County

● Pickens County hosted a Pickens County Pride pickup blitz, a month-long volunteer pickup campaign, during the month of March. Volunteers signed-up and received supplies when the campaign kicked-off on March 3 at Lowes on Highway 123 in Easley.

Pickens County citizens were encouraged to organize local cleanup efforts on roadways, neighborhoods, public places and waterways. Businesses were encouraged to keep their grounds clean and litter-free. In addition to participating in this litter pickup blitz, they were encouraged to commit to cleanup by joining the PalmettoPride Clean Teams. Clean Teams are groups that agree to cleanup a particular area four-times a year. Clean Teams can adopt highways, neighborhoods, parks, anywhere that a group feels strongly about.

**Sarah Lyles**, Executive Director of

PalmettoPride, credited the Pickens County Legislative Delegation and Sheriff **Rick Clark** for their leadership and support, which have made the county's litter prevention programs a huge success and made a big difference in the overall appearance of their communities.

PalmettoPride and Pickens County coordinated a week-long, countywide litter blitz in 2007. In that one week, 1,347 volunteers picked up 88 tons of trash. Lyles challenged this year's volunteers to beat what volunteers picked up in the 2007 litter blitz. ■



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