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## SCAC Policy Positions Presented, Several Topics Discussed at County Council Coalition Meeting

**SCAC steering committees** presented policy positions for the 2020 Session of the S.C. General Assembly at the County Council Coalition (CCC) Meeting, held in Columbia on October 24 at Embassy Suites. Guest speakers addressed several topics. New CCC officers also were elected.

CCC President Willis H. Meadows (Greenville County Council Vice Chairman) presided. SCAC Board Member Waymon Mumford (Florence County Council Member) provided the meeting's invocation.

### SCAC Steering Committees Present Policy Positions

The following four SCAC policy steering committees previously met at the Association's Office in Columbia on September 25 and 26:

**County Government and Intergovernmental Relations**, chaired by Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council Member;

**Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation**, chaired by Charles T. Edens, Sumter County Council Member;

**Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial**, chaired by Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court; and

**Revenue, Finance and Economic Development**, chaired by Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County.

Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright Sr. is the SCAC Legislative Committee Chairman.

Delegates, representing South Carolina's 46 counties, reviewed and

discussed each committee's recommendations to help shape SCAC's legislative policy positions. The SCAC policy steering committees, which met again on November 6 and 7, will present policy positions to SCAC's Legislative Committee at the Association's 2019 Legislative Conference, to be held at the Renaissance, Charleston (Dec. 5 – 6).

### Speakers Discuss Several Topics of Interest to South Carolina County Officials

The CCC Meeting included three guest speakers.

Mike Shealy, Budget Director, Finance Committee, S.C. Senate, and Daniel Boan, Chief of Staff/Legal Counsel, Ways and Means

*(Continued on next page)*



SCAC's 2019 County Council Coalition Meeting, Embassy Suites, Columbia, Oct. 24



Charleston County Clerk of Court Julie J. Armstrong (at podium), who chairs the Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Policy Steering Committee, recognizes members of her committee for their hard work. Moments later, she introduced SCAC Staff Attorney Daina M. Riley (standing at left), who provided background information to formulate the committee's policy positions. Seated left to right are: Charles T. Edens (Sumter County Council Member), who chaired the Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation Committee; Joseph B. Dill (Greenville County Council Member), who chaired the County Government and Intergovernmental Relations Committee; County Council Coalition (CCC) President Willis H. Meadows (Greenville County Council Vice Chairman); Johnnie Wright Sr. (Orangeburg County Council Chairman), who chairs SCAC's Legislative Committee; and SCAC Secretary Steve Willis (Lancaster County Administrator), filling in for Belinda D. Copeland of Darlington County, who chairs the Revenue, Finance and Economic Development Committee. Other SCAC staff attorneys were assigned to help formulate policy positions for the other three policy steering committees.



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●  
PO Box 8207  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

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

●  
(803) 252-7255  
Fax: (803) 252-0379  
[smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc)

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Michael B. Cone**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-ELECT  
**Timothy C. Winslow**

EDITOR & PHOTOGRAPHER  
**W. Stuart Morgan III**

Committee, S.C. House of Representatives, provided a funding outlook from the S.C. General Assembly.

They talked about the nation's economy; the state's economy, population growth and personal income growth; the trade war and the effects of tariffs; and provided a short overview of the state budget process, and expected funding for Fiscal Year 2020–21.

## ***Newly-Elected Officers of the County Council Coalition***

*On October 24, the S.C. County Council Coalition elected new officers for 2019–20:*

**President**  
W. Brian Carnes  
*Lancaster County Council Member*

**Vice President**  
Calvin Jackson  
*Richland County Council Member*

**Secretary**  
James T. McCain Jr.  
*Sumter County Council Chairman*

**Treasurer**  
Steven J. Brown  
*Greenwood County Council Chairman*





W. Brian Carnes (right), newly-elected president of the County Council Coalition, presents a plaque to Willis H. Meadows, CCC's Immediate Past President, recognizing his service as the Coalition's President during 2018–19.

They also talked about public education funding reform and the potential sale of Santee Cooper, two of the most complex issues faced by the General Assembly in recent years.

Adam DeMars, S.C. State GIS Coordinator and Program Manager for the S.C. Geographic Information Council, provided an overview of the Statewide Ortho Mapping Program. He explained the great disparities between the GIS data collecting efforts of local governments, and the state and the federal governments, and why such disparities would continue to exist for decades if not addressed.

DeMars then explained the importance and benefits of collaboration. He said it might be possible to sign a contract by mid-December to conduct aerial mapping between January and mid-March 2020. The agency wants to partner with local governments, state government, and the federal government to fulfill 10-year com-  
(See CCC Meeting, P. 4)



Mike Shealy  
Budget Director, Finance Committee  
S.C. Senate



Daniel Boan  
Chief of Staff/Legal Counsel  
Ways and Means Committee  
S.C. House of Representatives

## County Officials Speak, Voice Concerns at County Council Coalition Meeting

Delegates representing South Carolina's 46 counties had opportunities to speak and ask questions at the County Council Coalition Meeting on October 24.

Shown below are a few delegates who did so.



D. Paul Sommerville  
Beaufort County Council Vice Chairman



Julian Burns  
Kershaw County Council Chairman



Ronald "Breeze" Winn  
Hampton County Council Member





## SCAC Policy Steering Committees Meet Before and After County Council Coalition Meeting

SCAC's four policy steering committees met on September 25 and 26 at the SCAC Office to discuss SCAC policy positions prior to the County Council Coalition (CCC) Meeting on October 24. Delegates, representing South Carolina's 46 counties at the CCC Meeting, then reviewed and discussed each committee's recommendations.

The policy steering committees met again on November 6 and 7 at the SCAC Office to finalize their positions, which they will recommend to SCAC's Legislative Committee at the Association's 2019 Legislative Conference in Charleston (December 5 – 6).



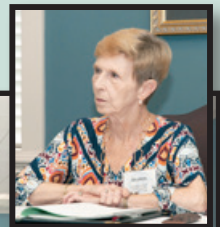
▲ Greenville County Council Member Joseph B. Dill (inset-above) chairs the County Government and Intergovernmental Relations Committee on November 7.



▲ Sumter County Council Member Charles T. Edens (inset-above) chairs the Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation Committee on September 25.



▲ Belinda D. Copeland (inset-above), Darlington County, chairs the Revenue, Finance and Economic Development Committee on September 25.



Charleston County Clerk of Court Julie J. Armstrong (inset-left) chairs the Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Committee on September 26.

## CCC Meeting ...

(Continued from P. 3)

mitments to map counties across the state.

DeMars calculated that if the state contributed approximately \$750,000, and each county paid \$21,739.13, this would fund a \$1.75 million contract required for the mapping. By pooling resources, this would also reduce the duplication of data and save taxpayers money.

For more information, contact: Adam DeMars at [adam.demars@rfa.sc.gov](mailto:adam.demars@rfa.sc.gov)



Adam DeMars  
S.C. State GIS Coordinator and  
Program Manager  
S.C. Geographic Information Council

To view the presentations made at this year's County Council Coalition Meeting, visit SCAC's website at:

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

Use the following link to quickly access the presentations:

<https://bit.ly/2Xf6AFZ>







# SCAC Offers First Online Course

**Orientation to County Government I** is now available online and is offered at no cost to elected and appointed county officials. This Level I Institute course serves as an excellent primer to county government.

The course takes approximately one hour to complete and includes several quizzes to reinforce the user's learning.

The course covers:

- **The History of County Government in South Carolina**—This section explains how and why county governments were created in

South Carolina and the Home Rule Act.

- **Forms, Powers & Duties of County Government**—Participants will learn the different forms of county government, who has executive and legislative power in the different forms, and the various duties these leaders must fulfill.
- **County Council & Responsibilities**—This section provides an overview of county council and its responsibilities.

(Continued on next page)



## Institute of Government for County Officials Offers Courses

The Institute of Government for County Officials (Institute) offered four courses on October 23, the day before the County Council Coalition Meeting: **Level I—Public Speaking, and Managing and Conducting Meetings;** and **Level II—Financial Management, and Economic Development.**

The SCAC holds the Institute in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston. Clemson University's Master of Public Administration Program sponsors the Institute, which provides county officials the opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities to function more effectively.

▼ **Bamberg County Controller Gina Smith (right)** teaches Financial Management, a Level II Course.



Sara L. Nalley, Professor Emerita of Communications and Theatre, Columbia College, teaches Public Speaking, a Level I Course.



Jay Schwedler, President and CEO, The Link (Lee and Sumter counties) teaches Economic Development, a Level II Course.



SCAC Senior Staff Attorney John DeLoache (above) and Helen T. McFadden (right), Attorney, teach Managing and Conducting Meetings, a Level I Course.







Topics include policy leadership, rules of procedure, and council officers among others.

- **Meetings, Public Hearings & FOIA**—Participants will explore some of the guidelines and requirements for the Freedom of Information Act, executive sessions and council rules of procedure.

Upon completion, participants are granted three hours of Level I Institute credit. Because this is a required course, anyone seeking a Level I certificate must take this course at some point.

To access the course, you can use your Member Portal credentials that you use to register for events and other training opportunities. If you do not have an account, you can create one at: <https://sccounties.site-ym.com/>

The Association plans to offer the Orientation II course online later this year. For additional information, visit SCAC's website at [SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org), or contact Ryan Tooley at [rtooley@scac.sc](mailto:rtooley@scac.sc).



## SCCWCT and SCCP&LT Hold 2019 Continuing Education Update

**The S.C. Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) and S.C. Carolina Counties Property and Liability Trust (SCCP&LT)** held the annual Continuing Education Update on September 18 in Columbia. Seventy-nine county employees attended.

Robert Benfield, Director of Risk Management Services, opened the meeting and thanked the attendees for their efforts to promote risk management within their counties. Benfield noted that the average experience modifier for members of the SCCWCT was .96, the lowest in six years. Experience modifiers below 1.00 reduce members' contributions. The members with the three best experience modifiers were recognized:

- #1 Abbeville County .55
  - #2 Greenwood County .58
  - #3 Spartanburg County .62
- By having an experience modifier

of .55, Abbeville County reduced its workers' compensation contribution by 45 percent. County officials recognize the in-



**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**—(Left to right) Angela Pinson, Berkeley County Chief Administrative Officer; Mark McKinney, SCCP&LT Claims Manager; Rachael Stephenson, SCCWCT Claims Supervisor; and Daniel Plyer of Davidson Wren & Plyer, P.A.



**Robert Benfield**  
Director of Risk Management Services



The 2019 S.C. Workers' Compensation and S.C. Counties Property and Liability Trust Meeting, Sept. 18, DoubleTree, Columbia



vestment and commitment to risk management can save money and protect the county's greatest asset, employees.

Benfield and Van Henson, Risk Manager, next reviewed the Basic Risk Management Standards that all members of both Trusts are expected to meet. One of the key standards was the requirement that all members complete a self-audit of their risk management program by year end. A 21-question audit form is sent to risk managers each year. The audit questions cover the suggested best practices for risk management programs. Benfield said SCAC risk managers are available to help members complete and/or review the audits.

Lang Kelly, SCCWCT Claims Manager, introduced the claims staff and gave an update on the workers' compensation claims unit which became an in-house operation on July 1st. The staff is composed entirely of employees who were previously handling claims for the SCCWCT through past vendors.

Mark McKinney, SCCP&LT Claims Manager, followed with an update on claims procedures. McKinney emphasized the critical importance of quickly reporting lawsuits so that the SCCP&LT can respond in time to avoid default. Claims staff members must respond to lawsuits filed in State Court within 30 days and within only 20 days if filed in Federal Court. Chris Hin-



**Van Henson**  
*Risk Manager*



**Lang Kelly**  
*SCCWCT Claims Manager*



**Mark McKinney**  
*SCCP&LT Claims Manager*



**Chris Hinson**  
*SCCP&LT Senior Adjuster*

son, Senior SCCP&LT Claims Adjuster, followed with important information that members needed for the submission of automobile claims.

After lunch, the program continued with a roundtable discussion. Roundtable participants included: Mark McKinney and Rachael Stephenson, SCAC; Daniel Plyer of Davidson, Wren & Plyer, P.A.; and Angela Pinson, Berkeley County Chief Administrative Officer. The roundtable provoked lively discussions and covered a wide range of topics that were informative for attendees.

Hinson provided a brief update on recent changes in OSHA Standards. This presentation was followed by the concluding risk management update. Kelly reminded attendees of the importance of communication with the injured worker, adjusters and medical providers following a claim.

Benfield closed the meeting with a reminder that the Insurance Trust Membership Meeting would held in Myrtle Beach on January 29 and 30. Council chairmen, chief administrative officers and risk managers are invited to attend to participate in risk management training and general roundtable discussions as well as Risk Management Awards presentations.



## County Officials Speak, Ask Questions

*County officials attending the SCCWCT and SCCP&LT Continuing Education Update on September 18, including a few shown here, had opportunities to speak and ask questions.*



◀ **Jerry Crolley**  
*Berkeley County  
Safety Superintendent*



**Anita Baylor**  
*Greenwood County  
Risk Manager*



◀ **Robert Hingst**  
*Sumter County  
EMS Director*





# SCAC Launches 2020 Setoff Debt Collection and GEAR Programs

## SCAC launched the 2020 Setoff Debt Collection and Government Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR) programs

for county participants with a full-day workshop, held on August 22 at Embassy Suites in Columbia. These programs assist county entities with collecting debts that may otherwise go uncollected.

The Setoff Debt Collection program allows the



S.C. Department of Revenue (SCDOR) to collect delinquent debts through state tax return garnishments. The GEAR program allows the SCDOR to use additional collection tools such as payment plans and wage garnishments.

About 258 local government officials and staff representing participating or interested entities in all 46 counties attended the free training.

Guest speakers included: Keith Wicker, Special Projects Coordinator, SCDOR; John DeLoache, SCAC Senior Staff Attorney; Alex Smith, SCAC Staff Attorney; and Rick Usinski, SCAC Field Representative.

SCAC staff works closely with SCDOR staff and provides comprehensive program, legal, and technical assistance to counties participating in the programs. SCAC



SCAC Staff Attorney Alex Smith (inset-above) presides over the launch of the 2020 Setoff Debt Collection and GEAR programs on Aug. 22.



**Keith Wicker**  
Special Projects Coordinator, SCDOR

services are offered free to those entities participating in the programs.

The Setoff Debt and GEAR Collection programs have proven very successful in allowing county participants to collect delinquent debts. SCAC is currently assisting more than 280 county entities with participation in these debt collection programs.

To date in 2019, SCAC has returned more than \$90 million to participants. Since 2002 when counties began to participate in the debt collection programs, SCAC has returned more than \$1 billion to the counties.

For additional information about the SCAC's debt collection programs and services, please contact SCAC staff at 1-803-252-7255.



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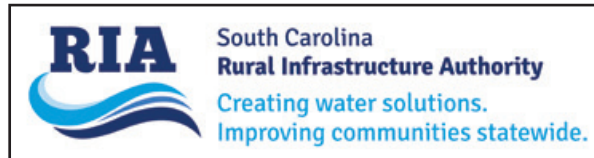
## RIA Approves \$10.8 Million in Grant Assistance, Announces March 16th Grant Application Deadline

The S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has approved grant assistance for 24 projects, totaling more than \$10.8 million. Recognizing that the investments made today will offer long-term sustainability, these projects will help strengthen and improve water, sewer and storm water infrastructure capacity, serving residential and business customers across the state.

“Our mission is to work in partnership with communities to make them stronger and more sustainable by investing in their infrastructure foundation,” said executive director Bonnie Ammons. “Such investments will help maintain health and environmental standards for residents and open the door to new economic opportunities.”

Representing 19 counties, the scope of work for these funded projects ranges from extending sewer to serve existing and expanding industries to the construction of a new well to restore water production capacity. Drainage issues are also being addressed in an effort to reduce the impact of storm-related events. For other communities, upgrades to water lines, pump

stations and elevated storage tanks will ensure long-lasting reliable service. In total, more than 18,000 residential and business customers will benefit from these funded projects.



RIA grants are awarded twice a year through a competitive process that considers the need for improved public health, environmental protection, community sustainability through regionalization

and economic development. Applications are selected by the RIA board based on criteria, including: severity of the problem, expected impact and project feasibility. Recipients share in the cost of projects by paying for non-construction activities and, often times, providing additional funds for construction.

A list of grant recipients to date for fiscal year 2020 is provided on RIA's website at [www.ria.sc.gov](http://www.ria.sc.gov). Visit the site to learn more about RIA or how to apply for grant assistance. The next grant application deadline is March 16, 2020.



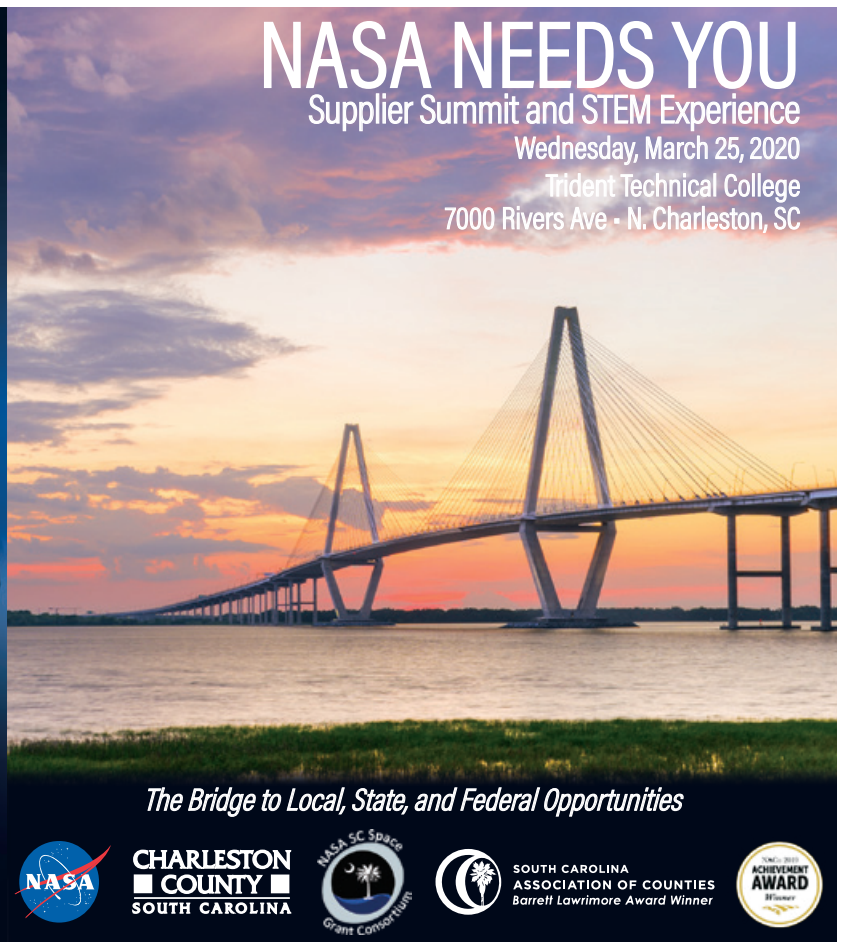
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# South Carolina's 2020 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2020 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 Supporters; 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 *2020 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:

## SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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

## Charleston County Economic Development Wins Major Award

**Charleston County Economic Development** received one of the top honors for a communications piece at the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC) Communication Awards Ceremony, held in August at the 2019 SEDC Annual Conference in New Orleans, La.

"These annual Communication Awards recognize and showcase the leading communication and marketing work done by economic development professionals throughout the south," said SEDC President Gene Stinson. "Charleston County Economic Development hit the mark this year with this communication piece. Its entry in the Audiovisual (URL) category titled, 'Charleston Tech: Our Time is Now,' won a Special Judges Award for Talent Attraction. This piece not only showed creativity, but also solid messaging and effectiveness at reaching their target audience. We were wowed by all the entries we received this year and were impressed with the high level of marketing work being done in economic development by SEDC members."

Charleston County Economic Development and Charleston Digital Corridor partnered to create the four-minute video, which displays and celebrates some of the tech companies responsible for making Charleston the preferred destination for professionals and tech businesses.

"The Charleston tech community has grown from 18 businesses in 2001 to more than 450 today," said Charleston County Economic Development Executive Director Steve Dykes. "The Charleston Digital Corridor has played an integral role in that success. It was a natural partnership to work together to highlight our assets and promote our thriving tech industry to the world."

Charleston County Economic Development also received a recognition level of excellence for its *Technomic Development Annual Report*, and a recognition level of merit for its *Business Resource Guide*. These pieces, along with the *Charleston Tech: Our Time is Now* video, can be viewed at:

[www.CharlestonCountyDevelopment.org](http://www.CharlestonCountyDevelopment.org)



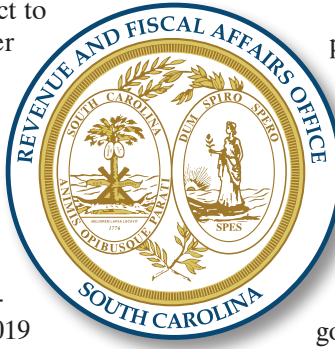




# RFA Initiates Statewide Project to Capture Digital Aerial Image

**The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA)** was awarded non-recurring funding to capture digital aerial imagery and create orthoimagery of the entire state. With this start-up funding, RFA initiated a statewide project to collect the imagery this upcoming winter. Winter was chosen because this type of mapping requires leaf-off conditions. This provides individuals using the map with an unobstructed straight down view of the ground.

On October 1, with assistance of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority, RFA initiated the procurement process to contract for this work. The initial objective is to have a signed contract with a selected vendor by mid-December 2019 who will deliver a set of images representing the entire state of South Carolina. These images will have spatial accuracies within 1.25 feet of the actual location on the surface of the earth. The final objective is to provide this imagery to all state, county and municipal governments. RFA's goal is to partner with each government sector and pool resources for a statewide map to reduce the taxpayer burden incurred from counties mapping independently of each other.



and planning departments rely on data such as aerial photography for planning new roads or locating individuals when emergencies occur.

Third, collecting statewide imagery reduces duplication of efforts and frees up county resources for other needs. County personnel do not have to spend time procuring the imagery, assessing the data deliverables or acquiring IT storage for the imagery.

Finally, this fulfills the 10-year mapping requirement. When collecting aerial imagery every decade, it becomes very difficult to accurately identify change as it occurs. With that in mind, the goal of RFA is to establish the initial statewide baseline map and transition into a fully funded partnership to map the entire state every three to four years. After the first data collection and delivery, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2020, RFA would like to begin discussing how to fully fund this initiative with its county colleagues.

For more information, please contact Matt Wellslager at [Matt.Wellslager@rfa.sc.gov](mailto:Matt.Wellslager@rfa.sc.gov) or Adam DeMars at [Adam.DeMars@rfa.sc.gov](mailto:Adam.DeMars@rfa.sc.gov).



## What This Means for Our 46 Counties? COST SAVINGS

First, the S.C. Department of Revenue (DOR), under state regulation 117 1740.2 Section 3, requires all counties in the state to perform this type of mapping once every 10 years. The imagery is used as the base map for a county's geographic information system and all their land-related data. A few counties can afford to map every two to four years. Most counties map once every 10 years. When collecting orthoimagery for only a single county, costs can range from \$60,000-\$90,000 per campaign. If state and county governments were to partner in collecting the same type of aerial imagery, those expenditures would likely reduce by 50 percent or more. Reducing these costs subsequently reduces the burden on taxpayers within each county.

Second, all government entities will benefit from having access to the same dataset, allowing for more accurate and informed decision making. State agencies such as DHEC, SCDOT and DNR, as well as county assessors, 9-1-1 Centers and GIS

## COUNTY FOCUS & CAROLINA COUNTIES

SCAC's *County Focus Magazine*, published in the winter, spring, summer and fall, features in-depth articles on county programs and projects, issues affecting county governments, and much more. Each issue, county officials across the state are provided an opportunity to submit newsworthy items about their counties for publication in the magazine's County Update section.

SCAC's *Carolina Counties Newsletter*, published in January, March, May, July and November, keeps county officials informed and up-to-date on meetings, legislation, county news and more.

For more information about these two award-winning publications, or to submit a story idea, please contact SCAC's Public Information Office at (803) 252-7255 or [smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc).



## Webcasts & Webinars

Webinar: Preventing Workplace Violence  
Dec. 4, 2019  
10:00 — 11:30 a.m.

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

## South Carolina State Ethics Commission:

### Did You Know?



Did you know that a public official, public member or public employee who receives anything of value with the intent to influence the discharge of their public duties forfeits his public office, membership, or employment? Pursuant to Section 8-13-705 of the Ethics Reform Act, no public official, public member or public employee may ask, demand, exact, solicit, seek, accept, assign, receive or agree to receive anything of value for himself or for another person in return for being influenced in the discharge of his or her duties.

For more information, please contact:

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 2019-20 Conference Calendar

Dec. 5 – 6	Legislative Conference <i>Renaissance, Charleston</i>
<b>2020</b>	
Jan. 29 – 30	S.C. Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting <i>Marriott Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach</i>
Feb. 19 Feb. 20	Mid-Year Conference Institute of Government <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i>
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	Continued Education, Update for Risk Managers, Etc. <i>Date and location TBD</i>

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



## NACo's 2020 Conference Calendar

Feb. 29 – March 4	Legislative Conference <i>Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.</i>
July 17 – 20	Annual Conference <i>Orlando, Florida</i>

## 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](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc)