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Newsletter of the South Carolina Association of Counties

March 2020

SCAC Hosts 2020 Mid-Year Conference

About 170 county officials representing South Carolina's 46 counties attended SCAC's 33rd Annual Mid-Year Conference on February 19 in Columbia. They received a legislative overview of the 2020 Session of the S.C. General Assembly and listened to several speakers address issues affecting state and county governments.

SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr. (Clarendon County Council Chairman) presided. After the legislative overview and presentations, Stewart explained SCAC's legislative policy process. M. Kent Lesesne, SCAC Director of Governmental Affairs, provided a legislative overview.

Legislators Provide Legislative Overview, Guest Speakers Address Issues

Providing a legislative update of the 2020 Session of the General Assembly were Sen. Thomas C. Alexander (District 1), Sen. Mia S. McLeod (District 22), Rep. Bruce W. Bannister (District 24) and Rep. Marvin R. Pendarvis (District 113).

Guest speakers addressed issues affecting state and county governments.



Dwight L. Stewart Jr.
SCAC President

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director, and Victor Frothroth, Assistant Political Cartographer, of the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, spoke on redistricting.

Daniel G. Ellzey, Executive Director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW), provided updates from the SCDEW.

PalmettoPride Presents Leaders Against Litter Awards

Sarah Lyles, Executive Director of PalmettoPride, the state's anti-litter non-profit organization, presented Leaders Against Litter awards and Companion awards. (See P. 3)

From 5 to 7 p.m., SCAC hosted its annual legislative reception at the Palmetto Club.

(Continued on next page)



SCAC's 2020 Mid-Year Conference, Embassy Suites, Columbia, Feb. 19



SCAC President Dwight Stewart (left) listens as legislative panelists provide an overview of the 2020 Session of the General Assembly: (left to right) Sen. Thomas C. Alexander (District 1), Sen. Mia S. McLeod (District 22), Rep. Bruce W. Bannister (District 24) and Rep. Marvin R. Pendarvis (District 113).

The Council Chairperson's Workshop and the Institute of Government for County Officials were held the following day. (See P. 4)

Guest Speakers



Frank A. Rainwater
Executive Director
S.C. Revenue and
Fiscal Affairs Office



Daniel G. Ellzey
Executive Director
S.C. Department of Employment
and Workforce



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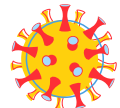
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CORONAVIRUS



SCAC is monitoring the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) by staying in touch with federal and state government partners. The Association will share important information received with county officials by email and also post resources online so that county officials can make informed decisions for their communities. At the national level, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the best source for information (<https://www.cdc.gov>). The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (<https://www.scdhec.gov/health/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>) and the S.C. Emergency Management (<https://www.scemd.org/>) are the best resources at the state level. NACo (<https://www.naco.org/resources/coronavirus>) and the International City/County Management Association (<https://icma.org/coronavirus-resources-plan-and-prepare-now-it-hits-your-community>) have resources available related to chain of command during a public health emergency, communicating with citizens, and preparing the county's workforce.



County Officials Speak-Up, Ask Questions

County officials participated in SCAC's 2020 Mid-Year Conference on Feb. 19.

During and after the legislative panel discussion and following each guest speaker's presentation, many county officials—including those shown here—spoke-up and asked questions.



Steve Willis, Lancaster County Administrator



D. Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Vice Chairman

► Vivian Fleming-McGhaney, Sumter County Council Member



Johnny Mack Scurry, Newberry County Council Member

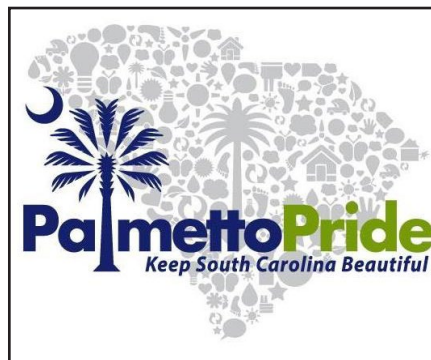
PalmettoPride Presents Leaders Against Litter Awards

PalmettoPride presented Leaders Against Litter awards to elected county officials at SCAC's 2020 Mid-Year Conference on February 19 to recognize their leadership in litter prevention and enforcement efforts.

"Addressing litter is important to citizens, and it is not a popular subject for those who must manage the limited resources many of our counties have," said Sarah Lyles, Executive

Director for PalmettoPride. "But not dealing with litter costs your communities much more than dollars.

"Local efforts are critical to achieving real change in litter reduction," she added. "Recipients of this award responded to the passion and requests of their (See *PalmettoPride*, next page)



◀ (Left to right) Chesterfield County Council Members William R. Butler and Hattie Burns, moments after receiving their Leaders Against Litter awards.

► Accepting the Leaders Against Litter Award for Lancaster County Council are (left to right) County Administrator Steve Willis and Council Chairman Steve Harper.





Institute of Government for County Officials

The Institute of Government for County Officials was held on February 20, the day after SCAC's 2020 Annual Mid-Year Conference. The following courses were offered: Employment Law: What Counties Need to Know; Understanding and Seeking Differences; The Property Taxation Process; and Measuring and Reporting County Performance. The SCAC also held the Council Chairpersons' Workshop.



Teaching the course, the Property Taxation Process, shown above, are (left to right) Amelia E. Ruple, Local Government Training/Research Coordinator, and Sandy Houck, Jr., Special Projects Coordinator, S.C. Department of Revenue.



Dona Kazia, Human Resources Professional, teaches the course, Understanding and Seeking Differences.



Linda Edwards teaches the course, Employment Law: What Counties Need to Know.

PalmettoPride ...

(Continued from previous page)

citizens and took steps to institute programs and policies that address litter concerns in their counties. "These programs require man power and funding that are often not in the budget, but they have found ways to tackle the issue."

Honored were: Chesterfield County Council Members Hattie Burns and William Rhett Butler; Kershaw County Council Chairman Julian Burns Jr.; and Lancaster County Council.



Kershaw County Council Chairman Julian Burns Jr. (left) accepts his Leaders Against Litter award.



A South Carolina Statewide Cleanup

PalmettoPride is coordinating efforts for a statewide cleanup on April 22 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day 2020.

PalmettoPride encourages South Carolina county officials and other South Carolinians to do their part by joining local

efforts to remove litter from neighborhoods, beaches, parks, schools, etc.

For more information about Earth Day 2020, contact info@palmettopride.org. For more information about PalmettoPride, visit www.PalmettoPride.org.





S.C. Counties Insurance Trusts Hold 2020 Annual Membership Meeting

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust held the annual Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting on January 29 and 30 in Myrtle Beach. The meeting, attended by 96 county officials, promoted risk management education and briefed members on the Insurance Trusts. Several speakers addressed a variety of risk management topics.

The meeting opened with Steve Willis, Lancaster County Administrator, and Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County Administrator, who spoke about the value of counties having strong risk management programs. Next, Ed Pratt, Director of Risk Management for Midlands Management, provided an insightful presentation into how employers can successfully manage their risks. A roundtable discussion followed that allowed attendees to ask questions on multiple topics of concern for risk managers. Participating on the roundtable panel were: Rachel Stephenson, SCCWCT Claims Supervisor; and Mark McKinney, Claims Manager, SCCP< Ed Pratt, Midlands Management; and Daniel Plyler, Smith/Robinson.



SCCWCT and SCCP< Annual Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting, Jan. 29, Myrtle Beach

The second day began with an interesting presentation on Social Media Exposures by Stephen Roper of Digi Stream Investigations. Robert Benfield, SCAC Director of Risk Management Services, and Van Henson, SCAC Risk Manager, gave a presentation on new risk management training topics and upcoming activities.

The final segment was the presentation of risk management awards. More information, including photos taken at the membership meeting, will be published in the upcoming spring edition of *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 31, No. 1).

(2019 Risk Management Award Winners Identified on next page)

S.C. County Officials Attend NACo's 2020 Legislative Conference



South Carolina county officials attended educational sessions and networked while attending the National Association of Counties' 2020 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., from Feb. 29 to March 3.



2019 Risk Management Award Winners

Laurens County Fire Service
Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Kershaw County
Outstanding Safety Achievement Award
Service Award—Barry Catoe, Kershaw County Risk Manager

Saluda County
Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Horry County
Outstanding Safety Achievement Award
Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award

Richland County
Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Berkeley County
Outstanding Safety Achievement Award
Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award

Lexington County
Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Lancaster County
Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award
2nd Place – Workers' Compensation Claims
Reporting Lag Time Award (tie)

Horry County Solid Waste Authority
Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Spartanburg County
Outstanding Safety Achievement Award
Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award
Service Award – Terry Booker, Spartanburg County Risk Manager
3rd Place – Workers' Compensation Claims
Reporting Lag Time Award
2nd Place – Workers' Experience Modification Factor Award

Anderson County
2nd Place – Workers' Compensation Claims
Reporting Lag Time Award (tie)

McCormick County
1st Place – Workers' Compensation Claims
Reporting Lag Time Award

Greenwood County
1st Runner-Up – Workers' Compensation
Experience Modification Factor Award

Abbeville County
Lowest Workers' Compensation
Experience Modification Factor Award



Greenwood County Council Chairman Steve Brown Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The S.C. City and County Management Association (SCCCMA) presented Greenwood County Council Chairman Steven J. Brown a Lifetime Achievement Award at the SCCCMA's winter meeting in Greenville on January 24.

Brown has served as the Greenwood County council chairman since he was elected to the position in 2015, and has served as a county council member since he was first elected in 2012. He was elected last fall to serve as treasurer of the S.C. County Council Coalition, and has served on SCAC's Legislative Committee, and Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Policy Steering Committee. Previously, Brown served for 24 years as Greenwood city manager before retiring in 2009 as the city's longest serving city manager.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is considered the highest honor the SCCCMA can convey. The award recognizes individuals who have devoted all or a significant portion of their careers to local management for cities and/or counties.



Lancaster County Receives \$2.2 Million in Federal Grants to Create LEAD Program for Addicts

Lancaster County, which recorded 39 opioid-related deaths in 2019—the county's highest number ever—announced in January that it had received \$2.2 million in federal grants to steer addicts into treatment and away from crime and the morgue.

The money will fund the county's new Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, designed to find addicts and direct them to substance-abuse counseling and medical care. The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office has hired a project manager, a project coordinator and a field agent. EMS is hiring a paramedic, and the Lancaster Police Department is planning to add staff for the program.

Next year, Lancaster County will be able to reapply for additional funding. So far, 11 individuals are participating in Lancaster County's LEAD program. Many of them have been referred to the program by family members and friends.

Ninety-five percent of individuals jailed in Lancaster County are there due to mental health or substance abuse issues, according to Lancaster County Sheriff Barry Faile. The only people eligible for the LEAD program are those with misdemeanor crimes. No violent offenders qualify. Addicts must also ask for help or agree to seek help to participate in Lancaster County's LEAD program.

The first LEAD program was started in Seattle in 2011.





CELEBRATING 48 YEARS OF INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION

2020 AWARDS COMPETITION

INNOVATION + COLLABORATION + CELEBRATION

SCAC is accepting applications for the 2020 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition. For 47 years, our association has recognized innovative projects completed by South Carolina's counties.

The awards program accepts applications that address all areas of county government—from simple, unique ideas that maximize limited resources to major collaborative efforts that tackle complex issues.

Counties are invited to submit applications that describe the purpose and significance of their innovative projects. All applications must be submitted online or received at the SCAC Office by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 19. Applicants who meet the deadline and all requirements will be scheduled to present their projects during the awards competition on Sunday, August 2, at SCAC's 53rd Annual Conference.

For more information, please see the 2020 Awards Brochure and the Awards Toolkit available at <http://www.sccounties.org/awards-toolkit>. The toolkit allows counties to submit their applications online, provides a fillable PDF application, addresses frequently asked questions, and includes examples of previous projects.

For more information, please contact Susan Turkopuls at 1-800-922-6081 or sturkopuls@scac.sc.



Beaufort County Breaks Ground for New County Administration Building

Beaufort County improvised on a rainy day by holding a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Arthur Horne Building on February 18 inside council chambers at the County Administration Building in Beaufort. When completed, the new Arthur Horne Building will have almost 8,000 square feet of office space, allowing the County to consolidate certain departments. Construction should be completed in mid-March 2021. The Beaufort County Facility Management Department is managing the project.



BEAUFORT COUNTY GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY—(Left to right) Beaufort County Council Members Joseph Passiment, Larry McElynn and Alice Howard; Dan Saltrick, Architect, Beaufort Design Build; Mark Roseneau, Beaufort County Facility Management Director; Jarrod Akins, Akins General Contractors; the Hon. Richard A. Brooks, Beaufort Magistrate's Office; Beaufort County Administrator Ashley Jacobs; the Hon. Rod Sproatt, Beaufort Magistrate's Office; the Hon. LaShonda Scott, Chief Magistrate; Council Member Mike Covert; Council Vice Chairman Paul Sommerville; and Council Chairman Stu Rodman.



Webcasts & Webinars

Webcasts and webinars will be published here when scheduled.
So, please check this schedule whenever you receive
Carolina Counties Newsletter.

For more information, please contact Susan Turkopuls, SCAC,
at (803) 252-7255 or sturkopuls@scac.sc. Or visit SCAC's website
at: www.SCCounties.org/webcasts-and-webinars

SCAC's 2020 Conference Calendar

Aug. 1 – 2 Aug. 2 – 5	Institute of Government Annual Conference <i>Hilton Head Marriott</i>
August	Setoff Debt/GEAR <i>Date and location TBD</i>
September 23	Continued Education, Update for Risk Managers, Etc. <i>DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia</i>
Oct. 21 Oct. 22	Institute of Government County Council Coalition <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i>
Nov. 20	S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute <i>DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia</i>
Dec. 3 – 4	Legislative Conference <i>Renaissance, Charleston</i>
Dec. 15	Orientation for Newly-Elected County Council Members <i>DoubleTree, by Hilton, Columbia</i>

You can register and pay online for SCAC conferences at www.sccounties.org/meetings.



NACo's 2020 Conference Calendar

July 17 – 20	Annual Conference <i>Orlando, Florida</i>
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South Carolina State Ethics Commission:

Did You Know?



Did you know that Statements of Economic Interests are due by March 30th?

If you are a member of county council, or serving as your county's chief financial officer or chief administrative official (county administrator, county supervisor, or some other title), you are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests.

Should you need help filing your Statement of Economic Interest, please contact Lessie Cheeseboro at (803) 253-4192.

S.C. State Ethics Commission
201 Executive Center Dr., Suite 150
Columbia, S.C. 29210
Office: (803) 253-4192
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