

COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 27

Number 3



SCAC Elects
Julie J. Armstrong
President



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COUNTY FOCUS

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COVER PHOTOS: Top Photo—COLLETON COUNTY WINS 2016 J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD (*Photo by Barry W. McRoy, Fire Chief, Colleton County Fire-Rescue. See story, P. 6*); Middle-Left Photo—SCAC ELECTS JULIE J. ARMSTRONG PRESIDENT (*See P. 2*); Bottom Photo—SPARTANBURG COUNTY WINS 2016 BARRETT LAWRLIMORE MEMORIAL REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD (*See P. 26*) (*Photo by Stuart Morgan*)



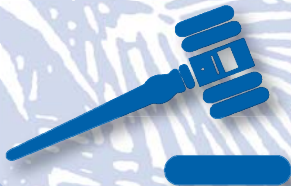
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W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor

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SCAC Elects Julie J. Armstrong President



The South Carolina Association of Counties elected officers for 2016–17 at its 49th Annual Conference, held July 31 to Aug. 3. The SCAC also elected two new board members and re-elected two other board members.

Elected president was Charleston County Clerk of Court Julie J. Armstrong.

She replaces Marion County Council Member John Q. Atkinson Jr., who served as SCAC President for 2015-16.

“It is truly an honor to be elected as President of this wonderful organization for the coming year, which will be our 50th anniversary,” said Julie J. Armstrong. “Under the outstanding leadership of John Atkinson, we have successfully completed another challenging year. I look forward to serving this Association, its members and Board of Directors, and working with SCAC’s staff.”

“As we marked the 40th anniversary of Home Rule this past year, we were challenged on several fronts—from funding of local governments to roads and infrastructure,” Armstrong added. “Now more than ever, we must work together as leaders of our communities to achieve our common goal of true Home Rule. So, I will be calling on you in the coming months as we develop our legislative agenda for the 2017 legislative session.”

First elected as Clerk of Court in 1992, Armstrong will begin serving her seventh term in January. She is keeper of the record for Common Pleas, General Sessions and Family Courts, and is responsible for docket management and fiduciary responsibilities. She oversees 80 staff members who docket more than 25,000 cases and process more than \$40 million annually.

“It is an honor for me to be elected as President of the Association of Counties for the coming year, which will be our 50th anniversary. Under the outstanding leadership of John Atkinson, we have completed another challenging year. I look forward to serving the Association, its members and Board of Directors, and working with SCAC’s staff.”

— SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong
(Charleston County Clerk of Court)



SCAC President
Julie J. Armstrong
Charleston County Clerk of Court

During Armstrong’s tenure as Clerk of Court, her Office has been recognized as the most technology-based Clerk of Court’s Office in South Carolina. Most recently, she oversaw the development of the nationally-recognized CourtPlus.org web application that is enhanced to provide immediate access to court records using mobile devices.

The Charleston County Judicial Center was constructed, and the county’s
(See **SCAC President**, P. 4)

SCAC Elects Other Officers

**First
Vice President**



Ronald Young
Aiken County
Council Chairman

**Second
Vice President**



Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County
Council Chairman

**Third
Vice President**



Charles T. Jennings
McCormick County
Council Chairman

**Immediate
Past President**



John Q. Atkinson Jr.
Marion County
Council Member

Secretary



F. Pickens Williams Jr.
Barnwell County
Administrator

Treasurer



Belinda D. Copeland
Darlington County
Treasurer

The SCAC elected other officers as follows: **First Vice President**—Ronald Young, Aiken County Council Chairman; **Second Vice President**—Henry H. Livingston III, Newberry County Council Chairman; **Third Vice President**—Charles T. Jennings, McCormick County Council Chairman; **Secretary**—F. Pickens Williams Jr., Barnwell County Adminis-

trator; and **Treasurer**—Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County Treasurer. John Q. Atkinson Jr., Marion County Council Member, will serve as **Immediate Past President**.



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. Thomason <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>

SCAC President ...

(Continued from P. 2)

Historic Courthouse was renovated during Armstrong's tenure as Clerk of Court. The new Judicial Center, capable of holding up to 16 court proceedings simultaneously, not only serves the citizens of Charleston County but also the needs of the S.C. Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Armstrong has served on SCAC's Board of Directors since she was first elected to the board in 2006. She has served on the Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Policy Steering Committee since 2007 and as the committee's chairman since 2014. She has also served on the Association's Presidential Scholarship Selection Committee since

2012, and currently serves on the Justice and Public Safety Committee of the National Association of Counties.

Raised in a strong military family, she proudly claims deep roots in the Charleston community. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from The College of Charleston.

Her husband, Jim, serves as Charleston County Deputy County Administrator.

SCAC Elects Two New Board Members and Re-Elects Two Other Board Members

The SCAC elected the following board members to four-year terms (2017-20): **Gonza L. Bryant**, Greenwood County Council Member; and **Debra B.**

Summers, Lexington County Council Vice Chairman. The Association also re-elected the following SCAC Board Members to four-year terms: **Franklin F. Fulmore Sr.**, Williamsburg County Council Member; and **K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr.**, Florence County Administrator.



Online Video Library of the 2016 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

The SCAC is pleased to announce an online video library of the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition that was held in conjunction with the Association's 49th Annual Conference. The award presentations are available via streaming video on the SCAC website at:

<http://www.sccounties.org/awards>

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



GASB 77 Webinar

Are the new GASB Statement No. 77 reporting requirements on your radar? Is your county preparing for these new financial reporting requirements for tax abatements?

SCAC will host a webinar on **December 8, 2016**, at 10:00 a.m. regarding GASB 77. In addition to receiving an overview of the disclosure requirements, participants will learn steps they should take to be in compliance for the FY 2016-2017 financial audit.

Webinar panelists will include Edward G. Kluiters, Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.; William H. Hancock, CPA, The Brittingham Group, LLP; John K. DeLoache, Senior Staff Attorney, S.C. Association of Counties; and Michelle Mishoe, S.C. Department of Revenue.

The target audience for the webinar will be county chief administrative officers, finance officers, attorneys, auditors, assessors, treasurers, and



economic development directors.

Please visit www.sccounties.org/education-training for more detailed information, including registration.



SOUTH CAROLINA ENERGY

South Carolinians want reliable energy and SCE&G is delivering — growing a new energy economy in South Carolina.

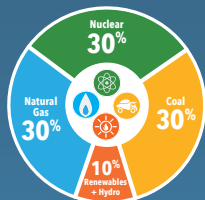
A balanced energy portfolio is an essential plan for meeting South Carolina's energy needs. Nuclear power, natural gas, renewable energy (like solar), along with conservation can help provide a diversified group of resources for meeting South Carolina's current and future energy needs.

SEE ENERGY AT WORK



SCEG.COM

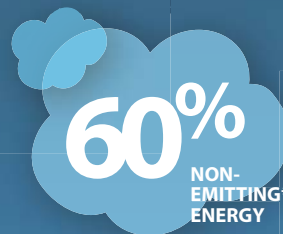
ENERGY MIX*



By reducing emissions and building renewable and non-emitting facilities, SCE&G will create a balanced energy generation portfolio that will serve our state for decades to come.

*Upon completion of nuclear project

ABUNDANT & AFFORDABLE NATURAL GAS

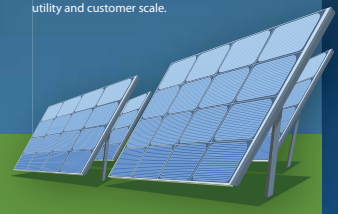


Upon completion of our two new nuclear units, we'll have nearly tripled our use of non-emitting energy sources.

* Air Emissions

ADDING UP TO 100 MEGA-WATTS

of solar energy, both utility and customer scale.



CREATING JOBS



Increasing renewable energy in South Carolina opens the door for more businesses to utilize clean energy resources — bringing more jobs into the state.

LOWER FUEL COSTS

CENTS PER KWH

NUCLEAR	\$.01
NATURAL GAS	\$.04
COAL	\$.04

Nuclear fuel is still the cheapest option for running SCE&G's power plants, costing about one-fourth the price of natural gas and coal.



Electricity — around the clock. Nuclear power is one of the most reliable ways to provide large numbers of customers with a continuous supply of electricity.

INVESTING IN WIND RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



The 2016 J. Mitchell Graham/ Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

The J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition was held on July 31 at the 49th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties (July 31–Aug. 3).

Counties, competing equally for the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, were grouped in the following population categories:

- Under 50,000
- 50,000 to 150,000 and
- Greater than 150,000.

Colleton County Wins SCAC's 2016 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award



★ **Colleton County** won the 2016 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, one of the competition's top honors. This is the second time that the county has won the prestigious award, which it first won in 2012.

Colleton County won this year's award for approaching the county's economic development needs by leveraging existing assets and building



upon the national trend of innovative food-based enterprises.

"Food ventures have their own set of challenges," said Robert H. Becker, Ph.D., head judge for this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition, when presenting the award on Aug. 2 at SCAC's Annual Awards Banquet. "Start-up expenses for equipment, coupled with federal and state regulations, can be daunting. So, Colleton County developed a business

Colleton County Winner of the 2016 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award



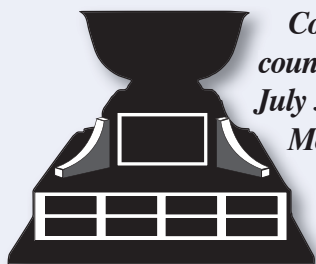
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Page 75

incubator—a commercial kitchen—to help kick start food-based businesses. For local farmers, this provides an
(See **Competition**, P. 9)



JUDGING THIS YEAR'S J. MITCHELL GRAHAM/BARRETT LAWRIMORE MEMORIAL AWARDS COMPETITION—A panel of three judges listens to one of 16 presentations made during the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

Award-Winning Presentations



**J. Mitchell Graham
Memorial Award**

Colleton, Lancaster, McCormick and Richland counties presented their award-winning entries on July 31 at the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition.

*Photos by
Stuart Morgan*



► **COLLETON COUNTY**—Matt Mardell, Colleton County Kitchen Program Manager, presents Colleton County's entry, which won this year's J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award.



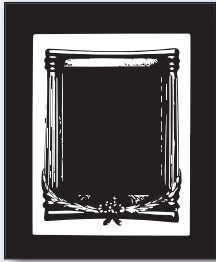
◆ **LANCASTER COUNTY**—(Above) Lt. Nathan Wall, Recruitment and Retention Coordinator, Lancaster County Fire Rescue, and (below) Darren Player, Emergency Management/Fire Rescue Director, present Lancaster County's entry, which won an honorable mention in the category for populations between 50,000 and 150,000.



RICHLAND COUNTY—Patrick J. Bresnahan, Ph.D., Richland County Geographic Information Officer, presents Richland County's entry, which won an honorable mention in the category for counties with populations over 150,000.



MCCORMICK COUNTY—Shawn Terpack, a consultant for McCormick County, and Thessa G. Smith, McCormick County Economic Development Director, present McCormick County's entry, which won an honorable mention in the category for counties with populations under 50,000.



Barrett Lawrimore
Memorial Award

► SPARTANBURG COUNTY—Presenting Spartanburg County's entry are: (left to right) Spartanburg County Administrator Katherine O'Neill; County Attorney Ginny Dupont; Maj. Neal Urch, Director of Spartanburg County Jail Operations; County Attorney John Harris; and Deputy County Administrator Jim Hipp. O'Neill wears an orange jumpsuit to represent inmates, and Dupont wears a graduation gown to represent education and the program's graduates. Harris wears a laborer's hard hat and work belt to represent some of the jobs graduates will be able to pursue when they complete their sentences.



SCAC's 2016 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition, Sunday, July 31, 2016. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



COLLETON COUNTY WINS SCAC'S 2016 J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD—Accepting SCAC's 2016 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award on Aug. 2 at the Association's Annual Awards Banquet are: (left to right) Colleton County Council Member Phillip M. Taylor Sr.; Administrative Services Director Meagan Chaplin; Matt Mardell, Manager of the county's award-winning commercial kitchen; Council Member W. Gene Whetsell; SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (Marion County Council Member); Council Vice Chairman Joseph F. Flowers and Council Member Evon Robinson Sr.. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



Competition ...

(Continued from P. 6)

opportunity for testing value-added food product acceptability and sales. For food business entrepreneurs, the commercial kitchen incubator provides instructional opportunities and access to equipment for preparation and packaging. The facility also contains a sales space so products can be marketed directly.

"Unlike most commercial kitchens," Dr. Becker added, "this incubator was developed in a central business location adjacent to Colleton County's award-winning Museum & Farmers Market (winner of SCAC's 2012 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award), thus creating an expanded experience for visitors and residents. Though in the early stages of operation, the kitchen has dramatically exceeded revenue estimations and contributes to the county's afterschool and summer feeding programs."

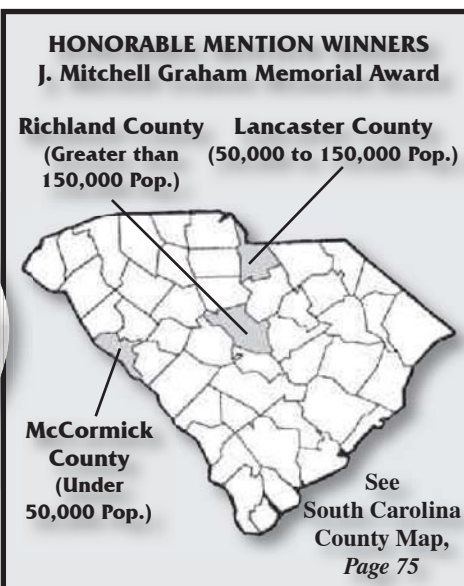


Honorable Mentions Awarded to Richland, Lancaster and McCormick Counties

Richland, Lancaster and McCormick counties won Honorable Mentions.

Richland County

★ In the largest category (counties with populations over 150,000), Richland County won an Honorable Mention for



the county's Flood Response Mapping Project following the historic flooding and dam breaches of October 2015.

"Through the rapid utilization of a wide range of publically-accessible GIS imagery," Dr. Becker said, "the county's GIS team mapped, assessed and mitigated the unprecedented impacts of last year's historic flooding and dam

(Continued on next page)



SCAC Staff Member Anna Berger presents the Honorable Mention J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, which Richland County won in the over 150,000 county population category, to Richland County Council Vice Chairman L. Gregory Pearce Jr.. (Photo Stuart Morgan)

breaches.

“The primary significance of the Flood Mapping Project was two-fold,” he explained. “First, critical information was collected from multiple, authoritative sources, and secondly, this information was published in a clear, user-friendly format. This effort was made possible due to cooperation among county departments and numerous external sources, the GIS team’s use of open-source software and technologies, and the involvement of citizen input via social media.”

Lancaster County

★ In the category for counties with populations between 50,000 and 150,000, Lancaster County won an Honorable Mention for creating a program to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. Faced with a declining pool of volunteer firefighters and experiencing significant population growth due to its proximity to the Charlotte Metro Region, the county launched its program by asking a simple question—Is There a Fire in You?



Lancaster County successfully secured a \$1 million federal grant to develop recruitment and retention materials, multimedia campaigns and an incentive program,” Dr. Becker said. “Though early in the program, the

efforts have already helped secure 24 new recruits.

“While the training period for new recruits is lengthy, the county’s efforts appear to have helped slow the net loss of volunteer firefighters,” he added.



LANCASTER COUNTY WINS HONORABLE MENTION—Accepting the Honorable Mention J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award that Lancaster County won in the 50,000 to 150,000 county population category are: (left to right) Lancaster County Administrator Steve Willis; Fire Rescue Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Nathan Wall; and Council Vice Chairman Brian Carnes. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



MCCORMICK COUNTY WINS HONORABLE MENTION—Accepting the Honorable Mention J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award that McCormick County won in the under 50,000 county population category are: (left to right) McCormick County Council Vice Chairman Bernard Hamby; Council Member Henry Banks; County Administrator Columbus Stephens; Council Chairman Charles Jennings; Council Member Byron Thompson; Economic Development Director Thessa Smith; and Clerk to Council Crystal Barnes. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



SPARTANBURG COUNTY WINS 2016 BARRETT LAWRIKORE MEMORIAL REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD—Accepting SCAC’s 2016 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for Spartanburg County on Aug. 2 at the Association’s Annual Awards Banquet are: (left to right) Spartanburg County Council Member Justin T. Bradley; County Administrator Katherine L. O’Neill; Major Neal Urch, Director of Spartanburg County Jail Operations; SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (Marion County Council Member); Spartanburg County Council Chairman Jeffrey A. Horton; Council Member Bob Walker; Council Vice Chairman Roger A. Nutt; and Robert H. Becker, Ph.D., head judge of the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition. Unavailable for the photo were: Spartanburg County Council Members Michael D. Brown, H. David Britt and Jane W. Hall. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

“Lancaster County is now able to offer incentives—such as tuition grants—and gifts and awards to recognize volunteer service as part of its recruitment and retention efforts.”

McCormick County

★ In the category for counties with populations under 50,000, McCormick County won an Honorable Mention for recasting the county to reflect its assets and natural resource advantages.

“To begin the process,” Dr. Becker said, “McCormick County held numerous meetings to gather ideas and impressions regarding the qualities that make the county and its communities special.

“A mission statement reflecting the vision of community members was developed,” he added. “This became the core of the county’s brand statement, which was integrated into a stylized pinecone logo representing the abundant resources found in the county. A tagline, ‘The Natural Pace of Life,’ was also developed to reflect the county’s brand.”

Spartanburg County Wins SCAC’s 2016 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award



★ **Spartanburg County** won SCAC’s 2016 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award—one of the competition’s top honors—for its cooperative venture, Operation Educate, led by the county’s Sheriff’s Office. Partners include: Adult Education, Upstate Workforce Board, S.C. Works, S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation, Spartanburg Community College, a panel of local business owners and the University of South Carolina Upstate.

This is the second consecutive year that Spartanburg County has won the

WINNER OF THE BARRETT LAWRIKORE MEMORIAL REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD



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prestigious award.

“Operation Educate provides jail inmates, who are unprepared for the workforce, access to education and resources to learn positive worker skills, such as punctuality and worker cooperation, interview skills and job readiness,” Dr. Becker said. “The program has the dual benefits of reducing taxpayer costs by reducing recidivism and is having a positive impact on the lives of inmates and their families. Operation

(Continued on next page)

Educate is creating a model of value."

Judges

Serving as judges for this year's competition were: Head Judge—Robert H. Becker, Ph.D., Fellow and Senior Scholar, Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University; Paula E. Sanford, Ph.D., Public Service and Outreach Faculty Member, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia; and William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston.

Other Entities Recognized for Competing in the 2016 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

On Aug. 2, during the General Session for SCAC's Annual Conference, Dr. Becker briefly described the 16 entries that were submitted in this year's competition as SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (Marion County Council Member) presented plaques to representatives of each county that participated.

The following descriptions are provided only for those entities that did not win:

J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award Competition

■ **Abbeville County**—Since 2007, Abbeville County has worked with utility providers and the S.C. Army National Guard to improve a 40-acre tract of land in the Lakelands Commerce Center. The additional industrial sites will attract industry to the community. The project offered the National Guard a training opportunity to give back to the community while saving taxpayers money.

■ **Anderson County**—In the wake of



RECOGNIZING BARNWELL COUNTY, LAST YEAR'S WINNER OF THE J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD—SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (center) presents a small replica of the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award to Barnwell County Administrator F. Pickens Williams Jr. (left) and Council Vice Chairman R. Keith Sloan, who accept the replica on behalf of their county. Counties display the actual J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award Trophy at home the year they win the award, but return the trophy the following year so that it can be awarded to another county. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

the rise in mass casualty incidents across the globe, Anderson County Emergency Services recognized the need to educate employees and residents on how to properly prepare for, and survive, an incident involving an active assailant and other types of emergencies. Emergency Services has partnered with businesses, schools, and community groups on this essential survival training.

■ **Charleston County**—Charleston County developed the "Community Education and Engagement Initiative" to educate rural community leaders and citizens on available resources. The initiative supports nonprofit organizations and low-to-moderate income rural residents who have limited access to free training. The program has created dialogue between the county, organizations, and individuals, and has helped citizens improve their neighborhoods.

■ **Kershaw County**—In 2015, the county-owned hospital was failing and on the brink of being sold, and its EMS service was being turned over to the county. Local governments, citizens and private businesses worked together to ensure quality healthcare remained in the community while creating an innovative and dedicated revenue stream for the new

county-operated EMS.

■ **Marion County**—Marion County has provided a "One Stop Shop" for Marion County residents conducting government business. The county successfully removed the burden and frustration of citizens and businesses having to visit multiple county buildings and, in the process, saved an unused building from neglect.

■ **Orangeburg County**—Filling the Gaps was a two-part initiative by the Orangeburg County Library to increase program offerings and effectively communicate information about these expanded services to the public. The program was

successfully implemented as a result of operational changes and proper team placement. A county television network began as a transparency initiative to allow citizens to view county council meetings. Programming includes emergency information, economic development news, and entertainment not available through other services. The network has also partnered with area schools to give students opportunities to create innovative television content.

■ **Pickens County**—Pickens County undertook the Liberty Project—a repurposing of four buildings which were once home to the Liberty Middle School—in order to meet the needs of the community. The renovated buildings now house the Magistrate's Office, the Civic Auditorium, the Liberty City Recreation Department, and the Meals on Wheels program.

Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award Competition

■ **Anderson County**—Anderson County Television Network began as a transparency initiative to allow citizens to view county council meetings. Programming includes emergency information, economic development

news, and entertainment not available through other services. The network has also partnered with area schools to give students opportunities to create innovative television content.

■ **Charleston County**—In September 2015, unprecedented rainfall and king tides caused Main Road to flood, closing a primary hurricane evacuation route and access point for daily commuters. The following month, Main Road flooded again during the state's historic rainfall event. Charleston County worked to unify multiple agencies, municipalities and county departments to provide

emergency repairs to reopen the road.

■ **Lancaster County**—Lancaster County worked with multiple partners to create safe roadways for its citizens. Lancaster County Public Works cooperated with the County Transportation Commission, the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission, the S.C. Department of Transportation, the S.C. Legislature, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide better transportation in the county.

■ **McCormick County**—McCormick County has a large population of seniors who suffer from multiple chronic diseases,

diabetes, congestive heart failure, stroke, cancer, and obesity. County agencies collaborated to open the Talmadge Fitness and Wellness Complex, a facility that provides wellness services at little to no cost to county residents.




Winners of the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

Colleton County	2016	Anderson County	2001	Aiken County	1986
Barnwell County	2015	Horry County	2000	Greenwood County	1985
Abbeville County	2014	York County	1999	Union County	1984
Newberry County	2013	Aiken County	1998	Greenville County	1983
Colleton County	2012	Georgetown County	1997	Chester County	1982
Horry County	2011	Berkeley County	1996	Chesterfield County	1981
Orangeburg County	2010	Florence County	1995	York County	1980
Georgetown County	2009	Richland County	1994	Beaufort County	1979
Lexington County	2008	Charleston County	1993	Oconee County	1978
Greenwood County	2007	York County	1992	Richland County	1977
Newberry County	2006	Greenwood County	1991	Beaufort County and	
Georgetown County	2005	Beaufort County	1990	Greenwood County	1976
Lexington County	2004	Charleston County	1989	Edgefield County	1975
Orangeburg County	2003	Spartanburg County	1988	Lexington County	1974
Anderson County	2002	Beaufort County	1987	Charleston County	1973



Winners of the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

Spartanburg County	2016
Spartanburg County	2015
Abbeville, Anderson, Barnwell and Jasper Counties	2014
Lexington and Richland Counties	2012
Beaufort and Jasper Counties	2011
Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force (Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, Oconee and Pickens Counties)	2010
Greenwood County and GLEAMNS	2009
Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force (Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, Oconee and Pickens Counties)	2008
Beaufort/Hampton/Jasper Counties	2007
Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force	2006
Berkeley/Charleston/Dorchester Counties	2005
Florence/Georgetown/Horry Counties	2004
Sumter/Lee Counties	2003
Anderson County Partnership	2002
Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority	1999



Advertise in South Carolina's 2017 Directory of County Officials!

Advertising Deadline: December 30, 2016

South Carolina's *2017 Directory of County Officials*, currently in production, will be distributed in February to elected and appointed county officials, and many state offices in South Carolina.

The *2017 Directory* will list elected and appointed county officials in the state and identify SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors, Past Presidents, Patrons and Sponsors; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers will be included for county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly. Additional information will be included as well.

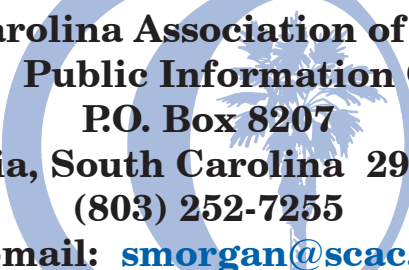
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The deadline for placing an advertisement in the upcoming *2017 Directory* is **5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, 2016**. So, your check or money order (made payable to SCAC) and ad must be received by this date at the SCAC Office (NO EXCEPTIONS).

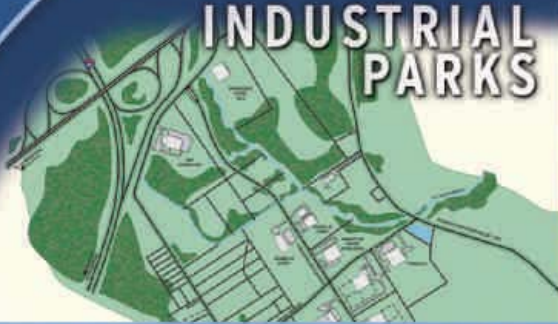
A PDF of the *2017 Directory* (a complete version including advertisements that can be viewed, downloaded and printed) is posted each year on SCAC's website at www.sccounties.org. After the *2017 Directory of County Officials* is distributed to South Carolina's counties and SCAC's Corporate Supporters, additional copies will be sold at a cost of \$25.00 per copy.

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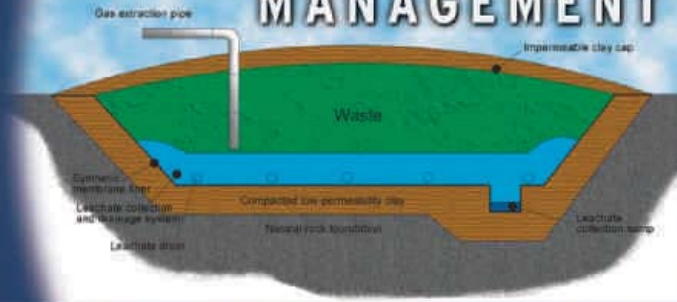
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Colleton County Wins 2016 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

For Constructing a Business Incubator, a Commercial Kitchen

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Colleton County won the 2016 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award on Tuesday, Aug. 2, at the 49th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties (July 31–Aug. 3) for constructing a business incubator—a commercial kitchen—to help promote food-based businesses.

Now, local farmers and food business entrepreneurs can test their products for acceptability and sales without having to assume financial risks usually associated with commercial food sales. Food business entrepreneurs can also receive information and access to equipment to prepare and package their products.

So-called “food business entrepreneurs” include: bakers, farmers or anyone looking to freeze or preserve excess produce, or anyone who has a unique idea for a condiment, who wants to test a to-go lunch menu before opening a restaurant, or a food truck or caterer looking for a home base. The term could also be used, for example, to describe a young person who believes that his great grandparent’s pound cake recipe needs to be mass produced and sold.

Space is provided in the commercial kitchen to help farmers and food entrepreneurs market and sell their products.

“Thinking Outside the Box”

Colleton County Administrator Kevin Griffin said winning this year’s J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award and



the commercial kitchen’s success feels “pretty good” considering the facility has only been operating a little more than a year.

“We feel like we’re ahead of schedule as far as where we thought the project would be at this point in time,” Griffin added. “I certainly didn’t think that products created in our commercial kitchen would end up in general food marketplace and grocery stores this fast,” he admitted. “But on a recent weekend, I walked into an Ingles grocery store in Seneca when traveling there to watch a

Colleton County
Winner of the 2016 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award



See South Carolina
County Map,
Page 75

Clemson football game and saw a large display of Beasley’s Barbecue sauces, which were created in our commercial kitchen.”

Colleton County officials have demonstrated in recent years an ability to “think outside the box” when searching for ways to make their county distinctive and progressive as far as economic and community development is concerned. This, of course, probably explains why the county has won SCAC’s J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award twice during the past five years.

Colleton County first won the award in 2012 for building a museum and farmers market at 506 E. Washington St. in downtown Walterboro, the county seat. One section of the facility, the museum, features a natural history exhibit; historical exhibits; and other art and local history exhibits. The other section,

the farmers market, allows Lowcountry growers and producers another way to sell agricultural commodities and other farm-related products.

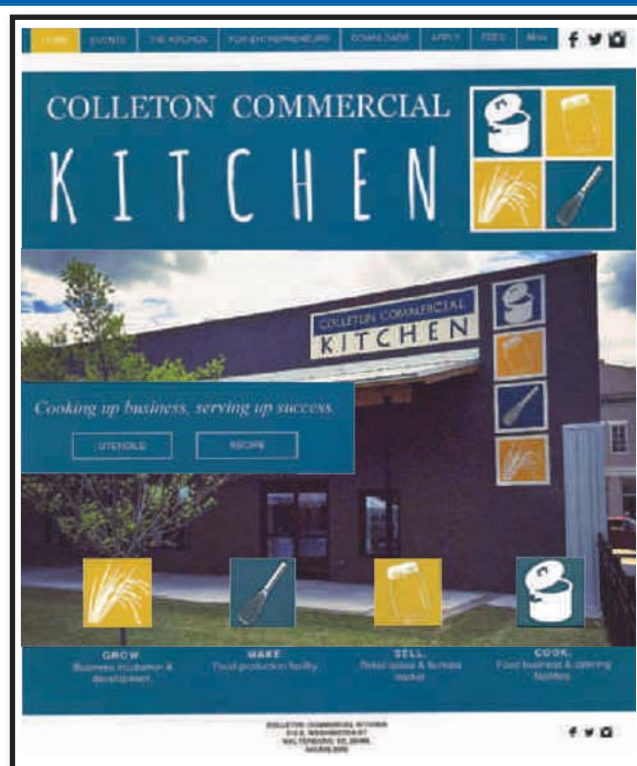
Building upon the success of the facility's highly successful farmers market, the county essentially won this year's award for taking the goal of helping local residents—particularly farmers and food entrepreneurs—a major step further. After all, residents using the farmers market were looking for a way to create value-added products from what

“... on a recent weekend, I walked into an Ingles grocery store in Seneca when traveling there to watch a Clemson football game and saw a large display of Beasley's Barbeque sauces, which were created in our commercial kitchen.”

— Kevin Griffin
Colleton County Administrator

they were growing and producing locally and regionally.

Farmers generally produce and market raw agricultural goods. Unfortunately, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service, farmers' share of consumers' food shopping money declined from 46 percent in 1913 to just under 20 percent in 2006. Consumers are buying more ready-to-eat or ready-to-cook food. So, direct marketing and enhancing the value of their agricultural goods by creating value-added products are two ways that farmers can increase their profits. Examples of
(See **Kitchen**, P. 19)



Website home page for Colleton County's Commercial Kitchen
www.ColletonKitchen.org



J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD WINNERS—Standing behind SCAC's J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award that Colleton County won this year are: (left to right) Colleton County Council Member W. Gene Whetsell; Council Chairman Steven D. Murdaugh; the Rev. Evon Robinson Sr., Council Member; Dr. Joseph F. Flowers, Council Vice Chairman; and Council Member Phillip M. Taylor Sr. (Photo by Barry W. McRoy, Fire Chief, Colleton County Fire-Rescue.)

KEY

- ENTRANCE FROM WASHINGTON ST. 1.
- ENTRANCE FROM EXISTING MUSEUM 2.
- ENTRANCE FROM PARKING LOT 3.
- RETAIL DISPLAY AREA 4.
- RESTROOMS 5.
- RETAIL COUNTER & FOOD SERVICE AREA 6.
- DRY STORAGE & REFRIGERATION 7.
- SAUCE & JAM KITCHEN 8.
- BOTTLING & LABELING 9.
- BAKING KITCHEN 10.
- SCULLERY 11.
- TEACHING SPACE 12.



E. WASHINGTON STREET

Plan by Architect Roscoe W. Chambers
Illustration by Matt Mardell



Kitchen ...

(Continued from P. 17)

creating value-added products, according to the USDA, are milling wheat into flour, making strawberries into jam, making organically produced products and creating an identity-preserved marketing system.

Thanks to Colleton County's new commercial kitchen, farmers and food business entrepreneurs can finally create such products for the facility's marketplace without having to pay consignment fees. Then, the county's finance department issues checks every few weeks to pay them when they sell something.

"Absolutely! Winning this award twice in five years means something," Griffin replied when asked if winning the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award twice in five years meant anything to him and Colleton County. "First, it shows we are fortunate to have a county council that understands that you have to try new things to make your organization unique and successful. Second, it certainly shows we have a talented and hard working staff that works well together and continues to build on good ideas."

Funding the Project, Satisfying Regulations

Finding a way to fund the creation of a commercial kitchen was the first challenge.

But Colleton County leaders, partnering with the Palmetto Rural Telephone Cooperative, worked hard to receive a \$1.241 million loan from the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grants (REDLG) Program. The county used this funding to renovate and repurpose a dilapidated, abandoned building located at 514 E. Washington Street in downtown Walterboro to serve as a commercial kitchen. The commercial kitchen's operation is funded by renting the facility's space and equipment and by the sale of products.

Because the commercial kitchen concept is a relatively new one in South Carolina, county leaders had to find a way

to overcome the lender's concerns that the commercial kitchen would not be able to raise sufficient revenue to pay back the loan. Still, county leaders eventually were able to overcome such concerns when they decided to backstop the debt

"Absolutely! Winning this award twice in five years means something. First, it shows we are fortunate to have a county council that understands that you have to try new things to make your organization unique and successful. Second, it clearly shows we have a talented and hard working staff that works well together and continues to build on good ideas."

— Kevin Griffin
Colleton County Administrator

service by pledging hospitality revenues to repay the loan if necessary. Fortunately, according to Griffin, the commercial kitchen has performed extremely well from a financial standpoint, and it's unlikely hospitality tax revenues will be needed to help repay the loan.

He credited the USDA and SC DHEC for helping Colleton County satisfy regulatory issues and setting up the training required to operate the commercial kitchen. Griffin also noted that the county was fortunate to receive donations and discounts on equipment for the facility.

A Successful Recipe: The Commercial Kitchen's "Three Ingredients"

Designing a layout for the commercial kitchen and selecting the type of equipment that would be needed to develop the facility for the broadest array of users were the next challenges. But again, Colleton County officials successfully tackled these challenges as well.

Matt Mardell, Kitchen Program Manager, who presented Colleton County's entry at this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition, essentially provided a recipe for creating the commercial kitchen by providing the three basic

ingredients: 1) physical space for food storage, production and clean-up; 2) tools to help develop businesses; space to host business functions, cooking classes, workshops and offer business advice; and 3) physical space to market, display and sell products.

Colleton County's single-story 9,070-square-foot commercial kitchen, which shares a central marketplace with the Colleton Museum & Farmers Market, creates a natural synergy between the two facilities. As a result, the cost of staffing the museum, farmers market, commercial kitchen and marketplace can also be minimized because staff members can be cross-trained to work in the adjoining sections.

The Colleton Commercial Kitchen includes a:

- 2,200-square-foot storage area for refrigerated and frozen products, dry goods, smallware and laundry;
 - 560-square-foot sauce and jam kitchen, which includes a 60-gallon steam kettle and pneumatic piston filling machine for automated production;
 - 560-square-foot baking kitchen, which includes baking ovens, roll-in rack ovens, a dough sheeting machine and commercial mixers;
 - 200-square-foot packaging room, which includes a labeling machine and vacuum packaging machine;
 - 250-square-foot sanitizing dishwasher and three-stage sanitary sink;
 - 1,300-square-foot teaching kitchen that includes multi-functional event space, which can accommodate approximately 25 people in a classroom-style setup or 50 people in an audience-style setup for a variety of activities. This portion of the facility, which can be rented for birthdays, showers and other activities, includes state-of-the-art overhead camera and recording capabilities.
 - 4,000-square-foot marketplace, which connects the commercial kitchen to the county's museum and farmers market. The marketplace includes refrigerated and frozen
- (See **Kitchen**, P. 20)

Kitchen ...

(Continued from P. 19)

display cases and regular shelf space that farmers and food business entrepreneurs can use to display their products. It also includes wi-fi and a café, which serves beverages

and lunch options offered by kitchen users.

By the time the commercial kitchen was completed in May 2015, county officials and others had completed the project's final challenge, which included developing the facility's operating procedures and training curriculum.

Since the Colleton Commercial

Kitchen opened last spring, local crafts, books and regionally-sourced shelf stable products have been displayed in the marketplace, located between the commercial kitchen and the Colleton Museum & Farmers Market. This creates a gourmet food store atmosphere, and an attractive area for visitors that compliments the commercial kitchen, and



Colleton County's State-of-the-Art, Award-Winning Commercial Kitchen



Colleton Commercial Kitchen's program manager, Matt Mardell, receives considerable feedback from individuals who have visited or used the county's new commercial kitchen. The most common comment he receives from visitors is that they can't believe that Colleton County has such a state-of-the-art facility.

"We are not a public building per-se," Mardell said. "So people are always curious as to what's happening behind these closed doors. Our commercial kitchen is designed to enable businesses to get the maximum efficiency from their production runs. It also entices people, who visit the commercial kitchen, to visit the museum, farmers market

and such.

"Local residents are always asking us when our next cooking classes will be held," he added. "They always tell us how much they love attending the classes. Visitors, who are impressed with our commercial kitchen, often ask us how they can become part of what we're doing here." ■



The marketplace

Photos by Stuart Morgan
except when indicated otherwise.

Entrance to the marketplace (shown above-right), located between the Colleton Commercial Kitchen and the Colleton Museum & Farmers Market.

➤ Entrance to the commercial kitchen from the marketplace



Matt Mardell (left photo), program manager for the commercial kitchen, shows some of the products sold in the marketplace. A display for Beasley's Sauces (middle photo) is one of many successful products that is displayed for sale in the marketplace.



Doors leading from the marketplace and café to the commercial kitchen



Pastries and other products displayed in the café (Photo by Matt Mardell, Program Manager, Colleton Commercial Kitchen)

the museum and farmers market.

Satisfying a Need, Creating Opportunities

Mardell said it makes sense for Colleton County to capitalize on its local agriculture and regional food trends, particularly because such trends

are thriving about 45 minutes away in Charleston.

“A study undertaken by the Clemson Institute for Economic Development, which surveyed local farmers and potential users,” he said, “identified a need for affordable, DHEC-regulated kitchen space.”

Virtually all manufactured food

products must be created in a DHEC-regulated environment. Specific tools are also required to package certain food products for sale.

“Our commercial kitchen,” Mardell said, “provides this regulated environment and the equipment that’s needed to take a product from its core ingredients all the
(Continued on next page)



The view upon entering the commercial kitchen



Room where cooking and dinnerware can be cleaned.



Sauce and jam kitchen (Photo by George Salsberry, The [Walterboro] Press & Standard)



Teaching kitchen, located adjacent to the classroom (Photo by Matt Mardell, Program Manager, Colleton Commercial Kitchen)



Colleton Commercial Kitchen, Washington Street side



Preparing meals for the After-School Feeding Program (AFP) are: (left to right) Devon Cunningham; Queen Ellison; Vergie Smalls; and Eartha Cunningham, AFP Coordinator. The program distributes meals to more than 400 students participating in educational programs across Colleton County.



Baking Kitchen (Photo by George Salsberry, The [Walterboro] Press & Standard)



Room with packaging and labeling equipment



►Representatives of the S.C. Small Business Development Center speak to small business entrepreneurs in the commercial kitchen's classroom. (Photo by Matt Mardell, Program Manager, Colleton Commercial Kitchen)



way to the shelf and then safely into the mouths of consumers. Our commission-free retail environment and our farmers market then gives our users opportunities to take that product to market and analyze how it performs.

"These opportunities," he added, "don't just include sales, but also taste testings and various community events we have, such as 'The Taste of Walterboro,' where local food businesses offer tastings of their products to huge crowds."

Mardell's perspective provides some insight into *why* the county's commercial kitchen has become highly successful so quickly. The Englishman, who married a Walterboro girl and now calls Colleton County home, credited what he describes as "the strength of the family" in Colleton County.

"People here," explained Mardell, who hails not far from London, "have these recipes belonging to grandparents, great grandparents, and such that they believe—and rightly so—beats the likes of Betty Crocker or Sara Lee. Bring that family recipe into an environment like this, and all of a sudden you can make a business from it."

Before Colleton County created its commercial kitchen, it would have been difficult and expensive for local farmers and food business entrepreneurs to find anything similar to the county's well-equipped facility to pursue their goals. This, Mardell said, is precisely why the commercial kitchen is making dreams come true.

For example, a local baker progressed from selling pastries in the commercial kitchen's marketplace to successfully

running its café full-time one year later. Another local resident, whose hobby was cooking barbeque and inventing his own sauces on the weekends, now sells five different sauces in the marketplace. He also sells his sauces at Ingles grocery stores across the upstate and in North Carolina.

Farmers and food entrepreneurs can rent the kitchen at the relatively low rate of \$20 per hour to create a food product and then package, market and sell it to the public. Although farmers and food entrepreneurs are required to sign a

"People here have these recipes belonging to grandparents, great grandparents, and such that they believe—and rightly so—beats the likes of Betty Crocker or Sara Lee. Bring that family recipe into an environment like this, and all of a sudden you can make a business from it."

— Matt Mardell
Colleton Commercial Kitchen
Program Manager

user's contract to use the commercial kitchen, they are not required to sign a long-term contract. This is especially helpful for local seasonal food industries.

Anyone, who wants to use the commercial kitchen, is required to pay a \$150 deposit and complete an application. They are also required to have their own liability insurance and Food Manager Certification, and to apply to get their product or products approved, typically by DHEC or S.C. Department of Agriculture. However, Mardell can help users obtain the required certification

and get their products approved. Although he is also available to help users with equipment if they need assistance, Mardell said he doesn't help them produce anything.

New users can utilize the facility from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. most days, and rent storage refrigerated and dry storage space. But once users have

demonstrated that they can be trusted to follow the facility's rules and regulations, Mardell grants swipe-card access that allows them to use the commercial kitchen 24/7 year round. Users are also able to sign up at no cost to use an app called "The FoodCorridor," which allows them to book their own time on the kitchen calendar as needed. The system automatically deducts the user's bill from their account within 24 hours, generates invoices and manages accounts.

"I can't brag enough about the group of talented individuals who built this app," Mardell said. "It saves a lot of paperwork, and provides the kitchen's users and myself one place we can find the information we need."

"Exceeding All Expectations"

The Colleton Commercial Kitchen has helped the downtown Walterboro area by regenerating a worn-down corner of the city.

Revenue generated by the commercial kitchen has far exceeded expectations, and the facility has already created 38 jobs instead of the five jobs that it was expected to create during its first year of operation, according to Mardell.

"Visitation numbers for the museum have risen around eight-fold," he estimated. "People enter the marketplace, located between the commercial kitchen and museum. They see the café and wander into the museum. Local residents also come here to shop, have lunch or to grab a cup of coffee and often stay."

The commercial kitchen doesn't just benefit local farmers, food business entrepreneurs and skilled craft workers who use it to sell their products. The facility has become the "go-to" gourmet food store in Walterboro, enabling talented local chefs and others the opportunity to offer classes on food production and nutrition.

Yet, Mardell said the commercial kitchen's major impact has been on the county's USDA-funded After School and Summer Feeding Programs.

Colleton County is one of South Carolina's largest counties geographically,



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but with about 39,000 residents, it's one of the state's most sparsely populated counties.

"We live in a large, rural county where many residents are unable to constantly come to town and get fresh groceries for their children when they are out of school," Mardell explained. "This year, we streamlined the After School and Summer Feeding programs into one county-run program. We organized the staff, the meals, the orders, the transportation and such to ensure we could deliver more than 3,000 meals every day to more than 65 locations across our county."

The county has administered the Summer Feeding Program for many years, a program that ensures that children retain the level of nutrition after they leave school and return home. Moving and consolidating these two programs into the commercial kitchen has allowed the county to employ students, who were looking for summer jobs, to work at the facility and assemble meals for younger children living within the county.

"This was a massive undertaking, which went off without a hitch, and we are very proud of it," Mardell said. "But more importantly, we hope that we have inspired some of the children who worked for our program and opened up their eyes to the people and county around them. I also hope that one day, when they have been to college and developed their skills, that they will return home to Colleton County and give back to their community. Such 'people power' is the real investment we need."

Enhancing the Quality of Life

SCAC's J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, first presented in 1973, was created to 1) recognize counties that address community challenges 2) implement operational improvements, or 3) enhance their citizens' quality of life in a unique way.

Mardell said he's convinced that, more than anything else, Colleton County's award-winning commercial kitchen enhances the quality of life for the county's citizens in a unique way. There

is a small private business incubator and a similar type kitchen-only facility in two other counties in the state. But there is no other facility as well-equipped as Colleton County's commercial kitchen, especially one that provides so much and benefits so many.

The Colleton Commercial Kitchen benefits everyone from farmers to local food business entrepreneurs. The facility also benefits children who receive meals from the county's Summer Feeding Program to students who are employed to help assemble their meals.

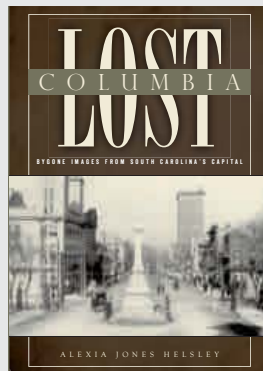
Equally as important, the commercial kitchen fortifies the county's economy and revitalizes a corner of downtown Walterboro which benefits local businesses that operate and property owners who live near the award-winning commercial kitchen.

"All of this," Mardell said, "has been accomplished in a local building, built by local hands and dreamed-up by local leaders."



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

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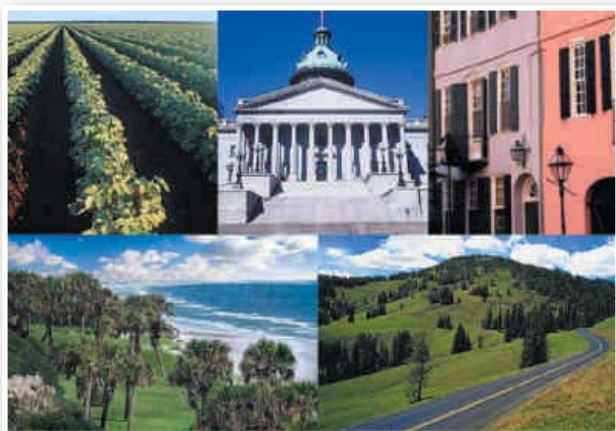
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Spartanburg County Wins 2016 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

For Its Cooperative Venture, Operation Educate, Led by the Sheriff's Office

By W. Stuart Morgan III

Spartanburg County won the prestigious 2016 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award on Tuesday, Aug. 2, at the 49th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties (July 31 – Aug. 3) for its cooperative venture, Operation Educate, led by the Sheriff's Office.

This is the second consecutive year that Spartanburg County has won the award.

Operation Educate provides inmates, who are unprepared for employment, access to education and resources so that they can learn work-related skills to find jobs, and positive habits and behaviors to keep jobs, including: punctuality, how to cooperate and work well with others, and how to get along with employers. Equally important, the program teaches inmates how to prepare for employment and interview for jobs *before* they are released.

While the program is designed to help improve the lives of inmates and their families once inmates are released to resume their lives, it is designed to benefit taxpayers as well by reducing costs associated with recidivism.

Solving the Problem of Recidivism

Spartanburg County Council Chairman Jeff Horton recommended developing the program after discussing the problem of recidivism with the county's director of jail operations, Maj. Neal Urch, and Henry Giles, President of Spartanburg Community College, in



Flowers and a graduation programs, identifying inmates graduating from Operation Educate, displayed on a tables at a recent graduation. (Photo by Corporal Christina Hogle, Training Unit, Detention Division, Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office)



2014. According to the National Institute of Justice, recidivism is defined as one of the most fundamental concepts in criminal justice. It refers to a person's relapse into criminal behavior, often after they receive sanctions or undergo intervention, including incarceration, for a previous crime.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics, in one national study in 2005, found that about three-quarters of released prisoners

were re-arrested within five years. In fact, it's estimated that the rate of recidivism in Spartanburg County is about 33 percent, or that 1 in 3 individuals will return to jail for minor offenses within a year. Studies, which have analyzed the various reasons why people return to jail,



have shown that many individuals were caught in a cycle they couldn't escape.

Spartanburg County isn't the first entity to seek a way to reduce recidivism. In fact, some organizations within the county have already been working to tackle the problem. But Spartanburg County leaders recommended that organizations partner with the county to strengthen the effort and perhaps make it more effective.

"It was our hope," recalled Spartanburg County Administrator Katherine O'Neill, "that organizations would accept the opportunity to partner with our county in this cooperative venture."

Obviously, that hope has become an award-winning reality, Operation Educate.

"Truly Changing Lives"

O'Neill said she's thrilled that the cooperative venture has won SCAC's Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award this year, and that the venture's efforts have been recognized.

"Operation Educate's early

successes are noteworthy," she reported. "The program is truly changing lives by giving hope to individuals who thought all doors had been closed. The program is accomplishing what it was designed to do. It's showing inmates that if an opportunity is presented to improve their education and they're prepared to seize the opportunity, they can essentially write their own success stories."

Spartanburg County won last year's Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for partnering with numerous entities to develop and promote a program, Very Special People, Very Special Places (VSP), one which

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— Katherine O'Neill
Spartanburg County Administrator

helps the county's growing population of seniors 50 years and older. According to O'Neill, the recognition Spartanburg County received after winning last year's award for its VSP partnership has inspired county leaders to prioritize and maintain the county's focus on collaborative partnerships.

She believes that Operation Educate, like the VSP program, is the type of cooperative effort that the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award Competition was designed to recognize when the award was founded in 1999. After all, Operation Educate highlights the critical need for regional partnerships, strategies and solutions. In addition, O'Neill believes that such partnerships have become more important in recent years, and that they'll likely continue to remain so.

"While it is true that limited resources tend to encourage partnerships," O'Neill explained, "we've found that collaboration has expanded the county's reach with the Operation Educate program as well as with the VSP, the senior citizen initiative. We've seen more and
(Continued on next page)



BARRETT LAWRIMORE MEMORIAL REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD WINNERS—Showing the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award that Spartanburg County won this year are: (left to right) Spartanburg County Council Members Bob Walker and Jane W. Hall; Council Vice Chairman Roger A. Nutt; Council Chairman Jeffrey A. Horton and Council Members Michael D. Brown, H. David Britt and Justin T. Bradley. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

broadier successes than we ever dared to imagine. As Spartanburg County Council Member David Britt recently said, "Teamwork makes the dream work!"

Operation Educate, in its initial stage, is pooling resources with its partners to explore ways to increase resources and to obtain more funding.

Operation Educate Graduations



Separate graduation exercises are held for female and male inmates completing Operation Educate. By the end of its first year of operation, 68 inmates had received vocational certificates in manufacturing, office administration or cell phone repair.



Shown above presenting graduation certificates to one of 68 inmates graduating during the past year from Spartanburg County's Operation Educate program are: (left to right) Sgt. William Church, Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office; Maj. Neal Urch, Director of Spartanburg County Jail Operations; Henry Giles, President of Spartanburg Community College; and Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright.



Photos by Corporal Christina Hogle, Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office



Currently, the program's partners include: Adult Education, Upstate Workforce Board, S.C. Works, S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation, Spartanburg Community College, a panel of local business owners and the University of South Carolina Upstate.

O'Neill didn't want to identify a single key that she has found makes a partnership work successful. Instead, she preferred to identify *many* keys, including: "good communication, providing support, building and maintaining relationships, strong commitment to the cause, effective leadership, mutual respect and taking pride in a program all help make partnerships successful."

Education and Hope

Spartanburg County's Operation Education definitely gives meaning to one of South Carolina's better-known mottos, "Dum Spiro Spero," which, translated means, "While I Breathe I Hope."

As of Oct. 2016, more than 144 jail inmates or detainees have participated in the program since it was launched about a year-and-a-half ago. Most of them have less than a high school education, and most were unemployed. Although it is difficult at this early stage to determine how much the program has or will reduce recidivism, Maj. Neal Urch, Director of Spartanburg County Jail Operations, said he and others involved in the partnership hope the program will achieve its objective and benefit inmates, their families and taxpayers.

Still, figures are already available to show the program is meeting some objectives. By the end of its first year of operation, 68 inmates participating in Operation Educate received a vocational certificate in manufacturing, office administration or cell phone repair. None of the program's graduates has failed any of the 26 tests that have been administered toward one of four sections of the General Education Development. Twenty-six inmates had also achieved bronze level or higher certification toward a Work-Keys accreditation.

Meanwhile, Spartanburg County has achieved a major objective while developing its Operation Educate

program. The county has the only detention center in South Carolina that has created a Pearson VUE-Authorized Test Center. Because the program's classrooms are authorized, inmates can be tested onsite without having to be transported for testing elsewhere at additional expense.

"We hope that everyone, who has participated in our program, will take what they've learned here and implement the lessons we have taught them," Maj. Urch said. "The lessons are designed to lead them to do something great with their lives and benefit others instead of re-offending."

More than 11 million people are processed through our nation's jails every year, many of them for minor offenses.

"One can imagine that when you're arrested and brought to jail that it would be one of the lowest points in your life," Maj. Urch explained. "The crime that the person is charged with is the symptom. But just like any other symptom of an illness, unless you identify the cause of an illness—instead of just treating the symptom—that person will not heal."

"We must," he added, "change the common philosophy of incarceration and begin to use the time a person spends in jail to help identify the issue or issues causing them to make the choices that brought them to jail."

Evidence indicates that Maj. Urch is correct. Although the United States incarcerates more people per capita than any other nation in the world, the nation's crime rate remains the highest.

"We do not condone what they have done, nor are we unsympathetic to the right of the victims," Maj. Urch explained. "But if we identify and begin to treat the cause, then we have hope that inmates, once released after they serve their sentences, will be prepared to make better choices and avoid re-entering a life of crime."

Evidence also indicates that the more education a person receives, the more successful they are likely to become in life.

"Because education is such a large part of someone's life and plays such a formative role," Maj. Urch explained, "it

only stands to reason that providing the start of a basic education, while a person is incarcerated, and providing them an opportunity to continue that education when they're released, would allow them the opportunity to make life changing choices.

"Through our program, we offer inmates who are preparing to be released back into the community, a great chance

"We must change the common philosophy of incarceration and begin to use the time a person spends in jail to help identify the issue or issues causing them to make the choices that brought them to jail."



— Major Neal Urch
Director of Spartanburg County
Jail Operations

to succeed and change their lives," he added. "We do this by partnering with the Spartanburg County Community College, supported by the University of South Carolina Upstate, and SC Works, Voc Rehab and a consortium of employers, who support the program."

Maj. Urch is director of Spartanburg County's jail operations, but his responsibilities are broader than others in his position. He's also responsible for creating the Operation Educate Program, bringing together the program's partners, developing the program's agenda and finding ways to support it.

Maj. Urch said that, as with any other program, Operation Educate will only be as good as the people who lead it. He also said the program's success will depend on the support it receives, and that it's important to encourage others to participate and ensure the program's classes are beneficial.

Maj. Urch presented Spartanburg County's Operation Educate entry at this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Awards Competition, held during SCAC's 49th Annual Conference (July 31 – Aug. 3).

"By participating in this year's competition," he explained, "we were able to showcase our program at the statewide level by providing a venue to

share our idea with other counties across the state. We hope that other counties will look at our program and develop similar programs to benefit their communities. We also hope that others will see the benefits of implementing similar programs in their counties. Counties don't need to start from scratch when they learn about a program like ours. They could take what they've learned from our presentation, adapt what they've learned to fit their communities and make their programs successful as well.

"You don't normally begin a program to receive recognition," Maj. Urch said. "But it is encouraging when your program receives recognition."

Operation Educate doesn't just educate inmates. In addition to offering hope to Maj. Urch and everyone else who operates and supports the program, the program also offers hope to inmates who participate in its classes and graduates.

"In life, without hope, we have nothing," Maj. Urch emphasized. "Inmates participating in Operation Educate are offered hope for a better future. Sure, it's up to them as to how they implement what they've learned. But this program also offers them the opportunity to live and enjoy a future that's different from what they've previously experienced."

"The family of someone who has ended up in jail is naturally disappointed," he added. "But when someone, who has served his or her time in jail, leaves and makes the best of a bad situation and does something good with their life, this gives that person hope and that person's family hope."

Ceremonies are special that Spartanburg County Jail hosts for inmates completing Operation Educate's classes.

"To see the faces of the mothers, fathers and siblings and those of grandparents is priceless," Maj. Urch said. "They were disappointed, but now they're proud."

"How," he asked, "do you put a dollar amount on that?"





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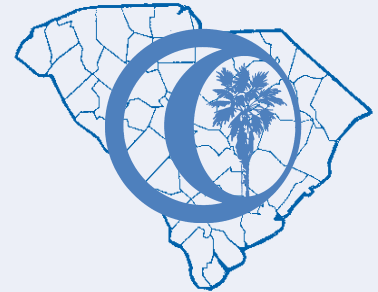
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- To promote more efficient county governments
- To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government
- To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials
- To promote and encourage education of 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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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 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 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 37 or SCAC's website to obtain respective email addresses.

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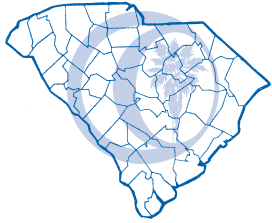
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Preparing Counties for Tomorrow ...



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, non-profit 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.

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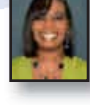
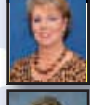
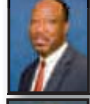
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SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



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<) began on Aug. 1, 1995, with four members. The membership has grown to include 16 counties and 9 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. ■

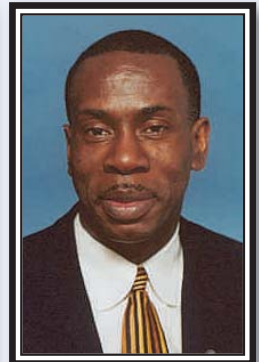
BOARDS OF TRUSTEES for South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and Property & Liability Trust



CHAIRMAN
David K. Summers Jr.
Calhoun County
Council Chairman



VICE CHAIRMAN
Waymon Mumford
Florence County
Council Member



Gonza L. Bryant
Greenwood County
Council Member

Compensation for Injuries Sustained for Unexplained Falls Arising in the Course and Scope of Employment

By Gibbs Leaphart, Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte

The South Carolina Supreme Court has reversed two Court of Appeals decisions in workers' compensation. In addressing two similar cases involving level floor falls, the Court apparently sought to clarify the analysis of idiopathic and unexplained falls in workers' compensation law with what it believed to be shifting the burden to the claimant to prove a fall was caused by a hazard peculiar to work.

In *Nicholson v. DSS*, the claimant fell while walking on a carpet in route to a meeting at work. The Court issued a unanimous decision (with one justice affirming based upon the substantial evidence rule and not the analysis of the remainder of the Court), reversing the Court of Appeals and held that the claimant was required to walk down the hallway to perform her responsibilities and in the course of those duties she sustained an injury. Because the fall happened at work and was not caused by a condition peculiar to her, it was causally connected to her employment. The Court noted the Court of Appeals erred in requiring a claimant to essentially prove the existence of a hazard or danger. The Court reasoned that workers' compensation law was a no fault system and there existed no requirement that an injury must stem from a particular hazard or risk of employment. Thus, the test is not the relation of an individual's personal fault to an event, but the relationship of an event to an employment. The only question to determine is whether the injury was causally-connected to employment.

In *Barnes v. Carter 1 Realty*, the claimant stumbled and fell on the way to a fellow employee's office. In a 4-1 decision, the Supreme Court held that while the claimant could not explain the cause of her fall, such as a defect in the carpet or hazard at work, she was performing a work task when she fell and clumsiness was not an exception to workers' compensation. Therefore, the injury was causally-connected to her employment and she was entitled

to benefits under the Act. The Court indicated that there must be evidence to support the fall was caused by a condition peculiar to the claimant before addressing whether there existed a hazard which contributed to the effect of the fall.

These two cases will likely have a very significant impact on an employer/carrier's defense of idiopathic and unexplained fall cases. In its rulings, the Supreme Court has established that a fall at work will be compensable if it occurred while the employee was performing some work-related task unless it was due to a condition personal or peculiar to the employee, such as a seizure or some internal breakdown (i.e., the original idiopathic claims). If the employer/carrier does present evidence of such a condition, the claim may still be found compensable if the claimant establishes the existence of a special risk associated with the workplace that contributed to the effect of the fall despite the idiopathic condition. Stay tuned for those cases falling within the gray area as they are sure to start being litigated in the months to come.



Donald E. Hancock
Saluda County
Council Chairman



Clyde B. Livingston
Orangeburg County
Council Member



F. Pickens Williams Jr.
Barnwell County
Administrator



Steve Willis
Lancaster County
Administrator



**SECRETARY/
TREASURER**
Michael B. Cone
Executive Director, SCAC

SCAC Hosts 49th Annual Conference

The South Carolina Association of Counties hosted its 49th Annual Conference from July 31 to Aug. 3 at the Hilton Head Marriott.

The conference—designed to help county leaders lead and serve more effectively—offered training sessions, workshops and opportunities for county officials to network and discuss challenges they face. The conference also allowed county leaders to meet with corporate supporters, exhibitors and others.

New SCAC officers and board members were elected. Top



county programs and projects were presented and recognized. Awards also were presented.

Conference Speakers

General Session

NACo President **Bryan M. Desloge** (Leon County, Fla. Commissioner) spoke at this year's general session on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

In addition to being a NACo officer, Desloge serves on NACo's Health Steering Committee, Financial Ser-
(See Conference Photos, P. 48)



SCAC President, 2015-16
John Q. Atkinson Jr.
Marion County Council Member



Speaker for General Session
Bryan M. Desloge
NACo President



Keynote Speaker for General Session
Henry D. McMaster
S.C. Lieutenant Governor

Photos by
Stuart Morgan

General Session

◀ General Session, SCAC's 49th Annual Conference, Tuesday, Aug. 2

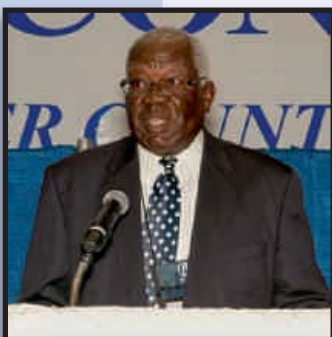




HEAD TABLE, GENERAL SESSION—(Left to right) SCAC Treasurer Belinda D. Copeland (Darlington County Treasurer); SCAC Secretary F. Pickens Williams Jr. (Barnwell County Administrator); S.C. Lieutenant Governor Henry D. McMaster (Keynote Speaker); 2015-16 SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (Marion County Council Member); (at podium) NACo President Bryan M. Desloge (Leon County, Fla., Commissioner); SCAC First Vice President Julie J. Armstrong (Charleston County Clerk of Court); SCAC Second Vice President Ronald Young (Aiken County Council Chairman); and SCAC Third Vice President Henry H. Livingston III (Newberry County Council Chairman)



Beaufort County Council Chairman D. Paul Sommerville welcomes everyone to Beaufort County, host county for SCAC's 49th Annual Conference.



SCAC Board Member Waymon Mumford (Florence County Council Member) provides the invocation.



Chairman of SCAC's Nominations Committee, Joseph R. Branham, announces the Association's slate of officers for 2016-17. Branham is Chester County Council Vice Chairman.



Chairman of SCAC's Constitution, Resolutions and Bylaws Committee, F. Pickens Williams Jr. (Barnwell County Administrator) provides the committee's report to the membership.



Dr. Robert H. Becker, Fellow and Senior Scholar, Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson University, recognizes everyone who participated in SCAC's 2016 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawmore Memorial Awards Competition.



On behalf of the Association of Counties, SCAC Staff Member Dana T. Homesley thanks SCANA for sponsoring SCAC's 49th Annual Conference.



On behalf of the Association of Counties, SCAC Staff Members Tish Anderson and Nilda Padgett thank benefactors for supporting SCAC's 49th Annual Conference.



Institute of Government



Jon B. Pierce, Senior Fellow, Institute of Public Service and Policy Research, USC, teaches a course titled, "The Policy Role of Council." The Level II course was one of eight that the Institute of Government offered county officials on July 30 and 31 prior to SCAC's 49th Annual Conference.



PANEL DISCUSSION ON "ENGINES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH"—Panelists included (left to right) Ann Marie Stieritz, President and CEO, S.C. Council on Competitiveness; NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase; Frank Rainwater, Executive Director, S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office; (standing) Jay Schwedler, President and Chief Executive Officer, Sumter County Economic Development; and (at podium) Vivian Fleming-McGhaney, Sumter County Council Chairman. (Right photo) Anna Berger, SCAC Director of Research and Training, served as moderator.



Anna Berger
SCAC

Panel discussion, "Engines of Economic Growth," held during the Level II course titled, "Current Issues Facing County Government: Engines of Economic Growth."

◀ Linda Pearce Edwards, Attorney Gignilliat, Savitz & Bettis, LLP



William E. Tones teaches a Level I course titled, "Developing Good Leadership Skills." Tones is a Fellow at the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston.

► Teaching "Taking Your Civility Pulse," an Advanced Level course offered by the Institute of Government, is Walt McBride, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia.



Mark W. Tollison, Greenville County Attorney, teaches a Level I course titled, "Planning and Land Use."



Linda Edwards (inset above-left), an attorney with Gignilliat, Savitz & Bettis, LLP, teaches a Level I course titled, "Employment Law: What Counties Need to Know."



Presenting Anderson County's entry at the 2016 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition are: (left to right) Anderson County Emergency Services Media Relations Coordinator Stephen Combs, Sheriff John Skipper and Emergency Preparedness Director V. Taylor Jones.



Presenting Orangeburg County's entry are: (left to right) Jessica Nuckolls, Orangeburg County Library's incoming head of Youth Services; County Administrator Harold Young; and Anna Zacherl (at podium), Orangeburg County Library Director.

2016 J. Mitchell Graham/ Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition



Presenting Abbeville County's entry are: (left to right) Abbeville County Council Chairman Robert Bryan McClain and County Director David Porter.



SCAC's 2016 J. MITCHELL GRAHAM/BARRETT LAWRIMORE MEMORIAL AWARDS COMPETITION—Judging this year's competition, held on Sunday, July 31, were: (inset above-left, left to right) William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston; Paula E. Sanford, Ph.D., Public Service and Outreach Faculty Member, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia; and Robert H. Becker, Ph.D., Fellow and Senior Scholar, Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University. *County Focus* 43

County Council Coalition Meeting



◀ County Council Coalition President Ronald Young (Aiken County Council Chairman) presided over the County Council Coalition Meeting on Monday, Aug. 1.



Jana M. White
Bureau of Land and
Waste Management
SC DHEC



Timothy C. Winslow
Deputy General Counsel
SCAC

SCAC Deputy General Counsel Timothy C. Winslow (inset-right) provided a legislative update at the County Council Coalition Meeting on Monday, Aug. 1.



Members of the S.C. General Assembly participating in the County Council Coalition Meeting are: (left to right) Rep. Russell L. Ott (District 93); Rep. Chauncey K. Gregory (District 16); and Sen. Thomas C. Davis (District 46). County Council Coalition President Ronald Young (Aiken County Council



Participating in a legislative update on Monday, Aug. 1, at the Managers, Administrators and Supervisors Meeting are: (left to right) Rep. Wendy K. Nanney (District 22); Rep. David R. Hiott (District 4); Rep. J. Wayne George (District 57); Rep. Terry Alexander (District 59); and Sen. Margie Bright Williams (District 45). As 2015–16 President of the S.C. Managers, Administrators and Supervisors Association, Kershaw County Administrator Victor J. Carpenter (inset-right) presided over the panel discussion.



Victor J. Carpenter
Kershaw County Administrator



Dayle DeLong and Kristen Cook (not shown), with the S.C. State Treasurer's Office, talk about the state's unclaimed property program.



Kevin R. Madden, CPA and Partner, Greene, Finney & Horton, LLP, and Elizabeth W. Latham, Former County Treasurer/Finance Director (inset right), present a workshop titled, "Fraud: Is Your County at Risk?"



SCAC Deputy General Counsel Timothy C. Winslow (right) and SCAC Assistant General Counsel Joshua C. Rhodes (left-background) provide an overview of the 2016 Legislative Session at a workshop.



Workshops



Joseph A. McEachern (District 77); Rep. Justin T. Bamberg (District 90); Sen. Katrina F. Shealy (District 23); Sen. A. Shaney Massey (District 25); Sen. Chairman, seated far-right, presided over the meeting.



Theresa Kizer
Greenville County Clerk to Council

►SCAC Staff Members Robert E. Benfield and John DeLoache (not shown) speaks at a workshop titled, "Law Enforcement Liability."



Connie Haselden
Florence County Clerk to Council

Workshops



Participating in a panel discussion titled, "The Emergency Management Playbook: What's Your Role?", are: (left to right) James H. Hipp, Spartanburg County Deputy Administrator; Jason L. Ward, Dorchester County Administrator; Henry E. "Sel" Hemingway, Jr., Georgetown County Administrator; and Rose N. Dobson-Elliott, Hampton County Administrator. Also speaking at the workshop were (separate photos, inset left to right) Suzanne D. Peeples, Hampton County Emergency Management Division Director, and Sam Hodges, Georgetown County Emergency Management Director.



Suzanne Peeples
Hampton County
Emergency Management Director



Sam Hodges
Georgetown County
Emergency Management Director



Robert Gary, Kershaw County Council Member, reacts as SCAC Staff Member Dana T. Homesley shows that he is listed among the county officials graduating this year from the Institute of Government for County Officials. Gary graduated from Level II.



Speaking at the workshop on E-Government Services is Corinne Holland, Director of Marketing and Portal Operations, SC.GOV.



At the County Council Coalition Meeting, Margaret C. Pope, Pope Flynn Group, talked about what's ahead concerning transportation funding.

Exhibits



SCAC Staff Member Ruthie Duvall reminds conference attendees to use the Association's mobile app that allows officials and others attending SCAC's annual conferences to receive up-to-date information.



County officials visit one of the three sections in the conference's exhibit hall to learn more about companies offering products and services to county governments. Forty-six businesses exhibited at SCAC's 49th Annual Conference.



SCAC Board Member Franklin F. Fulmore Sr. (Williamsburg County Council Member) and his son, Damain, talk to Phil Lucius, Territory Manager, J.M. Wood Auction Company, Inc.



Jenna Hart, Marketing Coordinator, and Wes Lochard, PE, Senior Project Engineer Manager, for HDR | ICA take a moment for a photo while running their company's exhibit.



The following Anderson County officials gathered quickly for a group photo outside the room where this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition was held: (left to right) Emergency Services Media Relations Coordinator Stephen Combs; Council Members Ken Waters, Francis Crowder and Tom Allen; Council Chairman Tommy Dunn; County Administrator Rusty Burns; Sheriff John Skipper; Emergency Preparedness Director V. Taylor Jones; Media Intern Josh Pruitt; and Clerk to Council Kim Poulin.

Conference Photos ...

(Continued from P. 40)

vices Corporation Board of Directors and the Next Generation NACo Network. Desloge was elected to a two-year term of office in 2006 as Leon County commissioner and was reelected to four-year terms in 2008 and 2012. He is a board member and past president of the Florida Association of Counties.

Florida's governor appointed Desloge director of the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend, and he currently serves as a board member. Desloge is a founding board member of the Village Square, a non-partisan public educational forum, and serves as a member of the Knight Creative Communities Institute, an initiative to attract and retain a vibrant local workforce.

He has served as board member and past chair of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce and the Leon County American Red Cross. He also has served as a past board member of the Senior Center Foundation; Florida State University, School of Business, Board of Governors, and many others.

Desloge spent nearly a decade with IBM in the Florida Panhandle working with public sector accounts in an administrative

(See Conference Photos, P. 53)



John Q. Atkinson Jr., SCAC President for 2015-16, and Julie J. Armstrong, SCAC's newly-elected president for 2016-17



HEAD TABLE, ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARDS BANQUET—(Left to right) SCAC Secretary F. Pickens Williams Jr., and his wife, Emily; SCAC Second Vice President Ronald Young and his wife, Susan; Patricia and her husband (at podium), SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr.; SCAC First Vice President Julie J. Armstrong and her husband, Jim; Rhonda and her husband, SCAC Third Vice President Henry H. Livingston III; NACo President Bryan M. Desloge (Leon County, Fla. Commissioner); and SCAC Treasurer Belinda D. Copeland (Darlington County Treasurer).

SCAC 49th Annual Conference EXHIBITORS

Advanced Imaging Systems
AECOM
Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.
American Engineering Consultants, Inc.
Archer Company, LLC
AT&T
Brownstone
Clemson University Cooperative Extension
Coast2Coast Discount Rx Card
Compass Municipal Advisors, LLC
Cumming
Davis & Floyd, Inc.
Cumming
GEL Engineering, LLC
GovDeals, Inc.
GovWorldAuctions, LLC
Greene Finney & Horton, LLP
HDR | ICA Engineering
Hybrid Engineering, Inc.
Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, PLLC
J.M. Wood Auction Company, Inc.
Lowcountry Billing Services, Inc.
MBAJ-Boomerang Design

McMillan Pazdan Smith Associates
Morris Business Solutions/Xerox
Moseley Architects
Motorola Solutions-Palmetto 800
Municode/Municipal Code Corporation
NACo-National Association of Counties
aCourt
PalmettoPride
QS/1 Governmental Solutions
Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers
Santee Cooper
SCANA Corporation
SC.GOV
SC Infrastructure Funders Coordinating Committee
South Eastern Road Treatment, Inc.
Southern Health Partners, Inc.
Spirit Communications
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
Stewart • Cooper • Newell Architects
Thomas & Hutton
Thompson Turner Construction
Trane Carolinas
Vaughn & Melton

SCAC 49th Annual Conference BENEFACTORS

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Beaufort County Channel
Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
Howell Linkous & Nettles, LLC
M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc.
McNair Law Firm, PA
Motorola Solutions-Palmetto 800
NBSC, a division of Synovus Bank
Pope Flynn Group
Santee Cooper
SCANA Corporation



◀ SCAC Staff Member Nilda Padgett, NACo Executive Director Matthew D. Chase and SCAC Staff Member Anna Berger



◀ (Left to right) Patricia, wife of 2015-16 SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (Marion County Council Member); incoming SCAC President Julie J. Armstrong (Charleston County Clerk of Court); and SCAC Treasurer Belinda D. Copeland (Darlington County Treasurer)



A large group, including (upper-right) SCAC's newly-elected president, Julie Armstrong (Charleston County Clerk of Court) and her husband, Jim, gathers for a photo shortly after SCAC's Annual Conference Banquet.



Laura Rawl and her husband, Vic, a Charleston County Council Member



Chief Willis Beatty (standing), Charleston County Sheriff's Office Jail Administrator and (seated, left to right) his wife, Janene; Beverly Craven, Clerk of Council; Barbara Jansen and Anna B. Johnson, Council Member.



Joining 2010 SCAC President R. Carlisle Roddey (seated at left) are (clockwise) his wife, SCAC Board Member Lois H. Roddey (Chester County Probate Judge); Chester County Treasurer Tommy Darby and his wife, Jessica, and their sons, Riley and Houston (yellow tie); and Council Member Mary A. Guy.

Annual Conference Banquet



Dr. Carolyn Prince, President of the S.C. Coalition of Black County Officials



◀ SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (Marion County Council Member) and his wife, Patricia (right), and daughter, Dr. Parrish G. Atkinson



Rep. Jerry N. Govan Jr. (District 95) speaks at the S.C. Coalition of Black County Officials.



SCAC Second Vice President Ronald Young and his wife, Susan



Ashlyn Anderson pulled raffle tickets from the raffle ticket drum during the Exhibitors' Reception on Sunday, July 31.



Billy Anderson; his wife, Tish, SCAC Staff Member; and their children, Kayden and Ashlyn



Barnwell County Council Member Freddie L. Houston Sr., Council Chairman David Kenner and his son, Immanuel.



Jasper County Council Member Barbara Clark (left) takes a photo of (left to right) Sen. Margie Bright Matthews (District 45), Orangeburg County Council Vice Chairman Janie Cooper-Smith and Sen. Katrina E. Shealy (District 23).

Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon



Sen. Margie Bright Matthews (District 45)



Sen. Katrina F. Shealy (District 23)



Belinda D. Copeland (Darlington County Treasurer and SCAC Treasurer) presided over the Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon.



(L to r) SCAC First Vice President Julie J. Armstrong (Charleston County Clerk of Court), Sen. Margie Bright Matthews (District 45), Sen. Katrina F. Shealy (District 23) and Belinda D. Copeland (Darlington County Treasurer)



At the beginning of the Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon, each attendee stood and introduced herself. Diane B. Anderson (Laurens County Council Member) was the first to do so.



Fairfield County Council Chairman Carolyn Robinson announced her retirement when she introduced herself at the luncheon.



In what has become a tradition at SCAC's annual conferences in recent years, the Association's female staff members pose for a group photo at the Annual Awards Banquet's head table with: (center, left to right) NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase; SCAC's newly-elected President for 2016-17, Julie J. Armstrong (Charleston County Clerk of Court); and NACo President Bryan M. Desloge (Leon County, Fla., Commissioner).

Conference Photos ...

(Continued from P. 48)

tive and marketing capacity. He served as president of Desloge Home Oxygen & Medical Equipment, and remains active in the company.

A native of Tallahassee, Desloge graduated from Florida State University with a degree in finance and real estate.

Lieutenant Governor Henry Dargan McMaster, keynote speaker, was elected the 91st Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina on Nov. 4, 2014. Prior to his election, he served eight years as Attorney General of South Carolina and four years as U.S. Attorney for South Carolina.

As attorney general, McMaster made prosecution of criminal domestic violence a priority and harnessed the resources of law enforcement and prosecutors to crack down on child Internet predators. He also extended the State Grand Jury's jurisdiction to securities crimes, environmental crimes, and gang crimes.

McMaster issued the landmark opinion to protect the state's marsh islands from encroachment and won the Life Science Act case in the State Supreme Court. He also organized and led the states in the constitutional challenge to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The first U.S. Attorney appointed by President Ronald Reagan, McMaster was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. His "Operation Jackpot" investigation into international drug smuggling produced more than 100 convictions. In 2012 and upon Governor Nikki Haley's appointment, McMaster and former Attorney General Travis Medlock led a bi-partisan commission to reform ethics laws and restore the public's trust in state government.

First elected chairman of the S.C. Republican Party in 1993, McMaster was re-elected three times and served on the Republican National Committee until 2002. A recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, McMaster is a former member of the S.C. Ports Authority board and the Commission on Higher Education.

McMaster received his AB degree in history from the University of South Carolina and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where he served on the South Carolina Law Review. He entered private practice in Columbia in 1974 with Tompkins and McMaster, established in 1898.



Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon

Senators Margie Bright Matthews and Katrina F. Shealy—the only two women currently serving in the S.C. Senate—spoke at the Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 1.

Sen. Margie Bright Matthews (District 45), a Democrat, was first elected to the S.C. Senate in a special election in 2015 to fulfill the unexpired term of the late Sen.

Clementa Pinckney. A lifelong resident of Walterboro, Sen. Matthews served as president of the Colleton County Bar Association. She is a former member of the Board of Governors of the S.C. Bar Association and a former member of the Board of Governors of the S.C. Association for Justice.

She is a state delegate to the America Association for Justice; a member of the S.C. Women Lawyers Association; and a member of the Walterboro Alumnae Chapter of Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority. Sen. Matthews also has served as a member of the S.C. Commission on Indigent Defense, the S.C. Reinsurance Facility, and several other local boards and committees.

Before starting her own law firm in 1992, she was an associate at McLeod Fraser & Cone law firm. She has practiced law for more than 26 years, representing people in the Lowcountry in personal injury, wrongful death, workers' compensation, and criminal defense cases. Sen. Matthews is a Circuit Court Mediator, certified by the National Institute of Trial Advocacy.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Sen. Katrina Shealy (District 23), a Republican, was first

(Continued on next page)



Patricia and her husband, John Q. Atkinson Jr., SCAC President for 2015-16, join Julie J. Armstrong, SCAC's new president for 2016-17, and her husband, Jim, for a photo immediately after the annual conference banquet.

elected to the S.C. Senate in 2012.

With 40 years of experience in the insurance industry, she is an insurance executive for Keenan Suggs in Columbia. Founder of Katrina's Kids (a non-profit organization to give "every chance for every child" in foster and group homes), she is a member of the advisory board and former board chairman of the S.C. Friends of Juvenile Justice.

Sen. Shealy serves as the S.C. State Director for the National Association of Women Legislators and the National Foundation of Women in Government. She also has served on the Lexington County Department of Social Services Board of Directors and as a board member of the Girls Scouts of the Congaree.

In 2015, Sen. Shealy was recognized as a Woman of Excellence by the National Foundation of Women Legislators and as Legislator of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers and the S.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

In 2013, she was the recipient of the S.C. Republican Party Terry Haskins Award and the S.C. Friend of the Taxpayer Award.

Sen. Shealy is a graduate of Batesburg-Leesville High School and the Emerging Leaders Program at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business, and a 2013-14 University of South Carolina Education Policy Fellow.

J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

The 2016 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition was held from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 31.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, established in memory of past SCAC President and Charleston County Council Chairman J. Mitchell Graham, recognizes excellence in governmental performance. The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award, established in memory of past SCAC President Barrett S. Lawrimore, recognizes the most outstanding regional cooperative effort of two or more political subdivisions.

County Council Coalition Meeting

The County Council Coalition Meeting was held from

9 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, Aug. 1. At the end of the Coalition Meeting, the S.C. Commission of Disabilities and Special Needs presented the annual Golden Palmetto Award.

Association Group Meetings, Workshops and Other Activities

Several county official groups held meetings during the conference, but most of the meetings were held from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, Aug. 1.

The following four workshops, focusing on specific issues facing county government, were offered from 2 to 3 p.m. and again from 3 to 4 p.m.:

- Law Enforcement Liability
- Overview of the 2016 Legislative Session
- Protecting Yourself and Your County from Fraud
- The Emergency Management Playbook: What's Your Role?

The annual conference's awards banquet was held at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Institute of Government for County Officials

The Institute of Government for County Officials was held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, and 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Sunday, July 31, preceding the annual conference.

The Institute offered the following courses:

Saturday, July 30

- Public Budgeting
- Orientation II
- Developing Good Leadership Skills
- Current Issues Facing County Government: Engines of Economic Growth

Sunday, July 31

- Planning and Land Use
- Employment Law: What Counties Need to Know
- The Policy Role of Council
- Taking Your Civility Pulse



2015-16 SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (Marion County Council Member) passes the president's gavel to incoming President Julie J. Armstrong (Charleston County Clerk of Court), who will serve during 2016-17.



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Thirty-Eight County Officials Graduate from the Institute of Government for County Officials



Thirty-eight county officials graduated on Aug. 2 from Levels I and II of the Institute of Government for County Officials at the 49th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties (July 31 – Aug. 3).

LEVEL I



Graduating from Level I were: **BAMBERG COUNTY—Evert Comer Jr.**, Council Vice Chairman, and **Larry Haynes**, Council Member; **BARNWELL COUNTY—Harold Buckmon**, Council Member; **BEAUFORT COUNTY—Alice G. Howard**, Council Member, and **Monica N. Spells**, Assistant County Administrator; **CALHOUN COUNTY—Pamela Claxton**, Council Member; **CHESTER COUNTY—K. Shane Stuart**, Supervisor/Chairman, and **Thomas**



E. Darby, Treasurer; **DARLINGTON COUNTY—David H. Coker**, Council Member, and **Terence Arrington**,

former County Administrator; **DILLON COUNTY—Randy Goings**, Council Member; **FAIRFIELD COUNTY—Marion B. Robinson** and **William B. Smith Jr.**, Council Members, and **Eric Robinson**, Library Director; **FLORENCE COUNTY—Kent C. Caudle**, Council Vice Chairman, and **Jason M. Springs**, Council Member; **GREENVILLE COUNTY—Lynn Ballard** and **Joseph B. Dill**, Council Members; **LANCASTER COUNTY—Bradford Carnes**, Assessor, and **Eric Rowell**, Deputy Assessor; **LAURENS COUNTY—Mary D. Parker**, Human Resources Director; **LEXINGTON COUNTY—P. Larry Brigham Jr.** and **Ned R. Tolar**, Council Members; **MCCORMICK COUNTY—Byron Thompson**, Council Member; **NEWBERRY COUNTY—Travis D. Reeder**, Council Member, and

GASB 77 Webinar

Are the new GASB Statement No. 77 reporting requirements on your radar? Is your county preparing for these new financial reporting requirements for tax abatements?

SCAC will host a webinar on **December 8, 2016**, at 10:00 a.m. regarding GASB 77. In addition to receiving an overview of the disclosure requirements, participants will learn steps they should take to be in compliance for the FY 2016-2017 financial audit.

Webinar panelists will include Edward G. Kluiters, Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.; William H. Hancock, CPA, The Brittingham Group, LLP; John K. DeLoache, Senior Staff Attorney, S.C. Association of Counties; and Michelle Mishoe, S.C. Department of Revenue.

The target audience for the webinar will be county chief administrative officers, finance officers, attorneys, auditors, assessors, treasurers, and



economic development directors.

Please visit www.sccounties.org/education-training for more detailed information, including registration.



LEVEL I GRADUATES—Graduating on Aug. 2 from Level I of the Institute of Government for County Officials were: (front row, left to right) Byron Thompson, McCormick County Council Member; William B. Smith Jr. and Marion B. Robinson, Fairfield County Council Members; K. Shane Stuart, Chester County Supervisor/Chairman; Thomas E. Darby, Chester County Treasurer; Travis D. Reeder, Newberry County Council Member; Mary D. Parker, Laurens County Human Resources Director; Pamela Claxton, Calhoun County Council Member; James T. McCain Jr., Sumter County Council Vice Chairman; (back row, left to right) Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council Member; David H. Coker, Darlington County Council Member; Randy Goings, Dillon County Council Member; Norma L. Cyrus, Williamsburg County Tax Collector; Terence Arrington, Former Darlington County Administrator; Harold Buckmon, Barnwell County Council Member; Monica N. Spells, Beaufort County Assistant County Administrator; Lynn Ballard, Greenville County Council Member; Larry Haynes, Bamberg County Council Member; Kent C. Caudle, Florence County Council Vice Chairman; and Evert Comer Jr., Bamberg County Council Vice Chairman. Not pictured are: Alice G. Howard, Beaufort County Council Member; Eric Robinson, Fairfield County Library Director; Jason M. Springs, Florence County Council Member; Bradford Carnes, Lancaster County Assessor; Eric Rowell, Lancaster County Deputy Assessor; P. Larry Brigham Jr. and Ned R. Tolar, Lexington County Council Members; and Laurie Renwick, Newberry County Clerk to Council. *(Photo by Stuart Morgan)*



LEVEL II GRADUATES—Graduating on Aug. 2 from Level II of the Institute of Government for County Officials were: (front row, left to right) Dorothy M. Levy, Clarendon County Clerk to Council; Theresa B. Kizer, Greenville County Clerk to Council; Jacqueline

Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council; **SUMTER COUNTY**—James T. McCain Jr., Council Vice Chairman; and **WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY**—Norma L. Cyrus, Tax Collector.

LEVEL II



Graduating from Level II were: **BAMBERG COUNTY**—Larry Haynes, Council Member; **CLARENDON COUNTY**—W. J. Frierson, Council Vice Chairman, and Dorothy M. Levy,

Clerk to Council; **GREENVILLE COUNTY**—Joseph B. Dill, Council Member, and Theresa B. Kizer, Clerk to Council; **JASPER COUNTY**—L. Martin Sauls IV, Council Chairman; **KERSHAW COUNTY**—Robert Gary, Council Member; **LEE COUNTY**—Jacqueline M. Josey, Council Member, and Arlene Samuel, Planning/Zoning Administrator; **LEXINGTON COUNTY**—Chris Folsom, Deputy County Administrator; **MCCORMICK COUNTY**—Byron Thompson, Council

(Continued on next page)

M. Josey, Lee County Council Member; Sharon W. Stagers, Williamsburg County Clerk of Court; (back row, left to right) Byron Thompson, McCormick County Council Member; Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council Member; Robert Gary, Kershaw County Council Member; and Larry Haynes, Bamberg County Council Member. Not pictured are: W. J. Frierson, Clarendon County Council Vice Chairman; L. Martin Sauls IV, Jasper County Council Chairman; Arlene Samuel, Lee County Planning/Zoning Administrator; Chris Folsom, Lexington County Deputy County Administrator; and Trey Whitehurst, Pickens County Council Vice Chairman. *(Photo by Stuart Morgan)*



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the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, and the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University—holds the Institute

of Government for County Officials three times per year. The Institute of Government provides county officials the opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities to function more effectively.

County officials must complete 27 hours of instruction, including 18 hours of required topics and 9 hours of elective topics, to graduate from Level I. They must complete 18 hours of instruction to graduate from Level II.



South Carolina's 2017 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2017 Directory of County Officials* will be published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government. Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling). To order a copy, please contact:

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K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr. Receives President’s Cup

South Carolina Association of Counties President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (Marion County Council Member) presented this year’s President’s Cup—one of SCAC’s highest honors—to Florence County Administrator K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr. at the Association’s 49th Annual Conference (July 31 – Aug. 3).

This is the second time Smith has received the President’s Cup. The prestigious award, presented to Smith on Aug. 2, is awarded each year to the county official who has merited special recognition for service to county governments and assistance to SCAC’s president during the past year. Only four other county officials have received the SCAC President’s Cup more than once since the award was first presented in 1975—Waymon Mumford; O.V. Player, Jr.; Betty T. Roper; and David K. Summers, Jr.. Smith received his first President’s Cup in 2006.

“Like his father, Rusty Smith has

served the citizens of his county as an elected official and as a board member for the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments,” said SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. “He is competent, hard-working and a notoriously early riser—often arriving at the office before 7 a.m. and working past business hours.

“Rusty remains a resident of the rural community where he grew up, lettered in four sports and graduated from high school,” Atkinson added. “After earning his bachelor’s degree in Government and International Studies from the University of South Carolina and serving in the U.S. Navy, he returned to the Pee Dee region to run his family’s business.”

First elected to Florence County Council in 1986, Smith was re-elected to serve six more terms on council. He served as council chairman for 11 of his



(Left to right) SCAC President John Q. Atkinson Jr. (left) presents the President’s Cup to K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr. (Florence County Administrator) on Aug. 2 during SCAC’s Annual Conference Banquet. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

26 years on council. He also served in leadership roles for the city-county civic center, the county economic development partnership, and the local transportation study committee.

“Rusty is a strong advocate of Home Rule and the South Carolina Association of Counties,” Atkinson said. “He was elected to the Association’s Board of Directors in 1994, and served as the Association’s president in 2008. His contributions to our organization are verified by the fact that he has already received the President’s Cup once.

“Like many others,” he added, “I have great respect for Rusty’s leadership,



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experience, determination and work ethic. I am also grateful for the friendship, support and encouragement he has extended to me, and I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank him.”

After serving as an elected official for 26 years, Smith was selected as Florence County Administrator in 2012. He quickly began working to carry out Florence County Council’s vision and to address citizen requests in a professional manner.

In addition to serving as the county’s chief administrative officer, Smith chairs the Pee Dee Regional Council of Governments (COG) and the Florence-Williamsburg County Joint Industrial Park Commission.

He is also a member of the Board of Directors for Florence County’s Economic Development Partnership.

Smith is a lifelong resident of Lake City. His contributions to his community are reflected by his selection as Citizen of the Year in 1989 and again in 2001; in fact, Smith is the first person to receive the honor twice.

He also received the Contributor of the Year from Lake City’s Chamber of Commerce in 1990.

Smith has served on and chaired numerous SCAC committees since he was elected to the Association’s Board of Directors in 1994.

He is a member of the Lake City Baptist Church. He and his wife, Rita, have twin sons, and a granddaughter.



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Recipients of the SCAC President’s Cup



- 2016—K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr., *Florence County*
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- 2014—R. Carlisle Roddey, *Chester County*
- 2013—William T. Noonan, *Sumter County*
- 2012—Willis H. Meadows, *Greenville County*
- 2011—David K. Summers Jr., *Calhoun County*
- 2010—James A. Coleman, *Laurens County*
- 2009—Steve S. Kelly Jr., *Kershaw County*
- 2008—Waymon Mumford, *Florence County*
- 2007—Waymon Mumford, *Florence County*
- 2006—K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr., *Florence County*
- 2005—Ed Favor, *Charleston County*
- 2004—David K. Summers Jr., *Calhoun County*
- 2003—Roland H. Windham, *Charleston County*
- 2002—O.V. Player Jr., *Sumter County*
- 2001—Judith Spooner, *Berkeley County*
- 2000—Gonza L. Bryant, *Greenwood County*
- 1999—Polly C. Jackson, *Lancaster County*
- 1998—William L. McBride, *Beaufort County*
- 1997—James H. Rozier Jr., *Berkeley County*
- 1996—Betty T. Roper, *Clarendon County*
- 1995—R. Carlisle Roddey, *Chester County*
- 1994—O.V. Player Jr., *Sumter County*
- 1993—Betty T. Roper, *Clarendon County*
- 1992—Lonnie Hamilton III, *Charleston County*
- 1991—David K. Summers Jr., *Calhoun County*
- 1990—Lachlan H. Hyatt, *Spartanburg County*
- 1989—James R. McGee, *Orangeburg County*
- 1988—O.V. Player Jr., *Sumter County*
- 1987—Howard A. “Buck” Taylor, *Charleston County*
- 1986—Howard C. “Butch” Spires, *Lexington County*
- 1985—Mary L. Barry, *Lancaster County*
- 1984—Johnnie Flynn, *Berkeley County*
- 1983—Candy Y. Waites, *Richland County*
- 1982—Robert W. Ragin, *Charleston County*
- 1981—James R. Barber III, *Richland County*
- 1980—Charles W. Lawrimore, *Georgetown County*
- 1979—L.H. “Sonny” Siau, *Georgetown County*
- 1978—James O. Thomason, *Spartanburg County*
- 1977—Oren L. Brady Jr., *Spartanburg County*
- 1976—J. Eugene Klugh, *York County*
- 1975—Richard L. Black, *Charleston County*

SCDDSN Presents Golden Palmetto Award to Lee County

The S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) presented the Golden Palmetto Award to Lee County on Aug. 1 at the 49th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties (July 31 – Aug. 3). The award recognizes the South Carolina county that provides exemplary support to people with disabilities.

“Lee County has done an exemplary job in significantly increasing its commitment to people with disabilities,” said Eva Ravenel, SCDDSN Commissioner, when presenting the award to Lee County Council members. “They richly deserve this honor.”



In addition to employment efforts, Lee County provides substantial property, infrastructure and in-kind support to the Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN)

Lee County
Recipient of SCDDSN's
Golden Palmetto Award



See South Carolina
County Map,
Page 75



SCDDSN PRESENTS GOLDEN PALMETTO AWARD TO LEE COUNTY—Receiving the Golden Palmetto Award from the S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs on Aug. 1 are: (left to right): the Rev. Emanuel Simon, Chairman, Lee County Disabilities and Special Needs Board (LCDSNB); Mary Mack, Executive Director, LCSNB; Jackie Josey, Lee County Council Member; Eva Ravenel, Vice Chairman, Disabilities and Special Needs Commission (SCDSN); Johnette Caughman, Lee County Council Member; Thaddeus Dickey, LCDSN Board Member, and Leroy Atkinson, Vice Chairman, LCDSNB. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

Board. The county recently deeded almost an acre of land to the DSN Board to accommodate expansion of day services. For 25 years, the county has leased approximately three additional acres for \$1 per year. The county also has offered its expertise and manpower to complete a new necessary drainage project.

Just about every aspect of county government partners with the Lee County DSN Board. The Recreation Department, Emergency Management Department, Fire Department and Sheriff's Department provide special assistance, training and use of facilities above and beyond. In addition, Lee County annually allocates funding for essential services.

“The importance of strong partnerships has never been greater or more valuable than it is today,” said Ravenel. “Lee County’s enthusiasm and

passion for individuals with disabilities are transforming people's lives through jobs, services, and community involvement."

Mary Mack, Executive Director, Lee County DSN Board, said members of the county's DSN Board "appreciated Lee County's broad-based interest and best effort to make things happen for our folks."

"We know we can count on them," Mack added. "Lee County is connecting directly to people with intellectual or physical disabilities in important ways."

SCDDSN is the state agency that plans, develops, oversees and funds services for South Carolinians with severe, lifelong disabilities of intellectual disability, autism, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and conditions related to each of these four disabilities. The agency's mission is to assist people with disabilities and their families in meeting needs, pursuing possibilities and achieving life goals, and to minimize the occurrence and reduce the severity of disabilities through prevention.

SCDDSN has presented the Golden Palmetto Award to the most deserving counties in South Carolina each year since 1975. It is the agency's way of thanking county governments for prioritizing the lives of people with disabilities.



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For more information about the SCAC or to join, please contact:

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The IMLA Report

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

As part of membership in International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA), we can provide support to local government members who need amicus support in the courts. We have been an active participant since 1935 in filing amicus briefs on behalf of local governments in the Supreme Court of the United States and lately we have been called upon to file amicus briefs in the federal circuits and in State Supreme Courts. Some of the pending cases in which we have filed or will be filing amicus briefs reflect the breadth of the issues facing local government officials.

A small town in Missouri, just outside St. Louis, owns and operates a substantial park that helps transform urban complexity into a tranquil picturesque atmosphere. The park is approximately 11 acres in total, including a lake, a playground, a basketball court and a wooded area. The attractive features of the park draw people from in and out of the community and the visuals make it a setting for wedding, graduation and other reasons for taking pictures for the amateur and commercial shutterbug. Here in lies the problem—commercial photographers often establish themselves with their clients at places in the park for photo shoots and in doing so limit other patrons in their use of the park. The area that commercial photographers tend to use for their work is a small area in which there is a waterfall and a small picturesque wood bridge spanning a creek. This area is also the most popular



area for other patrons. Sometimes the photographers, in trying to capture the most artistic view, lose sight of safety, either their own or that of their client and others.

To deal with this issue, the city adopted an ordinance that required commercial photographers to pay a fee for using the park and to register to use the park and areas within it. Some of the commercial photographers filed suit asserting that the regulations and fees abridged their First Amendment rights in pursuing their artistic expression. They maintained that the photography at issue is artistic expression of ideas such as love, harmony and humor, both for commercial purposes and as an expression of their individual artistic motivation.

The city asserted that the challenged ordinance withstands constitutional scrutiny. It argued that by regulating activity that combines both speech and non-speech elements in a content neutral manner the ordinance must be upheld so long as it is narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest and leaves open ample alternatives for

communication. The city maintained that it has a significant interest in mitigating disruption of park activities and ensuring the public is able to use the relatively small park. The city reasoned that the ordinance is narrowly tailored to serve these interests, since the ordinance instructs that when evaluating requests for permits, factors to be considered include disruption of public use of the park, congestion and crowd control. The city also maintained that commercial photographers have ample alternative channels for their trade and their photographic expression, namely, a significant number of parks located in the greater St. Louis area that provide a similar stage for photographs.

The city brought in testimony from a number of people about the problems they faced in using the park when commercial photographers took over and they produced evidence of some cases where the photographers exercised poor judgment in using the park. Some of the testimony included the photographer suggesting that young girls should change their clothes in the nearby woods to go from street clothes to gowns and back again or various other clothing changes. One incident described the photographer posing a young woman on the outside of the bridge railing high above a rocky creek bed. All in all, the city's lawyers made their case that the city was acting reasonably.

The court concluded that while parks are traditional public forums,

historically associated with the free exercise of expressive activities and the city's ordinance requiring a permit to engage in commercial photography in the park is a prior restraint on an expressive activity, carrying a "heavy presumption" against the law's validity; nevertheless, the "government, in order to regulate competing uses of public forums, may impose a permit requirement on those wishing to" engage in protected speech in that forum. The court went on to analyze the other issues that a First Amendment claim has in this context and upheld the city's ordinance.

IMLA was asked to participate as an amicus in supporting the city on appeal to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals and we are fortunate to be associated with some terrific IMLA members in this case. Kevin O'Keefe of Curtis, Heinz, Garrett and O'Keefe, in St. Louis has agreed to author an amicus brief for IMLA in this case. O'Keefe is one of Missouri's most respected municipal lawyers.

In a case out of Texas, IMLA will be joining an amicus brief supporting a petition seeking certiorari in the Supreme Court supporting police officers who were denied immunity when they were sued for shooting a teen in their town. The facts can be distilled into a tragic story.

Seventeen-year-old Ryan Cole was a junior at Sachse High School. Ryan suffered from obsessive-compulsive disorder. The night before the shooting, he quarreled with his parents, and later took guns and ammunition from their gun safe.

He visited his friend Eric late that night and showed him the guns and returned to Eric's the following morning where Eric took one of the weapons. There, he called his grandparents and arranged to meet them at a nearby CVS. During the course of the morning, police were informed that Ryan was carrying at least one gun and acting aggressively, and they began looking for him. After Ryan left Eric's house with his remaining handgun, he was seen by several officers and ordered to stop. He continued to walk away from the officers and placed the gun against his own head. He walked toward a set of train tracks separated by a narrow wooded area and grassy strip from

a major road. The CVS where he was to meet his grandparents was located on the other side of the wooded area, across the highway.

Three police officers—Hunter, Cassidy and Carson—were attempting to locate Ryan on the other side of the wooded area, near the CVS. Ryan crossed the wooded area and backed out of the woods near Officer Hunter, who was some distance from Officers Cassidy and Carson. The officers believed Ryan was unaware of them when he backed out, and remained quiet so as not to alert him. Then Ryan made some turning motion to his left. The officers say that he turned to face Officer Hunter and pointed his gun at him, while the Coles argue that he merely began to turn toward the CVS, still with his gun pointed at his own head. Whether any warning was given is disputed, but Officers Hunter and Cassidy opened fire, hitting Ryan twice. In addition, Ryan's gun discharged, hitting his own head, and leaving stippling—gunpowder residue around the wound due to the gun being fired from less than thirty inches away.

Ryan did not die and has made a significant recovery, but lives with profound disabilities. He has incurred extensive medical bills and continues to require care. After the shooting, the three officers had an opportunity to confer before making their statements to police investigators—statements which conveyed that Ryan was given a warning and that he pointed his gun at Officer Hunter prior to being shot. The Coles argue that these statements are lies contradicted by recordings and physical evidence.

The officers' statements resulted in Ryan being charged with aggravated assault on a public servant—a felony. As a result of the assault charge, Ryan was placed under house arrest. The assault charge was dismissed by the District Attorney on May 8, 2012, and Ryan received deferred adjudication for an unlawful carrying charge. The Coles incurred substantial legal fees in order to confront the aggravated assault charge, which they allege was concocted by the officers to justify the shooting.

The Court denied the officers immunity and discussed the law applicable

to the use of force. "It is clear that the "use of deadly force, absent a sufficiently substantial and immediate threat, violate[s] the Fourth Amendment." The threat must be "immediate"; we consider the totality of the circumstances, including relevant information known to the officers."

In laying out its reasons for denying immunity, the court wrote: "The fact that a person has a gun and is behaving in a dangerous manner does not necessarily constitute an immediate and serious threat justifying use of deadly force." The court concluded: "the facts that Ryan was holding a gun to his head, that the officers believed he had made some threat to use it against a peer, and that the officers knew Ryan was attempting to evade officers, could not in the circumstances here justify the use of deadly force."

Indeed, the officers do not argue that they were justified in shooting Ryan by the above circumstances alone. Instead, they focus on the fact that Ryan, whose back was initially towards Officer Hunter, turned to his left immediately before they shot. They argue that if they had waited, Ryan could have continued turning until he was facing Officer Hunter, and shot him before they could react. According to the officers, if Ryan had been allowed to turn around and face Officer Hunter without being fired on, he would have "posed an immediate deadly threat."

There can be little doubt that the parties dispute exactly what happened, but for police officers faced with a choice of defending themselves in court or dying in the line of duty, the question this case poses is at what point may an officer take action to protect herself and the public before it is too late? In a wonderful amicus brief prepared on our behalf by Robert Fugate of the City of Arlington, Texas, we lay out a litany of recent events where police officers made the wrong decision in choosing to protect themselves against threats or were given no decision at all. In our brief we point out that "CNN reported that 38 American police officers were "shot dead" in the line of duty from January 1, 2016 through August 26, 2016. The manner in which each officer died illustrates the unpredictable nature of hostile action taken against police.

The majority of these incidents also demonstrate the sudden nature in which a shooter acts.”

In our brief we also describe how “suicidal” individuals pose risks not only to themselves but to others. While these people are suffering a mental health crisis, courts ought not to attribute to them the rational thinking, stability and composure of people who are not in crisis.

Another recent case illustrates the dangers police face when dealing with mentally disturbed individuals who are armed. Two Fort Worth, Texas officers were shot while responding to a call reporting a suicidal individual. They arrived to find an elderly man shot dead in the bedroom of his house. Another person in the home reported that a “potential witness” was in a shed in the back yard. When the officers opened the shed door, the individual shot two officers. The officers returned fire. A SWAT team arrived and attempted to negotiate with the individual, but he was ultimately found dead. Both officers survived.

As we’ve reported many times in the past, getting the Supreme Court to grant certiorari is difficult at best. Support from amici helps, but cannot be seen as a certainty. Our rules do not allow us to support requests from non-members, so we hope a community chooses to join us as we protect cities and counties before an issue arises where we can be helpful but are limited in what we can do.

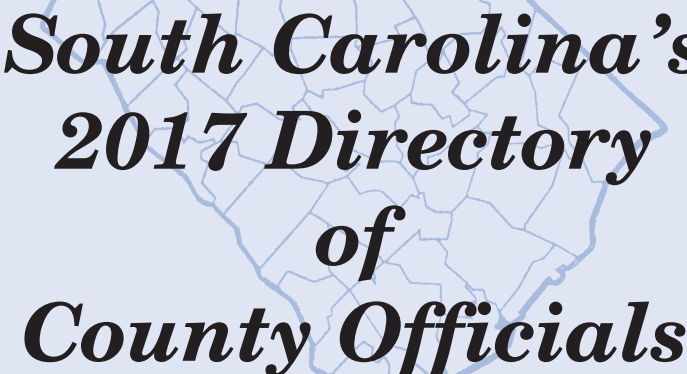


IMLA provides assistance to local government attorneys whose municipalities are members and it supports local governments throughout the United States as an amicus in many cases at the U.S. Supreme Court and in the federal circuits and in state supreme courts. IMLA provides local government attorneys 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 mem-

bership, programs or getting involved with IMLA, contact Chuck Thompson at cthompson@imla.org or call him at (202) 742-1016.



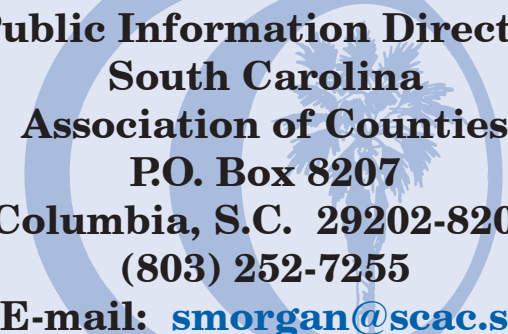
South Carolina's 2017 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2017 Directory of County Officials* will be published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know “Who’s Who” in South Carolina county government.

The *Directory* identifies all elected and appointed county officials in the state. This popular, award-winning publication also identifies SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors and Corporate Supporters; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

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

● To order your copy of the *2017 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:



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A Roadside Guide to Aiken County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

Aiken County



See South Carolina
County Map,
P. 75

Modern Aiken lies between the Savannah and North Fork of the Edisto Rivers. During the years of the American Revolution, this area was part of Old Ninety-Six and Orangeburgh Districts, and the Savannah River was an essential transportation avenue for Patriot and British forces. Consequently, much of the conflict in the area concerned control of the river.

The known Revolutionary engagements in Aiken were fought in the years 1781 and 1782. So, these conflicts occurred after the fall of Charleston and the death of the great patriot, George Galphin.

Galphin, a native of Northern Ireland, immigrated to South Carolina and found fame and fortune as an Indian trader and later Indian agent for the Continental Congress. Galphin established a trading post and compound at Silver Bluff and reared a large, multi-racial family. During the Revolution, he used his Indian connections to limit Creek support of the British cause. As a consequence, in early 1778, British forces under Alexander Campbell occupied Silver Bluff and worked to neutralize Galphin's influence. Campbell renamed the Galphin home site Fort Dreadnaught and placed Galphin under house arrest. After the fall of Charlestown, the restored British governor of Georgia confiscated Galphin's property. Therefore, the patriot spent his last days threatened with execution. He died on Dec. 1, 1780, but the British remained at Silver Bluff.




Aiken County's Role
in the American War
for Independence



While there are competing lists of militia battles and skirmishes in South Carolina, at least six are mentioned as being fought within the boundaries of modern Aiken County: Hammond's Mill, Beech Island (1), Fort Galphin, Beech Island (2), and two at Dean's Swamp. All except Dean's Swamp were fought near the Savannah River.

Hammond's Mill April 3, 1781

Among the several mills that operated on the Savannah River before the Revolution was Hammond's Mill. Possibly owned by Samuel and LeRoy Hammond, the mill was the site of an armed encounter between Patriots under Captain Thomas Key of the Lower Ninety Six District Militia and an unknown contingent of Loyalists. Colonel LeRoy Hammond commanded the Lower Ninety Six District militia. Key routed the Loyalists, captured several and, according to some accounts, burned the mill.

LeRoy Hammond, a native of Virginia, moved to Georgia before the American Revolution. He married and later settled in South Carolina on the Savannah River. There, he established

a trading post and shipped tobacco to Savannah. After the Revolution, Hammond served in both the South Carolina House of Representatives and the South Carolina Senate. Captain Thomas Key, a planter of Edgefield District, also survived the Revolution.

Beech Island May 15, 1781

At Beech Island, on May 15, 1781, Colonel Elijah Clarke skirmished with a detachment of King's Rangers under Lt. Colonel Thomas Brown. Clarke was a leading Georgia Patriot and Brown, an infamous Loyalist. The Abbeville column has more information on these two leaders. Six Patriots died during the fray. British losses are not known.

Fort Galphin May 21, 1781

Fort Galphin, also known as Fort Dreadnaught or Silver Bluff, was the site of George Galphin's trading post and compound. Fortified by the British early in the conflict, the fort occupied a strategic location on the Savannah River. There, on

May 21, 1781, Major Michael Rudolph, under the command of Lt. Colonel Henry "Lighthorse Harry" Lee, besieged the fort. Captain Samuel Roworth of the King's Rangers commanded the fort. Roworth also fought at the Siege of Savannah.

In addition to Rudolph's command, there were other detachments from Lee's Legion, as well two companies of the Lower Ninety Six Regiment and one from Roebuck's Battalion. On the British side, Roworth had 42 men plus Loyalists from New Jersey and South Carolina.

The siege was successful. Roworth surrendered the fort, and reportedly, the only Patriot casualty was a man who died from heat stroke. The victorious Patriots captured 180 Loyalists.

As a young man, Rudolph, a native of Maryland, enlisted in the Continental Army. With conspicuous bravery, he quickly attained the rank of captain. Some of his military exploits earned him the nickname, "Lion of the Legion." During his time in South Carolina, he married and eventually settled in Georgia. After the Revolution, he served in the Georgia legislature. In time though, he returned to military service and enlisted in the US Army. He served as acting Inspector General of the US Army and in Ohio under the command of General Anthony Wayne. For unknown reasons, he returned home on leave, resigned his commission and embarked on a sea voyage. Presumed lost at sea, his family never heard from him again.

Beech Island May 24, 1781

Deserting Patriot militia triggered the second Beech Island engagement. After Patriot forces successfully captured Fort Grierson near Augusta, a company of South Carolina militia deserted and fled down the Savannah River. On May 24, these deserters stumbled upon Patriots camped on Beech Island. Roused, these men gave pursuit as did Captain Tarleton Brown, Jr., of the Upper Granville Company of Rangers. Neither force was able to intercept and capture the deserters, who then crossed the Savannah River and escaped.

Captain Brown, a native of Virginia, relocated to South Carolina prior to the outbreak of war and settled near the Savannah River. He served under such South Carolina patriots as Brigadier Generals Francis Marion and Andrew Pickens and Colonel William Harden. After the war ended, Brown served in both branches of the South Carolina legislature, wrote his memoirs and served as sheriff of Barnwell County.

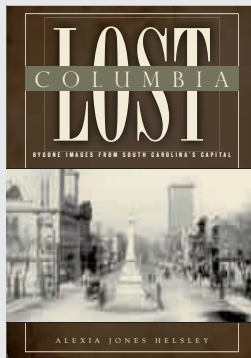
Dean's Swamp May 24, 1782

Dean's Swamp, also known as John Town, was an engagement fought near Salley, South Carolina. Loyalist commander Major William Cunningham learned that Patriot forces held British and Loyalist prisoners in two enclosures near Dean's Swamp. Cunningham sent a detachment to rescue the prisoners. Meanwhile, Captain William Butler of the Edgefield Militia learned of Cunningham's plans. With 15 men, Butler rendezvoused with Captain Michael Watson and 18 members of the Cloud's Creek militia.

(Continued on next page)

***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.

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**

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Butler and Watson joined forces and hastened to Dean's Swamp. En route, they captured a Loyalist who unfortunately escaped and warned Cunningham's men. As a result, the Loyalists ambushed the Patriots. Although Watson shouted the alert, the opening Loyalist volley seriously wounded two Patriots—Watson and his sergeant. Weak, demoralized and low on ammunition, Butler ordered a daring counterattack. So, with swords flashing, the small Patriot force unnerved and routed the far superior Loyalist force. Patriots carried the badly wounded Watson to Orangeburg where he died and was buried. After the Revolution, William Butler, a native of Virginia, served in the South Carolina House of Representatives, as sheriff of Ninety Six District, and in the US House of Representatives.

Dean's Swamp October 1782

A few months later, Captain John Carter of Hammond's Regiment of Light Dragoons led a Patriot force to the Dean's Swamp area. Assigned to disperse a gathering of Loyalists, Carter and his men attacked Captain Tenison Cheshire of Colonel Hezekiah Williams' Regiment of Loyalist Militia. Though outnumbered, the Patriots prevailed, and those not

captured escaped into Dean's Swamp.

This engagement is significant as it demonstrates the strength of Loyalist forces in South Carolina following the defeat at Yorktown. Before the year ended, the British finally evacuated Charlestown, taking thousands of regular and militia troops, including Captain Cheshire, as well as Loyalist civilians with them.

Conclusion

With the major exception of Silver Bluff and the career of George Galphin, the revolution did not impact the Aiken area until late in the war. Yet, the year 1781 was critical for Patriot success and the battles and skirmishes of 1782 clearly reflect entrenched British sentiment and the challenges that were ahead for the new state government.



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the person for whom Paris Mountain was named?
the man who bought the town of Pleasantburg?
the time when Greenville was the
capital of South Carolina?

Historically, Greenville County owes much to its natural advantages of scenery, location and abundant water, but it has also benefited from its colorful characters, such as Richard Pearis, Vardry McBee and the Earle family. *Hidden History of Greenville County* details the personalities, places and events that have given Greenville its progressive, diverse environment. Join archivist and history professor Alexia Helsley as she explores some of these individuals and their contributions, as well as little-known events in the area and the ever-fascinating "Dark Corner." From mansions to murders, learn things about Greenville County history that you've never encountered before.

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★ Counties Reporting in This Issue of County Update:

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Barnwell	★ Lancaster
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Berkeley	Lee
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Florence	Union
★ Georgetown	★ Williamsburg
Greenville	★ York

County Update



See South Carolina
County Map,
Page 75

*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.

Charleston County

● Charleston County Government recognized September as National Recovery Month. On Sept. 6, Charleston County Council approved a resolution for National Recovery Month, in order to raise awareness about prevention, treatment and recovery support services in Charleston County.

● Charleston County and New South Associates (NSA), Inc. hosted a public



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>
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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>

workshop on August 31 in Council Chambers. NSA provided an overview of the recently completed Historical and Architectural survey report, and discussed properties potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Charleston County staff explained how the report may be used in future historic preservation efforts. The meeting was open to the public.

Georgetown County

● Georgetown County's public information officer (PIO), **Jackie Broach**, recently received four Awards of Excellence from the National Association of County Information Officers. She received awards for meritorious work in the following categories: Public Education Campaign or Event—for public awareness efforts during the historic flooding that occurred in October 2015; News Writing—for a press release detailing the significant economic impact the 2015 B.A.S.S. Nation Southern Divisional Championship had on Georgetown County; Photography—for a photo taken at the Georgetown County Judicial Center's annual trick-or-treating

event; and Brochure—for a tri-fold brochure detailing flood debris removal guidelines for county residents impacted by October flooding.

Broach, who received her degree in mass communication from Francis Marion University, spent 15 years as a print journalist before she became the county's PIO in 2012.

● Georgetown County's director of human

resources, **Greg Troutman**, retired in October after 20 years of service.

● The IFA Redfish Tour and Kayak Tour was held at Georgetown County's Carroll A. Campbell Marine Complex on September 24 and 25.

● Georgetown County Parks and Recreation is seeking the community's help to
(See County Update, P. 74)

NEWS BRIEFS

Important news items will be published in this space whenever necessary. For more information, please contact SCAC's Public Information Office at 1-800-922-6081.

EPA Awards \$820,000 More for S.C. Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently awarded an additional \$820,000 to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) to increase the lending capacity of the state's active Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund. SC DHEC and the Catawba Regional Council of Governments, which serves as the statewide Brownfield loan fund manager, are actively soliciting eligible projects from local governments, non-profits and private-sector businesses for the cleanup of hazardous material brownfield sites.

(See News Briefs, P. 74)



SCAC'S 2016 WEBCAST CALENDAR

Wednesday, Dec. 7
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Taking Charge of Change

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

SCAC's 2016-17 Conference Calendar

Dec. 1-2	Legislative Conference <i>The Mills House Wyndham Grand Hotel, Charleston</i>
Dec. 13	Newly-Elected Council Member Orientation <i>DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia</i>
<hr/>	
2017	
Jan. 25-26	S.C. Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting <i>Marriott Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach</i>
Feb. 15 Feb. 16	Mid-Year Conference Institute of Government <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i>
July 29-30 July 30-Aug. 2	Institute of Government Annual Conference <i>Hilton Head Marriott</i>
TBD	Setoff Debt/Gear <i>TBD</i>

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



NACo's 2017 Conference Calendar

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

News Briefs ...

(Continued from P. 73)

The S.C. Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan fund makes low interest (1-3 percent) loans to help entities cleanup brownfield sites for re-use. An added advantage of these loans to local governments and non-profits is that up to 30 percent of the money borrowed, to a maximum of \$200,000, is forgiven or essentially turned into a grant upon successful project completion. Examples of hazardous material brownfield sites include abandoned textile mills, old factories and buildings with asbestos and lead based paint, and closed landfills. With proper cleanup, these sites can again be put to productive uses whether for commercial or industrial redevelopment, new housing, or for public purposes such as active and passive parkland. Depending on specific project needs, loans range from \$150,000 to more than \$1 million. For more information, visit <http://catawbacog.org/economic-development-lending/brownfields-program/> or call Catawba Regional COG, at (803) 327-9041. ■

RIA Announces Funding for Local Governments

The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has announced the availability of \$25 million in competitive grants for the program year that begins July 1. This financial assistance is available to local governments and public utilities statewide through two competitive grant program categories—Basic Infrastructure and Economic Infrastructure.

The next application deadline is March 13, 2017.

RIA assists qualified infrastructure projects that improve water, wastewater and stormwater facilities to address public health and regulatory standards or build the necessary capacity to support economic and employment opportunities. RIA's website serves as the central information resource for potential applicants and other interested parties. Applicants can access the 2016-17 Program Strategy and the grant application forms under Quick Links on the Home Page at www.ria.sc.gov. To be added to RIA's email list to receive future correspondence, please contact Pamela Williams at (803) 737-0390 or info@ria.sc.gov. ■

County Update ...

(Continued from P. 73)

make enhancements to an up-coming project that will create lighted multipurpose fields and a six-lane athletic track on the grounds of Beck Recreation Center in Georgetown next year. The project will cost a total of about \$500,000.

The county launched a crowdfunding campaign August 23 in hopes of raising \$30,000 toward the addition of a concession stand. The campaign ran through September 23 and was through the National Recreation and Park Association's "Fund Your Park" program. Visit www.gtcounty.org.

● County officials gathered at the airport in Georgetown on August 23 to celebrate S.C. Aviation Week. The guest speaker was **Doug Decker**, a pilot and tenant at the airport, who spoke about the great value of the county's two airports to the community and local economy. Aviation Week is a celebration of the history of aviation and the many economic benefits that come with it. The county's airports have a direct economic impact of more than \$1 million for the county and an indirect economic impact of more than \$900,000.

● **Betty Louise Williams**, a lifelong resident of Georgetown, died August 20. She was 87. Ms. Williams worked for Georgetown County for 50 years. She worked in the county's Auditor's and Treasurer's offices from 1946 to 1951, and served as Deputy Clerk of Court from 1951 to 1974 and as Clerk of Court from 1974 until her retirement in 1996.

● **Sharon Moultrie**, who has served more than 25 years as an administrative assistant in the county's Public Works Office, was recently promoted to public works operations supervisor.

Horry County

● Former Horry County Council Member **James Frazier**, who served eight consecutive terms (35 years) on council before stepping down on March 1, died on July 27. He was 78. He also served as President of the S.C. Association of Counties from 2014 to 2015.

Mr. Frazier, a Bucksport native, represented District 7, which includes U.S. 701's southern corridor and much of Conway. While serving on council, he advocated for the paving of rural roads and a countywide fire service. Mr. Frazier also helped launch the Bucksport Water System.

He is survived by his wife, Jackie; son, Michael, and daughter, Kim Harris.

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) recognized Conway resident **Francis Glair** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient

for the month of July. The Horry County SWA recognized Conway area resident **Cutricka Richardson** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for the month of August.

"Caught Green Handed" is a customer appreciation program recognizing recyclers. The monthly recognition is presented to a resident caught in the act of recycling and for efforts in saving natural resources and reducing the amount of waste being landfilled. The recipient receives an SWA prize pack and media recognition.

● Horry County has partnered with Myrtle Beach, Conway, the Myrtle Beach Housing Authority, the Conway Housing Authority and the Eastern Carolina Homelessness Organization to develop the Horry County Partnership, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Plan. The AFFH Plan will include an analysis of current and historical fair housing issues within Horry County. Throughout the month of September, the county and its partner agencies conducted community meetings to discuss residents' housing experiences and issues related to Fair Housing. The plan will be available for public review and comment in the spring of 2017.

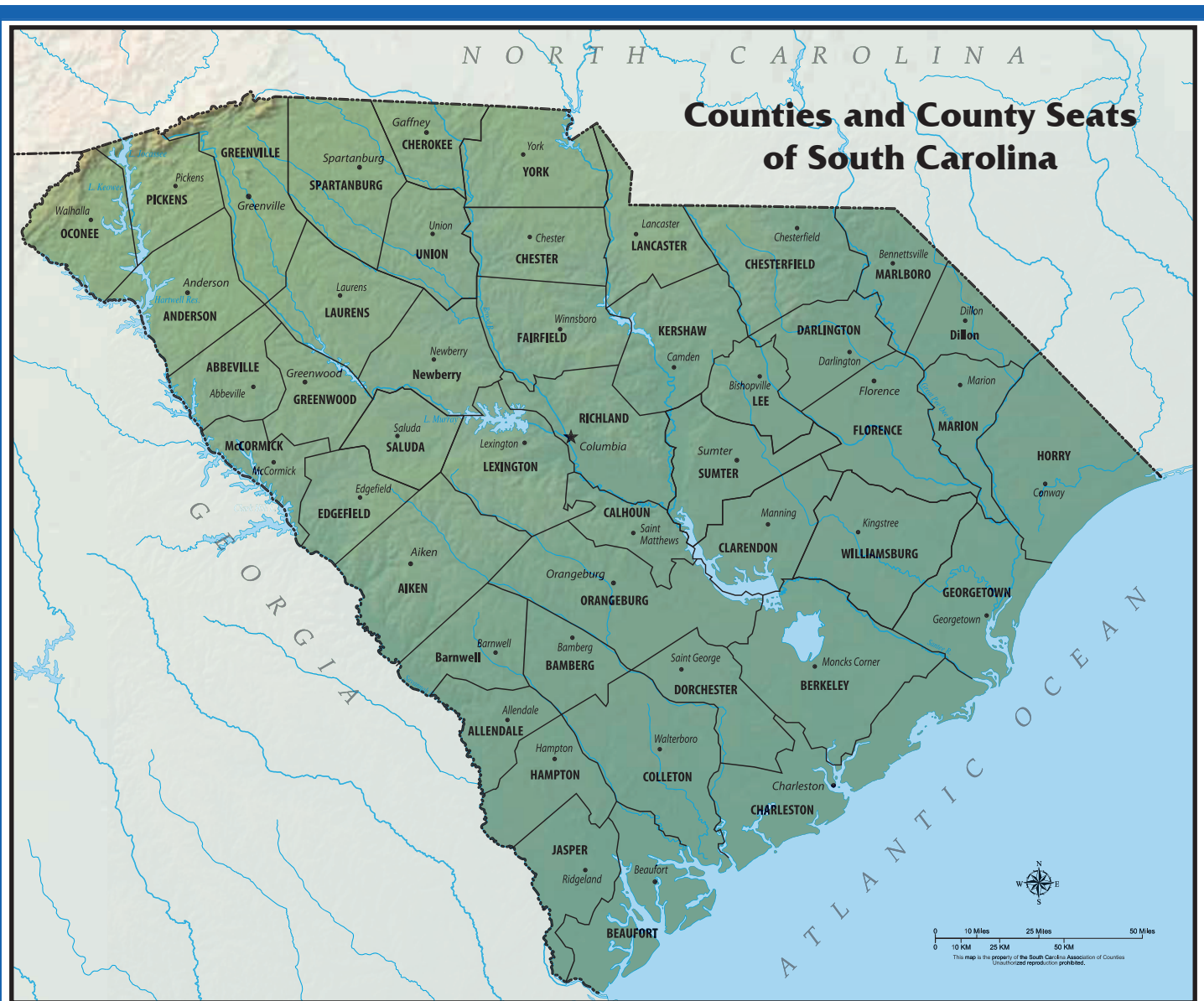
● Horry County hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 29 for the county's new Fire Rescue University Station in Conway.

● Horry County Fire/Rescue has improved its ISO rating after the completion of their recent Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey. ISO completed its analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided in the county and moved the ISO rating from a Class 5 to a Class 3. The survey evaluates all aspects of the department's fire rescue services, as well as the water supply services provided by the county, on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest. Effective Nov. 1, Horry County Fire/Rescue was reclassified to the improved ISO Class 3 status.

Kershaw County

● On August 26, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) recognized Kershaw County's "Charting a Course for the Future: VisionKershaw2030" as a 2016 Innovation Award Winner. The project was one of three submitted by the Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments (COG).

Each year, the NADO Innovation Awards program honors members for creative approaches to advancing regional community and economic development and improved quality of life. Awarded projects have made significant impacts on their regions and demonstrate the diversity of services and



program delivery provided by regional development organizations across the country.

In June 2015, Kershaw County had reached a crossroads, having experienced a continuing tide of development resulting from the expansion of northeast Columbia's metropolitan area to the southwest portion of Kershaw County, combined with increased challenges in providing services and opportunities for a diverse population with different needs and desires based on their locations within the county. The county asked the Santee-Lynches Regional COG to spearhead a community-wide visioning effort that would go beyond simply those areas that the county's agencies were funded to support, and involve the broadest possible collection of organizations to determine goals and possible strategies for the community to pursue between 2016 and 2030. The entire

county joined in the effort, led by Kershaw County Planner **Michael Conley** and the Santee-Lynches planning team of **Kyle Kelly** and **Jenna Brown**.

VisionKershaw2030 is a guidebook for citizens, public officials, members of the business community and community organizations to communicate the county's vision, align services and programs for maximum effect, and to grow the community in the strongest possible way. In a county with multiple rural and urban boundaries and natural environment distinctions, the vision is a way to bridge those gaps. The end result of the eight-month process is a set of long-term goals and objectives for Kershaw County. The vision articulates five overarching themes: Economic Growth, Land Use, County Service Excellence, Infrastructure and Transportation, and a Lifetime of Education, Health, Culture

and Recreation.

Orangeburg County

● On August 15, Orangeburg County Council appointed Connie Portee as the new Clerk to Council. Portee previously worked for 13 years as an information resource coordinator for S.C. State University. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Claflin University and Master's degree from S.C. State University.

Williamsburg County

● At the county's July county council meeting, **Lou Easterling** of Palmetto Pride recognized Council Member **Jeanie Brown Burrows** and the Brunson and Muddy Creek

(Continued on next page)

communities for keeping Williamsburg County beautiful.

● Williamsburg County Supervisor **Stanley S. Pasley** recently recognized the following as Employees of the Month: July—**Brittany W. Pressley**, Treasurer; August—**Eric B. Lewis**, Fire Department; and September—**Naomi R. Dorsey**, Supervisor's Office.

● Probate Judge **Betty Matthews** and her

office staff recently celebrated the work of the office's summer interns, **Braxton McIntish**, **Latia Harvin** and **Karia Fulmore**. McIntosh of Lake City is a second-year student at Coastal Carolina University. Harvin of Lane is a senior at C.E. Murray High School. Fulmore of Hemingway is an Upward Bound Student.

● Williamsburg County Council voted on August 8 to accept the listing of Capital

Sales Tax projects and ballot questions from the CPST commission to be placed on the ballot in the form of a countywide referendum. On Nov. 8, 2016, voters were asked to support the one cent sales tax to help fund specific capital projects for the county and its municipalities.

York County

● York County recently hired **Andrew Merriman** as an Assistant County Manager. Merriman, who began working for the county on September 19, will serve alongside Assistant County Manager **David Harmon**.

Merriman will oversee the following departments: Public Safety Communications, Emergency Management, Fire Safety, Ebenezer Park and Summer Feeding. In addition to providing organizational leadership, he will help the county manager implement policies as established by the county council and help the county manager and other staff members prepare, review and monitor county operating and capital budgets.

Merriman has 10 years of experience in local government. For the last four years, he has served as the Assistant County Administrator for Aiken County. Merriman also served as the City Manager of Bluefield, W.V., from 2009 to 2012 and Assistant Town Manager/Planning Director of Fort Mill from 2006 to 2009. He received his Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Clemson University, and Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Psychology from Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tenn.



South Carolina's 2017 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's 2017 *Directory of County Officials* is scheduled to be published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government. Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling). To order a copy, please contact:

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