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SCAC Welcomes Newly Elected Council Members

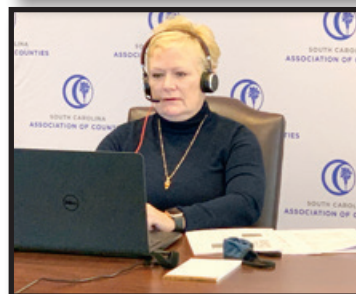
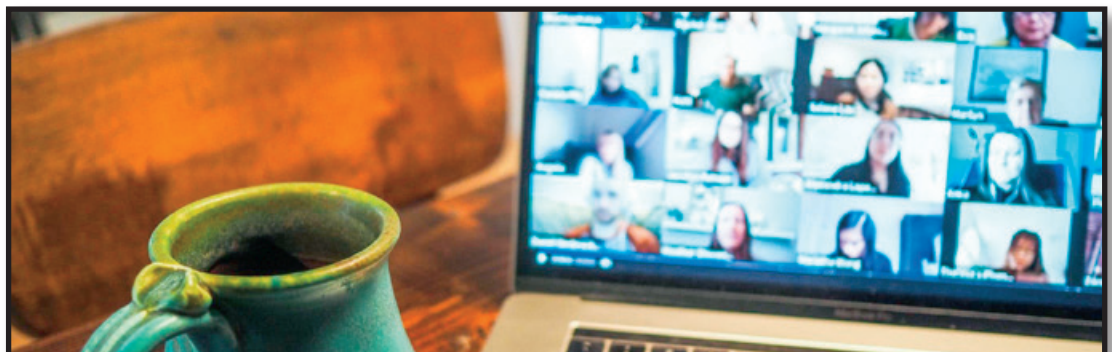
SCAC welcomed newly elected council members from across the state during the Association's virtual Orientation for Newly-Elected Council Members, held on January 5 & 7 at the SCAC Office in Columbia.

Offered every other year following the General Election, the program prepares newly elected county council members for their new duties and responsibilities.

Among the topics discussed were: roles and responsibilities of county council; forms and powers of county government; rules of procedure; county risk management; the Freedom of Information Act; budget basics and funding sources; and the State Ethics, Government Accountability and Campaign Reform Act.

The recorded webinars are available on SCAC's learning portal for any newly elected council members who were unable to participate in the live events. Participants who completed both webinars received credit for Orientation I and II courses in SCAC's Institute of Government for County Officials.

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



◀ Shown participating in the virtual Orientation for Newly Elected Council Members are (left and below)—Timothy C. Winslow, SCAC Executive Director; Gina R. Smith, CPA, Bamberg County Controller; Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director, S.C. State Ethics Commission; and other SCAC staff members participated.

S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute Goes Virtual

By John O. Wienges Jr.
SCAC Governmental Affairs Liaison

The S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute went virtual for the first time in 2021 in an effort to maximize safety due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. This year's event proved once again to be very successful because more than 200 attendees joined the event from all corners of the state.

Barbara Seymore of Clawson and Staubes, LLC, and Chuck Thompson of the International Municipal Lawyers Association kicked off the event with two highly informative presentations on the legal ethics portions for the day. Joan Winters, an attorney with the Winters Law Firm, provided the group with a timely presentation regarding various human resource consid-

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erations that may arise during a pandemic.

Attendees were also given excellent insight on conducting court proceedings during a pandemic by the Honorable Perry H. Gravely, from the 13th Judicial Circuit, and the Honorable Walton J. McLeod, IV, from the 11th Judicial Circuit. Judge Gravely and Judge McLeod discussed their own personal experiences regarding the unique challenges and technological achievements that the legal community has faced over the past year while conducting virtual hearings.

Perhaps the liveliest presentation of the day was the “FOIA and Virtual Meetings – Is It Live or Is It Memorex,” delivered by Alexander “Sandy” Cruickshanks IV and Virginia “Ginny” Dupont. With more than 30 years of combined experience serving as county attorneys for Laurens and Spartanburg counties respectively, Cruickshanks and Dupont certainly provided a

lot of valuable insight regarding the FOIA process in today’s “virtual world.”

The final presenter for this year’s event was Sheila Willis, an attorney with Fisher & Phillips, LLP, in Columbia. Willis, who presented an engaging and thought-provoking presentation regarding diversity in the workplace, also provided insight from her years of experience in practicing employment law.

The success for this year’s virtual program was evident by the outstanding turnout and the numerous comments that were submitted by the event’s attendees to SCAC staff. Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for an announcement regarding next year’s S.C. Local Government Attorneys’ Institute. Hope to see you there!



The Hon. Perry H. Gravely
13th Judicial Circuit



The Hon. Walton J. McLeod IV
11th Judicial Circuit



Virginia “Ginny” Dupont
Spartanburg County Attorney



Alexander “Sandy” Cruickshanks IV
Laurens County Attorney



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SCAC Announces Schedule for 2021 Annual Awards Program and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase

SCAC recently announced the schedule for its 2021 Annual Awards Program and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase. Building on the success of the 2020 Awards Program and Showcase, the Association will again host the Awards Competition and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase at the SC ETV Studios in Columbia.





The showcase entrants will be recognized and the award winners will be announced during the Association's Annual Conference in Hilton Head. Below is the schedule of events, which is different from previous years. More specific dates will be announced soon.

Apr. 30, 2021

All award and showcase entries due.

June 8, 2021

Awards competition and showcase to be held at SC ETV.

Aug. 1 – 3, 2021

Award winners to be announced and showcase entrants to be recognized at SCAC Annual Conference

The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase will be offered again for counties to share ways they have enhanced services and programs or learned from their response to the health

crisis. Counties that entered last year's showcase that would like to enter again are asked to focus on additional enhancements or changes that were not included in the 2020 Showcase.

For nearly 50 years, the 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.

To view videos and applications from previous winners and to learn more about the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award and the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award, visit the Association's website at SCCounties.org. If you have additional questions, please contact Susan Turkopuls at 1-800-922-6081 or sturkopuls@scac.sc.



SC RIA Finances Infrastructure Investments to Address Infrastructure Challenges

By Liz Rosinski

Senior Program Manager, Marketing & Outreach
SC Rural Infrastructure Authority

From pipes to pump stations and tanks to treatment plants, South Carolina has an extensive network of water and sewer infrastructure across all 46 counties. This critical infrastructure is operated by public and private entities, serving more than five million people in the residential and business communities.



www.ria.sc.gov

Millions of dollars are needed each year to keep this intricate and vast infrastructure strong, even as communities are

currently focused on protecting public health and preparing for economic opportunities. The need for ongoing rehabilitation and replacement comes at a time when many communities face increased expenses and decreased revenues as they respond to today's challenges. And accessing local, state and federal dollars is crucial for a utility to maintain public health and environmental standards as well as provide the foundation for strong local economies.

There are a number of types of utility systems that serve South Carolina communities. In some areas, the need for water and/or sewer was addressed by the formation of special purpose districts (SPDs), which were created by the General Assembly.

SPDs provide a governmental power or function, such as sewerage treatment or water distribution, that is separate from the functions of county government.

In many other cases, cities and towns expand their water or sewer customer base to include surrounding areas beyond their incorporated city or town limits. Governmental systems, such as SPDs and municipalities, are eligible to apply to the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority's (RIA) grant program to fill funding gaps when addressing critical infrastructure needs.

For some parts of the state, not-for-profit private water and/or sewer companies were created to serve areas lacking in adequate infrastructure. While these types of systems don't often have direct access to state and federal funds, counties may apply to the RIA grant program on behalf of the not-for-profit utility to assist with project implementation. For example, since 2013 Cherokee County has received \$881,500 in grants to assist three different not-for-profit utilities with water system improvements within its county border.

Berkeley County, on the other hand, directly provides water, sewer and storm water services to its residential and business customers. In recent years, the county has qualified for \$36 million in infrastructure funding primarily through the State Revolving Fund Program (SRF), a dual agency loan program between RIA and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Berkeley County's funded projects addressed a range of water and sewer needs in an effort to up-

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grade aging lines, renovate pump stations and increase sewer capacity for a key industrial park.

There have been some national estimates that indicate at least \$833 million will be needed for South Carolina drinking water improvements over the next 20 years, and sanitary sewer needs are projected to be even greater. Various federal and state programs provide assistance annually for several local capital improvement projects.

RIA makes available more than \$100 million in grant and loan financing each year for critical water, sewer and storm drainage improvements. The agency works in partnership with communities to address today's infrastructure challenges and prepare for tomorrow's opportunities.



SCAC's 2021 Directory of County Officials

SCAC'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).

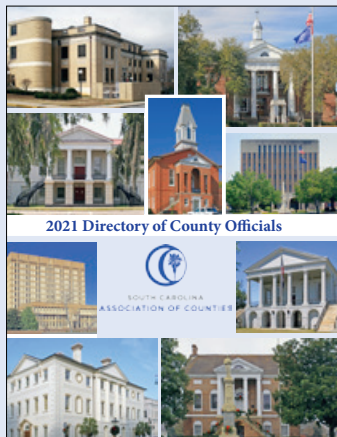
● To order your copy of the *2021 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:

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Dorchester County Veterans Affairs Director Named S.C. Veterans Affairs Officer of the Year

The S.C. Association of County Veterans Affairs Officers (SCACVAO) on November 5 honored Dorchester County Director of Veterans Affairs Cindy Busby as S.C. Veterans Affairs Officer of the Year for 2020.

Each year, the SCACVAO honors the county veterans affairs officer who makes a lasting impact and goes above and beyond for veterans and their families in their home county and across the state. As Veterans Affairs Officer of the Year, Busby joins a prestigious group of public servants who exemplify professionalism, and superior performance and care while serving our nation's veterans.

"Cindy has shown dedication to this association for many years," said Todd Humphries, SCACVAO President and Director of Veterans Affairs for Cherokee County. "Her professionalism is something everyone can only hope to obtain."

Dorchester County Administrator, Jason L. Ward, Dorchester County Administrator, said, "Cindy is an outstanding advocate for veterans in Dorchester County and in the tri-county area."

"We are blessed to have her as our Veterans Affairs Officer," Ward added.

Busby, in her role as Dorchester County Director of Veterans Affairs, helps ex-service members and eligible dependents with financial compensation claims, including but not limited to hospitalization, training, and insurance benefits.



Support SCAC's Corporate Partners!

SCAC's new Corporate Partners will be identified in the upcoming winter issue of SCAC's *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 31, No. 4) and *2021 Directory of County Officials*!

SCAC launched a new Corporate Partner Program on January 1st that allows companies to market themselves efficiently and cost effectively to South Carolina's 46 counties.

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

For more information regarding SCAC's New Corporate Partner Program, please visit scacounties.org/corporate-partner-program or contact Tish Anderson at tanderson@scac.sc.





SCAC Presents Awards to Counties

SCAC Executive Director Tim Winslow visited counties to present awards following the Association's 2020 Awards Program and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase, held on August 26 at SCETV in Columbia. He was accompanied by Josh Rhodes, SCAC Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel; and Anna Berger, SCAC Senior Director of Operations.

Photos of Winslow presenting the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award to Lancaster County and the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award to Berkeley County will be published in the upcoming winter issue of County Focus Magazine (Vol. 31, No. 4). Articles on Lancaster County's award-winning EMS Boot Camp and Berkeley County's award-winning Project SEARCH will be featured in the upcoming issue.



BERKELEY COUNTY—Berkeley County won an Honorable Mention Award for ManuFirst-SC™ in the category for counties with populations greater than 150,000. Accepting the award are (left to right) Berkeley County Economic Development Existing Industry Manager Michael Ramsey; Economic Development Director Kristen Lanier; SCAC Executive Director Tim Winslow; Berkeley County Supervisor Johnny Cribb and Economic Development Workforce Development Manager Corey McClary.



UNION COUNTY—Union County won an Honorable Mention Award in the category for counties with populations less than 50,000 for its Higher Education and Workforce Training Opportunities Initiative. Shown above (left to right) are SCAC Executive Director Tim Winslow; Union County Council Vice Chairman Ben Ivey; Supervisor/Chairman Frank Hart; Council Member Tommie Hill; Katherine Pendergrass, Director of Community Development; and Council Members Tracie Campbell, David Sinclair and Kacie Petrie.



PICKENS COUNTY—Pickens County won an Honorable Mention Award in the category for counties with populations between 50,000 and 150,000. The county won the award for enhancing the quality of life by transforming the county's animal control facility to a "no kill" pet adoption program. Shown accepting the award are (left to right) Pickens County Public Works Director Mack Kelly; Animal Shelter Director Stacey Kelley; Council Vice Chairman Chris Bowers; SCAC Executive Director Tim Winslow; Council Chairman Roy Costner III; Council Member Ensley Feemster; County Administrator Ken Roper; and Building Maintenance Superintendent Tommy Webster.



Webcasts and Webinars



Insurance Trusts' Risk Management Awards Webinar
10 to 11:30 a.m. Jan. 28, 2021

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

SCAC's 2021 Conference Calendar

July 30 – Aug. 1
Aug. 1 – 4

Institute of Government for County Officials
Annual Conference
Hilton Head Marriott

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



NACo's 2021 Conference Calendar

Feb. 20 – 24

Legislative Conference – Virtual

July 16 – 19

Annual Conference
Austin Convention Center, Travis County/Austin, Texas

Did You Know?

South Carolina
State Ethics Commission:



Did you know that your 2021 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) is due soon?

You must file your SEI, disclosing sources of income to your household during the 2020 calendar year, by March 30, 2021. You must file this form electronically at ethics.sc.gov.

For assistance, please call the S.C. Ethics Commission at (803) 253-4192.

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