

# COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 29

Number 3



**SCAC Elects  
Charles T. Jennings  
President**



**Wayne Adams  
Receives  
President's Cup**



**Charleston County Wins  
2018 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award**



**Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties  
Win 2018 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial  
Regional Cooperation Award**



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*Clarendon County Council Chairman*

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*Orangeburg County Council Chairman*

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# COUNTY FOCUS

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**MAIN COVER PHOTOS** Top Photo: Charleston County EMS paramedics show the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award that their county won this year for creating its EMS Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project. (See Story, P. 20) (Photo courtesy of Jen Matto and Joe McGinnis, Charleston County) Bottom Photo: Shown in this conceptual rendering, provided by GMK Associates, is the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center. Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties won the 2018 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for creating the facility. (See Story, P. 28)



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W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor

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# SCAC Elects Charles T. Jennings President

**SCAC** elected officers for 2018–19 at its 51st Annual Conference (Aug. 5–7, 2018). The SCAC also elected three new board members and re-elected four board members.

coming year,” said Charles T. Jennings. “Under the outstanding leadership of Buddy Livingston, we have successfully completed another challenging year.

“I will be calling on county leaders

Waste Authority Commission Board, and Chairman of the Tri-County Solid Waste Authority Commission Board. He is also a member of SCAC’s Legislative Steering Committee. From 1989 to 1991, he was a

member of the Board of Visitors of Piedmont Technical College. From 1969 to 1972, he was a member of the McCormick County Schools Board of Trustees.

Jennings is a member of the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church in Parksville where he has served as a member of the Deacon Ministry since 1969. He is Chairman of the Finance Ministry, a member of the Male Chorus and Usher Ministry,

and a former Adult Sunday School Teacher. Jennings is also a member of the Quarter Century Club of Greenwood Mills.

He has been a member of Masonic Lodge #96 since 1969, and previously served as treasurer of Union #3 and the Springfield Singing Convention.

Jennings received the Community Service Award in 1998 from the Greenwood Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Carl D. Perkins Human Services Award in 2008 for Community Action Programs throughout the Southeast Region IV, and Presidential Medallion in 2009 from Piedmont Technical College. He also received the Man of the Year Award for 2010–11 from Shiloh AME Church Men’s Club.

He attended public schools in  
(See SCAC President, P. 4)



SCAC President Charles T. Jennings

*“I will be calling on county leaders across the state in the coming months as we develop our legislative agenda for the 2019 legislative session and continue our work for true Home Rule.”*

— SCAC President Charles T. Jennings  
(McCormick County Council Chairman)

across the state in the coming months,” Jennings added, “as we develop our legislative agenda for the 2019 legislative session and continue our work for true Home Rule.”

Jennings, who has served as a McCormick County Council member since 1988, currently serves as council chairman.

Since 1987, he has served as treasurer of the GLEAMNS

Human Resources Commission Board of Directors and as liaison to the commission’s Policy Council. GLEAMNS serves Greenwood, Laurens, Edgefield, Abbeville, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties.

Jennings is a member of the Upper Savannah Council of Government Executive Board and Three Rivers Solid

Elected PRESIDENT was McCormick County Council Chairman Charles T. Jennings. He succeeds Henry H. “Buddy” Livingston III (Newberry County Council Chairman), who served as SCAC President for 2017–18.

“It is truly an honor for me to be elected to serve as president of the South Carolina Association of Counties for the



# SCAC Elects Other Officers

**First  
Vice President**



**Dwight L. Stewart Jr.**  
*Clarendon County  
Council Chairman*

**Second  
Vice President**



**Johnnie Wright Sr.**  
*Orangeburg County  
Council Chairman*

**Third  
Vice President**



**Paul A. Cain**  
*Oconee County  
Council Member*

**Immediate  
Past President**



**Henry H. "Buddy" Livingston III**  
*Newberry County  
Council Chairman*

**Secretary**



**Steve Willis**  
*Lancaster County  
Administrator*

**Treasurer**



**Belinda D. Copeland**  
*Darlington County*

**The SCAC elected other officers as follows: FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**—Dwight L. Stewart Jr., Clarendon County Council Chairman; **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**—Johnnie Wright Sr., Orangeburg County Council Chairman; **THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**—Paul A. Cain, Oconee County Council

Member; **SECRETARY**—Steve Willis, Lancaster County Administrator; and **TREASURER**—Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County. ■



## SCAC Presidents

2018 Charles T. Jennings  
*McCormick County*  
2017 Henry H. Livingston III  
*Newberry County*  
2016 Julie J. Armstrong  
*Charleston County*  
2015 John Q. Atkinson Jr.  
*Marion County*  
2014 James R. Frazier  
*Horry County*  
2013 Joseph R. Branham  
*Chester County*  
2012 Charles T. Edens  
*Sumter County*  
2011 Joseph B. Dill  
*Greenville County*  
2010 R. Carlisle Roddey  
*Chester County*  
2009 Diane B. Anderson  
*Laurens County*  
2008 L. Gregory Pearce Jr.  
*Richland County*  
2007 K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr.  
*Florence County*  
2006 Belinda D. Copeland  
*Darlington County*  
2004-05 Waymon Mumford  
*Florence County*  
2004 Barrett S. Lawrimore  
*Charleston County*  
2003 Gonza L. Bryant  
*Greenwood County*

2002 James A. Coleman  
*Laurens County*  
2001 Steve S. Kelly Jr.  
*Kershaw County*  
2000 James H. Rozier Jr.  
*Berkeley County*  
1999 Polly C. Jackson  
*Lancaster County*  
1998 Robert R. Nash Sr.  
*Pickens County*  
1997 Alzena Robinson  
*Bamberg County*  
1996 Betty T. Roper  
*Clarendon County*  
1995 George E. Bomar  
*Greenville County*  
1994 Raymond C. Eubanks Jr.  
*Spartanburg County*  
1993 William L. McBride  
*Beaufort County*  
1992 Belle J. Kennette  
*Greenwood County*  
1991 James R. McGee  
*Orangeburg County*  
1990 Kenneth R. Huckaby  
*Spartanburg County*  
1989 Lowell C. (Butch) Spires  
*Lexington County*  
1988 David K. Summers Jr.  
*Calhoun County*  
1987 Danny E. Allen  
*Spartanburg County*  
1986 O.V. Player Jr.  
*Sumter County*  
1985 Sue H. Roe  
*Aiken County*

1984 Charlie I. Crews  
*Hampton County*  
1983 James P. Whitlock  
*Pickens County*  
1982 Lonnie Hamilton III  
*Charleston County*  
1981 Alfred B. Schooler  
*Georgetown County*  
1980 Howard A. Taylor  
*Charleston County*  
1979 Marjorie H. Sharpe  
*Lexington County*  
1978 Berry L. Mobley  
*Lancaster County*  
1977 E.E. Johnson  
*Hampton County*  
1976 Harold L. King  
*Darlington County*  
1975 Jack Q. Gerrald  
*Horry County*  
1974 Arthur H. Burton  
*Charleston County*  
1973 James O. Thomason  
*Spartanburg County*  
1972 J. Hugh McCutchen  
*Williamsburg County*  
1971 John L. Greer  
*Union County*  
1969-70 J. Mitchell Graham  
*Charleston County*  
1967-68 Charles W. Lawrimore  
*Georgetown County*



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## Purpose of the SCAC

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

❖ For more information  
about the SCAC, please contact:

**South Carolina  
Association of Counties**  
P.O. Box 8207  
1919 Thurmond Mall  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207  
(803) 252-7255  
[smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc)

## SCAC President

*(Continued from P. 2)*

McCormick County and received an Associate degree in Fiber Management from Piedmont Technical College.

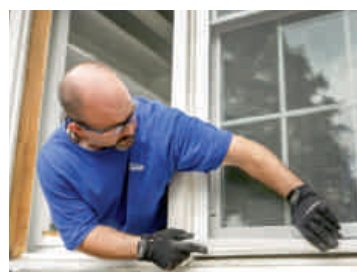
### SCAC ELECTS THREE BOARD MEMBERS AND RE-ELECTS FOUR BOARD MEMBERS

The SCAC elected **C. David Chinnis**, Dorchester County Council Member, to SCAC's Board of Directors for 2019–22. The Association also elected **Robert Winkler**, York County Council Member, and **Roy Costner III**, Pickens County Council Chairman, to fill the unexpired terms of Board Members Paul Cain and Johnnie Wright Sr.

The SCAC re-elected the following board members for 2018–22: **Joseph R. Branham**, Chester County Council Vice Chairman; **Paul A. Cain**, Oconee County Council Member; **Joseph B. Dill**, Greenville County Council Member; and **Charles T. Edens**, Sumter County Council Member.







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# *Last Chance to Advertise in South Carolina's 2019 Directory of County Officials!*

**Advertising deadline extended to January 31, 2019.**

South Carolina's *2019 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 *2019 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.

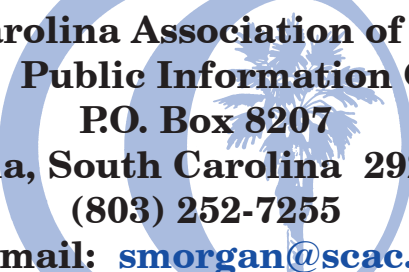
Cost:

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- To add one or two more colors to a full-page or half-page B&W ad, the cost is \$90.00 NET for each additional color. Colors will be built in process.

The extended deadline for placing an advertisement in the upcoming *2019 Directory* is **5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019**. 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 *2019 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](http://www.SCCounties.org). After the *2019 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.

- To place an ad in South Carolina's *2019 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:



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# The 2018 J. Mitchell Graham/ Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

The 2018 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition was held on August 5 at the 51st Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties (August 5–7, 2018).

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

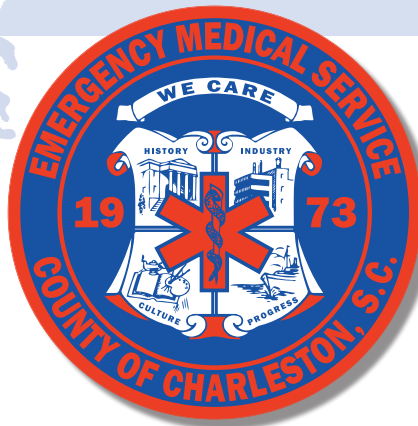
- Under 50,000
- 50,000 to 150,000 and
- Over 150,000.



**Charleston County Wins  
SCAC's 2018 J. Mitchell Graham  
Memorial Award**

★ **Charleston County** won the 2018 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its EMS Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project, which responds to the increasing number of psychiatric and mental health patients encountered by EMS staff.

"The county's EMS Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project allows mental health patients to get the appropriate level of care and avoid lengthy housing in



emergency rooms or detention facilities," said William E. Tones, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, one of three judges evaluating this year's competition. "Using telehealth technology, mental health evaluations are performed in the field using a digital connection between the

patient and a medical health professional once a paramedic completes an initial assessment.

"So far, the project has resulted in an average of 60 diversions from unnecessary emergency room transports per month, and has saved patients thousands of dollars in fees for ambulance transports and emergency room visits," Tones added. "This innovative, patient-centered solution—one of the first of its type in the nation—is one that the South Carolina Department of Mental Health is hoping to expand to other counties across the state."

## **Horry, Georgetown and Marlboro Counties Win Honorable Mention Awards**

★ **Horry County**, in the category for counties with populations over 150,000, won an Honorable Mention Award for its unique approach to create a wetlands mitigation bank—The Independent Republic Heritage Preserve.

"In 2018, Horry County purchased approximately 3,700 acres of biologically and historically significant land to create a wetlands mitigation bank," Tones said. "When established, the bank will be the first created and operated solely by a county in South Carolina."

"This bank will allow the county to  
(See JMG/BL, P. 11)







Anna Berger, SCAC's Director of Research and Training, introduces the judges and explains the competition's rules.



# Award-Winning Presentations



*The 14 entries presented on August 5 at SCAC's 2018 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition represented the efforts of 18 counties. The photos on this page and the next, taken during the competition, include photos taken of the award-winning presentations.*

*Photos by Stuart Morgan*

**J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER'S PRESENTATION**—Greig A. Samuelson, Charleston County EMS Training Officer, presents Charleston County's entry, which won this year's J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award.



**THE 2018 J. MITCHELL GRAHAM/BARRETT LAWRI-MORE MEMORIAL AWARDS COMPETITION**—Every year, county officials attend the competition to support their counties as they make their presentations or to learn about some of the most successful county programs and projects in South Carolina.





**GEORGETOWN COUNTY**



**HORRY COUNTY**



**MCCORMICK COUNTY**

**HONORABLE MENTION AWARD WINNERS' PRESENTATIONS**—Presenting their respective county's entries, which won Honorable Mention awards are: (left to right) Debbie Barr, Director of the Sheriff's Reentry Program, and Heather Pelham, Public Services Librarian, Georgetown County (50,000 to 150,000 Pop.); Jason Thompson, RIDE Program Manager, Horry County (Over 150,000 Pop.); and Ron Munnerlyn, Marlboro County (Under 50,000 Pop.)

**BARRETT LAWRIMORE MEMORIAL REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD WINNER'S PRESENTATION**—Presenting the entry for Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties, which won this year's Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award, are: (left to right) Kathy Rhoad, Interim Vice President, Strategic Planning and Marketing, Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg-Calhoun Counties; Sen. Brad Hutto (District 40); and Joey Preston, Bamberg County Administrator.



**JUDGING SCAC'S 2018 J. MITCHELL GRAHAM/BARRETT LAWRIMORE MEMORIAL AWARDS COMPETITION**—Judges for this year's competition were: (left to right) Paula E. Sanford, Ph.D., Public Service and Outreach Faculty Member, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia; Dr. Bruce Ransom, Professor and Chair of the Policy Studies Program, Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University; and Head Judge William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston.



## JMG/BL

(Continued from P. 8)

use wetlands credits to move forward with critical infrastructure and road

improvement projects needed to address growth in the county,” he added. “The purchase of the land also protects a local ecosystem, provides conservation and environmental education, and might provide passive recreational opportunities

for local residents.”

★ **Georgetown County**, in the category for counties with populations between 50,000 and 150,000, won an Honorable Mention Award for taking a proactive

(Continued on next page)



**RECOGNIZING CHARLESTON COUNTY, LAST YEAR'S WINNER OF THE J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD—**Charleston County won SCAC's 2017 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its DuPont/Wapoo Community Plan. Accepting a small replica of the award for Charleston County to keep are: (left to right) Kristen Brame, Deputy Clerk to Council; Kristen L. Salisbury, Clerk to Council; Anna B. Johnson, Council Member; SCAC President Henry H. Livingston III (presenting award); Jim Armstrong, Deputy Administrator of Transportation and Public Works; A. Victor Rawl, Council Chairman; Joel Evans, Planning/Zoning Director; and Dan Martin, Member of the Board of Elections and Voter Registration. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



**CHARLESTON COUNTY WINS 2018 J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD—**Charleston County won the 2018 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its EMS Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project, which responds to the increasing number of psychiatric and mental health patients encountered by EMS staff. Accepting the award for Charleston County at SCAC's 51st Annual Conference are: (left to right) Dan Martin, Member of the Board of Elections and Voter Registration; Joel Evans, Planning/Zoning Director; Kristen Brame, Deputy Clerk to Council; Jim Armstrong, Deputy Administrator of Transportation and Public Works; A. Victor Rawl, Council Chairman; SCAC President Henry H. Livingston III (presenting award); Anna B. Johnson, Council Member; Terri Fife, Project Officer II, DCA Dispatch and Medical Services; and Kristen L. Salisbury, Clerk to Council. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

approach to reduce recidivism among inmates at its detention center.

“The Georgetown County Sheriff’s Department’s Re-Entry Program trains inmates nearing



the end of their sentences to obtain journeyman certifications in 12 different trades,” Tomes said. “The program also offers job search workshops and life skills classes that encourage

inmates to avoid behaviors that placed them in the system.

“The county’s public works department provides on-the-job training and experience opportunities for program participants,” he added. “So

far, Georgetown County has saved approximately \$300,000 each year in labor costs. One hundred percent of inmates who have completed the program have jobs, and several former inmates have started their own businesses.”

★ **Marlboro County**, in the category for counties with populations under 50,000, won an Honorable Mention Award for addressing a critical need of its residents by



(See JMG/BL, P. 14)



**HORRY COUNTY WINS 2018 HONORABLE MENTION**—Horry County won the 2018 Honorable Mention J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award in the category for counties with populations over 150,000 for its unique approach to create a wetlands mitigation bank—The Independent Republic Heritage Preserve. Accepting the award for Horry County at SCAC’s 51st Annual Conference are: (left to right) Marion Foxworth, Registrar of Deeds; Johnny Vaught, Council Member; SCAC President Henry H. Livingston III (presenting award); Jason Thompson, RIDE Program Manager; and Danny Hardee, Council Member. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



**GEORGETOWN COUNTY WINS 2018 HONORABLE MENTION**—Georgetown County won an Honorable Mention J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award in the category for counties with populations between 50,000 and 150,000 for taking a proactive approach to reduce recidivism among inmates at its detention center. Accepting the award for Georgetown County at SCAC’s 51st Annual Conference are: (left to right) Austin Beard, Council Vice Chairman; Debbie Barr, director of the county’s re-entry program; Heather Pelham, Assistant Public Information Officer for Sheriff’s Department; Sheriff Lane Cribb; SCAC President Henry H. Livingston III (presenting award); Everett Carolina, Council Member; and Sel Hemingway, County Administrator. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)





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# ARIEL

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## JMG/BL

(Continued from P. 12)

**MARLBORO COUNTY WINS 2018 HONORABLE MENTION**—Marlboro County won the 2018 Honorable Mention J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award in the category for counties with populations under 50,000 for addressing a critical need of its residents by improving fire service in the county. Accepting the award for Marlboro County at SCAC's 51st Annual Conference are: (left to right) Council Members Verd Odom, Willie Gladden and Corrie H. Plato; Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Council Chairwoman; SCAC President Henry H. Livingston III (presenting award); and Council Member Anthony Woods. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

improving fire service in the county.

“Marlboro County hired a fire services coordinator and added a staff of full-time paid fire personnel,” Tones said.

“Through the construction of new fire stations, the purchase of new equipment, and a significant improvement in the number of volunteers responding to fire



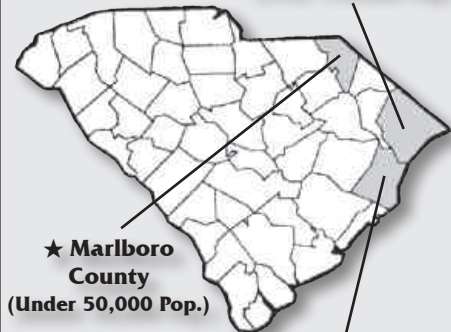
**WINNERS OF THE BARRETT LAWRIMORE MEMORIAL REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD**—County officials representing Bamberg



calls, the county has been successful in reducing fire insurance premiums and improving the safety of its citizens.”

**HONORABLE MENTION WINNERS  
J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award**

★ **Horry County**  
(Over 150,000 Pop.)



★ **Marlboro County**  
(Under 50,000 Pop.)

★ **Georgetown County**  
(50,000 to 150,000 Pop.)

See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 99

**Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and  
Orangeburg Counties Win SCAC's  
2018 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial  
Regional Cooperation Award**

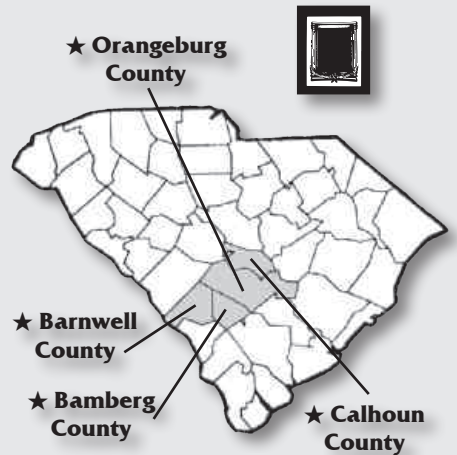
★ Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties won SCAC's 2018 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for collaborating to address the needs of citizens in the Greater Salkehatchie Region by creating the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center.

“This free-standing, 24-hour emergency center is the result of a partnership of the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun counties, Bamberg and Barnwell counties, state legislators  
(Continued on next page)



**Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun  
and Orangeburg Counties**

**Winners of the 2018 Barrett Lawrimore  
Memorial Regional Cooperation Award**



★ **Orangeburg County**

★ **Barnwell County**

★ **Bamberg County**

★ **Calhoun County**

See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 99



Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties accept the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

in the region and other organizations,” Tomes said. “Within the past six years, the region has become a ‘healthcare desert’ after county hospitals closed in both Bamberg and Barnwell counties. Residents of these two counties have had to make long trips to hospitals in Orangeburg, Aiken or Allendale for emergency medical care.

“The new Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Center, located on highway 70 between Bamberg and Denmark, is approximately 15 minutes from the county seat of each of the four participating counties and Allendale,” he added. “This provides faster treatment by emergency room doctors, who can use communication infrastructure installed at the new facility to communicate with specialists at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Installation of this communication infrastructure and other utility infrastructure also makes it possible for industry to come to an area that previously was not viable for growth, thereby enhancing economic development opportunities.”

The Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center is scheduled to officially open later this year. Future plans include locating other services such as mental health counseling, a pharmacy and primary care services at the facility.

### **The J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition**

This year marks the 46th year that the SCAC has held its annual J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award competition, and the 21st year that the Association has held its annual Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation competition.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award recognizes counties that address community challenges, implement operational improvements, or enhance their citizens’ quality of life in a unique way. The award, first presented in 1972, honors the memory of J. Mitchell Graham who served as SCAC’s president from 1969 to 1970.

The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award highlights

the critical need for regional partnerships, strategies and solutions. Competition for this award is open to two or more political subdivisions (counties or county partnerships formed with city, town, district or regional government organizations) that work together to complete an innovative project. The award is named in memory of Barrett S. Lawrimore who served as SCAC’s president in 2004.

### **Judges**

Serving as judges for this year’s competition were: Head Judge—William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston; Dr. Bruce Ransom, Professor and Chair of the Policy Studies Program, Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University; and Paula E. Sanford, Ph.D., Public Service and Outreach Faculty Member, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia.

### **Other Entities Recognized for Competing in the 2018 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition**

On August 7 at the General Session for SCAC’s Annual Conference, Tomes briefly described the 14 entries that were submitted in this J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition. As SCAC President Henry H. “Buddy” Livingston III presented plaques to each county that participated, Tomes thanked and congratulated representatives who accepted the plaques on behalf of their counties.

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

#### **J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award Competition**

■ **Barnwell County**—Barnwell County implemented the “Emergency Millennial” program to enhance the safety of county residents during disasters and emergencies. Due to its limited staff size, the Barnwell County Emergency

Operations Center found it difficult to handle all facets of an emergency without assistance from volunteers. The county teamed with local high schools to recruit students as volunteers in the emergency operations center. The program not only helps the county, but also offers students a chance to fulfill community service requirements for various clubs and interests.

■ **Berkeley County**—Across Berkeley County, real solutions for infrastructure, public safety, and quality of life needs are taking shape every day. The county developed the user-friendly “Building Berkeley” website to show residents how growth is being managed, challenges are being met, and prosperity is abounding. An interactive map allows residents to check on the status of projects in their neighborhoods, while a feedback interface facilitates easy, two-way communication with county staff.

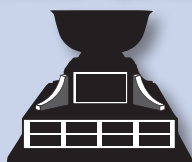
■ **Lancaster County**—Every year, the nation celebrates National Read Across America day on Dr. Seuss’ birthday (March 2). In an effort to promote reading and showcase the beauty and history of Lancaster County, the county and the school district partnered to create a children’s book and produced a video of local leaders reading the book in various areas of the county. Students watched the video on National Read Across America day, and all of the 4th and 5th grade classes in the county will have copies of the book by the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The project’s video and book is a source of pride for Lancaster County residents.

■ **Richland County**—Richland County partnered with its health insurance vendor to conduct an onsite Diabetes Prevention Program. The county utilized an onsite certified dietician and diabetes coach to conduct the pilot program. Lifestyle change interventions are cost effective and, in some cases, result in reduced health care spending for the employee and the county. Over the 11-month pilot project period, the county conducted 26 sessions and county employees lost a total combined weight of 170 pounds.

*(See JMG/BL, P. 18)*



## Winners of the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award



Charleston County	2018	Georgetown County	1997	Beaufort County and	
Charleston County	2017	Berkeley County	1996	Greenwood County	1976
Colleton County	2016	Florence County	1995	Edgefield County	1975
Barnwell County	2015	Richland County	1994	Lexington County	1974
Abbeville County	2014	Charleston County	1993	Charleston County	1973
Newberry County	2013	York County	1992		
Colleton County	2012	Greenwood County	1991		
Horry County	2011	Beaufort County	1990		
Orangeburg County	2010	Charleston County	1989		
Georgetown County	2009	Spartanburg County	1988		
Lexington County	2008	Beaufort County	1987		
Greenwood County	2007	Aiken County	1986		
Newberry County	2006	Greenwood County	1985		
Georgetown County	2005	Union County	1984		
Lexington County	2004	Greenville County	1983		
Orangeburg County	2003	Chester County	1982		
Anderson County	2002	Chesterfield County	1981		
Anderson County	2001	York County	1980		
Horry County	2000	Beaufort County	1979		
York County	1999	Oconee County	1978		
Aiken County	1998	Richland County	1977		



## Winners of the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties	2018
Greenville County	2017
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



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## JMG/BL ...

(Continued from P. 16)

### Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

■ **Florence County**—Florence County and Lake City transformed a blighted area into a 25 acre recreational park with a 7.5 acre lake. The blighted area was the site of a former wastewater treatment facility and an old landfill. Both were abandoned years prior, and a portion of the property was being used by the city and county for a public works and a waste collection facility. Remediation of the site resulted in a community gathering place that enhances the community's eco-system and the quality of life for citizens.

■ **Greenwood and Laurens Counties**—The Lake Greenwood Master Plan was a cooperative effort involving Greenwood and Laurens counties that led to a long range, unified vision for the growth of the region's hidden gem—Lake Greenwood. After a year-long study and the collaboration of citizens, planners, and government officials, a master plan was created that establishes goals, objectives, and strategies for the use, development, and protection of the lake area through 2035. The master plan serves as a guidebook for the future plans of both counties.

■ **Lancaster County**—Lancaster County had continuous road flooding around the Gills Creek basin. During flooding events, some roadways were impassable for residents and emergency vehicles, with no alternative routes. Permanent solutions were complicated by the designation of Gills Creek as a critical habitat for the Carolina Heelsplitter—an endangered species since 1993. The county worked cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to install bottomless culverts, which eliminated the flooding while also opening up over three miles of critical habitat for the Heelsplitter.

■ **Laurens County**—On behalf of Laurens County, the Laurens County Development Corporation partnered with local industries, Piedmont Technical College, and two local school districts to form the Business and Education

Partnership to create a more robust talent pipeline for local employers. A new dual-enrollment program for area high schools and the technical college has been created as a result of this partnership. The Laurens County Development Corporation also launched a year-long campaign to increase awareness of local employment opportunities.

■ **Pickens County**—In preparation for the county's 150th anniversary, Pickens County employees led a countywide anti-litter initiative to "Team Up and Clean Up". County offices closed for a day so employees, community leaders, and citizens could collect trash from the roadways. County council members, the legislative delegation, the S.C. Department of Transportation, local municipalities, various community groups, and businesses participated. As a result, more than 17 tons of trash was collected and the "Five on Friday" initiative emerged. This litter initiative encourages each county resident to pick up five pieces of trash on Fridays, thereby eliminating nearly half a ton of trash each week.







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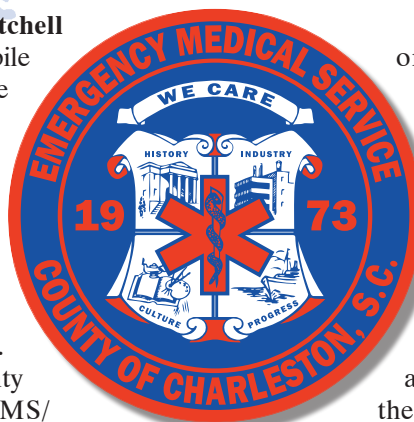
# Charleston County Wins 2018 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

## *For EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project*

By W. Stuart Morgan III

**C**harleston County won the 2018 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project, which responds to the increasing number of psychiatric and mental health patients encountered by EMS staff. This is a record fifth time the county has won the prestigious award, which it previously won in 2017, 1993, 1989 and 1973.

Nationwide, the mental health population faces great challenges. Charleston County designed the EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project to deal with some of those challenges, specifically to better handle health-related 911 calls.



“Telepsychiatry, a subfield of telemedicine or telehealth,” he added, “connects such patients with a mental health professional—a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, counselor or psychiatric nurse—who determines the best treatment options for the individual’s best interests. It also allows EMS to facilitate the conversation between patient and a mental health professional in a 911 setting. Technology allows this process to happen, innovation connects the various agencies, and a community partnership serves the county’s mental health population for the betterment of all EMS missions.”

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*“Telepsychiatry, a subfield of telemedicine or telehealth, connects such patients with a mental health professional—a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, counselor or psychiatric nurse—who determines the best treatment options for the individual’s best interests.”*

— David Abrams

Charleston County EMS Director

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Charleston County partnered with Mobile Crisis at the Charleston-Dorchester Mental Health Center on May 1, 2017, to create the EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project, which selected and trained experienced EMS paramedics to utilize specialized telehealth technology.

These telepsychiatry paramedics were taught how to use Dell laptop computers in EMS vehicles to conduct telepsychiatric evaluations (full emergency mental health assessments). They were also required to obtain notary certifications so they could sign commitment papers to allow on-scene law enforcement personnel to transport patients directly to a psychiatric facility against their will, if necessary.



Mental health emergencies often overuse law law enforcement, overwhelm EMS, inundate hospitals and underutilize mobile crisis and psychiatry services.

“Many patients suffering psychiatric and mental health issues are ill-served in an

emergency medical setting,” explained David Abrams, Charleston County EMS Director. “Though they receive high quality care, the care they receive is not always in their best interests.



Telehealth is a recent, evolving innovation in healthcare nationwide. Recognizing the limitations of access in rural areas, many health care professionals are using “FaceTime-like interfaces,” made possible with computers connecting patients to providers. These interfaces or platforms have HIPAA-compliant software, similar to that EMS personnel use for other patients, which provides data privacy and security provisions for safeguarding medical information.

Charleston County’s EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project works like this:

- Someone calls 911 in an emergency.
- EMS personnel dispatch response vehicles even before arriving at the scene if information from the call indicates that the patient has a psychiatric or mental health issue.
- Once on site, paramedics perform an initial screening to determine if the patient will cooperate in a telepsychiatric evaluation. If paramedics determine there is nothing physically wrong with the patient that requires EMS help, they request that an EMS supervisor with additional training be dispatched to the scene.



- If the EMS supervisor determines that the patient suffers from psychiatric or mental health issues (including panic disorders, depression or post-traumatic stress disorder), and the patient is willing to participate in a telepsychiatric evaluation, the supervisor releases the ambulance and its crew as soon as possible to respond to other calls. (Patients who opt out of the evaluation receive traditional EMS transport to an emergency room/medical department.)
- For patients who choose to participate, the EMS supervisor calls Mobile Crisis and uses a laptop to establish a video connection that allows a mental health professional to conduct a telepsychiatric evaluation of the patient.
- After the evaluation, the supervisor guides the patient through the next steps to obtain the appropriate level of care. This includes directing the patient to: make a clinic appointment for outpatient treatment; transporting and admitting the patient to the Tri-County Crisis Stabilization Center for voluntary or involuntary inpatient treatment; or transporting the patient to a facility that treats substance abuse disorders.

*(Continued on next page)*



Charleston County EMS Paramedics proudly show the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award that their county won this year for its EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project: Pfc. Stacy Nguyen; Sgt. Karen Guerrero; Pfc. Teanda Cunningham; Pfc. Alex Lopez; Cpl. Ashley Cooper; Capt. Terry Kindred; Sgt. Ben Brown; Division Chief Carl Fehr; David Abrams, EMS Director; Cpl. Barbara McMurry; Shift Commander Carl Benton; and Sgt. Kimberly Seleen. *(Photo courtesy of Jen Matto and Joe McGinnis, Charleston County)*



Most telesychiatric evaluations or interactions require 45 minutes, but some require several hours before a patient can be transported to receive care.

“Telepsychiatry gets patients with psychiatric or mental health issues the type care they need while freeing up the ambulance resource for other calls,” Abrams said. “It also ensures that an emergency department does not lose a bed while waiting on their own psychiatric team to conduct a similar evaluation.”

The telehealth project benefits everyone living in the county—not just patients who have psychiatric or mental health issues—because it frees up ambulance crews to respond to medical emergencies and emergency departments to process and treat patients requiring medical care.

“The most rewarding aspect of our EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project is seeing the project’s positive effects for our citizens,” Abrams said. “This innovation across disciplines is a model for health services across the nation, and our community

is in the forefront of this new wave of care.

“I’m thrilled to be a part of it,” he added. “I’m also thrilled to be able to watch the professionals charged with interacting with patients to make such a huge impact.”

Charleston County’s partnerships (see page 23) with many agencies and organizations played a key role in

the success of the county’s telehealth project. Two of those organizations include the Telehealth Alliance and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

The Telehealth Alliance is a collaboration of South Carolina hospitals, providers, government leaders and other entities that works together to

improve access to quality, cost-effective care by using telehealth services. This organization provided grant funds for notary application fees and supplies for every telepsychiatry paramedic.

MUSC provided portable printers, cases and ink to allow telepsychiatric paramedics to produce needed documentation on site.

***“Telepsychiatry gets patients with psychiatric or mental health issues the type care they need while freeing up the ambulance resource for other calls. It also ensures that an emergency department does not lose a bed while waiting on their own psychiatric team to conduct a similar evaluation.”***

— David Abrams  
Charleston County EMS Director

## Conducting a Teleschiatric Evaluation



A Charleston County EMS paramedic calls Mobile Crisis and uses a laptop to establish a video connection that allows a mental health professional to conduct a telesychiatric evaluation of the patient. After the evaluation, the supervisor coordinates connecting the patient to the appropriate level of care. This includes: directing the patient to make a clinic appointment for outpatient treatment; transport and admission to the Tri-County Crisis Stabilization Center for voluntary or involuntary inpatient treatment; or transport to a facility that treats substance use disorders. (Photos by Jennifer Motto, Charleston County)





Terri Fife, Project Officer II for the Charleston County Deputy Administrator for Dispatch and Medical Services, produced the county's written entry for SCAC's 2018 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award Competition,

## ***Awards Committee Searches for Award-Winning Entries***

Charleston County is one of only two counties in South Carolina that has won two consecutive J. Mitchell Graham Memorial awards since the award was first presented in 1973, and the only county to have won more than five.

But apparently, this is not good enough.

Charleston County officials are trying to figure out how to win the award more often.

"It really makes me proud and happy to work with Charleston County, an organization that has so many great programs," said James D. Armstrong, Charleston County Deputy Administrator/Transportation and Public Works. "Being able to showcase and share these important projects with others is also very meaningful."

Armstrong formed a committee three years ago to launch a new approach for vetting applications and preparing for SCAC's annual J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition.

Prior to winning two consecutive awards in 2017 and 2018, 1993 was the last time Charleston County won a J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award. The last time the county won a Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award was in 2005 when the county shared winning the award that year with Florence and Georgetown counties.

*(See Awards Committee, P. 24)*

held on August 5 at the Association's 51st Annual Conference (Aug. 5-8, 2018).

Fife said patients who have psychiatric or mental health issues make up approximately 6.3 percent of the county's 911 calls. Prior to the creation of Charleston County's EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project, EMS transported 80 percent of these patients to an emergency department.

According to Fife, Charleston County's EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project received 772 calls, approximately 64 per month, during its first year of operation (May 1, 2017, to May 1, 2018). She then identified the types of calls received, as follows:

53 — Total calls to Mobile Crisis

39 — Diversion away from EMS transport

28 — Diversion away from emergency room visit

*(See Charleston County, P. 24)*

## **Partnerships**

Partnerships with the following agencies and organizations created Charleston County's EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project and now operate it: Charleston County EMS; Medical University Hospital Authority; S.C. Telehealth Alliance; S.C. Department of Mental Health; Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center (911); The Charleston Center; Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center Assessment/Mobile Crisis; Roper St. Francis; Medical University of South Carolina; Charleston County Sheriff's Office Therapeutic Transportation Unit; and all law enforcement and public safety agencies in the Tri-County area.



At the Charleston County Council meeting on August 21, Charleston County officials proudly show the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award that Charleston County won for its EMS/Mobile Telehealth Project at SCAC's 51st Annual Conference. Shown are: (left to right) Shawn Smetana, Public Information Officer; Jen Matto, Media Production Specialist, Public Information Office; Anna Eskridge, Ph.D., Community Development Program Manager; David Abrams, EMS Director; Capt. Albert Marsch, EMS; Capt. Alex Beach, EMS; Patrick Wells, EMS Division Chief; and Greig Samuelson, EMS Training Officer.

## Awards Committee ...

*(Continued from P. 23)*

“We formed the committee several years ago because there was no structure or purpose to applications that we put forward in years past,” Armstrong explained. “After missing the mark and not winning the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award four years ago, I returned from SCAC’s 2014 Annual Conference, and got the support of my colleagues to form a committee to improve our application process, and thus, our chances of winning the award each year.”

The awards committee initially consisted of six employees, representing different departments within the county. Committee members were selected, because they had demonstrated that they were motivated, excited and anxious to showcase Charleston County’s endeavors.

“Our committee looks for grass root-oriented projects or programs that have been successful,” Armstrong explained. “We look for the type projects or programs that positively affect a lot of people, but are not driven by extensive funding. We also look at approaches that other organizations can learn from and easily provide for citizens.

“We screen potential programs and projects, and then select the best one,” he added. “When preparing the entry, our committee meets to discuss the written entry. We ask the person preparing the application lots of questions and make suggestions. We also prepare extensively prior to presenting the entry at SCAC’s annual conference by holding many mock presentations, asking questions that the competition’s judges might ask and timing the presentation.”

You cannot win if you do not compete. But as the saying goes, practice also makes perfect.

Greig Samuelson, Charleston County EMS Training Officer, presented Charleston County’s award-winning entry at this year’s J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Awards Competition. Samuelson was so well-prepared for his presentation, Armstrong recalled, that he was able to deliver a strong, informed and virtually flawless presentation even when he noticed that a slide was skipped.

“I would encourage all counties to submit an entry and compete in SCAC’s annual J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award Competition,” Armstrong said. “Preparing a written entry and preparing to present an entry at the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition does take some effort. But at the end of the day, you can learn so much about your own organization and also about the great things that other counties are doing.”

He suggested that all counties form awards committees to help select the best programs and projects to enter in SCAC’s annual J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition.

“I really do believe,” he added, “that forming a committee and vetting possible entries allows counties to represent their organization in the best fashion.” ■

## Charleston County ...

*(Continued from P. 23)*

- 26 — Diversion away from hospital stay
- 5 — Involuntary commitments
- 3 — Direct admissions to psychiatric facilities
- 5 — Patients transported by EMS because they refused to cooperate with a telepsychiatric evaluation.

According to Fife, Charleston County’s approach to better handle mental health-related 911 calls provided positive results. The project prevented 60 unnecessary emergency room/emergency department visits, diverting 74 percent of all calls away from EMS.

Of the 722 calls that Charleston County’s telehealth project received its first year, 56 percent were diverted from our county’s Emergency Department, 49 percent were diverted from the hospital, and only 8 percent were transported by EMS after telepsychiatric evaluations.

The telehealth project saved approximately \$1,117,550 in unnecessary medical bills during the first year.

The project stabilized a growing mental health situation challenging Charleston County’s first responders, emergency rooms and emergency departments. It also saved patients with psychiatric and mental health issues thousands of dollars in copays, coinsurances/self pay for unnecessary ambulance transports, and emergency room visits.

Most important, the project helped many of the patients more quickly receive the care they needed at appropriate locations, and often prevented their situations from deteriorating.

“I’m elated!” Fife said when asked how she felt about Charleston County winning this year’s award. “This is so positive for Charleston County EMS Department and everyone we serve because it recognizes the success of our county’s EMS Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project. It also provides an opportunity to explain how the project works and a framework for other counties to setup similar programs.”

With the success of its EMS/Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project, Charleston County has become a national leader in finding solutions for the needs of the mental health population. No wonder the South Carolina Department of Mental Health hopes to expand this innovative, patient-centered solution—one of the first of its type in the nation—to other counties across the state.





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**Advertising deadline extended to January 31, 2019.**

South Carolina's *2019 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 *2019 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.

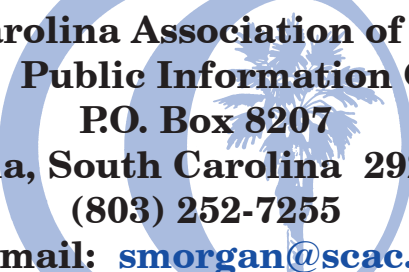
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The extended deadline for placing an advertisement in the upcoming *2019 Directory* is **5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019**. So, your check or money order (made payable to SCAC) and ad must be received by this date at the SCAC Office (NO EXCEPTIONS).

A .pdf of the *2019 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](http://www.SCCounties.org). After the *2019 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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# Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties Win 2018 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

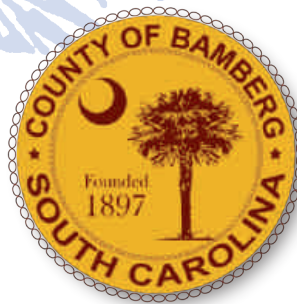
*For Creating the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center*

By W. Stuart Morgan III

**B**amberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties won SCAC's 2018 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for creating the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center to address the healthcare needs of residents in the Greater Salkehatchie Region.

The region has become a virtual healthcare desert since the closing of Bamberg County Hospital in

2012 and Southern Palmetto Hospital (Barnwell) in 2016.\* In fact, the lack of timely access to emergency medical care in the region has created a dire situation for its residents.



*"This has been a wonderful collaboration among Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg and Barnwell counties—including the Salkehatchie Region's legislative delegation, the City of Denmark and the Southern Carolina Alliance—all of whom are dedicated to bringing emergency health care back to the region."*

— Charles E. Williams, FACHE, President and CEO  
Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties

After all, timely access to emergency care can mean the difference between life and death when someone suffers a heart attack, stroke, snake bite or any other life-threatening illness or injury.

"We're very proud that the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center project has won this year's Barrett Lawrimore Barrett

Lawrimore Memorial Award," said Charles E. Williams, FACHE, President and CEO, Regional Medical Center (RMC) of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties. "This has been a wonderful collaboration among Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg and Barnwell counties—including the Salkehatchie Region's legislative delegation, the City of Denmark and the Southern Carolina Alliance—all of whom are dedicated to bringing emergency health care back to the region."

## Background

In 1997, the Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA) first led an effort to recruit and build a regional hospital in the

\*Eighty-seven hospitals, including four in South Carolina (Bamberg County Hospital, Southern Palmetto Hospital in Barnwell, Marlboro Park Hospital in Bennettsville and Fairfield Memorial Hospital in Winnsboro), have closed nationwide since 2010. They have been forced to close due to decreasing reimbursement rates in Medicare and Medicaid; demographic, social and economic pressures including poverty; and uninsured rates combined with declining populations. Insured patients are also traveling to newer, more modern hospitals that have been able to invest significant dollars in their facilities and infrastructure. Rural hospitals, unlike other hospitals, are generally more reliant on public payers.



Salkehatchie Region when it became obvious that the region's small, rural counties would not be able to sustain taxpayer-funded hospitals much longer.

That effort was unsuccessful.

But shortly after the Bamberg County Hospital closed six years ago, RMC took the first step to help residents of Bamberg and Barnwell counties by opening the Bamberg Urgent Care Center in Bamberg.

### The Search for a Better Solution

After the Southern Palmetto Hospital (Barnwell) closed in 2016, Danny Black, SCA's president/CEO; Graham Adams, the S.C. Office of Rural Health's CEO; and Bamberg and Barnwell county councils tried again to find a solution.

The Greater Salkehatchie Region's legislative delegation—

spearheaded by Sen. Brad Hutto (District 40) and Sen. John Matthews (District 39)—sought assistance from Christian Soura, former S.C. Department of Health and Human Services Director; Rep. Murrell Smith (District 67), Chair of the S.C. House Committee on Health Affairs; and Sen. Thomas Alexander (District 1), Chair of the Senate

Committee on Health. Rep. Lonnie Hosey (District 91) and Rep. Justin Bamberg (District 90), other members of the legislative delegation, also worked hard with Sen. Hutto and Sen. Matthews to provide the leadership required to find a healthcare solution for the region.

This second effort to find a solution was successful.

Attempts to attract a healthcare provider to the region failed, but the idea of creating a stand-alone, 24-hour emergency center to solve the region's health care needs emerged after all other options were discussed in-depth.

"After meeting with major healthcare providers in the Southeast," said Black (SCA's CEO), "The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun counties stepped up to the plate to invest in such a facility. The Southern Carolina Alliance assisted with the cost of purchasing land for the site, which was actually the same site we had chosen for a regional medical emergency center 20 years ago."

*"After meeting with major healthcare providers in the Southeast, The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun counties stepped up to the plate to invest in such a facility. The Southern Carolina Alliance assisted with the cost of purchasing land for the site, which was actually the same site we had chosen for a regional medical emergency center 20 years ago."*

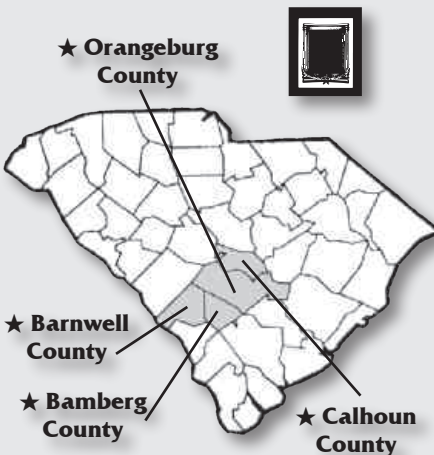
— Danny Black, President/CEO  
Southern Carolina Alliance

Joey Preston, Bamberg County Administrator, led his county's effort to work with the SCA to obtain permission to purchase 10 acres of land from Solar Company to build the facility. The site is located between Denmark and Barnwell on Highway 70, approximately 7 miles from Bamberg, 14 miles from Barnwell, 35 miles from St. Matthews and 21 miles from Orangeburg (county seats of Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and

*(Continued on next page)*

### Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties

Winners of the 2018 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award



See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 99



Conceptual rendering of the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center by GMK Associates. The new facility is scheduled to be completed in spring 2019.

Orangeburg counties).

RMC, owned by Orangeburg and Calhoun counties, helped cover costs associated with the assessment, design and engineering for the property and making necessary utility improvements at the site.

RMC also decided to become the “parent hospital” of the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center after a feasibility study determined the project’s viability. RMC essentially assumed responsibility for all aspects of operating the new Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center.

The new Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center cost \$8.6 million.

Fortunately, the region’s legislative delegation tackled the project’s biggest challenge—funding—by obtaining a \$3.5 million S.C. Hospital Transportation Grant, the linchpin to the entire project.

The S.C. Health and Human Services then successfully advocated increasing RMC’s Medicaid-Medicare reimbursement rate from 48 to 80 percent, which sealed the deal by giving RMC more financial stability to construct and operate the new medical emergency center. The increased reimbursement rate will raise approximately \$5 million more per year to fund the balance of the facility’s construction costs.

AT&T, SCE&G and Edisto Electric Cooperative, with help from Santee Cooper, provided infrastructure for power.

Because water for the medical emergency center will be provided by the City of Denmark, Denmark obtained a \$497,456 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant to construct water and sewer infrastructure.

The USDA played an instrumental role in obtaining seven grants, totaling \$350,000, to purchase equipment for the facility, including a \$100,000 grant through Congressman James Clyburn’s 10-20-30 initiative.

The State of South Carolina budgeted another \$600,000 for equipment.

With everything in place, including funding, the legislative delegation and SCA representatives set out to build a consensus among the four partnering counties to construct the new regional medical center. They attended Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg county council meetings, met with stakeholders across the region and successfully established the necessary buy-in to support the project.

The effort was successful because local community stakeholders agreed to provide additional funding for the project.

### **The New Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center**

On Aug. 8, 2017, a few hundred people attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Bamberg-Barnwell

Emergency Medical Center. The 20,500-square-foot facility is scheduled to open in spring 2019.

“Creating the new Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center,” said Williams (RMC’s CEO), “was the most viable solution to the problem, and it was the right thing to do.

“We see health care as a calling,” he added. “Therefore, ignoring a major health care deficit in the Salkehatchie Region, including Barnwell and Bamberg counties, was never an option. We felt a responsibility to address the needs of the communities in Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties regardless of the challenges involved. We believe doing what’s right for patients and their families is always the right decision. This is our mission.”

Staff members of the Urgent Care Center, which the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties

opened in Bamberg in 2013, will move to the new Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center once the facility becomes fully operational. Equipment will also be moved from the urgent care center to the new medical center.

The Urgent Care Center in Bamberg will then close.

The new Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center, expected to employ about 50 staff members, including at least five physicians, will have everything needed for a standard emergency department when it is completed.

The facility will have nine treatment rooms, and it will be equipped to handle ambulances and walk-in traffic, and provide 24-hour emergency care, including CT Scan, X-ray, ultrasound diagnostic imaging and lab and observation services. This will provide convenient access to emergency care for residents of Barnwell, Bamberg, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties.

Eventually, the facility could be expanded to become a broader medical campus. Future plans already include providing other services such as mental health counseling and primary care, and building a pharmacy.

Currently, RMC is partnering with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) to provide stroke “telemedicine” services at RMC’s main emergency department in Orangeburg, and exploring the possibility of offering the same service at the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center.

Telemedicine will be possible because the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center is being equipped with a communications infrastructure that allows patients to have access to highly trained physicians/specialists without having to be onsite.

“With stroke symptoms, time is everything,” Williams emphasized. “In the case of an ischemic stroke, patients need to be evaluated by a neurologist within several hours of the onset of symptoms to determine if they are eligible for the clot-busting drug TPA, which has been proven to save lives and reduce the effects of a stroke.”



Bamberg County Administrator Joey Preston credited Danny Black, SCA's President/CEO, for envisioning a regional response to providing timely access to medical access in the Salkehatchie Region, his persistence in seeing the project through to completion and his ability to find partners for the project.

He also credited Sen. Hutto for going above and beyond and providing the leadership required to work on the project's details, secure funding and bring the project to fruition.

"Senator Hutto," Preston said, "helped negotiate the agreement with the Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties to construct and operate the new emergency center."

Williams (RMC's CEO) said the project to create the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center is a great example of what is possible when individuals, organizations and government work together to do what is right instead of just focusing on money.

"The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties," Williams added, "is proud to be a part of this effort to serve the citizens of Bamberg and Barnwell counties and other citizens of the Salkehatchie Region, and we look forward to opening the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center."

Black (SCA's CEO), like Preston, credited Sen. Brad Hutto for the role he played.

"Senator Hutto has been a leader in the effort to find a regional healthcare solution for the Salkehatchie Region since 1997," Black said. "He had the ability to bring all of the partners to the table because of the trust he has built among Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg, and this was important in finding the solution—creating the Bamberg-Barnwell Regional Medical Center—that will benefit the people living in these four counties."

"We are grateful," he added, "that councils of these four counties took a proactive, progressive approach to create a solution that made sense for the people in the region."

The Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center is expected to create 50 direct jobs and a total of 128 jobs (including indirect and induced jobs), according to SCA estimates. In fact, SCA's economic analytic model for the project indicates that RMC's economic impact, including compensation, could exceed \$15.6 million annually for the Salkehatchie Region.

Communication infrastructure and other utility infrastructure that was installed for the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center should also help attract industry to the area, and enhance economic development opportunities in the Salkehatchie Region.

According to the S.C. Office of Rural Health, the new Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center is one of eight free-standing emergency departments in South Carolina designed to improve access to emergency care where options previously did not exist for expedient treatment options.

But the new emergency medical center is unique for two reasons:

First, the Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center

is the only one in what can best be described to be built in a healthcare desert where residents did not have timely access to emergency medical treatment.

Second, the emergency medical center is also unique because the project to build it required cooperation with multiple and diverse partners who came together to help people living in the Salkehatchie Region.

"I can't imagine another rural development project that involved as much regional cooperation or that will have a greater impact than the Bamberg-Barnwell Regional Medical Center," Black said. "We are pleased that Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties won this year's Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award, and proud to have our regional project recognized in *County Focus Magazine*."



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## Purpose of the SCAC

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

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

The site provides general information for all 46 counties—including contact information for county officials, links to county websites, and job postings. [SCCounties.org](http://www.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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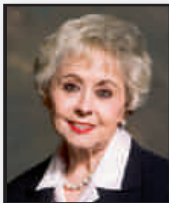
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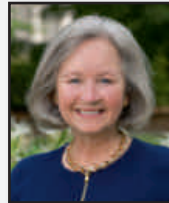
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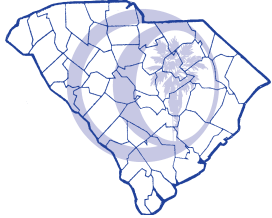


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## WHAT IS THE SCAC?

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



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

## CONFERENCES

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

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

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

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

## EDUCATION

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

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

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

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

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

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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

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

## SETOFF DEBT PROGRAM

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

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

## LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

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

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

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

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

## RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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

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

SCAC's website address is:

<http://www.SCCounties.org>

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



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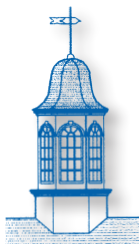
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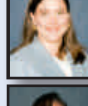
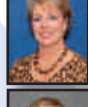
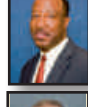
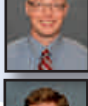
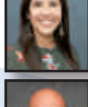
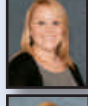
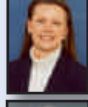
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# SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



## *History of the Trusts*

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) was formed in 1984 with only 11 counties. Today, the membership consists of 41 of South Carolina's 46 counties and an additional 47 county-related entities. SCCWCT is approved as a self-insured trust by the S.C. Workers' Compensation Commission in accordance with South Carolina statutes. It provides statutory workers' compensation coverage for its members.

The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust (SCCP&LT) was formed in 1995 due largely to the success of the Workers' Compensation Trust. SCCP&LT started with only four members and now has 24 members, including 16 counties.

## *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



# It's Natural Disaster Season. Can Your Government Afford It?

By Liz Farmer  
Staff Writer, Governing Magazine

**H**urricane Florence caused extensive damage in the Carolinas, but flooding caused most of the damage. Some rivers continued to rise weeks later, forcing residents to leave their homes.

Approximately 7,000 people in Georgetown County were told on September 24 to prepare for evacuation ahead of potential flood zones reaching record levels.

Before Hurricane Florence struck the Carolinas, 2017 was the most expensive year on record for natural disasters. In fact, that year alone natural disasters cost the U.S. an unprecedented \$306 billion.

So, how much more can states really afford?

The answer: Most don't know.

At least, that was the conclusion of a recent analysis by the Pew Charitable Trusts, which surveyed disaster spending across 23 states over the course of five years this decade.

The report comes at a time when the federal government is looking at how to manage increasing costs. Nine of the most expensive years for the Federal Emergency Management Agency occurred between 2007 and 2017. While some places are hit more than others, virtually no state escaped a major event around that time. All 50 states and the District of Columbia between 2005 and 2014 experienced disasters severe enough to trigger a federal emergency or major disaster declaration, including floods, hurricanes, wildfires and blizzards. Wyoming had the fewest, with just three declarations, and Oklahoma—in the heart of tornado alley—topped the list at 36.

If states don't have a handle on their disaster spending, says Pew's Anne Stauffer, they can't effectively respond to proposed changes at the federal level that could affect their ability to respond to future disasters. "States need to be able to respond and say, 'This is what we're doing already,'" she says. "If you take a comprehensive look and realize how expensive these disasters are becoming, it informs policy discussion about what to do going forward."

Two key changes are being discussed at the federal level that would directly affect states in the case of major disasters. One change would raise the financial damage threshold a disaster would have to meet before state and local governments can be eligible for federal aid. The other is an incentive program that would cover more of a government's disaster costs in places that have already invested in disaster mitigation projects, such as elevating buildings or earthquake retrofits.

According to the report, state mitigation programs generated considerable spending over the five-year study period. Oregon's Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program, for example, invested nearly \$36 million in earthquake retrofits for public structures. In North Dakota, the state water commission spent nearly \$226 million to support local flood control and property acquisition projects.

But because disaster spending—from mitigation to preparedness to response—tends to be spread across so many parts of government, no state has a comprehensive picture of its natural disaster spending. In some states, spending involves as many as 17 agencies and departments.

Ultimately, says Stauffer, this lack of cohesiveness means governments could be leaving savings on the table. It's easier to find money for mitigation efforts when governments can show how much they expect to save. "When you're understanding how to prioritize investments," says Stauffer, "you really need to know what you're spending currently in order to make any strategic decisions about it."



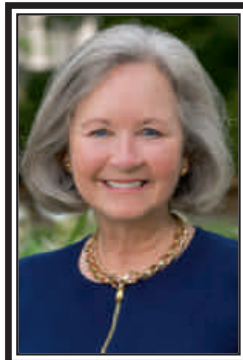
*This article is reprinted here with permission from the online magazine, Governing. Because the piece was published on July 13 before Hurricane Florence struck the Carolinas, the first three paragraphs have been updated.*



**Henry H. Livingston III**  
Newberry County  
Council Chairman



**Gary M. Mixon**  
Sumter County  
Administrator



**Debra B. Summers**  
Lexington County  
Council Chairman



**Steve Willis**  
Lancaster County  
Administrator



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

# Experience Counts.

SCAC's insurance staff members have 105 combined years of experience running SCAC's successful S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust.



Covering South Carolina's Counties since 1984



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**Robert Benfield, ARM, AINS**  
*Director of Risk Management Services*  
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## Advantages of S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust

- No charge for mid-term additions to your insurance schedules.
- Claims are handled by SCAC staff.
- Cyber Liability coverage is included.
- No coinsurance penalty for Real Property, Contractors Equipment or Electronic Data Processing Equipment.
- No vacancy provision.
- Coverage for law enforcement dogs.
- Coverage for Crime (employee dishonesty).

## Unique Law Enforcement Services

- Law Enforcement and Detention Center Risk Management and Inmate Supervision Classes approved by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy for Continuing Law Enforcement Education Credit
- Detention Center Staffing Needs Assessments
- Law Enforcement and Detention Center Policy and Procedure Manual Reviews
- Free Online Law Enforcement and Detention Center Training (In the Line of Duty)

SCAC's insurance staff members are already familiar with your county, its employees and operations. You already have experienced our workers' compensation benefits.

Now is the time to review your property and liability insurance coverages.

For a property and liability insurance proposal, please contact John Henderson at 1-800-922-6081 or [jhenderson@scac.sc](mailto:jhenderson@scac.sc).



# PROVAL

Property Valuation & Analytics

## Available Services

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Rick Callaham  
Greenville, South Carolina  
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[rick.proval@gmail.com](mailto:rick.proval@gmail.com)

### Right of Way Services

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# SCAC Hosts 51st Annual Conference

**T**he South Carolina Association of Counties celebrated its 51st Annual Conference from August 5 to 8, 2018, in Hilton Head.

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

New SCAC officers and board members were elected. Top county programs and projects were presented and recognized. Awards were also presented.



**SCAC's Newly-Elected President, 2018-19**  
**Charles T. Jennings**  
*McCormick County Council Chairman*



**SCAC's Immediate Past President, 2018-19**  
**Henry H. "Buddy" Livingston III**  
*Newberry County Council Chairman*



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Ted Abernathy**  
*Managing Partner*  
**Economic Leadership LLC**

## General Session

### Keynote Speaker

**Ted Abernathy**, an economic and workforce development leader for 35 years, is the Managing Partner of Economic Leadership LLC—an economic and workforce strategy consulting firm. Working with more than a dozen states and regions across the country, he is currently designing an economic development and innovation ecosystem for a new city in Kenya. His work also includes evaluating cluster opportunities ranging from value-added agriculture to advanced technologies. Abernathy has served as executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Research Triangle Regional Partnership and as economic development policy advisor to the Southern Governors' Association.

He has also developed (See JMG/BL, P. 51)



Ted Abernathy, keynote speaker for SCAC's 51st Annual Conference, addresses the General Session on August 7. SCAC officers, sitting at the head table, are looking at the screen to their left (see photo at right) as Abernathy shows some illustrations during his presentation.





On August 6, SCAC staff members hand out conference packets as county officials register for SCAC's 51st Annual Conference.



(Left) SCAC Staff Member Mary Williams, shows a poster promoting SCAC's conference app, which can be downloaded from the App Store for Apple phones or from the Google Play Store for Android phones. (Below) SCAC Staff Member Pearlana Khalif-Govan thanks the 13 companies supporting SCAC's 51st Annual Conference as benefactors.



*Photos by  
Stuart Morgan*



At the General Session, William E. Tones, head judge for this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition, recognizes counties that participated in the competition.



SCAC Staff Member Ruthie Duvall uses her cell phone to show Sumter County Clerk to Council Mary W. Blanding how to download and use SCAC's conference app.



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WHITAKER CONTRACTING CORPORATION



General Session, August 7





Robert J. O'Neill Jr., Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, teaches, "Going from Good to Great: The Journey for Communities." The Advanced Course was offered by the Institute of Government for County Officials on August 4, the day before SCAC's 51st Annual Conference.



## ***Institute of Government for County Officials***



Linda Pearce Edwards (right), Attorney, Gignilliat, Savitz & Bettis, LLP, teaches "Employment Law: What Counties Need to Know," a Level I class offered by the Institute of Government for County Officials on August 4.



Kevin V. Yokim, Florence County Finance Director, serves as a panelist for "Building Resilient Communities," a Level II class, at the Institute of Government for County Officials.







Columbus Stephens (above), President of the S.C. Association of County Managers, Administrators and Supervisors (MAS), presides over the MAS legislative panel discussion on August 6. Panelists included: Sen. Mike Fanning (District 17); Sen. Margie Bright Matthews; Rep. Terry Alexander (District 59); Rep. Lucas Atkinson (District 57); Rep. "Micah" P Caskey IV (District 89); Rep. Roger K. Kirby (District 61); Rep. Joseph A. McEarchern (District 77); and Rep. Richard L. Yow (District 53).



(Left to right) Joshua C. Rhodes, SCAC Assistant General Counsel; Timothy C. Winslow, SCAC Deputy General Counsel; and Anna Berger, SCAC Director of Research and Training, speak at the Orientation II class, held during the Institute of Government for County Officials. Rhodes and Winslow later provided an overview of the 2018 Legislative Session at a workshop on August 6.



County officials check for messages on the bulletin board, located next to the conference registration desk.



Sammie Tucker Jr., Kershaw County Council Vice Chairman, and Phillip M. Taylor Sr., Colleton County Council Member



## County Council Coalition Meeting



CCC President Jeanie Brown-Burrows (Williamsburg County Council Member) presides over the CCC Meeting (below) on August 6.



Shown above (left to right) are three of the speakers who addressed the County Council Coalition Meeting. Matt Chase (left), NACo Executive Director, spoke about issues facing counties, boroughs and parishes across the United States. Meghan L. Walker (center), Executive Director, S.C. State Ethics Commission, talked about the S.C. State Ethics Act. Tim Winslow (right), SCAC Deputy General Counsel, provided a legislative update.



A legislative panel discussion, held during the County Council Coalition Meeting on August 6, included: (left to right) Rep. Russell Ott (District 93); Rep. David R. Hiott (District 4); Rep. Chandra E. Dillard (District 23); Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (District 66); Sen. A Shane Massey (District 25); Sen. Gerald Malloy (District 29); and Sen. Tom Davis (District 46).



County Council Coalition Meeting, August 6



## Exhibitors



After legislators spoke at the County Council Coalition Meeting, county officials attending the meeting were given an opportunity to speak and ask questions. Bamberg County Council Member Isaiah Odom was one of the first county officials to do so.



Enterprise Fleet Management of Columbia, one of SCAC's newest sponsors and advertisers, was also one of 49 businesses that exhibited at SCAC's 51st Annual Conference. Shown left to right are: J. Janet Bishop, Darlington County Clerk to Council, and Jennifer Bledsoe, Senior Account Manager, and Chris Whiteside, Senior Account Executive, Enterprise Fleet Management of Columbia.



Arnold Alier, Division Director of EMS, SC DHEC Bureau of EMS, and Matthew D. Chase (seated), Executive Director of NACo host a roundtable discussion on the Opioid Epidemic.



SCAC's newly-elected president, Charles T. Jennings, and Franklin Fulmore, Williamsburg County Council member



McCormick County Council Chairman Charles T. Jennings, elected SCAC President for 2018-19, meets Debbie Valentino, Sales and Marketing Manager for Fleettalk of Rock Communications, LLC, one of SCAC's newest patrons, exhibitors and advertisers.



Crystal Barns (left), Co-Chairman of the Clerks to Council Certification Committee, and Mary W. Blanding (right), President of the S.C. Clerks to County Council Association (SCCCA), present certificates, copies of the Code of Ethics and Clerk to Council computer cases to three newly-certified clerks to council at the SCCCA's Business Meeting on August 6: (center, left to right) Sherrie Simpson, Lancaster County Clerk to Council; Chelsea Gardner, Lancaster County Deputy Clerk to Council; and Patti Locklair-Davis, Fairfield County Clerk to Council.





Erica Elleby, IT Controller and Director of Business Operations for Mecklenburg County Information Technology Services, talks at the Preventing and Mitigating Cyberattacks Workshop.



Esther Wagner, Awareness Coordinator for PalmettoPride, explains how to design safer communities.



Mary W. Blanding, President of the S.C. Clerks to County Council Association, speaks at the SCCCA's Business Meeting on August 6.



Mario Formisano, Dorchester County Emergency Management Director, speaks at the workshop titled, "Putting Policy Into Practice: HR's Strategic Role in Emergency Response."



Dana T. Homesley and her daughter, Sawyer



After the General Session, Bamberg County Clerk to Council Rose Shepherd takes a selfie of Williamsburg County Council Member W.B. Wilson and her herself.

## Workshops



Mozella Nicholson, Darlington County Council Member; Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (District 66); Edith S. Childs, Greenwood County Council Member; Rep. Chandra E. Dillard (District 23); and SCAC Board Member Gonza L. Bryant (Greenwood County Council Member).



SCAC Board Member Julie Armstrong (Charleston County Clerk of Court); SCAC Treasurer Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County; 2017-18 SCAC President Henry "Buddy" Livingston III (Newberry County Council Chairman), and his wife, Rhonda.



## Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon



Belinda Copeland, SCAC Treasurer, presides over the Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon.



Dr. Mary Thornley, President of Trident Technical College since 1991, was the luncheon's guest speaker. She talked about the transformational power of education and more.



Tammy Epps-McClary, Williamsburg County Clerk to Council, takes a photo of Mary Alice Guy, Chester County Council Member; Vivian Fleming McGhaney (Sumter County Council Member); Edith S. Childs, Greenwood County Council Member; and Kimber W. Cooper, Williamsburg County Treasurer.



◀ Vivian Fleming McGhaney, Sumter County Council Member, accepts the prize for best hat from Belinda Copeland.



Elected women officials wore their hats at the Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon.



## SCAC's 51st Annual Conference Banquet



**NEWBERRY COUNTY OFFICIALS**—(left to right) Karen M. Brehmer, Assistant to County Administrator; Debbie Cromer, Finance Director; Johnny and his wife, Dr. Harriette Rucker, Council Member; Scott Cain, Council Member, and his wife, Cathy; Travis Reeder, Council Member; 2017–18 SCAC President Henry H. “Buddy” Livingston III, Council Member, and his wife, Rhonda; Wayne Adams, County Administrator, this year’s recipient of the President’s Cup, and his wife, Margaret; Steve Stockman, Council Member, and his wife, Teresa.



**MCCORMICK COUNTY OFFICIALS**—G.P. Callison Jr., County Attorney; Columbus Stephens, County Administrator; SCAC’s newly-elected president, Charles T. Jennings (McCormick County Council Chairman); Chrystal B. Barnes, Clerk to Council; Henry Banks, and Byron Thompson, County Council Members.



Evan Carlisle Roddey and Julie Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court



SCAC’s 51st Annual Conference Banquet, August 7



Johnnie and her husband, SCAC Board Member L. Gregory Pearce Jr. (Richland County Council Member)





SCAC Board Member Roy Costner III (Pickens County Council Chairman); his wife, Angie, and daughter, Tori



Nancy Summers; Lois T. Roddey, Chester County Probate Judge; and David K. Summers Jr., Calhoun County Council Chairman



Senora and her husband, SCAC Board Member Waymon Mumford

## SCAC Hosts 51st ...

*(Continued from P. 42)*

manufacturing and innovation best practices for the U.S. Economic Development Administration, as well as assisted the Organization for International Investment in creating a coalition to better attract foreign investment.

Abernathy has also served as executive director of the Southern Growth Policies Board—a public policy think tank that provides economic development research, strategy and marketing advice to states and communities across the South. In this role, he worked with the Delta Regional Authority to pub

*(Continued on next page)*



2017-18 SCAC President Henry "Buddy" Livingston III recognizes 2016-17 SCAC President Julie Armstrong for her hard work and dedication to the SCAC.



SCAC's newly-elected president, Charles T. Jennings, recognizes Henry "Buddy" Livingston III for his hard work and dedication as the Association's president from 2017 to 2018.

Organization for International Investment in creating a coalition to better attract foreign investment.

Abernathy has also served as executive director of the Southern Growth Policies Board—a public policy think tank that provides economic development research, strategy and marketing advice to states and communities across the South. In this role, he worked with the Delta Regional Authority to publish an in-depth analysis on the state of the workforce and the changing dynamics of workforce training in the American South. Born in Dallas, N.C., Abernathy received his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. He is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute and is an Eisenhower Fellow for global economics.

#### **Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon**

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

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

#### **Other Conference Highlights**

#### **J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition**

The 2018 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition was held on Sunday, August 5.

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

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



**2017–18 SCAC President Henry “Buddy” Livingston III (left) passes the president’s gavel to Charles T. Jennings, SCAC’s newly-elected president for 2018–19.**

#### **County Council Coalition Meeting**

The County Council Coalition Meeting was held on Monday, August 6. During the meeting, the S.C. Commission of Disabilities and Special Needs presented the annual Golden Palmetto Award.

#### **Association Group Meetings and Workshops**

Several county official groups held meetings on Sunday and Monday.

The following five workshops, focusing on issues facing county government, were offered on Monday:

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

#### **Institute of Government for County Officials**

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

The Institute offered the following courses:

##### **Saturday, August 4**

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

##### **Sunday, August 5**

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





# **SCAC 51st Annual Conference**

## **EXHIBITORS**

Advanced Imaging Systems  
Aflac  
AirMethods–LifeNet SC  
Archer Company, LLC  
AT&T  
Boomerang Design, PA  
Brownstone  
Building Officials Association of SC  
Clemson University Cooperative Extension  
Compass Municipal Advisors  
Consolidated Mailing Services  
Cumming Corporation  
Duke Energy  
E-Verify (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services)  
EMS Management & Consultants, Inc.  
Enterprise Fleet Management  
Find Great People, LLC  
Fleettalk by Rock Communications  
GovDeals, Inc.  
Greene Finney, LLP  
HDR Engineering Inc. of the Carolinas  
Hybrid Engineering, Inc.  
Iron Peddlers Parts Division, Inc.  
Kimble's Food by Design  
McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture

Medshore Ambulance Service  
Moseley Architects  
Motorola Solutions — Palmetto 800  
Municode  
NACo – National Association of Counties  
NaturChem, Inc.  
Oakbridge Consulting & Management, LLC  
PalmettoPride  
Pierce Insurance Agency  
QS/1  
Safebuilt  
SC.gov  
South Eastern Road Treatment, Inc.  
Southern Disaster Recovery  
Southern Health Partners, Inc.  
Spirit Communications  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
Stewart–Cooper–Newell Architects  
Tenex Software Solutions, Inc.  
THC, Inc.  
Thomas & Hutton  
Thompson Turner Construction  
Utility Management Services, Inc.  
Whitaker Contracting

## **Conference**

## **BENEFACTORS**

AT&T  
Beaufort County Channel  
Duke Energy  
Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina  
Howell Linkous & Nettles, LLC  
M. B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc.  
McNair Law Firm, PA  
Motorola Solutions – Palmetto 800  
Pope Flynn Group  
SCANA Corporation  
Stewart–Cooper–Newell Architects  
Synovus Securities  
Whitaker Contracting Corporation

# Wayne Adams Receives President's Cup

**SCAC** President Henry H. “Buddy” Livingston III (Newberry County Council Chairman) presented the President’s Cup—one of the SCAC’s highest honors—to Newberry County Administrator Wayne Adams at the Association’s 51st Annual Conference (Aug. 5 – 7, 2018). The prestigious award was presented to Adams on August 7 at the Association’s annual awards banquet.

Each year, the SCAC honors the county official who has merited special recognition for service to county governments and assistance to the Association’s president during the past year.

“This year’s recipient has contributed countless hours to county government during his 36-year public service career,” said SCAC President Henry H. “Buddy” Livingston. “I have great respect for this gentleman’s exemplary character and leadership.”

Adams began his local government career working as a dispatcher for the Aiken County Sheriff’s

Department after serving four years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. From 1990 to 1995, while working for U.S. Congressman Butler Derrick, his responsibilities ranged from administration and management of South Carolina’s Third Congressional District operations to legislative and policy management in Congressman Derrick’s Washington, D.C., office.

“Adams’ experience with constituent

services and federal policy development prepared him for his career in local government management,” Livingston said. “After serving 11 years as Edgefield County Administrator, Adams joined Newberry County in 2006. Many would agree that his ability to bring together diverse political views, coupled with his understanding the needs of the county Adams serves, has helped transform these two predominately rural counties.

“His contributions to economic development in Newberry County have been tremendous,” Livingston added. “By working with county council, county staff, and business leaders, he has played a critical role in the more than \$900 million of capital investment and more than



**WAYNE ADAMS RECEIVES PRESIDENT'S CUP**—2017–18 SCAC President Henry H. Livingston III (right) presents the President’s Cup—one of the SCAC’s highest honors—to Newberry County Administrator Wayne Adams on August 7 at SCAC’s 51st Annual Conference (Aug. 5–7). (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

*“(Wayne Adams’) contributions to economic development in Newberry County have been tremendous. ... he has played a critical role in the more than \$900 million of capital investment and more than 3,000 jobs that have been announced in the county since the began in 2006.”*

— SCAC President Henry H. Livingston III  
(Newberry County Council Chairman)

3,000 jobs that have been announced in the county since he began in 2006.

Adams has been described as an excellent county steward and a gentleman



who fosters an environment where county staff and county council members work as a cohesive team for the community. He was recognized by his peers in 2003 for his leadership when he received the Palmetto Management Award for County Government, an award granted by the South Carolina City and County Management Association.

Adams worked with former S.C. Representative Walt McLeod and SCAC's legislative staff on changing the provisions of the Capital Project Sales Tax to include technical colleges in the list of projects that could be funded. He was awarded Piedmont Technical College's Presidential Medallion for supporting Piedmont Technical College's Newberry County Campus.

"Adams' service to benefit the citizens of Newberry County, and the state of South Carolina," Livingston said, "will eventually conclude, but we can rest assured that his contributions will extend well into the future."

Adams received his bachelor's degree

from USC-Aiken and Master of Public Administration degree from the USC. He graduated from the state's Executive Institute and the SCAC's Institute of Government for County Officials.



## Recipients of the SCAC President's Cup



2018—Wayne Adams, *Newberry County*  
 2017—Belinda D. Copeland, *Darlington County*  
 2016—K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr., *Florence County*  
 2015—Patricia S. Hartley, *Horry County*  
 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*



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- **Saving you and your taxpayers' money**
- **Raising public understanding of county government, and**
- **Restoring the Federal - County Partnership**

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# Fifty-Six County Officials Graduate from the Institute of Government for County Officials

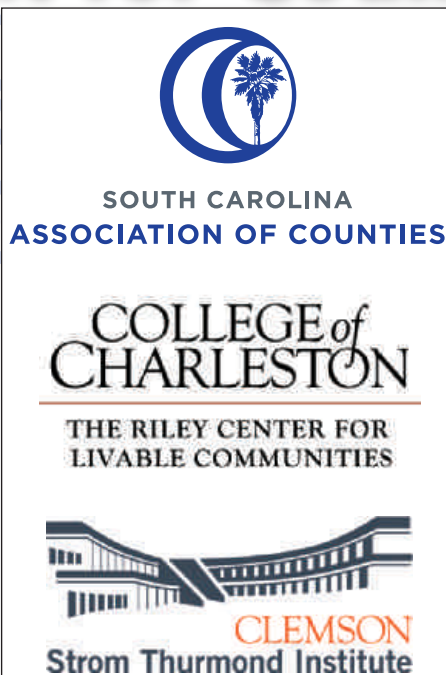
**F**ifty-six county officials graduated on August 7 from Levels I and/or II of the Institute of Government for County Officials at SCAC's 51st Annual Conference (Aug. 5 – 7, 2018).

"We are proud of your achievement," said 2017–18 SCAC President Henry H. Livingston III, who recognized graduates at the conference's general session. "Your commitment to county government is admirable, your perseverance is commendable, and your success is well-deserved."



## LEVEL I

Graduating from Level I were: **ABBEVILLE COUNTY**—Charles Goodwin, Harold Prince and Kristi Smith, Council Members; **ALLENDALE COUNTY**—Nicole Y. Gaines, Clerk to Council; **ANDERSON COUNTY**—Ray Graham, Council Vice Chairman; **BARNWELL COUNTY**—Ben Kinlaw, Council Vice Chairman and Don Harper, Council Member; **CHEROKEE COUNTY**—J. Quay Little, Council Vice Chairman; **CHESTERFIELD**



**COUNTY**—Mary D. Anderson, William R. Butler, and Ralph E. Watson, Council Members; and Timothy L. Eubanks, Interim County Administrator; **DARLINGTON COUNTY**—J. Lewis Brown and Joyce W. Thomas, Council Members; **MARION CHARLES STEWART III**, County Administrator; **FAIRFIELD COUNTY**—Cornelius Robinson, Council Member; **GEORGETOWN COUNTY**—Austin Beard, Council Vice Chairman; **ALLISON S. PETEET**, Treasurer; **GREENVILLE COUNTY**—Ennis Fant, Council Member; **GREENWOOD COUNTY**—



**LEVEL I GRADUATES**—(Standing, left to right) Ralph Guarino Jr., Finance/Purchasing Director, Pickens County; J. Frank Hart, Supervisor/Chairman, Union County; Tommie Lee Hill Sr., Council Member, Union County; Wes Hendricks, Council Member, Pickens County; Jennifer Youmans, Treasurer, Hampton County; and Mary D. Anderson, Council Member, Chesterfield County; (sitting, left to right) Joan Little and Ralph Tucker, Council Member, Union County; Ennis Fant, Council Member, Greenville County; Don Harper, Council Member, Barnwell County; R. Ensley Feemster, Council Member, Pickens County; Ben Kinlaw, Council Vice Chairman, Barnwell County; and Joyce W. Thomas, Council Member, Darlington County.



**Theo Lane**, Council Member; HAMPTON COUNTY — **Jennifer Youmans**, Treasurer; KERSHAW COUNTY — **Michael Conley**, Planning/Zoning Director; LANCASTER COUNTY — **Billy Mosteller**, Council Member; **Sherrie M. Simpson**, Clerk to Council; **Chelsea Gardner**, Deputy Clerk to Council; LAURENS COUNTY — **Garrett C. McDaniel**, County Council Member; LEX-

INGTON COUNTY — **Scott R. Whetstone**, Council Member; NEWBERRY COUNTY — **Harriett L. Rucker, Ed.D.**, Council Member; **Karen Brehmer**, Assistant to the County Administrator; OCONEE COUNTY — **James Glenn Hart**, Council Member; PICKENS COUNTY — **Roy Costner III**, Council Chairman; **Chris Bowers**, Council Vice Chairman; **R. Ensley Feemster**, Council Member; **Ralph Guarino Jr.**, Finance/Purchasing Director; **Wes Hendricks** and **Carl Lee Hudson**, Council Members; SPARTANBURG COUNTY — **Justin T. Bradley** and **Whitney Leonard Farr**, Council Members; and UNION COUNTY — **J. Frank Hart**, Supervisor/Chairman; **Tommie Lee Hill**, **Joan W. Little** and **Ralph Tucker**, Council Members.



## LEVEL II

Graduating from Level II were: BEAUFORT COUNTY — **Alice G. Howard**, Council Member; CHESTER COUNTY — **K. Shane Stuart**, Supervisor/Chairman; CHESTERFIELD COUNTY — **Mary D. Anderson**, Council Member; DORCHESTER COUNTY —

**C. David Chinnis**, Council Member; FAIRFIELD COUNTY — **Daniel Walter Ruff III**, Council Member; FLORENCE COUNTY — **Alphonso Bradley**, Council Member; GEORGETOWN

COUNTY — **Austin Beard**, Council Vice Chairman; GREENVILLE COUNTY — **Regina McCaskill**, Clerk to Council; GREENWOOD COUNTY — **Mark Al-**  
*(Continued on next page)*



**LEVEL I GRADUATES**—(Standing, left to right) William R. Butler, Council Member, Chesterfield County; Dr. Harriett L. Rucker, Council Member, Newberry County; Michael Conley, Planning/Zoning Director, Kershaw County; Karen Brehmer, Assistant to the County Administrator, Newberry County; Ralph Watson, Council Member, Chesterfield County; Harold Prince, Council Member, Abbeville County; Chris Bowers, Council Vice Chairman, Pickens County; Roy Costner III, Council Chairman, Pickens County; Theo Lane, Council Member, Greenwood County; and Chelsea Gardner, Deputy Clerk to Council, Lancaster County; (sitting, left to right) James Glenn Hart, Council Member, Oconee County; Ray Graham, Council Vice Chairman, Anderson County; Justin T. Bradley, Council Member, Spartanburg County; Kristi Smith, Council Member, Abbeville County; Sherri M. Simpson, Clerk to Council, Lancaster County; Allison S. Petet, Treasurer, Georgetown County; and Nicole Y. Ganes, Clerk to Council, Allendale County.



**LEVEL II GRADUATES**—(Standing, left to right) J. Frank Hart, Supervisor/Chairman, Union County; Alphonso Bradley, Council Member, Florence County; Bradford Carnes, Assessor, Lancaster County; Lee Weeks, Tax Collector, Lancaster County; Eric Rowell, Deputy Appraiser, Lancaster County; Austin Beard, Council Vice Chairman, Georgetown County; and Daniel Walter Ruff III, Council Member, Fairfield County; (sitting, left to right) Mark Allison, Council Member, Greenwood County; Joan W. Little, Council Member, Union County; Mary D. Anderson, Council Member, Chesterfield County; Alice G. Howard, Council Member, Beaufort County; Betty F. Matthews, Probate Judge, Williamsburg County; and Regina McCaskill, Clerk to Council, Greenville County. *(Photos by Stuart Morgan)*

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... and receive the following benefits as a:

## Sponsor (\$250 per year):

- SCAC's *County Focus Magazine*, *Carolina Counties Newsletter* and annual *Directory of County Officials*
- Recognition in SCAC's *County Focus Magazine*, annual *Directory of County Officials* and *Annual Conference Program*
- An invitation to register at the group rate to attend SCAC's Annual Conference each year, and
- An exhibitors' notice around April 1 each year that provides an opportunity on a "first-come, first-served" basis to lease exhibit space at SCAC's Annual Conference.

## As a Patron (\$1,000 per year), you will also receive:

- A complimentary registration for one delegate to attend SCAC's Annual Conference
- Two complimentary tickets to attend the Association's Annual Conference Banquet, and
- Greater recognition in SCAC's *County Focus Magazine*, annual *Directory of County Officials* and *Annual Conference Program*.

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

**South Carolina  
Association of Counties**  
**Attn.: Public Information Director**  
**P.O. Box 8207**  
**Columbia, S.C. 29202-8207**  
**(803) 252-7255**

**E-mail: [smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc)**

**lison**, Council Member; LANCASTER COUNTY—**Bradford Carnes**, Assessor; **Eric Rowell**, Deputy Appraiser; **Lee Weeks**, Tax Collector; LEXINGTON COUNTY—**Ned R. Tolar**, Council Member; RICHLAND COUNTY—**Jeannette W. McBride**, Clerk of Court; **Michelle Onley**, Deputy Clerk to Council; UNION COUNTY—**J. Frank Hart**, Supervisor/Chairman; **Joan W. Little**, Council Member; and WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY—**Betty F. Matthews**, Probate Judge.

The SCAC—in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, and the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Clemson University — holds the Institute of Government for County Officials three times per year. The Institute of Government provides county officials the opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities to function more effectively.

County officials must complete 27 hours of instruction to graduate from Level I, and 18 hours of instruction to graduate from Level II.







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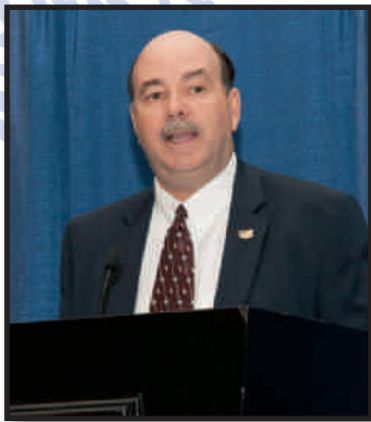
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# SCDDSN Presents Golden Palmetto Awards to Lexington and Williamsburg Counties

**T**he S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) presented Golden Palmetto awards to Lexington and Williamsburg counties on August 6, at SCAC's 51st Annual Conference (Aug. 5 – 7, 2018). The award recognizes South Carolina counties that provide exemplary support to people with disabilities and special needs.

“Lexington and Williamsburg counties



**Pat Maley, Interim State Director, SCDDSN, presents Golden Palmetto awards on August 6 at SCAC's 51st Annual Conference.**



have each done a commendable job,” said Pat Maley, Interim State Director, SCDDSN, when presenting the awards to Debra Summers, Lexington County Council Chairman, and Stanley Pasley, Williamsburg County Council Chairman. “Significant improvements and a strong relationship, forged within these local communities, have enhanced the support they provide to people with

disabilities.

“These two counties richly deserve this honor,” Maley added. “The enthusiasm and commitment from Lexington and Williamsburg counties give individu-



**LEXINGTON COUNTY WINS GOLDEN PALMETTO AWARD**—Rufus Britt, Interim Associate State Director, Operations, S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN); Thoyd Warren, Executive Director, Babcock Center, Inc.; Debra Summers, Lexington County Council Chairman; Gary Dobson, Board Chair, Babcock Center, Inc.; and Pat Maley, Interim State Director, SCDDSN. (Photos by Stuart Morgan)

## Winners of the Golden Palmetto Award



See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 99

Williamsburg County





**WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY WINS GOLDEN PALMETTO AWARD**—Rufus Britt, Interim Associate State Director, Operations, S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN); the Rev. Franklin Fulmore Sr., Jonathan Miller, Andy McKnight Sr.; W.B. Wilson, Williamsburg County Council Members; Stanley Pasley, Williamsburg County Council Supervisor/Chairman; Dr. Linwood Cooper, Chairman, and Fay Dozier, Executive Director, Williamsburg County Disabilities and Special Needs Board; Derrick Conyers and Donta Pressley, Consumers, Williamsburg County Disabilities and Special Needs Board; Arthur Tisdale, Health Safety Coordinator, Williamsburg County Disabilities and Special Needs Board; and Patrick Maley, Interim State Director, SCDDSN. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

als with disabilities a life transformation through daily jobs, essential services and increased community involvement.”

Lexington County Council’s accomplishments include the renewal of the county’s contract with the Babcock Center to continue its partnership, which began in 1994. County council has provided opportunities for Babcock’s consumers to operate and staff nine collection sites across the county, giving them a chance to integrate into their community and to be fairly compensated for their efforts. The consumers are able to work in customer-facing jobs and act as friendly faces for locals, building interpersonal relationships over time.

This renewed contract allows more than 40 people with disabilities and special needs to have full- and part-time jobs working at recycling centers and collection sites around the county. This contract also provides jobs to more than 30 full-time Babcock staff members, who are proud of their jobs and the money they earn.

Williamsburg County Council’s accomplishments include contracting with 12 individuals at the Disabilities and Special Needs Board for janitorial and maintenance services at three of their county offices, and hiring two persons the agency supports with a 20-hour weekly

position. The county allows Williamsburg County Disabilities and Special Needs Board consumers access to the Kingstreet Recreation Department at no cost. The individuals are able to train there for the Special Olympics and participate in sporting activities.

Williamsburg County has donated to the board’s fundraising efforts and provided financial support for the consumers’ Annual Prom, and annual stipends to the board to help cover the cost of transporting consumers.

SCDDSN is the state agency that provides services to people with severe, lifelong intellectual and related disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and similar disability. SCDDSN has presented the Golden Palmetto Award annually since 1975 to the most deserving counties in South Carolina.

“This is our way of thanking county governments for making the lives of people with disabilities a priority in their communities,” Maley said. “County

government efforts in partnership with their local disabilities and special needs boards are greater and more valuable than ever before. The Disabilities and Special Needs Commission applauds the leadership and dedication of all county governments across South Carolina.”



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# *Last Chance to Advertise in South Carolina's 2019 Directory of County Officials!*

**Advertising deadline extended to January 31, 2019.**

South Carolina's *2019 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 *2019 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.

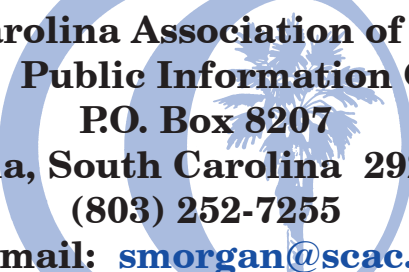
Cost:

- Full-page, full-color advertisement (7" W X 10" H) — \$600.00 NET
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- Half-page B&W advertisement (7" W X 4 7/8" H) — \$200.00 NET
- To add one or two more colors to a full-page or half-page B&W ad, the cost is \$90.00 NET for each additional color. Colors will be built in process.

The extended deadline for placing an advertisement in the upcoming *2019 Directory* is **5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019**. 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 *2019 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](http://www.SCCounties.org). After the *2019 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.

- To place an ad in South Carolina's *2019 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:



**South Carolina Association of Counties**  
**Attn.: Public Information Office**  
**P.O. Box 8207**  
**Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8207**  
**(803) 252-7255**  
**E-mail: [smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc)**









## South Carolina Counties at Work

1. Bamberg County Supports Judicial Services
2. Darlington County Preserves History
3. Kershaw County Plans for the Community's Future
4. Newberry County Brings Industries and Jobs
5. Charleston County and Municipalities Collaborate in Emergency Planning
6. Colleton County Promotes Local Farmers
7. Williamsburg County Supports Senior Citizens
8. Richland County Encourages Youth to Recycle
9. Orangeburg County Fosters Literacy
10. County Officials Visit S.C. House Speaker to Advocate for County Issues
11. Barnwell County Welcomes Community Festivals





SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

HENRY H. LIVINGSTON III, PRESIDENT

## A Letter from the 2017-2018 President

Dear County Officials,

Our Association is one of the premier county associations in the nation, which is attributable to the strong leadership in our current and past board of directors, our engaged members, and our dedicated staff. The *President's Report* highlights SCAC's accomplishments over the past year. The full report is available via [SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org). In the meantime, I hope you will take time to review this special summary to learn more about our Association's services and contributions to county government.

The Association's legislative advocacy program played an integral role in the passage of the Home Rule Act in 1975, and continues to work passionately to protect Home Rule principles for county government. This year's legislative session can be characterized as inert due to the V.C. Summer Nuclear Plant closing and primary election concerns. Despite the general unwillingness to pass legislation, SCAC successfully guided the passage of the Solid Waste Emergency Fund, legislation restricting drone use over prisons, and legislation that taxes boats in the same manner as automobiles. SCAC also fought and defeated the anti-home rule animal shelters standards bill, legislation implementing a purported municipal capital projects sales tax, and unnecessary property tax breaks for solar farms.

The S.C. General Assembly again reneged on its obligation to the property taxpayers of South Carolina and refused to fully fund the Local Government Fund. We must continue to communicate the negative impact this has on county taxes and services, and our citizens.

SCAC's educational and collaborative resources provide us with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to be effective leaders and to serve our citizens. The Association's training programs, research, publications, insurance trusts, and debt collection services are invaluable assets to all 46 counties.

As I reflect on my term as SCAC President, I would like to thank you for your support. It has truly been a privilege and honor to serve you as president this year. I look forward to working with you and our Association as we continue to make great strides for our counties and our citizens.

Sincerely,

Henry H. Livingston III, President  
South Carolina Association of Counties  
Newberry County Council Chairman

# Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.®



## SCAC 2018 Executive Summary

For more than 50 years, the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) has worked to empower county officials through advocacy, education, and collaboration. SCAC is the only organization dedicated to the statewide representation of county government in South Carolina.

By bringing together **Local Leaders**, the Association and county officials are able to create **Statewide Strength**. SCAC is honored to be of service to South Carolina's 46 counties. Please explore the pages of this report to learn more about the Association's programs and progress.

Henry H. Livingston III  
2017-18 PRESIDENT

This summary  
covers the period from  
August 2017 to August 2018

## SCAC 2017-2018 Program Highlights

S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust launches the Injury Free pilot program to prevent and mitigate lifting injuries.



SCAC publishes updated, widely-used *Freedom of Information Handbook for County Government and Guide to Land Use Planning for South Carolina*.

4,000+

SCAC's online *Friday Report* viewed more than 4,000 times



Since 1992, SCAC has returned over \$1 billion dollars to debt collection program participants.



SCAC keeps more than 1,000 county officials informed via *County Focus* magazine, *Carolina Counties* newsletter, *Friday Reports*, and *What's New* e-blast.



SCAC celebrates 50th anniversary and wins awards from NACo and the S.C. Society of Association Executives.



# Advocates for County Government



The foremost reason for creating the Association in 1967 was to provide legislative advocacy and statewide representation for counties. Advocacy continues to be one of SCAC's most visible services. In addition to achieving specific legislative goals, the Association works to safeguard Home Rule — the principle that the best form of government is that closest to the people.

## Legislative Advocacy

In December 2017, SCAC's Legislative Committee adopted 87 policy positions to set the course for the 2018 Legislative Session. These objectives were published in *Policy Positions for the 2018 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly*. Their development spanned five months and included input from more than 1,200 county officials and employees.

During the 2018 legislative session, SCAC monitored 649 bills concerning county government. This included reviewing each bill or amendment introduced in either

chamber, and requesting input from county officials who, based on their respective areas of expertise, served on tracking groups.

Additionally, SCAC emailed *Friday Reports* to more than 1,200 county officials and staff each week of the session, which summarized legislative actions and highlighted new bills addressing county government. The Association also sent *Legislative Alerts* to inform local leaders when critical issues required immediate attention.

## SCAC's 2017-18 Legislative Priorities



The following legislative victories involve policy positions that SCAC advocated for throughout the legislative session:

### **Watercraft Taxation and Registration (Act No. 223).**

By taxing watercraft and motors in the same manner as vehicles, this act will alleviate many taxpayers' confusion over the taxation and transfer of watercraft, as well as assist in the collection of boat taxes.

**Mental Injuries.** SCAC supported efforts to ensure coverage for county employees in need of treatment for mental injuries, but without changing the current requirements for mental-mental claims.

**Municipal Capital Project Sales Tax (S. 426).** SCAC opposes legislation creating a Municipal Project Sales Tax, which would undermine the current Capital Project Sales Tax. SCAC was successful by ensuring S. 426 did not pass.

**Alternative Energy Property Tax Exemption.** SCAC defeated several legislative attempts to create a statewide property tax exemption for alternative energy, which would diminish a county's ability to offer local incentives to attract these projects.

## Legal Advocacy



SCAC's legal staff, working through the county attorney, spend hundreds of hours each year providing informal consultations; conducting in-depth research on pertinent statutes, case law, and attorney general opinions; and preparing informal advisory opinions. SCAC legal staff also assists counties involved in litigation of statewide interest, including appearing as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court).

This year, legal staff assisted a number of counties with legal research and filed *amicus curiae* briefs before the appellate courts in the following cases:

### *Georgetown County v. the SC Department of Transportation*

Pending before the S.C. Court of Appeals, this case considers if a state agency can take the property of county government without paying just compensation required by the state constitution. This is a case of "first impression", meaning it has never been considered before. Should the court rule against local government, it would allow the state to take, for any purpose, the property owned and paid for by local taxes without compensation.

### *Richland County v. the SC Department of Revenue, et al.*

In this case, the department decided to withhold transportation penny sales tax revenue it collected after objecting to county expenditures it believed were not appropriate under state statutes. In March 2018, the S.C. Supreme Court sided with the county and ordered the department to continue to release funds as required by statute, but also ordered the county to stop the expenditure of the funds until the county enacted measures to ensure that the money would only be used for items authorized by state statute.

### *Repko v. Georgetown County*

This case involves the requirement that county taxpayers assume financial responsibility when private developers fail to fully provide required infrastructure for new development. The S.C. Court of Appeals held Georgetown County liable for a property owner's loss of value after a developer declared bankruptcy without completing necessary infrastructure and failing to maintain a surety bond. In August 2018, the S.C. Supreme Court reversed the lower court determination, holding that the county was not an insurer of a third party's action.

## Education & Collaboration



Throughout its history, SCAC has worked to develop competent county leaders. Today, the Association offers a strong portfolio of educational programs with opportunities for orientation, certification, e-learning, and collaboration.

## The Institute of Government for County Officials

SCAC's Institute of Government for County Officials (Institute of Government) provides the knowledge and skills that policymakers and executive staff need to address critical issues, meet the daily needs of their communities, and monitor the county's performance.

The Institute of Government is offered in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston and the Strom Thurmond Institute of Government and Public Affairs at Clemson University.

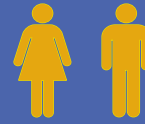


# 500+

Since 1989, more than 500 county officials and employees have completed the Institute of Government.

**This year, 164 county officials attended Level I and Level II Institute of Government classes, and 79 attended advanced classes.**

# 243



Institute of Government graduates continue their education by attending advanced classes annually.

# 230+

More than 230 attorneys attended the Local Government Attorneys' Institute.

## E-Learning

SCAC has provided training to county officials and employees via distance education programs since 1996. Today, the Association hosts training via webcasts and webinars. Each training session is also made available via streaming video through SCCounties.org or a loaned DVD. The webcasts and webinars are a valuable tool for providing education at no cost to the counties.

The Association offered "Resource Considerations for Planning and Zoning Officials" on May 17. More than 200 planning/zoning officials and employees from 29 local governments participated. SCAC also hosted two webinars. County officials and employees from 41 counties heard from experts on county employment law and protecting county data against cyberattacks.

## Collaborative Learning

SCAC hosts online discussion forums for five groups of county officials, allowing them to post questions and share important information. Listserv groups include chief administrative officers; the S.C. Association of Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors; the S.C. Association of Assessing Officials; finance officers; and personnel directors.

The Association's annual awards competition also offers a unique opportunity for local leaders to learn about innovative practices, technology, and trends. After the event, the Association hosts an online video library of all presentations via SCCounties.org and highlights all entries in *County Focus* magazine.

## Legal Training

SCAC legal staff is called upon regularly to provide presentations and training for county officials and employees. This training is provided free-of-charge and can be provided at county sites or the SCAC Office in Columbia.

This past year, SCAC staff provided training for five counties, the S.C. Association of Assessing Officials, and the S.C. Association of Regional Councils on the following topics: Capital Project Sales Tax;

the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); rules of procedure; the comprehensive planning process; and ethical considerations for planning and zoning board/commission members.

First offered in 1995, the Association's Local Government Attorneys' Institute provides valuable training to local and state attorneys. More than 200 attorneys attended SCAC's 2017 event.

# Connecting Counties to Resources & Information



SCAC helps counties address the daily needs of their communities by providing research, technical assistance, publications, and other resources.

## Research and Technical Assistance

Each year, the Association's staff responds to hundreds of inquiries from county and state officials ranging from simple document requests to more complex questions requiring considerable research.

SCAC's research staff often conducts statewide surveys and gathers information on policies and practices of individual counties. A sample of surveys conducted during the past year includes topics such as municipal

elections held by counties, the reporting line of animal control officers, and solar projects.

Occasionally, the research staff is called upon to assist the Association's executive and legislative staff with timely topics of concern to SCAC and to counties as a whole. In the past year, the research staff has provided in-depth research on FOI requests and capital project sales tax county projects.

## Scholarships

SCAC has awarded more than \$147,000 in scholarships to 63 students since establishing its scholarship program in 1998. This year, the Association proudly awarded \$2,500 scholarships to five high school seniors in Abbeville, Charleston, Greenwood, Jasper, and Newberry counties.

## Online Resources



The research webpages serve as an important means of connecting counties with useful data. Information includes a variety of county publications, results of surveys on topical issues, and data collected from other websites and resources. Among the available documents are county statistics; financial documents; council rules of procedure; personnel policies; planning and zoning documents; purchasing ordinances and RFPs; and links to county codes of ordinances. SCAC's research webpages also provide data on issues of importance to counties, such as estimated Local Government Fund allocations, millage rate caps, and state salary supplements for county elected officials.

The *What's New* monthly email message informs county officials about new or updated information available via SCAC's website. Web links are provided for upcoming events and training opportunities, new and updated publications, and timely topics of interest.

The Association's online career center categorizes local government positions and makes them searchable for those interested in employment. This is a complimentary service provided to all counties. This past year, 32 counties took advantage of this employment advertising tool by posting more than 300 positions, which garnered nearly 6,500 views.



# 1,400+

Informed 1,400 county officials  
via *What's New* email messages



More than 1,000 South Carolina county officials, state legislators, COGs, and SCAC's corporate supporters receive *County Focus* magazine and *Carolina Counties* newsletter.

Research staff responded to  
an average of 50 requests  
per month for information  
and resources.

# 50

# 1,400

Number of views the  
research webpages  
received

## Publications and Public Information

SCAC produces three award-winning publications. Since 1991, they have received 94 national awards and 38 state awards.

*Carolina Counties* newsletter is published five times per year. Its circulation of more than 1,000 includes county officials, regional councils of governments (COGs), and corporate supporters.

*County Focus* is a quarterly magazine that addresses legislative issues, county programs, and successful projects. It has a circulation of 1,300 including county officials, COGs, state officials, and corporate supporters.

SCAC's *Directory of County Officials* provides contact information for county, COG, state, and federal officials. Copies are sent to all officials listed in the directory and to state associations of counties, boroughs, and parishes nationwide.

### Updated Publications

This year, SCAC published two important publications after major revisions: *Freedom of Information Handbook for County Government* and *Guide to Land Use Planning in South Carolina*. A panel of practitioners representing numerous counties and professions provided invaluable feedback for these publications.

The *Freedom of Information Handbook for County Government* incorporates the 2017 revisions of the act and provides practice pointers and advice on responding to FOI requests.

The *Guide to Land Use Planning for South Carolina* provides an overview of the law authorizing land use planning and includes practical tools such as forms, notices, and checklists for planning and zoning officials.

SCAC also published supplements for the *Home Rule Handbook for County Government* and *Revenue Resources for County Government*. These supplements reflect statutory changes, new case law, and new attorney general opinions in these subject areas.

The Association produced a comprehensive overview of the results of the legislative session. This yearly publication, *Acts that Affect Counties*, gives county officials notice of new or revised laws that impact county government.

Additionally, SCAC published updated editions of the *Property Tax Rates by County* and the *County Wage and Salary Report*.

# Financial Service Programs



For more than 30 years, SCAC has offered financial solutions to help counties save money. The Association's self-funded insurance pools, risk management services, and debt collection programs are valuable resources for all counties.

## Self-Funded Insurance Programs

The Association sponsors two self-insurance trusts, open to member counties and agencies with county government-related functions. Both the Workers' Compensation and the Property & Liability Trusts are governed by boards of trustees appointed by SCAC's Board of Directors. The trusts employ independent auditors and actuaries to ensure financial strength.

**The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust** has 79 members, including 41 counties. Claims administration is provided via contract by Ariel TPA and general administration is handled by SCAC's insurance staff. **The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust** has 27 members, including 16 counties. Claims

administration, general administration, and risk management services are handled by SCAC insurance staff.

The SCAC insurance staff is comprised of seven full-time, well-experienced insurance professionals with a collective 144 years of public entity experience. SCAC employs two risk managers who work in the field supplementing the county's risk management staff, or serving as risk management staff where a county does not employ its own staff. The Association's self-insurance trusts provide in-house underwriting by insurance staff who understand the risks faced by counties as evidenced by its customized risk management solutions.

## Injury Free Program (Fit Responder)

In 2018, the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust launched its Injury Free Program (Fit Responder) to prevent and mitigate lifting injuries.

The Injury Free Program is the only nationally-recognized, validated program that meets or exceeds four of the five National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health standards, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for EMS safety.

Courses include first responder mobility, advanced patient handling, fire and EMS safety, nutrition wellness, resiliency, and sleep hygiene.

Five member counties have been selected to participate in this pilot program. SCAC expects to make the program available to other member counties. SCAC insurance staff is very confident this program will reduce EMS workers' compensation injuries. Therefore, the cost for the program is being absorbed by the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust.



## Risk Management Education and Training

Loss exposures from law enforcement operations are the highest cost driver for both trusts, and vehicle accidents outweigh all other law enforcement claims.

SCAC's staff works with counties to reduce the frequency and severity of these claims. Staff members also conduct detention center inspections and staffing studies.

The trusts fund online training for law enforcement and detention center officers through the *In the Line of Duty* program. Thirty-eight member counties currently employ this training. Approved by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy for continuing education credit, this complimentary training saves members money through reduced training and travel costs as well as through a reduction in officer injuries and litigation.

SCAC developed the following classes to address the unique exposures of law enforcement: Law Enforcement Risk Management and Liability Issues; Detention Center Risk Management and Liability Issues; and Inmate Supervision Issues. Each of these classes has been conducted for more than 1,000 county employees.

During 2017-2018, ten OSHA training classes were held, with more than 240 employees being updated on OSHA's evolving laws and regulations. The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Office of Voluntary Programs provides instructors for this training.

# 260+

Twelve "Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator" – Police defensive-driving classes were conducted for more than 260 deputies.



More than 520 non-law enforcement employees completed defensive-driver training.



SCAC staff conducted 10 onsite detention center inspections and staffing studies.

More than 800 detention center officers attended 43 Detention Center Risk Management training classes.

# 800+

## 560



About 560 county employees attended Inmate Supervision Issues classes.

County officials and employees visited the SCAC financial service program webpages more than 1,600 times.

# 1,600

## The S.C. Counties OPEB Trust

Counties are finding it more and more difficult to fund their other post-employment benefit liabilities on a pay-as-you-go basis. The S.C. Counties OPEB Trust allows counties to pool funds in investment vehicles that return a higher rate than ordinary deposits.

The trust invests only in bonds and other U.S. Treasury instruments allowed under the state constitution. The S.C. Counties OPEB Trust pools member funds, allowing counties to share administrative and investment-related expenses, to take advantage of negotiated rates for actuarial reports, and to obtain a higher rate of return.

## Debt Collection Programs

In cooperation with the S.C. Department of Revenue, SCAC collected more than \$110 million in delinquent debts owed to 302 participating entities. Collections address delinquent debts for emergency medical services, hospital care, court fines, delinquent taxes, water and sewer services, public housing, etc. This revenue helps counties avoid raising taxes.

## Cooperative Service Programs

SCAC also offered innovative, affordable solutions to help counties address common challenges. These solutions included:

- Property Tax Auditing and Discovery;
- Internet Auction of Surplus Equipment;
- Purchasing Discounts for supplies and equipment;
- Access to competitive, National Suppliers; and
- Prescription Drug Discounts.



## Tools for 21st Century Leaders

SCAC has a rich history of providing quality programs and services to counties and county officials. As members of the Association, all 46 counties, county elected officials, and employees have access to SCAC's programs designed to help counties serve their citizens.

As counties face changing demographics and service demands, SCAC remains committed to providing research and educational tools related to emerging issues, and enhancing its educational offerings through e-learning.

The Association will also continue to offer innovative, affordable solutions to help counties serve their citizens—including self-insurance pools, risk management services, debt collection programs, and cooperative service programs.

Local leaders must anticipate and adapt to emerging issues to keep counties safe, healthy, prosperous, and resilient. SCAC will continue to work with state and county officials to improve South Carolina's strength by delivering essential programs and services for 21st century counties and county leaders.





## South Carolina Counties at Work

1. Abbeville County Cares for At-Risk Citizens
2. Charleston County Builds Needed Infrastructure
3. Georgetown County Educates Youth about Stormwater
4. Greenville County Is Committed to Litter Cleanup
5. Richland County Ensures Building Safety
6. Allendale County Honors its History
7. Horry County Promotes Emergency Preparedness
8. Beaufort County Is Prepared for Economic Growth
9. McCormick County Encourages Fire Safety
10. Georgetown County Informs the Community
11. Pickens County and Local Delegation Members Clean Up Their Community
12. Saluda County Hosts School Supply Drive
13. Sumter County Values its Military Partners



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

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In-state: (800) 922-6081  
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# Chester County Probate Judge Lois H. Roddey's 61-year Career

By W. Stuart Morgan III

**C**hester County Probate Judge Lois Hyatt Roddey will complete an impressive, 61-year-long county government career when she retires in December.

"I truly love my job," said Mrs. Roddey, who announced in March that she would not seek another term as probate judge. "The Probate Office provides service to people in their time of need, and we're here to help them. When someone comes into our office

with problems they've never had before, and they don't know which way to go, we let them know we're going to walk with them through the process.

"We also work hard to give everyone who comes into our office, including visitors who occasionally come here to conduct genealogical

research, the respect they deserve," she added. "We always smile and ask them how we can help."

Chester County Probate, under the supervision of the S.C. Court Administration, has jurisdiction over the probate of estates, issuing marriage licenses and marriage certificates. It also has jurisdiction over appointing and supervising guardians and conservators, approving minor and wrongful death settlements, and issuing Orders of Detention for alcohol/drug abuse and/or mental illness.

Mrs. Roddey is responsible for Chester County's most important documents, including the earliest marriage records dating back to 1911 and estate records dating as far back as the 1780s.

She's also responsible for monitoring every matter pending in the county's Probate

Court. So, don't let Mrs. Roddey's southern charm and smile fool you for a moment. She's up to the task, and she's tough when she has to be.

"When holding probate court," said Mrs. Roddey, with the sternest look she could muster, "I explain to people that my decisions are by the *South Carolina Code of Law*.

I cannot rule by heart," she emphasized. "I rule by the law."

The Chester County Probate Office's five-member staff is as professional, friendly and loyal a team as you'll find in any probate office, largely due to Mrs. Roddey's leadership style and character. In fact, she's the only probate judge in South Carolina who still has the same probate assistants working for her that she had when she was first elected—Deputy Probate Judge Terri Zion and legal administrative assistants Dianne Foster and Stella Wishert.

"My coworkers were friends before I was elected probate judge many years ago, and we're still friends," Mrs. Roddey said. "My position as probate judge didn't change me. We're a family, and when one of us has a problem, we all have a problem."



Chester County Probate Judge Lois Roddey (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



Mrs. Roddey has served as probate judge for 37 years, but she held three other jobs during the first 24 years she worked for Chester County.

### Mrs. Roddey's Early Life and Career

She has lived in Chester County her entire life.

"As a little girl," Mrs. Roddey recalled, "I told my parents that I wanted to work in the Chester County Courthouse someday."

The Greek Revival-style courthouse, constructed in 1852 on a hill in the center of downtown Chester, is the focal point of the city's downtown historic district.

Her childhood dream came true shortly after she graduated from Chester High School in 1957 with a concentration in secretarial science. Mrs. Roddey was hired at the age of 18 about a month after graduating as secretary for Chester County Sheriff A.W. (Sig) McKeown. And luckily for her, the Sheriff's Office was located directly across from the Probate Office in the Chester County Courthouse.

About a month-and-a-half later, Mrs. Roddey was sworn in as deputy sheriff so she could handle certain matters in the Sheriff's Office, particularly when women were charged or arrested. She carried a badge, but she wasn't required to wear a uniform, carry a gun or participate in investigations.

In December that same year, Mrs. Roddey married her high school sweetheart, R. Carlisle Roddey, who managed the Meat Market at the Colonial Store in Chester. He would be elected captain of the Chester County Volunteer Rescue Squad when it was formed in 1964.

Mrs. Roddey would serve as deputy sheriff for the next 17 years, but she would seek employment elsewhere when she learned in 1974 that the Sheriff's Office was going to move from the county courthouse to the county jail.

Mrs. Roddey knew where

she wanted to work.

"I had always worked in the courthouse," she said. "I didn't want to

work at the jail."

So, Mrs. Roddey found a job that  
(Continued on next page)



Mrs. Lois Roddey's first sheriff's deputy badge, her favorite. She later carried a newer version. (See P. 80)

*The (Chester) News & Reporter* published many articles on Mrs. Lois Roddey during her career. In this newspaper photo, published on June 15, 1967, Chester County Sheriff A.W. (Sig) McKeown and Deputy Sheriff Lois Roddey are shown reviewing a file in a past case. The county's first female deputy sheriff was described as one of the prettiest deputies to be found anywhere, a lady and one of the sheriff's right-hand workers.



*The (Chester) News & Reporter* announced Mrs. Lois Roddey taking the oath of probate on Jan. 2, 1991. This photo, which accompanied the piece, shows S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice George T. Gregory of Chester administering the oath to Mrs. Roddey on Jan. 2, 1991, as her husband, Chester County Supervisor Carlisle Roddey, holds the Bible, and their sons, Lee (left) and Johnny (right), stand by. (Photo courtesy of The [Chester] News & Reporter)

required her to work in the courthouse again. She was appointed Chester County deputy probate judge in 1974.

### Mr. and Mrs. Roddey Run for County Offices

Her husband entered local politics that same year, winning his first term as Chester County Supervisor/Chairman.

Mrs. Roddey would serve as deputy probate judge for the next 17 years, but like her husband, she would later run for local office in 1990.

Mrs. Roddey ran for probate judge after Chester County Probate Judge Edward K. Hardin III, 77, announced that he would not seek another term. As a Democrat, Mrs. Roddey won her first term as Probate Judge by soundly defeating her Republican opponent after receiving 82 percent of the vote.

Approximately 225 friends, relatives and supporters attended Mrs. Roddey's swearing-in ceremony, held on Jan. 2, 1991, in the courtroom of the Chester County Courthouse.

S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice George T. Gregory of Chester administered the oath of office to Mrs. Roddey as her husband, Chester County Supervisor/Chairman, held the *Bible*, and their two sons, Lee and Johnny, stood by.

Mrs. Roddey would be re-elected to serve seven consecutive terms and serve a total of 28 years as Chester County Probate Judge.

Her husband would be elected to serve eight terms for a total of 32 years as Chester County Supervisor/Chairman. He would also be elected to serve as president of the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) from 2010 to 2011.

Mrs. Roddey finally had to leave her beloved Chester County Courthouse when the Probate Office and other county offices moved to the county's new government complex in 2007.

But making the move was easier this time, perhaps even a bit sweeter. After



Mrs. Lois Roddey's  
second sheriff's  
deputy badge

all, the county's new government complex was named in honor of her husband, Mr. Roddey, who died in 2017 half-way through Mrs. Roddey's seventh term as probate judge.

Mr. and Mrs. Roddey had been married 60 years.

"My husband and I had promised ourselves that we would take a two week vacation when we retired," Mrs. Roddey said. "But we never took a vacation after 1998."

### Looking Back

Mrs. Roddey started her long county government career in an era of manual typewriters, written records and card filing systems, and she witnessed the many changes that the digital revolution ushered in.

But according to Mrs. Roddey, the biggest change she witnessed in Probate Court during her 28 years as probate judge occurred when the S.C. State Legislature changed Probate Law in 1987.

"New laws were written, and new forms were created," Mrs. Roddey said. "For example, before 1987, when a will was written," she explained, "the person in charge was called an 'executor' if male or 'executrix' if female. After 1987, when a will was written, the person in charge was called a 'personal representative'."

The S.C. Court Administration department took control, implemented a structured system statewide for probate courts, and began monitoring and auditing probate records annually.

Mrs. Roddey said the new probate law required an enormous amount of paperwork, but she proudly noted that the S.C. Court Administration department has always found her office to be in compliance.

Looking back, she has never regretted leaving the Sheriff's Office to work for the Probate Office when she had the opportunity to do so in 1974.

"In the Probate Judge's Office," Mrs. Roddey explained, "I deal with different circumstances. Here, I can help so many people in their time of need."

"When I was a little girl," she added,

"my mother said I was always trying to help with babies, older people and animals. Today, I am still that way."

### Friends and Coworkers

Mrs. Roddey's family convinced her to retire when she contemplated running for an eighth term as probate judge after the loss of her husband.

But leaving her coworkers and friends will be difficult.

*"In the Probate Judge's Office, I deal with different circumstances. Here, I can help so many people in their time of need."*

— Mrs. Lois H. Roddey  
Chester County Probate Judge

"I have been blessed with the greatest staff you could ask for, and I'll miss them," Mrs. Roddey said. "I'll also miss my friends at the SCAC. My sons, John Carlisle and Raymond Lee, grew up knowing the Association's staff. And now, my grandchildren, Andrew Lee Roddey and Evan Carlisle Roddey, have grown up knowing the Association's staff as well."

She'll leave behind a strong legacy of service to Chester County and the SCAC like her husband did.

"I have had the esteemed honor of serving on the board of the South Carolina Association of Counties, and thank the Association for the honor," Mrs. Roddey said. "To my fellow probate judges, your friendship has meant so much through the years. You are a special group. It was an honor to serve as a probate judge with you as well."

At the end of her interview, Mrs. Roddey looked across from her desk and smiled.

Then, in a moment of disbelief, she said:

"I can't believe I've served Chester County for 61 years."





# The IMLA Report

## Homelessness

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

### HOMELESSNESS

"In its majestic equality, the law forbids rich and poor alike to sleep under bridges, beg in the streets and steal loaves of bread." Anatole France, *Le Lys Rouge* [*The Red Lily*] (1894).

Recently, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals quoted this line in a case involving enforcement of anti-camping regulations by the City of Boise. Courts have quoted this line before. Ultimately, the 9th Circuit concluded that the City of Boise violated the Eighth Amendment rights of homeless individuals by enforcing the city's laws against sleeping in public places overnight.

The case has been going on for quite some time. During this period, the city has attempted to modify its regulations to deal with the problems of people occupying its parks by setting up tents as shelters and of people sleeping on sidewalks and streets. The city's regulations prohibit people from camping in public places at nighttime when the city's parks are closed and prohibit people sleeping on the streets at night. The city's policies require the police to determine if shelter space is available before enforcing the law against anyone.

In reviewing the city's policies, the Court noted that there are limited shelter spaces in the city and that both organizations that offer shelter have rules that may affect whether a person can actually find shelter despite space being



available. For example, if a person has been banned from a shelter for violating its rules, the court noted that at least as to that person, no space is available. In another example, the court described the policy of one shelter that requires people admitted to the shelter to attend religion-themed meetings in return for shelter. The court ruled: "A city cannot, via the threat of prosecution, coerce an individual to attend religion-based treatment programs consistently with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment." As to each practice, the court found that for some individuals the rules of the shelter effectively limited access to space.

Many cities and counties adopt anti-camping regulations, not because of antipathy to the plight of the homeless, but rather because officials believe these ordinances could be used as a way to push homeless people to social services where they could get help. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's most recent point-in-time count, 554,000 Americans were homeless, and the vast majority were sleeping outside. Essentially, this means the total

homeless population in our country exceeds the population of all but the 33 largest cities and exceeds the populations of Atlanta, New Orleans and Minneapolis. And the number of homeless is growing.

People are homeless for many reasons. Some due to mental illness, some because of drug or alcohol dependency, and some as a result of unemployment, but others are homeless because they can no longer afford to pay rent. Some live on the streets or in those shelters available to them and others in their vehicles.

Those who are mentally ill struggle with the normal rules of society, so the rules imposed by shelters only limit the availability of a shelter for them. Those who are drug or alcohol dependent often find that shelter rules prohibiting drug or alcohol use conflict with their addiction and for them, the addiction takes over. Many shelters limit the length of a stay or the number of stays for an individual. For those who are chronically homeless these rules affect their ability to find shelter. Many shelters do not take families, so a homeless family often must choose shelter over family.

In an effort to direct people in need of services to the social service agencies that can help, some cities and counties have adopted laws to prohibit feeding the homeless in parks and other public places. The 11th Circuit recently concluded that Ft. Lauderdale's law prohibiting use of its park without a permit violated the 1st Amendment. As a group, Food Not

*(Continued on next page)*

Bombs, sought to feed the homeless claiming doing so raises awareness to the plight of homelessness and delivers its message that money is better spent on social services than on the military.

In contrast to the problem of sheltering and serving homeless people, cities and counties struggle to respond to concerns of other residents who want the local government to protect their home values, to develop tourism and commerce; each of which can be affected by some aspects of what a large homeless population says about and does to a city or county's identity. Residents correctly fear that encampments and shelters located in residential neighborhoods can reduce property values. Businesses correctly fear that customers may shy away from their establishments if they must navigate sidewalks where people are sleeping or panhandlers are prevalent. Convention and tourism interests point to loss of business where their customers express concern that attendance will be affected by what may seem as a depressed or crime ridden social scene where public urination and public needle sharing

are common occurrences. Problems of providing affordable housing may be less distinct but just as difficult to address where community members oppose increased density, relaxed zoning and a community tries to reduce other barriers to affordability.

If there were easy answers to these issues, the problems would not be so pervasive. In Seattle, the government has attempted to address a massive problem of homelessness in a number of different ways that include establishing encampments on city property that do not prohibit alcohol or drug use, to allow the addicted to be sheltered. While the city provides services to those staying there, the drift from making the shelter a waystation to a final destination seems clear. The rules do not require a person to seek a job or abstain from drug or alcohol use. Politically, other communities may find it difficult to gain support for a policy that seemingly encourages addiction; yet that policy meets the "housing first" concepts of solving homelessness adopted by both sides of the political divide.

Legally, courts will likely have

different views about how a city's policies may affect the homeless and their rights under the Constitution or state law. Yet, Anatole France's apt description of the effect that laws against sleeping in parks have on society will likely find continuing support as the numbers of homeless mount. And mount they will. The opioid epidemic has affected people in all walks of life, turning the affluent into heroin users as their opioid supply diminishes or becomes too expensive. Many will lose their jobs. Then there are the advances in technology. Projections regarding the development and effect of autonomous vehicles on the trucking industry suggest large numbers of people will need other jobs. In the service industry, we're seeing restaurants reduce staff by adding ordering kiosks or tablets, and Amazon developing grocery stores that do not have check out staff. To believe that the problem is strictly urban or limited to one place ignores current reality and future projections. Indeed, many rural or semi-rural areas already have homeless people living in wooded areas in state rights of way.

Cities and counties have both an



## Ponce D. Moody Funding

### Alternative Financing Solutions For Commercial Real Estate

**"IF THE BANK SAYS "NO," GIVE ME A CALL"**

#### OUR PROGRAMS

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opportunity and a duty to plan for how to deal with homelessness. While a court may reject a ban on camping as it did for Boise, restrictions on where one can camp and when one can camp, if tailored to the community's resources and zoning can survive. Allowing overnight camping in an industrial zone may be more palatable in some cases, but may trigger other problems. While the advocates for the homeless argue that in many cases the ADA should prevent some regulations due to the disabilities many homeless people have, advocates for cities and counties point to the ADA as a basis to prohibit sleeping or otherwise occupying sidewalks as obstructions to vision impaired or mobility-challenged users of the rights of way which violate their rights.

From a purely local government standpoint, leaders of cities and counties should demand state governments devote resources to helping to solve these problems. Before changes to the mental health systems took place where institutionalization was common, many of the homeless who have mental health issues would have been wards of the state. Had they been housed in state institutions the state's cost for their care would be significantly greater than what the states devote to helping local governments address issues of mental illness among the homeless.

At IMLA we hope to work with member cities and counties to find best practices for addressing the competing issues of helping people who are homeless and protecting our communities.

#### About IMLA

*The International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) provides assistance to local government attorneys whose municipalities are members and 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.*

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*IMLA recently began offering podcasts. During the week, short programs discuss some interesting facts, news items or cases that local government leaders will find relevant and interesting.*

*IMLA also offers longer, more in-depth programming on topics associated with local government policy and legal issues. IMLA podcasts can be accessed through iTunes or SoundCloud. In addition, IMLA has formed an Opioid Litigation Work Group that regularly discusses ongoing developments.*

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

*For more information on membership, programs or getting involved with IMLA, contact Chuck Thompson at:*

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- *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 support efficient administration of local government in South Carolina*

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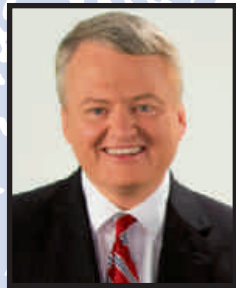
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# Unclaimed Property Reporting: A Message from State Treasurer Curtis Loftis



**T**he S.C. Uniform Unclaimed Property Act requires all holders of unclaimed property, including government entities, to review their records each year and make an effort to return unclaimed funds to the



**Curtis M. Loftis Jr.**  
S.C. State Treasurer

rightful owner. If an owner cannot be located, those funds must be sent to the State Treasurer's Office until the owner can be found.

"As a local government, you play a vital role in helping us collect unclaimed property that may have been generated as part of your annual operations as well as communicating with your constituents on how they can retrieve unclaimed property we may be holding for them," said S.C. Treasurer Curtis Loftis.

As you review your records this year, keep in mind that unclaimed property may exist in several departments within a government entity including:

- **Water & Sewer**—deposits left behind when a customer ends service;
- **Courts**—overpaid bail bonds or undelivered child support payments;
- **Jails**—leftover funds in a former inmate's account;
- **Parks & Recreation**—deposits for facility rentals; and
- **Accounts Payable**—uncashed payroll checks, outstanding accounts pay-

ables and other credit balances.

While reporting unclaimed property is required by law, it's also good business. First and foremost, your books will be in balance. And it's a great opportunity to reach out to your citizens to show them you are customer-focused and are looking out for their interests.

Here are some common questions we receive from our government partners:

## **What is unclaimed property?**

This includes, but is not limited to, wages, insurance proceeds, customer deposits, outstanding checks and credit balances that have remained unclaimed by the rightful owner for a period of time. The dormancy periods vary by property type. For example, wages and utility deposits are reportable one year after the original issue date, while most other outstanding checks are reportable five years after the original issue date. You can find a list of dormancy periods and due dates at [www.treasurer.sc.gov](http://www.treasurer.sc.gov)

## **Does my county have to look for the owner?**

Yes. If any unclaimed property—val-

ued at \$50 or more—is discovered, the county must perform due diligence to locate the owner of the property. The county must send a written notice to the owner notifying him of the unclaimed property no more than 120 days before filing its report to the State Treasurer's Office. A sample notice is available on the State Treasurer's Office website. The notice should state that the funds will be remitted to the state if a response is not received.

## **What if we tried to find the owner in the past but were unsuccessful?**

If the county has already tried to contact the owner but found the address on file was no longer valid, a due diligence notice isn't needed.

If the county does not hear back from the owner in response to the due diligence notice, or if the owners of the property can't be located, the property must be remitted to the State Treasurer's Office along with a report that includes the names and last-known addresses of the owners. All property that is unclaimed must be reported and remitted, regardless of the amount.

## **What is the deadline to file the report?**

The county must file its unclaimed property reports and remit the funds each year before November 1. Payment can be made by check, Automated Clearing House or bank wire. The program's staff grants extensions on a limited basis. A



county must request an extension before October 1 with an explanation for the extension request.

**Do I have to submit a report every year, even if I do not identify any unclaimed property?**

Yes. Beginning in 2018, even if no reportable property is identified, holders must notify the State by affirming no property is due via a link on the State Treasurer's website. On the website, enter the contact information for the county, and select the option to submit a negative report. No additional action is required.

**Can my county file its report on paper?**

No. The reports must be submitted via the State's secure website in the format prescribed by the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators. South Carolina no longer accepts unclaimed property reports on CDs or submitted on paper.

**What if my county failed to comply with the reporting requirement?**

The State Treasurer's Office is responsible for ensuring compliance with the law. Entities that have never reported or have gaps in their reporting histories will be given priority when assigning compliance examinations. Interest and penalties may be assessed on unclaimed property not remitted as required by State law.

**Where do I start to get my county into compliance?**

Contact the State Treasurer's Office at (803) 737-4771 or by email at [www.unclaimed@sto.sc.gov](mailto:www.unclaimed@sto.sc.gov). We are here to help. If you miss a reporting deadline or identify past-due property, you may request a voluntary disclosure agreement, which would allow you to report past-due property without incurring interest and penalties.



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# A Roadside Guide to Calhoun County

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

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

### Calhoun County



See South Carolina  
 County Map,  
 P. 99

**L**ocated in the Midlands of South Carolina, Calhoun County is strategically placed. Then, as now, Calhoun County was a crucial transportation link between the upcountry and lowcountry. During the Revolutionary War, the British sought to secure their control of this critical troop and supply artery.

The area was also home to such significant Revolutionary leaders as Colonel William "Danger" Thomson and Rebecca Motte. After the fall of Charlestown in



**Calhoun County's  
 Role in the  
 American War  
 for Independence**

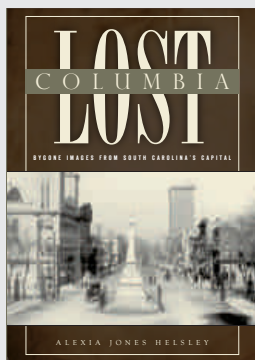


### Belleville/Battle of Thomson's Plantation

Belleville, near the Santee River, was the home of Colonel Thomson. Thomson, a native of Pennsylvania, moved to old Orangeburg District as a child. Thomson served in the Cherokee War 1760-61 and in 1775 as South Carolina prepared to defend her borders, the General Assembly named him commander of the 3rd

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SC Regiment of Rangers. He played a major role in the Patriot victory during the Battle of the Great Canebrake, the Snow Campaign, and the crucial British defeat on Sullivan's Island, Charlestown, on May 16, 1776. Thomson was also one of the thousands of Patriots captured by the British after the fall of Charlestown.

Not long after that disastrous surrender, British forces moved to secure control of the interior of South Carolina and the essential supply arteries linking Charlestown with Ninety-Six, Augusta and Camden. Modern Calhoun County sits astride a primary communication hub making the area essential for British success.

The British captured, paroled and later imprisoned Thomson and seized his plantation. To protect their communication routes, they fortified his home and constructed a stockade around the house and outbuildings.

On February 22, 1781, following an unsuccessful attack on Fort Granby on the Congaree, a frustrated General Thomas Sumter laid siege to Belleville. Sumter and his troops attempted to storm the fort or set it afire. Neither effort succeeded as Lt. John Stuart of the 71st Regiment of Foot held firm. Once again, Sumter withdrew from the field and sought other opportunities to harass the British. Nevertheless, he left a detachment at Belleville. Among others, Sumter's troops included militia from Turkey Creek, New Acquisition, Fairfield, and Mecklenburg.

### Big Savannah

While Sumter was focused on Belleville, British forces in Charlestown dispatched a convoy of reportedly 20 wagons with an accompanying contingent of upwards of 50 men to fortify Mount Joseph. The convoy had provisions, as well as, arms and ammunitions.

Such a large convoy attracted Patriot attention. Receiving that information, Sumter joined with Colonel William Bratton and Colonel Edward Lacey to intercept the convoy. At Big Savannah, they planned an ambush on the road between Belleville and Eutaw Springs.

The surprise attack was successful. Sumter, Bratton, Lacey and their men

captured the convoy and its contents, and defeated Major David McIntosh and his British regulars. Despite this victory, the British later recaptured the supplies. This pattern of defeat, victory and defeat characterized the year 1781 as the British, reeling from Yorktown, tried to maintain their control of South Carolina and Patriot forces, state and Continental, tried to push them out.

### Mount Joseph/Battle of Fort Motte

Mount Joseph was the country plantation of Rebecca Brewton Motte, widow of Jacob Motte. The Mottes were active Patriots and contributed to the war effort before Jacob's death. Rebecca Motte had inherited the elegant Charlestown townhouse built by her brother, Miles Brewton. At the time, Sir Henry Clinton occupied Charlestown, Motte and her daughters were living on King Street. Clinton quickly chose the Brewton house as his headquarters.

Once Motte could leave Charlestown, she, her daughters and other relatives sought refuge at Mount Joseph. But, once again, the war found them.

Mount Joseph, Rebecca Motte's country home, sat "on a commanding hill" near the junction of the Wateree and Con-

garee Rivers that form the Santee River. The site overlooked McCord's Ferry, an important crossing of the Congaree River. Both British and Patriot forces knew the strategic value of the location.

Consequently, the British occupied and fortified the Motte home. Known as Fort Motte, the newly fortified site protected British supply and communication routes between Charlestown and the interior.

Under Lt. Donald McPherson of DeLancey's Corps, British troops dug a deep trench around the Motte home and erected a parapet to defend the site. McPherson commanded 155 men at Ft. Motte.

In 1781, as General Nathanael Greene moved to retake the South Carolina interior, he dispatched Brigadier General Francis Marion (South Carolina's famous Swamp Fox) and Lt. Colonel Henry "Lighthorse Harry" Lee of Virginia, an officer in the Continental army to take Fort Motte.

Marion and Lee arrayed their forces around Ft. Motte and on May 8 began siege operations. Unfortunately, during this process, they learned that Lord Rawdon was retreating from Camden with a large contingent of the British army. Rawdon and his men were within range  
(Continued on next page)

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of Fort Motte.

Fearing the Rawdon would attempt to reinforce the beleaguered men at Fort Motte, Marion and Lee sought Motte's permission to set her home afire in order to drive out the British. She enthusiastically agreed and offered several "fire arrows" that her brother (Miles Brewton) had obtained from the West Indies.

The effort was successful and the British fled the burning house. After the British surrender, both Patriot and British troops joined forces to put out the fire and save the house. Motte then hosted a dinner for British and Patriot officers.

The taking of Fort Motte was a critical engagement in Patriot efforts to regain control of the South Carolina interior.





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# County Update



See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 99

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

## Bamberg County

● Bamberg County announced in August that **Matthew "Mack" Johnson** had won the county's most recent Employee of the Quarter award for July – September. Johnson works for the county's Department of Solid Waste. The award spotlights excellent employees who contribute to making Bamberg County a great place to live and work. It also recognizes employees who exemplify the county's commitment to high standards of service and professionalism.

● Bamberg County Administrator **Joey Preston** hosted a financial planning seminar for county employees on August 23. Bamberg County Controller **Gina Smith**, CPA, CFPTM, CGMA, taught "Personal Financial Planning 101," a course Smith designed specifically for

county employees. The Financial Planning course provided an overview of the financial planning process, explained how to create both spending and saving plans, the value of establishing a good credit rating, in addition to many other practical money skills. Approximately 40 percent of county employees attended the seminar.

● On August 7, Bamberg, Barnwell, Orangeburg and Calhoun counties won SCAC's 2018 Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation for the Bamberg-Barnwell Regional Emergency Medical Center in Denmark. (See article, P. 28)

● **Dr. William Molnar**, Executive Director of the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG), announced on July 2 that Councilman **Larry Haynes** was selected as the 2018-19 Board Chairman of the LSCOG Board of Directors. The LSCOG is a regional organization which coordinates cooperative development among the local governments. The LSCOG serves Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties.

Haynes was first elected to Bamberg County Council in 2010. He has served on the LSCOG Board of Directors since 2011. Haynes also served as LSCOG Treasurer for 2016-17 and Vice Chairman for 2017-18. The LSCOG Board's 39 members represent the six counties served.

● **Anne Hazlett**, Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development, announced on June 27 that Bamberg County had received three

award packages totaling \$840,000 to purchase three new fully-equipped fire pumper tankers. The three new fire pumper tankers will replace the aging and unreliable tankers currently used by the county's firefighters.

The first loan and grant award package totals \$280,000 and includes a \$230,000 loan and a \$50,000 grant. The second award package is for \$280,000 and includes a \$230,200 loan and a \$49,800 grant. The third award package totals \$280,000 and includes a \$230,100 loan and a \$49,900 grant.

Nationwide, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is investing \$237 million to help 119 rural communities in 29 states.

● On September 5, the National Association of Counties (NACo) announced that **Gina Smith**, Bamberg County Controller, was appointed to NACo's Finance, Pensions, and Intergovernmental Affairs (FPIGA) Steering Committee. She will serve on the committee from September 5 to July 31, 2019. NACo's FPIGA Steering Committee has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to county finances, municipal bonds, property taxes, intergovernmental relations, census issues, and other matters relevant to county finances. Smith is a Certified Public Accountant, a Chartered Global Management Accountant as well as a Certified Financial Planner who has worked in governmental management and finance over 20 years. She has worked for Bamberg County since 2012.

## Barnwell County

● Two Barnwell County employees retired in June.

**Liana G. Maule** began as a dispatcher at the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office on Aug. 16, 1982, and was promoted to chief dispatcher on Aug. 16, 1997.

**Ken Scott Peterson** began as a deputy at the Barnwell County Sheriff's Office on March 23, 1997. He was promoted to investigator in 2010, lead investigator in 2013, and chief investigator in 2018.

## Beaufort County

● The Beaufort History Museum, in partnership with the Beaufort County Library, presented a lecture on September 11 on the Yamasee Indians and Altamaha Town by noted authority and archaeologist, **Dr. Eric Poplin**. Poplin discussed the history of the tribe and life in the village during his presentation. The lecture was held at the Beaufort Branch Library, located at 311 Scott St. in Beaufort.

The Yamasee Indians, a multi-ethnic conglomeration of Native Americans, lived

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

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

## 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.



along the lower coastal plain of South Carolina between 1683 and 1715. Altamaha Town, the capital of their settlements, was occupied as early as 1685 until it was abandoned during the Yamasee War. More than 60,000 artifacts were recovered from the site.

Poplin, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Calgary, is Senior Archaeologist/Vice President with Brockington and Associates, a large southeastern U.S. Cultural Resources Management firm with offices in Atlanta and Savannah, Ga. and Charleston.

at the W. Gresham Meggett School (currently the Septima P. Clark Corporate Academy), located at 1929 Grimball Road, Charleston. Funding for the project is provided by an African American Civil Rights Grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. Members of the community and former students and staff were invited to attend the meeting to learn more about the project, get information about how they can participate and speak directly with the consultant who will work on the project.

This oral history project, A Journey to Equal Education: Stories from Historic African-American Communities, will share the experiences of students on the cusp of desegregation of public schools in the 1950s and 1960s. New South Associates, LLC has been awarded a contract to carry out the project, which will include interviewing alumni from W. Gresham Meggett School, a South Carolina Equalization school that was recently listed on the National Register of Historic

(Continued on next page)

## Charleston County

● College of Charleston Alumna **Jennifer J. Miller** became Charleston County's first female administrator in June 2017 following the retirement of County Administrator **Keith Bustraen**. Miller was hired full time by Charleston County in 1986 as a compensation analyst, and began serving as deputy county administrator of human services in 2007. Miller graduated from the College of Charleston in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

● Charleston County Auditor **Peter Tecklenburg** and Treasurer **Mary Tinkler** recently joined other leaders selected from across the Lowcountry and surrounding area to participate in the Riley Institute at Furman's 13th class of Diversity Leaders Initiative (DLI). The fall session began on August 29. DLI class members are identified through a rigorous process including nominations from existing Riley Fellows, application and interview.

Individuals are selected to join the class based on their capacity to impact their organizations and communities. Over the course of five months, Tinkler and Tecklenburg will participate in a highly interactive curriculum consisting of case studies, scenario analyses and other experiential learning tools that maximize interaction and discussion among classmates and facilitate productive relationships.

DLI graduates become Riley Fellows, members of a powerful, cross-sector, statewide leadership network that includes CEOs of corporations, mayors, city and county council members, legislators, school superintendents, pastors and rabbis, non-profit heads, chamber of commerce directors, and community leaders. In addition to the Lowcountry, DLI classes are selected annually in the Upstate and Midlands.

● Charleston County Zoning and Planning Department recently began a new project recording the oral histories of students that attended W. Gresham Meggett School. A community meeting was held on September 13



## Webinars for 2019

**January 15**

**Legal & Ethical Considerations for Managing Public Meetings**  
(Part 2 of a 2-part series)

**March 25**

**SCAC Awards Program: What Sets Winners Apart**

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

## SCAC's 2018-19 Conference Calendar

**Jan. 30 - 31**

**S.C. Insurance Trusts' Membership Meeting**  
*Marriott Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach*

**Feb. 20  
Feb. 21**

**Mid-Year Conference**  
**Institute of Government**  
*Embassy Suites, Columbia*

**Aug. 3 - 4  
Aug. 4 - 7**

**Institute of Government**  
**Annual Conference**  
*Hilton Head Marriott*

**Aug. (Dates TBD)**

**SetOff Debt/GEAR**  
*TBD*

**Oct. 23  
Oct. 24**

**Institute of Government**  
**County Council Coalition**  
*Embassy Suites, Columbia*

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



## NACo's 2019 Conference Calendar

**March 2 - 6**

**Legislative Conference**  
*Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.*

**July 11 - 15**

**Annual Conference**  
*Las Vegas, Nev.*

Places. The grant work will begin immediately and will conclude in April 2020. For project updates: <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/zoning-planning/projects-npscrg.php>.

South Carolina lawmakers passed a general sales tax in 1951 to fund a statewide school construction program. The intent of the program was to demonstrate schools were “separate but equal” by constructing new African American elementary and high schools across the state.

#### Dorchester County

● Dorchester County Council Member **Willie Davis** died on July 26. While serving on county council, he served as council vice chairman, and with the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency, Dorchester Seniors Inc., St. George NAACP, The Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Rural Transportation Management Association and the Rosenwald School Board of Directors.

● Dorchester County Economic Development hosted the inaugural class of STEMersion June 11-15. During the week-long course teachers from both Dorchester School Districts Two and Four spent a week

learning about local, regional and state economic development efforts and got an in-depth look at local industries. The educators then created lesson plans designed to help students develop skills to enter the local workforce.

● On July 22, Dorchester County substantially completed the Orangeburg Road Roundabout. The Orangeburg Road Roundabout Project was identified and planned by Dorchester County to reduce travel delays and improve safety at the intersection of Orangeburg Road and West Butternut Road. Prior to the roundabout, the intersection experienced congestion and delays during periods of high traffic volumes, such as weekday morning and afternoons. Traffic backed up during these peak periods, forming queues of vehicles waiting to cross the intersection. The intersection also had a history of vehicular crashes occurring.

● Dorchester County Parks and Recreation Director **Eric Davis** completed the Basic Public Information Officer Course on Friday, July 27 in Columbia, SC.

● In August 2018, 45 Dorchester County residents graduated from the Lean Manufacturing Program. Dorchester County implemented the program in support of

existing industries to fill the labor pipeline with qualified applicants who lack manufacturing experience. The certificate serves as the equivalent of one year of manufacturing experience, an additional 55 Dorchester County resident are currently enrolled in the program.

● Keep Dorchester County Beautiful unveiled a new logo on August 20.

● **Brad Mitchell** joined the Dorchester County Team as the Deputy County Attorney on Monday, August 27. Prior to joining the county, Mitchell practiced with Hinchey, Murray & Pagliarini, LLC and served as an Assistant County Attorney for Charleston County for seven years.

#### Georgetown County

● Georgetown County Sheriff **Lane Cribb** accepted his agency's third Certificate of Accreditation from the S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association in Columbia on June 15.

During the accreditation process, all areas of the sheriff's office were inspected to determine if the policies, standards and performances were in line with recognized best practices. The final step was an inspection



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where S.C. Law Enforcement Accreditation Inc. assessors visited the sheriff's office to see the operations firsthand and solicit public input on the agency's performance. The Georgetown County Sheriff's Office is one of 19 law enforcement agencies in South Carolina to receive state accreditation.

● **Mark Nugent**, a veteran first responder with more than 40 years of experience in the fire service and emergency management, in July became Fire Marshal and Division Chief of Fire and Life Safety for the Midway Fire Rescue department. He replaced Fire Marshal **Todd Blomdahl**, who retired last year after serving the department for more than 20 years.

A resident of Murrells Inlet, Nugent was most recently employed as Public Information and Education Officer for Horry County Fire Rescue. Prior to that, he retired as Battalion Chief for Chesterfield County Fire and EMS in Virginia. During his 40-plus-year career, he has also served in roles including emergency services coordinator, deputy fire marshal and director of community relations.

He received his Master of Public Administration degree, with an emphasis on Emergency Services, from Columbia Southern University. He also received degrees in fire science, EMS management and organizational management and development.

● Georgetown County Parks and Recreation held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new \$5.5 million Andrews Regional Recreation Center on September 4. The building, to be located on Maple Street in Georgetown, is expected to open in the summer of 2019.

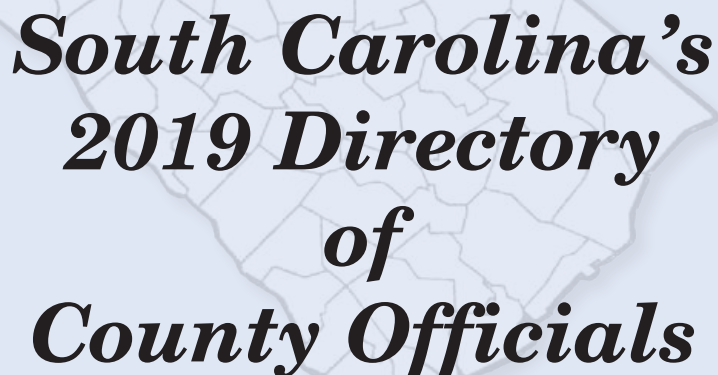
● The county's Public Services Department recognized several outstanding county employees in August.

**James Dorsey**, a supervisor with Public Services Department, received one of the department's highest honors—the annual Leadership Award—for his hard work and dedication. Dorsey, who has worked for the department for four years, supervises two crews of full and part-time employees.

**Gina Speight**, who has worked in the Environmental Services Division for two years, received the department's Team Player Award. She interacts with other departments, members of the public, suppliers and customers; shares her knowledge with colleagues by helping to train new members of the team; and helps cover colleagues in other divisions as needed. She also plans and implements projects and events for the entire Public Services Department.

**Alex Litz**, who joined the department as its staff environmentalist in 2017, provides

*(Continued on next page)*



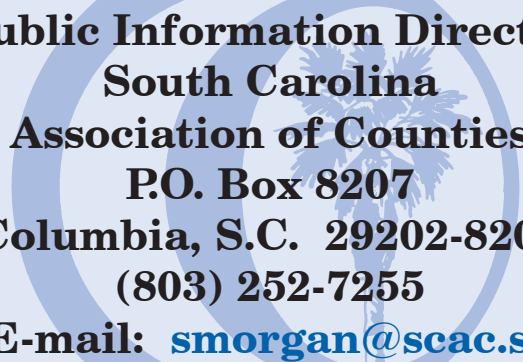
# *South Carolina's 2019 Directory of County Officials*

South Carolina's *2019 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.

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 *2019 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:



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

education and communication on the benefits of recycling. She has also worked to improve public engagement in the solid waste system, has increased programming and educational opportunities through non-traditional programs, and successfully applied for grants to expand the county's recycling clean up.

### Horry County

● In July, **Gina Vasselli** became the new public information and outreach program manager for the Horry County Government Emergency Management Department. Vasselli previously worked as the Digital Content Coordinator for WPDE, on digital marketing campaigns for Fuel Interactive (a division of the Brandon Agency, now known as Fuel Travel), and as a reporter for *The Sun News*.

● Horry County recently posted signs around the county to designate the sites of future RIDE III infrastructure construction projects. The one-cent Capital Project Sales Tax, voted on by Horry County voters by a 69.1 to 30.9 percent margin, will be used to fund these projects. This tax went into effect on May 1, 2017, and Horry County will receive approximately \$592 million over the eight-year life of the tax.

● The Horry County Board of Architectural Review's Legacy Business Recognition Program held a ribbon cutting at the Pine Lakes Country Club on August 22. Horry County Councilman **Bill Howard** presented the award.

Founded as the Ocean Forest Golf

Club in 1927 and located in the heart of Myrtle Beach, this golf club became known as "The Granddaddy." It was renamed Pine Lakes International Country Club under the ownership of **Fredrick Albert Warner Miles** and placed on the National Register of Historic Places November 7, 1996.

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) recently recognized Longs area resident **Stephanie Igo** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for the month of July. She is a regular recycler at the Longs Recycling Center.

● The Horry County SWA recently recognized Conway area residents, husband and wife, **Paul and Joann Leddy** as the "Caught Green Handed" recipients for the month of August.

"The 'Caught Green Handed' recognition is presented monthly to a Horry County resident caught in the act of recycling" stated Esther Murphy, Director of Recycling and Corporate Affairs for the Solid Waste Authority. "It's the Solid Waste Authority's way of recognizing and thanking citizens who have made the effort to recycle. Through their recycling efforts, natural resources are saved and the amount of waste being landfilled is reduced." Mr. and Mrs. Leddy, regular recyclers at the Toddville Recycling Center, were surprised and honored to receive this recognition.

● Horry County Government officials, in partnership with leaders from the City of Myrtle Beach, the City of Conway, Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation and the Myrtle

Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, in July announced the launch of the new Grand Strand Opportunity Zones website at [www.grandstrandopportunityzones.com](http://www.grandstrandopportunityzones.com). The site is designed to promote targeted local communities within Horry County to potential investors and developers. Congress established the Opportunity Zone program nationwide as a part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The primary goal of the program is to encourage long-term private investments in low-income communities, thereby encouraging job creation and economic growth.

● Fifteen individuals graduated on July 13 from recruit training for the Horry County Fire Rescue Class 37. The graduation ceremony was held at the Academy for Technology and Academics in Conway.

### Lancaster County

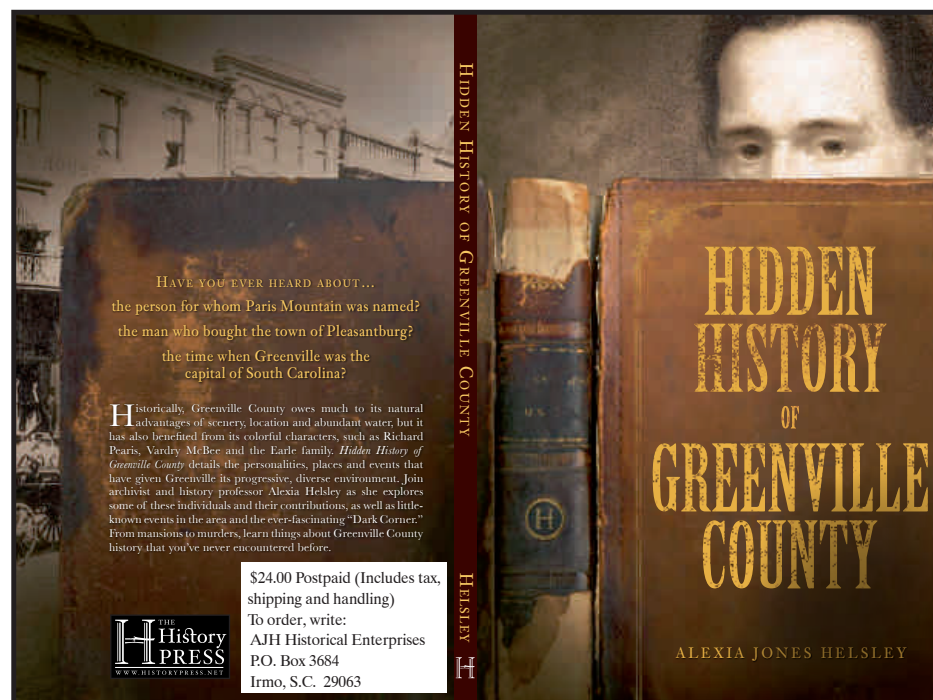
● The S.C. Association of County Veterans Affairs Officers (SCACVAO) in March 2018 presented the Annual County Veterans Affairs Officer of the Year award to **Robin Ghent**. She began working as a claims representative for the Lancaster County Veterans Office in 2007 and was appointed Veterans Affairs Service Officer in 2009. Ghent has served as President of the SCACVAO and in other positions within the association. She has also worked hard to make the Lancaster Veterans Affairs office one of the best in the state. In July, Lancaster County opened a new office in Indian Land to serve the population of Lancaster County.

● Lancaster County hosted a ribbon cutting on June 15 to celebrate the opening of Lancaster County's new Service Center in Indian Land, located off of Hwy 521. The service center, which opened on June 18, provides residents in the north end of Lancaster County the convenience to conduct business with certain departments such as the Auditor, Treasurer, and Veterans Affairs offices.

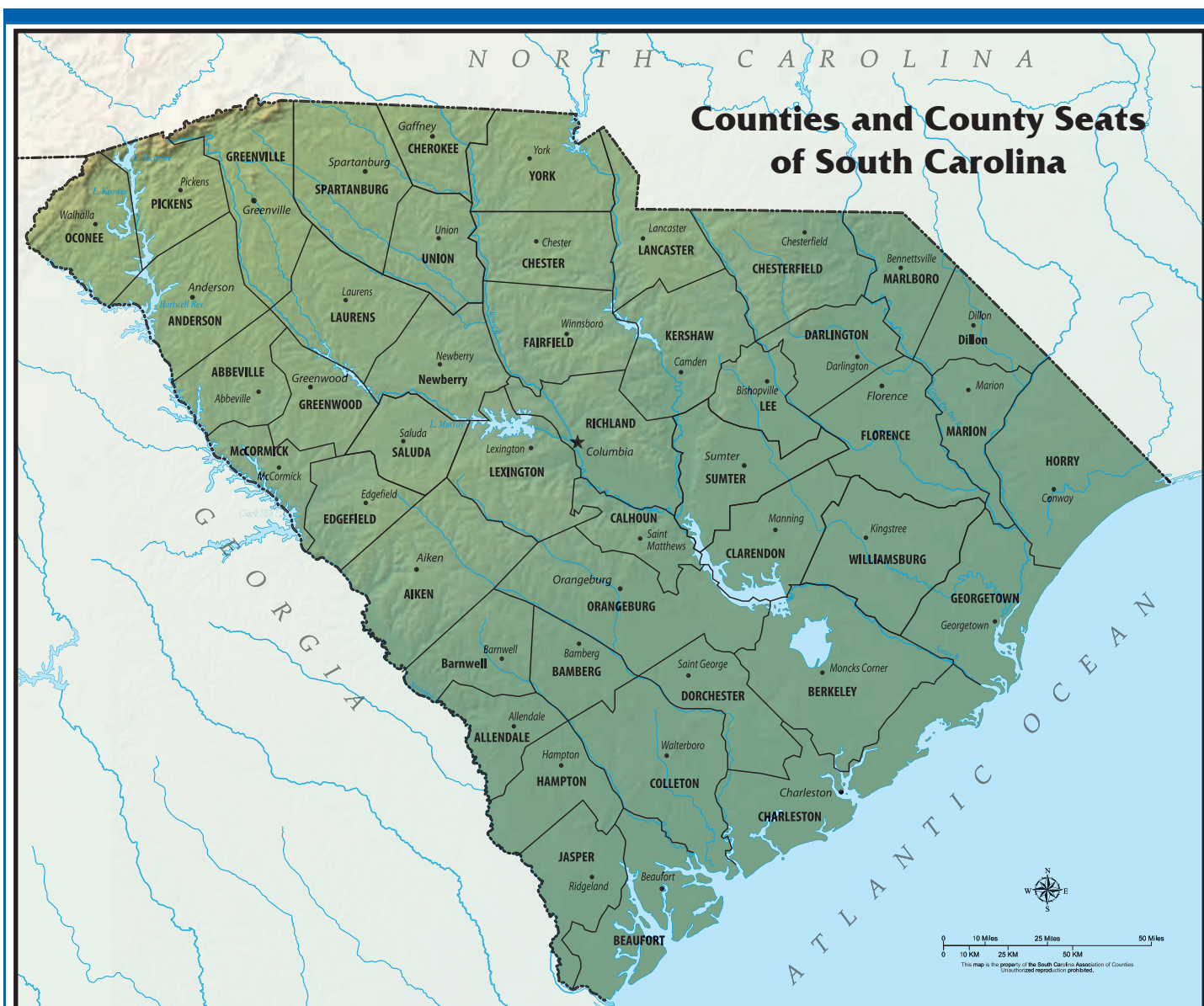
### Richland County

● A series of events to transform Richland County neighborhoods will kick off this fall with several programs and projects, including an outdoor dinner to bring together 100 residents for a community conversation. Under the theme "Connections Make Community," the events spearheaded by the County's Planning Services Division are part of Engage Richland, the county's year-round program that encourages residents to learn more about their local government.

The Connections Make Community







events are designed to connect county residents to their surrounding neighborhoods, neighborhoods to the larger community and the community to local government resources. The events range from service projects and block parties to informative workshops about the county budget and grant opportunities. The programs began in October with a neighborhood toolkit series that guides neighborhood leaders through the process of creating bylaws, a vision, mission, goals and objectives for their communities. All of the events are free but some require registration. For more information, visit the Richland County web page at [richlandcountysc.gov](http://richlandcountysc.gov) and click the featured article, or go directly to [richlandcountysc.gov/residents/engagerichland](http://richlandcountysc.gov/residents/engagerichland).

● Capgemini, one of the world's largest technology services companies, announced

in August that it is expanding operations in Richland County, creating at least 200 jobs. Capgemini is a business consulting and information technology (IT) corporation, headquartered in Paris, France, with 200,000 employees in more than 40 countries.

The company acquired Columbia-based insurance and IT services from TCube Solutions, Inc., in February 2017 and opened a new office in the First Base Building at Spirit Communications Park in December. With this latest investment, Capgemini will expand its footprint in the First Base Building. The 50-year-old company specializes in business and technology consulting, digital transformation and service integration. It provides IT services for clients in various fields of business including automotive, insurance, banking, electronics, health care and natural resources. Hiring for new

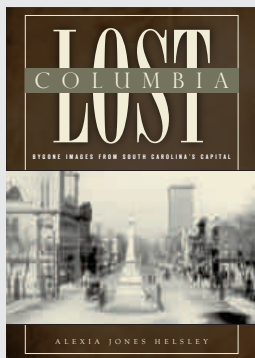
positions is underway, and those interested in joining Capgemini can view job listings and apply online at [www.capgemini.com/us-en/careers/columbia](http://www.capgemini.com/us-en/careers/columbia).

● Richland County announced in August that is providing free emergency preparedness brochures and accompanying display holders to businesses, community groups, civic organizations and houses of worship to distribute life-saving information to residents at places they regularly frequent. The "Be Emergency Ready" campaign is part of the county's continuing efforts to recover from the historic October 2015 flood. The campaign aims to ensure residents, especially those lacking daily access to computers, smart phones or other mobile devices, have information readily available to plan for a disaster. The free "Be Emergency Ready" *(Continued on next page)*

brochure has information on developing a personalized disaster plan, a list of items to include in an emergency kit and numbers to call for assistance.

***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.

● Moody's Investor's Service and S&P Global Ratings ("S&P") assigned their respective highest ratings in July to Richland County's financial outlook. The rating agencies announced the ratings on the \$7.9 million General Obligation Bonds Series 2018A (the "2018A Bonds") for a project to acquire equipment for the Richland County Sheriff's Department. County Council approved the issuance of the Series 2018A Bonds in early July to purchase radio communication equipment and aviation equipment for the department.

Moody's assigned its AAA rating to the County's 2018A Bonds, as well as its currently outstanding general obligation bonds (the "Outstanding GO Bonds"). S&P also assigned its AAA rating to the Series 2018A Bonds and Outstanding GO Bonds. In addition, the rating agencies affirmed their respective MIG1 and SP-1+ short-term ratings on the County's GO Bond Anticipation Notes Series 2018.

● A ceremony was held on July 7 to unveil a marker for the McCord House, a historic home built by slaves from the Lang Syne Plantation in 1849. During the Civil War, the home was the headquarters of Gen. O.O. Howard, second in command to Gen. William T. Sherman, who later headed the Freedman's Bureau for emancipated slaves. The McCord House is currently owned by South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster.

Members of the United family, descendants of the enslaved people who built the home, will be celebrating their biennial reunion when the marker is installed to help recognize the significant roles of enslaved Africans Americans in South Carolina. The marker is funded by Richland County Conservation Commission as part of its effort to promote and protect Richland County's historical legacy. The family will unveil two more markers at Calhoun County sites.

**York County**

● RoundPoint Mortgage Servicing Corporation, a mortgage-servicing company that delivers innovative solutions for managing residential mortgages, announced on May 22 that its new corporate headquarters will be located in York County. The company's \$34 million investment is projected to create 1,100 new jobs.

● Meritor, a global supplier of drivetrain, mobility, braking and aftermarket solutions for commercial vehicle markets, is expanding its existing operations in York County. The \$7.8 million investment is projected to create 26 new jobs. Located at 801 Railroad Ave. in York, Meritor will be launching a new air disc brake caliper assembly line and a housing assembly line to support its growing air disc brake business.



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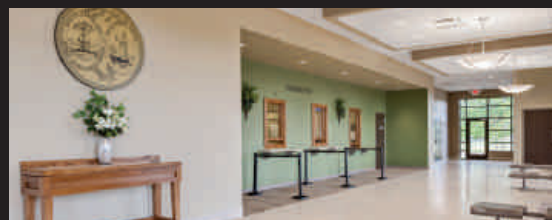




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