



2021 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LOCAL LEADERS. STATEWIDE STRENGTH.®



**Pictured on cover: (top) Orangeburg County's Veterans Plaza;
(middle) Orangeburg County's North Branch Library;
(bottom) Orangeburg County's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza**



SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

JOHNNIE WRIGHT SR., PRESIDENT

A Letter from the President

Dear County Officials,

I am honored to share this year's *President's Report* highlighting the Association's stellar programs and services and exceptional accomplishments during the past year. These achievements would not be possible without the active involvement of our county officials across our state. Your commitment to working with your local delegation members throughout the year, your county's adoption of sound risk management principles, and your participation in SCAC's educational and networking sessions are what make our Association strong and profoundly successful.

As our counties have continued to address challenges associated with the health pandemic for our citizens, businesses, and employees, SCAC has worked diligently to share timely information on the American Rescue Plan Act as it is released, including the U.S. Treasury Department's official guidance.

On a local level, our lobbying team and county officials worked together to achieve full funding to the Local Government Fund—a significant victory for all 46 counties! This truly would not have been possible without the full support of the leadership of the S.C. General Assembly.

As you read this year's report, I encourage you to learn more about SCAC's diverse service package and ways you can access these resources. Our Association stands ready to assist you.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your support this past year. It has truly been a privilege to serve and work side by side with you. Together, we will continue to make great progress for our counties and our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnnie Wright Sr.".

Johnnie Wright Sr., President
South Carolina Association of Counties
Orangeburg County Council Chairman

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Johnnie Wright Sr.
Orangeburg County
Council Chairman



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J. Clay Killian, Aiken County Administrator
Henry H. Livingston III, Newberry County Council Chairman

TERMS EXPIRE 2023

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Ray Graham, Anderson County Council
J. Frank Hart, Union County Supervisor/Chairman
William E. Robinson, Allendale County Council
Phillip M. Taylor Sr., Colleton County Council Vice Chairman

TERMS EXPIRE 2022

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C. David Chinnis, Dorchester County Council
Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council
Charles T. Edens, Sumter County Council
Charles T. Jennings, McCormick County Council Chairman

TERMS EXPIRE 2021

Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court
Steven J. Brown, Greenwood County Council Chairman
D. Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Vice Chairman
Cecil M. Thornton Jr., Calhoun County Council
Robert Winkler, York County Council Vice Chairman

NACO BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Waymon Mumford, Florence County Council

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

David K. Summers Jr., Calhoun County Council Chairman



SCAC 2021 President's Report

JOHNNIE WRIGHT SR., PRESIDENT

For more than 50 years, the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) has worked to empower county officials through advocacy, education, and collaboration.

The Association's commitment to serving our counties during the COVID-19 pandemic is unwavering. From guidance on the Governor's Executive Orders to virtual briefings on federal relief packages, the Association strives to share real-time information to assist county leaders in making informed decisions to help employees, residents, and the business community.

Understanding the growing threat of cyber breaches, the Association is dedicated to sharing cybersecurity news and resources. Local leaders committed to risk management must invest in cybersecurity to protect county operations and employee and citizen data.

One of the ways SCAC has demonstrated this commitment is through its partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo) on the NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy and cyber simulations. More information regarding these opportunities can be found on page 11.



The Association has a rich history of working with county and state leaders to safeguard Home Rule. By partnering with county leaders who are committed to working with local delegation members throughout the year, SCAC staff successfully amplifies the voices and concerns of county government.

As the legal advocate for South Carolina's counties, Association staff conducts research, provides sound advice to county attorneys and county leaders, and appears as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) in cases with statewide impact.

SCAC's educational programs foster close connections between newcomers and seasoned county leaders and sharpen skills needed to make sound, ethical decisions. The Association's research and publications keep county officials and employees abreast of trends and emerging issues.

SCAC's insurance trusts and risk management services are unparalleled and offer significant resources to help counties protect their human and financial resources. The Association's debt collection programs have been highly successful in returning monies for county operations that would otherwise go uncollected.

By bringing together **Local Leaders**, the Association and county officials 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 2020 to August 2021, to learn more about the Association's programs and progress.

Advocate for County Government

Legislative Advocacy

The primary 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 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.

Today, the development of policy positions involves significantly more participation by county officials. The Legislative Committee 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 policy steering committees.

The Legislative Committee begins its work in July, seeking input from more than 1,200 county officials and employees. This input includes suggestions relating 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. After further review and study in November, the steering committees develop initial policy positions for consideration by SCAC's Legislative Committee in December. The final positions are published in *Policy Positions for 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 General Assembly's actions. The *Friday Report* is distributed weekly during the legislative session to ensure county officials are aware of all legislation that affects their operations. When legislative action is occurring too quickly for the *Friday Report*, special *Legislative Alerts* are sent or individual telephone calls are made.

SCAC staff members attend numerous subcommittee and committee meetings in order to report on legislative action. The actions of the House and Senate are monitored each day the General Assembly is in session. This includes reviewing each bill or amendment introduced and requesting input from county officials. Association staff monitored 576 bills during the 2021 session.

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 General Assembly.



Abbeville County Director David Garner, Senators Penry Gustafson and Mike Gambrell, and Kershaw County Administrator Vic Carpenter discuss legislation before a Senate Finance subcommittee meeting during the 2021 legislative session.

SCAC's 2020-21 Legislative Highlights

While much of the 2021 session of the S.C. General Assembly centered around addressing Santee Cooper, gun control, schools, and matters relating to COVID-19, it has been remarkably successful for SCAC and county government, both as it relates to policy positions that were achieved and harmful legislation that was amended or defeated.

This is the first year of a two-year session, and any legislation introduced that did not pass this year has an opportunity to pass next year. Following are some of the legislative victories and policy positions for which SCAC advocated throughout the legislative session.



Local Government Fund (LGF) and State Appropriations Bill (H. 4100).

Under the budget adopted by the General Assembly, the LGF is funded with an increase of \$17.92 million statewide. This represents full funding to the LGF, including all back funding that was imperiled because of the state operating under a Continuing Resolution in 2020 in light of the ongoing pandemic.

The budget also earmarks \$10 million for the Rural County Stabilization Fund. Any county that has a population growth, as determined by the 2020 Census, of less than 5.35 percent since the 2010 Census shall be eligible to receive monies from the fund. This will help make our rural counties whole in the LGF.

The budget also includes a 2.5 percent base pay increase for all state employees; a raise in library per capita funding from \$2 to \$2.25, an SCAC policy position; a \$32 million allocation that covers the approximate 1 percent credit for the local government employers' increase that has been in the budget since the employer contribution rate began to increase annually in 2017; \$500,000 for post traumatic stress disorder treatment for first responders, an SCAC policy position; \$3.784 million for firefighter cancer benefit plan; \$50 million to County Transportation Commissions for road improvement projects; and \$50 million to the Office of Resiliency for Disaster Relief.

Property Tax Installment Payment Flexibility (Act No. 69).

This legislation, an SCAC policy position, gives the treasurer, tax collector, or other officials charged with the collection of ad valorem property taxes in a county discretion in the scheduling and collection of installment payments from taxpayers.

Legally Separated Assessment Ratio (Act No. 56).

This legislation defines “legally separated” for purposes of the certificate contained in the application for the special 4 percent assessment ratio for owner-occupied residential property, an SCAC policy position.

Manufacturing Property Tax Exemption Exclusion (Act No. 39).

At least one major utility is paying its property taxes under protest claiming it is eligible for the manufacturing property tax exemption, which the state fully funds. This legislation clarifies that the manufacturing property tax exemption does not apply to utilities, which was the original intent of the exemption.

Electronic Waste (E-Waste) Sunset Extension (Act No. 82).

This legislation extends the sunset on the South Carolina Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Information Technology Equipment Collection and Recovery Act and applicable regulations until December 31, 2023. This is an SCAC policy position. It also allows a stakeholder working group, including SCAC staff, to continue pursuing efforts to reform the current program and to alleviate the financial burden faced by many counties in storing e-waste.



Legal Advocacy

SCAC's legal staff, working through the county attorney, spends hundreds of hours each year conducting in-depth research on pertinent statutes, case law, and attorney general opinions; and preparing written advisory opinions or informal telephone consultations. This past year in particular legal staff regularly provided county officials with vital information on emergency powers, electronic public meeting procedures, and federal pandemic financial assistance issues. The Association also assists counties involved in litigation of statewide interest, including appearing as *amicus curiae* (friend of the court).

Legal staff assisted with legal research and filed an amicus brief before the state Supreme Court in support of Calhoun County in the case *S.C. Public Interest Foundation et al. v. Calhoun County Council*. This case involved an appeal from the circuit court's dismissal of the Foundation's efforts to halt the county's imposition of a capital project sales tax (CPST). State law limits actions related to CPST referendums to 30 days after the certification of the referendum. The Foundation filed its action more than three months after the certification. The circuit court dismissed the case as outside of the

statute of limitations, and thus did not consider the merits of the case. The Supreme Court upheld the circuit court's dismissal based on the issue of timeliness. The court held that the 30-day statute of limitations extended to issues involving both election procedure, as well as specific questions concerning disputed projects listed in the required sales tax ordinance. The court subsequently refused to consider the Foundation's remaining dispute.

Another service SCAC legal staff provides is a monthly update of state regulations and appellate court decisions of interest to counties. The updates are sent to county chief administrative officers and county attorneys for distribution to county departments. SCAC 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. Association staff reviews each court opinion and proposed state regulation to provide an overview of decisions that will impact county or other local governments.

Legal Training

SCAC legal staff is called upon regularly to provide presentations and training for county officials and employees on topics such as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); legislative updates; and duties and functions of council and the county chief administrative officer in the various forms of government. This training is provided free-of-charge and can be provided at county sites or the SCAC Office in Columbia.

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. Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Institute was held virtually. More than 200 public sector attorneys participated. Topics included: Ethics and Discipline Update; Ethics Around the Country; HR Considerations During a Pandemic; Conducting Court Proceedings During a Pandemic; FOIA and Virtual Meetings; and Diversity in the Workplace.

Build Knowledge and Competencies for County Leaders

SCAC strives to develop skillful and informed county leaders through advocacy, education, and collaboration. The Association offers a strong portfolio of educational programs with opportunities for orientation, certification, e-learning, and collaboration. The Association hosts training via webinars and offers online courses that provide Institute of Government for County Officials credit. Webinar sessions are recorded and made available online via SCAC's online educational library and are available at no cost to the counties.

Institute of Government for County Officials

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

The educational program is offered in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston. Clemson University's Master of Public Administration Program is a program sponsor. As a result of these partnerships, the Association is able to make enhancements to the Institute of Government curriculum and the pool of instructors used to teach the courses.

The primary curriculum includes two levels of certification and offers advanced courses to permit graduates to stay apprised of current issues impacting

county government. Twenty-seven hours are required for Level I certification and an additional 18 hours are required for Level II certification. Institute courses offered this year consisted of online learning and in-person classes.

This past year, several Institute of Government classes were recorded and made available for online viewing on the Association's Learning Portal. Nearly 180 county officials and employees completed Institute of Government courses either virtually or in-person.

Four of the Institute of Government 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.

Orientation for Newly Elected Council Members

The Association hosts an orientation program for newly elected council members in even-numbered years. Due to COVID-19, the orientation planned for 2020 was postponed. On Jan. 5 and 7, 2021, SCAC welcomed 55 newly elected county council members to the virtual orientation program.

Designed to provide a thorough insight into their new roles and responsibilities, the event also highlights how Association programs and services will be a valuable resource for them. The training is provided free-of-charge, and participants earn six hours of Institute of Government credit toward Level I certification.

Additional Leadership Development Opportunities

SCAC partners with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to build strong county leaders in South Carolina.

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program empowering county government professionals with the leadership skills to deliver results for counties. The NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy is similarly structured and geared for county employees dedicated to cybersecurity, IT, and risk management.

Through the SCAC/NACo partnership, South Carolina counties are eligible for a significantly reduced registration fee.

To learn more about the High Performance Leadership Academy and to register, visit NACo's website at naco.org.





Training for Planning and 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.

Three hours of continuing education each year are required thereafter. The requirements also apply to planning professionals, zoning administrators, zoning officials, and deputies and assistants to these positions.

All of the Association's planning and zoning training programs are approved by the S.C. Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCPEAC). The Association provides orientation training and continuing education that addresses current issues and changes in state law.

One course fulfills the annual planning and zoning continuing education requirement. Local planning and zoning officials and employees may also earn continuing education credit from four courses offered by the Institute of Government.

SCAC is developing an online planning and zoning orientation course which will meet the requirements set forth by the SCPEAC. This online course will be composed of four one-and-a-half hour modules to meet the six-hour orientation requirement. The training will cover topics such as land use planning, the zoning process, land development regulations, and procedural and educational requirements.

Continuing Education Programs

SCAC conducted multiple webinars this year. Because of the pandemic, many in-person meetings were replaced with virtual training sessions. This year's webinars include the Set Off Debt Workshops, the Local Government Attorney's Institute, Property and Liability Claims

Investigations, OSHA Recordkeeping, Risk Management Awards Presentation, and a Virtual Legislative Update. Collectively, more than 620 local government officials participated in these webinars.



I will share the valuable information I learned with our government leaders. Thank you! — Institute of Government Participant

The comments on legal issues were very pertinent to questions that have been raised regarding the use of virtual meeting technologies in public forums. — Planning and Zoning Webinar Participant



Collaborative Learning

SCAC's Annual Awards Program

The Association's awards program 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.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award recognizes counties that address community challenges in a unique way. The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award highlights the critical need for regional partnerships, strategies, and solutions.

For the second year, SCAC hosted The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase as a way to honor the ways our counties have responded to the unprecedented health pandemic.

The Association hosts an online video library of award competition presentations and written entries. SCAC also highlights the projects and summarizes all entries in *County Focus* magazine and on social media.

Cyber Leadership

SCAC is committed to helping counties develop cyber leadership and has partnered with NACo on the NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy. This online 12-week program is designed for county staff and leaders who are dedicated to cybersecurity, IT, and risk management. Through the SCAC/NACo partnership, South Carolina counties are eligible for a significantly reduced registration fee. To learn more visit SCAC's website at sccounties.org/education-and-training.

The Association also encourages counties to tap into NACo's cyberattack simulations and County Tech Xchange that are offered free-of-charge to NACo member counties. For more information on these resources, visit NACo's website at naco.org/naco-cyberattack-simulation and naco.org/resources/signature-projects/county-tech-xchange.

Another valuable cyber resource is the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure and Security Agency (CISA). Counties are able to tap into many of the federal agency's resources for free. To learn more, visit cisa.gov/.

Connect Counties to Resources & Information

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.

Research and Technical Assistance

Online Research Resources

County officials and employees are able to access an abundance of information and resources via SCAC's website. Last year, the Association enhanced its search tool to allow users to quickly and easily access documents and publications by title, topic, and resource type. This search function connects county officials and

employees to county statistics, financial documents, council rules of procedure, personnel policies, planning and zoning documents, and county codes of ordinances. Millage rate caps and estimated Local Government Fund allocations are also available.

Surveys

Association staff 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 recent surveys includes county mask ordinances, jail capacity and expansion, stormwater fees on agricultural property, creation of fire districts, and The American Rescue Plan State and Local Government Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocations.

Online Discussion Forums

SCAC administers online 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; county personnel directors; and county risk managers.

Communications and Outreach

What's New Monthly Email

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

Social Media

SCAC launched its social media presence last year. The Association is focused on three platforms to help develop new connections with counties: Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Social media is an effective tool for reaching county officials, county employees, members of the S.C. General Assembly, and the general public on legislative issues, highlighting award winning county programs, and boosting the signal for organizations like NACo and the U.S. Census Bureau. Follow SCAC on Facebook and Twitter: @SCCounties. Or, visit the Association's LinkedIn page: [linkedin.com/company/south-carolina-association-of-counties](https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-carolina-association-of-counties).



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 more than 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. The *FY2022 Wage and Salary Report*, as well as the companion online searchable wage and salary database, will be available in November.

COUNTY PROFILES

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. *County Profiles* tables are available on the SCAC website.

Publications

SCAC publishes three award-winning publications: *County Focus* magazine; *Carolina Counties* newsletter; and *South Carolina's Directory of County Officials*. Over the years, these publications have received numerous awards from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO), S.C. Society of Association Executives (SCSAE), and S.C. Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC/SC).

County Focus Magazine

SCAC's quarterly magazine focuses on legislative issues, successful county programs and projects, and a broad range of other issues affecting county governments, for example, the Coronavirus Pandemic, since 2000. *County Focus* also publishes local news submitted by counties and calendars for SCAC and NACo events. The publication is distributed to more than 1,300 county officials and employees, Councils of Governments (COGs), members of the S.C. General Assembly, other state officials, and SCAC's Corporate Partners.



Carolina Counties Newsletter

The Association's newsletter educates local leaders on important issues affecting county government. The newsletter also covers current issues, past events, and announces upcoming events. This publication's distribution is similar to the *County Focus* magazine.

Directory of County Officials

SCAC's annual directory provides contact information for elected and appointed county officials, COGs, members of the S.C. General Assembly, and other state and federal officials. The directory also identifies SCAC's officers, board of directors, past presidents, and Corporate Partners. Copies are distributed to all officials and organizations listed in the directory, and to all state associations representing counties, boroughs, and parishes nationwide.



Career Center

The Association's Career Center is the first place job seekers should visit when looking for local government positions in South Carolina. Job openings are categorized and easily searchable. This is a complimentary service provided to all counties. Over the past year, 47 counties, COGs, and governmental entities took advantage of this employment advertising tool by posting more than 200 positions, which garnered nearly 16,000 views.

SCAC Scholarship Program

SCAC has awarded more than \$180,000 in scholarships to 78 students since establishing its scholarship program in 1998. This year, the Association proudly awarded \$2,500 scholarships to five outstanding high school seniors who will attend an in-state college, university, or technical school in the fall.

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's scholarship was awarded to a student from Orangeburg County. The Association also awarded four Board of Directors Scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. Dorchester, Richland, Saluda, and Spartanburg counties were selected for these awards.

Assist Counties as Stewards of Public Resources

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 county 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 implementation of strong risk management programs by participating member counties.

The SCAC insurance staff, comprised of 20 highly experienced insurance professionals, provides trust management. SCAC employs two risk managers who work in the field supplementing the county's risk management efforts through inspections, training, and mentoring. The Association provides claims management services and the flexibility of in-house underwriting. The insurance staff understands the risks counties face as evidenced by its customized risk management solutions.

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. During the health pandemic, SCAC staff has continued to provide on site and online training to help meet the training needs of members.

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 these efforts in their counties. Over the past 20 years, hundreds of county personnel have been trained and have worked very effectively with the SCAC insurance staff to reduce risks and lower costs. The current risk management training program, Risk Management Principles, evolved from the CCRM program and is conducted throughout the year at member locations.

The insurance staff provides a variety of risk management services including on-site training and surveys. Because motor vehicle accidents far outweigh all other types of claims, Association 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.

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. All aspects of trust administration, including claims administration, are handled internally by SCAC insurance staff.

The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust was formed in 1995 in response to rapidly rising liability insurance premiums. The trust has 26 members, including 16 counties. Claims administration as well as general administration and risk management are handled in-house by SCAC insurance staff.

To address the frequency and severity of motor vehicle accidents, SCAC risk managers have continued to conduct defensive driving classes over the past year.

A variety of onsite training classes are conducted throughout the year and trust members also have free access to more than 700 online videos varying in topic and duration.

SCAC has developed several training classes to address the unique exposures of law enforcement including "Law Enforcement Risk Management and Liability Issues", "Detention Center Risk Management and Liability Issues", and "Inmate Supervision Issues."

Funding has been provided for online training for law enforcement and detention center officers through the "In the Line of Duty" program. Approved by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy for continuing law enforcement 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. More than 5,000 officers are registered to receive this training.

SCAC Boards of Trustees S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation and Property & Liability Trusts



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David K. Summers Jr.
Calhoun County Council
Chairman



VICE CHAIRMAN

Waymon Mumford
Florence County Council



Joseph R. Branham
Chester County Council
Vice Chairman



Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County Council
Chairman



Gary M. Mixon
Sumter County Administrator



Debra B. Summers
Lexington County Council



Steve Willis
Lancaster County Administrator



SECRETARY/TREASURER
Timothy C. Winslow
SCAC Executive Director

Due to COVID-19 restrictions many counties were unable to conduct on site training. To assist these members with their training needs, SCAC staff conducted the following webinars, which are available at [sccounties.org/insurance-trusts/webinars](https://www.sccounties.org/insurance-trusts/webinars):

- Effective Property and Liability Claims Reporting and Investigation
- OSHA 300 Recordkeeping and Injury & Illness Reporting Requirements
- Workers' Compensation: Basic Principles Lead to Big Success
- Vehicle Accident Mitigation Program (VAMP)

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the Insurance Trusts' Membership Meeting scheduled for January 2021, was canceled. However, staff believed it was still important to recognize the hard work and dedication of the members' risk management and safety efforts.

Staff conducted a Risk Management Awards webinar on January 28, 2021, to recognize counties that had made significant achievements in their risk management and safety programs. These awards are a great way to recognize counties for their hard work and commitment to safety. The streaming webinar is available at vimeo.com/507100797.

Association staff has also been presenting these awards at the winning member's county council meetings. These presentations are a great way to let everyone know about the county's risk management activities and the positive impact it is having on employee safety and the county's citizens.

SCAC has recognized the significant emergence of cyber threats to local governments. Two webinars were sponsored for counties that were designed to improve awareness of cyber threats and to encourage members to improve their risk management practices related to cyber threats. SCAC staff will continue to emphasize this critical exposure facing all counties. We also encourage counties to take part in the training offered through the National Association of Counties (NACo) Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy.



SCAC Risk Manager Van Henson presented Dorchester County the Outstanding Safety Achievement Award in 2021. Shown are (front row) Dorchester County Council Vice Chairman Jay Byars; Claims Assistant Audrey Holzhausen; Director of RMS Nancy Johnson; SCAC Risk Manager Van Henson; Safety Officer Harvey Taylor; (back row) County Administrator Jason Ward; Council Member David Chinnis; Council Chairman Bill Hearn; and Council Members Todd Friddle, Eddie Crosby and George Bailey.

Debt Collection Programs

SCAC assists county entities in two debt collection programs administered by the S.C. Department of Revenue (DOR): 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 DOR to use additional methods, such as payment plans and wage garnishments, to collect the unpaid debt.

SCAC's debt collection programs have proven highly 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 more than \$100 million in 2020. The number of participating entities has increased

Cooperative Service Programs

GovDeals

GovDeals has provided South Carolina counties an internet auction program for surplus equipment through GovDeals.com for more than 20 years. GovDeals provides an electronic platform for counties to sell non-essential equipment, vehicles, and other surplus assets via national online auctions.

GovDeals is currently working with 43 counties and 470 other agencies in the state. This past year, South Carolina counties netted more than \$1.5 million in revenue. Since the program's inception, counties have generated nearly \$44 million in revenue.

FSI Office Supplies Purchasing Program

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



from 81 in 2002 to more than 300 in 2020. Since the Association's debt collection programs began in 1992, SCAC has returned more than \$1.5 billion 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. 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 sccounties.org.

US 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. 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 continue to face challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and changing demographics, SCAC remains committed to building knowledge and competency for county officials and employees. SCAC will continue to provide research and educational tools related to emerging issues and 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.



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SCAC Past Presidents

1960s – 1970s

Charles W. Lawrimore, Georgetown County*
J. Mitchell Graham, Charleston County
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

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

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

2000 – 2009

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

2010 – 2019

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
Henry H. Livingston III, Newberry County
Charles T. Jennings, McCormick County

2020 to Present

Dwight L. Stewart Jr., Clarendon County

Presidents are listed in chronological order for each decade. *Charles W. Lawrimore served as SCAC's first president from 1967-1968. **Waymon Mumford served as president for two terms from 2004-2006.

LOCAL LEADERS. STATEWIDE STRENGTH.®



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