



2019 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Charles T. Jennings, President

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

LOCAL LEADERS. STATEWIDE STRENGTH.®



South Carolina Counties at Work

1. County Administrators Discuss Successful Strategies for Emergency Management
2. Dillon County Celebrates Inland Port
3. Clarendon County Rededicates Courthouse
4. Edgefield County Provides Citizen Services
5. County Leaders Share Experiences during Council Chairman's Workshop
6. Pickens County and Gov. Henry McMaster Honor the Past
7. Greenville County Maps Community Resources
8. Orangeburg County Provides State-of-the-Art Fleet Maintenance
9. McCormick County Serves its Citizens
10. County Officials Commit to Learning and Graduate from Institute of Government
11. Charleston County Honored for Mobile Crisis Telehealth Service
12. Aiken County Invests in New County Government Center





**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

CHARLES T. JENNINGS, PRESIDENT

A Letter from the President

Dear County Officials,

I am proud to share this year's President's Report, which reflects SCAC's accomplishments over the past year. Our successes are a direct result of your support and active involvement in our Association and the strong relationships you have with your local delegation members. SCAC 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 Association's legislative advocacy staff continues to work passionately to protect Home Rule principles for county government. This year's legislative session will be remembered as perhaps SCAC's most successful. With the unwavering support of the SCAC board, staff was successful in seeing over 20 policy positions resolved in the Association's favor.

The Local Government Fund (LGF), which has been a point of contention for over a decade, was resolved pursuant to SCAC's policy position. Increased funding was allocated to the fund for only the second time in seven years, and the LGF will see annual increases for years to come. SCAC also defeated increases in the Tort Claims Act caps, anti-home rule animal shelter standards, legislation implementing a purported municipal capital projects sales tax, and unfunded mandates on clerks of court. The S.C. General Assembly is beginning to recognize the important responsibility counties have as the government closest to the people. We must continue to communicate the importance of Home Rule if we are going to sustain this success in the future.

SCAC's educational and collaborative resources provide us with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to be effective leaders for our citizens. As part of the Association's e-learning initiative, all county officials are now able to participate in the Institute of Government's Orientation program online. SCAC'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 express my deepest appreciation for your support. It has truly been an honor and I look forward to continuing our work to make great strides for our counties and our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles T. Jennings".

Charles T. Jennings, President
South Carolina Association of Counties
McCormick County Council Chairman

SCAC 2018-19 Officers



PRESIDENT

Charles T. Jennings
McCormick County
Council Chairman



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Dwight L. Stewart Jr.
Clarendon County
Council Chairman



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Johnnie Wright Sr.
Orangeburg County
Council Chairman



THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Paul A. Cain
Oconee County
Council Vice Chairman



SECRETARY

Steve Willis
Lancaster County
Administrator



TREASURER

Belinda D. Copeland
Darlington County



PAST PRESIDENT

Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County
Council Chairman

SCAC Board of Directors

TERMS EXPIRE 2022

Joseph R. Branham, Chester County Council Vice Chairman
C. David Chinnis, Dorchester County Council Vice Chairman
Roy Costner III, Pickens County Council Chairman
Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council
Charles T. Edens, Sumter County Council

TERMS EXPIRE 2021

Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court
R. Archie Scott, Dillon County Council
D. Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Vice Chairman
Cecil M. Thornton Jr., Calhoun County Council
Robert Winkler, York County Council

TERMS EXPIRE 2020

Mary D. Anderson, Chesterfield County Council
John Q. Atkinson Jr., Marion County Council
Alphonso Bradley, Florence County Council
J. Clay Killian, Aiken County Administrator
Debra B. Summers, Lexington County Council

TERMS EXPIRE 2019

Diane B. Anderson, Laurens County Council
Cam Crawford, Horry County Council
J. Frank Hart, Union County Supervisor/Chairman
Henry E. "Sel" Hemingway Jr., Georgetown County Administrator
William E. Robinson, Allendale County Council

NACO BOARD MEMBER

Waymon Mumford, Florence County Council Chairman

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

David K. Summers Jr., Calhoun County Council Chairman

SCAC 2019 President's Report

CHARLES T. JENNINGS, 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 2018 to August 2019, to learn more about the Association's programs and progress.

SCAC 2018-2019 Program Highlights

Keeping Counties Informed:

1,329 *County Focus* and *Carolina Counties* recipients

1,622 *What's New* email recipients

1,197 *Friday Report* recipients

Website Update - SCCounties.org

SCAC updated its website in order to increase accessibility, security, and ease of use.



Local Government Fund

With the assistance of county officials and the support of legislators, SCAC's Local Government Fund (LGF) policy position was enacted by the General Assembly. The LGF is now tied to the growth of the state general fund annually (capped at 5%).

First Institute of Government Course Online



Level I - Orientation to County Government I is now available as an online course, so county officials can take it and earn credit remotely.

SCAC published the third edition of *Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties*.



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 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 legislative positions for the year—done 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; 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 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 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 2018, SCAC's Legislative Committee adopted 78 policy positions to set the course for the 2019 Legislative year. These positions were published in *Policy Positions for the 2019 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 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.

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. This feedback is crucial to SCAC 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 telephone calls are made.

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.

SCAC's 2018-19 Legislative Priorities



The 2019 Session of the S.C. General Assembly was remarkably successful for SCAC, both as it relates to policy positions that were achieved and harmful legislation that was amended or defeated. Being the first year of a two-year session, any legislation that did not pass this year will retain its place in the legislative process and resume when the General Assembly reconvenes in January. The following legislative victories involve policy positions that SCAC advocated for throughout the legislative session:

Local Government Fund (Act No. 84).

This legislation enacts SCAC's policy position regarding the new formula for the Local Government Fund (LGF). That position states that yearly LGF increases will correspond with the growth of the state general fund, capped at five percent. The General Assembly also funded the LGF at an amount more than SCAC's position required. This was an issue that created uncertainty for county budgets for years while also creating friction between state and local policy makers. The passage of this legislation will ensure a steady, predictable fund for years to come and allow state and county officials to focus on other important issues to the betterment of all South Carolinians.

Recording and Filing Fees (Act No. 58).

This act will increase efficiency in the register of deeds' and clerk of court's offices by providing flat recording and filing fees for certain documents that were previously subject to a fee schedule based on page count.

Utility Relocation (Act No. 36).

SCAC supports legislation containing the compromise agreed to by public utilities and the S.C. Department of Transportation relating to the costs of relocating water and sewer lines. Act No. 36 reflects this compromise.

Animal Shelter Regulations (Act No. 43).

SCAC opposes any requirements to impose state regulations or standards on county animal shelters. SCAC fought to ensure that the passage of this legislation did not encroach on counties' authority over their animal shelters.

Internet Sales Tax (Act No. 21).

This act will enable the S.C. Department of Revenue (DOR) to enforce the state's sales tax policy and capture internet sales tax from third parties. DOR intends to collect and remit locally-imposed sales taxes.

Income Tax Liens (Act No. 13).

This act will significantly benefit the register of deeds by authorizing the DOR to implement a web-based tax lien system that will replace the current filing system at the county level.

Failure to Register Motor Vehicles (Act No. 69).

This act achieves SCAC's position on increasing the penalty for failing to register a motor vehicle.

Poll Workers (Act No. 54).

By allowing all registered voters in this state to serve as poll workers outside of their resident county, this act will increase the pool of persons able to serve as poll workers by allowing college students and persons working outside of their resident county to serve in the precinct where their school or job is located.

Municipal Capital Project Sales Tax (S. 171).

SCAC opposes legislation creating a Municipal Project Sales Tax which would undermine the current Capital Project Sales Tax. SCAC was successful by ensuring S. 171 did not pass.

Tobacco Preemption (H. 3274 & S. 492).

SCAC opposes any legislation that prohibits counties from adopting an order, ordinance, rule or regulation restricting the sale, age for purchase, distribution, advertising, sampling, promotion, display, ingredients, flavors, nicotine content, pricing or licensing of tobacco products, alternative tobacco products, and vapor products. H. 3274 and S. 492 would have prohibited counties from taking any action described in the policy above after January 1, 2019. Neither bill passed.

Court Reporting (S. 640).

This bill, as introduced, would have drastically shortened the timeframe for which the clerks of court have to report certain items to the state. The bill was amended to minimize the impact to counties and ultimately did not pass.

County Jails (H. 3322).

This legislation originally included a provision to allow the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon to impose jail sanctions on probationers and parolees who violate the terms of their supervised program. This would have shifted the burden from state prisons to county jails. SCAC was successful in removing this unfunded mandate from the bill which did not pass.

Aid to County Libraries (Act No. 91, Proviso 27.1).

Under this budget proviso, library funding was increased to a minimum grant of \$100,000 per county.

Voting Machines Funding (Act No. 91, Proviso 117.158).

SCAC supports legislation that provides for full funding to replace the voting machines and voting system in this state. This budget proviso transfers the funds for the purchase of a new voting machine system and for refurbishment of the current voting system from the State Election Commission to the Department of Administration. These funds are in excess of \$40M.

Cell Phones in Jails (S. 156).

SCAC supports this legislation which will aid in the elimination of unauthorized telecommunication use by inmates. The bill passed the Senate and is positioned for early passage in the House next year.

Medicinal Marijuana (S. 366).

SCAC opposes the legalization of medicinal marijuana due to the lack of FDA approval. S. 366 would have legalized medicinal marijuana but did not pass.

Professional Licenses for Military Spouses (H. 3263 & S. 455).

SCAC supports allowing military members and their spouses who hold a professional license in another state to have reciprocity to practice their profession while stationed in South Carolina. Both bills made significant progress and are postured for early passage next year.

Plastic Bag Ban (S. 394).

SCAC opposed this anti-home rule bill which would prohibit counties from banning or enacting restrictions on packaging products such as plastic bags, cups, and bottles. The bill did not pass this year.

Affordable Housing (H. 3998).

SCAC supports this bill which would provide a tax credit for those who develop low-income housing. The bill made significant progress this year and is positioned for early passage next year.

Tort Claims (S. 7).

Under the Tort Claims Act, civil damages against a county are capped at \$300,000 per individual and \$600,000 per occurrence. The original proposed cap increase in S. 7 would have resulted in a 333 percent increase. SCAC was successful in amending S. 7 to drastically decrease the fiscal impact on counties. The bill did not pass.

A comprehensive overview of the legislative session, entitled *Acts that Affect Counties*, will be distributed by SCAC. This yearly publication gives county officials notice of new or revised laws that impact county government. Please contact SCAC if you would like to receive this publication.

Highlights of the 2019 Legislative Session

75 members who served on SCAC's 2018 Legislative Committee

bills that were monitored during the 2019 Session **361**

78 policy positions adopted for the 2019 Session of the General Assembly

SCAC policy position successes **20**

88 county officials who served on tracking groups

county officials receiving the weekly *Friday Report* **1,197**

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 *amicus curiae* (friend of the court).

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

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 had held the 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 however reversed the S.C. Court of Appeals and held that counties are not liable for the negligent actions of third-parties.

Georgetown County v. the S.C. Department of Transportation

This case involves the issue of whether a state agency can take the property of county government without paying just compensation required by the state constitution. The S.C. Court of Appeals held that because counties were a creation of the state, any property of the counties could be taken without compensation. The ruling held that county property is state property. The court relied heavily on a more than 100-year old case decided well before the amendments to the state constitution creating local "home rule." The case is currently on appeal to the S.C. Supreme Court.

Education and Collaboration

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.

“Citizen participation is critical and vital in order to meet the needs of the community. The information presented during this class regarding ways to involve and interact with citizens was extremely helpful. I now see how important it is for me to engage our citizens.”

– Institute of Government Participant

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. 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. 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.

188 Level I attendees

136 Level II attendees

65 Advanced class attendees

500+

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

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

230+



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

Training for Council Officers

In February, SCAC offers a workshop for council chairmen and vice chairmen in conjunction with the Institute of Government. The workshop provides information about the duties, powers, and responsibilities of both leadership positions.

Participants learn strategies for running effective meetings; the importance of rules of procedure; and how a bill becomes state law. The value of building effective working relationships with local delegation members, council members, other elected officials, and the county chief administrative officer is also addressed.

“This program was well thought out as it relates to issues that will confront council chairmen. I love the fact that I felt comfortable asking questions and the answers given were easy to understand. This was a great opportunity to network with other council chairs and vice chairs from across the state as well as the SCAC staff!”

– Council Chairperson's Workshop Participant

Orientation for Newly-Elected Council Members

The Association hosts an orientation program for newly-elected council members in even-numbered years. On Dec. 11, SCAC welcomed newly-elected county council members to Columbia for a full day of training. 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.

E-learning

Since 1996, SCAC has provided training to county officials and employees via distance education programs. Today, the Association hosts training via webcasts and webinars. Each training session is made available as streaming video through SCAC's online library or a loaned DVD. The webcasts and webinars are an invaluable tool for providing education at no cost to the counties.

SCAC is proud to have launched its first online course this year as part of the Institute of Government. Orientation to County Government I is now available online and is offered at no cost to elected and appointed county officials. This course serves as an excellent primer to county government. The course takes approximately one hour to complete and includes several quizzes to reinforce the user's learning. Upon completion, the participant is granted three hours of Level I Institute of Government credit. The Association plans to offer the Orientation II course online later this year. For additional information, visit SCAC's website at SCCounties.org.

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.

SCAC's 2018-19 Continuing Education Programs



To assist planning and zoning officials and employees in meeting their continuing education requirements, the Association offered "Planning Strategies for South Carolina's Rural and Urban Counties" on May 14. More than 350 planning/zoning officials and employees from 39 local governments participated.

County officials and employees from 20 counties participated in the "Legal and Ethical Considerations for Managing Public Meetings" webinar on Oct. 2. Topics included the fundamentals of rules and procedures, as well as the legal and ethical issues for members.

SCAC also hosted the "SCAC Awards: What Sets Winners Apart" webinar to provide an overview of the annual awards, rules and requirements, common elements of winning entrants, online resources, and recommendations from award-winning counties.

County officials and employees can access these programs on demand via SCcounties.org.

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 several counties and the following groups:

- S.C. Association of Assessing Officials;
- County Assessors of S.C.;
- Clerks of Court and Registers of Deeds;
- Probate Judges;
- Registration and Election Officials;
- Central Midlands Council of Governments;
- Upper Savannah Council of Governments;
- S.C. Association of Regional Councils; and
- the Local Government Leadership Institute.

Topics covered included the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); legislative updates; the legislative process; and the duties and functions of councils and county administrators under the Council/Administrator form of government.

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 2018 Institute was held November 16 in Columbia and included presentations on: the disciplinary counsel process; who is your client; eminent domain, land use and zoning updates; case law and legislative updates; and lessons learned as a county attorney. The 2019 Institute will be held November 22.

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 online video library of award competition presentations and written entries. SCAC also highlights the projects and summarizes all entries in *County Focus* magazine.

Connecting Counties to Resources & Information

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.

1,600+

Over 1,600 county officials informed via *What's New* email messages.

Average number of research requests per month.

50

More than 1,300 South Carolina county officials, state legislators, COGs, and SCAC corporate supporters receive *County Focus* magazine and *Carolina Counties* newsletter.



Online Research Resources

County officials and employees are able to access an abundance of information and resources via SCAC's website. The Association recently 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.

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.

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; and county personnel directors.

State Regulations

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 ambulance inspections, conservations banks, county attorneys and lead counsels, CPA certifications, housing of E-911, and jail statistics.

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. Special topics that the research staff assisted with include tort claims, industrial sites, and opportunity zones.

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. The FY2020 survey is currently underway, and a new online searchable wage and salary tool is now available.

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.

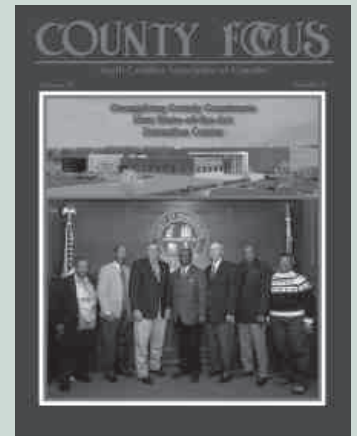


Carolina Counties newsletter, the Association’s oldest publication, is published five times per year. The newsletter has a circulation of more than 1,000, and is distributed to South Carolina county officials, regional councils of governments (COGs), and SCAC’s corporate supporters.

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

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 over 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 and webcasts, Institute of Government classes, and conferences. It also publishes a calendar for National Association of Counties (NACo) conferences. The magazine has won numerous awards from NACIO, 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 several awards from the 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.

The Association published a third edition of the *Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for County Government*. This publication offers counties and their various boards and commissions a simple set of rules of procedure for conducting public meetings. The rules are modeled upon *Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised*, but incorporate specific rules to meet South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act and Ethics Act requirements. An electronic version of the publication is provided on the SCAC website in the form of a model ordinance so that it may be customized and adopted by individual counties.

Career Center

The Association's online career center categorizes local government positions and makes them searchable for those interested in employment. This is a complimentary service provided to all counties. This past year, 32 counties took advantage of this employment advertising tool by posting more than 215 positions, which garnered nearly 4,600 views.

32 Counties posted more than **215** position openings
= 4,600 views 

SCAC Scholarship Program

SCAC has awarded nearly \$160,000 in scholarships to 68 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, the Association also awarded four Board of Directors Scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. Chesterfield, Fairfield, Georgetown, and Orangeburg counties were selected for these awards.

Since **1998**, SCAC has awarded **68** students scholarships totaling
nearly **\$160,000** 

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 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 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. As the trust enters its 35th year, claims administration has been brought in-house to gain efficiencies and further enhance service to members. Now all aspects of trust administration are handled internally 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 19 highly experienced insurance professionals. SCAC employs two risk managers who work in the field supplementing the county's risk management efforts through inspections, training, and mentoring. 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.

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 Chairman



Joseph R. Branham
Chester County
Council Vice Chairman



Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County
Council Chairman



Gary Mixon
Sumter County
Administrator



Debra B. Summers
Lexington County
Council Member



Steve Willis
Lancaster County
Administrator



SECRETARY/TREASURER

Michael B. Cone
SCAC Executive Director

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 19 years, hundreds of county personnel have been trained in the concepts of risk management 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 was conducted three times with over 110 total participants this past year.



**Risk Management
Principles**

3

Courses conducted

110+

Participants trained

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, 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 and severity of motor vehicle accidents, SCAC risk managers conducted 30 defensive driving classes with 707 employees trained.



**Defensive
Driving**

30

Classes offered

700+

County employees trained

During the 2018-2019 policy period, 10 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training classes were held, with 282 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.



**OSHA
Training**

10

Classes offered

280+


County employees trained

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." More than 1,100 employees have participated in these classes.


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 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. Members also have free access to over 350 online safety videos.

> 1,100 Over 1,100 employees participated in unique exposure training classes	350+ More than 350 online safety videos available to members
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A one-day continuing education seminar is held annually for risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators. More than 110 risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators attended the 2018 seminar.

	One-day continuing education seminar	110+ Risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators attended
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The Insurance Trusts' Membership Meeting is held annually in January. The 94 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 councils in the shared challenge of building and maintaining an effective risk management program, which protects a county's assets and maximizes safety and security for employees and residents.

	94	Members attended the Insurance Trusts' Membership Meeting.
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Setoff Debt



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 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 2018. The number of participating entities has increased from 81 in 2002 to over 300 in 2019. Since the Association's debt collection programs began in 1992, SCAC has returned over \$1 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 SCCounties.org.

Cooperative Service Programs



SURPLUS EQUIPMENT – 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. 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, South Carolina counties netted more than \$3 million in revenue. Since the program's inception, counties have generated nearly \$45 million in revenue.

FSI OFFICE SUPPLIES PURCHASING PROGRAM

SCAC sponsors a 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

Timothy C. Winslow
Executive Director-Elect
twinslow@scac.sc

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

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

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

Chris W. Hinson
Senior Adjuster, SCCP<
chinson@scac.sc

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

Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS
Director of Risk Management Services
rbenfield@scac.sc

Dana T. Homesley
Administrative Assistant
dtomlinson@scac.sc

Daina M. Riley
Staff Attorney
driley@scac.sc

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

Kim P. Hudson
Senior Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
khudson@scac.sc

Beth A. Segars
Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
bsegars@scac.sc

Sharon D. Berkowitz
Program Coordinator
sberkowitz@scac.sc

Lang C. Kelly, ARM, AIC
Claims Manager, SCCWCT
lkelly@scac.sc

Pam N. Selkinghaus, ARM
Insurance Trusts' Program Coordinator
pselkinghaus@scac.sc

Amber Brazell
Program Coordinator
abrazell@scac.sc

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

Ann B. Shealy
Recovery Specialist, SCCWCT
ashealy@scac.sc

Janet L. Cook
Senior Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
jcook@scac.sc

Cindy J. King
Accounting Manager, SCCWCT
cking@scac.sc

Alexander W. Smith
Staff Attorney
asmith@scac.sc

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

N. Taylor Lee
Administrative Specialist, SCCWCT
tlee@scac.sc

John J. Snelling
Senior Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
jsnelling@scac.sc

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

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

Rachael P. Stephenson
Claims Supervisor, SCCWCT
rstephenson@scac.sc

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

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

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

S. Ruthie Duvall
Program Coordinator
rduvall@scac.sc

Owen A. McBride
Staff Attorney
omcbride@scac.sc

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

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

Mark A. McKinney
Claims Manager, SCCP<
mmckinny@scac.sc

Rick K. Ucinski
Field Representative
rucinski@scac.sc

Crystal D. Hayden-Jeffcoat
Claims Adjuster II, SCCWCT
cjeffcoat@scac.sc

Burdetta M. Miller
Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
bmiller@scac.sc

Mary E. Williams
Administrative Assistant
mwilliams@scac.sc

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

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

Van Henson, CPM
Risk Manager
vhenson@scac.sc

Colleen Motley
Senior Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
cmotley@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
Henry H. Livingston III, Newberry 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

2000s

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. Berkeley County Welcomes Business Expansion
2. Lexington County Unveils New Fleet Services Building
3. Richland County Performs Roadwork
4. County Officials Meet with Senator Tim Scott
5. Saluda County and Representative Jeff Duncan Attend Opening of New Industry
6. Spartanburg County Promotes Healthy Living for Seniors
7. Sumter County Provides Judicial Services
8. Chesterfield County Supports Community Awareness
9. Florence Council Member Serves beyond Council Chambers
10. County Officials Develop Legislative Policy Positions





**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