

## SCAC Hosts Legislative Conference, Adopts Policy Positions

**T**he SCAC Legislative Committee adopted policy positions for the 2022 Session of the S.C. General Assembly on December 3 at the Association's 2021 Legislative Conference, held December 2 & 3 in Charleston.

SCAC President Paul A. Cain (Oconee County Council Vice Chairman) presided over the two-day conference, which included presentations by: the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority; S.C. Department of Transportation; S.C. State Broadband Office, S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff (SCORS); and S.C. Retirement Systems Investment Commission.

On Friday (December 3), the second day of the conference, Debra B. Summers (Lexington County Council), presided as Legislative Committee Chair over the following SCAC Policy Steering Committee Reports:

- **County Government and Intergovernmental Relations**—Chaired by Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council
- **Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation**—Chaired by Charles T. Edens, Sumter County Council
- **Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial**—Chaired by Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court

- **Revenue, Finance and Economic Development**—Chaired by Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County.

### Thursday, December 2

The conference began with a panel discussion on Thursday.

Representatives of the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA), S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and S.C. State Broadband Office, SCORS, discussed South Carolina's infrastructure priorities and opportunities.

**Bonnie J. Ammons, Executive Director, RIA**, described the condition of the state's water/wastewater/stormwater infrastructure, significant costs associated with repairing and maintaining it, and problems smaller utilities face. She also explained how \$2.6 billion, provided by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), has created a unique opportunity to invest in improving the quality of life and enhancing economic development, particularly for rural communities.

Gov. Henry McMaster has recommended allocating \$500 million of ARPA funding to RIA and, using competitive grant programs, to prioritize funding and address economic development in the most economically distressed areas of the state, public health concerns wherever they exist, and to incentivize regionalization efforts through partnerships to find solutions and assist smaller, struggling utilities.

The U.S. Congress recently passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. So, an additional



SCAC President Paul A. Cain



SCAC's 2021 Legislative Conference, Charleston Renaissance Hotel

## IN THIS ISSUE

**P4** 22 County Officials Complete  
NACo High Performance  
Leadership Academy

**P4** Now Available: SCAC Updates  
on 2021 Revenue Resources &  
Home Rule Handbook Supplements

**P5** RFA Recognizes First Five  
Local PSAPs Who Volunteered for  
Phase 1 of Next Generation 911

**P5** NEWS BRIEFS

PLUS MORE

\$120 million in funding is expected for water and wastewater projects, and to handle emerging contaminants, and lead water in water service lines. Other state and federal funding sources—including RIA, the S.C. Department of Commerce, Appalachian Regional Commission, USDA Rural Development and the U.S. Economic Development Administration—award grants and loans. Every year, RIA's regular grant program awards \$25 to \$30 million in grants and provides \$75 to \$100 million loans.

Ammons encouraged county leaders to identify and prioritize projects so they will be ready once money becomes available because ARPA has strict deadlines. Funds must be obligated by December 2024 and spent by December 2026. She also encouraged counties to form regional partnerships and find regional solutions for water/wastewater/stormwater infrastructure needs because the problems are severe and costs significant.

**Leland Colvin, Deputy Secretary of Engineering, SCDOT**, described progress that has been made addressing the condition of the state's roads and bridges since 2017. South Carolina faces major challenges because it is the fourth largest state-maintained high-



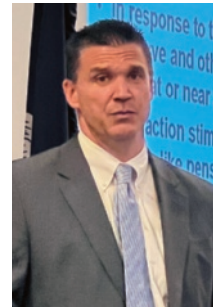
**Bonnie J. Ammons**  
Executive Director  
RIA



**Leland Colvin**  
Deputy Secretary of  
Engineering  
SCDOT



**Jim Stritzinger**  
Director  
S.C. Broadband  
Office, SCORS



**Michael Hitchcock**  
Chief Executive Officer  
S.C. Retirement  
Systems Investment  
Commission

way system in the United States, and the 10th fastest growing state in the nation. SCDOT received its first funding increase in 30 years when the S.C. General Assembly passed the Roads Bill in 2017 to provide 12 cents per year in additional reoccurring funds by July 2022. (One penny in the new tax raises about \$36 million.)

Colvin described the legislature's action as "very, very significant"; that, overall, excellent progress is being made toward getting the state's infrastructure into a good state of repair; and that the state is well positioned to begin tackling additional infrastructure priorities. He then provided an update on the four programs that the state has launched to address: 1) pavement conditions on interstates, 2) bridges, 3) rural road safety, and 4) interstate problems, including bottlenecks, crossroads and interchanges; and key rural segments of interstate.

Colvin also discussed \$1 billion in federal funding that SCDOT

will be receiving (an increase of 30 percent); provided updates on important projects across the state and efforts to address off interstate capacities, storm sewers, drains, resiliency, etc.; and the need to raise an additional \$100 million in reoccurring funding to match additional federal grant funds for improvement of roads

and bridges.

**Jim Stritzinger, Director of the S.C. Broadband Office**, provided some historical perspective before explaining the importance of deploying broadband in rural areas. He recalled President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of the Rural Electrification Act of May 20, 1936, and construction of water and sewer infrastructure for economic development.

"Can anyone imagine what the U.S. would have looked like today if we had not made an investment in electricity, what our farms would have looked like?" Stritzinger asked. "Replace the word, 'electricity,' with the word, 'Internet,' and you'll understand that history is repeating itself. Innovation is important, but history teaches us that correctly deploying broadband in rural areas is as important as it was to correctly deploy electricity many years ago."

Stritzinger encouraged county leaders to learn the economics of their Internet service providers and to forge partnerships with them, and explained that learning more about "access, adoption and use" was the key to understanding the complexity of broadband and its deployment.

He also asked county officials to download Ookla® Speedtest®, a free app for Android and Apple phones, that helps his office by making its maps smarter. The crowd-sourced app allows the S.C. Broadband Office to collect data on where good Internet service exists in the state. Every 90 days the S.C. Broadband Office receives about a million speed test records from the app's users that are integrated into the state's broadband maps.

Stritzinger then explained how county officials could use his office's color-coded broadband maps to determine where they needed to focus their efforts when introducing broadband in their counties. The S.C. Broadband Office will be downloading these maps (as high



*Published by the*

**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

**PO Box 8207  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207**

**[www.SCCounties.org](http://www.SCCounties.org)**

**(803) 252-7255  
Fax: (803) 252-0379**

**SCAC PRESIDENT**  
**Paul A. Cain**  
*Oconee County  
Council Vice Chairman*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**Timothy C. Winslow**

**EDITOR**  
**W. Stuart Morgan III**



resolution PowerPoint presentations) for all 46 counties to use at SC Digital Drive ([www.scdigitaldrive.com](http://www.scdigitaldrive.com)) on Jan. 18, 2022, and providing all of the information that county officials will need to determine where best to introduce broadband in their counties. The Office will also offer training to county officials to help them better understand the technical, multi-faceted, complex subject of broadband.

"To date, we've collaborated with the S.C. Department of Commerce to deploy \$30 million in the 14 Tier IV counties for broadband infrastructure," Stritzinger said, "and we've developed the technology to show where investments are being made to prevent you from having to spend time and money on areas of your county that have already been dealt with."

Next, he explained the importance of "Dig Once," the national best practice initiative that encourages accomplishing multiple objectives whenever possible to save time and money; for example, including conduits for fiber cable when digging ditches for water and wastewater, which also improves the resiliency of broadband by placing it underground.

## Friday, December 3

**Michael Hitchcock, Chief Executive Officer for the S.C. Retirement Systems Investment Commission**, provided an update on the S.C. Retirement Systems on Friday.

"We manage a globally diversified portfolio, which means we're impacted by how markets are doing globally," Hitchcock said. "During Fiscal Year 2019-20, our portfolio experienced unprecedented market volatility due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the first global shutdown, basically ever, or at least in modern times. However, in Fiscal Year 2020-2021, we experienced the most significant recovery ever with the portfolio earning a 28.6 percent return. We started the year with about \$30.1 billion, paid out a little over \$4 billion in benefit payments and other requisitions, had about \$8.8 billion in investment performance, and ended the year with \$39.16 billion."

"And, as of October, the latest month for which I have numbers for, we're close to \$41 billion," he added. "Obviously, that was a great year of performance, but one year's performance doesn't make or break a pension fund."

According to Hitchcock, the S.C. Retirement Systems Investment Commission manages almost \$41 billion in assets as of October 31, 2021. The Commission's goal is to earn an investment return that helps secure benefits for present and future state retirees for as long as they need to be paid. So, the Commission must think about a long-term investment horizon of 50 years or more.

The Federal Reserve and central banks have kept interest rates at or near zero since the global financial crisis of 2008 (great news for issuing debt and stimulating the economy), but this has challenged state pension funds. This zero-rate policy is punishing for the state's retirement system because it requires the S.C. Retirement Systems

Investment Commission to put a greater percentage of the retirement plan's assets into riskier investments like stocks in order to achieve the 7 percent rate of return required to make the state retirement plan work.

Hitchcock said South Carolina's 2017 Pension Reform Bill has helped by significantly reducing the state retirement systems negative cash flow, which combined with better than forecast investment returns, should cut about five years off the time that it will take before contribution rates can start coming down. The S.C. Retirement Systems Investment Commission has also taken steps during the past two years to strengthen the retirement system's investment portfolio.

"In pursuit of trying to make sure we had the portfolio that we believe has the best chance of achieving the 7 percent rate of return year in and year out, we've replaced a complex approach with a simplified one," Hitchcock explained. "We've shifted our portfolio from 18 asset classes down to five asset classes, with 70 percent of the portfolio employing cost-effective passive management rather than costly active management. Now, we're able to focus our energy on managing that part of the portfolio, the other 30 percent, that we believe can really outperform public market equivalents."

"In conclusion, Fiscal Year 2020-21 was a record year for investment performance by any measure," he added. "We still believe that market volatility will remain one of the greatest risks to the state's retirement plan, but we believe that our simplified portfolio puts us in the best position to manage the plan over an infinite investment horizon. The Pension Reform Bill of 2017 provided us a sound infrastructure, and at this point, the plan's recovery is ahead of schedule."

Visit SCAC's website to view, download and print all of the presentations: [www.sccounties.org/news/2021-scac-legislative-conference-presentations-available-online](http://www.sccounties.org/news/2021-scac-legislative-conference-presentations-available-online)



**Debra B. Summers (shown seated far right above) presides over the SCAC Policy Steering Committee reports on December 3. Also shown (seated left to right above) are the Policy Steering Committee chairs: Belinda D. Copeland, Julie J. Armstrong, Charles T. Edens and Joseph B. Dill.**

SCAC developed legislative policy positions this past fall, based upon received from the four policy steering committees, the County Council Coalition, various association groups and other county officials.

SCAC's Legislative Committee has 75 members, including 29 members of the Association's Board of Directors and council chairpersons (or their designees) representing South Carolina's 46 counties. Steering Committees met previously at the SCAC Office in September and November.



## 22 County Officials Complete NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

**T**wenty-two South Carolina county officials have successfully completed the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy, a 12-week online program that empowers front-line county government employees with fundamental leadership skills. Across the country, 4,500 county employees have enrolled in the Academy since 2018.

- Teresa Crain, Engineering Director, Aiken County
- Andy Herring, Information Security Officer, Aiken County
- Julie Stutts, Deputy Registrar, Aiken County
- Nicholas Maggio, Cybersecurity Officer, Charleston County
- Margaret Bailey, Register of Deeds, Dorchester County
- Jason Carraher, Director of Public Works, Dorchester County
- Larry Harper, Director of Water and Sewer, Dorchester County
- Tammy Thompson, Human Resources Director, Dorchester County
- Seth Housand, MIS Director, Georgetown County

- Ted Lambrecht, Assistant County Administrator, Greenville County
- Andrew Fulghum, County Administrator, Jasper County
- Patricia Salley, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Administrator, Orangeburg County
- Katie Corbin, Assessment Specialist II, Pickens County
- Austin Dunn, Network Systems Administrator, Pickens County
- Trad Julian, Purchasing, Pickens County
- Jamie Reynolds, Special Projects Manager, Pickens County
- Christine Keefer, Director, Government & Community Services, Richland County
- Erica Wade, Manager, OSBO, Richland County
- Dr. Tiffany Cooks Wright, County Supervisor, Williamsburg County
- Michael Moore, Assistant County Manager, York County
- Trish Startup, Director of Special Projects, York County
- David Swenson, Director, Economic Development, York County

Congratulations to these individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to leadership development for their counties. To learn more about the NACo's High Performance Leadership Academy, visit: [www.naco.org/resources/education-and-training/naco-high-performance-leadership-academy](http://www.naco.org/resources/education-and-training/naco-high-performance-leadership-academy). Enrollment is open for 2022.



SCAC is partnering with South Carolina Women in Leadership on MatchBoard, a new web-based platform through which counties can manage their boards and commissions. This dynamic application will digitize and streamline your boards and commissions management allowing you to post information about boards, recruit diverse qualified applicants, review applications, communicate directly with citizens, and more. Learn more and sign up today at [MatchBoard.Tech](http://MatchBoard.Tech).

“I think MatchBoard will be a great tool for Orangeburg when trying to recruit qualified applicants for our boards and commissions. It will let citizens know that the appointment process is impartial and not political.”  
— **Johnny Wright, Orangeburg County Council Chairman**

“Beaufort County currently has 29 agencies, boards, and commissions consisting of 211 members. The clerk's office has the daunting task of keeping up with applications, appointments, reappointments, resignations, rosters, meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes while also serving the needs of the 11-member county council. I am incredibly excited to move away from the antiquated Excel spreadsheet tracking method and into MatchBoard, a program that will streamline the clerk's operations and better serve our agencies, boards, and commissions, while saving us time and creating consistency expected in 2021.”

— **Sarah Brock, Beaufort County Clerk to Council**

## Now Available: SCAC Updates on 2021 Revenue Resources & Home Rule Handbook Supplements

**SCAC's annual updates** to the *Revenue Resources* and *Home Rule Handbook* were published and mailed in late November. Digital copies of the publications are also available online and can be accessed on SCAC's website at [SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org)

The *Revenue Resources 2021 Supplement* addresses the revenue raising authority granted to counties and is intended to provide insights to current statutes through editor's notes, case notes, and summaries of the S.C. Attorney General's opinions. The *2021 Supplement* is to be used in conjunction with the 2016 Edition of *Revenue Resources for County Government*.

The *Home Rule Handbook 2021 Supplement* updates the 2013 Edition of the *Home Rule Handbook for County Government*. This publication addresses the provisions of the Home Rule Act that defines the basic structure of county government, its authority to act, and its obligations to its citizens as found in Chapter 9 of Title 4 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

These publications are intended to give you a readily available reference to begin your search for information and are not designed to be the final word on the law. It is always important to consult your county attorney when you have a question regarding the law.

Should you need additional assistance, the South Carolina Association of Counties staff is available to help all county officials and employees with any questions that might arise regarding revenue mechanisms, the Home Rule Act, or any other matter which affects county government. You may contact association staff by calling 1-800-922-6081 or emailing [scac@scac.sc](mailto:scac@scac.sc).



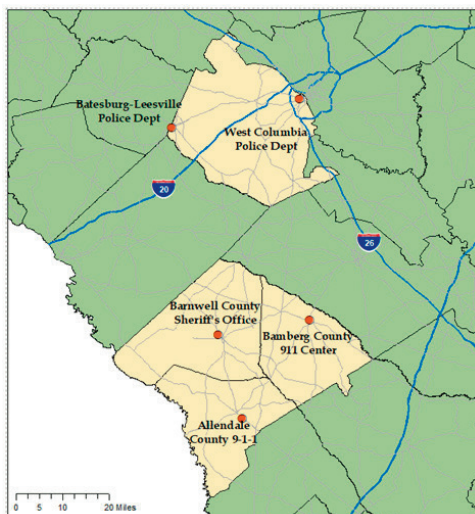
# RFA Recognizes First Five Local PSAPs Who Volunteered for Phase I of Next Generation 911

Paul M. Athey, Division Director, and  
David Morrison, Program Manager  
*S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office*

**R**evenue and Fiscal Affairs (RFA) would like to recognize its first five local public safety answering points (PSAPs) who volunteered to be a part of Phase I implementation to NextGeneration (NG) 911 this fall:

- West Columbia Police Department (9/21/2021)
- Batesburg-Leesville Police (9/29/2021)
- Barnwell County Sheriff's Office (10/05/2021)
- Allendale County 9-1-1 (10/07/2021)
- Bamberg County Emergency Services (11/02/2021)

The dedicated efforts and significant input from the directors and staff with these PSAPs were instrumental to their successful implementation. Their commitment to serve as pioneers for the project and their willingness to contribute throughout the initial learning process have led to process improvements that will ensure a smoother transition for all PSAPs to follow. RFA would like to congratulate these PSAPs for a job well done!



NG911 is a new technology consisting of a statewide emergency services IP network (ESInet) with core services to support all of the state's local 911 centers. This technology will enhance emergency call operations across the state by utilizing a faster, more resilient system to enhance PSAPs with managing high call volumes, responding reliably during natural disasters, and ensuring calls are routed appropriately using location tracking. NG911 will also improve communications by allowing calls, images, texts, and other data transmissions to flow seamlessly from the public to the network.

This initiative to upgrade the state's 911 technology is the product of the collaborative efforts of the SC 911 Advisory Committee and RFA working with local PSAPs to develop the best strategy for South Carolina. Implementing this technology on a statewide level allows for cost and operational efficiencies through shared solutions and services and ensures the same standard of functionality for every center across the state. As an added benefit, these services are being acquired directly through the state's wireless 911 fund, with no costs incurred by local governments. The project is occurring via a staged approach through the year 2025, with 26 PSAPs designated to onboard in 2022.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**SCAC Scholarships**—Applications are now open for SCAC's Presidential and Board of Directors Scholarships. This year's Presidential Scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 to one graduating High School Senior from Oconee County. The Board of Director's Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 to one High School Senior from each of the following counties chosen by lot: Allendale, Horry, Newberry, and Williamsburg Counties. Scholarship applications are due by February 1, 2022.

**Now Available: Property Tax Rates by County and Wage and Salary Report**—Updated editions of the biennial *Wage and Salary Report* and the annual *Property Tax Rates by County* report were published in December. SCAC would like to thank county auditors and county human resource officials for their valuable contributions. A limited number of printed reports are available for county officials upon request. Both publications are available online at [www.SCCounties.org/scac-publications](http://www.SCCounties.org/scac-publications)

**South Coast Cyber Summit 2022**—The South Coast Cyber Center in collaboration with the University of South Carolina Beaufort, University of Notre Dame, the Technical College of the Lowcountry, and regional partners, is bringing together cyber leaders from around the United States for the inaugural Cyber Summit. The event will be held March 7-8, 2022, in Beaufort, SC. Visit [southcoastcybersummit.com](http://southcoastcybersummit.com) to learn more.

**COVID-19 Prevention and Recovery Updates**—Omicron has become the dominant COVID variant throughout the nation and has caused a surge in new cases and hospitalizations. SCAC and NACo continue to monitor action from the Federal and State government concerning guidance for COVID-19 prevention, mitigation, and recovery. Check out [naco.org/covid-19-recovery-clearinghouse](http://naco.org/covid-19-recovery-clearinghouse) and [SCCounties.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information](http://SCCounties.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information) for recent updates.

**SC RIA Water & Sewer Rate Survey Results**—Each year, the RIA contacts utility systems throughout the state, in an effort to obtain accurate and current information regarding water and sewer rates in South Carolina. The resulting updated interactive map and corresponding spreadsheet is now available online at [ria.sc.gov/loans/rates](http://ria.sc.gov/loans/rates).

## 2021 S.C. Local Government Attorneys Institute a Huge 'Virtual' Success!

The Local Government Attorneys' Institute proved, yet again, to be a very successful virtual event this year with more than 200 attendees. Based on the evaluations completed by attendees, the program was well-received.

This year, the program offered CLE credits for lawyers for several specific practical areas. The programming began with a lawyer ethical update that was thoughtfully led by Barbara Seymour, an attorney who practices in the area of Professional Responsibility and Legal Ethics at Clawson and Staubes. The update focused on case law and legal consequences from recent ethical situations and violations. Keeping with an ethical theme, Meghan Walker, Executive Director of the South Carolina State Ethics Commission, led an informative discussion on ethics for elected officials and certain government employees that is guided through the South Carolina Ethics Reform Act.

A riveting and informative presentation from Joan E. Winters, an attorney from the Winters Law Firm, entitled "Employment Consideration in Light of Recent Supreme Court Decisions," focused on current case law and legal issues concerning discrimination. Next, Frank Rainwater, Executive Director of the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, provided a comprehensive look at redistricting and the 2020 Census.

Attendees received an insightful and much-needed mental health dialogue from Michael Abro, the Education and Outreach Coordinator for Lawyers Helping Lawyers of the South Carolina Bar, which discussed practical information for lawyers' well-being. The balance of the program was focused on issues that frequently arise in local government settings: "Who is My Lawyer" by Ken Roper, County Administrator in Pickens County.

This program is a service offered by SCAC to provide local government practitioners with relevant legal education at an economical price. The Local Government Attorneys' Institute has grown into the largest public sector legal seminar in South Carolina. The program's continued success was evident by comments made during the breaks

and an outstanding turnout.

Now is the time to go ahead and save the date for next year's S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute on November 18, 2022.

## SCAC to Host Mid-Year Conference and Institute Classes Feb. 23 – 25, 2022

SCAC will host its Mid-Year Conference on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia.

Members will hear from speakers on current topics and visit with their delegation members at the State House. A legislative reception will be held at The Palmetto Club that evening from 5 to 7 p.m.

The following Institute of Government for County Officials classes will be offered following the conference on Thursday, Feb. 24 and Friday, Feb. 25.

### Thursday, February 24

#### 9 a.m. – Noon

- Level I: Building Effective Intergovernmental Relations [E]
- Level II: Current Issues Facing County Government: ARPA Funding and County Investment

#### 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

- Level I: Employment Law: What Counties Need to Know [E]
- Level II: Decision Making in a Political Environment

### Friday, February 25

#### 9 a.m. – Noon

- Level II: Measuring and Reporting County Performance
- Level II: Economic Development

A Council Chairperson's Workshop will be held concurrently with Institute classes from 1 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 24. This event will provide council chairpersons and vice chairs with an opportunity to explore topics and discuss issues relevant to their leadership roles on county

## SCAC Announces New Location and Schedule for 2022 Annual Conference

The Association's 2022 Annual Conference will be held Aug. 1-4, 2022, at the Wild Dunes Resort on Isle of Palms.



To receive the lowest room rate for county officials, the conference schedule has been modified. County officials will receive conference and hotel registration information, including details on accommodation options, in early spring.

The room block at Wild Dunes will open to county officials after they have registered for the Institute of Government and/or the Annual Conference. The room block will not open before this time.

### 2022 Annual Conference Schedule

Monday, August 1 — Institute Classes

Tuesday, August 2 — Institute Classes, Committee Meetings, Group Meetings, President's/Corporate Partners' Reception

Wednesday, August 3 — Opening Session, Group Meetings,

Caucus Meetings, Workshops, Banquet

Thursday, August 4 — General Session

Information regarding SCAC's future annual conferences is available at [SCCounties.org/conferences-and-meetings](https://SCCounties.org/conferences-and-meetings).

council. This session is open to council chairs and vice chairs only.

Registration is now open on SCAC's website at [SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org). Please contact SCAC staff at (803) 252-7255 or tollfree at (800) 922-6081 if you have any questions.

## SCAC's 2022 Directory of County Officials

SCAC's 2022 *Directory of County Officials* will be published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

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

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

- To order your copy of the 2022 *Directory of County Officials*, please contact:

**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

PO Box 8207  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

803-252-7255

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



# Now Available Online!

## Level II: Financial Management and Level II: The Property Taxation Process

SCAC has now made **Level II: Financial Management** and **Level II: The Property Taxation Process** Institute classes available online!

Both courses were recorded at SCAC's office after the Annual Conference. Upon completion, participants will receive credit in the Institute of Government for County Officials. There is an \$80 registration fee for each course.



**Financial Management** focuses on understanding the basic elements of financial management and the role elected officials have in county financial decisions. The various budgeting methods of local governments will be explored with particular emphasis placed on the connection between financial decisions and council policy-making and goal setting.

**The Property Taxation Process** is examined in this course including an emphasis on the most recent changes in South Carolina. Participants will learn the history of property taxes in the state; legal considerations; how to compute millage rates; and updates to property tax statutes. Roles and responsibilities of key players, such as county council, the auditor, and treasurer, will be covered.

In order to access the courses on SCAC's Learning Portal, officials will need to first have an account with SCAC. For assistance, please contact Ryan Tooley at [rtooley@scac.sc](mailto:rtooley@scac.sc) or (803) 252-7255.





**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

1919 Thurmond Mall  
PO Box 8207  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
COLUMBIA, SC  
PERMIT 196

## RIA and DHEC to Provide Grant and Loan Seminars on Feb. 3 & 8

**S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)** will team up to provide a one-hour grant webinar on Thursday, February 3 to help identify funding opportunities. Participants will learn how to ap-

ply for the Basic, Economic and Regional Feasibility Planning competitive grant programs as well as Principal Forgiveness funds from the SRF program including the new SRF funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Among the information that will be presented: eligible applicants, grant

amounts, match requirements, eligible activities and other program information.

The following week, DHEC and RIA will partner again to provide information on the SRF Loan program available to fund water, wastewater and stormwater projects in a webinar to be held Tuesday, February 8. Learn what technical and financial information is needed to qualify for Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF Assistance. Information on submitting projects, eligibilities, funding priorities, loan terms and interest rates as well as other financial considerations will also be shared during the virtual presentation

Both webinars will begin at 10 am. To learn more and register for each webinar, visit: [ria.sc.gov/about/news-and-events/](http://ria.sc.gov/about/news-and-events/).

## SCAC's 2022 Conference Calendar

### Jan. 26 & 27

S.C. Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting  
Marriott Grand Dunes, Myrtle Beach

### Feb. 23

Mid-Year Conference  
Embassy Suites, Columbia

### Feb. 24 & 25

Institute of Government  
Embassy Suites, Columbia

### Aug. 1 & 2

Institute of Government

### Aug. 3 & 4

Annual Conference, Wild Dunes Resort,  
Isle of Palms

You may register and pay online for SCAC conferences at [SCCounties.org/meetings](http://SCCounties.org/meetings).

## NACo's 2022 Conference Calendar



### Feb. 12 - 16

Legislative Conference  
Washington Hilton  
Washington, D.C.

### July 21 - 24

Annual Conference  
Adams County, Colorado

## Did You Know?

### S.C. State Ethics Commission:

Did you know that in order to file your 2022 Statement of Economic Interests, which is due by March 30, 2022, you will need to migrate your account to the State Ethics Commission's new Accountability Portal at: [ethicsfiling.sc.gov/filing/home?](http://ethicsfiling.sc.gov/filing/home?)

For assistance with migrating your account, please watch this video tutorial: [youtube.com/watch?v=qpE2-FHWj7w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpE2-FHWj7w).



### S.C. State Ethics Commission

201 Executive Center Dr., Suite 150

Columbia, S.C. 29210

Office: (803) 253-4192 Fax: (803) 253-7539