

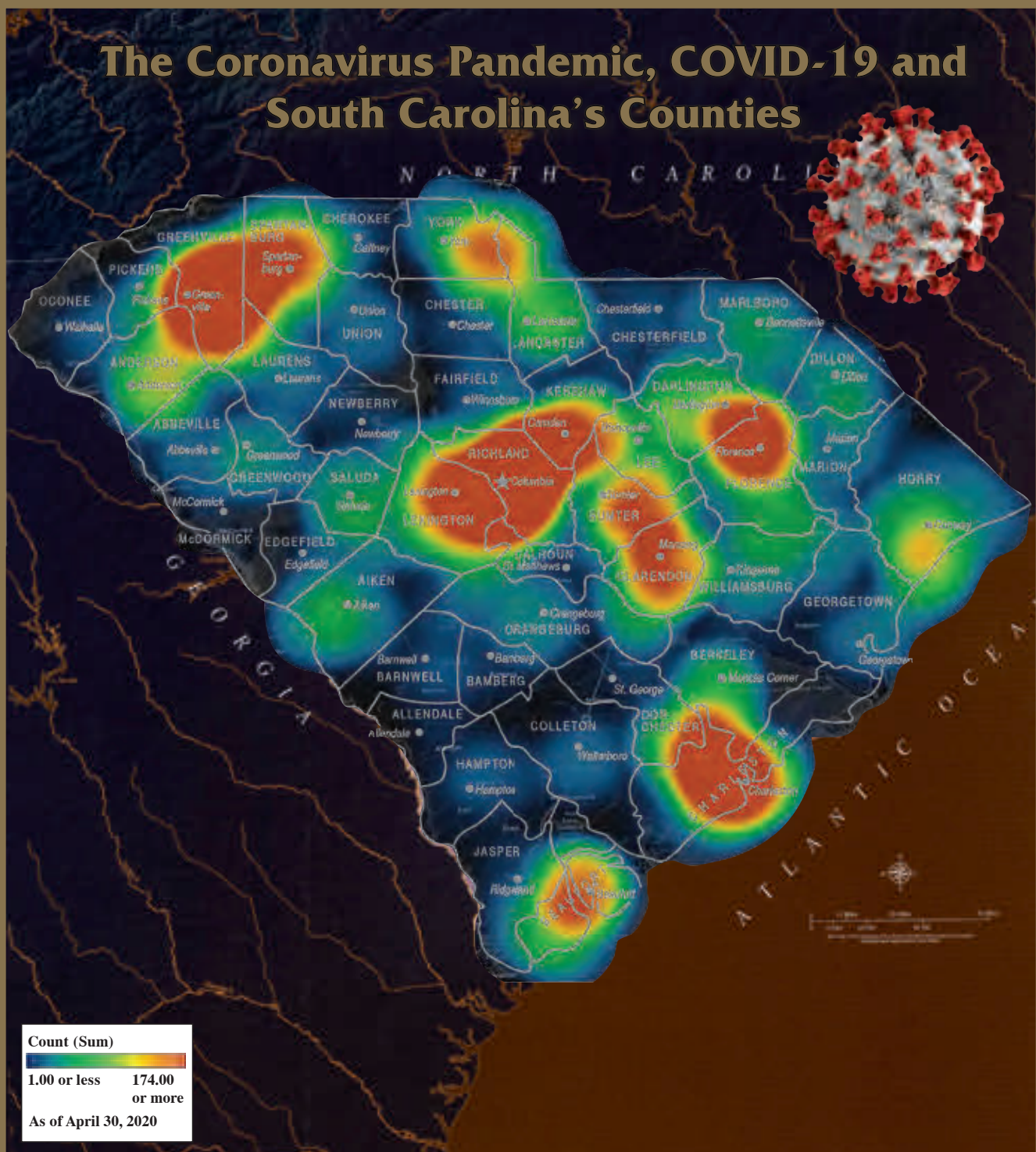
# COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 31

Numbers 1 & 2

## The Coronavirus Pandemic, COVID-19 and South Carolina's Counties





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*P. 31*

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# COUNTY FOCUS

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**COVER: Illustration based on DHEC's COVID-19 Rolling Heat Map, April 30, 2020. The map is updated each afternoon.**



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**W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor**

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# How Counties Can Help State Accelerate Economic Recovery

By Governor Henry McMaster

**S**outh Carolina was on a roll, breaking economic records, and then the virus came. Like other governors, I implemented measures in South Carolina to slow the rise in COVID-19 infections. From the beginning, relying on the advice of health professionals and business leaders, we have attempted to vigorously protect the public while doing the minimum amount of economic damage to what was just months ago one of the most thriving economies we've ever seen.

As public health experts tell us, the limited and carefully targeted measures we implemented are working. As a result, we are now in the process of incrementally and intelligently relaxing these restrictions. We are working to accelerate South Carolina's economic recovery—and counties play a critical role in that effort.

Last month, I announced “accelerateSC,” a coordinated economic revitalization effort involving business leaders, healthcare professionals, educators—and county and municipal officials. The effort consists of four primary components of analysis and effort: Response, Protection, Resources, and Governance. All will be critical in promoting recovery at the county level.

Counties are positioned to help our state respond by identifying challenges related to workforce capacity and critical industries within their jurisdictions.

Counties provide insights for protecting their populations by conducting



Gov. Henry McMaster



outreach to vulnerable citizens, including senior adults, residents in rural communities, minority communities and persons with chronic diseases and weakened immune systems.

As counties communicate their needs, state authorities work vigorously to assist in getting necessary resources

to them.

Most importantly, counties are uniquely situated to help us identify challenges so that we, as an entire state, may learn from each other and implement good governance strategies.

Counties will be prime movers of our statewide economic revitalization. Various statewide policy decisions will flow from Columbia, but they will be based on information received from the counties—the experiences, successes, failures and needs they demonstrate.

At the same time, counties face decisions based on their particular sets of circumstances. Like other entities throughout the state, counties are facing budgetary shortfalls and uncertainties due to declining tax revenues. Further, the economic stressors demonstrated in this pandemic are giving new insights for reform.

Potential solutions include suspending fees and late payment penalties, reducing taxes on businesses, and passing a previous year's budget with options to amend later once the economic impacts of COVID-19 become clear. Meanwhile, on the state level—with ideas from accelerateSC—we hope to offer regulatory relief so that counties may have flexibility in the way they spend the dollars they collect.

Before the virus, South Carolina's economy was thriving, setting records every month, with the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. We are coming  
(See *Governor*, P. 4)



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## Governor ...

*(Continued from P. 2)*

back, revitalized and restored, but we have many decisions to make and work to do. South Carolina is unique—we are like a family. I am confident that we can and will exceed all expectations!



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Thank you county employees and elected officials for all you are doing in this time of crisis — and everyday — for all you do to serve and protect your communities. You are the **Local Leaders** who create **Statewide Strength**.

# Coronavirus Pandemic to Require Patience and Flexibility, SCEMD Director Says

By W. Stuart Morgan III

**T**he coronavirus pandemic began in Wuhan, China, in late 2019, and continues to spread worldwide.

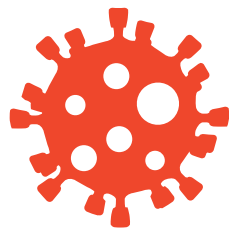
As of May 2, there were 1.14 million confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the United States, which causes the respiratory disease COVID-19, and 66,154 deaths due to the disease. As of April 28, the number of confirmed cases in South Carolina was 6,095 and the number of deaths, 244.

The numbers continue to climb.



“This pandemic is unique in that every single county is affected by the emergency,” said Kim Stenson, Director of the S.C. Emergency Management Division (SCEMD). “When hurricanes threaten the coast or when severe weather impacts the Upstate, mutual aid agreements allow the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and unaffected counties to move and redistribute resources and supplies.

“This time,” he added, “we are



## CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

very much reliant on supply contracts for resources and staffing. But with this being a global issue, many of the items we need are scarce.”

---

***“This pandemic is unique in that every single county is affected by the emergency. When hurricanes threaten the coast or when severe weather impacts the Upstate, mutual aid agreements allow the South Carolina Emergency Management Division and unaffected counties to move and redistribute resources and supplies.”***

— Kim Stenson  
Director of the S.C. Emergency  
Management Division

---

According to Stenson, a shortage of supplies appears to be one of the most significant challenges facing South Carolina and other governments worldwide.

South Carolina requested its full allocation of medical equipment from the Strategic National Stockpile allowing the

S.C. National Guard to distribute multiple shipments of N-95 masks, face shields, surgical masks, gowns and gloves to all 46 counties.

“We’ve received more than 2,400 requests for resources, which is a record, and have submitted orders

to have those requests fulfilled,” Stenson said. “Yet, we’re being told by many vendors that they don’t know when their stocks are going to be replenished so we can get what we need. We are seeing some resupply, but many items remain scarce.”

The SCEMD is approaching the coronavirus pandemic similar to the way it has prepared for and responded to previous disasters. The agency is using the state’s existing emergency plans and systems to coordinate resources.

However, the agency is operating differently.

Stenson said the SCEMD is remaining flexible, adapting, and adjusting its response and operating procedures whenever necessary because the coronavirus pandemic is different in three major ways:

- The pandemic is a statewide disaster of long duration that could last weeks or perhaps months. The state has faced statewide disasters before, but most of them were of short duration.
- Second, the pandemic is causing economic damage that is significant-



ly affecting people and businesses. Previous disasters have damaged and destroyed infrastructure, homes and businesses.

- Third, the pandemic is forcing everyone to work differently. For safety, the state's emergency response team is working much more "virtually," using applications that allow its members to work anywhere from computers and laptops. Only about a dozen staff members, standing at least six feet apart, are working in the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Many others are teleworking. For previous disasters, the State EOC has been fully-staffed with about 200 staff members.

This month (April) is expected to be the worst month for the pandemic's spread, and COVID-19 deaths. But again, no one really knows what the future holds.

"Patience is key. This virus isn't going away anytime soon," Stenson warned. "We could be dealing with this for months, not just days or weeks. Meanwhile, all South Carolinians must do all they can to avoid being infected or transmitting the virus to others."

He encouraged everyone to:

- Stay at home as much as possible and minimize in-person contact with others outside their households, and
- Monitor themselves for symptoms, practice social distancing, avoid touching their face and frequently-touched items, and regularly wash their hands.

South Carolina has received a Federal Declaration for COVID-19. Therefore, the Public Assistance Program of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will help reimburse local governments and state agencies for costs associated with emergency, life-

safety actions when responding to the dangerous respiratory disease. Eligible for reimbursement includes the cost of operating EOCs, constructing temporary medical facilities and paying employees overtime.

"Most county emergency managers are very familiar with FEMA's Public As-

sistance Program and the process, and that process is just beginning," Stenson said. "Further, other federal programs will become available to reimburse costs that might not be eligible for reimbursement by the FEMA Public Assistance Program."

State and local leaders, and

emergency managers have learned lessons in past disasters that have helped better prepare them for those in the future. Still, the coronavirus pandemic is teaching everyone new lessons.

"This pandemic has been unique for all of us, especially emergency managers who plan, train, exercise and prepare for disasters, and we're experiencing things we never have before in many respects," Stenson said. "While we must all remember our training and trust our plans, flexibility will be the key to the best outcome. We must remain as flexible as possible so we can adapt our response to what the virus has yet to do, which will be challenging."

Stenson reminded local au-

thorities that SCEMD's mission is to assist counties in their response and recovery efforts.

"We have been successful in supporting counties in several federally-declared disasters in the last seven years, and we will continue to do so during this one," he said.

For more information and updates on the coronavirus pandemic, county officials are encouraged to visit SCEMD's website at [scemd.org/](http://scemd.org/). They are also encouraged to visit websites of state emergency response team partners:

The FEMA rumor control page at:

[fema.gov/coronavirus-rumor-control](http://fema.gov/coronavirus-rumor-control)

S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control at:

[scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19](http://scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19)



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# A Closer Look:

## *How the Coronavirus Is Affecting Four South Carolina Counties, Their Responses and Lessons Learned*

### **The Important Lesson Orangeburg County Learned After Recent Tornadoes**

*By W. Stuart Morgan III*

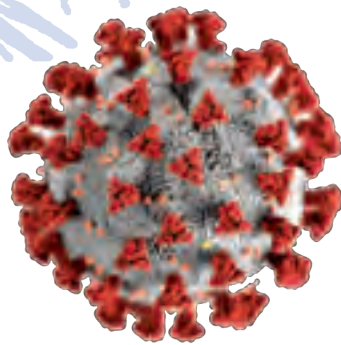
**C**hief administrative officers (CAOs) and emergency managers in York, Kershaw and Dorchester counties were interviewed in April to determine how the coronavirus pandemic was affecting their counties, how they were responding, and the lessons they were learning. Orangeburg County's CAO and risk manager were also interviewed after three tornadoes ripped through the county, causing a second disaster.

Their responses provide a closer look into what South Carolina's counties are facing and reveal some of the lessons they have learned.

Gov. McMaster designated certain businesses statewide as non-essential with Executive Order 2020-18, and ordered specific types of businesses to cease operations by April 6. Because South Carolina's 46 county governments provide essential services, they were allowed to determine who was essential to provide such services. They were also allowed to exercise discretion as to how they provided them.

Gov. McMaster then announced Executive Order 2020-28 on April 20 to allow most retail stores to reopen under strict new guidelines. The executive order also removed restrictions on public access points to the state's beaches, public piers, docks, and wharfs, while

delegating to local officials the authority to restrict access, as they saw fit.



#### **How the Coronavirus Pandemic Is Affecting Counties**

The coronavirus pandemic is affecting all 46 counties in the state, albeit to different degrees. Counties are operating differently. Local economies are suffering along with the nation's economy, which is facing its worst downturn since the Great Depression.

Many recreational and entertainment facilities have closed, cancelled events or modified operations. Most citizens could not even enjoy the state's beaches or lakes for several weeks until the governor issued his second executive order on April 20 to reopen public access points. Tensions are growing between people who want to return to work and to normality, and those who believe reopening too soon could lead to a resurgence of the pandemic.

Predicting what counties will be facing several weeks from now when this issue of *County Focus Magazine* is published and distributed is akin to guessing what the weather will be like then. But as of May 1, the pandemic has hit these two counties the hardest: Richland County (913 confirmed cases, 34 deaths); Greenville County (730 confirmed cases, 38 deaths). (See P. 11)



The number of confirmed cases and deaths is growing daily.

#### **York County**

York County had 215 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and three deaths as of May 1.

York County Manager David Hudspeth's description of how the pandemic has affected York County could just as easily describe how it has affected Kershaw, Dorchester and Orangeburg counties and other counties across the state.

"As seen nationwide, the health and safety of York County residents and county first responders have been compromised by the coronavirus pandemic and the disease, COVID-19," Hudspeth



reported. “Our county’s economic well-being and quality of life have been negatively impacted. Our county is home to numerous local businesses and recreational and entertainment facilities unique to our area. Many of these entities have had to temporarily close, cancel events and/or modify their operations.

“However, on a positive note,” he added, “we have an amazing community that has come together in the face of adversity and supported each other and local businesses.”

York County, like all counties, continues to proactively implement preventive measures directed by Gov. McMaster, and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-



***“As seen nationwide, the health and safety of York County residents and county first responders have been compromised by the coronavirus pandemic and the disease, COVID-19.”***

— David Hudspeth  
York County Manager

vention (CDC) and S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

York County Council adopted an emergency ordinance on March 26, allowing county council to modify its ordinary operations related to conducting meetings. It also

adopted a Declaration of Local State of Emergency on April 7, allowing the county manager to take any necessary actions to protect and preserve the general welfare of residents and visitors. The declaration also activates the county’s 2019

Emergency Operations Plan, allowing for emergency procurement of items without having to use the normal procurement process.

*(Continued on next page)*

## S.C. Counties Most Affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic

*As of May 1, 2020*

### Most Coronavirus Cases

- Richland County—913
- Greenville County—730
- Charleston County—452
- Lexington County—370
- Florence County—325
- Beaufort County—269
- Spartanburg County—295
- Kershaw County—237
- Sumter County—230
- Horry County—223
- York County—215
- Clarendon County—214

### Most COVID-19 Deaths

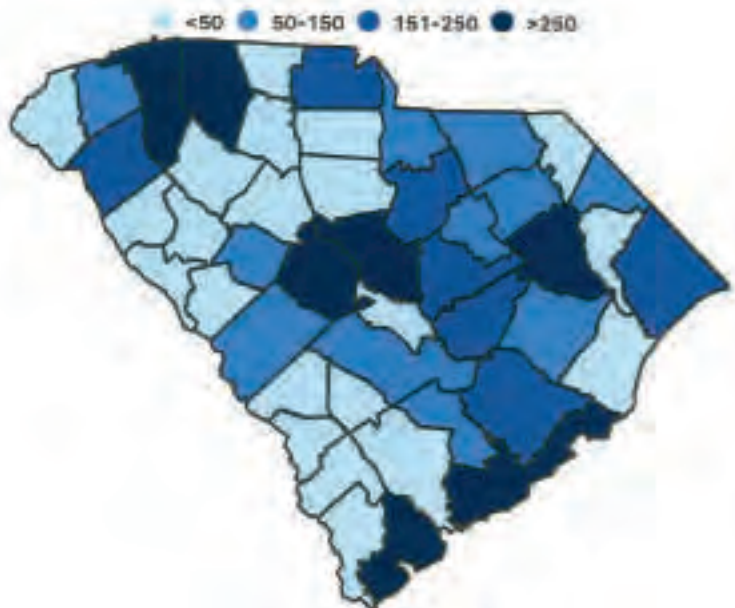
- Greenville County—38
- Richland County—34
- Clarendon County—21
- Horry County—16
- Lexington County—15
- Florence County—15
- Beaufort County—11
- Spartanburg County—11
- Sumter County—11
- Kershaw County—10
- Berkeley County—10

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in South Carolina: 6,258

Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in South Carolina: 256

Data provided by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Center for Disease Control. For up-to-date information on the coronavirus pandemic, visit: [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov) and [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## Coronavirus Cases by County



SCDHEC posts a map like the one shown above on its website that is updated each afternoon. Using your computer’s mouse, you can point to any county to receive figures for confirmed cases of coronavirus and deaths per county due to COVID-19. This map current as of May 1, 2020 *(Illustration courtesy of SCDHEC)*



“Operationally, our county proactively created and implemented a Continuity of Operations Plan that serves as the guiding document for the continuation of operations in our county during the coronavirus pandemic and similar emergencies,” Hudspeth explained. “During this evolving situation, the county is regularly modifying county operations. This includes implementing social distancing measures at local facilities, allowing non-essential county employees

***“In this pandemic, we’ve learned that we can effectively and efficiently deploy technology and other resources to county officials and employees necessary to govern, provide services and continue daily operations if an emergency creates a situation when they’re isolated or cannot work at government facilities.”***

— Chuck Haynes  
York County Emergency  
Management Director

to work remotely, and implementing COVID-19 mitigation efforts at county locations that must remain open like the county’s 16 collection and recycling centers and county landfill.

“York County officials are actively collaborating with representatives of community agencies to plan and implement preventive measures countywide,” he added. “We’re in contact daily with municipalities in the county, local school districts and public safety entities regarding COVID-19 preventive measures. We’re also in contact with our local hospital in Rock Hill, and working with its staff to satisfy their personal protective equipment needs, to help if there is a surge in the need for medical care, and to assist with alternate plans for providing service.”

York County, like other counties, is governing “virtually.”

“Our County Council and boards and commissions are conducting business as well as public hearings via teleconferencing,” Hudspeth said. “Additionally, we’re providing services to county residents while implementing and practicing social distancing. We’re also continuing our day-to-day county operations while most of our county employees work remotely at home.”

Chuck Haynes, York County Emergency Management Director, reported

that the county received essential supplies to protect first responders in a timely manner from the National Guard, and federal, state and third-party vendors.

“In this pandemic,” Haynes said, “we’ve learned that we can effectively and efficiently deploy technology and other resources to county officials and employees necessary to govern, provide services and continue daily operations if an emergency creates a situation when they’re isolated or

cannot work at government facilities.

“During any emergency, this is what residents expect and deserve,” he added. “They need to have confidence that their government will continue to provide essential services and continue to function in a way that maintains their safety and the county’s economic stability.”

York County has created an online COVID-19 Resource Center at [www.yorkcountygov.com/Covid19](http://www.yorkcountygov.com/Covid19).

The information hub keeps local residents updated on the pandemic in real time, provides state and local COVID-19 information and posts details on the county’s modified operations.

#### Kershaw County

Kershaw County had 237 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 10 deaths as of May 1.

“From an organizational level, the coronavirus pandemic has brought home the importance of being prepared for

the unexpected, and the need to have plans in place,” reported Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County Administrator. “These plans must not just be focused on protecting our citizens but also our county employees. It has also taught us



not to underestimate occurrences, like the coronavirus pandemic, happening around the globe. We’ve learned the importance of doing your best to quickly grasp the implications of such distant occurrences and the potential impacts they might have on your community.”

Kershaw County has responded to the pandemic with an “all hands on deck”

mentality, providing a focused effort, according to Carpenter.

“We quickly decided to take the approach that we were going to have to solve this on our own, and not look to nor expect help from others,” he said. “This has resulted in us refining our Continuity of Operations Plan

***“From an organizational level, the coronavirus pandemic has brought home the importance of a being prepared for the unexpected, and the need to have plans in place. ... . It has also taught us not to underestimate occurrences, like the coronavirus pandemic, happening around the globe.”***

— Vic Carpenter  
Kershaw County Administrator

by moving to a three-deep structure. We have further cross-trained individuals to handle other duties not normally in their purview. We have also kept moving, planning and never feeling sorry for ourselves. This has pushed us to think about next steps and future decision points. We have been trying to work on at least a two- to three-week advance window of where we will be then, and what challenges or opportunities will be presenting themselves to us then.”

Carpenter said the biggest lesson he has learned so far is to keep expectations of state and federal government

response to a reasonable level and “not to expect the cavalry to come riding in and rescue you.” He described state and federal responses as “limited and not at the level” he and others had expected, and that the scope of the pandemic appears to have overwhelmed their ability to respond to the crisis in a timely manner.

“We’re the experts on Kershaw County, and we can and will find the answers and solutions to our issues,” he said. “Local problems must be solved by local solutions. It’s also important to show a united front when confronting an emergency like the pandemic. You can’t have different people and organizations all trying to take a separate, individualistic approach. You need to develop a strong system of community messaging. After all, keeping a steady stream of updates and guidance is critical to ensuring your community is comforted. In fact, maintaining a hotline/rumor control is

a vital part of any such effort.”

Gerald Blanchard, Kershaw County EMS Director, said in terms of scope all of the other disasters he has experienced during his career pale in comparison to the current coronavirus pandemic.

“County agencies like EMS and fire are used to responding to defined incidents, incidents with a beginning and

---

***“County agencies like EMS and Fire are used to responding to defined incidents, incidents with a beginning and an end, and to a large degree borders. This disaster is ongoing with no end in sight. It has no borders, and the playbook that we normally use to govern our response is not in play.”***

---

— Gerald Blanchard  
Kershaw County EMS Director

an end, and to a large degree borders,” Blanchard explained. “This disaster is ongoing with no end in sight. It has no borders, and the playbook that we normally use to govern our response is not in play. For example, when we found that the state and federal response was limited, and honestly, not as timely as we had expected, we elected to quickly find local solutions to solve local problems.”

Blanchard, like Kershaw County Administrator Vic Carpenter, said one of the biggest lessons he has learned is not to underestimate occurrences happening around the globe. Perhaps nothing better demonstrates the value of that lesson than the incredible luck Kershaw County officials had earlier in the coronavirus pandemic when they participated in the Midlands Healthcare Coalition in February.

“We happened to be at that meeting when John Williams with the South Car-  
(Continued on next page)



Tension began surfacing in April between people who wanted to return to work and normality, and those who believed reopening too soon could lead to a resurgence of the coronavirus. Shown above, about a hundred people protest in front of the State House on April 24. Many other protestors drive down Main Street toward the State House to protest as well. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)



olina Hospital Association gave a quick update on supply issues that were coming out of China,” Blanchard recalled. “We listened to what was going on thousands of miles away on the other side of the globe and that afternoon began to bolster our PPE and other medical supplies in preparation. It’s a small world!”

Both Blanchard and Carpenter said it is important to trust your team when responding to a disaster. They also said it was important to listen to your team, to take their needs and concerns seriously, and to teach your team to embrace challenge.

“Have a plan and act fast,” Blanchard emphasized. “Failing to prepare two weeks in advance and to take action can have devastating consequences. If you slip, reassess and move. From day one of this pandemic, I told my command staff that they only had so many opportunities to lead a team during a crisis, and to bear down and embrace the pandemic we’re facing.”

### Dorchester County

Dorchester County had 103 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and three deaths as of May 1.

County Council declared a state of emergency in the county through April 30 as the pandemic began spreading



across South Carolina. The county also closed county buildings on March 17 to prevent large groups from congregating and spreading the virus.

“The coronavirus pandemic has affected Dorchester County in many ways,” reported Jason Ward, Dorchester County Administrator. “Many families are struggling to make a living while securing childcare and making sure that their children keep up with their school assignments. Many businesses are closed,

and many residents have been laid off and furloughed. Our senior centers have been closed to protect one of our most vulnerable populations. Instead of providing congregate meals at the senior centers, our centers and volunteers from Meals on Wheels are delivering meals to the seniors’ homes.”

Most county services are being provided online whenever possible. The county has also waived convenience fees that citizens and businesses usually pay for online services.

“Employees designated as emergency service personnel are reporting to work as scheduled,” Ward said. “We’ve instructed all other county employees to stay at home where they can telework and telecommunicate unless called upon by a supervisor to perform an emergency assignment. We’ve permitted employees to flex work and work alternating schedules. We’ve also changed dispatch protocols to screen individuals for the virus and anyone who is exposed to someone who has the virus.”

Dorchester County has formed a COVID-19 Coordination Group that includes EMD, EMS, Fire Rescue, Sheriff’s Office, County Attorney, Human Resources, PIO and county administration. All members of this group, required to meet virtually on Mondays and Fridays, strive to tackle issues unique to the coronavirus pandemic.

To practice social distancing, the county is operating as a Virtual Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is holding virtual meetings to communicate with all county department heads, and elected and appointed county officials.

The county’s public information officer has turned the home page on the county’s website into an Online Newsroom to provide up-to-date information related to COVID-19. Flyers and public service announcements have been produced, and social media is being used to

alert local residents and business owners to keep them informed on the pandemic.

“We have reached out to businesses covered by the Governor’s orders to educate them on the orders, and in some cases taken enforcement action when a few businesses didn’t comply,” Ward said. “Our county’s Economic Development Office held a conference call with local business owners to provide information, listen to their concerns and answer their questions.

“On April 8, we held an Emergency Council Meeting, comprised of our

***“We’ve closed County Council meetings to the public, but we’re live-streaming the meetings on YouTube. We’ve also created an e-form allowing anyone to address County Council that we made available on April 20.”***

— Jason Ward  
Dorchester County Administrator

County Council Chairman, County Administrator, mayors of municipalities in our county, and emergency management personnel,” he added. “We’ve closed County Council meetings to the public, but we’re live-stream-

ing the meetings on YouTube. We’ve also created an e-form allowing anyone to address County Council that we made available on April 20.”

Ward detailed and assessed the assistance Dorchester County has received, as follows:

- The federal government has been helpful as far as passing the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which provides leave to employees infected by COVID-19, employees caring for a family member infected by the virus, or taking care of school-aged children because daycare centers and K-12 schools are closed.
- The county received a shipment of supplies from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) that has helped the county protect first responders in EMS and fire rescue so they can respond to medical calls.
- FEMA’s Fact Sheet for Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic Eligible Emergency Protective Measures has helped the county better understand what costs related to the pandemic can be reimbursed.



- The Small Business Administration has helped by providing low-interest loans to help keep small businesses afloat.
- SCDHEC has been helpful, but could be more forthcoming by sharing information with first responders when someone in the county has tested positive for COVID-19.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), SCDHEC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have provided a wealth of information on the disease, how to protect local residents, county employees and especially first responders.
- Telehealth screening and in-person testing programs have helped streamline the testing process to help someone identify if they have been infected by the virus.
- Daily calls with the SCEMD have helped the county achieve and maintain situational awareness and pointed out resources that have proved to be valuable.

Ward said one of the lessons he has learned due to the coronavirus is the importance of having a “rainy day fund” or an emergency fund so you’ll have the resources to continue operating, to carry out your core missions as a local government, and to provide the essential services that residents and local businesses depend on daily. He also said to maintain order it is also important to continue providing: 24/7 public safety, first responder and dispatch operations; court bond hearings; water and sewer operations; Public Works Solid Waste Convenience Centers; and Animal Control for dangerous animals.

Mario Formisano, Dorchester County Emergency Management Director, said the county’s EMD is focused on supporting county and municipal leaders and providing support functions by providing timely, accurate information to guide their decision-making and actions.

He also said the pandemic has highlighted the importance of local continuity of operations planning, the pre-designation of emergency duties, defining essential versus non-essential

*(Continued on next page)*

## ***Tornadoes Land Counties a Second Blow***

Storms and tornadoes swept through South Carolina on April 13, landing the second blow of a one-two punch to counties already dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. At least nine people were killed, and many homes and businesses were destroyed or severely damaged. Most counties across the state sustained some damage, but counties hit hardest were: Aiken, Berkeley, Colleton, Hampton, Oconee, Orangeburg and Pickens.

### **Orangeburg County**

Three tornadoes touched down in Orangeburg County, killing two people, destroying at least 14 homes and severely damaging seven others. When interviewed, the county’s CAO and risk manager both emphasized the importance of being prepared.

Orangeburg County had prepared early for the coronavirus pandemic and the COVID-19 disease by purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) weeks before the first case was confirmed in the state,” according to Todd Williams, Orangeburg County Risk Manager. While preparing for the pandemic, the county also received a grant to modernize its mobile unit for county council.

The timing was perfect.

Todd said council members and staff worked with 17 mayors in the county to prepare for the recent storms that brought the tornadoes. Residents were quickly alerted through social media, robocalls and the media. As soon as the storms and tornadoes passed, council members and staff were in the

field assessing the damage and assisting residents either virtually via the county’s newly-modernized mobile unit or in person. County staff members distributed additional PPEs to first responders treating injured residents, and county staff members using chainsaws to rescue others.

“Our county’s greatest asset is our well-trained staff,” said Harold Young, Orangeburg County Administrator, when asked to explain his county’s response to the unexpected storms, including the tornadoes. “From bloodborne pathogen training to other risk management principles, our staff was able to quickly and safely rescue our residents

and efficiently sanitize our ambulances after the tornadoes to transport COVID-19 positive patients who needed medical care.”

Young credited county council members and county officials from other

counties who provided assistance immediately following the tornadoes.

“I commend county council for its leadership and willingness to spend \$50,000 or more to purchase PPEs early before we knew if the costs would be reimbursable,”

he said. “Our council understands that our staff is the first line of defense, and that we must stay safe in order to serve as first responders and help our citizens.

“Our county is grateful for the resources and assistance Lexington and Bamberg counties provided immediately after the storms,” Young added. “The collaboration and support of other counties shows the strength of our communities and our state.”



***“Our county’s greatest asset is our well-trained staff. ... our staff was able to quickly and safely rescue our residents and efficiently sanitize our ambulances after the tornadoes to transport COVID-19 positive patients who needed medical care.***

— Harold Young  
Orangeburg County Administrator



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employees, and having emergency procedures and policies part of human resources' plan to define how employees will be compensated during emergency operations and long-term closures.

***"It has been a very unconventional response mission because our county's EOC is operating virtually. The challenges created by a public health emergency, like the current pandemic, and a natural disaster are very different."***

— Mario Formisano  
Dorchester County Emergency  
Management Director

"It has been a very unconventional response mission because our county's EOC is operating virtually," Formisano explained. "The challenges created by a public health emergency, like the cur-

rent pandemic, and a natural disaster are very different—from the chain of command to authorities, and limitations. We are accustomed to rapidly obtaining information and data to aid decision-making and actions, but a public health emergency like this one creates unique challenges that we're having to adapt to.

"Fortunately, Dorchester County has always had a great working relationship with the SCEMD and National Guard," he added. "SCEMD has really championed much of the coordination with locals since the start of this event, just as they've done with other large scale emergencies/disasters."



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# Counties Use Technology to Conduct Virtual Meetings During Coronavirus Pandemic

By M. Kent Lesesne  
SCAC Director of Governmental Affairs

**A**s we continue to work in an environment of social distancing and other measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), county government has had to find creative ways to remain open and function due to the essential services it provides. One of the ways counties can continue to conduct its monthly and other necessary meetings is by using technology to conduct virtual meetings. However, does the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which lays out statutory requirements for public meetings, allow counties to conduct virtual meetings? The answer is yes.

Section 30-4-20(d) of FOIA defines meeting as “the convening of a quorum of the constituent membership of a public body, whether corporal or by means of electronic equipment, to discuss or act upon a matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power.” A council meeting could be conducted via conference call as long the meeting is properly noticed with an agenda, and the public has the ability to dial in to the conference call, listen, and make comments if there is a designated time during the meeting for public comment. Minutes of the meeting must also be recorded. There are some Attorney General (AG) opinions that provide guidance on conducting meet-



ings via telephone. In a 2005 opinion, a city council inquired as to whether or not their ordinance regarding meeting attendance via telephone complied with FOIA if their ordinance contained the following provisions:

- a. A quorum of the council members are physically present at the meeting place, and remain physically present throughout the meeting; and
- b. The member(s) attending by teleconference can hear any and all comments made by the public, staff, and other council members (whether attending in person or telephonically), at such meeting.
- c. Each of the members of public, staff, and other council members (whether attending in person or telephonically) can hear the comments, motions and vote(s) of the member(s) attending such meeting telephonically.
- d. The individual presiding over the meeting is physically present during the meeting.
- e. Other than establishing the telephone connections, there shall be no communications between the member(s) attending by telephone and other members of council, unless such communication is part of

the meeting, and can be heard by members of the public in attendance.

- f. All of the comments, motions, and votes of the member(s) attending telephonically must be capable of being recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The AG opined that “the procedure outlined above for telephonic meetings by the city council would comply with FOIA.” Op. S.C. Att’y Gen., 2005 WL 2250207 (August 25, 2005) (It should also be noted that the AG indicated that, based on the provisions in FOIA, it was not necessary for the city to have an ordinance governing meeting attendance via telephone). In another AG opinion, the

AG opines that pursuant to § 30-4-20(d), a board member of a public body may attend a meeting of that body via phone, and be counted as part of the quorum and vote on matters at the meeting. Op. S.C. Att’y Gen., 2012 WL 3875118 (Aug. 28, 2012).

A meeting can also be streamed live by video, or through the use of some of the other digital platforms such as GoToMeeting, Zoom or Skype, to name a few. Here are some suggestions on how to conduct virtual meetings:

1. Conduct a council meeting by telephone conference with public access to the conference call. Council members should identify themselves each time they speak during the meeting.

All voting shall be done by roll call voting or in some manner that allows the votes of each council member to be recorded into the minutes. If individual council members will be attending the meeting via telephone, the chair needs to identify the members at the beginning of the meeting attending by telephone.

2. Stream a meeting where only council members and/or necessary staff are physically present. The public can stream and e-mail or mail in questions or comments for the public comment period. Another option is to let the public listen to the meeting by dialing into a conference call

*(Continued on next page)*

## Examples of County Virtual Meetings

*Below is a summary of how four counties are handling council meetings during the coronavirus pandemic. The information provides a snapshot of how counties across the state are accommodating meetings during these challenging times. Although this period has created a technology learning curve for many, county councils are answering the call.*

**Abbeville County** is using GoToMeetings for council and staff meetings.

The county’s Planning Commission and Voter Registration and Elections Board are also using this platform. Members of the public and media are given information on how to join the meeting in “listen-only mode” and can provide comments via e-mail, fax, or mail by noon of the day of the meeting. All county department heads, municipal leaders, and the county’s pandemic response team meet virtually to discuss the current state of the pandemic and any requests or unmet needs for county emergency management staff to address.

“The media have highly praised our county for using virtual meetings to provide transparency and expand public involvement, particularly during a time when public interest is so high, yet difficult to engage due to the circumstances.” David Garner, Abbeville County Director.

**Georgetown County** is using GoToMeetings and Facebook Live for council meetings and for the county’s Capital Project Sales Tax Commission meetings.

Council meetings are now also broadcast on local cable. Citizens and the media can attend the meetings virtually in listen-only mode. The county suspended its public comment period prior to all council meetings as part of its state of emergency ordinance in March. If a public hearing is required during this period, the county will provide a phone

number for residents to use to record comments as well as a video station at the entrance of the courthouse. The county’s virtual meetings have been very well attended, but broadband access is an issue in rural parts of the county.

“Media and the public were very forgiving of our few early technological difficulties as we adapted to virtual meetings,” said Jackie Broach, Georgetown County Public Information Officer. “They appreciated and still do appreciate that we are trying our best to keep meetings open and accessible during these strange and trying times.”

**Williamsburg County** uses Facebook Live to stream council meetings. Dr. Tiffany Wright, Williamsburg County Supervisor, describes the benefits of virtual council meetings as preventing exposures to citizens and members of the media as they stay abreast of the COVID-19 pandemic in the county. The county faces two challenges for ensuring accessibility for all citizens: the lack of broadband connectivity throughout the county, and the inability to broadcast council meetings on a local cable channel. Citizens have responded very positively to the new format noting it affords them the opportunity to participate in the live meeting, and they can view recorded meetings at times that are convenient for them.

**York County** broadcasts its council meetings live via the county’s website and YouTube while providing for the public to attend virtually and provide comments online through Zoom or by phone. The county uses a moderator during virtual public hearings to assist council and the public. The public may call the county’s helpdesk for assistance. The county expects several boards and commissions to meet virtually using Zoom in May to conduct their meetings and to provide access for the public to attend and participate.

# SCAC Announces New Category for Annual Awards Program



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To learn more about this year's program including changes to the competition, please visit the online Awards Toolkit at [www.sccounties.org/awards/awards-toolkit-2020](http://www.sccounties.org/awards/awards-toolkit-2020).

and comment during the public comment period, or they can e-mail questions or comments to council if a period for public comment is provided for during the meeting.

While the provisions of the law dealing with public hearings (§ 4-9-130 and § 6-1-80) are silent as to whether or not a public hearing could be conducted by virtual means, SCAC is of the opinion that they can as long as the meeting is properly noticed and the public has access to participate in the virtual meeting as outlined above.

A virtual meeting has to meet all of the other FOIA requirements, namely posting an agenda at least 24 hours before the meeting, and recording the minutes of the meeting. The agenda should also give the public notice as to how the meeting will be conducted along with any necessary instructions. While each county may have different electronic resources, SCAC is available to work with each county and their attorney to develop a system that allows them to conduct their normal business and comply with FOIA during these challenging times.







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# Federal Government Passes Relief Packages in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

By Owen A. McBride

SCAC Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs

**T**he federal government has passed several relief packages since March in response to COVID-19 to provide financial assistance to hospitals, state and local governments, small businesses, and individuals.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) was the second relief bill and was signed into law by the President on March 18, 2020. The first part of the FFCRA amends the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to establish a federal emergency job-protected paid leave benefits program for employees taking unpaid leave due to their engagement in caregiving due to a COVID-19-related school closing or closing of other care facility or care program for a child who is under 18. The new FMLA program applies to all local governments but allows employers of healthcare providers and emergency responders to elect to be exempt. The second part of the FFCRA requires employers to provide to each employee Emergency Paid Sick Leave to the extent that an employee is unable to work (or telework) because of qualifying reasons due to COVID-19. This section also applies to all local governments. The third part of the FFCRA provides for a refundable tax credit to employers but the credit does not apply to state and local employers.

The third relief bill, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The Act provides \$2

trillion toward coronavirus relief efforts, including \$150 billion in aid directly from the U.S. Treasury to states, tribal governments, territories, and local governments with populations of more than



500,000 people. Local governments with populations under 500,000 are eligible for a portion of the funds sent to their state based on their population. Counties are restricted in their use of these funds for only necessary COVID-19-related expenditures incurred through the end of the 2020 that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020. The Act also includes, among other things: \$45 billion for a FEMA Disaster Relief Fund to provide relief to states and local governments; \$400 million in election assistance to help prepare for the 2020 election cycle; \$500 billion to create an Economic Stabilization Fund that authorizes the U.S. Treasury to purchase obligations of states and local governments and allows for the Federal Reserve to directly participate in the municipal bond market to energize the flow of bonds and help decrease

borrowing by local governments; \$350 billion in loans and grants through the Small Business Administration; \$100 billion in funding for local hospitals; a delay in cuts to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital payments until FY 2021; an expansion of unemployment benefits; and direct financial assistance payments to qualifying individuals.

In late April, Congress passed a fourth coronavirus relief bill, the Paycheck Protection and Healthcare Enhancement Act. The bill contains more than \$484 billion in funding. This includes more than \$310 billion toward the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) aimed at helping small businesses, \$60 billion for economic disaster loans and grants to small businesses, \$75 billion for hospitals, and \$25 billion for coronavirus testing. The Act requires states and local governments to report how resources will be used for testing and COVID-19 mitigation policies. Congressional leadership has stated that a fifth relief package likely will not happen until Congress returns to Washington D.C. on May 4th. SCAC is hopeful that Congress will provide funding to state and local governments in a future package. Unless addressed in future legislation, all aid sent to state and local governments may only be used for coronavirus-related expenditures not already budgeted for and must be documented.





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# Detention Center Coronavirus (COVID-19) Challenges

*By Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS  
SCAC Director of Risk Management Services*

**D**etention center officers have one of the most difficult and least understood jobs in the world. Maintaining the safety and security of the staff, the inmates, and the facility is challenging during normal times. It becomes even more difficult when trying to meet the increased demands presented by COVID-19.

Our detention centers and their staffs have stepped up during these challenging times and have implemented several best practices to help mitigate the exposures impacting their staffs and the inmates. Some of these practices include:

1. Educating employees and inmates to recognize symptoms of COVID-19 and providing guidance on what to do if they develop symptoms.
2. Checking the temperatures of all staff and incoming inmates on a daily basis if possible.
3. Isolating inmates showing signs of infection and monitoring them for 14 days.
4. Isolating suspects brought into the facility in a separate housing area for 14 days prior to being housed with the general population if possible.
5. Enhancing their screening questions at booking to help identify high risk suspects by asking:
  - a. Have you been tested for COVID-19?
  - b. Have you had a fever in the last month?
  - c. Have you been coughing or felt a shortness of breath in the last month?
  - d. Have you had close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
  - e. Do you have a chronic medical condition?
  - f. Have you traveled internationally or on a cruise ship during the last month?
6. Providing surgical masks to any person exhibiting respiratory symptoms and contacting medical personnel for guidance.
7. Providing hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and soap to staff and encouraging frequent hand washing throughout the day.
8. Providing soap to inmates and encouraging frequent hand washing.
9. Cleaning and disinfecting all housing units and common areas on a daily basis.
10. Maintaining a distance of six feet from other persons if possible.
11. Staggering their shifts to limit the number of officers present at one location.
12. Suspending visitations, meetings, programs, haircuts, recreation, movements, and other activities that involve close one-on-one contact.
13. Increasing the use of video hearings and telemedicine options.
14. Encouraging law enforcement officers to issue summons to appear instead of bringing non-violent offenders to the detention centers.
15. Working with the solicitors and judges on releasing non-violent inmates on bond or using electronic monitoring.
16. Suspending the service of bench





warrants for family court and non-violent offenses.

Another challenge presented by COVID-19 is the increased need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the detention center. SCAC recently surveyed detention centers throughout South Carolina and asked them to identify their PPE needs, and the challenges that they are facing in dealing with COVID-19.

The most commonly identified PPE needs were: surgical masks, N95 Respirator Masks, face shields, safety goggles, gloves, gowns/coveralls, Tyvek Suits, booties, non-touch thermometers, HEPA-AIRE Negative Air Machines, Bio-Hazard Bags, hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, disinfectant cleaner, and disinfectant wipes.

In addition, many facilities identified operational issues that they had never experienced before. One critical issue was the lack of negative pressure cells. These cells are used to house inmates with contagious diseases such as TB or COVID-19. The ventilation system in

these cells creates negative pressure to allow air to flow into the room and then out of the facility. Exhausting the air out of the facility helps mitigate the risk of exposing officers and inmates to the contagions.

Since many of South Carolina facilities were not built with negative pressure cells, they had to find other solutions. One solution to this dilemma was to purchase a device that can be placed into an existing cell that draws in the air and runs it through a HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filter to capture the contagions. The Abatement Technologies HEPA-AIRE Negative Air Machine Model H2KM 10A is one such device being used by the Lexington County Detention Center to increase their capacity to isolate potentially infectious inmates. Several other facilities have now purchased these devices to meet their needs.

As we move forward, these frontline warriors will continue to learn and adapt to the challenging environment created by COVID-19. Through the hard work and dedication of officers across South

Carolina we have seen very few COVID-19 cases in our detention facilities so far. By implementing best practices, coordinating with all the entities involved in the criminal justice system, and working together, hopefully this trend will continue.

The next challenge in this recovery process will be to replenish the PPE stockpiles and adapt new procedures for the future. Please keep these frontline warriors in your thoughts and prayers!



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# State Training Requirements for Planning and Zoning Officials, and Employees Eased During COVID-19 Pandemic

**L**ocal government planning and zoning officials and employees are required to receive six hours of orientation training within 180 days prior to and no later than 365 days after initial appointment or employment. These individuals are also required to take three hours of continuing education each year thereafter (*See Section 6-29-1340 for more detailed information*). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the South Carolina Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCPEAC) has announced changes to the training requirements.

## Orientation Training

Both the S.C. Association of Counties (SCAC) and the Municipal Association of S.C. (MASC) have committed to offer an online orientation program that will allow individuals to take the six-hour training remotely, while ensuring that the individual engages in the training. SCAC is currently developing its pro-

gram and will launch the training modules later this year. MASC announced its on-demand orientation training program

jurisdiction. The SCPEAC cautions that training lacking such safeguards could be subject to challenge.



SCAC is pleased to announce it will host two planning and zoning continuing education webinars in June. See the schedule below. Each webinar will be one-and-a-half hours in length. Participants will receive a completion certificate from the Association. More information regarding the webinars will be sent to plan-

ning and zoning staff to share with board and commission members.

ning and zoning staff to share with board and commission members.

## Continuing Education

**The requirements that continuing education training be conducted in a classroom or group setting and in the presence of a coordinator are waived through June 30, 2020.** The SCPEAC strongly recommends planning and zoning officials and employees participate in training where attendance can be tracked and confirmed by the provider or

Tuesday, June 9, 2–3:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meetings and Online Services

Thursday, June 18, 10–11:30 a.m.  
S.C. Growth  
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For questions regarding planning and zoning training requirements or resources, please contact Ryan Tooley



with SCAC at (803) 252-7255, ext. 335 or via email at [rtooley@scac.sc](mailto:rtooley@scac.sc).

#### Resources

- Additional information regarding the training requirements, including FAQs and SCAC's on-demand training can be accessed at: <https://www.sccounties.org/planning-and-zoning-education>.
- For more information regarding MASC's online orientation training visit: <https://www.masc.sc/Pages/programs/knowledge/training/Online-orientation-training-for-planning-and-zoning-officials.aspx>.
- SCPEAC's approved training Sponsors can be found at: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/SCPEAC/ApprovedSponsorsContEd.htm>.



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To learn more about this year's program including changes to the competition, please visit the online Awards Toolkit at [www.sccounties.org/awards/awards-toolkit-2020](https://www.sccounties.org/awards/awards-toolkit-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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[SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org)

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# SCCOUNTIES.ORG

*S.C. ASSOCIATION  
OF COUNTIES*



SCCounties.org is the primary resource for information about South Carolina's counties and issues affecting county government.

Visitors to the site will find conference schedules, legislative initiatives, and numerous Association publications, including the *Friday Report* and *Legislative Alerts*.



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*Clarendon County  
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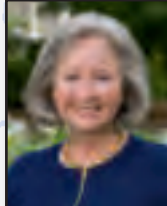
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**SOUTH CAROLINA  
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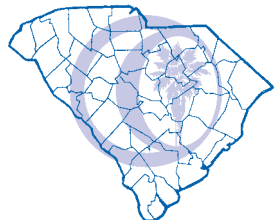


**Robert Winkler**  
*York County  
Council Member*



## 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.



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

## 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.

**Advocacy. Education. Collaboration.**

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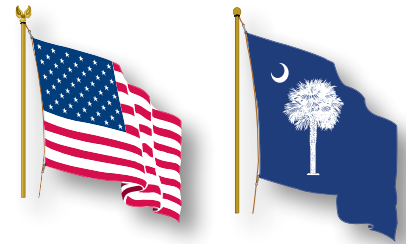
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# SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



## *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**



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Calhoun County  
Council Chairman



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



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

# Insurance Trusts Hold Annual Membership Meeting

*John D. Henderson*  
*SCAC Director of Insurance Services*

**The South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust and the South Carolina Counties Property & Liability Trust** held the annual Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting on January 29th and 30th in Myrtle Beach.

The purpose of the meeting, which was attended by 96 county officials, was to promote risk management education and brief members on the Insurance Trusts. Attendees heard from several speakers on a variety of risk management topics. John

Henderson, SCAC Director of Insurance Services, welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for their dedicated support for their county's risk management program. He also congratulated members of the South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust for achieving an average experience modification factor of .96. Experience modifiers below 1.00 result in premium contribution credits that save members money.

*(Continued on P. 45)*



Insurance Trusts Annual Membership Meeting, Marriott Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach, Jan. 29



**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**  
**Timothy C. Winslow**  
*Executive Director, SCAC*



# ***Insurance Staff Members Discuss Risk Management Issues***



*Covering South Carolina's Counties since 1995*



*Covering South Carolina's Counties since 1984*



**Lang C. Kelly, ARM, AIC**  
*Claims Manager*  
SCCWCT



**John D. Henderson, ARM, ALCM**  
*Director of Insurance Services*



**Pam N. Selkinghaus, ARM**  
*Insurance Trusts' Program Coordinator*



**Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS**  
*Director of Risk Management Services*



**Van Henson, CPM**  
*Risk Manager*



## Roundtable Discussion Allows Panelists to Answer Broad Range of Topics Related to Risk Management



A roundtable discussion, held on January 29, permitted conference attendees to ask questions on a broad range of topics related to risk management. Participating on the roundtable panel were: (left to right) Ed Pratt, Midlands Management; Rachel P. Stephenson, SCCWCT Claims Supervisor; Mark A. McKinney, SCCP&LT Claims Manager; and Daniel Plyler, Smith/Robinson.

### *Speakers Talk About Risk Management and How Social Media Can Help*



Ed Pratt, Director of Risk Management for Midlands Management, explains the importance of accident prevention and how accident prevention begins with employers and their employees.

Stephen Roper of Digi Stream Investigations explained how Social Media can provide useful intelligence when investigating Workers' Compensation claims as well as vehicle and general liability claims.



*Photos by  
Stuart Morgan*

### **County CAOs Explain How Strong Risk Management Programs Have Benefitted Their Counties**



**Steve Willis**  
*Lancaster County Administrator*



**Vic Carpenter**  
*Kershaw County Administrator*

# ***County Officials Participate, Asking Questions and Explaining What Works in Their Counties***



*Covering South Carolina's Counties since 1995*



*Covering South Carolina's Counties since 1984*

**Bidd Smith, Berkeley County Safety Specialist**



**SCAC Staff Member Van Henson holds the microphone for Captain Bobbi Delp, Horry County Safety Officer, Fire Rescue, to make an announcement.**





**Shelly Moore, Horry County Assistant Risk Manager**



**Rose N. Dobson-Elliott, Hampton County Administrator**



**Michael E. Hayes, Pickens County Risk Manager**



**Jerry Crolley, Berkeley County Safety Specialist**



**Barbara B. Clark, Jasper County Council Vice Chairwoman**



**J. Ryan Whitaker, Lancaster County Risk Manager**



# 2019 Risk Management Award Winners

## **Laurens County Fire Service**

Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

## **Kershaw County**

Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Service Award—Barry Catoe, Kershaw County Risk Manager

## **Saluda County**

Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

## **Horry County**

Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award

## **Richland County**

Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

## **Berkeley County**

Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award

## **Lexington County**

Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

## **Lancaster County**

Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award

2nd Place – Workers' Compensation Claims

Reporting Lag Time Award (tie)

## **Horry County Solid Waste Authority**

Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award

## **Spartanburg County**

Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award

Service Award – Terry Booker, Spartanburg County Risk Manager

3rd Place – Workers' Compensation Claims

Reporting Lag Time Award

2nd Place Workers' Experience Modification Factor Award

## **Anderson County**

2nd Place – Workers' Compensation Claims

Reporting Lag Time Award (tie)

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

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

**Abbeville County**  
Lowest Workers' Compensation  
Experience Modification Factor Award

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***County Officials Describe Their County's Award-Winning  
Efforts Before Receiving Awards***

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Greg Lindley, Laurens County Fire Services Director



Barry Catoe, Kershaw County Risk Manager



Captain Bobbi Delp, Safety Officer, Horry County Fire Rescue



Jerry Crolley, Berkeley County Safety Specialist



Terry Booker, Spartanburg County Risk Manager



Brittney Terry, Richland County Director of Risk Management



# Risk Management Award Winners for 2019



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Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award (SCCWCT) for the Laurens County Fire Service is Greg Lindley, Director of the Laurens County Fire Service.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award (SCCWCT) for Saluda County is Hardee Horne, Saluda County Risk Manager.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for Kershaw County and a Service Award (SCCWCT) for himself is Barry Catoe, Kershaw County Risk Manager.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award and a Sustained Excellence Award (SCCWCT) for Horry County are (left to right): Allison Mackey, Workers' Compensation Claims Manager; Shelly Moore, Assistant Risk Manager; Captain Bobbi Delp, Safety Officer, Fire Rescue; for Fire Rescue; Doug Cline, Assistant Chief, Fire Rescue; Debra Mumford, Risk Manager; and Tara Strickland, Claims and Safety Coordinator.





Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award (SCCWCT) for Richland County are (left to right): Bhanu Korremula, Richland County IT; Alvaro Lambertis, Loss Control Coordinator for Risk Management; Jalisha Nelson, Claims Coordinator for Risk Management; Leonardo Brown, County Administrator; Brittney Terry, Director of Risk Management; Christa Sheehan, Risk Management Claims Manager; Matthew Drawdy, Risk Management Safety Manager; Carolyn Yon, IT ; and T.J. Danley, Risk Management Safety Compliance Officer.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award (SCCWCT) for Lexington County is Ed Salzer, Risk Manager.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Award and Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award for Berkeley County are (left to right): Bidd Smith, Safety Specialist, and Jerry Crolley, Safety Superintendent.



Accepting a Sustained Excellence Award (SCCWCT) for Lancaster County is Ryan Whitaker, Risk Manager. He later accepted a Workers' Compensation Lag Time Award for Lancaster County, which tied with Anderson County for the award.



Accepting an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award for the Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) is Nannette Powell, Human Resource Manager/Risk Manager for the Horry County SWA.



Accepting a First Runner Up Best Experience Modifier (SCCWCT) for Greenwood County is Anita Baylor, Risk Manager.



Accepting a Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award for Spartanburg County and a Service Award (SCCWCT) for himself is Terry Booker. He later accepted an Outstanding Safety Achievement Award, Third Place Prompt Reporting Award and Second Runner Up Best Experience Modifier Award (SCCWCT) for Spartanburg County.



Accepting a Second Place Prompt Reporting Award (SCCWCT) for Anderson County is Debra Mumford, Assistant Risk Manager. Anderson County tied with Lancaster County for the award.



## Annual Trusts Meeting ...

(Continued from P. 35)

The meeting continued with Steve Willis, Lancaster County Administrator, and Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County Administrator, speaking to attendees about the value of having a strong risk management program for counties. Both administrators acknowledged that their counties have benefitted significantly from their investment in risk management activities.

Next, Ed Pratt, Director of Risk Management for Midlands Management, gave an insightful presentation into how employers can successfully manage their risk. Pratt defined accidents as unplanned events that can result in injuries and property damage. He advised the group that "accidents never just happen." Unsafe acts account for roughly 80 percent of accidents and unsafe conditions result in about 20 percent of accidents. Accident prevention begins with managers and their employees seeing unsafe acts and conditions. After unsafe acts and conditions are observed action must be taken to stop unsafe acts and remove unsafe conditions. It is far better to take preventive measures before accidents occur. Effective accident investigations must take place if accidents do occur so that corrective action can be taken to prevent similar accidents in the future.

A roundtable discussion followed that allowed attendees to ask questions on multiple topics of concern for risk managers. Participating on the roundtable panel were: Rachel Stephenson, SCCWCT Claims Supervisor, and Mark McKinney, SCCP&LT Claims Manager; Ed Pratt, Midlands Management; and Daniel Plyler, Smith/Robinson. A topic that received significant attention was the proper handling bloodborne pathogen exposure incidents. From the discussion it became clear that many county's understanding of post-exposure protocols was not in sync with the Centers for Disease Control guidelines. SCAC risk managers are available to work with Trust members to improve their Exposure Control Plans.

Day two began with an interesting presentation on Social Media Exposures by Stephen Roper of Digi Stream Investigations. Roper is a licensed private investigator who has completed more than 1,000 digital investigations. He defined and explained the uses of social media intelligence. Social media intelligence is an intelligence gathering technique that uses specialized tools for monitoring social media. A great deal of information can be gathered and analyzed that is normally hidden in social media networks. Information gathered can be critical in the investigation of workers' compensation claims as well as auto liability and general liability claims.

Robert Benfield, SCAC Director of Risk Management Services, and Van Henson, SCAC Risk Manager, gave a presentation on new risk management training topics and upcoming activities.

The final segment was the presentation of risk management awards.

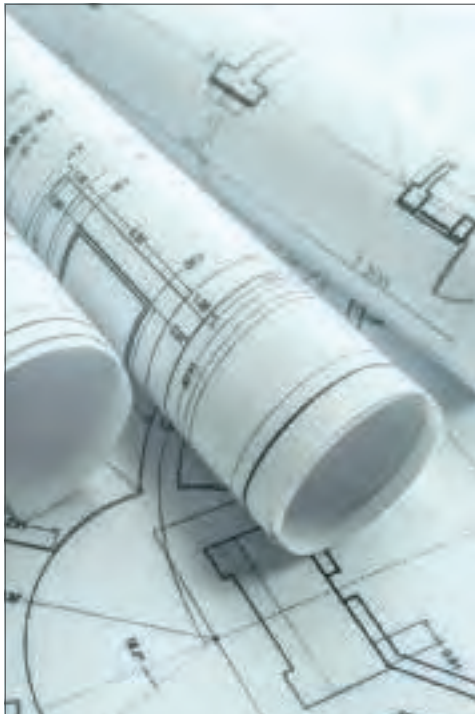


Accepting a First Place Prompt Reporting Award (SCCWCT) for McCormick County is Crystal Barnes, Assistant to Administrator/Clerk to Council.



Accepting a Best Experience Modifier Award (SCCWCT) for Abbeville County is Barry Devore, Abbeville County Finance Director/Risk Manager.





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# SCAC Offers Online Institute Course, County Government II

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

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

The course covers:

- **County Services**—This section is an overview of the history of county services to modern day ones. Includes required services, the legal context of providing services, and delivery options.
- **Funding Services**—This section explains some of the traditional and newer revenue sources counties can utilize to fund services, such as various taxes and alternative revenue sources.
- **County Budgets**—In this section, a typical county budget cycle process is examined. This includes requirements and some best practices.
- **Intergovernmental Relations**—Participants will explore how counties interact with other government entities in this section.



- **Legislative Process**—This section covers the legislative process of the S.C. General Assembly and formulation of SCAC's policy positions.
- **Ethics**—Ethical requirements and expectations for county officials and employees are discussed in this section. The S.C. Ethics Reform Act of 1991 and Ethics Commission are also briefly explained.
- **County Boards & Commissions**—This section provides a glimpse of the roles and responsibilities of county boards and commissions. Information includes their formation, recruiting and appointing members, and their roles and responsibilities.
- **Planning and Zoning**—This final section gives an overview of planning and zoning, such as training requirements, purpose, and operations.

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

To access the course, you can use your Member Portal credentials that you use to register for events and other

training opportunities. If you do not have an account, you can create one at: <https://sccounties.site-ym.com/>.

SCAC already offers Orientation to County Government I for free to county officials, which can be accessed from the Education and Training page here: <https://www.sccounties.org/education-and-training>. For additional information, visit SCAC's website at [SCCounties.org](https://SCCounties.org), or contact Ryan Tooley at [rtooley@scac.sc](mailto:rtooley@scac.sc).



# Identify These Courthouses Contest

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

In the first “Identify These Courthouses Contest,” launched in the previous issue of *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 30, No. 4), photos showed features of courthouses in Barnwell, Dillon and Union counties (see bottom of page). But no one won the first contest.

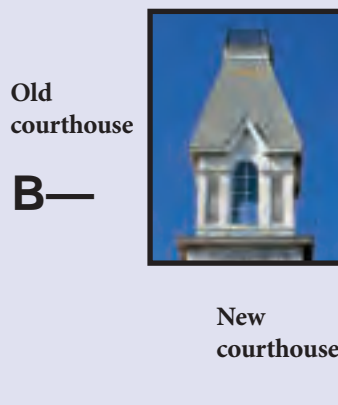
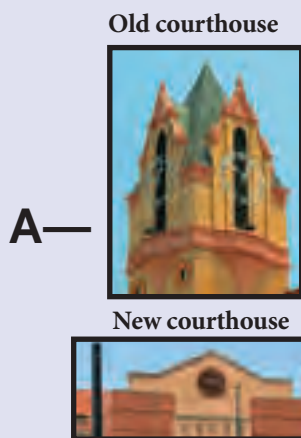
In this second contest, the old and new courthouses of two counties, and the current courthouse of another county are shown below. CHALLENGE: Be the first to correctly identify the three counties whose old and new courthouses are shown in A & B,

and the county whose current courthouse is shown in C. Then, answer the following question: What county’s third courthouse was designed using the same 1829 Robert Mills plans that were used to build the county’s previous courthouse, burned by Federal troops on March 2, 1865? Win and you’ll be recognized in the next contest.

Photos of the courthouses and information on each will be published in the next issue of *County Focus*.

**ELIGIBLE:** This contest is open ONLY to South Carolina county officials, including all county employees.

**RULES:** The first county official to identify all three courthouses, whose features are shown below, and correctly answer by EMAIL the trivia question asked below to the e-mail address shown above will be recognized in the next issue of *County Focus Magazine*.



**TIP:** Visit the section of the South Carolina Picture Project’s website, which includes photos of state’s courthouses, at <https://www.scpictureproject.org/>

Photos by Bill Segars

No one won the first “Identify These Courthouses” contest, published in the previous issue of *County Focus Magazine*. These are the courthouses, whose features were shown in the previous issue. The answer to the trivia question was Charleston County Courthouse.



**DILLON COUNTY COURTHOUSE—**Built in 1911, the originally designed by William Augustus Edwards and originally built by J.A. Jones.



**BARNWELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE—**Built in 1879, this is the county’s fifth courthouse. The original architect was J. Whilden Woodward & Associates. The original builder was J.H. Woodward & W.T. Banton.



**UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE—**Built in 1911, this courthouse was designed by architect Anthony Ten Eyck Brown and built by John Jefferson Cain.



Lancaster County Courthouse  
Lancaster, South Carolina

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# Census Community Partner Engagement: A Call to Action

**A**midst the backdrop of the unprecedented global pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau is still hard at work to ensure a complete census count in every community. To make that happen, staff from the state census program continues to rely on assistance from community partners such as local governments and their affiliated complete count committees.

Last month, S.C. Association of Counties staff attended a virtual meeting of the Governor's Complete Count Committee. Useful information for community partners was provided by the S.C. Lieutenant Governor, State Census Program staff, and other members of the statewide census team. Here are some key takeaways:

- The Census is very important to the future of our state. 2010 Census data is being used right now, during this time of crisis, to allocate federal resources to programs like school meal programs, small business assistance loan funding,

and disaster relief. An analysis of how the 2020 Census Count could impact disbursements of



federal monies in South Carolina can be found online at [https://census.sc.gov/files/IPP-1819-3%20CountingforDollars\\_SC.pdf](https://census.sc.gov/files/IPP-1819-3%20CountingforDollars_SC.pdf). Table 1 lists examples of federal programs that directly impact South Carolina communities, along with their FY 2016 census-based statewide allocations.

- Community partners are encouraged to tap into state census marketing resources to help deliver the message. A state census logo (fea-

tured with this article), brochures created to target hard-to-reach or disengaged populations, and content for websites and social media are located online at <https://www.emarketinggroup.com/file-share>.

- South Carolina's statewide completion rate is 43.5 percent as of April 12. A "Response Rate" map that can be filtered by county and city, along with other useful resources can be found at <https://census.sc.gov/>.
- "Census Hard to Count Maps" provide census tract level detail so that localities can see where to concentrate efforts. These online maps, found at <https://www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us/>, provide census tract level detail regarding completion rates and the mechanism by which people are choosing to respond.
- Census grants are available for community partners through the SC Grantmakers Network. County government officials can join the SC Grantmakers Network online at <https://scgrantmakers.com/>.
- The Census deadline has been extended, but partners are encouraged to stay engaged now! The Census Bureau is seeking statutory relief from Congress of 120 additional calendar days to deliver final apportionment counts. Under this plan, the Census Bureau would extend the window for field data

**Table 1**

<u>Program</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>FY 2016 Obligation</u>
Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities	USDA	\$73,616,300
Highway Planning and Construction	DOT	\$691,516,916
Crime Victim Assistance	DOJ	\$33,495,173
Health Care Centers	HHS	\$80,447,823



collection and self-response to October 31, 2020. While the extension may ensure a more complete count, community partners are asked to stay focused and not lose their sense of urgency. In-person activities and field operations are suspended, but partners can still be highly engaged via phone, email, web conference, websites and social media. Citizens

can go online or call the phone number to complete the census. To participate in the census, the census ID provided to each household in the mail is not necessary—an individual will just need their household address.

## A Call to Action for Every County Official

You can have tremendous impact on census completion within your own personal network by reaching out to those you know and those with whom you interact:

- 1.) Start with yourself by completing the census for your household,
- 2.) Remind your coworkers and direct reports to complete the census for their households, and
- 3.) Encourage your friends, neighbors, and community to participate in the census count.

For more information about the South Carolina Census Count program, including information for community partners, complete count committees, and Census Bureau operations impacted by COVID-19, please visit <https://census.sc.gov/>.



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

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

# The IMLA Report

## *Stay at Home Orders Highlight the Benefits and Challenges of Virtual Meetings and Telecommuting*

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

**W**ithout doubt people throughout the world are wondering when and if we can get back to “normal.” The International Municipal Lawyers Association, Inc. (IMLA) planned on having a major semi-annual conference in Washington, D.C. in late April. Restrictions in place, the meeting had to be cancelled. Instead, we held a “virtual seminar.” The results of the conference and surveys of attendees reflect well upon the IMLA staff and also suggest a new “normal.” Instead of having almost 400 people attend our event, we had more than a 50 percent increase in attendance with about 650 registrants.

We were able to have panelists from around the country discuss issues important to local government lawyers, provide CLE credit for attendees and even offer some virtual cocktail hours and brunches to give people a chance to meet one another. The programs were recorded and are available on topics as diverse as “Public Art in our Communities,” “Religious Free Speech in the Public Workplace” and “How False Claims Act Impacts Municipalities” to “Legal Implications of COVID-19: What Local Governments Need to Know,” “How to Find the Right Cyber Insurance for Your Needs” and much more.

What we learned was that we could offer quality learning opportunities at a lower cost and reach more people, but that we and they lost significant networking opportunities and the ability to bring home ideas developed through



individual conversations. People also lost the sense of comradery that bolsters enthusiasm for serving their communities. Thus, something of a tricky balance developed. No doubt stay-at-home orders throughout the country have left many with similarly mixed feelings. Working from home offers continued employment and enables productivity, but people lose their sense of being part of something and the collegiality and benefits of sharing ideas and problems in person. So, what are some takeaways?

The vast migration of the workforce to telecommuting likely proves that employers can reduce capital expenses and maintain productivity with a workforce that telecommutes. For local governments, as employers, a transformation of the workplace can save money, but for local governments as governmental entities, whole new challenges present themselves. A stay-at-home workforce, proved beneficial to those hoping to reduce our country’s carbon footprint, but for mass transit systems a stay-at-home workforce disrupts fiscal planning and services. If employers of the future can

reduce capital expenditures and retain productivity, large office buildings in urban centers may be mostly vacant, traditional retail stores in the downtown may not survive without foot traffic and what was once seen as traffic congestion will be missed.

Most counties and cities learned to conduct meetings through platforms that offered the public every opportunity to observe, every member of the government body to be heard while eliminating the disruptions that frequently attend those meetings. Moving to virtual sessions could reduce the demand for the space a meeting room uses, allow more participation from the public and encourage many who would otherwise not wish to run for elected position to do so, by eliminating some of the hurdles that challenge a person’s participation—as an example, a person working in another town or frequently on the road, might not opt to run for office due to demands meeting attendance can bring, but could see attending virtual meetings from anywhere as possible.

Recently, I spoke with the chief legal officer of a major county who told me that having the opportunity to use virtual meeting platforms expanded the number of meetings to which he was invited. With travel time out as an impediment and the ease and facility for setting a meeting, he felt overwhelmed. As he explained to me “In addition to all the regular work I have, including managing the office and the legal work of my staff, now I



seem to be needed at every meeting the elected officials or cabinet level officials are having. Most don't even involve a legal question." Before the coronavirus pandemic governments tended to over-meet, but with the opportunity to use virtual meetings, the allure apparently took hold to an extreme. Meeting just to meet never served anyone well and that should be true for virtual meetings as well.

On the legal front, the Supreme Court decided to cancel most of its docket and cancel oral arguments scheduled for the remainder of this term. It still receives petitions for certiorari and grants a few and denies many. The Court has also issued a few opinions, some of which have bearing on local government. And during May, the Court will hold sessions virtually, allowing attorneys to argue cases telephonically for the first time in the Court's history.

In a very unusual case, New York City enacted a law that essentially prevented gun owners from travelling within the city with a gun except under a very few limited exceptions. Gun owners challenged the law and the city prevailed in the lower courts. The gun owners petitioned the Supreme Court to review the case and the Court granted certiorari. Almost immediately, New York quickly repealed its law and filed a motion seeking to have the court declare the case moot and vacate the lower court's decision. The Supreme Court denied the motion and demanded that the city argue mootness as part of its case. On April 27, 2020, the Court concluded that the case was moot, but that the gun owners could try to amend their claim to assert claims for damages. Justice Alito wrote a spirited dissent decrying what he saw was the city's manipulation of the Court's docket by pursuing a case to finality in the lower courts, sitting back until a petition for certiorari was granted and then repealing the law and claiming the case was moot. Left for another day is the issue of whether the Supreme Court will clarify and extend gun owners' rights.

Even more unusual, but as something of a local government law exam question, a case involving the Clean

Water Act arrived at the Supreme Court via an expansive decision of the Ninth Circuit. As most know, the Ninth Circuit is the most frequently reversed court and often decides cases on the edge of emerging theories. In this case, the Ninth Circuit was asked whether the long-standing practice of the County of Maui to inject partially treated wastewater into the ground required a permit as a "point source" under the Clean Water Act. Environmentalists argued that because introduction of the wastewater into the groundwater ultimately fed into navigable waters, the county needed a permit. Ultimately, the Court concluded in a 6-3 decision that the Clean Water Act "require[s] a permit if the addition of the pollutants through groundwater is the functional equivalent of a direct discharge from the point source into navigable waters."

Although this decision seemed to split the baby based on the arguments of the parties, the unusual feature in the case cast a shadow over it. When the Supreme Court granted certiorari, environmental groups began to apply heavy pressure on the Maui County Council to settle the case as the environmentalists feared a damaging result, one favored by the United States through arguments made by the Solicitor General. Pressured to act, the council voted 5-4 to settle the case, but the mayor refused to agree. Students of local government know that in a city or county where there exist a legislative body and an executive with clearly separate powers, that questions over authority abound. The mayor claimed that settlement was within the executive power, the council claimed the power existed within the legislative branch. Regardless, the case went forward without a clear winner between those branches of government.



## IMLA Offers Podcasts and Longer, More-In-Depth Programming

*IMLA has been hosting weekly calls to discuss the response to COVID-19 and various related issues arising from the disease and from Federal legislation.*

*In addition, IMLA has formed an Opioid Litigation Work Group that regularly discusses ongoing developments. 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:*

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# A Roadside Guide to Clarendon County

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

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

### Clarendon County



See South Carolina  
 County Map,  
 P. 67

**C**larendon County was the site of many of Francis Marion's exciting exploits. The Swamp Fox Murals Trail celebrates Marion's engagements in Clarendon County. Several major battles involving Marion, Thomas Sumter and other notables occurred in the area that is now Clarendon County. Originally created in 1785, Clarendon County later became part of Sumter District. The current county dates from Clarendon District created in 1855. Although the dates of several engagements are disputed, among the more



**Clarendon County's  
 Role in the  
 American War  
 for Independence**



important were:

### **Battle of Nelson's Ferry/Great Savannah (August 20, 21 or 24, 1780)**

Following Lord Cornwallis's disastrous defeat of General Horatio Gates on August 16, 1780 at Camden, Marion and his partisans snatched victory from the "jaws of defeat." When Marion learned of Gates' defeat, he was operating along the Santee River. Marion and his men were scouting British supply lines and burning boats on the river to hamper communications.

Success came later that month when Marion's force surprised Captain Jonathan Roberts with a detachment of British regulars from the 63rd Regiment of Foot [an infantry regiment]. Roberts and his troops were camped at Great Savannah, Sumter's abandoned plantation, near Nelson's Ferry, the main crossing on the upper Santee. Dividing his force, Marion and his troops attacked from two sides and scored a major victory. They killed or captured 24 British soldiers and freed 150 Continental soldiers from Maryland captured at Camden.

### **Battle of Tearcoat Swamp (October 25 or late September, 1780)**

This engagement also featured Francis Marion and his men. Marion's troops crossed the Pee Dee and Lynches Rivers and marched to Kingstree. From there, they traveled to Tearcoat Swamp on the Black River. There, at midnight, he surprised and defeated Lt. Colonel Samuel Tynes and several hundred Loyalists. Marion captured a number of Loyalists and seized arms, horses and supplies.

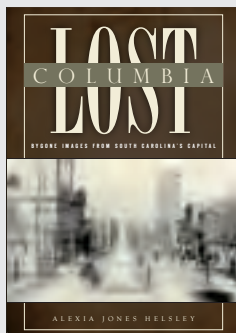
From Tearcoat Swamp, Marion set up his base camp on Snow's Island on the west side of the Great Pee Dee River. Dense swamps, canebrakes and waterways surrounded the site, and for several months, the camp was Marion's refuge.

### **Battle of Richbourg's/ Battle of Ox Swamp (November 8, 1780)**

After Marion's successful raids, Cornwallis detailed Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton, "the Green Dragoon,"  
*(Continued on next page)*

### ***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.

infamous for his involvement in Buford's Massacre where his troops attacked Continental troops under a flag of truce, to find and stop Marion. As a result, he and Tarleton played a deadly game of chess as each tried unsuccessfully to ambush the other. Tarleton commanded a troop of a thousand men while Marion had less than half that number.

While looking for Marion, Tarleton camped at the home of the deceased Revolutionary hero, General Richard Richardson. The camp fires attracted Marion's attention until Richardson's son Colonel Richardson warned him of the impending ambush. The greatly outnumbered Marion then hastened his men toward the area of Richbourg's Mill. Tarleton and his legion followed in hot pursuit. The chase lasted through the next day and covered over thirty miles of difficult terrain.

Finally, Tarleton reached Ox Swamp, another natural obstacle, without finding Marion. At that point, he reportedly said to his men, "Come, my boys! Let us go back, and we will soon find the game cock [Thomas Sumter], but as for this damned old fox, the devil himself could not catch him." And so, Marion became the "Swamp Fox" of legend and of an eight-part Disney mini-series.

### **Battle of Halfway Swamp (December 12, 1780)**

While many of Marion's exploits seem the stuff of legend, the engagement at Half Swamp was, according to J. D. Lewis, "one of the most unbelievable." On December 12, Marion intercepted Major Robert McLeroth, men of the 64th Regiment of Foot, and British recruits en route to Camden. Marion attacked. According to William Dobein James, at one point, the two commanders selected "teams" to duel as McLeroth had challenged Marion.

Regardless, the British feigned camping for the night, but instead proceeded toward Singleton's Hill. Marion and his commanders discovered the deception and detailed a fast troop to secure the Singleton site before the British arrived. The Patriots arrived first, but quickly evacuated the site as the Singletons had smallpox.

### **Battle of Fort Watson/Battle of Wright's Bluff (February 24/March 1, 1781)**

Prior to this conflict, General Thomas Sumter had unsuccessfully attacked two British positions and to his chagrin, the British had also recaptured

goods he had seized. Consequently, he determined to attack Fort Watson on the Santee River. The attack failed and the British took captives and seized horses while Sumter retreated. With three unsuccessful attacks, these were difficult days for Sumter and the men under his command.

### **The Battle of Wyboo Swamp (March 6, 1781)**

On his way to rendezvous with Sumter, Marion ambushed a British force near Wyboo Swamp. Lt. Colonel John Watson Tadwell-Watson, a career British army officer, originally was stationed in New York, but in 1780 he was sent south to assist Cornwallis in securing South Carolina. Cornwallis assigned the ambitious Tadwell-Watson to protect British supply lines. With Marion active in the same area, conflict was inevitable.

On March 5, Tadwell-Watson with a force of about 500 left Fort Watson. Marion's men clashed with Tadwell-Watson's troops on a causeway over the swamp near Nelson's Ferry. There were cavalry forays, charges and counter charges. A man named Gavin James was instrumental in driving the British back. Nevertheless, the British artillery complicated the situation and Marion moved to the vicinity of Cantey's plantation.

Marion successfully employed guerilla tactics to limit Tadwell-Watson's effectiveness and eventually push him into British-held Georgetown. With Tadwell-Watson out of the area, Marion was free to move on a bigger target.

### **Battle of Fort Watson (April 16–23, 1781)**

Marion joined forces with the dashing Lt. Colonel Henry "Lighthouse Harry" Lee and his continentals to attack Fort Watson. The British built Fort Watson in 1780 strategically located between Camden and Charleston. On April 14 (or 15), the Patriots laid siege to the fort, but the commander Lt. James McKay refused to surrender. The fort was well-situated and the defenders had adequate food, ammunition and water to withstand a lengthy siege.

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McKay expected British reinforcements perhaps, Tadwell-Watson from Georgetown.

The Patriot forces faced other obstacles as well. Some of Marion's men contracted smallpox which affected the morale of all those involved in the siege. In addition, several of Marion's key commanders were in conflict and the Patriots had no artillery, nor time to dig siege trenches.

In the midst of this disappointing time, Major Hezekiah Maham came to the rescue. Maham had the idea to build what became known as the Maham tower. Out of sight of McKay's troops, Maham's men felled trees and notched them for construction. After days of preparation, they built a tower that stood 40 feet high, higher than the walls of Fort Watson. On April 23, riflemen climbed the tower and began firing into the fort. As the British soldiers scrambled for cover, Marion and Lee deployed men to prepare to charge the fort. At that moment, McKay surrendered.

Marion and Lee granted the officers parole and allowed them to take their swords and belongings to Charlestown. Marion then destroyed the fort that had intimidated the countryside since its construction. Fort Watson was the first British fort captured in the Patriot campaign to reclaim the South Carolina interior.

Acknowledging the significance of the victory and Marion's tenacity, General Nathanael Greene wrote Marion, commending his victory against a stronger, entrenched enemy as well as his ability to keep "alive the expiring hopes of an oppressed militia." In addition, he wrote: "To fight the enemy bravely with the prospect of victory is nothing, but to fight with intrepidity under the constant impression of defeat, and to inspire irregular troops to do it, is a talent peculiar to yourself."

The conflicts in Clarendon came late in the war, but the victories Marion won there, especially the taking and destruction of Fort Watson, were essential for the ultimate Patriot victory in South Carolina.



# South Carolina's 2020 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2020 Directory of County Officials* was 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.

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*Also see advertising index, page 68*



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# County Update



See South Carolina  
County Map,  
Page 67

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

## Bamberg County

A Bamberg County teenager, champion skeet shooter **Alex Ahlin**, competed in the second half of the Olympic trials in Tucson, Ariz., in March, but did not make the cut for the international skeet shooting team for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan. Ahlin is a senior at Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School.

- The Bamberg County Office on Aging, led by Director **Kay Clary**, worked on March 26 with the Lower Savannah Council of Governments, Bamberg County Council, City of Bamberg, and staff from multiple Bamberg County departments to prepare for the delivery of 2,534 frozen meals in the next two weeks for local senior citizens.

Typically, the Office on Aging serves hot meals to local seniors. The Office on Aging prepares the meals at their facility in Bamberg. However, with health concerns from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office on Aging, in an effort to protect the health of their staff, volunteers, and the seniors they serve, discontinued delivering daily meals and serving community-style meals in their dining room.

To meet the needs of 181 Bamberg County seniors, the Bamberg County Office on Aging, along with partners and volunteers, ordered two weeks' worth of frozen meals supplemented with fruits, puddings, milk and juices. Staff and volunteers broke down and repackaged 2,534 meals in one day.

Bamberg County Office on Aging is one of the only agencies of its kind that does not have a walk-in freezer, which made storing and delivering more than 2,500 frozen meals an especially challenging feat. It is still offering transportation services and meal delivery. However, all other community-style activities have been cancelled until further notice to protect the staff, volunteers, and citizens. For additional information, please call the Bamberg County Office on Aging at 803-245-3021.

- On February 9, Bamberg County Fire Coordinator **Paul Eubanks** was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (MOVSM). Eubanks, a Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, was recognized for his more than 7,000 volunteer service hours to the Denmark Fire Department and his outstanding service to the community. TSgt Eubanks was presented the medal by Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Eikner of the 315 Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, U.S. Air Force Reserve, in Charleston.

The MOVSM was created by an executive order from President George H. W. Bush in January 1993. The medal recognizes members of the military who perform substantial volunteer service to their local community

above and beyond their duties as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. The MOVSM is intended to recognize exceptional community support over time and not a single act or achievement.

TSgt Eubanks joined the Denmark Volunteer Fire Department in 1986 and is currently the Assistant Fire Chief. He attended Denmark-Olar schools and graduated from Blackville-Hilda High School in 1988. He graduated from Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College in 1993 with an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice.

- Medshore Ambulance's Barnwell-Bamberg County EMS system won top honors at the S.C. Emergency Care Symposium, accepting the Large System of the Year award for outstanding professionalism and service to its communities and citizens. The award was presented on February 29 during ceremonies in Myrtle Beach. The Medshore Ambulance Barnwell-Bamberg County EMS System provides emergency 9-1-1 and non-emergency medical transportation across a 953-square-mile service area. Since 2014, Medshore Ambulance has been a mainstay in rural southwestern South Carolina, supporting a widely dispersed population of citizens who often utilize the 9-1-1 system as a first line of care.

- Innovative Poultry Products announced in November that it will invest \$505,000 to add about 6,000 square feet at the Bamberg County facility. Bamberg County poultry farmer **Chad Brubaker** founded Innovative Poultry Products four years ago to help make life easier for poultry farmers. Now the Olar business is growing and shipping products nationwide.

Innovative Brubaker started Innovative Poultry Products to market the Poultry Hawk system and to research and develop other products for the industry. So far, the company has sold about 700 Poultry Hawk systems, which leave Olar for farms across South Carolina and in North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Delaware, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and elsewhere. Innovative Poultry Products is producing about 200 Poultry Hawks per year and anticipates growth in that market.

## Georgetown County

- **Angela Christian** began serving as Georgetown County Administrator on March 30. She previously served as town manager for the Town of Newport, N.C., from 2014 until 2019. Prior to that, she was Chief Operations Officer and deputy county manager for Onslow County, N.C., which has a population of 180,000. She also worked as

## ★ *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
Cherokee	Marlboro
Chester	McCormick
Chesterfield	Newberry
Clarendon	Oconee
Colleton	Orangeburg
Darlington	Pickens
Dillon	★ Richland
Dorchester	Saluda
Edgefield	Spartanburg
Fairfield	★ Sumter
Florence	Union
★ Georgetown	Williamsburg
Greenville	York



finance director for Columbus, Ga., and as Deputy City Manager for the City of Bristol, Tenn. Christian received her Master of Public Administration from the University of Tennessee, and a bachelor's degree in political science from Georgia Southern University.

Christian recently received the Credentialed Manager designation from the International City/County Management Association, and became one of only 38 county and city managers in South Carolina to have the designation.

- County Administrator **Sel Hemingway** retired February 29. He represented District 5 on County Council for 11 years and served as Council Chairman for seven of those years. In 2008, he was hired as County Administrator. Hemingway also served as a member of the board of directors for the S.C. Association of Counties for many years.

- County Attorney **Wesley Bryant** served as the interim administrator between the time Hemingway retired and the county hired Christian.

- Georgetown County recently recognized employees who celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2019.

- **Sheila Sullivan** of the library received an award for 45 years of service from then-County Administrator Sel Hemingway. Sullivan celebrated 45 years.

- **Doug Gainey** of MIS and **Sanda Carter** of Building were recognized for 35 years of service.

- **Joey Manigault** of Parks and Recreation, **Myra McGirt** of the Detention Center and **Mack Reed** of County Fire/EMS were recognized for 30 years of service.

- GreenCore Materials is setting up in Georgetown County, investing an estimated \$10 million into the community and creating 74 jobs in the process.

Georgetown County Economic Development, in partnership with the City of Georgetown and the S.C. Department of Commerce, recently announced that GreenCore Materials will make its home in Georgetown. GreenCore, a new manufacturing business that turns recycled materials into composite products used in a variety of industries including construction, will invest an estimated \$10 million and create 74 jobs.

The business has purchased the old Eagle Electric building on South Fraser Street, near the new City Fire Department, from the City of Georgetown and plans to renovate the site to fit its needs. Plans are to have operations up and running this spring.

The project is one Georgetown County Economic Development and the City of Georgetown have been working on for some time, and was made possible through incentives and support from the S.C. Department of Commerce and Santee Cooper.

- The Georgetown County Women's Hall of Fame, celebrating its 10th year of sharing the legacies of incredible local women, inducted philanthropist **Frances McKay Peace**

**Bunnelle** (1905-2000) to the Hall of Fame on March 17 during a luncheon at Pawleys Plantation. Bunnelle is best known as the creator of the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation, which she established just before her death in 2000 to support charitable causes that serve the area she chose to make her home in Georgetown County.

- Georgetown County Finance Director

(Continued on next page)



## Planning and Zoning Webinars

**Tuesday, June 9, 2 to 3:30 p.m.**  
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## SCAC's 2020 Conference Calendar

**Aug. 1 – 2**  
**Aug. 2 – 5**

**Institute of Government**  
**Annual Conference**  
*Hilton Head Marriott*

**August**

**Setoff Debt/GEAR**  
*Date and location TBD*

**September 23**

**Continued Education, Update for Risk Managers, Etc.**  
*DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia*

**Oct. 21**  
**Oct. 22**

**Institute of Government**  
**County Council Coalition**  
*Embassy Suites, Columbia*

**Nov. 20**

**S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute**  
*DoubleTree by Hilton, Columbia*

**Dec. 3 – 4**

**Legislative Conference**  
*Renaissance, Charleston*

**Dec. 15**

**Orientation for Newly-Elected County Council Members**  
*DoubleTree, by Hilton, Columbia*

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



## NACo's 2020 Conference Calendar

**July 17 – 20**

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**Scott Proctor** transitioned into a well earned retirement at the end of January. Prior to becoming the county's CFO in 2004, Proctor was finance firector for the City of Georgetown for nine years.

● **Carter Weaver** was sworn in as Georgetown County Sheriff on February 13, filling the vacancy left by longtime Sheriff **Lane Cribb**, who died unexpectedly in office in September. Cribb had held the office since 1992. Weaver, who served as Assistant Sheriff under Cribb, was appointed to serve as Sheriff in an interim capacity shortly after Cribb's death. Weaver was elected as sheriff in a special election on February 4. **Wayne Owens** was sworn in February 18 as Georgetown County Chief Deputy Sheriff. He served 22 years with the Sheriff's Office under the direction of the late Sheriff Lane Cribb, rising to the rank of captain of operations. For the past three years, he has been administrator at the J. Reuben Long Detention Center in Horry County.

Owens received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina. He also graduated from the FBI National Academy and the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy, and recently completed the required training to obtain his Class 1 Law Enforcement Corrections Officer certification.

## Horry County

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) recently recognized Loris area resident **Cathy Smith**, a regular recycler at the Sarvis Recycling Center, as the "Caught Green Handed" recipient for the month of April. The Caught Green Handed recognition is presented monthly to a Horry County resident caught in the act of recycling. It recognizes citizens who have made the effort to recycle.

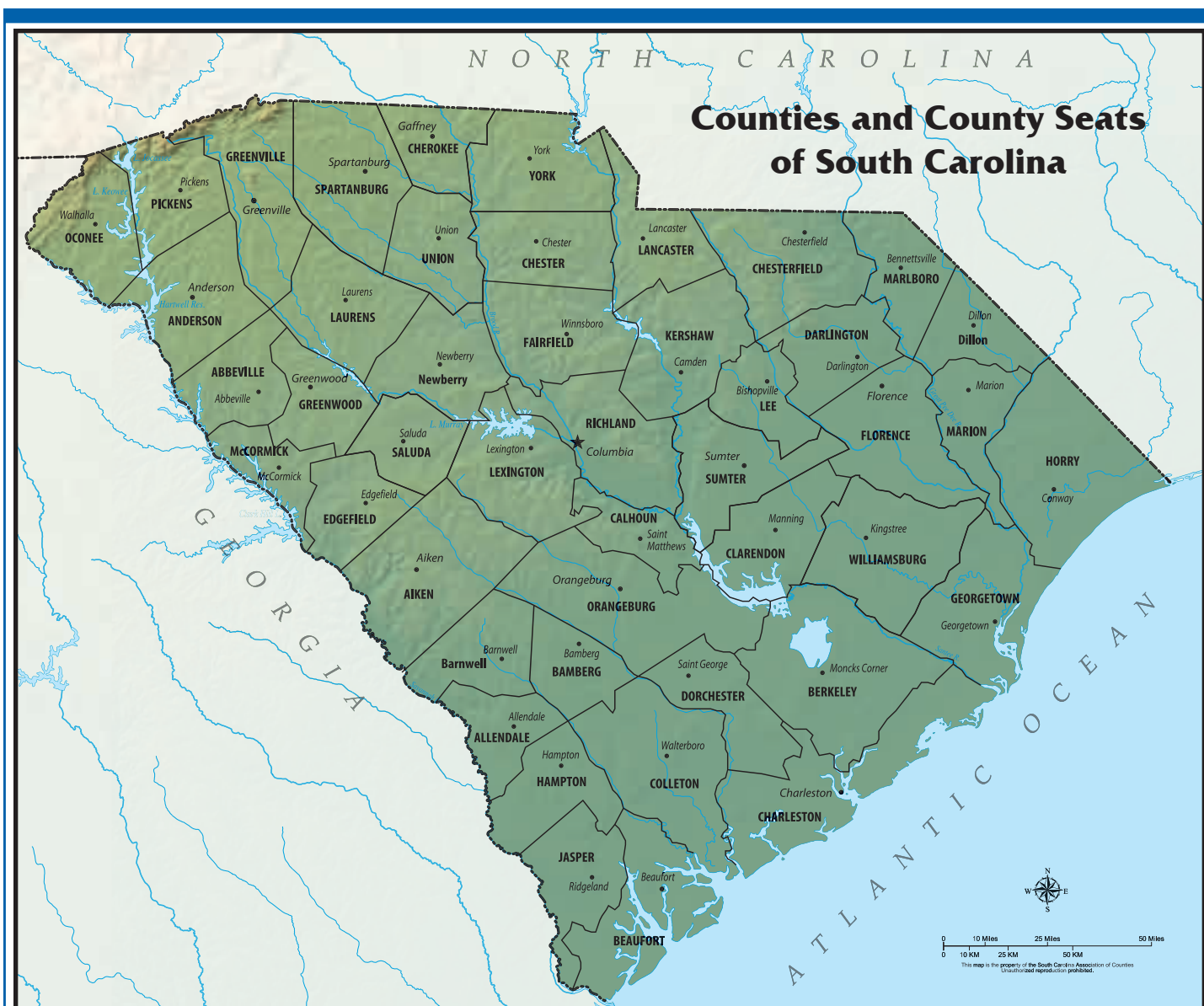
## Richland County

● The Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has awarded three Conservation Education Mini-Grants totaling \$2,000 to support local schools' environmental efforts this spring. Richland SWCD has funded 75 youth conservation projects in Richland County since 2012.

Projects to be funded include:

● Satchel Ford Elementary School: Outdoor Handwashing Station and Raised Beds (\$1,000). Funding will be used to expand the school's raised-bed gardens, install an outdoor handwashing station to improve biosecurity, and to promote farm-to-school education. Project lead: Lauren Hudgens





- **REACH Homeschool Group:** Wildlife Garden at Harbison State Forest (\$500). The group will revitalize a wildlife habitat at Harbison State Forest Education Center as one of its Green Steps School initiatives. Project lead: Kim Andrysczyk

- **Westwood High School:** Protecting Our Pollinators! (\$500). Environmental studies and special education students will collaborate to convert, in the words of their grant proposals, “an otherwise unimpressive area of grass” into “a beautiful oasis of caterpillars, butterflies and bees.” Project lead: Jeff O’Shields.

- At Satchel Ford Elementary, a farm-to-school site, students maintain six raised beds for growing herbs, potatoes, summer squash and a variety of winter greens. They plan to add chickens to the learning environment this spring, increasing the need for proper

sanitation and food safety practices. Mini-grant funding will allow students to expand the raised beds and install an outdoor hand-washing station to improve biosecurity at the school.

Conservation Education mini-grants are offered to Richland County K-12 educational institutions twice each school year. The next application deadline is this fall.

- Call 4 Health, a provider of call center operations for health care facilities throughout the United States, announced on March 12 plans to establish new operations in Richland County. The company’s investment is projected to create 291 new jobs.

Founded in 1997, Call 4 Health is a top-rated, complete communications business process outsourcing (BPO) provider for the health care industry. Call 4 Health offers medical answering services, which includes

after-hours answering, appointment scheduling, appointment reminder and notification calls, nurse triage and many other solutions.

Located at 810 Dutch Square Blvd. in Columbia, Call 4 Health’s Richland County operations will expand the company’s existing business lines and nurse triage division. Call 4 Health’s facility is already operational and hiring. The Coordinating Council for Economic Development has awarded Richland County a \$100,000 Set-Aside grant for costs related to the project.

- Xplor Boatworks, LLC, a specialty recreational boat designer and manufacturer, announced plans on March 6 to establish operations in Richland County. The company’s more than \$3.4 million investment is projected to create 63 new jobs.

Founded in 2017, Xplor Boatworks, LLC  
(Continued on next page)

designs and manufactures specialty boats such as the X18 and the X24 Andros. The company is working on releasing new skiff and center console boats up to 33-feet long.

Located at 1124 Pineview Dr. in Columbia, Xplor Boatworks, LLC's new facility will enable the company to increase capacity to meet growing demand. The company's facility is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2020.

The Coordinating Council for Economic Development has awarded Richland County a \$100,000 Set-Aside grant for costs related to the project.

Senior citizens in Richland County received a needed boost amid the COVID-19 outbreak, with the county covering costs of providing more than 40,000 meals. County council approved dedicating \$500,000 to food assistance programs, with \$250,000 going to Senior Resources and the other half going to help low-to-moderate income individuals.

Senior Resources, a social services nonprofit, is

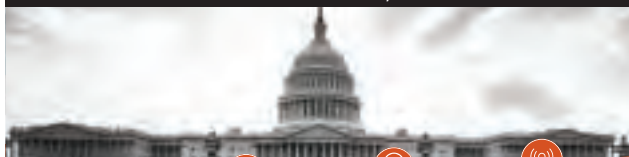
using the money to fund its new Emergency Senior Nutrition Program, which provides seniors with five free meals weekly on a first-come, first-serve basis. Seniors or their caretakers can pick up the meals at one of 12 drive-through distribution sites around the county. Senior Resources has served more than 10,000 meals each week since the program began.

#### Sumter County

Funeral services for **Corporal Andrew Gillette** of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office were held on March 1 at the Sumter County Civic Center. He was buried in Sumter Cemetery. Gillette, 37, was killed in the line of duty on February 25. He had served in the Sumter County Sheriff's Office since 2013, and joined the Warrants Division in 2018. He previously served 12 years in the U.S. Air Force.



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