

# COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 30

Number 3



**Dorchester County Wins  
2019 J. Mitchell Graham  
Memorial Award**



**SCAC Elects  
Dwight L. Stewart Jr.  
President**



**Columbus Stephens  
Receives President's Cup**



**Charleston County Wins  
2019 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial  
Regional Cooperation Award**



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ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

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*Clarendon County Council Chairman*

**First Vice President**

Johnnie Wright Sr.  
*Orangeburg County Council Chairman*

**Second Vice President**

Paul A. Cain  
*Oconee County Council Vice Chairman*

**Third Vice President**

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*Lexington County Council Member*

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*Lancaster County Administrator*

**Treasurer**

Belinda D. Copeland  
*Darlington County*

**SCAC Board of Directors**  
*P. 55*

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**Executive Director-Elect**  
Timothy C. Winslow

**Deputy General Counsel**  
Joshua C. Rhodes

**SCAC Staff Members**  
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# COUNTY FOCUS

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**COVER: Top Photo**—SCAC Executive Director-Elect Tim Winslow presents the Association's 2019 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award to Dorchester County Council when it met on September 16. Shown (left to right) are: Dorchester County Council Member Jay Byars and Council Vice Chairman David Chinnis, County Administrator Jason L. Ward, Public Information Officer Tiffany Norton, Council Member William (Bill) Hearn; Council Chairman George Bailey; SCAC Executive Director-Elect Tim Winslow (presenting award); Council Members Harriet Holman, Edward Crosby and Larry S. Hargett. (See story, P. 18) **Bottom Photo**—Charleston County officials accepting SCAC's 2019 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award on August 6 at the Association's 52nd Annual Conference. (See story, P. 28, see P. 11 for photo and photo cutline, which identifies everyone shown.) (Photos by Stuart Morgan)



County Focus Magazine is published quarterly by the  
**SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

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**W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor**

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# SCAC Elects Dwight L. Stewart Jr. President



**SCAC** elected officers for 2019–20 at its 52nd Annual Conference, held August 3 – 7. The SCAC also elected two board members and re-elected three board members.

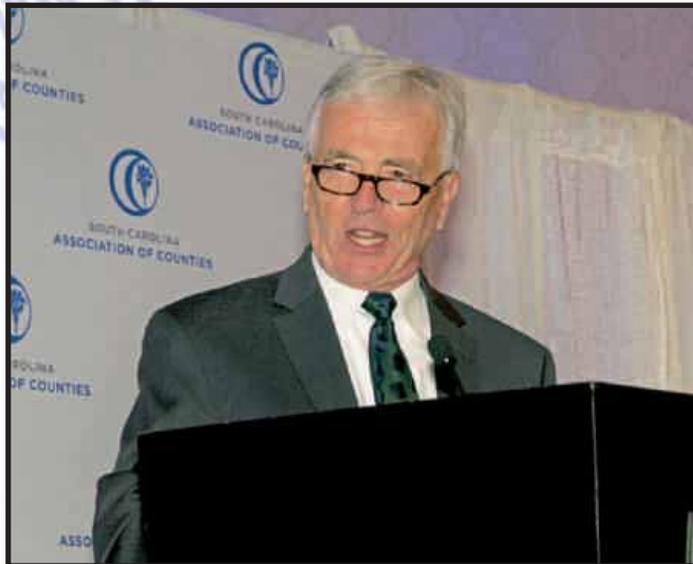
Elected PRESIDENT was Clarendon County Council Chairman Dwight L. Stewart Jr. He succeeds McCormick County Council Chairman Charles T. Jennings, who served as SCAC President for 2018–19.

“I’m honored to have been elected to serve as SCAC president, and look forward to working with all county officials across South Carolina,” said SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr. “One area of concern I have is solid waste disposal, which is a problem for all South Carolinians. I hope that we can all work together to find solutions and to control the problem.”

SCAC’s new president encouraged county officials to offer feedback and to suggest ways to strengthen the Association of Counties.

“SCAC’s immediate past president, Charles Jennings, and the Association’s staff did an excellent job building our relationship with members of the state legislature,” Stewart said, “and it’s essential that we all continue to work together for the citizens of our great state.”

Stewart, serving his fifth term as



SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr.

*“SCAC’s immediate past president, Charles Jennings, and the Association’s staff did an excellent job building our relationship with members of the state legislature, and it’s essential that we all continue to work together for the citizens of our great state.”*

— Dwight L. Stewart Jr., SCAC President  
(Clarendon County Council Chairman)

chairman of Clarendon County Council, previously served as a council member for the Town of Summerton from 1980 to 2000.

Since 1985, he has owned Dwight L. Stewart Jr. and Associates in Manning which offers real estate, appraisal and forest management services. Stewart received his real estate license for South Carolina and North Carolina in 1976, and is a registered forester in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

He graduated from McClenaghan High School in 1966. Upon receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from Clemson University in 1970, Stewart was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After graduating from

Engineer Officer Basic School at Fort Belvoir, Va., he then served for eight years in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Stewart was employed in 1971 as a project forester by Georgia-Pacific Corporation and worked as a district area forester for Georgia-Pacific from 1972 to 1974, managing 50,000 acres of company land. He joined the firm of Bartow S. Shaw and Associates in Sumter as a consulting forester in 1974 and became vice-president of Shaw, Bullock and Stewart in 1979.

Stewart is past president of the S.C. Society of Consulting Foresters, a member and past president of the S.C. Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters.  
(See SCAC President, P. 4)

# SCAC Elects Other Officers

**First Vice President**



**Johnnie Wright Sr.**  
*Orangeburg County Council Chairman*

**Second Vice President**



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

**Third Vice President**



**Debra B. Summers**  
*Lexington County Council Member*

**Immediate Past President**



**Charles T. Jennings**  
*McCormick County Council Chairman*

**Secretary**



**Steve Willis**  
*Lancaster County Administrator*

**Treasurer**



**Belinda D. Copeland**  
*Darlington County Treasurer*

The SCAC elected other officers as follows: **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**—Johnnie Wright Sr., Orangeburg County Council Chairman); **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**—Paul A. Cain, Oconee County Council Vice Chairman; **THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**—Debra B. Summers, Lexington County Council

Member; **SECRETARY**—Steve Willis, Lancaster County Administrator; and **TREASURER**—Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County. ■



## SCAC Presidents

		2003	Gonza L. Bryant <i>Greenwood County</i>	1985	Sue H. Roe <i>Aiken County</i>
		2002	James A. Coleman <i>Laurens County</i>	1984	Charlie I. Crews <i>Hampton County</i>
2019	Dwight L. Stewart Jr. <i>Clarendon County</i>	2001	Steve S. Kelly Jr. <i>Kershaw County</i>	1983	James P. Whitlock <i>Pickens County</i>
2018	Charles T. Jennings <i>McCormick County</i>	2000	James H. Rozier Jr. <i>Berkeley County</i>	1982	Lonnie Hamilton III <i>Charleston County</i>
2017	Henry H. Livingston III <i>Newberry County</i>	1999	Polly C. Jackson <i>Lancaster County</i>	1981	Alfred B. Schooler <i>Georgetown County</i>
2016	Julie J. Armstrong <i>Charleston County</i>	1998	Robert R. Nash Sr. <i>Pickens County</i>	1980	Howard A. Taylor <i>Charleston County</i>
2015	John Q. Atkinson Jr. <i>Marion County</i>	1997	Alzena Robinson <i>Bamberg County</i>	1979	Marjorie H. Sharpe <i>Lexington County</i>
2014	James R. Frazier <i>Horry County</i>	1996	Betty T. Roper <i>Clarendon County</i>	1978	Berry L. Mobley <i>Lancaster County</i>
2013	Joseph R. Branham <i>Chester County</i>	1995	George E. Bomar <i>Greenville County</i>	1977	E.E. Johnson <i>Hampton County</i>
2012	Charles T. Edens <i>Sumter County</i>	1994	Raymond C. Eubanks Jr. <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1976	Harold L. King <i>Darlington County</i>
2011	Joseph B. Dill <i>Greenville County</i>	1993	William L. McBride <i>Beaufort County</i>	1975	Jack Q. Gerrald <i>Horry County</i>
2010	R. Carlisle Roddey <i>Chester County</i>	1992	Belle J. Kennette <i>Greenwood County</i>	1974	Arthur H. Burton <i>Charleston County</i>
2009	Diane B. Anderson <i>Laurens County</i>	1991	James R. McGee <i>Orangeburg County</i>	1973	James O. Thomason <i>Spartanburg County</i>
2008	L. Gregory Pearce Jr. <i>Richland County</i>	1990	Kenneth R. Huckaby <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1972	J. Hugh McCutchen <i>Williamsburg County</i>
2007	K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. <i>Florence County</i>	1989	Lowell C. (Butch) Spires <i>Lexington County</i>	1971	John L. Greer <i>Union County</i>
2006	Belinda D. Copeland <i>Darlington County</i>	1988	David K. Summers Jr. <i>Calhoun County</i>	1969-70	J. Mitchell Graham <i>Charleston County</i>
2004-05	Waymon Mumford <i>Florence County</i>	1987	Danny E. Allen <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1967-68	Charles W. Lawrimore <i>Georgetown County</i>
2004	Barrett S. Lawrimore <i>Charleston County</i>	1986	O.V. Player Jr. <i>Sumter County</i>		

# SCAC President ...

*(Continued from P. 2)*

Foresters, and a member and past chairman of the S.C. Forestry Association. He is also a member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF), twice past chairman of the S.C. Division of SAF, past board member of the Congaree Land Trust and past chairman of the S.C. Tree Farm Committee.

As a state-certified general appraiser in South Carolina and a certified appraiser in Georgia and North Carolina, Stewart has performed numerous appraisals for a variety of private and corporate clients since 1976.

He and his wife, Sherry Martin of Summerton, lost one of their three children, a son, in October 2019. They have seven grandchildren.

Stewart and his wife are elders at the Summerton Presbyterian Church.

## SCAC ELECTS OTHER OFFICERS

The SCAC elected other officers as follows: **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT—Johnnie Wright Sr.**, Orangeburg County Council Chairman; **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT—Paul A. Cain**, Oconee County Council Vice Chairman; **THIRD VICE PRESIDENT—Debra B. Summers**, Lexington County Council Member; **SECRETARY—Steve Willis**, Lancaster County Administrator; and **TREASURER—Belinda D. Copeland**, Darlington County.

## SCAC ELECTS TWO BOARD MEMBERS AND RE-ELECTS THREE BOARD MEMBERS

The SCAC elected two board members: Ray Graham, Anderson County Council Vice Chairman, and Joseph G. Mergo III, Lexington County Administrator. The Association

also re-elected three board members: Cam Crawford, Horry County Council Member; J. Frank Hart, Union County Supervisor/Chairman; and William E. Robinson, Allendale County Council Member. Terms for these five board members will expire in 2023.

The SCAC voted for Henry H. Livingston III, Newberry County Council Chairman, to serve the unexpired term of Debra B. Summers, who moved up to third vice president. Livingston's term will expire on Jan. 1, 2020.



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**SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

## Purpose of the SCAC

- To promote more efficient county governments
- To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government
- To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials
- To promote and encourage education of county officials
- To collect, analyze and distribute information about county government
- To cooperate with other organizations
- To promote legislation which supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina

❖ For more information about the SCAC, please contact:

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# The 2019 J. Mitchell Graham/ Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

The 2019 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition was held on August 5 at the 52nd Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties (August 5–7, 2018).

Counties competed equally for the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, but were grouped in the following population categories:

- Under 50,000
- 50,000 to 150,000 and
- Over 150,000.

## Dorchester County Wins SCAC's 2019 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

★ Dorchester County won the 2019 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its Online Newsroom, an innovative approach that tells the county's story by improving information communicated to the public and reducing the spread of misinformation, particularly on social media.

“Being the smallest county in its area, Dorchester County had difficulty getting news out to newspapers and television viewers in  
(See JMG/BL, P. 9)



## Dorchester County Winner of the 2019 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award



★ Dorchester County



See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 95



**DORCHESTER COUNTY WINS 2019 J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD**—Dorchester County Chief Financial Officer Daniel Prentice, Clerk to Council Tracey L. Langley, Council Vice Chairman David Chinnis, SCAC President Charles T. Jennings (presenting award), Council Member Harriet L. Holman, County Administrator Jason L. Ward and Council Member William Hearn. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



# Award-Winning Presentations



County officials representing nine counties delivered presentations on August 5 at SCAC's 2019 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition. Shown on this page and the next making their award-winning presentations are Dorchester, Charleston, York and Barnwell counties.



Anna Berger, SCAC's Director of Research and Training, introduces the judges and explains the competition's rules.

Photos by Stuart Morgan



Dorchester County



J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD PRESENTATION—Presenting Dorchester County's entry, which won this year's J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, are Dorchester County Administrator Jason L. Ward and Public Information Officer Tiffany Norton.



Charleston County



BARRETT LAWRIMORE MEMORIAL REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD PRESENTATION—Presenting Charleston County's entry, which won this year's Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award, are: (left to right) Darrell Williams, Program Manager, Office of Business Opportunities; Charleston County Deputy Clerk to Council Kristen Brame; Clerk to Council Kristen L. Salisbury; and Project Officer (Finance) Doug Wurster.

**York County**



**Barnwell County**



**YORK COUNTY HONORABLE MENTION PRESENTATION**—Presenting York County’s award-winning entry in the category for counties with populations greater than 150,000 are York County Assistant Manager Andy Merriman and Sheriff’s Office Public Information Officer Trent Faris.



**BARNWELL COUNTY’S HONORABLE MENTION PRESENTATION**—Presenting Barnwell County’s award-winning entry in the category for counties with populations less than 50,000 are Crissie Stapleton, Barnwell 45 School District Superintendent, and Roger Riley, Barnwell County Emergency Management Director/Risk Manager.



At SCAC’s 2019 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition, county officials representing nine counties delivered 10-minute-long presentations, recorded by the Beaufort Channel, may be viewed at [SCCounties.org/awards](http://SCCounties.org/awards)

## JMG/BL ...

(Continued from P. 6)

traditional markets. And, news that did get out was rarely positive,” said William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, who headed the three-judge panel evaluating this year’s competition. “The county’s online newsroom is the culmination of a series of initiatives, which includes hiring a public information officer, developing a communications strategic plan and redesigning the county’s website.

“Dorchester County studied media consumption habits of its audience to ensure articles in the online newsroom are written in a manner to appeal to the reader,” Tomes added. “In addition to county-generated news articles, information from state agencies, local businesses and the county’s school districts appear in the newsroom. The county has engaged citizens and businesses via social media to interact and get real time information and feedback.”

### Barnwell and York Counties Win Honorable Mention Awards

★ **York County**, in the category for counties with populations greater than 150,000, won an Honorable Mention Award for producing a three-hour documentary, *The Many Heroes*, that is available on YouTube.

The documentary honors



the county’s fallen detective, Mike Doty, and details a series of night ambushes on January 15/16, 2018, during which

Doty was shot and killed and three other officers were wounded. The documentary, produced by the Sheriff Office’s Public Information Officer, allows 17 public safety officials who were involved to tell the story in their own words and

chronicles the events to help heal and unify the community. So far, the documentary has received approximately 50,000 views.

★ **Barnwell County**, in the category for counties with populations under 50,000, won an Honorable

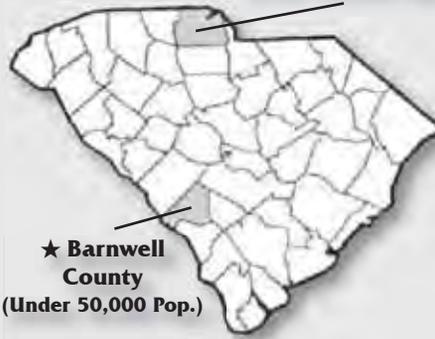


Mention Award for addressing the needs of local residents and those of other counties in the region by securing funding to construct a monolithic dome-shaped, dual purpose gymnasium and safe room.

(Continued on next page)

#### HONORABLE MENTION WINNERS J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

★ **York County**  
(Over 150,000 Pop.)



★ **Barnwell County**  
(Under 50,000 Pop.)

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County Map,  
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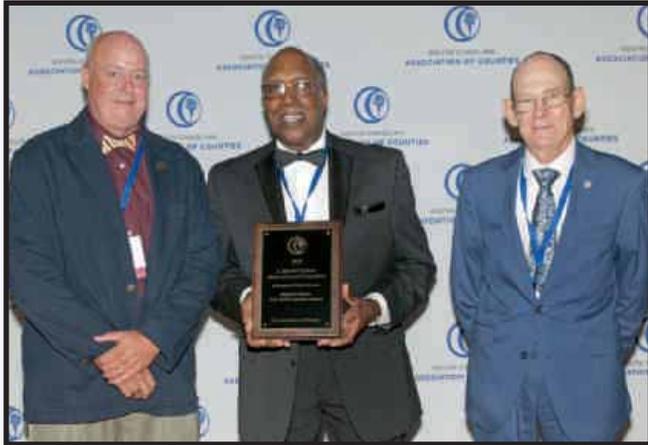


g presentations before a panel of judges and an audience. Immediately following each presentation, the judges asked questions about each presentation. The

“The facility is designed to withstand winds in excess of 200 miles per hour and will provide shelter to students, county residents and those being evacuated from coastal regions in South Carolina,” Tomes said. “A Federal Emergency Management Association Hazard Mitigation Grant and school district matching funds will pay for the project.”

### Charleston County Wins 2019 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

★ Charleston County won SCAC’s 2019 Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award for collaborating with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and creating a partnership that offers business opportunities, educational outreach and increased access to technology.



**BARNWELL COUNTY WINS 2019 HONORABLE MENTION**—Barnwell County won an Honorable Mention J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award in the category for counties with populations under 50,000 for its project to construct the Barnwell County High School Gymnasium and Safe Room. Accepting the award for Barnwell County are: (left to right) Roger Riley, Emergency Management Director/Risk Manager; 2018-19 SCAC President Charles T. Jennings (presenting award); and Don Harper, Council Member. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



“The results of this Launch with NASA partnership have given small businesses the tools to gain contracts with NASA and exposed students to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) careers,



**YORK COUNTY WINS 2019 HONORABLE MENTION**—York County won an Honorable Mention J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award in the category for counties with populations greater than 150,000 for producing its *The Many Heroes* documentary, which honors the life of a fallen detective, Mike Doty. Produced by the Sheriff’s Office and available on YouTube, the documentary details the series of ambushes on Jan. 15 and 16, 2018, when Doty was killed and three other officers were wounded. Accepting the award on August 6 at SCAC’s 52nd Annual Conference are: (left to right) Robert Winkler, Council Member; Trent Faris, Public Information Officer, Sheriff’s Office; 2018-19 SCAC President Charles T. Jennings (presenting award); Sheriff Kevin R. Tolson; and Andy Merriman, Assistant County Manager. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

### Charleston County Wins 2019 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award



See South Carolina County Map, Page 95

★ Charleston County

internships and scholarships,” Tomes said.

“Charleston County has existing industries in the aeronautic and manufacturing cluster, and was looking for opportunities to expand business development in that field,” he added. “Since 2018, Charleston County NASA



Team hosted the Launch with NASA small business form, the NASA STEM expo, an astronaut visit to several county schools, the NASA Prime Contractor Council meeting and small business week presentations. The success of these efforts has led to an expansion of the activities in 2020 that will go beyond the county’s borders.”

### The J. Mitchell Graham/ Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

This year marks the 47th year that the SCAC has awarded the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, and the 22nd year the Association has awarded the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award.

J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award recognizes counties that address community challenges, implement operational improvements, or enhance their citizens' quality of life in a unique way. The award, first presented in 1972, honors the memory of J. Mitchell Graham who served as SCAC's president from 1969 to 1970.

The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award 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. The award is named in memory of Barrett S. Lawrimore who served as SCAC's president in 2004.

### Judges

Serving as judges for this year's competition were: Head Judge—William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr., Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston; Dr. Bruce Ransom, Professor of Political Science and Policy Studies, Clemson University; and Kris K. Sikes, Ph.D., J.D., Public Service Associate, Carl Vinson Institute of  
(See JMG/BL, P. 13)



**CHARLESTON COUNTY WINS 2019 BARRETT LAWLRIMORE MEMORIAL REGIONAL COOPERATION AWARD**—Charleston County officials accepting SCAC's 2019 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award on August 6 at the Association's 52nd Annual Conference are: (left to right) Doug Wurster, Project Officer for Deputy County Administrator for Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Irv Condon, Probate Judge; Julie J. Armstrong, Clerk of Court; Tamara Curry, Associate Probate Judge; Michael Miller, Register of Deeds; Kristen Brame, Deputy Clerk to Council; 2018-19 SCAC President Charles T. Jennings (presenting award); Kristen Salisbury, Clerk to Council; Jennifer Miller, County Administrator; James D. Armstrong, Deputy Administrator/Transportation and Public Works; and David LeBlanc, Veterans Affairs Director. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



**RECOGNIZING CHARLESTON COUNTY, LAST YEAR'S WINNER OF THE J. MITCHELL GRAHAM MEMORIAL AWARD**—Charleston County won the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for 2018 for its EMS Mobile Crisis Telehealth Project. Shown accepting a small replica of the award on August 6 at SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference for Charleston County to keep are: (left to right) Irv Condon, Probate Judge; Tamara Curry, Associate Probate Judge; Kristen Brame, Deputy Clerk to Council; Julie J. Armstrong, Clerk of Court; James D. Armstrong, Deputy Administrator/Transportation and Public Works; 2018-19 Charles T. Jennings (presenting replica award); Jennifer Miller, County Administrator; Doug Wurster, Project Officer for Deputy County Administrator for Finance/Chief Financial Officer; Kristen Salisbury, Clerk to Council; and Michael Miller, Register of Deeds. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

## Winners of the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award



Dorchester County	2019	Aiken County	1998	Richland County	1977
Charleston County	2018	Georgetown County	1997	Beaufort County and	
Charleston County	2017	Berkeley County	1996	Greenwood County	1976
Colleton County	2016	Florence County	1995	Edgefield County	1975
Barnwell County	2015	Richland County	1994	Lexington County	1974
Abbeville County	2014	Charleston County	1993	Charleston County	1973
Newberry County	2013	York County	1992		
Colleton County	2012	Greenwood County	1991		
Horry County	2011	Beaufort County	1990		
Orangeburg County	2010	Charleston County	1989		
Georgetown County	2009	Spartanburg County	1988		
Lexington County	2008	Beaufort County	1987		
Greenwood County	2007	Aiken County	1986		
Newberry County	2006	Greenwood County	1985		
Georgetown County	2005	Union County	1984		
Lexington County	2004	Greenville County	1983		
Orangeburg County	2003	Chester County	1982		
Anderson County	2002	Chesterfield County	1981		
Anderson County	2001	York County	1980		
Horry County	2000	Beaufort County	1979		
York County	1999	Oconee County	1978		



## Winners of the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

Charleston County	2019
Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties	2018
Greenville County	2017
Spartanburg County	2016
Spartanburg County	2015
Abbeville, Anderson, Barnwell and Jasper Counties	2014
Lexington and Richland Counties	2012
Beaufort and Jasper Counties	2011
Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force (Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, Oconee and Pickens Counties)	2010
Greenwood County and GLEAMNS	2009
Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force (Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, Oconee and Pickens Counties)	2008
Beaufort/Hampton/Jasper Counties	2007
Western Piedmont Regional Emergency Management Task Force	2006
Berkeley/Charleston/Dorchester Counties	2005
Florence/Georgetown/Horry Counties	2004
Sumter/Lee Counties	2003
Anderson County Partnership	2002
Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority	1999

## JMG/BL ...

(Continued from P. 11)

Government, University of Georgia.

### Other Entities Recognized for Competing in the 2019 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition

Tomes described all entries for this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition on August 6 at the General Session for SCAC's Annual Conference.

Descriptions of the other entries, which did not win, follow:

#### Entries for the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

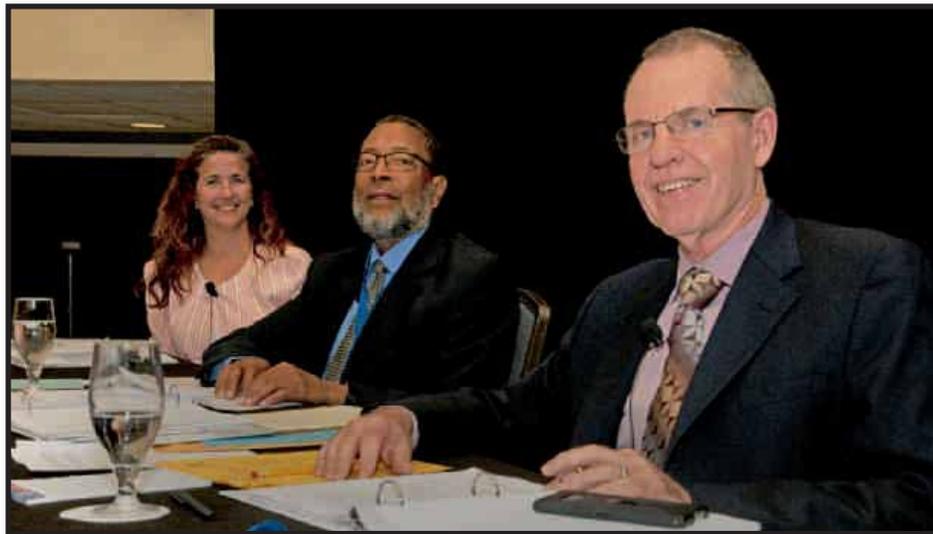
■ **Charleston County**—In response to a large percentage of its workforce approaching retirement age, Charleston County is being proactive in alleviating potential gaps in leadership positions. The Emerging Leader Program (ELP) was created to mitigate challenges associated with a dynamic and ever-changing workforce. ELP takes employees out of their traditional "silos" by building new relationships, sharing experiences, working together, and learning how to

overcome challenges. The ELP seeks to delve deeper into the organization to develop and strengthen Charleston County's next generation of leaders with broader management techniques, leadership experiences, and insight on how the operations of the county are executed.

■ **Horry County**—HCCConnect was created to provide a technology platform to inform, engage, and connect with the citizens of Horry County. This is a first of its kind application, developed completely in-house, creating a direct channel for citizen driven communication and feedback. Users create a profile based on location and subscribe to feeds that are important to them. Neighborhood-specific feeds include crime tracking, zoning hearings, building permits, and activities at parks and recreation facilities. The app also provides frequently requested information in real-time to mobile devices, and it gives users the ability to submit service requests instantly.

#### Entries for the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

■ **Marlboro County**—Economic conditions make travel to doctors' offices, *(Photos shown on Pp. 14 – 16, JMG/BL article continues on P. 16)*



**JUDGES**—Judges for this year's competition: (left to right) Kris K. Sikes, Ph.D., J.D., Public Service Associate, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia; Dr. Bruce Ransom, Professor of Political Science and Policy Studies, Clemson University; and Head Judge—William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr., Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston *(Photo by Stuart Morgan)*

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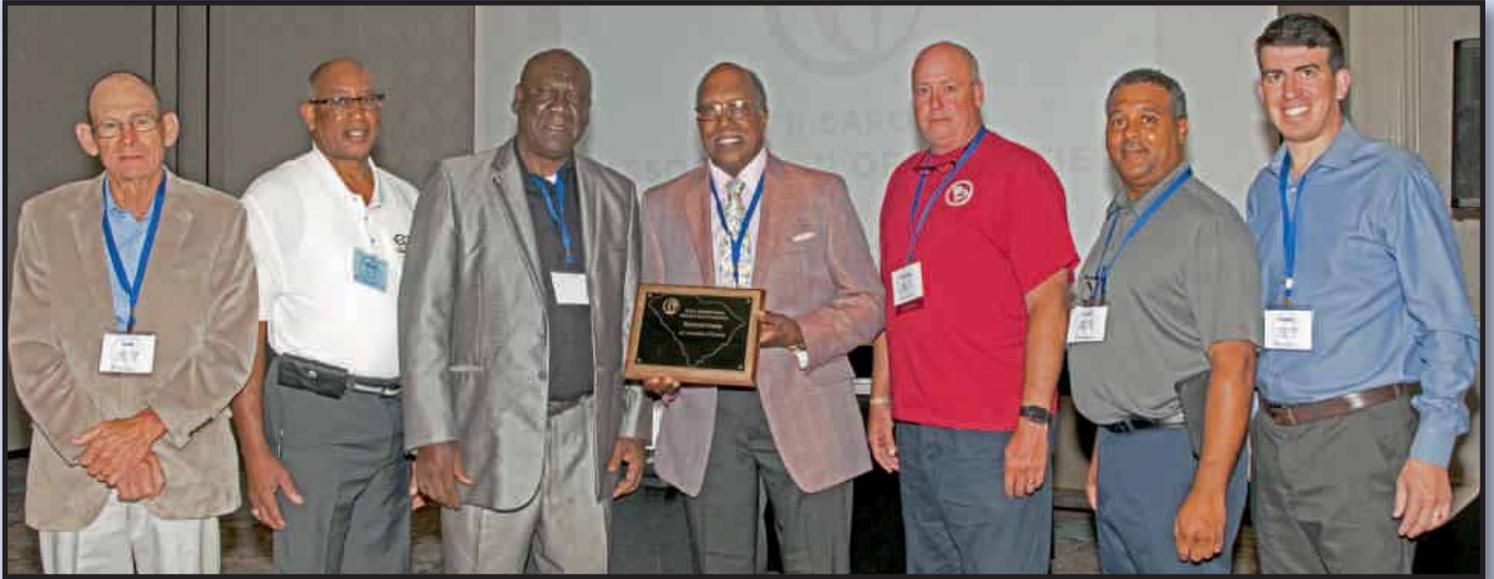
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# ***Entities Recognized for Competing in the 2019 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition***

*At the general session for SCAC's Annual Conference on August 6, the head judge for this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition described all of the entries that were submitted. SCAC President Charles T. Jennings then presented plaques to representatives of each entity.*



**BARNWELL COUNTY**—(Left to right) Barnwell County Council Members Don Harper and Freddie L. Houston Sr. and Council Vice Chairman Harold Buckmon; SCAC President Charles T. Jennings; Emergency Management Director/Risk Manager Roger Riley; and Council Members David Kenner and Daniel Alexandar.



**CHARLESTON COUNTY**—(Left to right) Charleston County Clerk to Council Kristen Salisbury, Deputy Clerk to Council Kristen Brame; Dan Martin, Board of Elections & Voter Registration; James D. Armstrong, Deputy Administrator/Transportation and Public Works; SCAC President Charles T. Jennings; Council Member Anna B. Johnson and Doug Wurster, Project Officer for Deputy County Administrator for Finance/Chief Financial Officer.

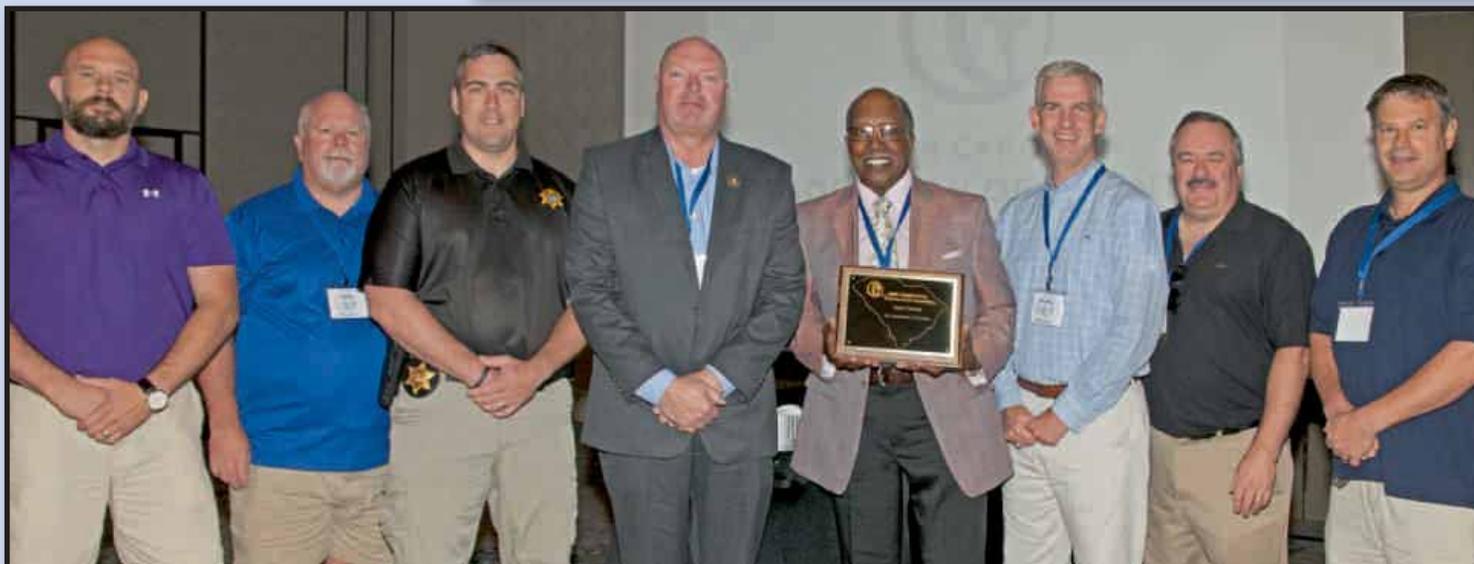


**DORCHESTER COUNTY**—(Left to right) Dorchester County Chief Finance Officer Daniel Prentice, County Administrator Jason L. Ward; SCAC President Charles T. Jennings; and Council Members Larry S. Hargett and Harriet Holman.

**HORRY COUNTY**—(Left to right) Horry County Council Member Paul Prince, Director of IT/GIS Tim Oliver, SCAC President Charles T. Jennings and Council Member Danny Hardee.



*Photos by  
Stuart Morgan*



**YORK COUNTY**—(Left to right) York County Assistant Manager Andy Merriman; Interim County Manager David Hudspeth; Trent Faris, Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer; York County Sheriff Kevin R. Tolson; SCAC President Charles T. Jennings; Council Chairman Michael Johnson; Council Member Robert Winkler and Kevin Madden, Assistant County Manager/CFO/Treasurer.



**MCCORMICK COUNTY**—McCormick County Director of Economic Development Thessa G. Smith; County Administrator Columbus Stephens, Council Vice Chairman Bernard Hamby, SCAC President Charles T. Jennings (presenting award), Council Member Byron Thompson, Assistant to the Administrator/Clerk to Council Chrystal B. Barnes; and Council Member Henry Banks



## JMG/BL ...

(Continued from P. 13)

shopping, schools and government facilities a challenge for many residents of Marlboro County. Additionally, area businesses and industries face difficulty in hiring and retaining employees due to a lack of workforce transportation. Recognizing these issues, Marlboro

**MARLBORO COUNTY**—(Left to right) SCAC President Charles T. Jennings and Dr. Carolyn A. Prince, Marlboro County Council Chairman.

County partnered with the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority, CareFIRST Carolina Foundation/ Care South Carolina and several regional sponsors to develop a public transportation initiative. By using fee-in-lieu of tax agreement funds, the county was able to use an innovative strategy to leverage additional funding sources to provide this needed service to its citizens.

■ **McCormick County**—McCormick County was the ideal location for the inception of Savannah Lakes Village, a large-scale, master-planned community on the shores of Lake Thurmond.

The national housing economy crash of 2008 led to a near-fatal delinquency trend that resulted in 50 percent of the properties falling into the county's Forfeited Land Commission. The county and Savannah Lakes Village refused to accept this outcome, and worked together to craft a plan, identify a capable development partner, and chart a course for redevelopment.

■ **Pickens County**—Pickens County joined forces with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Services, the S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Behavioral Health Services of Pickens County, Bowers Emergency Services, local police

departments, Pickens EMS and other emergency response organizations to address the community's opioid epidemic. The partnership is the first in the state to take a personal, hands-on approach to tackling the national opioid crisis through the Community Outreach Paramedic Education (COPE) program. This program equips specially trained paramedics and support specialists to make home visits and provide long-term support to opioid addicts in recovery.



**PICKENS COUNTY**—(Left to right) Pickens County Council Vice Chairman Chris Bowers; SCAC President Charles T. Jennings, and Pickens County Council Members R. Ensley Feemster and Wes Hendricks.



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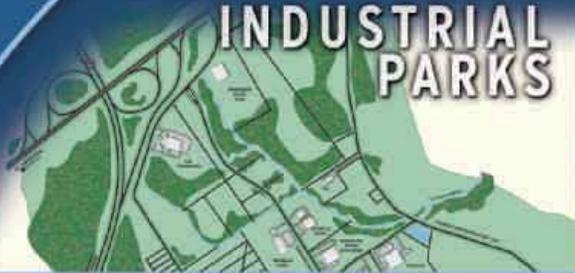
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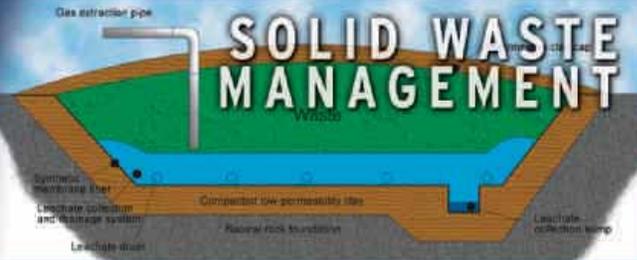
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# Dorchester County Wins 2019 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

*For Its Online Newsroom, the  
County's Central Communications Hub*

By W. Stuart Morgan III

**D**orchester County won SCAC's 2019 J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its new Online Newsroom, the county's central communication hub that strives to improve the quality of information communicated to local residents and businesses.

Utilizing traditional media outlets (print, television and radio) and social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and NextDoor), the goal of the county's innovative Online Newsroom is to accurately communicate county news in real time and reduce the spread of inaccurate information. After all, virtually anyone can use social media and a smartphone to spread information—accurate and inaccurate—in today's 24-hour news cycle.

"This is the first time our county has won the coveted J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, and the first time a county public information project or program in South Carolina has won the award," said Tiffany Norton, Dorchester County Public Information Officer. "This is a big deal, and it validates the need for good government communications. Information is no longer just a service. It's an expectation."

"I'm proud to be part of Team Dorchester County," she added. "Collectively, we continue to raise the bar in every area of local government."

Dorchester County's Online Newsroom is the culmination of a series of initiatives, which included hiring Norton as public information officer, implementing a strategic communications



*"This is the first time our county has won the coveted J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, ... . This is a big deal, and it validates the need for good government communications. Information is no longer just a service. It's an expectation."*

— Tiffany Norton  
Dorchester County Public Information Officer

and launching the town's successful public information program, which included designing and launching the town's new website.

Since joining Dorchester County a few years ago, Norton has already played an instrumental role in creating a highly successful public information program for the county. On April 11, she accepted a Silver Wing Award for the county's Online News-

**Dorchester County**  
Winner of the 2019 J. Mitchell Graham  
Memorial Award



See  
South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 95

plan and redesigning the county's website.

## Hiring a Public Information Officer

Only a handful of counties in the state have full-time public information officers.

Dorchester County hired Norton, its first public information officer (PIO), in 2016. (See more on P. 22) She served as events coordinator and PIO for the Town of Summerville from 2014 to 2016,

room from the S.C. Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. On August 5 at SCAC's 2019 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition, she helped present the county's winning entry, its Online Newsroom.

"I'm extremely excited about winning this year's J. Mitchell Graham award for the first time," said Jason Ward, Dorchester County Administrator, who joined Norton on the stage at the competition to present the county's entry. "We've submitted entries in the past that we thought were very strong but didn't win. So, it felt good to win and be recognized this year.

"Winning this award for the Online Newsroom," he added, "is special because as a county we've identified as a strategic priority improving communication between our county and the public."

Over the years, Dorchester County has developed several programs to help local residents and businesses. But with the smallest population of any county in the Tri-County region (Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester), Dorchester County had difficulty using traditional media to spread the word about those programs.

The larger two counties, Charleston and Berkeley counties, usually received better coverage, according to Ward. And when the media reported on Dorchester County, he noted, that coverage was rarely positive.

Dorchester County had a website, but users complained that it was difficult to search and find useful information.

"We wanted to improve coverage provided by local television and print media and reduce the amount of incorrect information communicated about the county and its programs," Ward explained.

## Developing and Implementing a Strategic Communications Plan

Essentially, Dorchester County leaders decided that the county needed to become its own trusted media source.

Norton was tasked shortly after she was hired to conduct a communications audit and identify what needed to be improved. She discussed and helped plan communication strategies with elected and appointed county officials, and department heads. She

also surveyed county council members to determine the most important issues they faced in their respective districts.

Norton then authored a three-year strategic communications plan that uses a centralized approach to communications. The plan is designed to ensure:

1) that meaningful, accurate content would be disseminated to all audiences in the quickest and most efficient manner

possible, and

2) that such content would be disseminated or shared on the most appropriate platforms and to ensure that information would be read by all audiences—including residents, business owners, media, agency partners, elected officials and county staff.

This created challenges. After all, changing procedures and habits was difficult.

Dorchester County's young, professional PIO faced challenges when trying to change the way

county officials and subject matter experts had communicated and dealt with the media for years.

But she met with everyone, including public relations professionals, and helped figure out the best way to develop content for the county's Online Newsroom.

"Getting elected county officials and county department

*(Continued on next page)*

***"Winning this award for the Online Newsroom is special because as a county we've identified as a strategic priority improving communication between our county and the public."***

***— Jason L. Ward  
Dorchester County Administrator***



**Dorchester County's leaders, including County Administrator Jason L. Ward (left), supports Tiffany Norton's efforts to improve county communications. As the county's public information officer, she has helped improve the quality of information disseminated to the public by creating the county's Online Newsroom. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)**

heads to trust our county's PIO to act as a point of contact and as a buffer between them and the media, and training them to help them become better communicators—on what to say and how to say it—was a challenge,” Ward explained. “We understood and respected the fact that we had 14 elected officials who were accustomed to speaking for themselves and not having to coordinate communication, and we didn't want to do anything that reflected negatively on county council or any elected county officials.”

Implementing new communication procedures created other challenges.

“Getting timely responses for online stories and notices, and getting information in a timely manner to respond to media inquiries was a challenge, because many of our folks would rather work than talk about their work,” Ward explained. “Convincing our folks that the media was a resource, and sometimes a partner that could help our county communicate with our audiences, was also a challenge.”

Norton carefully studied Dorchester County's website, which had received its share of complaints over the years. She then helped figure out what needed to be fixed and what was most important for the site's visitors.

Norton knew that having a website didn't mean people would use the site or even care about it. To become the trusted voice of Dorchester County, she recommended creating a new

website that was aesthetically pleasing, easy to search, and most importantly, easy to understand.

Nothing would be taken for granted or assumed when creating Dorchester County's new website. For example, the county used analytics to figure out and understand exactly how local residents used the county's previous website when designing and constructing the county's new one.

To provide useful information needed by local residents and businesses, Dorchester County's one-person Public Information Office worked with many outside agencies, including: S.C. Department of Transportation, S.C. Department of Revenue, S.C. Treasurer's Office, S.C. Highway Patrol, Dominion Energy, Norfolk Southern, and Dorchester School Districts Two and Four.

### Launching the County's New Online Newsroom

Dorchester County created a new brand, including a new logo.

In August 2017, the county launched a new ADA-compliant website ([www.DorchesterCountySC.gov](http://www.DorchesterCountySC.gov)). The total cost to design, build and host the new site was \$31,530. The county contracted with Granicus (previously Vision Internet) to assist these efforts and host the new website. The recurring cost to host the site is \$11,025, and it includes a design refresh every



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three years.

During the next four months, the county archived past news articles and prepared the site to officially become the county’s central communications hub.

Ward said they launched the county’s Online Newsroom, [www.DorchesterCountySC.gov/news](http://www.DorchesterCountySC.gov/news) (shown above), on January 1, 2018, only after sufficient buy-in was received from everyone that they were ready to use it. Since then, Norton has been using that information to write news releases and articles to ensure that such information is clearly and accurately conveyed to appropriate audiences.

The new website was designed with the online newsroom in mind. The six newest articles are strategically highlighted on the site’s home page. Norton strives to keep the page fresh by posting at least one article each week.

Meanwhile, all news items shared externally on social media and elsewhere—are linked to the county’s Online Newsroom. “Teasers” are also posted on social media to attract attention and prompt users to click through to the county’s website and search for more information.

“After seeing the value of our county’s new Online Newsroom and recognizing the time they’d save by funneling all information to one central communications hub, all Dorchester County Team Members—some more than others—got on-board,” Ward said. “Once we launched our Online Newsroom, even those who remained on the fence saw its value and became ambassadors for the newsroom.”

*(Continued on next page)*

## Becoming a Trusted News Source

Dorchester County has harnessed the power of social media by placing all information in one central location, the Online Newsroom. This allows the county to share that infor-

mation on multiple platforms in a timely manner and ensure that anyone reading the information posted on the county's website is always redirected back to the county's Online Newsroom.

Norton works directly with elected officials, county lead-

# Dorchester County's First Full-Time Public Information Officer, Tiffany Norton

Dorchester County isn't just one of a handful of South Carolina counties that employs a full-time public information officer.

Apparently, it employs one of the best!

Dorchester County Council Chairman George H. Bailey said he was initially skeptical about hiring a full-time public information officer (PIO), but said he's a believer now.

"Having a full-time public information officer," Bailey said, "has improved Dorchester County's reputation among our residents by providing accurate, meaningful information in a timely manner."

Tiffany Norton, Dorchester County's first PIO, is a U.S. Coast Guard veteran. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the College of Charleston in 2009, certification as a Public Communicator at Texas Christian University in 2017 and completed numerous Federal Emergency Management Agency courses in public information.

From 2014 to 2016, while serving as events coordinator and PIO for the Town of Summerville, she launched the town's public information program. She also designed and launched the town's new website.

Norton was credited with strengthening the town's social media presence, streamlining the town's special events permit process and Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. In fact, she helped land the Town of Summerville in the *Guinness Book of World Records*—not once but twice—for the World's Largest Sweet Tea.

Now, she's putting Dorchester County on the map!

When asked to identify how having a full-time PIO has helped since Dorchester County hired its first PIO in 2016, Bailey had much more to say.

His lengthy response follows:

"The county's PIO serves as the county's brand ambassador, because she ensures the logo is used consistently and in the



appropriate manner. Before, we had a hodge-podge of different versions of the county seal and none of them matched. This did not help our overall reputation, which has greatly improved since we created a new one.

"The county's PIO has improved media relations and media coverage for the county by serving as the point of contact for all requests. Before county council members or anyone else representing the county is interviewed, she ensures that we are set up for success with the most up-to-date information and clear, concise talking points.

"One of the most important and notable changes is our ability to communicate during emergencies. I've had friends who live in neighboring counties tell me that, although they do not live in Dorchester County, they follow our website and social media for updates during hurricanes and other weather events. The website was designed so that when our county's Emergency Operations Center is activated, an incident specific page is

created that becomes the homepage of our county's website throughout the activation. This helps up keep relevant information at our citizens' fingertips.

"The county's PIO also helps us stay engaged and informed about what is important to our residents and business owners. She keeps a pulse on what is being discussed on social media, and by doing so, positions us to better control the rumor mill. This has enabled us to get in front of many issues that could have gone badly and affected the county's reputation.

"The county's PIO has improved the county's relationship with other government agencies by providing information from large corporations/agencies via the online newsroom to ensure that the information makes it to the grass roots level in a timely manner." ■



Photo by WSM

Tiffany Norton, CPC  
Dorchester County Public Information Officer

***"Having a full-time public information officer has improved Dorchester County's reputation among residents by providing accurate, meaningful information in a timely manner."***

— George H. Bailey  
Dorchester County Council Chairman

ership and department heads as well as agency partners, school districts and local businesses to ensure a broad range of information on various topics and services is available in the newsroom and posts articles, which are written to appeal to appropriate audiences.

She also harnesses the power of social influence to drive followers to the online newsroom while also engaging citizens and businesses to share and obtain real-time information and feedback.

Dorchester County's Online Newsroom, which became a popular source of information and a trusted news source by the end of 2018, has already proven its worth.

"We've developed a new county logo, established a brand and used the power of storytelling to connect people in our community," Ward said. "Since hiring Tiffany (Norton), she has leveraged her relationship with the media as public information officer to improve the coverage that our county receives."

The county's Online Newsroom is especially helpful in emergencies when it's used during severe weather events. When the county's Emergency Operations Center is activated, Norton creates an incident-specific page on the site that becomes the homepage and the hub of information during activations such as hurricanes. The page provides weather updates, road closures for municipal, county and state roads and highways, utility outages, school and government closures, sand bag availability, debris removal and disposal and more.

"Our Online Newsroom is so effective because it isn't limited to one media platform," Ward explained. "We can also use it when we have severe weather events, such as named tropical storms."

### **Just the Beginning**

Dorchester County's Online Newsroom is just the beginning of the county's efforts to better inform, engage and connect citizens to county government and ensure the accuracy of information that its audiences receive.

Plans are underway to expand the role of the county's Public Information  
(See **Dorchester Co.**, P. 24)

# *South Carolina's 2020 Directory of County Officials*

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## Dorchester Co. ...

(Continued from P. 23)

Office—to create a newsletter and a better platform to publish information on rezoning requests, road projects and much more. For example, the county recently added geocoded data for planning and zoning projects to the Online Newsroom. This information gives citizens access to all rezoning requests and planning and zoning projects at their fingertips.

Dorchester County's leaders recognize the need for open two-way communication, particularly as it pertains to providing information and utilizing technology to disseminate and gather information. They also recognize that making the county's Online Newsroom work requires the Dorchester County Team to remain engaged on social platforms and to anticipate needs of all audiences.

"I'll admit that when Dorchester County Council first approved hiring a full-time public information officer, I was skeptical," recalled George H. Bailey, Dorchester County Council Chairman. "When Tiffany (Norton) joined the Dorchester County Team in 2016, my opinion began to change. It's one of those things you don't know what you're missing until you have it. Now, I look back and think, how did we ever manage without a professional communicator? Tiffany made me a believer.

"I'm encouraged and honored to see the work of our county's staff receive recognition at such a high level after winning this year's J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award," Bailey added. "Good government isn't possible without great government communications. Our Online Newsroom is a shining example, and I hope other counties will incorporate similar programs."





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# Charleston County Wins 2019 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

***For a Partnership the County's NASA Team Developed with NASA to Help Businesses, Students and NASA Fulfill Its Mission***

*By W. Stuart Morgan III*

Charleston County won SCAC's 2019 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for a partnership the county's NASA Team developed with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

That partnership created a new program—the Launch with NASA Small Business Forum, Launch Your School Year with NASA STEM Expo, and much more. Launched last year, the program is designed to:

- Provide a forum for local and regional businesses, which is designed to teach them how to work with NASA and their prime contractors, state agencies and the county;
- Introduce students to career and education options, scholarships, internships and opportunities for local employment; and
- Stimulate technology transfer opportunities.

“With these goals in mind, our NASA Team built and continues to build one good idea after another by calling on our partners for their support and expertise,” said Jim Armstrong, Charleston County Deputy Administrator for Transportation and Public Works. “I’m elated that Charleston County won this year’s Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award, and received recognition for launching the NASA program—especially after our county’s string of three consecutive wins.”

Charleston County competed in the J. Mitchell Graham/Barret Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition and brought home one of the competition’s top two awards each of the past



**Charleston County**  
Winner of the 2019 Barrett Lawrimore  
Memorial Regional Cooperation Award



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three years—the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award in 2017 and 2018 (county’s fourth and fifth) and this year, the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award (county’s second).

“I’m also proud of our NASA Team’s ability to collaborate with state, federal and local entities that offer opportunities to bring Charleston County’s schools and small businesses to the table with NASA,” Armstrong added. “Our NASA Team is made up of six individuals who love everything NASA. They work well together, playing on each other’s strengths, and work directly with NASA.”

This isn’t the first time Charleston County has been recognized for its partnership with NASA.

Last year, the National Association of Counties (NACo) presented the county a NACo Achievement Award in the category for Community and Economic Development.

*(See Charleston County, P. 30)*



**CHARLESTON COUNTY'S NASA TEAM IN "THE SHARK TANK"**—You don't need to watch the popular television show, *Shark Tank*, to witness collaboration and innovative ideas. Charleston County's NASA Team often meets in a room shown above, called the "Shark Tank" and decorated accordingly. The room is located in the Office of Charleston County's Deputy Administrator, Jim Armstrong. Shown in the Shark Tank are members of the county's NASA Team: (left to right) JoTavia McPherson, Administrative Service Coordinator (Procurement); Kristen L. Salisbury, Clerk to Council; Kevin Limehouse, Innovations and Operations Officer; Kristen Hess, Deputy Clerk to Council; and Doug Wurster, Project Officer (Finance). Limehouse said the room, featuring a Shark Tank screensaver on the computer screen in the background, is designed to be inviting and comfortable to encourage collaboration and innovation. Another member of the NASA Team, not shown above, is Darrell Williams, Office of Business Opportunities Program Manager. *(Photo by Stuart Morgan)*



# NASA NEEDS YOU

Supplier Summit and STEM Experience

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Trident Technical College

7000 Rivers Ave - N. Charleston, SC



*The Bridge to Local, State, and Federal Opportunities*



SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
Barrett Lawmore Award Winner



# Charleston County ...

(Continued from P. 28)

## Origins and Development of the Partnership Between Charleston County and NASA

Charleston County's partnership with NASA originated when the county presented a project on solar energy at NACo's

2017 Annual Conference and Exposition in Columbus, Ohio. Kevin Limehouse, Charleston County Innovations and Operations Officer, who participated in the county's presentation, missed a NASA presentation that expressed NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center's interest in partnering with local communities.

"I asked Jim (Armstrong), who saw the NASA presentation and described it, if I could investigate partnering Charleston County with NASA, and he eagerly agreed," Limehouse re-

## NASA Forums, STEM Expos and Other Events Offer Broad Range of Activities for Businesses and Schools

Since the Charleston County NASA Team partnered with NASA in November 2017, Charleston County has hosted forums, STEM Expos and other events to help NASA fulfill its mission and the county prepare the area's workforce for opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Shown on this page and the next are some of the many photos that have been taken at several of the events, and examples of some of the material that have been produced to promote them.



called. "After initial conversations, we were put in touch with the NASA officials at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. When visiting NASA officials in Marshall, we then learned that about the Space Launch System and NASA's mission to engage communities.

"Shortly after I said we were interested," Limehouse added, "Kristen Salisbury (Charleston County Clerk to Council), and I engaged with NASA. We then started talking regularly with NASA officials in Marshall."

*(Continued on next page)*

## LAUNCH THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH NASA & CHARLESTON COUNTY

**Wednesday, August 29, 2018**  
**8:30 am - 1:30 pm**  
**Charleston Area Convention Center**  
**5000 Coliseum Drive**  
**North Charleston, SC**

- Meet retired NASA Astronaut Dr. Don Thomas
- Explore the NASA and STEM Expo
- Interact with NASA staff
- Engage in hands-on STEM activities
- Meet representatives from local colleges
- Discover the pathway to a STEM career
- Join us for this free event

For information, contact: [klimehouse@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:klimehouse@charlestoncounty.org) or contact Kevin Limehouse at 843-958-4012

To register, [click here](#).  
 Or scan QR Code.

Conference brought to you by:

**Explorers Connect. Discover Launch.**

## APOLLO 50<sup>th</sup>

### Apollo Next Giant Leap Student Challenge

July 28, 2019 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission, the first time humans ever set foot on the moon. It's time to celebrate the Apollo 50th Anniversary with a special challenge for students. The Apollo Next Giant Leap Student Challenge is a hands-on STEM activity that will engage students in learning about space exploration and the challenges of space travel.

Students will be challenged to design and build a model of a lunar lander that can land on the moon and return to Earth. The challenge is open to students in grades 4-12. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.

For more information, visit [www.nasa.gov/apollo50](http://www.nasa.gov/apollo50)



## SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

### Charleston County

#### ONE SMALL STEP to Opportunities

**APRIL 2019**

Monday <b>22</b>	8:00 am - 1:00 pm	<b>ACCESS, OPPORTUNITIES &amp; REQUIREMENTS</b> PARTE DISCUSSION How to find and secure funding for your business.
Tuesday <b>23</b>	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	<b>REGULATORY NETWORKING &amp; RECEPTION</b> REGULATORY NETWORKING Meet with regulatory agencies to discuss your business and how to navigate the regulatory process.
Wednesday <b>24</b>	8:00 am - 1:00 pm	<b>GOING BUSINESS WITH GOVERNMENT</b> HOW TO GET YOUR BUSINESS ON THE GOVERNMENT ROSTER HOW TO GET YOUR BUSINESS ON THE GOVERNMENT ROSTER
Thursday <b>25</b>	8:00 am - 1:00 pm	<b>MARKETING STRATEGY</b> MARKETING STRATEGY MARKETING STRATEGY

For Registration go to [www.charlestoncounty.gov](http://www.charlestoncounty.gov)



Charleston County's NASA Team began working with NASA officials at the Space Flight Center in November of 2017 on plans to host a Launch Your Business with NASA Small Business Forum on March 29, 2018.

Once the Charleston community responded with interest to these plans, the county's partnership with NASA quickly grew.

NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., joined the effort and provided more resources to create a NASA STEM Expo and spin-off programs, grants and more. NASA and Charleston County next planned a NASA Prime Contractor Council Meeting for 50 of NASA's top contractors that would be held on March 28, 2018.

So far, the partnership has benefitted Charleston County.

It has opened doors for the county to work with the local school district; educational organizations, including colleges and universities; defense contractors, small business owners; North Charleston Coliseum; City of North Charleston; Small Business Administration; and federal, state and local agencies. The growing partnership has also allowed Charleston County to pursue other projects and develop relationships that continue to foster economic development and provide opportunities for students and businesses.

Since the partnership was formed, Charleston County's NASA Team has worked with the county's Public Information Office to promote all of the county's NASA-related events. The NASA Team has also sold sponsorships to secure support for them. At the same time, the partnership has provided other Charleston County departments opportunities to work with local citizens and community organizations, including: the Navy League, the Low Country STEM Collaborative, Charleston Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Charleston Digital Corridor, The Harbor Accelerator and the Charleston Defense Contractors Association.

"Basically," Limehouse said, "our county's NASA Team had eight months (November 2017 to April 2018) to collaborate with NASA and plan everything," Limehouse said. "But we did it."

### **Charleston County Hosts Events for Businesses and Students**

Last year, Charleston County hosted meetings for NASA's prime contractors and small businesses and a STEM Expo for local students. During Small Business Week earlier this year, the county also hosted a series of presentations for small businesses.

#### **NASA Prime Contractor Council Meeting**

On Aug. 28, 2018, Charleston County hosted the NASA Prime Contractor Council Meeting for 50 of NASA's top contractors at the county's public service building in North Charleston. Steve Dykes, the county's executive director of

economic development, provided the introduction.

A VIP reception was held after the meeting that allowed local elected officials, dignitaries, guests, sponsors and exhibitors to meet NASA leaders and staff and retired astronaut, Dr. Don Thomas.

On August 30 and 31, Dr. Thomas described his career and his 44 days in space when he spoke at local elementary schools, Charleston County's main library and Charleston Southern University.

#### **Launch Your Business with NASA Small Business Forum**

On Aug. 29, 2018, Charleston County hosted the Launch Your Business with NASA Small Business Forum to show local businesses how they could partner with NASA and its prime contractors to build the Space Launch System.

The county's NASA Team, in partnership with NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, established a broad range of subjects for the forum from How to Do Business at NASA and Doing Business with Prime Contractors to Technology Transfer Programs and Mentor/Protégé

programs. NASA contractors and elected officials also spoke.

Participants explored employment opportunities at NASA, connected with agency representatives and prime contractors, and visited

exhibitors (including industry partners), government agencies and defense contractors.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Mary Thornley, president of Trident Technical College, who talked about the college's national model apprenticeship program and the importance of developing a local workforce.

#### **Launch Your School Year with NASA STEM Expo**

On the same date (August 29), the Charleston County School District played a major role in the The Launch Your School Year with NASA STEM Expo by promoting the STEM Expo to every middle and high school administrator and teacher.

More than 1200 students, representing all 34 middle and high schools in the county, attended. Students visited the exhibit hall where they participated in hands-on STEM activities, viewed NASA displays and met with NASA staff to learn about STEM careers, scholarships and internships.

They also met with representatives of colleges and universities, recruiters representing the U.S. Armed Forces, local businesses, community organizations and Charleston County government departments.

#### **One Small Step to Opportunities**

This year, from April 22 to 25, Charleston County and NASA hosted Small Business Week presentations at the Lonnie Hamilton III Public Services Building in North Charleston. The week-long events were sponsored by a \$20,000 NASA Estab-

***"Basically, our county's NASA Team had eight months (November 2017 to April 2018) to collaborate with NASA and plan everything. But we did it."***

***—Kevin Limehouse,  
Charleston County Innovations and Operations Officer and  
NASA Team Member***

lished Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Grant, \$2,500 of which funded a Black EXPO.

A Panel Discussion on Access, Opportunities and Resources was held on April 22, and a reception followed.

From April 23 to 25, speakers addressed a broad range of subjects from Funding Your Business and Accessing Capital and Pathways to Grants to Doing Business with Government and Adding Google to Marketing Strategies.

The EPSCoR grant also permitted county officials to visit the Kennedy Space Center in Brevard County, Florida, in April 2019 to learn more about NASA's technology transfer program. The visit included a stop in Gainesville, Fla., to learn about the facility's autonomous shuttle program, which will be featured in Charleston County's Supplier Summit and STEM Experience Program on March 25, 2020.

"NASA officials in Marshall were so impressed with last year's events," Limehouse said, "that they've made the Charleston County model the new standard for how the Space Launch Center in Marshall would engage communities in the future. Because of the success of the partnership, they've also made arrangements to return to Charleston every two years, beginning in 2020.

"The events drew so much interest," he added, "that Marshall also decided to make the upcoming Supplier Summit and STEM Experience a regional conference and for representatives of all NASA facilities to participate."

The regional Supplier Summit and STEM Experience will be held on March 25, 2020. (See ad on P. 29)

Charleston County's partnership with NASA is helping to pave the way for future NASA partnerships that will benefit other counties in the Tri-County Region (Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester) and elsewhere in South Carolina.

"This is a huge opportunity for South Carolina," said Jim Armstrong (Charleston County Deputy Administrator for Transportation and Public Works). "Our NASA Team is working with our local and state partners to include and educate as many people as we can to show NASA that South Carolina is ready for more!"

### **Charleston County's Partnership with NASA "Exceeded the Objectives"**

Armstrong recognized an opportunity for Charleston County to work with NASA when he attended NACo's 2017 Annual Conference.

He, Kevin Limehouse (Charleston County Innovations and Operations Officer) and five other county officials, who would form the county's NASA Team, then seized that opportunity to partner with NASA and developed a successful program!

Kristen Salisbury, Charleston County Clerk to Council, said the county's NASA Team "exceeded the objectives" that its members could ever have dreamed when they began working with NASA on November 17, 2017.

"A little more than two years ago," Salisbury recalled, "Kevin (Limehouse) and I sat in the conference room down the

hall and dialed NASA for the first time. I don't think either of us ever dreamed that from that one phone call we would have astronauts visiting us and NASA's Marshall Space Launch Center providing resources. We've been working with Marshall since then.

"The most rewarding part of being a part of Charleston County's NASA Team was seeing what lies ahead for the future of our county," she added. "The most rewarding part of working on our county's NASA Team is that its members support each other—not only in our NASA assignment but on other county assignments. Each of us is able to get outside our boxes and comfort zone, rely on each other's expertise and really get to know each other. It makes our work easier."

Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties won the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award in 2005. Winning this award a second time is an achievement for Charleston County, and it's especially sweet for anyone who knew the late

Barrett Lawrimore for whom the award is named.

"Winning this year's Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award means a lot," Salisbury said. "Mr. Barrett Lawrimore was a great guy. Having had a personal relationship with him and knowing that he really did try to work with other entities to find regional solutions and how important that was to him—honestly, it just warmed my heart more than anything to win this award named in his honor. We won this award for something that was so important to him.

"When accepting the award at SCAC's annual conference this year," she added, "I could just hear Mr. Lawrimore telling me, 'Good job little lady.'"

Charleston is the biggest community that the NASA Marshall Flight Center has worked with so far, according to Salisbury. But she has an important message for all South Carolina counties.

"The resources that NASA brought to us are available to  
(Continued on next page)

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***"This is a huge opportunity for South Carolina. Our NASA Team is working with our local and state partners to include and educate as many people as we can to show NASA that South Carolina is ready for more!"***

— Jim Armstrong  
Charleston County Deputy Administrator for Transportation and Public Works

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***"The resources that NASA brought to us are available to anyone. NASA didn't charge us anything to come here. If you're able to secure a facility, NASA will bring you resources that are comparable to the size of the facility and the group that you're able to gather for them."***

—Kristen Salisbury  
Charleston County Clerk to Council and NASA Team Member

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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**

PO Box 8207  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

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

anyone," Salisbury said. "NASA didn't charge us anything to come here. If you're able to secure a facility, NASA will bring you resources that are comparable to the size of the facility and the group that you're able to gather for them. So, it's not anything that only large counties, like Charleston County, can do. NASA is willing to support small businesses and STEM efforts in particular. NASA is very interested in engaging students and engaging students at all levels."

Kristen Hess, another member of the county's NASA Team, said she still can't believe what the team has accomplished and what the future holds.

"The six of us on Charleston County's NASA TEAM did this. You know, we did this!" Hess added, almost in disbelief. "When you receive positive feedback from local businesses about our team's efforts, and kids say that they want to attend the Launch with NASA STEM Expo next year, it's exciting to know we helped make it happen!"



## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Kevin Limehouse, Charleston County Innovations and Operations Officer, has an important message:



"The real success of our county's partnership with NASA is the collaboration. We're stronger when we work together.

"NASA was a great catalyst to start new partnerships and expand existing ones. Our message is that Charleston County wants to work with you. If we can help you or speak with you about this partnership or something new, please contact me."

Kevin Limehouse  
(843) 958-4012

[klimehouse@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:klimehouse@charlestoncounty.org)

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**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

## Purpose of the SCAC

- To promote more efficient county governments
- To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government
- To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials
- To promote and encourage education of county officials
- To collect, analyze and distribute information about county government
- To cooperate with other organizations
- To promote legislation which supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina

✦ For more information about the SCAC, please contact:

**South Carolina  
Association of Counties**  
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# SCAC Hosts 52nd Annual Conference

**SCAC** hosted its 52nd Annual Conference from August 4 to 7 in Hilton Head.

The conference, designed to help county leaders lead and serve more effectively, offered training sessions, workshops and other opportunities for county leaders to network and discuss challenges they face. The conference also allowed county leaders to

meet with SCAC's corporate supporters and conference exhibitors. New SCAC officers and board

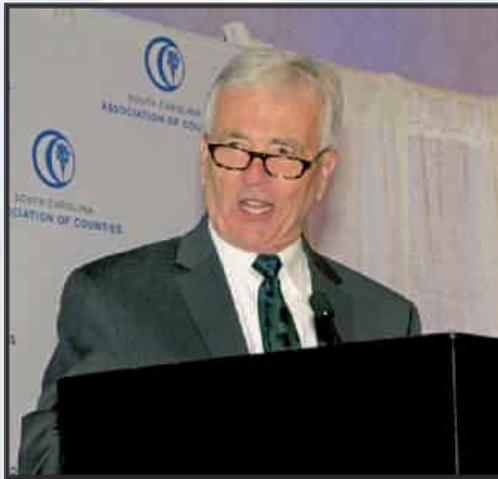
members were elected. Top county programs and projects were presented and recognized, and awards were presented.

## Conference Speakers

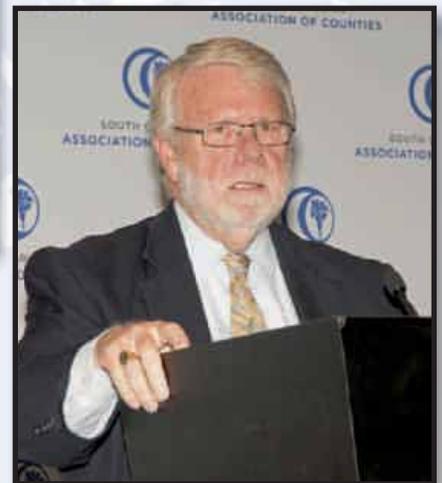
NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson spoke at the general session on Tuesday, August 6. Commissioner Borgeson is the first woman from Ne-



General Session Speaker  
Mary Ann Borgeson  
NACo President



SCAC's Newly-Elected President for 2019-20  
Dwight L. Stewart Jr.  
Clarendon County Council Chairman



General Session Keynote Speaker  
Robert "Bobby" M. Hitt III  
S.C. Secretary of Commerce



General Session, SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference, August 6

braska to be elected to this national position. Elected to the Douglas County Board of Commissioners in 1994, she served 11 years as the first chairwoman of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.

Active in NACo for many years, Commissioner Borgeson has served as president of Women of NACo, and as chair of NACo's Health and Human Services Steering Committee and Cyber Security Task Force. She has also served as vice chair of NACo's Large Urban County Caucus, the Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board, and the Health Steering Committee. Borgeson is a member of the International and Economic Development Taskforce, the

Arts and Culture Commission, and the Membership and Programs and Services committees.

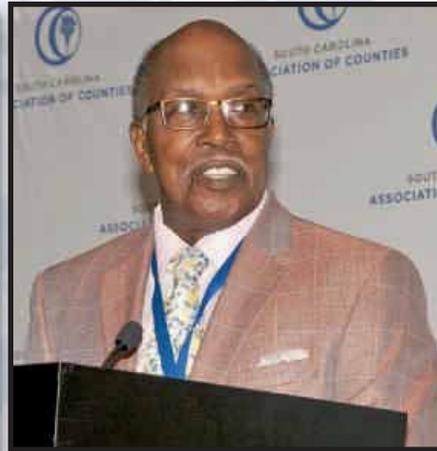
This year's general session keynote speaker was **S.C. Secretary of Commerce Robert "Bobby" M. Hitt III**. Secretary Hitt was appointed by Governor Nikki Haley in January 2011. Aiming

to cultivate a team-first approach to economic development, Secretary Hitt mobilized the state's many partners and allies to assist in building and site certification, infrastructure improvement, international trade growth, supplier development, workforce development, and statewide promotion through the 'Just right' campaign. As a result, Team South Carolina has achieved unprecedented industry recruitment success.

The S.C. Department of Commerce has recruited \$36.6 billion in capital investment and more than 130,000 new jobs since 2011. The Palmetto State has achieved an (See SCAC's 52nd, P. 49)



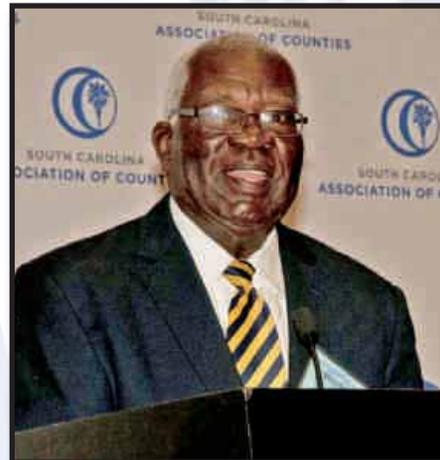
**Speaker at the Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon**  
**Henri E. Baskins**  
*Executive Vice President*  
**Columbia Chamber of Commerce**



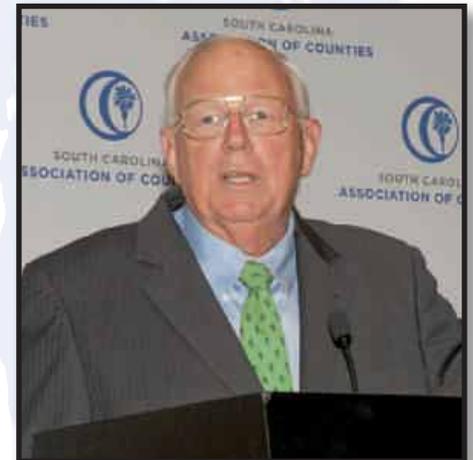
**SCAC's President for 2018-19**  
**Charles T. Jennings**  
*McCormick County Council Chairman*



**Corporal Kimber Gist**  
*Berkeley County Sheriff's Office*



**NACo Board Member Waymon Mumford (Florence County Council Chairman) prepares to deliver the invocation at the General Session.**



**Beaufort County Council Chairman Stewart Rodman welcomes everyone to SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference.**



**Head table, General Session**



Participating in a panel discussion on Effective Communications (Level II Institute of Government Class) on August 3 are: (left to right) Jackie R. Broach-Akers, Georgetown County Public Information Officer; Gary M. Mixon, Sumter County Administrator; James T. McCain, Sumter County Council Chairman; Charles Weather, President, The Weathers Group; and Katherine O'Neill, Chief Operating Officer, The Palladian Group. Anna Berger, SCAC Director of Research and Training (far-right), was the moderator.



▲ J. Ted Creech (above), Owner, J. Ted Creech Enterprises, and Andrew Hayes (left), Telecommunications Program, Office of Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other panelists spoke on Bridging the Digital Divide, an Advanced Institute of Government Class, on August 4.



Effective Communications (Level II Institute of Government Class), August 3



Stacy Adams, Office of State Procurement, S.C. State Fiscal Accountability Authority, spoke at the S.C. County Managers, Administrators and Supervisors Meeting, and County Council Coalition Meeting on August 5.



Joyce Thomas  
Darlington County  
Council Member

## *Institute of Government for County Officials*



Tracey Langley  
Dorchester County Clerk to Council



Jon B. Pierce, Ph.D., Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr., Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, teaches Building Effective Intergovernmental Relations (Level I Institute of Government Class) on August 3. Pierce also taught the Policy Role of Council (Level II Class) on August 4.



Providing a Legislative Update in a panel discussion at the S.C. County Managers, Administrators and Supervisors (SCCMAS) Meeting on August 5 are: (left to right) Rep. Shedron D. Williams (District 122), Rep. Russell L. Ott (District 93), Rep. Brandon M. Newton (District 45), Rep. Heather Ammons Crawford (District 68), Rep. Terry Alexander (District 59) and SCCMAS President David W. Epperson (Clarendon County Administrator). SCAC Senior Staff Attorney Kent Lesesne presided.



Tim Winslow, SCAC Executive Director-Elect, and Josh Rhodes, SCAC Deputy General Counsel, talk with (left to right) Deborah Cox, NACo Deputy Executive Director/Director of Government Affairs, and Eryn Hurley, NACo Associate Legislative Director - Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs.



Jim Stewart (left), Chairman/Secretary of Stewart Cooper Newell Architects, talks with Sumter County Council Member Charles T. Edens.



Joseph R. Branham (right), Chester County Council Vice Chairman, and Mark Strickland, Business Development Specialist for Kimble's Food by Design



S.C. State Guard Chief Warrant Officer Angela Stringer distributes information that explains the role of the State Guard.



(Left to right) Linda Clerk; Eugene (Gene) R. Baten, Sumter County Council Member; David Garner, Abbeville County Director; Kris Whiteside, Senior Account Executive, Enterprise Fleet Management; Shirley Black-Oliver, Clarendon County Voter Registration and Elections Executive Director; and Torrance Wilson, Williamsburg County Council Member



▲ Patricia Bundy (at left, above), Marlboro County Clerk to Council, and  
▼ Doris F. Pearson (at left, below), Cherokee County Clerk to Council, receive certificates for completing the S.C. Clerks to Council Training Program. Mary Blanding, Immediate Past President of the S.C. Clerks to Council Association, presented the certificates at the Clerks to Council meeting on August 4.



S.C. Clerks to Council President Mary Blanding (Sumter County Clerk to Council) administers the oath of office to the new officers of the S.C. Clerks to Council Association (left to right): Member at Large—Tammi Epps-McClary, Williamsburg County; JaNet Bishop, Darlington County; Secretary Merri Seigler, Kershaw County; Theresa Floyd, Georgetown County; and Lynn Sopolosky, Abbeville County.



## Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon



Henri E. Baskins, Executive Vice President Columbia Chamber of Commerce, spoke at the Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon on August 5. She's shown in the center of this group photo, next to Tammi Epps-McClary (Williamsburg County Clerk to Council) wearing the yellow hat, with other women who wore hats at the luncheon.



Belinda D. Copeland presides over the Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon.



▲ Newberry County Council Chairman Henry “Buddy” Livingston III, holding Mila, and his wife, Rhonda, join other Newberry County officials and friends for a group photo.

◀ Nilda Padgett, SCAC Director of Administrative Services, and C. David Chinnis, Dorchester County Council Vice Chairman, share a laugh.



Williamsburg County Probate Judge Betty F. Matthews, Tax Collector Norma L. Cyrus, Clerk of Court Sharon W. Staggars, Clerk to Council; Tammi Epps-McClary, and Treasurer Kimber W. Cooper



Laurens County Council Member Diane B. Anderson and her granddaughter, Naomi Robinson



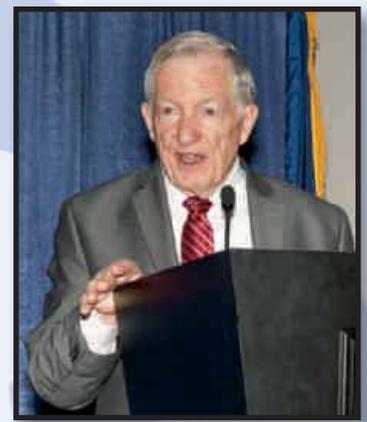
**Deborah Cox**  
*Deputy Executive Director*  
NACo



**Gary Lemel**  
*Commission Chair*  
S.C. Department of Disabilities  
and Special Needs



**Christy Sammon**  
*State Director*  
GORAIL



**Willis H. Meadows**  
*President*  
County Council Coalition

## *County Council Coalition Meeting*

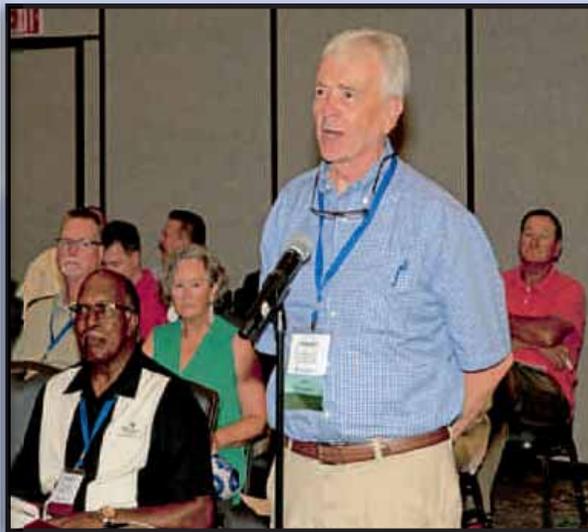


Providing a Legislative Update during a panel discussion at the S.C. County Council Coalition Meeting on August 5 are: (left to right) Rep. Mandy Powers Norell (District 44), Rep. J. Anne Parks (District 12), Rep. G. Murrell Smith Jr. (District 67), Sen. A Shane Massey (District 25), Sen. Brad Hutto (District 40), Sen. Greg Hembree (District 28) and Sen. Tom Davis (District 46). CCC President Willis H. Meadows (Greenville County Council Vice Chairman) presided.





**Eugene R. Baten**  
*Sumter County Council Member*



**SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr.**  
*Clarendon County Council Chairman*



**Harry Wimberly**  
*Orangeburg County Council Vice Chairman*

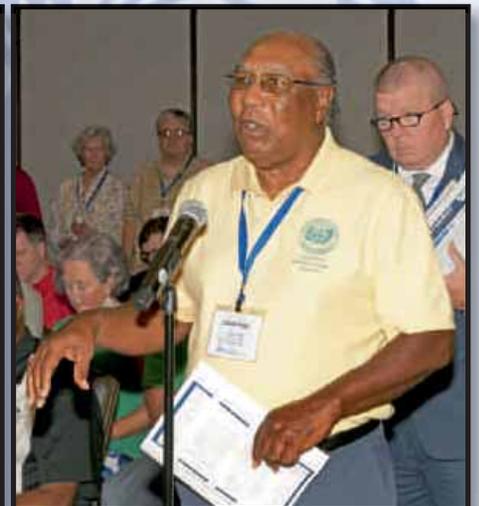
## ***At the County Council Coalition Meeting, Many County Officials Voice Concerns and Ask Questions***



**Debra B. Summers**  
*Lexington County Council Member*



**D. Paul Summerville**  
*Beaufort County Council Vice Chairman*



**Jonathan Miller**  
*Williamsburg County Council Member*

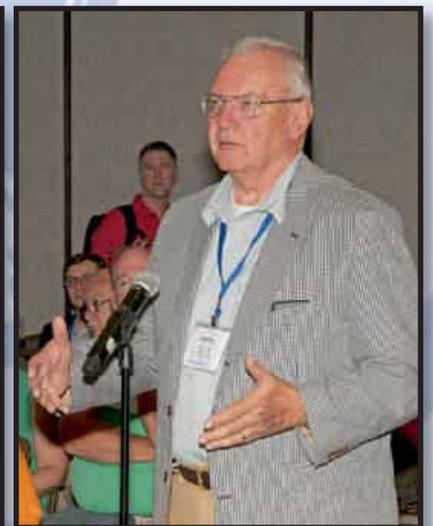
## ***Speakers and Workshops***



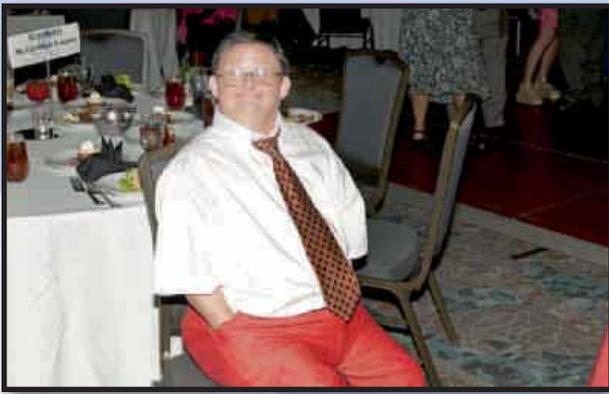
**Janna White**, Division of Mining and Solid Waste Management, S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, speaks at the S.C. Managers, Administrators and Supervisors Meeting, and County Council Coalition Meeting on August 5.



**Doug Bryson** (left), Spartanburg County Emergency Preparedness Director, and **Henry E. "Sel" Hemingway Jr.** (right), Georgetown County Administrator, speak at a workshop titled, "Building Resilient Communities: Lessons from the Field," on August 5.



**Butch Kirven**  
*Greenville County Council Chairman*



Joel, son of Greenville County Council Member Joseph B. Dill



Presenting McCormick County's entry at SCAC's 2019 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition on August 4 were: (left to right) Kirk Smith, COO/GM, Savannah Lakes Village (SLV); G.P. Callison, McCormick County Attorney; Robert Bradley, Co-CEO, Sales and Development, SLV; and Jim Walsh, Co-CEO, Sales and Development, SLV.



▲ S.C. Coalition of Black County Officials Meeting, August 6



Elected on August 6 to serve as officers of the S.C. Coalition of Black County Officials are: (left to right): 2nd Vice President—Yvonne McBride, Richland County Council Member; Assistant Treasurer—Jeanette McBride—Richland County Clerk of Court; Secretary—Aline Newton, Hampton County Clerk to Council; President—Joyce Dickerson, Richland County Council Member; 1st Vice President—Anna Johnson, Charleston Council Member; Treasurer—Phillip Taylor, Colleton County Council Member; and Parliamentarian—Dahli Myers, Richland County Council Member.



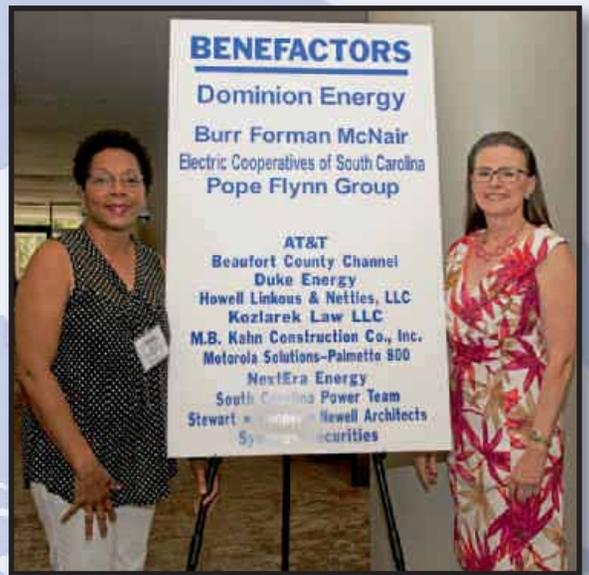
NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson (inset above and shown at podium) spoke at the S.C. Coalition of Black County Officials (SCBCO) Meeting on August 6 after she spoke at the General Session of SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference. Seated (l to r) at the head table during the SCBCO Meeting are: Charles T. Jennings, McCormick County Council Chairman; Aline Newton, Hampton County Clerk to Council; Joyce Dickerson, Richland County Council Member; Phillip M. Taylor Sr., Colleton County Council Member; and Waymon Mumford, Florence County Council Chairman.



◀ Hampton County Clerk to Council Aline Newton with her daughters, Aline K. Newton (left) and Martha K. Newton (right)



Clerks to Council JaNet Bishop (Darlington County) and Mary Blanding (Sumter County)



▲ SCAC Staff Members Pearl Khalif-Govan and Ruthie Duvall recognize the companies that supported SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference as Benefactors.



(Left to right) SCAC Secretary Steve Willis (Lancaster County Administrator); SCAC Second Vice President Paul A. Cain (Oconee County Council Vice Chairman); NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson; SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr. (Clarendon County Council Chairman); Immediate Past SCAC President Charles T. Jennings (McCormick County Council Chairman); and SCAC First Vice President Johnnie Wright Sr. (Oranbgeburg County Council Chairman).



Greenwood County Council Member Edith Childs (left) won for wearing the best hat at this year's Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon. Williamsburg County Clerk to Council Tammi Epps-McClary (right) won for wearing the best brooch.



(Left to right) Lexington County Council Vice Chairman Paul Lawrence "Larry" Brigham Jr., Council Member Debra B. "Debbie" Summers, Deputy Administrator Chris Folsom and County Administrator Joe Mergo III.



SCAC's newly-elected president, Dwight L. Stewart Jr. (right), presents a plaque to Immediate Past President Charles T. Jennings recognizing his hard work and dedication as president from 2018 to 2019.



(Left to right) Diane B. Anderson, Laurens County Council Member; Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court; Sharon Hammond, Bamberg County Council Member; and Henri E. Baskins, Executive Vice President of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce



SCAC Immediate Past President Charles T. Jennings (left) presents a plaque to Henry H. Livingston III recognizing his hard work and dedication as SCAC's president from 2017 to 2018.



Sen. Greg Hembree (left) congratulates SCAC's newly-elected president, Dwight L. Stewart Jr., shortly after he announced the end of SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference. Sen. Hembree shook Stewart's hand moments earlier.



## SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference Banquet



SCAC's newly-elected president, Dwight L. Stewart Jr., and his wife, Sherry, finally have some time to enjoy SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference with their grandchildren (left to right): Mason, son of their late son, Drew, and his wife, Jill; and James, Warner and Stewart, children of their daughter, Kate, and husband, Stephen Lincoln.



SCAC Immediate Past President Charles T. Jennings (left) passes the president's gavel to the Association's new president, Dwight L. Stewart Jr.

## SCAC's 52nd ...

(Continued from P. 39)

export sales record in each year of Secretary Hitt's tenure, topping \$32 billion in total export sales for the first time in 2017. Additionally, South Carolina has consistently ranked first in the nation in the export sales of both completed passenger motor vehicles and tires.

Seeking continued growth of South Carolina's target industry clusters, S.C. Commerce collaborates with the S.C. Council on Competitiveness to advance the state's aerospace and logistics industries, as well as the S.C. Automotive Council and the S.C. Biotechnology Industry Organization to advance the automotive and life science industries, respectively.

Understanding the importance of bringing business to business, the agency has spearheaded the coordination of many B2B events and operates a product and service locator database known as SourceSC. Under Hitt's leadership, S.C. Commerce has created The Council for Innovation Initiatives and the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development to enhance collaboration and to elicit the expertise of leaders from a variety of public and private organizations.

Before his time as Secretary of Commerce, Hitt served as manager of Corporate Affairs at the BMW Manufacturing Company in Spartanburg County after 17 years as managing editor of *The State* and *The Columbia Record* newspapers.

### Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon

Henri Baskins, executive vice president of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, served as this year's Betty T. Roper Elected Women Officials' Luncheon speaker on Monday, August 5. Known as a leader in the telecommunications industry and for her commitment to missionary work, Baskins is a recipient of Columbia College's Circle of Influence Award and the Girl Scouts' Women of Distinction Award.

After a distinguished career with AT&T, Baskins retired as the company's Regional Director of Regulatory

(Continued on next page)



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

## Purpose of the SCAC

- *To promote more efficient county governments*
- *To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government*
- *To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials*
- *To promote and encourage education of county officials*
- *To collect, analyze and distribute information about county government*
- *To cooperate with other organizations*
- *To promote legislation which supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina*

✦ For more information about the SCAC, please contact:

**South Carolina  
Association of Counties**  
PO Box 8207  
1919 Thurmond Mall  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207  
803-252-7255  
smorgan@scac.sc  
[SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org)

and External Affairs in 2011. Prior to joining the Columbia Chamber of Commerce in 2017, Baskins served as executive director of the Greater Columbia Community Relations Council. She is a graduate of Liberty University and earned two master's degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Baskins is active in her local community and has chaired the boards of South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, Junior Achievement, City Year, South Carolina 911 Advisory Committee, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation. She was named one of *Columbia Business Monthly's* 50 Most Influential People in 2017 and is an inductee of the South Carolina Telecommunications Hall of Fame.

Her international missionary work has helped some of the most vulnerable populations in Ghana, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Sri Lanka and Latin America. From assisting pastors and lay leaders with their biblical teachings, to helping women create micro-businesses, Baskins has also provided leadership training, business/strategic planning and personal coaching to those in need.

### **J. Mitchell Graham/ Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition**

The 2019 J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition was held on Sunday, August 4.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, established in memory of past SCAC President and Charleston County Council Chairman J. Mitchell Graham, recognizes excellence in governmental performance.

The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award, established in memory of past SCAC President Barrett S. Lawrimore, recognizes the most outstanding regional cooperative effort of two or more political subdivisions.

### **County Council Coalition Meeting**

The County Council Coalition Meeting was held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Monday, August 5. During the meeting, the S.C. Commission of Disabilities and Special Needs presented the annual Golden Palmetto Award.

### **Association Group Meetings and Workshops**

Several county official associations held meetings on Monday, August 5.

The following four workshops, focusing on issues facing county government, were offered the same day:

- A Community Opioid Toolkit
- Building Resilient Communities
- Legislative Update
- Public Corruption and Fraud

### **Institute of Government for County Officials**

The Institute of Government for County Officials was held on Saturday, August 3, and Sunday, August 4 preceding the annual conference.

The Institute offered the following courses:

#### **Saturday, August 3**

- Building Effective Intergovernmental Relations
- Effective Communications
- Ethical Leadership and Public Service
- Strategic Planning
- Strengthening Your County's Fiscal Fitness

#### **Sunday, August 4**

- Bridging the Digital Divide
- Legal Issues in County Government
- The Policy Role of Council



# SCAC 52nd Annual Conference

## EXHIBITORS

Advanced Imaging Systems  
Archer Company, LLC  
AT&T  
Avenu Insights & Analytics, Inc.  
Bobbitt Design Build  
Boomerang Design, PA  
Brownstone  
Building Officials Association of SC  
Cintas Corporation  
Clemson University Cooperative Extension  
Compass Municipal Advisors  
Cumming Corporation  
Dominion Energy  
Enterprise Fleet Management  
Generator Power Systems, Inc.  
Globe Life ESD  
GovDeals, Inc.  
Great Southern Recreation  
Greene Finney, LLP  
Hybrid Engineering, Inc.  
Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering  
Keck & Wood, Inc.  
Kimble's Food by Design  
McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture  
Medshore Ambulance Service  
Moseley Architects  
Motorola Solutions — Palmetto 800  
Municode  
National Association of Counties  
Oakbridge Consulting & Management of SC, LLC  
PalmettoPride

Precision Sidewalk Safety  
Rock Communications  
S.C. Department of Corrections – Prison Industries  
SC.gov  
Schneider Electric  
Segra  
Sharp Business Solutions  
South Carolina Emergency Management Association  
South Carolina State Guard  
South Eastern Road Treatment, Inc.  
Southern Disaster Recovery  
Southern Health Partners, Inc.  
Spectrum Enterprise  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
Stewart–Cooper–Newell Architects  
Thomas & Hutton  
Thompson Turner Construction  
Thorne Ambulance Service  
Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
Whitaker Contracting Corp.

## Conference

# BENEFACTORS

AT&T  
Beaufort County Channel  
Burr Forman McNair  
Dominion Energy  
Duke Energy  
Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina  
Howell Linkous & Nettles, LLC  
Kozlarek Law LLC

M. B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc.  
Motorola Solutions – Palmetto 800  
NextEra Energy  
Pope Flynn Group  
South Carolina Power Team  
Stewart–Cooper–Newell Architects  
Synovus Securities

# PROVAL

Property Valuation & Analytics

## Available Services

### County Assessors

Tax Appeal Appraisal  
Litigation/Mediation Support  
Surplus Property Disposition

Rick Callaham  
Greenville, South Carolina  
803/457-5009  
[rick.proval@gmail.com](mailto:rick.proval@gmail.com)

### Right of Way Services

ROW Scoping & Appraisal Review  
Value Engineering/Quantifying Impacts  
Providing Alternative Strategies  
Cost Estimates/Appraisal Management

Debi Wilcox, MAI, CCIM  
Murrells Inlet, South Carolina  
866/429-8931 Toll Free  
843/685-9180 Local  
[wilcox.L.debi@gmail.com](mailto:wilcox.L.debi@gmail.com)



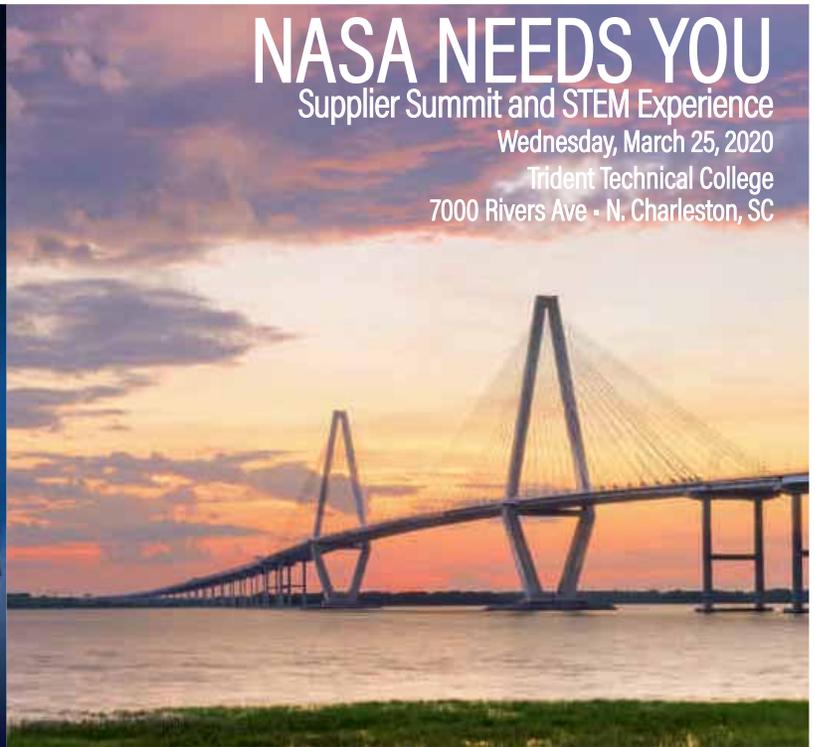
## NASA NEEDS YOU

Supplier Summit and STEM Experience

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Trident Technical College

7000 Rivers Ave - N. Charleston, SC



*The Bridge to Local, State, and Federal Opportunities*



CHARLESTON  
COUNTY  
SOUTH CAROLINA



SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
Barrett Lawmore Award Winner





# *Advertise in South Carolina's 2020 Directory of County Officials!*

**Advertising Deadline: December 31, 2019**

*South Carolina's 2020 Directory of County Officials*, currently in production, is scheduled to be distributed in February to elected and appointed county officials, and many state offices in South Carolina.

The *2020 Directory* will list elected and appointed county officials in the state and identify SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors, Past Presidents, Patrons and Sponsors; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers will be included for county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly. Additional information will be included as well.

Cost:

- Full-page, full-color advertisement (7" W X 10" H) — \$600.00 NET
- Half-page, full-color advertisement (7" W X 4 7/8" H) — \$450.00 NET
- Full-page B&W advertisement (7" W X 10" H) — \$350.00 NET.
- Half-page B&W advertisement (7" W X 4 7/8" H) — \$200.00 NET
- To add one or two more colors to a full-page or half-page B&W ad, the cost is \$90.00 NET for each additional color. Colors will be built in process.

The deadline for placing an advertisement in the upcoming *2020 Directory* is **5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019**. So, your check or money order (made payable to SCAC) and ad must be received by this date at the SCAC Office (NO EXCEPTIONS).

A .pdf of the *2020 Directory* (a complete version including advertisements that can be viewed, downloaded and printed) is posted each year on SCAC's website at [www.SCCounties.org](http://www.SCCounties.org). After the *2020 Directory of County Officials* is distributed to South Carolina's counties and SCAC's Corporate Supporters, additional copies will be sold at a cost of \$25.00 per copy.

- To place an ad in the upcoming edition of South Carolina's *2020 Directory of County Officials*, please contact:



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

PO Box 8207  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

803-252-7255

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



Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.®

## Need Information? Visit [www.SCCounties.org](http://www.SCCounties.org)

[SCCounties.org](http://www.SCCounties.org) is the primary resource for information about South Carolina's counties and issues affecting county government. It's a dynamic tool that provides access to information about services such as education and training opportunities, research capabilities, and legal assistance.

Visitors to the site will find conference schedules, legislative initiatives, and numerous Association publications, as well as information on key financial programs offered by SCAC, unique county-specific publications, legislative monitoring, and ad hoc surveys.

SCAC's website provides general information for all 46 counties—including contact information for county officials, links to county websites, and county job postings. The site is a conduit to a number of other resources too, such as the National Association of Counties, the S.C. General Assembly, U.S. Congress, federal agencies, as well as national and state associations.

Visit [SCCounties.org](http://www.SCCounties.org) during the legislative session to view the most current *Friday Report* or *Legislative Alerts*. You'll also find articles relevant to the positions of the Association and information on how to reach out to your legislative delegation.



1919 Thurmond Mall  
Columbia, SC 29201

PO Box 8207  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

803-252-7255  
Fax: 803-252-0379  
scac@scac.sc  
[www.SCCounties.org](http://www.SCCounties.org)

# SCAC Officers & Board Members



## PRESIDENT



**Dwight L. Stewart Jr.**  
Clarendon County  
Council Chairman



## First Vice President



**Johnnie Wright Sr.**  
Orangeburg County  
Council Chairman

## Second Vice President



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

## Third Vice President



**Debra B. Summers**  
Lexington County  
Council Member

## Immediate Past President



**Charles T. Jennings**  
McCormick County  
Council Chairman

## Secretary



**Steve Willis**  
Lancaster County  
Administrator

## Treasurer



**Belinda D. Copeland**  
Darlington County

## NACo Board Member



**Waymon Mumford**  
Florence County  
Council Chairman



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

**Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.®**

## S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and Property and Liability Trust Chairman



**David K. Summers Jr.**  
Calhoun County  
Council Chairman



**Diane B. Anderson**  
Laurens County  
Council Member



**Mary D. Anderson**  
Chesterfield County  
Council Member



**Julie J. Armstrong**  
Charleston County  
Clerk of Court



**John Q. Atkinson Jr.**  
Marion County  
Council Member



**Alphonso Bradley**  
Florence County  
Council Member



**Joseph R. Branham**  
Chester County  
Council Vice Chairman



**C. David Chinnis**  
Dorchester County  
Council Vice Chairman



**Roy Costner III**  
Pickens County  
Council Chairman



**Cam Crawford**  
Horry County  
Council Member



**Joseph B. Dill**  
Greenville County  
Council Member



**Charles T. Edens**  
Sumter County  
Council Member



**J. Frank Hart**  
Union County  
Supervisor/Chairman



**Henry E. "Sel" Hemingway Jr.**  
Georgetown County  
Administrator



**J. Clay Killian**  
Aiken County  
Administrator



**William E. Robinson**  
Allendale County  
Council Member



**R. Archie Scott**  
Dillon County  
Council Member



**D. Paul Sommerville**  
Beaufort County  
Council Vice Chairman



**Cecil M. Thornton Jr.**  
Calhoun County  
Council Member

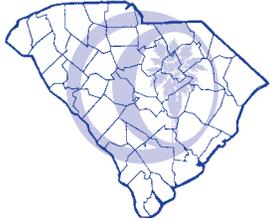


**Robert Winkler**  
York County  
Council Member



## WHAT IS THE SCAC?

**South Carolina Association of Counties, chartered on June 22, 1967, is the only organization dedicated to statewide representation of county government in South Carolina. A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with a full-time staff in Columbia, SCAC is governed by a 29-member Board of Directors selected by county officials at the Association's Annual Conference.**



**Counties have made tremendous progress since the enactment of the Home Rule Act in 1975. County government has also become more diverse in order to meet the increasing needs of its citizens. SCAC is dedicated to providing programs and services that equip county officials with the tools to govern effectively.**

## CONFERENCES

■ SCAC provides many opportunities for county officials to meet and learn, among them:

★ Mid-Year Conference — Held in late winter in Columbia, this conference enables all county officials to become better informed about the Association's legislative program. The Association also hosts a reception for all members of the S.C. General Assembly during this conference.

★ Annual Conference — Held in August, this conference is open to all elected and appointed officials. The conference includes a business session, general session, workshops, group meetings, and exhibits of county products and services.

★ Legislative Conference — Held in December, this conference allows members of the Legislative Committee to discuss and adopt a legislative program for the upcoming year. The committee is composed of each council chairman along with the Association's Board of Directors.

## EDUCATION

■ The Association, in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston, conducts the Institute of Government for County Officials (Level I, Level II, and Advanced levels).

Clemson University's Master of Public Administration program is a sponsor of the Institute.

This certificate program helps county officials enhance their skills and abilities. Courses are offered at the Annual and Mid-Year Conferences and at the County Council Coalition Meeting in the fall.

SCAC also sponsors a number of continuing education webcasts and webinars for county officials and employees throughout the year at no charge to counties. Within a few weeks after the live broadcast, county officials and employees are able to access the session as a video on demand via [SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org).

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

■ SCAC offers a number of financial services to its member counties. The Association sponsors two self-funded insurance trusts to provide workers' compensation and property and liability coverage. The trusts are designed specifically to meet the unique needs of local governments.

SCAC also offers the following services through affiliate organizations: GovDeals internet auction of surplus assets; and competitive purchasing discounts through Forms and Supply, Inc. and the U.S. Communities purchasing cooperative.

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

■ SCAC provides legal assistance to county governments by rendering legal opinions, preparing *amicus curiae* briefs, drafting ordinances, and consulting with other county officials.

The Association provides support to counties involved in litigation that might affect other counties. It also sponsors the Local Government Attorneys' Institute, which provides six hours of continuing legal education for local government attorneys.

## SETOFF DEBT PROGRAM

■ South Carolina counties are able to collect delinquent emergency medical services debts, magistrate and family court fines, hospital debts, as well as other fees owed to the counties through SCAC's Setoff Debt Collection Program.

Debts are submitted through the Association to the S.C. Department of Revenue to be matched with income tax refunds. The debt is deducted from a refund and returned through SCAC to the claimant.

## LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

■ The S.C. General Assembly convenes each January in Columbia and adjourns *sine die* in May. One in every four bills introduced affects county governments.

SCAC monitors each bill as it is introduced and keeps its members up-to-date on all legislative activity with a weekly *Friday Report*. The Association also dispatches Legislative Alerts and publishes *Acts That Affect Counties* each year.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION

■ SCAC publishes an annual *Directory of County Officials* listing addresses and telephone numbers of county offices and their elected and appointed officials. The Association also publishes *Carolina Counties Newsletter* five times a year to keep the Association's membership informed about legislation and various county news. *County Focus Magazine* is published four times a year and features articles on county trends, innovations, and other subjects of interest to county officials—including a "County Update" section.

## RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

■ SCAC provides research and technical assistance in many areas to those counties that request it. The Association staff annually responds to hundreds of inquiries from county officials ranging from simple requests for a sample ordinance to more complex questions requiring considerable research. The Association also develops technical research bulletins and conducts surveys on a variety of subjects. Regular publications such as the *Wage and Salary Report*, *Home Rule Handbook*, *A Handbook for County Government*

*in South Carolina*, and *Case Law Affecting Local Government* are made available to county officials.

SCAC's website address is:

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

The site provides county officials with the latest information on SCAC programs, services, and meetings as well as legislative information, research and survey results, and links to other local government resources.



SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**Advocacy. Education. Collaboration.**

• SCAC • 1919 Thurmond Mall • PO Box 8207 • Columbia, SC 29202-8207 •  
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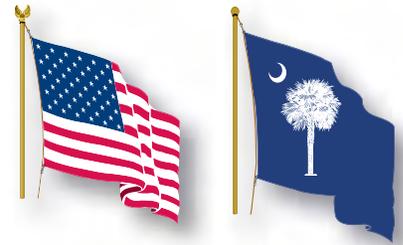
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# SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



## *History of the Trusts*

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) was formed in 1984 with only 11 counties. Today, the membership consists of 41 of South Carolina's 46 counties and an additional 47 county-related entities. SCCWCT is approved as a self-insured trust by the S.C. Workers' Compensation Commission in accordance with South Carolina statutes. It provides statutory workers' compensation coverage for its members.

The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust (SCCP&LT) was formed in 1995 due largely to the success of the Workers' Compensation Trust. SCCP&LT started with only four members and now has 24 members, including 16 counties.

## *Boards of Trustees*

The Trusts were designed by and for county government with the goal of providing insurance to counties at the lowest rates possible, while providing services uniquely tailored to the needs of county governments. The Boards of Trustees are made up of county officials who are elected by the SCAC's Board of Directors. Although not a requirement, both boards currently share the same membership.

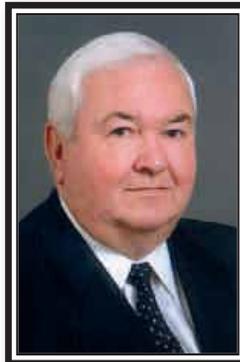
## *Risk Management*

Because member contributions (premiums) are based both on the accident histories of the individual counties (experience modifiers) and on the membership as a whole, both Trusts employ very aggressive risk management strategies. The philosophy adopted by the Trusts is that, if accidents are caused, they can be prevented. Risk Management services are provided by the SCAC staff. The payoff is lower premiums and a safer working environment.

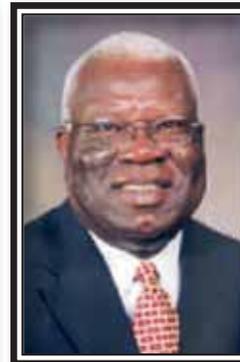
## *Claims Administration*

SCAC's staff administers the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust.

## **BOARDS OF TRUSTEES** for **South Carolina Counties** **Workers' Compensation Trust** and **Property & Liability Trust**



**CHAIRMAN**  
David K. Summers Jr.  
Calhoun County  
Council Chairman



**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
Waymon Mumford  
Florence County  
Council Chairman



**Joseph R. Branham**  
Chester County  
Council Vice Chairman

# Members of the SCCWCT and SCCP&LT Asked to Return Self-Audits by Dec. 31st

By John D. Henderson, ARM, ALCM  
SCAC Director of Insurance Services

Each year, members of the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and the S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust are asked to complete a self-audit of their risk management program. Members are asked to return their completed self-audits by December 31st.

SCAC risk managers developed the following Basic Risk Management Standards which are considered to be the key components that most often lead to an effective risk management program:

## SCCWCT Basic Standards for Risk Management

1. All First Reports of Injury should be submitted to the SCAC within an average of 3 days of the member's knowledge of an incident for all claims for the policy period.
2. All accidents must be investigated using an effective written accident investigation program. A written record of all accident investigations must be maintained and be available for SCAC to review. Corrective actions must be documented.
3. An effective transitional work program must be in place. Documentation must be available to verify that injured workers have been placed in transitional work whenever it is possible.
4. All members must utilize a designated physician who is recommended by the Trust.
5. All members must complete a self-audit annually of their risk management program utilizing the 21 question self-audit provided by SCAC by December 31st each year.

## SCCPLT Basic Standards for Risk Management

1. All claims must be reported to SCAC within an average of three days of the member's knowledge of an incident for all claims for the policy period.

2. All incidents must be investigated using an effective written accident investigation program. A written record of all accident investigations must be maintained and be available for SCAC to review. Corrective actions must be documented.
3. All members must complete a self-audit annually of their risk management program utilizing the 21-question self-audit provided by SCAC.

The self-audit consists of 21 questions that are designed to help members determine if they are following best practices for risk management. The self-audits address the key elements of successful risk management programs.

SCAC risk managers are available to help members complete their self-audits or review completed audits on site. The self-audit can be a very useful tool to help members identify areas where enhancements can be made in their risk management programs. An effective risk management program can help preserve the assets of an organization and reduce costs.

Please contact Robert Benfield, Director of Risk Management Services, at (803) 252-7255 or [rbenfield@scac.sc](mailto:rbenfield@scac.sc) to schedule assistance with the completion or review of your self-audit or to schedule other services. SCAC risk managers are also available to provide a wide array of services including training, surveys and general consulting.

At 10 a.m. on December 4, SCAC risk managers will conduct a one-hour webinar that will address Workplace Violence. During 2017, 5,147 workplace fatalities occurred; 458 were the result of intentional injuries caused by another person. This webinar will help participants learn how to assess their workplace so that appropriate precautions can be taken to minimize potential incidents.

To register for this webinar, visit:

<https://sccounties.org/webinars>



Henry H. Livingston III  
Newberry County  
Council Chairman



Gary M. Mixon  
Sumter County  
Administrator



Debra B. Summers  
Lexington County  
Council Member



Steve Willis  
Lancaster County  
Administrator



SECRETARY/  
TREASURER  
Michael B. Cone  
Executive Director, SCAC



Join Lieutenant Governor Evette  
and PalmettoPride for **#GrabABagSC**

**Saturday, November 16, 2019**

For more information contact [info@palmettopride.org](mailto:info@palmettopride.org) or visit [www.palmettopride.org](http://www.palmettopride.org)



# 2019 PRESIDENT'S REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**Charles T. Jennings, President**

**SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

LOCAL LEADERS. STATEWIDE STRENGTH.®



# South Carolina Counties at Work

1. County Administrators Discuss Successful Strategies for Emergency Management
2. Dillon County Celebrates Inland Port
3. Clarendon County Rededicates Courthouse
4. Edgefield County Provides Citizen Services
5. County Leaders Share Experiences during Council Chairman's Workshop
6. Pickens County and Gov. Henry McMaster Honor the Past
7. Greenville County Maps Community Resources
8. Orangeburg County Provides State-of-the-Art Fleet Maintenance
9. McCormick County Serves its Citizens
10. County Officials Commit to Learning and Graduate from Institute of Government
11. Charleston County Honored for Mobile Crisis Telehealth Service
12. Aiken County Invests in New County Government Center





SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

CHARLES T. JENNINGS, PRESIDENT

## A Letter from the 2018-2019 President

Dear County Officials,

I am proud to share this year's President's Report, which reflects SCAC's accomplishments over the past year. Our successes are a direct result of your support and active involvement in our Association and the strong relationships you have with your local delegation members. SCAC is one of the premier county associations in the nation, which is attributable to the strong leadership in our current and past Board of Directors, our engaged members, and our dedicated staff.

The Association's legislative advocacy staff continues to work passionately to protect Home Rule principles for county government. This year's legislative session will be remembered as perhaps SCAC's most successful. With the unwavering support of the SCAC board, staff was successful in seeing over 20 policy positions resolved in the Association's favor.

The Local Government Fund (LGF), which has been a point of contention for over a decade, was resolved pursuant to SCAC's policy position. Increased funding was allocated to the fund for only the second time in seven years, and the LGF will see annual increases for years to come. SCAC also defeated increases in the Tort Claims Act caps, anti-home rule animal shelter standards, legislation implementing a purported municipal capital projects sales tax, and unfunded mandates on clerks of court. The S.C. General Assembly is beginning to recognize the important responsibility counties have as the government closest to the people. We must continue to communicate the importance of Home Rule if we are going to sustain this success in the future.

SCAC's educational and collaborative resources provide us with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to be effective leaders for our citizens. As part of the Association's e-learning initiative, all county officials are now able to participate in the Institute of Government's Orientation program online. SCAC's training programs, research, publications, insurance trusts, and debt collection services are invaluable assets to all 46 counties.

As I reflect on my term as SCAC President, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your support. It has truly been an honor and I look forward to continuing our work to make great strides for our counties and our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles T. Jennings".

Charles T. Jennings, President  
South Carolina Association of Counties  
McCormick County Council Chairman

# SCAC 2019 Executive Summary

CHARLES T. JENNINGS, PRESIDENT

This summary covers  
the period from  
August 2018 to August 2019

For more than 50 years, the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) has worked to empower county officials through advocacy, education, and collaboration. SCAC is the only organization dedicated to the statewide representation of county government in South Carolina.

SCAC increases counties' effectiveness and strengthens the partnership between federal, state, regional, and local governments. In addition to achieving specific legislative goals, the Association works to safeguard Home Rule. As a legal advocate, SCAC conducts research, provides sound advice, and appears as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) in cases with statewide impact.

The Association helps local leaders solve common problems by sharing resources and ideas. SCAC's educational programs foster close connections between newcomers and seasoned county leaders by equipping

them with a fundamental understanding of local government and sharpening the skills they need to make sound, ethical decisions.

SCAC helps county officials address the daily needs of their communities by providing research, technical assistance, and publications. The Association also offers affordable solutions to address workers' compensation and property and liability insurance, risk management, and debt collection.

By bringing together **Local Leaders**, the Association and county officials are able to create **Statewide Strength**. SCAC is honored to be of service to South Carolina's 46 counties. Please explore the pages of this summary, which covers the period from August 2018 to August 2019, to learn more about the Association's programs and progress.

## SCAC 2018-2019 Program Highlights

### Keeping Counties Informed:

**1,329** *County Focus* and *Carolina Counties* recipients

**1,622** *What's New* email recipients

**1,197** *Friday Report* recipients

### Website Update - SCCounties.org

SCAC updated its website in order to increase accessibility, security, and ease of use.



## Local Government Fund

With the assistance of county officials and the support of legislators, SCAC's Local Government Fund (LGF) policy position was enacted by the General Assembly. The LGF is now tied to the growth of the state general fund annually (capped at 5%).

### *First Institute of Government Course Online*



**Level I - Orientation to County Government I** is now available as an online course, so county officials can take it and earn credit remotely.

SCAC published the third edition of *Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for South Carolina Counties*.



# Advocates for County Government

## Legislative Advocacy

In December 2018, SCAC's Legislative Committee adopted 78 policy positions to set the course for the 2019 Legislative year. These positions were published in *Policy Positions for the 2019 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly*. Their development spanned five months and included input from more than 1,200 county officials and employees.

The Association provides resources to involve county officials in the legislative process and keep them informed of the General Assembly's actions. The *Friday Report* is prepared and distributed weekly during the legislative session to ensure county officials are aware of all legislation affecting their operations.

SCAC staff members attend numerous subcommittee and committee meetings, track the actions of both chambers each day of session, and monitor each bill or amendment that affected county government. This includes reviewing each bill or amendment introduced and requesting input from county officials. When legislative action occurs quickly, special *Legislative Alerts* are sent or individual telephone calls are made. During the 2019 legislative session, SCAC monitored 361 bills.

The success of the legislative program was the result of the relentless efforts of SCAC staff and the work of hundreds of county officials who remained informed and made timely contact with members of the General Assembly.

## SCAC's 2018-19 Legislative Priorities



The 2019 Session of the S.C. General Assembly was remarkably successful for SCAC, both as it relates to policy positions that were achieved and harmful legislation that was amended or defeated. Being the first year of a two-year session, any legislation that did not pass this year will retain its place in the legislative process and resume when the General Assembly reconvenes in January. The following legislative victories involve policy positions that SCAC advocated for throughout the legislative session:

### **Local Government Fund (Act No. 84).**

This legislation enacts SCAC's policy position regarding the new formula for the Local Government Fund (LGF). Yearly LGF increases will correspond with the growth of the state general fund, capped at five percent. The General Assembly also funded the LGF at an amount more than SCAC's position required. This was an issue that created uncertainty for county budgets for years while also creating friction between state and local policy makers. The passage of this legislation ensures a steady, predictable fund for years to come and allows state and county officials to focus on other important issues to the betterment of all South Carolinians.

### **Failure to Register Motor Vehicles (Act No. 69).**

This act achieves SCAC's position on increasing the penalty for failing to register a motor vehicle.

### **Voting Machines Funding (Act No. 91, Proviso 117.158).**

SCAC supports legislation that provides for full funding to replace the voting machines and voting system in this state. This budget proviso transfers the funds for the purchase of a new voting machine system and for refurbishment of the current voting system from the State Election Commission to the Department of Administration. These funds are in excess of \$40M.

### **Recording and Filing Fees (Act No. 58).**

This act increases efficiency in the register of deeds' and clerk of court's offices by providing flat recording and filing fees for certain documents that were previously subject to a fee schedule based on page count.

### **Income Tax Liens (Act No. 13).**

This act significantly benefits the register of deeds by authorizing the DOR to implement a web-based tax lien system that will replace the current filing system at the county level.

## Legal Advocacy

SCAC's legal staff, working through the county attorney, spends hundreds of hours each year providing informal phone consultations; conducting in-depth research on pertinent statutes, case law, and attorney general opinions; and preparing informal advisory opinions. SCAC legal staff also assists counties involved in litigation of statewide interest, including appearing as *amicus curiae* (friend of the court). This past year, legal staff assisted with legal research and filed *amicus curiae* briefs before the appellate courts in the following cases:

### *Repko v. Georgetown County*

This case involved the requirement that county taxpayers assume financial responsibility when private developers fail to fully provide required infrastructure for new development. The S.C. Court of Appeals had held the county liable for a property owner's loss of value after a developer declared bankruptcy without completing necessary infrastructure and failing to maintain a surety bond. The S.C. Supreme Court however reversed the S.C. Court of Appeals and held that counties are not liable for the negligent actions of third-parties.

### *Georgetown County v. the S.C. Department of Transportation*

This case involves the issue of whether a state agency can take the property of county government without paying just compensation required by the state constitution. The S.C. Court of Appeals held that because counties were a creation of the state, any property of the counties could be taken without compensation. The ruling held that county property is state property. The court relied heavily on a more than 100-year old case decided well before the amendments to the state constitution creating local "home rule." The case is currently on appeal to the S.C. Supreme Court.

## Education and Collaboration

SCAC strives to develop skillful and informed county leaders through advocacy, education, and collaboration. The Association offers a strong portfolio of educational programs with opportunities for orientation, certification, e-learning, and collaboration.

### The Institute of Government for County Officials

SCAC's Institute of Government for County Officials (Institute of Government) provides the knowledge and skills that policymakers and executive staff need to address critical issues, meet the daily needs of their communities, and monitor the county's performance.

The Institute of Government is offered in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston. Clemson University's Master of Public Administration Program is a program sponsor.

**188 Level I attendees**

**136 Level II attendees**

**65 Advanced class attendees**

More than 230 attorneys attended the Local Government Attorneys' Institute.

**230+** 

**500+**

Since 1989, more than 500 county officials and employees have completed the Institute of Government.



Institute of Government graduates continue their education by attending advanced classes annually.

## Training for Council Officers

In February, SCAC offered a workshop for council chairmen and vice chairmen in conjunction with the Institute of Government. The workshop provided information about the duties, powers, and responsibilities of both leadership positions. Participants learned strategies for running meetings, how a bill becomes a law, and the importance of building relationships.

## Orientation for Newly-Elected Council Members

The Association hosted an orientation program for newly-elected council members on Dec. 11. This orientation program takes place in even-numbered years. The full day of training was designed to provide a thorough insight into roles and responsibilities of council members, and included an overview of the State Ethics Act, FOIA, and budgeting basics.

## E-learning

SCAC launched its first online course this past year as part of the Institute of Government. Orientation to County Government I is now available online and is offered at no cost to elected and appointed county officials. This 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. Upon completion, the participant is granted three hours of Level I Institute credit. For additional information, visit SCAC's website at [SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org).

## SCAC's 2018-19 Continuing Education Programs



The Association offered "Planning Strategies for South Carolina's Rural and Urban Counties" on May 14. More than 350 planning/zoning officials and employees from 39 local governments participated. This training fulfilled the three-hour continuing education requirement for planning and zoning officials.

County officials and employees from 20 counties participated in the "Legal and Ethical Considerations for Managing Public Meetings" webinar on Oct. 2. Topics included the fundamentals of rules and procedures, as well as the legal and ethical issues for members.

SCAC also hosted the "SCAC Awards: What Sets Winners Apart" webinar to provide an overview of the annual awards, rules and requirements, common elements of winning entrants, online resources, and recommendations from award-winning counties.

County officials and employees can access these programs on demand via [SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org).

## Legal Training



SCAC legal staff is called upon regularly to provide presentations and training for county officials and employees. This past year, SCAC staff provided training for several counties and professional groups on topics including the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); legislative updates and the legislative process; and the duties and functions of councils and county administrators under the council/administrator form of government.

Each year, SCAC hosts the Local Government Attorneys' Institute which provides local and state government attorneys with timely and important legal information. The Local Government Attorney's Institute was held on Nov. 16 and included presentations on: the counsel disciplinary process; client recognition; eminent domain, land use and zoning updates; case law and legislative updates; and lessons learned as a county attorney. The 2019 Institute will be held Nov. 22.

# Connecting Counties to Resources & Information

## Research and Technical Assistance

Each year, the Association's staff responds to hundreds of inquiries from county and state officials ranging from simple document requests to more complex questions requiring considerable research. The research staff stays abreast of topics and data resources to help county and state officials make informed decisions.

# 1,600+

Over 1,600 county officials informed via *What's New* email messages.

# Average number of research requests per month

# 50

More than 1,300 South Carolina county officials, state legislators, COGs, and SCAC corporate supporters received *County Focus* magazine and *Carolina Counties* newsletter.



## Updated Search Tool

The Association recently enhanced its online search tool to allow users to quickly and easily access documents and publications by title, topic, and resource type. This search function connects county officials and employees to county statistics, financial documents, council rules of procedure, personnel policies, planning and zoning documents, and many other resources.

## State Regulations

SCAC sent updates to county chief administrative officers regarding state regulations that may affect counties. The updates ensured that counties were aware of certain regulations as they were proposed and drafted, giving counties an opportunity for input in the development of regulations.

## Online Discussion Forums

SCAC administers online discussion forums for five distinct groups of county officials, allowing them to post questions and share county-related information. The Association hosts listservs for county chief administrative officers; the S.C. Association of Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors; the S.C. Association of Assessing Officials; county finance officers; and county personnel directors.

## What's New Monthly Email

The *What's New* monthly email message informed county officials on new or updated information available via SCAC's website. Links are provided to upcoming events and training opportunities, new and updated publications, and timely topics of interest.

## Publications and Public Information

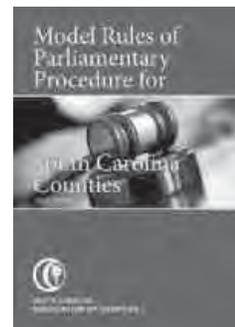
SCAC continued its tradition of producing three award-winning publications — *Carolina Counties* newsletter, *County Focus* magazine, and South Carolina's annual *Directory of County Officials*. All are available via [SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org).

The *Carolina Counties* newsletter, the Association's oldest publication, is published five times per year. The newsletter has a circulation of more than 1,000, and is distributed to South Carolina county officials, regional councils of governments (COGs), and SCAC's corporate supporters.

The *County Focus* magazine, a quarterly publication first published in 1991, focuses on legislative issues and successful county programs and projects. It has a circulation of over 1,300 and is distributed to county officials, COGs, members of the S.C. General Assembly, other state officials, and SCAC's corporate supporters.

The *Directory of County Officials* has been published annually by SCAC since 1973. The publication provides contact information for county, COG, state, and federal officials. Copies are distributed to all officials and organizations listed in the directory, and to all state associations representing counties, boroughs, and parishes nationwide.

The Association published a third edition of the *Model Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for County Government*. This publication offers counties and their various boards and commissions a simple set of rules of procedure for conducting public meetings. The rules are modeled upon *Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised*, but incorporate specific rules to meet South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act and Ethics Act requirements. An electronic version of the publication is provided on the SCAC website in the form of a model ordinance so that it may be customized and adopted by individual counties.



## SCAC Scholarship Program

SCAC has awarded nearly \$160,000 in scholarships to 68 students since establishing its scholarship program in 1998. This year, the Association proudly awarded \$2,500 scholarships to five outstanding high school seniors who will attend an in-state college, university, or technical school in the fall.

In the spring of each year, SCAC awards a Presidential Scholarship to a graduating high school senior who resides in the same county as the Association's current president. In 2019, that was McCormick County. Additionally, the Association also awards four Board of Directors Scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. Chesterfield, Fairfield, Georgetown, and Orangeburg counties were selected for these awards.

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Since **1998**, SCAC has awarded **68** students scholarships totaling  
nearly **\$160,000** 

# Financial Service Programs

## Self-Funded Insurance Programs

The Association sponsors two self-insurance pools, open to member counties and to agencies with county government-related functions. Both the workers' compensation and the property & liability trusts are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the SCAC Board of Directors. All trustees are either county council members or county chief administrative officers. The trusts employ independent auditors and actuaries to ensure the pools are financially strong. The key to the success of both programs is the implementation of strong risk management programs by participating member counties.

### **THE S.C. COUNTIES WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST**

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) was formed in 1984 by the SCAC Board of Directors in response to a crisis in the commercial insurance market. The trust currently has 78 members, including 41 counties. As the trust celebrates its 35th year, claims administration has been brought in house to gain efficiencies and further enhance service to members. Now all aspects of trust administration are handled internally by SCAC insurance staff.

### **THE S.C. COUNTIES PROPERTY & LIABILITY TRUST**

The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust was formed in 1995, in response to rapidly rising liability insurance premiums. The trust has 27 members, including 16 counties. Claims administration as well as general administration and risk management are handled in-house by SCAC insurance staff.

## Trust Management

The SCAC insurance staff is comprised of 19 highly experienced insurance professionals. SCAC employs two risk managers who work in the field supplementing the county's risk management efforts through inspections, training, and mentoring. SCAC staff provides claims management services and the flexibility of in-house underwriting. The insurance staff understands the risks faced by counties as evidenced by its customized risk management solutions.

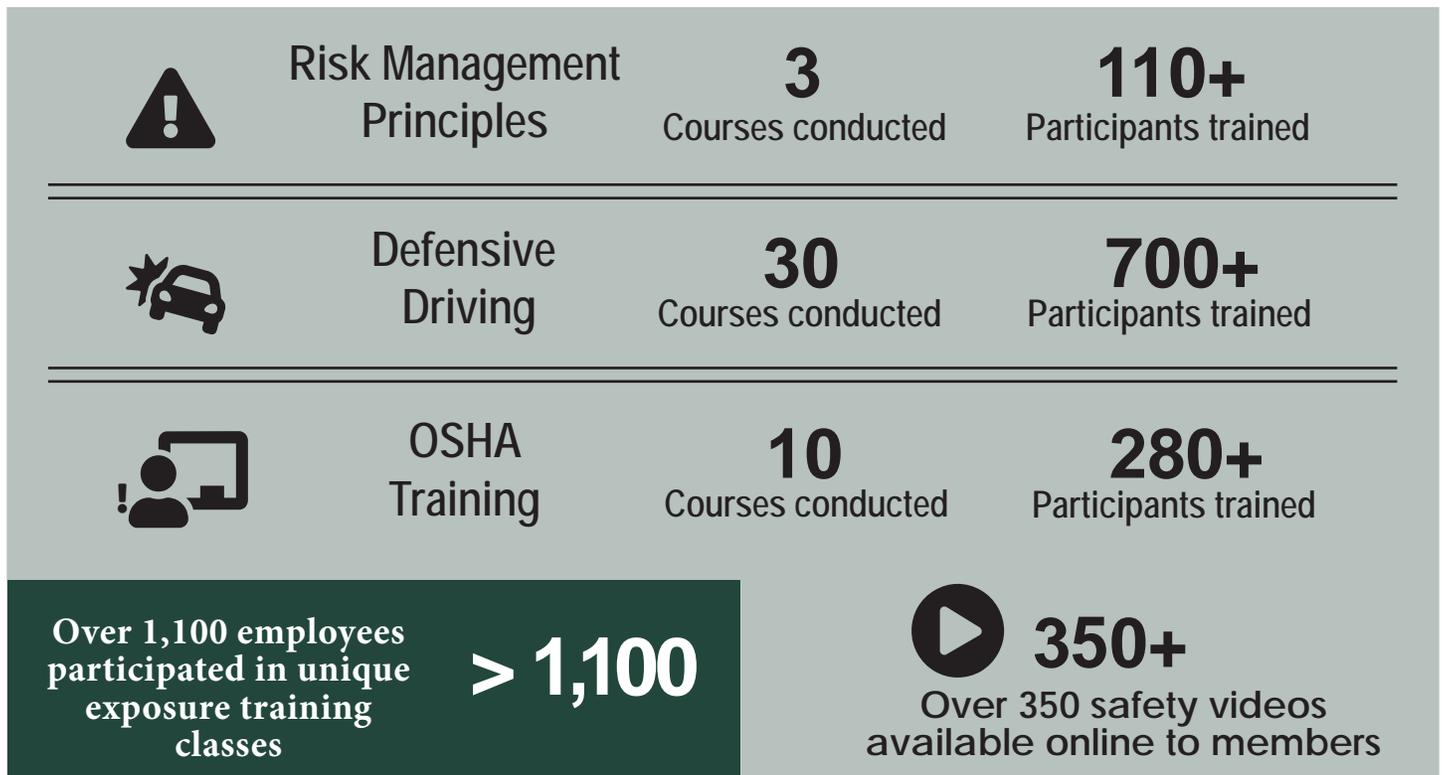
## Risk Management Education and Training

The boards of trustees have always placed great importance on the application of sound risk management techniques to control the risks members of the trusts incur in the course of county government operations. The current risk management training program, Risk Management Principles, was conducted three times with over 110 total participants this past year.

Motor vehicle accidents far outweighed all other types of claims; therefore, SCAC risk managers conducted 30 defensive driving classes with 707 employees trained.

During the 2018-2019 policy period, 10 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training classes were held, with 282 employees being updated on OSHA's evolving laws and regulations. The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Office of Voluntary Programs provided instructors for this training.

SCAC has developed several training classes to address the unique exposures of law enforcement. More than 1,100 employees have participated in these classes. Approved by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy for continuing education credit, this complimentary training saves members money through reduced training and travel costs as well as through a reduction in officer injuries and litigation. Members also have free access to over 350 online safety videos.



A one-day continuing education seminar is held annually for risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators. More than 110 risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators attended the 2018 seminar.

110+ 

Risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators attended the one-day continuing education seminar

The Insurance Trusts' Membership Meeting is held annually in January. The nearly 100 county officials in attendance this year heard from speakers on a variety of risk management topics. The purpose of this meeting is to educate and engage risk managers, county chief administrative officers, and county councils in the shared challenge of building and maintaining an effective risk management program.

Members attended the Insurance Trusts' Membership Meeting

 **94**

## Setoff Debt



SCAC assists county entities in two debt collection programs administered by the S.C. Department of Revenue (DOR): the Setoff Debt Collection Program and the Government Enterprise Accounts Receivable Program (GEAR). These programs help county entities recover unpaid liabilities which would likely otherwise go uncollected.

The collections for counties have grown significantly from \$29 million in 2002 to over \$100 million in 2018. The number of participating entities has increased from 81 in 2002 to over 300 in 2019. Additional information on the debt collection programs can be found on [SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org).

## Cooperative Service Programs



SCAC also offers innovative, affordable solutions to help counties address common challenges. These solutions include:

- **SURPLUS EQUIPMENT – GOVDEALS**
- **FSI OFFICE SUPPLIES PURCHASING PROGRAM**
- **U.S. COMMUNITIES GOVERNMENT PURCHASING ALLIANCE**
- **NACO PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM**

# Tools for 21st Century Leaders

SCAC has a rich history of providing quality programs and services to counties and county officials. As members of the Association, all 46 counties, county elected officials, and employees have access to SCAC's programs designed to help counties serve their citizens.

As counties face changing demographics and service demands, SCAC remains committed to building knowledge and competency for county officials and employees. SCAC will provide research and educational tools related to emerging issues, and will enhance its educational offerings through e-learning.

The Association will also continue to offer innovative, affordable solutions to help counties serve their citizens—including self-insurance pools, risk management services, debt collection programs, and cooperative service programs.

Local leaders must anticipate and adapt to emerging issues to keep counties safe, healthy, prosperous, and resilient. SCAC will continue to work with state and county officials to improve South Carolina's strength by delivering essential programs and services for 21st century counties and county leaders.

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Cover photo by W. Stuart Morgan III

# South Carolina Counties at Work

1. Berkeley County Welcomes Business Expansion
2. Lexington County Unveils New Fleet Services Building
3. Richland County Performs Roadwork
4. County Officials Meet with Senator Tim Scott
5. Saluda County and Representative Jeff Duncan Attend Opening of New Industry
6. Spartanburg County Promotes Healthy Living for Seniors
7. Sumter County Provides Judicial Services
8. Chesterfield County Supports Community Awareness
9. Florence Council Member Serves beyond Council Chambers
10. County Officials Develop Legislative Policy Positions





**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

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# Columbus Stephens Receives President's Cup

**SCAC** President for 2018–19, Charles T. Jennings (McCormick County Council Chairman), presented the President's Cup—one of the Association's highest honors—to McCormick County Administrator Columbus Stephens at the Association's 52nd Annual Conference, held August 3–7.

The prestigious award was presented to Stephens on August 6th at SCAC's annual awards banquet. Each year, SCAC honors the county official who has merited special recognition for service

*"This year's recipient, Mr. Columbus Stephens, has contributed countless hours to county government and to his community during his 44-year career, which includes serving as McCormick County administrator for almost eight years."*

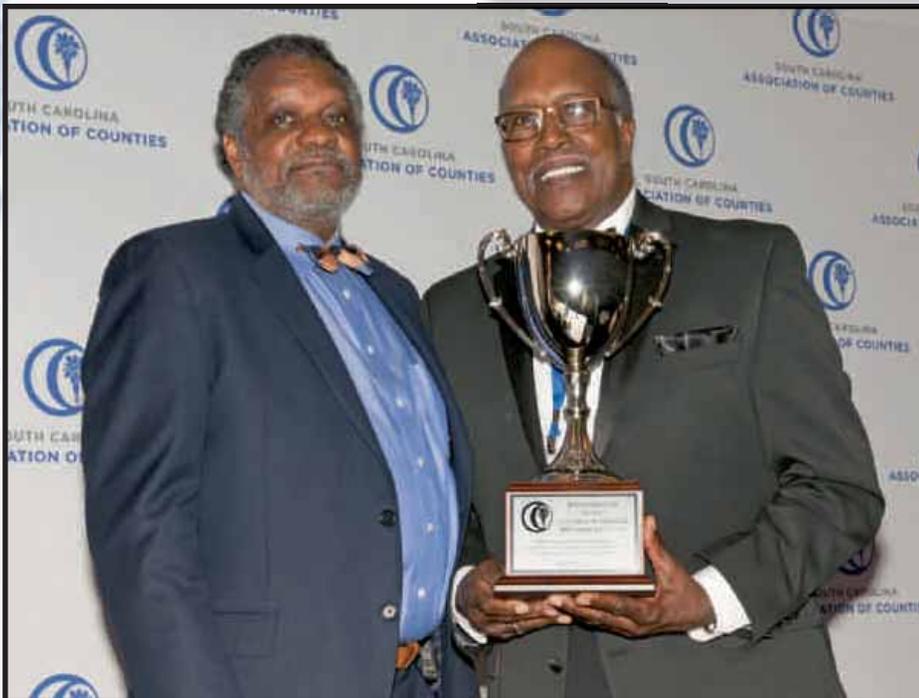
—2018–19 SCAC President Charles T. Jennings  
(McCormick County Council Chairman)

to county governments and assistance to the Association's president during the past year.

"This year's recipient, Mr. Columbus Stephens, has contributed countless hours to county government and to his community during his 44-year career, which includes serving as McCormick County administrator for almost eight years," said SCAC President Charles Jennings. "Mr. Stephens previously served as director of personnel/purchasing for Laurens County for 12 years, assistant county administrator for Newberry County for two years and as purchasing manager for Orangeburg County for three years.

"In addition to his county government service," Jennings said, "Mr. Stephens devoted 19 years to working with the GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission, a non-profit agency serving Greenwood, Laurens, Edgefield, Abbeville, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties which promotes education, employment and life skills to help clients become self-sufficient. I believe Mr. Stephens would tell you this early period of his career, coupled with his faith and family, have helped shape him into who he is today.

"Known for his humble leadership," Jennings said, "I can tell you that Mr. Stephens is a gentleman who fosters an environment where county staff and county council work as a cohesive team for the community. He's also an invaluable public servant to the South Carolina Association of Counties. He served several years on SCAC's Legislative Committee,



SCAC President for 2018–19, Charles T. Jennings (right), presents the President's Cup to Columbus Stephens on August 6 during SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

as well as the County Government and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee, and the Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation Steering Committee.

“Mr. Stephens stays apprised of legislative matters and encourages his council to communicate regularly with the county’s local delegation members,” he added. “Recognized by his peers as a leader, he has also served as president of the S.C. County Managers, Administrators and Supervisors’ Association.”

Stephens received his bachelor’s degree from Barber-Scotia College,

Concord, N.C., and is a graduate of SCAC’s Institute of Government for County Officials.

He serves as Deacon for Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Stephens and his wife, Thelma, have two daughters and two grandchildren.



## SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

### Purpose of the SCAC

- To promote more efficient county governments
- To study, discuss and recommend improvements in government
- To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials
- To promote and encourage education of county officials
- To collect, analyze and distribute information about county government
- To cooperate with other organizations
- To promote legislation which supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina

✦ For more information about the SCAC, please contact:

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Association of Counties  
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1919 Thurmond Mall  
Columbia, SC 29202-8207  
803-252-7255  
smorgan@scac.sc

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

## Recipients of the SCAC President’s Cup

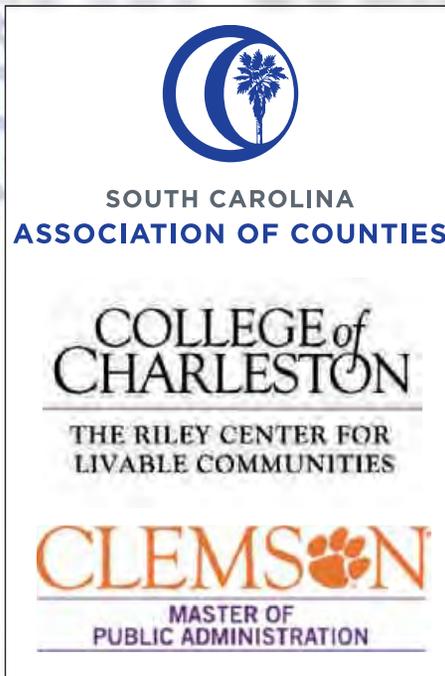


- 2019—Columbus Stephens, *McCormick County*  
 2018—Wayne Adams, *Newberry County*  
 2017—Belinda D. Copeland, *Darlington County*  
 2016—K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr., *Florence County*  
 2015—Patricia S. Hartley, *Horry County*  
 2014—R. Carlisle Roddey, *Chester County*  
 2013—William T. Noonan, *Sumter County*  
 2012—Willis H. Meadows, *Greenville County*  
 2011—David K. Summers, Jr., *Calhoun County*  
 2010—James A. Coleman, *Laurens County*  
 2009—Steve S. Kelly, Jr., *Kershaw County*  
 2008—Waymon Mumford, *Florence County*  
 2007—Waymon Mumford, *Florence County*  
 2006—K.G. “Rusty” Smith, Jr., *Florence County*  
 2005—Ed Favor, *Charleston County*  
 2004—David K. Summers, Jr., *Calhoun County*  
 2003—Roland H. Windham, *Charleston County*  
 2002—O.V. Player, Jr., *Sumter County*  
 2001—Judith Spooner, *Berkeley County*  
 2000—Gonza L. Bryant, *Greenwood County*  
 1999—Polly C. Jackson, *Lancaster County*  
 1998—William L. McBride, *Beaufort County*  
 1997—James H. Rozier, Jr., *Berkeley County*  
 1996—Betty T. Roper, *Clarendon County*  
 1995—R. Carlisle Roddey, *Chester County*  
 1994—O.V. Player, Jr., *Sumter County*  
 1993—Betty T. Roper, *Clarendon County*  
 1992—Lonnie Hamilton III, *Charleston County*  
 1991—David K. Summers, Jr., *Calhoun County*  
 1990—Lachlan H. Hyatt, *Spartanburg County*  
 1989—James R. McGee, *Orangeburg County*  
 1988—O.V. Player, Jr., *Sumter County*  
 1987—Howard A. “Buck” Taylor, *Charleston County*  
 1986—Howard C. “Butch” Spires, *Lexington County*  
 1985—Mary L. Barry, *Lancaster County*  
 1984—Johnnie Flynn, *Berkeley County*  
 1983—Candy Y. Waites, *Richland County*  
 1982—Robert W. Ragin, *Charleston County*  
 1981—James R. Barber III, *Richland County*  
 1980—Charles W. Lawrimore, *Georgetown County*  
 1979—L.H. “Sonny” Siau, *Georgetown County*  
 1978—James O. Thomason, *Spartanburg County*  
 1977—Oren L. Brady, Jr., *Spartanburg County*  
 1976—J. Eugene Klugh, *York County*  
 1975—Richard L. Black, *Charleston County*

# Forty-Five County Officials Graduate from the Institute of Government for County Officials

**F**orty-five county officials graduated on August 6 from Levels I and II of the Institute of Government for County Officials at SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference, held August 3 – 7.

"We're proud of your achievement," said 2018-19 SCAC President Charles T. Jennings (McCormick County Council Chairman), who recognized graduates at the conference's general session on August 6. "Your commitment to county government is admirable, your perseverance is commendable, and your success is well-deserved."



## LEVEL I

Graduating from Level I were: ABBEVILLE COUNTY—**David Garner**, County Director; CHESTERFIELD COUNTY—**Hattie Burns** and **Benjamin Teal**, Council Members; **C. Heath Ruffner**, County Attorney; DORCHESTER COUNTY—**Daniel Prentice**, Chief Financial Officer; FAIRFIELD COUNTY—**Patti Davis**, Clerk to Council; GREENVILLE COUNTY—**Mike Barnes**, Council Member; LAURENS COUNTY—**Jon Caime**, County Administrator; ORANGEBURG COUNTY—**Richard Hall**, Community Development Director; **James Okoronkwo**, Assistant Finance Director; RICHLAND COUNTY—**Yvonne McBride**, Council Member; **Kimberly Williams-Roberts**, Clerk of Council; SALUDA COUNTY—**Jones Butler**, Council Member; SPARTANBURG COUNTY—**Bob Walker**, Council Member; and WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY—**Jonathan Miller**, Council Member.



**LEVEL I GRADUATES**—(Left to right) **Bob Walker**, Council Member, Spartanburg County; **Daniel Prentice**, Chief Financial Officer, Dorchester County; **James Okoronkwo**, Assistant Finance Director, Orangeburg County; **David Garner**, County Director, Abbeville County; **Hattie Burns** (Levels I and II), Council Member, Chesterfield County; **Jonathan Miller** (Levels I and II), Council Member, Williamsburg County; and **Patti Davis**, Clerk to Council, Fairfield County. Graduates of Level I not shown are: **C. Heath Ruffner**, County Attorney, and **Benjamin Teal**, Council Member, Chesterfield County; **Mike Barnes**, Council Member, Greenville County; **John Caime**, County Administrator, Laurens County; **Richard Hall**, Community Development Director, Orangeburg County; **Kimberly Williams-Roberts**, Clerk to Council, and **Yvonne McBride**, Council Member, Richland County; and **Jones Butler**, Council Member, Saluda County. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

## LEVEL II



Graduating from Level II were: ABBEVILLE COUNTY—**Harold Prince**, Council Chairman; **Kristi Smith**, Council Vice Chairman; **Charles Goodwin**, Council Member; ANDERSON COUNTY—**Ray Graham**, Council Vice Chairman; BARNWELL COUNTY—

**Ben Kinlaw**, Council Chairman; **Jerry Creech** and **Don Harper**, Council Members; **BERKELEY COUNTY**—**R. Les Blankenship**, Deputy County Supervisor; **CALHOUN COUNTY**—**Theodore Felder**, County Administrator; **CHESTERFIELD COUNTY**—**Hattie Burns**, **William Butler** and **Ralph Watson**, Council Members; **Timothy Eubanks**, County Administrator/Public Works Director; **DARLINGTON COUNTY**—**J. Lewis Brown**, Council Vice Chairman; **David Coker** and **Joyce Thomas**, Council Members; **Marion Stewart**, County Administrator; **FAIRFIELD COUNTY**—**Eric Robinson**, Library Director; **FLORENCE COUNTY**—**Kent Caudle** and **Jason Springs**, Council Members; **LANCASTER COUNTY**—**Billy Mosteller**, Council Member; **LEE COUNTY**—**Clarence Caudill**, Asses-

sor; **NEWBERRY COUNTY**—**Dr. Harriett Rucker**, Council Member; and **Karen Brehmer**, Assistant to the County Administrator; **OCONEE COUNTY**—**Paul Cain**, Council Vice Chairman; **PICKENS COUNTY**—**Roy Costner**, Council Chairman; **Chris Bowers**, Council Vice Chairman; **R. Ensley Feemster** and **Wes Hendricks**, Council Members; **RICHLAND COUNTY**—**Kimberly Williams-Roberts**, Clerk of Council; **UNION COUNTY**—**Tommie Hill** and **Ralph Tucker**, Council Members; and **WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY**—**Jonathan Miller**, Council Member.

The SCAC, in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston, provides the Institute of Government for County Officials (Institute) three times per year. Clemson University's

Master of Public Administration Program sponsors the Institute.

The Institute provides county officials the opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities to function more effectively. County officials must complete 27 hours of instruction to graduate from Level I, and 18 hours of instruction to graduate from Level II.



**LEVEL II GRADUATES**—(Standing, left to right) Charles Goodwin, Council Member, Abbeville County; R. Les Blankenship, Deputy County Supervisor, Berkeley County; Clarence Caudill, Assessor, Lee County; Theodore Felder, County Administrator, Calhoun County; Wes Hendricks, Council Member, Pickens County; Tommie Hill, Council Member, Union County; Harold Prince, Council Chairman, Abbeville County; Chris Bowers, Council Vice Chairman, Pickens County; J. Lewis Brown, Council Vice Chairman, Darlington County; Ralph Tucker, Council Member, Union County; Jason Springs, Council Member, Florence County; (seated, left to right) Jonathan Miller (Levels I and II), Council Member, Williamsburg County; Joyce Thomas, Council Member, Darlington County; Hattie Burns (Levels I and II), Council Member, Chesterfield County; Kristi Smith, Council Vice Chairman, Abbeville County; Karen Brehmer, Assistant to the County Administrator, Newberry County; R. Ensley Feemster, Council Member, Pickens County; Ray Graham, Council Vice Chairman, Anderson County; Don Harper, Council Member, Barnwell County; and Paul Cain, Council Vice Chairman, Oconee County. Graduates of Level II not shown are: Jerry Creech, Council Member, and Ben Kinlaw, Council Chairman, Barnwell County; William Butler and Ralph Watson, Council Members, and Timothy Eubanks, County Administrator/Public Works Director, Chesterfield County; David Coker, Council Member, and Marion Charles Stewart III, County Administrator, Darlington County; Eric Robinson, Library Director, Fairfield County; Kent Caudle, Council Member, Florence County; Billy Mosteller, Council Member, Lancaster County; Dr. Harriett Rucker, Council Member, Newberry County; Roy Costner, Council Chairman, Pickens County; and Kimberly Williams-Roberts, Clerk of Council, Richland County. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

# SCDDSN Presents Golden Palmetto Award to Fairfield County

**T**he S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) awarded the 2018 Golden Palmetto to Fairfield County on August 5 at SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference, held August 3 – 7. The award recognizes South Carolina counties that provide exemplary support to people with disabilities during the previous calendar year.

"Fairfield County is being recognized this year in particular for employing people with disabilities," said Gary Lemel, SCDDSN Commission Chair, when presenting the award to Fairfield County Council Chairman Neil Robinson, who accepted the award for

Fairfield County. "Fairfield County operates a recycling center and maintains lawns and cleaning services at county buildings, and county officials make time to attend local events put on by the Fairfield County Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Board.

"In addition, Fairfield County provided generous financial support to the county's DSN Board," Lemel added. "The county provided a great deal of 'in kind' support in 2018, such as topsoil to landscape the home of persons with disabilities and truckloads of mulch, free grading and gravel for a driveway to one of the residences. The county also

## Winner of the Golden Palmetto Award



See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 95



**FAIRFIELD COUNTY WINS GOLDEN PALMETTO AWARD**—Accepting the Golden Palmetto Award for Fairfield County are: (left to right) Shirley Greene, Board Member, Fairfield County DSN Board of Directors; Patti Davis, Clerk to Council, Fairfield County; Gary Lemel, Chairman, S.C. Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs; Bertha Goins, Vice Chairman, Fairfield County Council, and Council Liaison for Local DSNB; Neil Robinson, Chairman, Fairfield County Council; Moses Bell, Council Member, Fairfield County; Diane Willis, Board Member, Fairfield County DSN Board of Directors; Jason Taylor, County Administrator, Fairfield County; Laura Collins, Executive Director, Fairfield County DSN Board; and Clarence Gilbert, Council Member, Fairfield County.

contributed to the further expansion of facilities to serve residents with disabilities by donating land for expansion of the county DSN Board's facility."

Laura Collins, Fairfield County DSN Board Executive Director, said she was pleased to see Fairfield County awarded the Golden Palmetto.

"Fairfield County Government," Collins said, "has consistently given immeasurable support to our agency and promoted the employment of people with disabilities and special needs in Fairfield County for 36 years."

SCDDSN has awarded the Golden Palmetto each year for the past 44 years, and Fairfield County is the first county to win the award six times. The county previously won the award in 1996, 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2013.

"The fact that this is the sixth time that Fairfield County has won this award shows the deep commitment to serving people with disabilities that exists in Fairfield County, and we think it's important that at the state level we recognize that commitment," said Lemel, SCDDSN Commission Chair.

SCDDSN State Director Mary Poole thanked "Fairfield County for recognizing that people with disabilities can do great work and for giving our customers a chance to show the community what they can do," and she congratulated the county for its effort.

SCDDSN is the state agency that plans, develops, coordinates and funds services for South Carolinians with severe, lifelong disabilities of intellectual disability and related disabilities; autism spectrum disorder; traumatic brain injury; and spinal cord injury and similar disability.



## Support the South Carolina Association of Counties ...



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- An invitation to register at the group rate to attend SCAC's Annual Conference each year, and
- An exhibitors' notice around April 1 each year that provides an opportunity on a "first-come, first-served" basis to lease exhibit space at SCAC's Annual Conference.

### As a Patron (\$1,000 per year), you will also receive:

- A complimentary registration for one delegate to attend SCAC's Annual Conference
- Two complimentary tickets to attend the Association's Annual Conference Banquet, and
- Greater recognition in SCAC's *County Focus Magazine*, annual *Directory of County Officials* and *Annual Conference Program*.

For more information about the SCAC or to join, please contact:

### SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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# The IMLA Report

## ***Significant Erroneous Decisions by Lower Courts That Can Affect Cities and Counties***

*By Charles W. Thompson Jr.  
Executive Director and General Counsel, IMLA*

**A**s a member benefit, IMLA will file briefs to support members in various courts throughout the United States and does so frequently in support of members seeking certiorari at the Supreme Court. Many of the cases reflect what we believe to be significantly erroneous decisions by lower courts that can affect cities and counties around the country if the decisions are followed in other cases. Often, these cases also raise the caution flag and require local governments to look internally at their practices and procedures to determine how best to protect the public without getting sued.

Our legal advocacy team has been very busy these past few months. We have been successful in many instances, and even where we are not, the cases should prove interesting and educational for members as they offer ideas for training and policy improvements and sometimes urge legislative action. In this report, we discuss cases that we are working on and ones in which we hope to change the result.

Over the past year we've been asked to help in quite a few cases involving warrantless entry into homes where police are responding to calls, assuming their community caretaker function or chasing dangerous suspects or fleeing felons. One of those cases leads off this report.

### ***Grant v. City of Syracuse***

Police were called to the Grant home on a domestic disturbance call. When they responded, they found the husband in an agitated state and asked him to go outside.



Outside, they sought to detain him for safety purposes and a fight broke out between the husband, who is much larger, and one of the officers. The police officer struck him several times with his hand. A second officer came over during the struggle and hit the husband with a knee strike and then put him in a headlock. The officers were then able to subdue him and got him medical attention for a broken nose and concussion.

The husband and wife both sued the police officers and the city, claiming that when the officers arrived their conflict had completely subsided and that they told the officers they no longer needed their services, but the officers nevertheless entered their home without permission and proceeded to arrest the husband without probable cause given that the domestic situation was, according to the plaintiffs, entirely under control.. They claim the use of force was entirely unprovoked whereas the officers claim Mr. Grant initiated the physical altercation. The plaintiffs brought claims under Section 1983 for false imprisonment and excessive force as well as claims against the City.

In their suit against the City, the plaintiffs claim that the City's deliberate

indifference to civil complaints of police brutality has resulted in the customary use of excessive force by its police officers, and, as a proximate result of such policy, they suffered injuries. The plaintiffs introduced evidence at trial from a Citizen Review Board (CRB), which contained information about hundreds of complaints against Syracuse officers over a multi-year period and the recommendations by the CRB as to discipline, as well as the police department's actual action taken against each officer. The plaintiffs argued that the CRB report demonstrated a pattern of excessive force that went undisciplined which created a climate whereby officers felt empowered to act with impunity.

The district court denied summary judgment to the officers on the excessive force and false imprisonment charges, finding enough disputed facts to send the case to a jury. (*Grant v. City of Syracuse*, no. 5:15 cv. 00445 (N.D.N.Y. Nov. 11, 2017)). The district court also denied summary judgment on the claim against the City and refused a motion to bifurcate the claim against the City from the claims against the individual officers, even though the claim against the City relied on evidence from the CRB that included the CRB's review and conclusion regarding the specific facts of this case, which the City and the officers argued would prejudice the jury against the officers. A jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs for nearly \$2 million not including attorney's fees.

Syracuse and the officers are appealing on several issues, but IMLA will focus on the district court's failure to bifurcate the trial

and the introduction of the CRB report. For those who are non-lawyers, bifurcation in a case means to separate out issues or parts of a case to protect parties where the evidence in one part of the case used against one party could affect how a jury views another party. It is a matter of fairness and due process.

Across the United States demands are being made to establish Citizen Review Boards because people feel that in some communities, their elected leaders fail them when overseeing the police. It may seem ironic that in a democratic society where we elect the leaders of our communities (in counties we often elect the top law enforcement official and in almost all communities we elect the local prosecutor) these elected officials are seen to be failing in their roles such that we need un-elected people to actually do the job these folks are elected to do—yet this seems to be the trend.

When cities or counties establish a CRB, they must consider if the board will act only as a platform for grievances against police or have a greater role. This can be complicated by laws protecting the rights of law enforcement officers. In some states, laws such as a Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights were enacted years ago when society recognized that claims against an officer and political influence could be used to wreck an officer's career. Often these laws conflict with a review process that does not afford an officer due process. Similarly, as was the case in Syracuse, using a CRB report that did not afford due process as evidence of an officer's poor performance in a suit against the officer or the government challenges the rules of evidence. For that reason, in establishing a CRB the local government must do so with a critical eye towards ensuring transparency while protecting against use of the information improperly.

In terms of the underlying Fourth Amendment issues, local governments must train their officers to understand when a warrantless intrusion into a home complies with the law. In some instances, patience should prevail and the officers should get a warrant. In others, exigency plays a factor. In this case, the Syracuse officers knew that the call for help came from the home; despite assurances that they were no longer needed, their prior experience in domestic situations allowed for some suspicion that the conflict continued to simmer. Had the officers

walked away and the wife been harmed, we can be sure that the officers would have been sued for not acting to protect her.

### ***Fulton v. City of Chicago***

This case involves less dramatic facts but an equally important issue for local governments, arising from four bankruptcy cases that were consolidated on appeal to the Seventh Circuit. In each, the City of Chicago impounded the debtor's vehicle based on significant accumulated unpaid fines and penalties for parking tickets, moving violations, and driving with suspended licenses. The City has an ordinance that provides that the City may impound vehicles of people with three or more unpaid violations for the "purpose of enforcing" its traffic regulations until the owner of the vehicle pays the outstanding fines and penalties. The Chicago Municipal Code further provides that "[a]ny vehicle impounded by the City or its designee shall be subject to a possessory lien in favor of the City in the amount required to obtain release of the vehicle."

In each of the four cases, after the City had impounded the owner's vehicles, the owner filed for bankruptcy. The Bankruptcy Code's automatic stay provision provides that a petition for bankruptcy operates as a stay of "any act to obtain possession of property of the estate or of property from the estate or to exercise control over property of the estate." 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(3). The City did not release the debtor's vehicles back to the trustee of the bankruptcy estate and each bankruptcy court held that the City violated the stay by "exercising control" over property of the bankruptcy estate and ordered the City to turn over the vehicles immediately.

The City of Chicago argued that holding a vehicle that was impounded before the debtors filed their bankruptcy petitions did not violate the Bankruptcy Code's automatic stay provision. Further, the City argues that the Bankruptcy Code provides a mechanism for a debtor to seek the turnover of property being held by a creditor through a possessory lien through an adversary proceeding and the court should therefore find an exception for the City's retention of the vehicles from the automatic stay under 11 U.S.C. § 362(b)(3). The City also cited subsection (b)(4) which provides that the stay authorized by the Act does not extend to:

. . . the commencement or continuation of an action or proceeding by a governmental unit . . ., to enforce such governmental unit's or organization's police and regulatory power, including the enforcement of a judgment other than a money judgment, obtained in an action or proceeding by the governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's or organization's police or regulatory power;

This exception (called the "police power exception") often arises in bankruptcy proceedings where a debtor seeks to avoid local regulations affecting its business. Indeed, if it were not part of the code, a person could file for bankruptcy protection to avoid any local law the person found oppressive; a requirement for a fire escape, water quality requirements, or sewer discharges.

The Seventh Circuit rejected the City's arguments and held in favor of the debtors (*Fulton v. City of Chicago*, no. 18-2527 (7th Cir. June 19, 2019)). By way of background, the Seventh Circuit had previously addressed this issue in *Thomson v. General Motors Acceptance Corp.*, which had held in a case where a creditor had repossessed a vehicle prior to the filing of the bankruptcy petition that a "creditor must comply with the automatic stay and return a debtor's vehicle upon her filing of a bankruptcy petition." The City requested the Seventh Circuit overrule *Thomson*, which the court in this case declined to do. The Seventh Circuit explained that the "[t]he primary goal of reorganization bankruptcy is to group all of the debtor's property together in his estate such that he may rehabilitate his credit and pay off his debts; this necessarily extends to all property, even property lawfully seized pre-petition."

Facts in these cases suggest that the debtors, if successful in requiring return of their vehicles, would continue to violate the laws for which they had been found in violation.

IMLA will be filing an amicus brief in the Supreme Court to support the City of Chicago, but if we lose, this is the type of situation that requires legislative relief from Congress. Scofflaws should not be allowed to escape complying with the laws designed

*(Continued on next page)*

to protect public safety and preserve public services for all by using the bankruptcy code.

### ***Hamer v. City of Trinidad***

Hamer uses a motorized wheelchair and for the purpose of this lawsuit, is a “qualified individual” with a disability under Title II of the ADA. He does not own a car and primarily uses the public sidewalks in Trinidad, Colorado to get around. Title II of the

ADA provides that “no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.” 42 U.S.C. § 12132. Notably, it does not contain a statute of limitations provision. Hamer contends that many of the City’s sidewalks and curb cuts that allow access onto those sidewalks do not comply with Title II of the ADA. He informed the City Council on April 2014 that he had personally counted 79 non-compliant sidewalks/curb cuts throughout the City. He also filed a complaint with the DOJ and the DOJ subsequently audited the City around this time. In response to the complaints and DOJ audit, the City began repairing non-compliant sidewalks.

Despite the City’s efforts to get into compliance, Hamer brought suit in October 2016 for violations of Title II of the ADA seeking declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as monetary damages and attorney’s fees.

The district court granted summary judgment to the City on the grounds that the plaintiff’s claim was not timely as it was brought more than two years after he must have discovered the non-compliant sidewalks (given his complaint to the city council in April 2014).

The Tenth Circuit reversed, concluding that under the “repeated violations” doctrine, the plaintiff could recover for any injury that occurred within the last two years (*Hamer v. City of Trinidad*, no. 17-1456 (10th Cir. May 15, 2019)). The Tenth Circuit reasoned that each time Hamer “was denied access to [the sidewalks and curb cuts], the City of Trinidad committed discrimination within the meaning of the ADA ... and a claim for damages arose under the statute.” Thus, under the Tenth Circuit’s rule, a person can recover for any injuries that occur within the prior two years before bringing suit, but not for any injuries that occurred before that time. The court rejected the notion that a public entity violates Title II “only when it initially constructs or creates a non-compliant service, program, or activity” and instead, concluded that a public entity violates the statute “repeatedly until it affirmatively acts to remedy the non-compliant service, program, or activity.”

Clearly, communities must comply with the ADA and need to bring non-compliant facilities into compliance. But, should communities be liable for damages long after a person knows of the violation and despite once knowing of the violation the community is actively correcting the violations? When balancing the taxpayers’ interests and those of people in the community who seek governmental compliance with regulations, injunctive relief should be sufficient. Regardless of Supreme Court action in this case, communities throughout the United States need to evaluate their compliance with the ADA and bring failing facilities into compliance.

### **The IMLA Legal Advocacy Program**

Over the past year IMLA has been involved in more than 50 cases as an amicus on behalf of our members. The issues vary across the country, but have one thing in common—promoting the interests of local government, whether they involve fiscal responsibility, reduced liability or local autonomy.



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*If you or your county are not members of IMLA, consider joining. IMLA offers a number of low-cost programs each year to help attorneys and city/county managers keep abreast of emerging issues or to refresh their knowledge of local government law.*

*For more information on membership, programs or getting involved with IMLA, contact Chuck Thompson at:*

[cthompson@imla.org](mailto:cthompson@imla.org)



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## **Purpose of the SCAC**

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- *To investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officials*
- *To promote and encourage education of county officials*
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- *To cooperate with other organizations*
- *To promote legislation which supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina*

❖ **For more information about the SCAC, please contact:**

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# A Roadside Guide to Chester County

## *The County's Role in the American War for Independence*

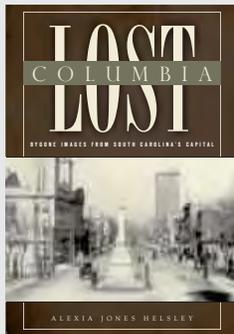
By Alexia Jones Helsley  
[www.historyismybag.com](http://www.historyismybag.com)

**C**hester County and its county seat, the town of Chester, were named for Chester County, Pennsylvania. The county was formed in 1785 as part of Camden District, but became a separate district (county) in 1800. In the mid-18th century, European settlers moved into the area.

Several Revolutionary War skirmishes and battles occurred in Chester County. Many involved the intrepid General Thomas Sumter. A complex individual, Sumter was a native of Virginia who sought new possibilities on the Carolina frontier. Around 1764, he opened a store near the Santee River.

**Lost Columbia: Bygone Images of South Carolina's Capital City** (Charleston: the History Press, 2008)

*Lost Columbia* combines an overview of the turbulent history of Columbia with rare and little seen images of the city's destruction in 1865, the Assembly Street farmers' market, the changing face of Main Street and lost institutions and neighborhoods.



*Lost Columbia* is available in bookstores such as Barnes & Noble, from Amazon.com, or by mail from AJH Historical Enterprises, P.O. Box 3683, Irmo, SC 29063.



The business prospered and Sumter married an older well-to-do widow. Nevertheless, the outbreak of war with England propelled Sumter into service to South Carolina. He served in the First and Second Provincial congresses and campaigned in South Carolina and Georgia but in 1778, Colonel Sumter returned home. As a result, he was not involved in the disastrous surrender of the City of Charleston in May 1780.

With the British in control of South Carolina's seat of government and Patriot forts surrendering across the state, Patriots faced a dismal future. Total British victory seemed inevitable. At this point the British made a serious mistake. Seeking to subdue and intimidate the interior and cement their victory, in 1780, British troops burned and ravaged Sumter's home. His Scots-Irish blood inflamed, Sumter rallied Patriots from across South Carolina to the Catawba Nation and organized "Sumter's Brigade." Among those who joined Sumter in the fight was a force led by John McClure of Chester District. According to some sources, McClure's troops formed the nucleus of Sumter's force.

While his efforts were not always successful, his leadership was crucial to

### Chester County



See South Carolina County Map, P. 95

turning the tide in South Carolina. His men elected him general and his exploits earned him the nickname "Gamecock." In October 1780, South Carolina formally commissioned him a brigadier general of the South Carolina militia.

Major revolutionary engagements in Chester County include the following:

**Beckhamville (Beckham's Old Field, Alexander's Old Field),  
 Date Uncertain, Late May or Early June 1780**

Following Buford's Massacre May 29, 1780, Patriots in the surrounding area plotted their revenge. Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton and his men had intercepted Continental re-enforcements from Maryland and Virginia and allegedly killed the men under a white flag of surrender. Captain John McClure raised a troop of 32 volunteers and attacked a Loyalist gathering at Alexander's Old Field. The Loyalists were recruiting former Patriots to take an oath of allegiance to the King.

Colonel Henry Houseman, McClure's counterpart, had approximately 200 Loyalists under his command at the

time of the attack. Despite the odds, McClure's force prevailed—possibly the first Patriot victory after the fall of Charleston.

### **Fishing Creek Church June 11, 1780**

The raid at Fishing Creek church was part of a larger British effort to crush Patriot dissent in the backcountry and force Patriots to swear allegiance to the King. Following orders, Captain Christian Huck led a Loyalist force to Fishing Creek Church where he anticipated finding the local Patriot militia gathered. Disappointed, Huck's men shot and killed, according to J.D. Lewis, William Strong, as he walked along the road carrying only his Bible. Afterward, the Loyalists attacked and burned the home of the Reverend John Simpson (a captain in the local Patriot militia).

### **Fishing Creek (Catawba Ford, Sumter's Defeat), August 18, 1780**

Near the junction of Fishing Creek and the Catawba River, Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton with a force that included regular British army and militia, surprised Thomas Sumter. Sumter and his men had been successfully harassing British communication and supply lines. Only the day before, they had captured two British convoys—80 wagons and prisoners. As a result, Sumter and his men made slow progress toward their destination, Charlotte, N.C.

Despite learning of Lord Cornwallis's decisive defeat of Major General Horatio Gates and the Continental Army at Camden, Sumter seemed unprepared for possible danger. Sumter's force was the largest Patriot opposition remaining in the state. Following victory at Camden, Cornwallis dispatched several British forces to intercept Sumter. One of these was Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton with the British Legion.

Tarleton and his men pursued Sumter with great speed and efficiency, barely pausing their exhaustive pace until they reached the Wateree River on August 17. There, Tarleton dispatched a crack team of dragoons and light infantry to pursue Sumter.

Despite knowing that Tarleton was in "hot" pursuit, Sumter traveled only a few miles and halted at Fishing Creek. The location was a good one, but Sumter's defenses were not. He posted sentries some distance from the camp and Sumter and his men settled in for a long indulgent respite.

Tarleton and his streamlined force silenced the sentries before they could give the alarm, and surprised the camp where many were relaxing, swimming, cooking and sleeping and perhaps drunk. Sumter himself was asleep under a wagon. The British killed by some accounts 150 of Sumter's men and seized about 310 captives. In the panic that ensued, a partially clothed Sumter jumped on an unsaddled horse and barely escaped. Tarleton also reclaimed the captured supply wagons and freed more than 200 British and Loyalist prisoners. Two days later, Sumter arrived in Charlotte.

### **Fishing Creek, November 1780**

Captain Robert Cooper and his Patriot militia learned that a group of Loyalists were in the area planning to attack and raid Patriot farms. The Loyalists had fortified a cabin as their base. Under cover of darkness, Cooper and his men approached the cabin planning to surprise

the Loyalists. Instead, one gave the alarm and the Loyalists fired on the Patriots wounding several. The Patriots battered down the door and captured the Loyalists inside.

### **Fish Dam Ford, November 9, 1780**

In the wee hours of November 9, 1780, a surprise British attack failed. Learning that Sumter was operating near the Broad River, Lord Cornwallis detailed Major James Wemyss to neutralize Patriot support in the area. Brigadier General Thomas Sumter commanded a force of approximately 400, including parts of the regiments of Colonel Thomas Taylor and Colonel Richard Winn.

During the evening of November 8, Wemyss left Winnsboro and caught up with Sumter and his men at Fish Dam Ford on the border between modern Chester and Union Counties. Sumter set up camp and doubting that Wemyss would attack at night, went to sleep. Colonels Taylor and Winn were not as sanguine. Taylor built huge fires, secured a safe retreat route if needed and camped near the main body of troops. Winn's men slept with their arms.

Wemyss disregarded orders and charged around midnight. Silhouetted  
*(Continued on next page)*

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against the campfires his men were easy targets for the Patriots. Wemyss was one of the first wounded. After spirited fighting, the British withdrew leaving Wemyss and the other wounded. Sumter paroled them and celebrated a victory over British regulars.

**Hopkins' Place, December 1780**

During a scouting mission, Captain Samuel Otterson with a detachment from the Second Spartan Regiment, discovered a Loyalist encampment. Greatly outnumbered, Otterson and his men surprised the Loyalists and killed many. This encounter illustrates the unstable conditions of the South Carolina backcountry.

**Sandy River, December 1780**

The Sandy River conflict also involved men from the Second Spartan Regiment. Colonel Thomas Brandon and Major Joseph McJunkin commanded a group trying to interrupt communications between Cornwallis and the Loyalists west of the Broad River. During this campaign, Loyalists defeated a scouting party and captured Captain John McCool and Daniel McJunkin.

**Love's Ford [on Broad River],  
January 18, 1781**

Captain Samuel Otterson with a small number of Second Spartan militia successfully attacked Tarleton's baggage train. The Patriots captured a number of prisoners, horses, wagons, and slaves.

The Revolutionary War in Chester was a time of great challenge. Yet, Patriots courageously pursued their dream of independence and fought to make South Carolina free.



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*Also see advertising index, page 96*



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# County Update



See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 95

*Keeping you informed  
about what's happening in  
South Carolina's counties.*

## Bamberg County

● Bamberg County announced on September 2 that Medshore Ambulance will provide ambulance service for Bamberg County E-911, effective October 1. Medshore, which has provided ambulance service for neighboring Barnwell County since 2014, will respond to all county 911 calls.

## Charleston County

● Charleston County hosted a school supplies drive on August 14 at the Charleston County Public Services Building. Staff stocked an ambulance with school supplies for the upcoming school year. Collected items were then distributed on August 18 at the City of Charleston First Day Festival,

which celebrated education and provided children and families with information on educational services in the community. The festival, celebrating its 10th anniversary, was held at Liberty Square at the S.C. Aquarium and Gadsdenboro Park.

● **Beverly T. Craven**, Clerk of Council Emerita for Charleston County, passed away on October 27. From Nov. 9, 1987, to Aug. 22, 2017, Craven served as Charleston County Clerk of Council. As a member of the S.C. Clerks to Council since 1987, she guided new Clerks to Council as they learned how to run a county council office. Many SCAC presidents asked her to serve on various steering committees over the years. She was also very active in the community during her career with Charleston County.

## Dorchester County

● On May 14, Dorchester County Business License Administrator **Joy Krutek** earned the Master in Business Licensing Designation from the South Carolina Business Licensing Officials Association.

● On June 26, The Rotary Club of Summerville awarded the Honorary Paul Harris Fellow to **John Truluck**, Director of Dorchester County Economic Development.

● On June 27, Atlantic Packaging, a leading distributor of industrial packaging materials and paperboard converter, announced the expansion of its Dorchester County operations. The company's investment of \$4.5 million is expected to create 10 new jobs.

● On July 15, Dorchester County boat manufacturer Freeman Boatworks represented South Carolina at the annual Made in America Showcase at the White House.

● On July 15, County Council recognized the Dorchester County EMS Department for achieving the Mission Lifeline EMS

Gold Plus Award from the American Heart Association.

● On July 16, Dorchester County announced a partnership with Trident Technical College (TTC) to open the first TTC campus in Dorchester County for Fall 2020 classes.

● At its Annual Conference in August 2019, the Southern Economic Development Council announced that Dorchester County Economic Development earned a Superior rating for their newly redesigned website.

● On August 27, County Council participated in a joint workshop with St. George Town Council to discuss fire service, public works, parks, economic development, and planning with county staff.

● On September 10, DC Machine, an industrial design and machining center that manufactures close tolerance components, announced the expansion its existing Dorchester County operations. The company's investment of \$9.5 million is expected to create 63 new jobs.

## Edgefield County

● Edgefield County recently received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the GFOA.

● Edgefield County EMS recently received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Plus Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

## Georgetown County

● **Brandon Ellis** of Pawleys Island became Georgetown County's new Emergency Manager on September 16. He replaces **Sam Hodge**, who retired on September 2.

Ellis has more than 10 years of experience in Emergency Management at the county and state levels. He also has extensive training in Emergency Management at the federal, state and local levels. Ellis was recognized as the S.C. Emergency Management Division's Employee of the Quarter in April 2018, and Employee of the Year in January 2019.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Francis Marion University while serving as a part-time volunteer firefighter in Mullins.

● **Sam Hodge**, Georgetown County's emergency manager for 12 years, retired on September 2.

Before joining the county in 1990, Hodge served as a paramedic and battalion chief for Midway Fire and Rescue. He has headed Georgetown County Emergency

## ★ *Counties Reporting in This Issue of County Update:*

Abbeville	Greenwood
Aiken	Hampton
Allendale	★Horry
Anderson	Jasper
★Bamberg	Kershaw
Barnwell	Lancaster
Beaufort	Laurens
Berkeley	Lee
Calhoun	Lexington
★Charleston	Marion
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Chesterfield	Newberry
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Colleton	Orangeburg
Darlington	Pickens
Dillon	★Richland
★Dorchester	Saluda
★Edgefield	Spartanburg
Fairfield	Sumter
Florence	Union
★Georgetown	Williamsburg
Greenville	York

Management since 2007, and guided the county through five federally-declared disasters since 2014.

Hodge was named S.C. Emergency Manager of the Year in 2011 and 2013, and Georgetown County's Manager of the Year in 2013. He served on the S.C. Emergency Management Association Executive Committee, the Pee Dee Healthcare Committee, and the Homeland Security Advisory Committee.

● Georgetown Parks and Recreation Department's staff members were recently certified by the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) to provide a better quality of service to program participants and parents. NAYS staff visited Georgetown earlier this year and conducted an all-day seminar (academy) to prepare staff members for the Certified Youth Sports Administrator Academy. Afterward, the county's Parks and Recreation staff received Youth Sports Administrator certifications.

● The following Georgetown County Sheriff's Office Central (911) Dispatch employees recently completed a three-day, full-function National Crime Information Center class: **Nadiyah Starling, Ashauna Cromedy, Shelia Felder, Dani Alfaro, Dani Hennessey, Alyssa Taylor, Maggie Naas and Alondrya Davis** of Mt. Pleasant Dispatch. The National Crime Information Center, an electronic clearinghouse of crime data, can be tapped into by virtually every criminal justice agency nationwide, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The center helps criminal justice professionals apprehend fugitives, locate missing persons, recover stolen property and identify terrorists.

● **Heather Pelham**, a Georgetown County Public Services Librarian, recently received the 2019 Exceptional Service Award at the American Library Association Conference in Washington, D.C. Pelham was chosen for her advocacy and work reestablishing a library for the general population at the Georgetown County Detention Center. She managed the Amazing Journey grant, which reestablished a library at the detention center, serving the 212 inmates incarcerated there with new fiction, nonfiction and educational, and self-help books. The project also provided laptops and training materials for 49 detention center officers. Pelham also worked with the Sheriff's Re-entry Program, which provided participants 32 life and job skills classes.

● **Doug Eggiman**, chief of Midway Fire Rescue, was sworn-in in July as President of the Southeastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The Division consists of 10 states, the U.S. Virgin

Islands and Puerto Rico, and has about 2,000 members. It advocates at all levels of govern-

ment for the Fire Service and firefighters. *(Continued on next page)*



## 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)

## SCAC's 2019-20 Conference Calendar

Nov. 22	S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute <i>DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia</i>
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>

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As president, Eggiman has already formed a safety and health committee to study issues commonly affecting firefighters including PTSD and job-related cancer.

● The Georgetown County Airport celebrated National Aviation Week on August 24 by hosting a day of free, family-friendly events intended to expose people of all ages to both the airport and aviation. The event included two aerobatic performances by **Robert Dickson Jr.** in his North American P-51 Mustang, *The Swamp Fox*. A static aircraft display at the airport featured the little brother to the North American P-51, three North American AT-6s. The T6s were the training aircraft for all pilots before flying the P-51s.

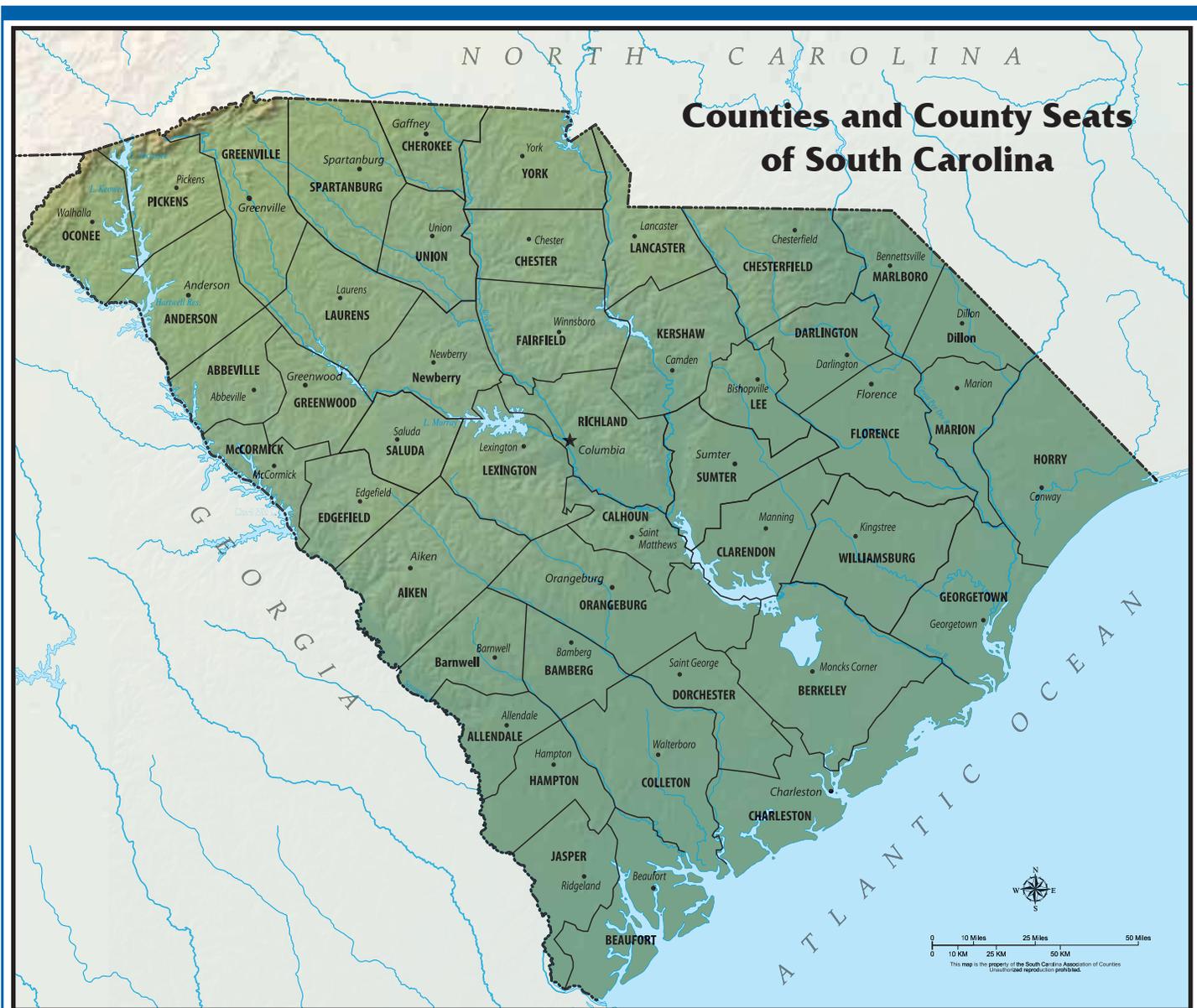
● **Michelle LaRocco**, Georgetown County Environmental Services Division Manager, recently received a professional development certificate from the S.C. Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SC SWANA). SC SWANA sponsored LaRocco's attendance at its annual conference as a new-to-the-industry professional, to provide her with the opportunity to gain expertise and bring the latest in best practices in solid waste management to Georgetown. LaRocco won a scholarship to register for the conference and a travel stipend to attend it.

● **Tracey Howle**, a key member of Georgetown County's Emergency Services team, was recently recognized as County Council Employee of the Quarter (April – June). Howle, employed with Georgetown since 1992, started with Georgetown County EMS, handling administrative tasks, billing and some dispatching and other duties. Upon consolidation of Fire and EMS operations, she became administrative assistant to the Emergency Services director.

Howle now serves in the expanded role of administrative assistant for the Emergency Services Division, working under the direction of the county administrator. She coordinates meetings and handles reports and daily administrative details for the county's two fire and EMS departments, as well as Georgetown County Emergency Management. Howle also works in the county's Emergency Operations Center when it is activated.

● Midway Fire Rescue Battalion Chief **Jeff Pifer** recently received the Georgetown County Innovation Award from county council for his work on a policy that helps the county increase efficiency and cut costs.

Pifer introduced a policy regarding situations in which emergency responders encounter bedbugs in the course of performing their duties. The policy was deemed an effective



way of reducing the likelihood of spreading bedbugs to county facilities, and saves money associated with combating bedbug infestation.

Fire and EMS staff are on a daily basis called to enter homes all across their service areas, where they encounter a range of issues. One issue that has become increasingly common is bedbugs. A need was identified to educate fire and EMS personnel about bedbugs and outline procedures to prevent the spread of these pests. Pifer created a policy that has since been implemented, to address this issue and reduce costs associated with handling infestations after they happen.

#### Horry County

- The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) recently recognized Carolina For-

est area resident **Cathy Foisy** as the “caught Green Handed” recipient for the month of August. Foisy is a regular recycling at the Landfill Recycling Center.

- SWA recently recognized Carolina Forest area resident **Jason Medeiros** as the “Caught Green Handed” recipient for the month of July. Medeiros is a regular recycler at the Carolina Forest Recycling Center.

- SWA recently recognized Aynor area resident **Meredith Marcell** as the “Caught Green Handed” recipient for the month of June. Marcell is a regular recycler at the Aynor Recycling Center.

- Horry County Veteran’s Affairs Office’s monthly “Horry’s Heroes” program featured **Theodore H. Voghel Jr.** as Veteran of the Month for August. Voghel served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army in Japan and Korea and during the Korean War and received

several medals for his service, including two Bronze Service Stars.

- The Horry’s Heroes program featured U.S. Navy Culinary Specialist Third Class **Nick Cosentino** of Little River as Veteran of the Month for July. Cosentino served in the Korean War, Europe and stateside. The Horry’s Heroes program features a veteran on the county’s social media platforms each month. All honorably discharged veterans (active duty, reserve, retired and/or deceased) from 1900 to present are eligible to be featured.

- Horry County Government officials announced in August that HCCConnect, the official app for Horry County Government, will now give users the option to opt in for push notifications on their favorite content. In addition, Horry County officials will be able

*(Continued on next page)*

to push out critical life safety information to subscribed users in the event of a major emergency incident, based on their location.

Users will be able to receive the latest news, crime information or zoning notifications and updates based on their interests. Users, who already have the app downloaded, should update the app to see this new functionality. The latest version of HCConnect is now available for free download in the App Store and on Google Play.

HCConnect was created to provide a technology platform to inform, engage, and connect with the people of Horry County. This is a first of its kind app, developed completely in house, creating a direct channel for citizen driven communication and feedback.

● Educators and staff from Horry County Schools were recently honored during SWA's 26th Annual Environmental Awards Banquet on August 1 in Conway. The Certificate of Excellent Environmental Efforts was awarded to Ten Oaks Middle School for their continued efforts in recycling and waste reduction.

The Green Spark Award was awarded to the Academy of Arts, Science, and Technology for their gardening program which utilizes organic waste from the cafeteria. Outdoor learning experiences through gardening occurred with not only students, but the community as well.

River Oaks Elementary, Ocean Bay Elementary, and Black Water Middle schools were presented with the Gold Star Award for their continued efforts in their school recycling programs during the 2018-2019

school year. These efforts include all recycling programs offered by the Horry County Solid Waste Authority.

**Ashley Gasperson** with the HCS District Office and **Antoine Chestnut** of Kingston Elementary were both recognized with the Environmental Superstar Award for their dedication and leadership in conserving the environment at school and in the community.

**Elizabeth Foster** of Ocean Bay Elementary was named the 2018-2019 Recycling Liaison of the Year for her leadership and diligence in promoting recycling and environmental awareness in her school. Ms. Foster is an Interventionist at Ocean Bay Elementary and actively encourages staff, students and community to be more environmentally aware.

#### Richland County

● Trane unveiled a new facility in Northeast Richland on August 28.

● **Josephine Hall** is the first person to receive a new house through Richland Rebuild, a program launched in October 2018 to help households facing homelessness because of poor and unsafe living conditions. Family, friends, and county officials welcomed Hall to her new home on Tolliver Street during a dedication ceremony, held on July 18.

Richland Rebuild is one of two rehabilitation programs the county launched in 2018. The other, Operation One Touch, assists with major home repairs up to \$12,000. The programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and

implemented by the county's Community Development Division.

● Richland County Stormwater Management recently partnered with Columbia Water, One Columbia, and a local artist on a storm drain public art project. The art project was part of the "Drains Aren't Dumps" storm drain marketing campaign, which kicked off on July 12. The campaign brings attention to the harmful effects pet waste, lawn clippings, and excess lawn chemicals have on area waterways when they enter storm drains.

Artists recently submitted design proposals to One Columbia, a non-profit that works to promote collaboration through art, history, and culture. A committee of representatives from the areas where storm drains are being painted then selected **Jessica Dame** as the winning artist. Dame painted storm drain inlets in neighborhoods and at select Richland Library branches. Residents can get involved in the ongoing campaign by marking storm drains with metal medallion markers that read, "No Dumping—Drains to River." The markers and needed supplies can be obtained by visiting [myriverstartshere.org](http://myriverstartshere.org).

● Richland County Emergency Medical Services recently won a national American Heart Association award for its efforts to improve the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks. The association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Plus Award recognizes emergency responders for their care of patients who suffer a ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction, or STEMI — a type of heart attack caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart.



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**PalmettoPride**  
*Litter Trashes Everyone*

Join Lieutenant Governor Evette  
and PalmettoPride for **#GrabABagSC**

**Saturday, November 16, 2019**

For more information contact [info@palmettopride.org](mailto:info@palmettopride.org) or visit [www.palmettopride.org](http://www.palmettopride.org)

