



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 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. I hope you will take time 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Buddy Livingston".

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

SCAC 2017-18 Officers



PRESIDENT

Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County Council Chairman



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Charles T. Jennings
McCormick County Council Chairman



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Dwight L. Stewart Jr.
Clarendon County Council Chairman



THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Franklin Fulmore Sr.
Williamsburg County Council



ACTING SECRETARY

Steve Willis
Lancaster County Administrator



TREASURER

Belinda D. Copeland
Darlington County



PAST PRESIDENT

Julie J. Armstrong
Charleston County Clerk of Court

SCAC Board of Directors

TERMS EXPIRE 2021

Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court
L. Gregory Pearce Jr., Richland County Council
R. Archie Scott, Dillon County Council
D. Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Chairman
Johnnie Wright Sr., Orangeburg County Council Chairman

TERMS EXPIRE 2020

John Q. Atkinson Jr., Marion County Council
Alphonso Bradley, Florence County Council
Gonza L. Bryant, Greenwood County Council
J. Clay Killian, Aiken County Administrator
Debra B. Summers, Lexington County Council Chairman

TERMS EXPIRE 2019

Diane B. Anderson, Laurens County Council
J. Frank Hart, Union County Supervisor/Chairman
Henry E. "Sel" Hemingway Jr., Georgetown County Administrator
William W. Peagler III, Berkeley County Supervisor/Chairman
Lois H. Roddey, Chester County Probate Judge

TERMS EXPIRE 2018

Joseph R. Branham, Chester County Council Vice Chairman
Paul A. Cain, Oconee County Council
Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council
Charles T. Edens, Sumter County Council
W.B. Wilson, Williamsburg County Council

NACO BOARD MEMBER

Waymon Mumford, Florence County Council

S.C. COUNTIES WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND PROPERTY & LIABILITY TRUSTS CHAIRMAN

David K. Summers Jr., Calhoun County Council Chairman

SCAC 2018 President's Report

HENRY H. LIVINGSTON III, PRESIDENT

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.

SCAC increases counties' effectiveness and strengthens the partnership between federal, state, regional, and local governments. In addition to achieving specific legislative goals, the Association works to safeguard Home Rule. As a legal advocate, SCAC conducts research, provides sound advice, and appears as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) in cases with statewide impact.

The Association helps local leaders solve common problems by sharing resources and ideas. SCAC's educational programs foster close connections between newcomers and seasoned county leaders by equipping

them with a fundamental understanding of local government and sharpening the skills they need to make sound, ethical decisions.

SCAC helps county officials address the daily needs of their communities by providing research, technical assistance, and publications. The Association also offers affordable solutions to address workers' compensation and property and liability insurance, risk management, and debt collection.

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, which covers the period from August 2017 to August 2018, to learn more about the Association's programs and progress.

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 on-line *Friday Report* viewed more than 4,000 times



Since 1992, SCAC has returned over one 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 is recognized for a NACo Achievement Award

Advocates for County Government



Legislative Advocacy

The foremost reason for starting the Association in 1967 was to provide legislative advocacy and statewide representation for counties. County officials recognized that having a unified voice to express their positions to the S.C. General Assembly led to better results. The Association achieved its first major legislative victories in the passage of the local government constitutional amendment in 1972 and the Home Rule Act in 1975.

In its formative years, the board of directors was the Legislative Committee. The committee met once annually to review pre-filed legislation. After subcommittees met, the full committee would convene to discuss and develop its positions on legislation for the year—all in one day.

Today, the development of policy positions spans five months and involves significantly more participation by county officials. The Legislative Committee now has 75 members: each county council chairman or designee (46), and SCAC's board of directors (29). Additional members with expertise in various policy areas are appointed by SCAC's president to serve on one of four steering committees (County Government and Intergovernmental Relations; Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation; Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial; and Revenue, Finance and Economic Development).

The Legislative Committee begins its work in July, seeking input from more than 1,200 county officials and employees. This input includes suggestions particular to a specific county department or service, broad policy recommendations concerning county government, and

ideas provided by outside groups that affect county government. These suggestions are assigned to the appropriate steering committees for work sessions in September and November.

In October, the County Council Coalition provides input for draft policy positions to the steering committees. After further review and study in November, the steering committees develop initial policy positions for consideration by SCAC's Legislative Committee in December.

In December 2017, SCAC's Legislative Committee adopted 87 policy positions to set the course for the 2018 Legislative Program. These positions were published in *Policy Positions for the 2018 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly*. Once policy positions are adopted, it is the responsibility of the membership and SCAC staff to advocate for their implementation. The success or failure of policy positions is largely dependent upon participation from county officials.

The Association provides resources to involve county officials in the legislative process and keep them informed of the S.C. General Assembly's actions. The *Friday Report* is prepared and distributed weekly during the legislative session to ensure county officials are aware of all legislation that affects their operations, whether or not the legislation involves an official SCAC policy position.

SCAC staff members attend numerous legislative subcommittee and committee meetings so they can monitor and report what happens. The actions of the House and Senate are monitored each day the S.C. General Assembly is in session. This includes reviewing each bill or amendment introduced in either chamber, and requesting input from county officials who, based on their respective areas of expertise, are assigned to tracking groups.

This feedback is crucial to the legislative staff when advocating for or against legislation. When legislative action is occurring too quickly for the *Friday Report*, special *Legislative Alerts* are sent or individual phone calls are made.

SCAC's 2017-18 Legislative Priorities

The 2018 Session of the S.C. General Assembly was a successful one for SCAC, both as it relates to policy positions that were achieved and harmful legislation that was amended or blocked. Being the second year of a two-year session, any legislation that did not pass will have to be reintroduced when the S.C. General Assembly reconvenes in January.

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.

Solid Waste Emergency Fund (Act No. 170). SCAC supports the creation of a Solid Waste Emergency Fund. The Emergency Fund created by this act must be expended to address an imminent and substantial danger to human health and the environment from a solid waste facility. At SCAC's request, the legislation was amended to require an applicant to provide DHEC with documentation of compliance with local ordinances before a permit to construct a new solid waste facility or expand an existing facility may be issued.

SCAC staff regularly provides legislative briefings to a multitude of county official groups. This past year, staff provided legislative updates to 12 county official groups.

All of these steps are taken to support, amplify, and target the voices of county officials so that membership participation in the legislative process is timely and effective.

The success of the legislative program is the result of the relentless efforts of SCAC staff and the work of hundreds of county officials who remain informed and make timely contact with members of the S.C. General Assembly and SCAC staff.

Mental Injuries. SCAC supports efforts to ensure coverage for county employees in need of treatment for mental injuries, but without changing the current requirements for mental-mental claims. Several legislative attempts to reduce the requirements for mental-mental claims were defeated.

Whistleblower Act (H. 3448). SCAC opposes removing the \$2,000 cap on rewards when an employee reports alleged wrongdoing by a public body, and opposes removing the one-year statute of limitation for bringing suit for retaliatory-employment termination. H. 3448 would have removed the \$2,000 cap and one-year statute of limitation, but SCAC fought to ensure the bill did not pass this year.

Animal Shelter Regulations (S. 841). SCAC opposes any requirements to impose state regulations or standards on county animal shelters. SCAC successfully amended S. 841 to ensure the principles of Home Rule were protected by removing language that would require county animal shelters to comply with state regulations. Ultimately, the bill did not pass.

Dealer Tags. SCAC successfully defeated multiple attempts to reduce the amount of vehicles required to be sold by a dealer in order to obtain a dealer license plate.

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.

Piping Procurement (H. 3652). This legislation was successfully defeated. Had it passed, it would have undermined a county's ability to determine which products and piping materials are best suited for water projects.

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.

Building Code Cycles (S. 579). SCAC opposes extending the building code adoption cycle. This bill, which would have extended the cycle from three years to five years, was successfully defeated.

Local Preemption (Act No. 132). SCAC successfully fought to protect Home Rule by removing a provision in the original version of this legislation that would have preempted any local ordinances or zoning regulations that declared an industrial facility a nuisance.

Drone Restrictions (Act No. 184). This legislation restricts drone use over prisons and jails, which will help combat the smuggling of contraband.

Court Reporting (S. 516). This bill, as introduced, would have drastically shortened the time frame for which the clerks of court have to report certain items to the state. SCAC successfully amended the bill so that the impact to counties would be minimal. The bill did not pass this session.

Expungements (Act No. 254). SCAC supports broadening the types of non-violent crimes that are eligible for expungement so that ex-offenders can gain employment. This legislation, among other things, broadens the list of expungable offenses.

A comprehensive overview of the results of the legislative session was prepared and distributed by SCAC. This yearly publication, *Acts that Affect Counties*, gives county officials notice of new or revised laws that impact county government.

Highlights of the 2018 Legislative Session

71 members served on SCAC's 2017 Legislative Committee

17 professional groups represented on steering committees

87 policy positions adopted for the 2018 session

81 county officials served on tracking groups

649 bills were monitored

14 SCAC policy position successes

1,203 county officials received the weekly *Friday Report*

Legal Advocacy

SCAC's legal staff, working through the county attorney, spends hundreds of hours each year providing informal phone 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

This case is pending before the S.C. Court of Appeals and involves the issue of whether 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. The S.C. Circuit Court directed the department to continue releasing the county's quarterly payments, but denied the county's request for a permanent injunction. The S.C. Supreme Court heard oral

arguments in June 2017, and issued an opinion in March 2018. The court sided with the county and ordered the department to continue to release funds as required by statute, but 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. The S.C. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in March of 2018, and an opinion is expected in late 2018.

Montgomery v. Spartanburg County Assessor

This case involves the proper valuation of structures and other real property improvements to land designated as agricultural for property tax purposes. In 2016, the S.C. Court of Appeals sided with the county and held that the state constitution and property tax statutes intended for agricultural land and farm structures to be valued separately. In November 2017, the S.C. Supreme Court refused to hear the case, and thus the S.C. Court of Appeals' decision applies statewide. Real property on land assessed as agricultural use must be valued separately than the land for property tax purposes.

Education and Collaboration

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

“County leaders face great challenges and opportunities. They must be able to make sound, timely decisions about their communities’ futures. The Institute of Government offers a welcoming and engaging environment to reduce the learning curve and ensure that local leaders reach their full potential.”

– Kendra B. Stewart, Ph.D., Professor and Director
Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities
College of Charleston

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.

The primary curriculum includes two levels of certification and also offers advanced courses to permit graduates to enhance their knowledge of timely issues. Requirements for certification are 27 contact hours for Level I and 18 contact hours for Level II.

Four of the Institute of Government’s courses provide continuing education credit for local planning/zoning officials and employees. Institute of Government courses are also a component of the S.C. Clerks to Council Certification Program.

500+

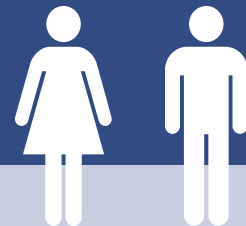
Since 1989, more than 500 county officials and employees have completed the Institute of Government.



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

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

243



230+

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

Training for Council Officers

In February, SCAC offered a workshop for council chairmen and vice chairmen in conjunction with the Institute of Government.

The workshop provided information about the duties, powers, and responsibilities of both leadership positions.

Participants learned strategies for running effective meetings; the importance of rules of procedure; and the value of building effective working relationships with local delegation members, council members and other elected officials, and the county chief administrative officer.

E-learning

SCAC began providing training to county officials and employees via distance education programs in 1996. Today, the Association hosts training via webcasts and webinars.

Each training session is made available via streaming video through SCAC's website or a loaned DVD. The webcasts and webinars are a valuable tool for providing education at no cost to the counties.

SCAC's 2017-18 Continuing Education Programs

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.

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: the Capital Project Sales Tax; the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); rules of procedure; the comprehensive planning process and community input; land use hearings; ethical considerations for board and commission members; and regional programs.

Each year, SCAC hosts the Local Government Attorneys' Institute (the Institute). The Institute provides local and state government attorneys with timely and important legal information.

The 2017 Institute was held December 8 in Columbia and included presentations on: ethical issues from a state and national perspective; case law and legislative updates; employment law; parliamentary procedure; and recent amendments to the FOIA. The 2018 Institute will be held November 16.

Training for Local Planning/Zoning Officials and Employees

Act 39 of 2003 requires appointed officials who serve on a planning commission, board of zoning appeals, or board of architectural review to attend at least six hours of orientation training within the first year of serving.

It also requires three hours of continuing education each year thereafter. The requirements also apply to planning professionals, zoning administrators, zoning officials, and deputies/assistants to these positions.

All of the Association's planning and zoning training programs are approved by the S.C. Planning Education Advisory Committee.

The Association provides orientation training and continuing education that addresses current issues and changes in state law. One course fulfills the annual planning/zoning continuing education requirement. Local planning/zoning officials and employees may also earn continuing education credit for four courses offered by the Institute of Government.

SCAC's planning and zoning orientation training and continuing education courses can be viewed via streaming video or loaned DVDs.

Collaborative Learning

SCAC's annual awards competition provides a unique opportunity for county officials to learn about innovative practices, technology, and trends; to strengthen their professional network; and to share ideas and expertise.

Counties are invited to submit applications for innovative projects completed during the past fiscal year for SCAC's awards competition, held in conjunction with the Annual Conference.

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. First presented in 1973, this

award honors the memory of J. Mitchell Graham, who served as SCAC's president from 1969-70.

The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award highlights the critical need for regional partnerships, strategies, and solutions. The award is named in memory of Barrett S. Lawrimore, who served as SCAC's president in 2004.

The Association hosts an on-line video library of awards competition presentations. SCAC also highlights the projects and summarizes all entries in *County Focus* magazine.

"I think it would be an amazing use of county resources to have a county staff member assigned to attend the [J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Awards] competition each year to accomplish one task: to find something that can be used back home. An afternoon at this competition would be one well spent."

– Dr. Robert H. Becker, Former Head Judge
Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson University

Connecting Counties to Resources & Information

1,400+

Informed 1,400 county officials via *What's New* e-mail messages.

Research staff responded to an average of 50 requests per month for information and resources. Research and technical assistance is often provided by phone or e-mail.

50



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

1,400

Number of views the research webpages received.

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. The research staff stays abreast of topics and data resources to help county and state officials make informed decisions.

On-line Research Resources – SCCounties.org/research

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.

What's New Monthly E-mail

The *What's New* monthly e-mail 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.

Online Discussion Forums



SCAC administers on-line discussion forums for five distinct groups of county officials, allowing them to post questions and share county-related information. The Association hosts listservs for county chief administrative

officers; the S.C. Association of Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors; the S.C. Association of Assessing Officials; county finance officers; and county personnel directors.

State Regulations

Monthly updates are sent to county chief administrative officers regarding state regulations that may affect counties. Notices of proposed, drafted, and finalized regulations are published by state agencies in the State Register.

The research staff ensures that counties are aware of certain regulations as they are proposed and drafted, giving counties an opportunity for input in the development of regulations.

SCAC Performs Original Research

SURVEYS

SCAC's research staff often conducts statewide surveys and gathers information on policies and practices of individual counties. The results help inform county policymakers and practitioners. The information is also used by the Association's legislative staff, state agencies, and the S.C. General Assembly. 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.

SPECIAL RESEARCH 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. These matters often pertain to legislation being considered by the S.C. General Assembly. In the past year, the research staff has provided in-depth research on FOI requests and capital project sales tax county projects.

PROPERTY TAX REPORT

SCAC publishes *Property Tax Rates by County* annually. This report is the most comprehensive, up-to-date listing

of county property tax millage rates. *Property Tax Rates by County* is the primary source of statewide county property taxes and, as such, is widely used by local and state officials, the legislature, developers, and the public.

WAGE AND SALARY REPORT

The *Wage and Salary Report* is published biennially and contains the results of SCAC's survey of 200+ county government positions. In addition to detailed salary data by county and position, the report includes information on annual and sick leave benefits, holidays, budgets, payrolls, employee totals, and classification systems. An enhanced survey system was implemented for the FY2018 survey, and a new on-line searchable database is currently being developed.

COUNTY PROFILES

The biennial *County Profiles* consists of county statistical information gathered from a variety of state and federal sources. Each county is represented by a one-page profile containing a brief county history, recent population trends, economic data, tax data, and county financial and employment data.

Publications and Public Information

SCAC publishes three award-winning publications—*Carolina Counties* newsletter, *County Focus* magazine, and South Carolina's



annual *Directory of County Officials*. All are available via SCCounties.org.

Carolina Counties newsletter, the Association's oldest publication, is published five times per year. The newsletter has a circulation of more than

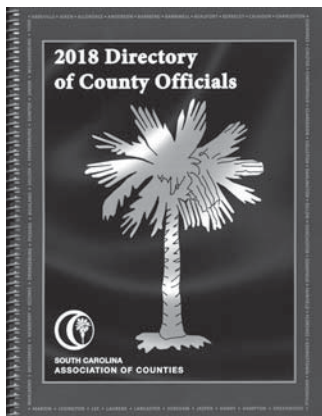
1,000, and is distributed to South Carolina county officials, regional councils of governments (COGs), and SCAC's corporate supporters.

Carolina Counties informs local leaders of important issues affecting county government and announces upcoming events. It has received 15 awards from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO), and 22 awards from the S.C. Society of Association Executives (SCSAE) and the S.C. Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC/SC).

These three publications have won 94 national awards and 38 state awards since 1991.

County Focus magazine, a quarterly publication first published in 1991, focuses on legislative issues and successful county programs and projects. It has a circulation of 1,300 and is distributed to county officials, COGs, members of the S.C. General Assembly, other state officials, and SCAC's corporate supporters.

A U.S. Senator or Representative usually writes the lead article for the spring, summer, and winter issues, and the magazine's fall issue always focuses on SCAC's Annual Conference. The magazine publishes local news submitted by counties, and calendars for SCAC webinars, Institute of Government classes, and conferences. It also publishes a calendar for National Association of Counties (NACo) conferences. The magazine has won 78 awards from NACIO and 11 awards from SCSAE and IABC/SC.



SCAC has published South Carolina's annual *Directory of County Officials* since 1973. The directory provides addresses and phone numbers for elected and appointed county officials, COGs, members of the S.C. General Assembly, and other state and federal officials. The publication also identifies SCAC's officers, board

of directors and past presidents, and SCAC's corporate supporters. Copies are distributed to all officials and organizations listed in the directory, and to all state associations representing counties, boroughs, and parishes nationwide. The directory has won seven awards from SCSAE.

Additional Publications

The Association's goal is to share commonly used resources with county officials as a starting point for their research to address local issues.

This year, SCAC published two important publications after major revisions. The *Freedom of Information Handbook for County Government* was rewritten to reflect the 2017 act, which revised many provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). A panel of practitioners from numerous local and state governmental entities provided invaluable insight and feedback for this publication.

The Association also published the *Guide to Land Use Planning for South Carolina*. SCAC staff received extensive input from a large group of county land use planning officials and county attorneys. This publication introduces the law authorizing land use planning, the land use process, the required studies and documents, and the various entities that must be created when a county engages in the various forms of land use planning.

This practical guide includes model ordinances, rules of procedure, and other items policymakers need to consider when adopting land use planning. It also includes information on the FOIA, the Public Records Act, and continuing education requirements for planning and zoning officials and employees. Rules of procedure, forms for numerous actions, a notice of disqualification under the state ethics act, and checklists for appellate bodies considering an appeal are also included.

SCAC 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.

Career Center

The Association's on-line 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.

SCAC Scholarship Program

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.

Each year, SCAC awards a Presidential Scholarship to a graduating high school senior who resides in the same county as the Association's current president.

This year, the Association also awarded four Board of Directors Scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. Abbeville, Charleston, Greenwood, and Jasper counties were selected for these awards.



Financial Service Programs

Self-Funded Insurance Programs

The Association sponsors two self-insurance pools, open to member counties and to agencies with county government-related functions. Both the workers' compensation and the property & liability trusts are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the SCAC Board of Directors. All trustees are either county council members or chief administrative officers. The trusts employ independent auditors and

actuaries to ensure the pools are financially strong. The key to the success of both programs is the adoption and enforcement of strong risk management programs by participating member counties.

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) was formed in 1984 by the SCAC Board of Directors in response to a crisis in the commercial insurance market. The trust currently has 79 members,

including 41 counties. Claims administration is provided under contract by Ariel TPA, a third-party administrator. General administration and risk management are handled in-house by SCAC insurance staff.

The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust

The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust was formed in 1995, in response to rapidly rising liability insurance premiums. The trust has 27 members, including 16 counties. Claims administration as well as general administration and risk management are handled in-house by SCAC insurance staff.

Trust Management

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. SCAC staff provides claims management services and the flexibility of in-house underwriting. The insurance staff understands the risks faced by counties as evidenced by its customized risk management solutions.

“Kershaw County takes advantage of the SCAC’s insurance programs. I would recommend these programs to any county that has an insurance need. The staff is a pleasure to work with, and they always provide a timely response.”

– Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County Administrator

Boards of Trustees

S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation and Property & Liability Trusts



CHAIRMAN

David K. Summers Jr.
Calhoun County Council Chairman



VICE CHAIRMAN

Waymon Mumford
Florence County Council



Gonza L. Bryant
Greenwood County Council



Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County Council Chairman



Gary Mixon
Sumter County Administrator



Debra B. Summers
Lexington County Council Chairman



Steve Willis
Lancaster County Administrator



SECRETARY/TREASURER

Michael B. Cone
SCAC Executive Director

Injury Free Program (Fit Responder)

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust is very pleased to announce the 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

The boards of trustees have always placed great importance on the application of sound risk management techniques to control the risks members of the trusts incur in the course of county government operations. In 2000, SCAC offered the first Certified County Risk Manager (CCRM) training program to educate county employees in the concepts of risk management so they could lead risk management efforts in their counties.

Over the past 18 years, hundreds of county personnel have been trained in the concepts of risk management and have worked very effectively with SCAC insurance staff to reduce risks and lower costs. The current risk management training program, Risk Management Principles, evolved from the CCRM program and was held in Barnwell, Clarendon, and Orangeburg counties over the past year.

Insurance staff serves members by providing a variety of risk management services including on-site training and surveys. Loss exposures from law enforcement operations continue to be the highest cost driver for both insurance trusts. Law enforcement generates more workers' compensation claims than any other county department, and sheriffs' departments generate far more liability claims

than any other department. These examples are the reason the insurance trusts employ a full-time risk manager who is dedicated to reducing the frequency and severity of law enforcement claims.

Because motor vehicle accidents far outweigh all other types of law enforcement claims, SCAC insurance staff consistently reminds members that focusing on motor vehicle accidents has the potential to reduce three types of claims—auto liability, auto physical damage, and workers' compensation claims. To address the frequency of motor vehicle accidents, SCAC provides Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator - Police (CEVO) defensive-driving classes.

The trusts fund on-line 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.

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 on-site detention center inspections and staffing studies.

Over 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

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.

For non-law enforcement employees, a robust emphasis on defensive-driver training continues.

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.

A one-day continuing education seminar is held annually for risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators. More than 120 risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators attended the 2017 seminar.

The Insurance Trusts' Membership Meeting is held annually in January. The 137 county officials in attendance this year heard from speakers on a variety of risk management topics. The purpose of this meeting is to educate and engage risk managers, county chief administrative officers, and county council in the shared challenge of building and maintaining an effective risk management program, which protects the county's assets and maximizes safety and security for employees and residents.

“The SCCWCT has been our workers’ compensation insurance provider for the past 34 years. You don’t keep that sort of longevity without a real commitment to us. SCAC’s insurance staff has always provided excellent customer service from providing sound risk management advice, to fair and extremely fast claim settlements, professional representation when needed, and quick response to any questions or problems which need solving. SCAC’s insurance staff is reputable and professional, which serves my county and me well.”

– Angela Pinson, Director of Safety & Risk Management
Berkeley County Government

Safety Is a Team Sport

Safety is a culture that starts at the top. The insurance trusts appreciate the membership’s commitment to their entity’s risk management programs. Robust participation indicates responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

County officials and employees are encouraged to contact SCAC’s Insurance and Risk Management department to see how staff can assist the county with achieving safety goals that are mutually beneficial for employees and taxpayers.

Setoff Debt

SCAC assists county entities in two debt collection programs administered by the S.C. Department of Revenue (SCDOR): the Setoff Debt Collection Program and the Government Enterprise Accounts Receivable Program (GEAR). These programs help county entities recover unpaid liabilities which would likely otherwise go uncollected.

Owed funds are collected by redirecting an individual debtor’s state income tax refund to a county entity as payment for the previously uncollected debt. The GEAR program allows SCDOR to use additional methods, such as payment plans and wage garnishments, to collect the unpaid debt.

SCAC’s debt collection programs have proven very successful in returning monies for county operations such as emergency medical services, court fines and fees, delinquent taxes, hospitals, alcohol and drug treatment centers, business license fees, water and sewer services, and

housing services. The collections for counties have grown significantly from \$29 million in 2002 to over \$100 million in 2017. The number of participating entities has increased from 81 in 2002 to 297 in 2017. Since the association’s debt collection programs began in 1992, SCAC has returned over one billion dollars to program participants.

SCAC provides numerous services to assist program participants, including free software to help counties manage their data; data searches for potential errors; and error reports and verification totals for all submitted data files. SCAC provides current addresses from state income tax returns to counties, and sends all data electronically using stringent security controls. Finally, participants may choose to receive funds via electronic transfer, allowing counties to receive funds more quickly.

Additional information on the debt collection programs can be found on www.SCCounties.org.

The S.C. Counties OPEB Trust

Counties are finding it more and more difficult to fund their other postemployment 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.



Cooperative Service Programs

PROPERTY TAX AUDIT PROGRAM

SCAC participates with Tax Management Associates, Inc. (TMA) to provide property tax audit and discovery services for county business personal property and residential property tax programs. TMA works with state and local governments to ensure proper taxpayer compliance. TMA has provided services to 14 South Carolina counties, and is actively meeting with other county tax officials to develop specific audit programs to address particular county needs. Several counties have successfully identified property tax revenue that had not been collected in the past due to improper claims for residential property exemption, undervalued claims of business personal property, or businesses not paying property taxes at all.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT – GOVDEALS

GovDeals has provided South Carolina counties an internet auction program for surplus equipment through GovDeals.com for nearly 20 years. GovDeals provides an electronic platform for counties to sell non-essential equipment, vehicles, and other surplus assets via national on-line auctions. The primary benefits to counties using GovDeals are increased revenue, and reduced asset depreciation and storage costs.

GovDeals is working with 41 counties and 100 other agencies in the state. This past year, 26 counties netted more than \$3 million in revenue, including one county that received nearly \$700,000. Since the program's inception, counties have generated \$40 million in revenue.

FSI OFFICE SUPPLIES PURCHASING PROGRAM

SCAC sponsors a new discount purchasing program for routine office supplies and forms. This program was created by SCAC in cooperation with Forms and Supply, Inc. (FSI), and offers substantial discounts on office supplies.

U.S. COMMUNITIES GOVERNMENT PURCHASING ALLIANCE

SCAC and the National Association of Counties (NACo) are sponsors of U.S. Communities, the leading national government purchasing cooperative. U.S. Communities provides counties with access to a broad line of competitively solicited contracts with national suppliers that have committed to providing their best overall public agency pricing.

NACO PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

The NACo Prescription Discount Program offers significant savings for uninsured and underinsured county residents. The program is available without charge to NACo member counties and their residents. The cards are accepted by more than 57,000 pharmacies nationwide, and provide savings of up to 35 percent at local pharmacies, and up to 50 percent for mail-order purchases. Citizens do not have to complete enrollment forms, and cards can be distributed with a brochure and used immediately by those who need them.

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 building knowledge and competency for county officials and employees. SCAC will provide research and educational tools related to emerging issues, and will enhance 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.

SCAC Staff

Michael B. Cone
Executive Director
scac@scac.sc



Robert E. Lyon Jr.
Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel
blyon@scac.sc

Timothy C. Winslow
Deputy General Counsel
twinslow@scac.sc



Joshua C. Rhodes
Assistant General Counsel
jrhodes@scac.sc

Tish F. Anderson
Deputy Director of Administrative Services
tanderson@scac.sc



Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS
Risk Manager
rbenfield@scac.sc

Anna B. Berger
Director of Research and Training
aberger@scac.sc



Sharon D. Berkowitz
Special Program Assistant Coordinator
sberkowitz@scac.sc

Pam S. Collins, ARM
Program Coordinator, SCCWCT and SCCP<
pcollins@scac.sc



Robert C. Collins, CPCU, CIC
Director of Insurance Services
rcollins@scac.sc

H. Warren Counts Jr., CPA
Controller
wcounts@scac.sc



Robert S. Croom
Of Counsel
rcroom@scac.sc

Caroline Deevey, CIC, AAI, CISR, CRIS, INS
Insurance Trusts' Assistant Coordinator
cdeevey@scac.sc



John K. DeLoache
Senior Staff Attorney
jdeloache@scac.sc

S. Ruthie Duvall
Special Program Coordinator
rduvall@scac.sc



Jennifer M. Haworth
Member Services Coordinator
jhaworth@scac.sc

John D. Henderson, ARM, ALCM
Director of Risk Management Services
jhenderson@scac.sc



Dana T. Homesley
Administrative Assistant
dtomlinson@scac.sc

John V. Jervey, AIC
Property & Liability Claims Manager
jjerverey@scac.sc



Lang C. Kelly, ARM, AIC
Workers' Compensation Claims Manager
lkelly@scac.sc

Pearlena A. Khalif-Govan
Administrative Assistant
pkhalif@scac.sc



James F. Knox
Staff Attorney
jknox@scac.sc

M. Kent Lesesne
Senior Staff Attorney
klesesne@scac.sc



Robert J. Lyon, CPM, CPPB
IT/Procurement Director
rlyon@scac.sc

Owen A. McBride
Staff Attorney
omcbride@scac.sc



W. Stuart Morgan III
Public Information Director
smorgan@scac.sc

Nilda A. Padgett
Director of Administrative Services
npadgett@scac.sc



Alexander W. Smith
Staff Attorney
asmith@scac.sc

Ryan C. Tooley
Special Projects Coordinator
rtooley@scac.sc



Susan B. Turkopuls
Senior Research Associate
sturkopuls@scac.sc

Rick K. Ucinski
Field Representative
rucinski@scac.sc



Mary E. Williams
Administrative Assistant
mwilliams@scac.sc

SCAC Past Presidents

1970s

John L. Greer, Union County
J. Hugh McCutchen, Williamsburg County
James O. Thomason, Spartanburg County
Arthur H. Burton, Charleston County
Jack Q. Gerrald, Horry County
Harold L. King, Darlington County
E.E. Johnson, Hampton County
Berry L. Mobley, Lancaster County
Marjorie H. Sharpe, Lexington County

1990s

Kenneth R. Huckaby, Spartanburg County
James R. McGee, Orangeburg County
Belle J. Kennette, Greenwood County
William L. McBride, Beaufort County
Raymond C. Eubanks Jr., Spartanburg County
George E. Bomar, Greenville County
Betty T. Roper, Clarendon County
Alzena Robinson, Bamberg County
Robert R. Nash Sr., Ph.D., Pickens County
Polly C. Jackson, Lancaster County

2010 to Present

Diane B. Anderson, Laurens County
R. Carlisle Roddey, Chester County
Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County
Charles T. Edens, Sumter County
Joseph R. Branham, Chester County
James R. Frazier, Horry County
John Q. Atkinson Jr., Marion County
Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County

1980s

Howard A. Taylor, Charleston County
Alfred B. Schooler, Georgetown County
Lonnie Hamilton III, Charleston County
James P. Whitlock, Pickens County
Charlie I. Crews, Hampton County
Sue H. Roe, Aiken County
O.V. Player Jr., Sumter County
Danny E. Allen, Spartanburg County
David K. Summers Jr., Calhoun County
Lowell C. "Butch" Spires, Lexington County

2000-09

James H. Rozier, Jr., Berkeley County
Steve S. Kelly Jr., Kershaw County
James A. Coleman, Laurens County
Gonza L. Bryant, Greenwood County
Barrett S. Lawrimore, Charleston County
Waymon Mumford, Florence County
Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County
K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr., Florence County
L. Gregory Pearce Jr., Richland County



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**

**1919 Thurmond Mall
PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202
Phone: (803) 252-7255
In-state: (800) 922-6081
Fax: (803) 252-0379
scac@scac.sc
www.SCCounties.org**