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More ...

Vol. 32, No. 5

Newsletter of the South Carolina Association of Counties

November 2020

Lancaster and Berkeley Counties Win Top SCAC Awards!

Berkeley, Pickens and Union Counties Receive Honorable Mention Awards

Lancaster and **Berkeley counties** won top honors in SCAC's 2020 Awards Competition and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase, held on August 26 at the S.C. Educational Television (SCETV) in Columbia. The competition was livestreamed on Facebook and on SCAC's website.

Lancaster County won the 2020 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its EMS Boot Camp, which has helped the county fully staff its EMS Department. Berkeley County won the 2020 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for its Project SEARCH, a partnership with the local school district that has helped 80 percent of last year's class find full-time jobs.

Five counties competed in the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award competition, and five competed in the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award competition. Ten counties also participated in the COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase, which was not adjudicated.

SCAC held a Virtual Watch Party on October 1 at the SCETV Studio in Columbia to announce the five counties that won awards in the Association's 2020 Awards Competition. SCAC also recognized 10 counties that presented entries in the COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase. The Virtual Watch Party was livestreamed on Facebook and on SCAC's website.

Lancaster County Wins 2020 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

"Lancaster County has taken an innovative approach to address the continuing shortage of qualified emergency medical technicians," said William E. Tones, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, who

headed the three-judge panel evaluating this year's competition. "Working with the local technical college and the U.S. Department of Labor, the EMS Boot Camp guides qualified applicants through a 12-week program of classroom, self-study, skills lab and direct experience in an ambulance to prepare participants to care for victims of sudden illness or injury.

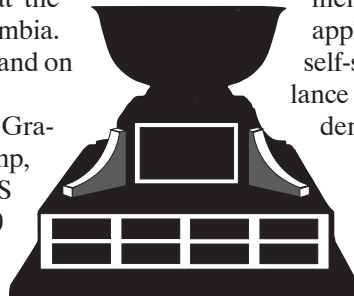
"Graduates of the program are eligible to take state and national certification exams, and employment is guaranteed once they receive their certifications," Tones added. "Five students graduated this year from Lancaster County's EMS Boot Camp, and all of them passed their National Registry exams. Now, this fast-growing county is fully staffed with EMS personnel who are committed to helping their county provide high quality pre-hospital care for residents and visitors."

This is the 48th year the SCAC has awarded the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award. The award, named in honor of the late J. Mitchell Graham who served as SCAC president from 1969 to 1970, recognizes counties that address community challenges, implement operational improvements, or enhance their citizens' quality of life in a unique way.

Berkeley, Pickens and Union Counties Receive Honorable Mention Awards

Each year for SCAC's J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award competition, county entries are grouped in the following categories: counties with populations under 50,000; counties with populations between 50,000 and 150,000; and counties with populations greater than 150,000. Counties compete and provide 10-minute presentations before a panel of judges during the competition.

(Continued on next page)





Honorable Mention awards are presented when merited in each of the three population categories.

Union County

This year, in the category for counties with populations less than 50,000, Union County won an Honorable Mention for its Higher Education and Workforce Training Opportunities initia-

tive.

“Through partnerships with local industry, the school district and colleges,” Tones said, “Union County leaders are enhancing the quality of life through a workforce training program and a new nursing program at the county’s USC branch campus. The county’s investment in its Community Scholarship Program enables residents to attend a local university or community col-

SCAC Policy Steering Committees Meet

SCAC policy steering committees met on November 2, 4 and 5 at the SCAC Office to finalize positions that they will recommend to SCAC’s Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee will meet when SCAC’s 2020 Legislative Conference is held virtually, beginning at 11 a.m. on December 3.

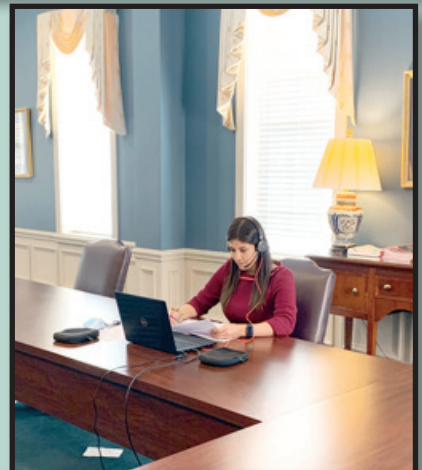
SCAC’s four policy steering committees include: County Government and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee—Joseph B. Dill, Chair (Greenville County Council); Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation Steering Committee—Charles T. Edens, Chair (Sumter County Council); Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Steering Committee—Julie J. Armstrong, Chair (Charleston County Clerk of Court); and Revenue, Finance and Economic Development Steering Committee—

Belinda D. Copeland, Chair (Darlington County).

SCAC’s four policy steering committees met previously on September 8, 9 and 10 at the Association’s office to discuss their policy positions. ■



SCAC staff (above) meet in the SCAC Office in Columbia to help policy steering committees draft policy statements. SCAC Staff Attorney Daina M. Riley (shown at right) helps the Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Steering Committee meeting (shown in the screenshot below), held virtually on November 4.



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lege branch campus tuition-free and is helping remove many economic barriers for county residents.”

Pickens County

In the category for counties with populations between 50,000 to 150,000, Pickens County won an Honorable Mention for enhancing the quality of life by transforming the county’s animal control facility to a “no kill” pet adoption program.

“Prior to 2017, Pickens County was unable to offer animal adoptions,” Tomes said. “As a result of county council’s leader-

ship and staff’s commitment, more than 90 percent of animals have been saved through pet adoption and other programs, such as Service Dogs for Veterans and the Barn Cat program. Pickens County’s special needs population and animals benefitting from the county’s partnership with the county’s Board of Disabilities and Special Needs is another successful aspect of the program.”

Berkeley County

In the category for counties with populations greater than
(See *SCAC Awards*, P. 4)

Redistricting: Just When You Think It’s Safe to Go Back to a Normal Council Meeting ...

By Victor Frontroth and Frank Rainwater,
SC Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

In 1978, the tagline to the movie sequel “Jaws 2” was, “Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water ...” Today, as we approach the end of 2020 and hopefully a lessening of the challenges posed by COVID-19, the prospect of returning to a normal council meeting in 2021 might seem like a peaceful option. But, lurking below the surface, waiting to spring onto an agenda is the issue of redistricting. With the proper planning, however, this does not have to be an intimidating prospect.

Redistricting is the process whereby elected bodies must adjust their election districts to maintain the constitutional requirement of “one person one vote.” S.C. Code of Laws §4-9-90 requires counties to implement redistricting of the county council within a reasonable time prior to the next scheduled general election. This process officially begins when the decennial count of our population is released, which traditionally occurs in the spring.

For some local governments the next election will be in 2021, though for many the next election will be 2022. So, time may be a factor. Not every local government, however, may need to redistrict or adjust their districts as much as another. The need will be determined by a formula and will depend on how much the population changes have impacted the equal allocation of population within the jurisdiction.

The S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) has assisted local governments and the federal courts with redistricting services since the 1970s and is able to assist local governments with this process again in 2021. We have started our list of customers as a few local governments have already contacted us.



In addition to our experience, RFA is further positioned to provide this service for other unique reasons too. We are the official state contact for the Census and have worked with the Bureau in preparing data files and address lists for the population count. Furthermore, our office is responsible for maintaining the official precinct maps for the state and work with the S.C. General Assembly to update those records and maps, so we are already acquainted with your local areas.

Finally, we received training this year on the latest issues and court decisions regarding constitutional issues and federal law such as the Voting Rights Act.

In planning for redistricting, here are some key points to remember:

- Before the Census data is released, look at your election cycle and work on a timeline;
- Again, before the data is released, contact us or another service provider to make sure everyone is prepared in advanced. Some of these advanced planning items are:
 - Make sure maps of the current council districts are the most recent and accurate; and
 - Have the correct addresses for current council members to avoid unnecessarily placing members in the same district.
- After you have contacted us and once the Census data is released, we will present a “benchmark plan” to reflect the current districts with the new populations and show where the required adjustments are needed. Included in this presentation is an explanation of traditional redistricting principles;
- Plan to have a public hearing with the council and citizens to explain the benchmark plan, principles and requirements, and receive feedback; and
- After these meetings and discussions, we will present a redistricting plan to the council for adoption.

Redistricting is an integral part of our democratic process and our office is willing to assist your county. Please contact Victor Frontroth at victor.frontroth@rfa.sc.gov or (803) 734-0969 for further information.





SCAC Awards ...

(Continued from P. 3)

150,000, Berkeley County won an Honorable Mention for developing a robust manufacturing training program (ManuFirst-SC™) in 2017 that supports local industries by providing residents who have little or no manufacturing experience with an innovative pathway to a long-term career.

“Berkeley County, which is committed to preparing its residents for manufacturing careers,” Tones said, “has expanded the offering to students in six of the county’s high schools and uses industry fees to fully fund the program. It is also focused on helping smaller communities that have high levels of unemployment, and it is offering classes around the working hours of residents living in the community.”

Berkeley County Wins 2020 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

Berkeley County won the 2020 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for its collaborative effort with the local school district that provides teens and young adults with special needs internship opportunities in county government to help them develop skills they will need for future employment. Due to this partnership, 80 percent of last year’s class has found full-time jobs.

“Berkeley County is fiercely committed to building a solid and bright future for all county residents, and its leaders are proud that their county has become the first local government to pioneer this program in the Lowcountry,” Tones said. “Student interns between the ages of 17 and 21, who participate in the program, are currently enrolled in a high school within the school district. Throughout the school year, they rotate among 12 different county departments where they are assigned work that exposes them to a variety of tasks and situations they are likely to encounter in a future job. This develops both their hard and soft skills for lifelong success.”

This is the 23rd year the Association has awarded the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award. The award, named in honor of the late Barrett S. Lawrimore who served as SCAC president in 2004, highlights the critical need for regional partnerships, strategies and solutions. Competition for this award is open to two or more political subdivisions (counties or county partnerships formed with city, town, district or regional government organizations) that work together to complete an innovative project.

In-depth articles on the winners of this year’s J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, Lancaster County’s EMS Boot Camp, and this year’s Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award, Project SEARCH, will be published in the next issue of *County Focus Magazine* (Winter Issue, Vol. 31, No. 4).



Bamberg County Dedicates Veterans Memorial

About 250 guests and dignitaries tolerated rain on Veterans Day (November 11) to dedicate the Bamberg County Veterans Memorial in Bamberg.

Participants unveiled a first-of-its-kind brick sculpture by sculptor Brand Spencer titled, “By Land, By Sea, By Air,” that expresses respect and gratitude to those who have served our great nation’s armed forces. The memorial honors the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Merchant Marine. Carlisle Military School, parent school of Camden Military Academy, is also recognized.

The Rev. Isaiah Odom, Bamberg County Council Member, led the invocation. Bamberg Ehrhardt High School JROTC’s presented the Colors, and volunteers with the S.C. Battle-

ground Preservation Trust, fired cannons. Bamberg County Council Vice Chairman Larry Hayes led the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Maj. Gen. James E. Livingston, USMC (Ret.), a Medal of Honor recipient, gave the keynote address.

Other speakers included: Sen. Brad Hutto (Dist. 40); Rep. Justin Bamberg (Dist. 90); City of Bamberg and Bamberg County council members; City of Bamberg Mayor Nancy Foster; and Bamberg County Administrator Joey Preston. Participating organizations included: Operation Enduring Honor, S.C. State Guard, S.C. Battleground Preservation Trust, Celebrate Freedom Foundation, Quilts of Valor Foundation, Patriots Point Foundation, and Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve and the Patriot Guard Riders.

The Rev. Evert Cromer (Bamberg County Council Member) provided the benediction, concluding the dedication.



BAMBERG COUNTY’S NEW VETERANS MEMORIAL—The memorial showcases each branch’s history and flag. It also includes a metal bench for each branch and dedicatory pavers. (Photo by John Carpenter)



Lancaster County Opens New EMS Station and Animal Shelter

Lancaster County has opened a new EMS Station and a new Animal Shelter.

Lancaster County Animal Shelter

On November 5, Lancaster County held the grand opening for its new Animal Shelter. The opening, due to COVID-19, was by invitation only but was livestreamed for the public. The public can tour the new facility via video on the County's YouTube channel at <https://youtube.com/c/LancasterCoSCGov>

The new shelter has 46 runs for dogs, two adoption rooms for cats, and a new surgery room to help facilitate Trap/Neuter/Return. One side of the shelter holds dogs that are adoptable while the other side holds dogs in quarantine or that are aggressive, which helps ensure public safety. The new clean air system in the building will help keep the animals healthy.

This updated, user-friendly animal shelter (for both people and animals), will be easier to clean and maintain and will help the county facilitate rescues and adoptions. The new facility opened to the public on November 2.

EMS Station 4/9

On July 26, Lancaster County held a ribbon cutting for EMS Station 4/9, located at 9576 Old Bailes Road in Indian Land.

EMS Station 4/9 will house two front line response units, the EMS North END STAR Team Rehab Trailer, one Quick Response Unit and a Backup EMS Unit. The facility's location was chosen to cut down on the response times to the extreme northern end of Lancaster County, and because of the high population density in that end of the county.

Due to COVID-19, only council and EMS staff were invited to attend the ribboncutting. However, the event was livestreamed for the public. An open house is being planned for the public.



GRAND OPENING OF LANCASTER COUNTY'S NEW ANIMAL SHELTER—(Front row, left to right) Allen Blackmon, Council Member for District 6; Charlene McGriff, Vice-Chair, Council Member for District 2; Alan Williams, Lancaster County Animal Shelter Director; Larry Honeycutt, Secretary, Council Member for District 4; Terry Graham, Council Member for District 1; Arlene McCarthy, President of Lancaster Animal Shelter Supporters (LASS); and Brian Carnes, Council Member for District 7. (Back row, left to right) Billy Mosteller, Council Member for District 3; Steve Harper, Chairman, Council Member for District 5; Patrick Williamson, President, Southern Builders; Cary Perkins, Architect, McMillan Pazdan Smith; and Kelvin Alexander, Lancaster County Project Manager.



RIBBON CUTTING FOR LANCASTER COUNTY'S NEW EMS STATION 4/9—(Front row, left to right) Brian Carnes, County Council District 7; Greg Brasington, EMS Honor Guard; Steve Harper, County Council Chair, District 5; Clay Catoe, EMS Director; Len Robinson, EMS Operations Manager; Catherine Accashian, EMT; Sherri Brady, EMS Training Coordinator. (Back row, left to right) Scott Hall, Paramedic; Josh Faulkenberry, Honor Guard Commander; John Kennington, Honor Guard; Jamie Deason, EMT; Javario Crawford, Honor Guard; Helmut Geiser, First Responder; Stacey Chapman, First Responder; Richard Mann, Paramedic; Terri Faulkenberry, Quality Assurance and Allen Blackmon, County Council District 6. (Photos by Eric Rowell, Associate Director, Lancaster County Assessor's Office)



SCAC to Host OSHA 300 Recordkeeping Webinar on Dec. 9

SCAC will host a free webinar on OSHA 300 Recordkeeping and Injury & Illness Reporting Requirements at 10 a.m. on December 9.

Risk Manager Van Henson will present the seminar, especially important for all who maintain OSHA Logs, that will cover:

- What constitutes a work-related injury or illness that must be recorded on your OSHA 300 log
- How to properly record injuries and illnesses on your 300 form
- What injuries or illnesses you must report to OSHA
- Posting of your annual 300A summary form in the workplace
- Electronic submittal of your injury and illness data to OSHA's federal database
- How to determine if COVID-19 related illnesses should be recorded on your OSHA 300 log

To register, simply use on the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3427238627804700687>

If you have any registration questions, contact Caroline Deevey at CDeevey@scac.sc or (803) 252-7255, Ext. 338.



SCAC to Host Webinars for Newly Elected Council Members on Jan. 5 & 7

SCAC will offer its Orientation for Newly Elected Council Members virtually in two separate webinars from 9 a.m. to noon on Jan. 5, 2021 and 2 to 5 p.m. on Jan. 7, 2021.

Participants will learn about topics and hear from different presenters during each half-day webinar. So, everyone is encouraged to participate on both dates.

The webinars will be recorded and made available on SCAC's learning portal for anyone who is unable to participate in the live events.

SCAC is working with the clerks to council and chief administrative officers to invite newly elected council members to attend the webinars. Anyone who participates in both webinars will receive credit for Orientation I and II courses in the Institute of Government for County Officials.

For assistance or more information, contact the SCAC at (803) 252-7255.



SCAC Risk Management Offers Broad Range of Training Classes During 2020

SCAC risk management staff members held a broad range of training classes across South Carolina during 2020. Some of the training classes focused on inmate supervision, detention center risk management and liability, decision-making challenges law enforcement officers face, and de-escalation and use of force training for law enforcement officers.

Shown at right is one of the De-Escalation and Use of Force Report Writing classes held on July 7 and 9 at the Sumter County Sheriff's Office in Sumter. More than 40 law enforcement officers attended. The classes were taught by Robert Benfield, SCAC Director of Risk Management, and Kathy Ward, General Counsel, Sumter County Sheriff's Office. ■





SCAC ANNOUNCES NEW CORPORATE PARTNER PROGRAM!

Effective Jan. 1, 2021

The South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) announces a NEW way to market your company, both efficiently and cost-effectively, to South Carolina's 46 counties!

The new SCAC Corporate Partner Program provides a comprehensive marketing opportunity to showcase your products and services directly to county leaders. The program also offers companies year-round exposure to county officials and employees at multiple SCAC events and in the Association's quarterly magazine and annual directory.



Enrollment is now open for the SCAC Corporate Partner Program at: www.SCCounties.org/corporate-partner-program

For more information, please call Tish Anderson or Stuart Morgan at (803) 252-7255. Or, e-mail Tish at tanderson@scac.sc or Stuart at smorgan@scac.sc.

COUNTY FOCUS



Do you have a story idea for SCAC's *County Focus Magazine* or *Carolina Counties Newsletter*?

If so, please contact SCAC's Public Information Office at 1-800-922-6081 or smorgan@scac.sc

South Carolina's 2021 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2021 Directory of County Officials* is scheduled to 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 *2021 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:

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Webcasts and Webinars



OSHA 300 Recordkeeping and
Injury & Illness Reporting Requirements
(Webinar to be hosted by SCAC Risk Manager Van Henson, CPM)
10 a.m., Dec. 9, 2020

Orientation for Newly Elected Council Members
(Webinars to be hosted from 9 a.m. to noon on Jan. 5, 2021 and
2 to 5 p.m. on Jan. 7, 2021.)

For more information, please visit SCAC's website at:
www.SCCounties.org/webcasts-and-webinars

South Carolina State Ethics Commission:

Did You Know?



Section 8-13-1120(A)(2) requires individuals filing Statements of Economic Interests (SEIs) to report the source, type, and amount or value of income received from a governmental entity by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family. In the past, the Commission has informally advised filers to use Box 1 on their W-2 to determine the amount of income received. The Commission hereby clarifies that individuals filing a SEI should report the amount of wages received prior to any deductions or withholdings. In many instances, Box 1 may still be a good indicator of gross income. However, Box 1 will not be an accurate indicator of gross income for those individuals who divert or withhold large portions of their wages to retirement and/or other investments. It is incumbent upon each filer to accurately report the amount of gross income received from a governmental entity in their SEI.

S.C. State Ethics Commission
201 Executive Center Dr., Suite 150
Columbia, S.C. 29210
Office: (803) 253-4192
Fax: (803) 253-7539

SCAC's 2020-21 Conference Calendar

Dec. 3	Legislative Conference <i>Virtual</i>
<hr/>	
2021	
Jan. 5 & 7	Orientation for Newly-Elected Council Members <i>Virtual</i>
Feb. 10 Feb. 11 – 12	Mid-Year Conference for County Officials Institute of Government for County Officials <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i>
July 31 – Aug. 1 Aug. 1 – 4	Institute of Government for County Officials Annual Conference <i>Hilton Head Marriott</i>

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



NACo's 2021 Conference Calendar

TBA	Legislative Conference <i>Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, D.C.</i>
July 16 – 19	Annual Conference <i>Austin Convention Center, Travis County/Austin, Texas</i>