

COUNTY FOCUS

South Carolina Association of Counties

Volume 31

Number 3



**SCAC Elects
Johnnie Wright Sr.
President**

SCAC Hosts 2020 Annual Conference, a 'Hybrid Conference,' Aug. 1 – 3



**2019–20 SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr.
Presents President's Cup to
Clarendon County Administrator David W. Epperson**



**On Aug. 26 at SCETV, SCAC Hosts
2020 Awards Program and COVID-19
Response and Resiliency Showcase**



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

The leaders of South Carolina's counties inspire us to find solutions, so we can provide the energy and savings our state needs. Being a Touchstone Energy cooperative means we're always listening to make our communities a better place. Touchstone Energy Cooperatives is an alliance of local, independent, member-owned electric co-ops that work together to deliver energy solutions and support for their communities.

What's here today has never been better. To learn more, follow us on Twitter [**@SCcooperatives**](#)

YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives
of South Carolina



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

2020–21 SCAC OFFICERS

President

Johnnie Wright Sr.
Orangeburg County Council Chairman

First Vice President

Paul A. Cain
Oconee County Council Vice Chairman

Second Vice President

Debra B. Summers
Lexington County Council Member

Third Vice President

Roy Costner III
Pickens County Council Chairman

Immediate Past President

Dwight L. Stewart Jr.
Clarendon County Council Chairman

Secretary

Steve Willis
Lancaster County Administrator

Treasurer

Belinda D. Copeland
Darlington County

SCAC Board of Directors
P. 25

SCAC STAFF

Executive Director

Timothy C. Winslow

**Deputy Executive Director and
General Counsel**

Joshua C. Rhodes

Senior Director of Operations

Anna B. Berger

SCAC Staff Members
P. 27

COUNTY FOCUS

Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.®

CONTENTS

Date of Issue: November 2020

- 2 SCAC Elects Johnnie Wright Sr. President**
- 3 SCAC Elects Other Officers**
- 10 SCAC's 2020 Awards Competition and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase**
- 29 What Is Driving Your County's Claims?**
By Robert Benfield, ARM, AINS, SCAC Director of Risk Management Services, and Van Henson, CPM, SCAC Risk Manager
- 32 SCAC Hosts 2020 Annual Conference, a 'Hybrid Conference,' Aug. 1 – 3**
- 40 David W. Epperson Receives President's Cup**
- 42 Twenty-Nine County Officials Graduate from the Institute of Government for County Officials**
- 43 2020 President's Report Executive Summary**
- 64 COVID-19 and the Phishing Revolution**
By Courtney Mauge, Willis Towers Watson
- 66 Pandemic Management: Options for Dealing with Financial Responsibilities in the Age of COVID-19**
By Lawrence Flynn, Public Finance Attorney, Pope Flynn Group
- 69 A Roadside Guide to Colleton County:
The County's Role in the American War for Independence**
By Alexia Jones Helsley
- 76 County Update**

COVER: SCAC Elects Johnnie Wright Sr. President (P. 2); SCAC Hosts 2020 Annual Conference, a "Hybrid Conference," Aug. 1- 3 (P. 32); 2019–20 SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr. Presents President's Cup to Clarendon County Administrator David W. Epperson (P. 40); On Aug. 26 at SCETV, SCAC Hosts 2020 Awards Program and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase (P. 10)



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

1919 Thurmond Mall
Columbia, SC 29201
PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

803-252-7255
Fax: 803-252-0379

W. Stuart Morgan III, Editor

SCCounties.org

Copyright is by the South Carolina Association of Counties. All rights reserved. No portion of the contents may be published or reproduced in any form without written permission from the publisher.

SCAC Elects Johnnie Wright Sr. President



SCAC elected officers for 2020–21 and re-elected board members at its 2020 Annual Conference, held August 1 – 3.

Elected PRESIDENT was Johnnie Wright Sr. (Orangeburg County Council Chairman), who succeeds Clarendon County Council Chairman Dwight L. Stewart Jr., who served as 2019–20 SCAC President.

“I am humbled and deeply grateful to be elected to serve as SCAC president this year,” Johnnie Wright said. “I look forward to serving you and working together as we strive to serve our citizens in these challenging times. I also encourage each of you to be active in our Association and to call on me or the SCAC staff if there are ways the Association can be of service to your county.

“Our successes since the SCAC’s inception in 1967 are the result of county officials from across South Carolina collaborating to create a united voice for county government at the State House,” he added. “In the coming months, I will be calling on you as we develop our legislative agenda for the 2021 legislative session. I encourage you to stay informed by reading SCAC’s Friday Reports and Legislative Alerts, and to make timely contact with members of the General Assembly. I look forward to your participation and support!”

SCAC Executive Director Tim Winslow said Orangeburg County has benefitted from Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright’s



SCAC President Johnnie Wright Sr.

“Our successes since the SCAC’s inception in 1967 are the result of county governments from across South Carolina collaborating to create a united voice for county government at the State House. In the coming months, I will be calling on you as we develop our legislative agenda for the 2021 legislative session.”

— SCAC President Johnnie Wright Sr.
(Orangeburg County Council Chairman)

leadership for more than two decades.

“Chairman Wright is a remarkable man and is always generous with his time and advice,” Winslow added. “The entire SCAC staff is excited to have him guide the Association into the next year.”

Wright has served for 25 years on Orangeburg County Council since he was elected to Council District 1 in 1994. He has served as Council Chairman since 2009, and was re-elected in 2019 to serve another two-year term as chairman.

A native of Eutawville, Wright graduated from Roberts High School in 1964. He received an Associate Degree in Business Management and a diploma in Radio and Television from Trident Technical College. Wright also completed a four-year apprenticeship program in Electric/Electronic Technology at the Charleston Naval Shipyard.

He is a small business owner, a Vietnam veteran and a life member of the NAACP. Wright is also a member of many other organizations and boards.

He and his wife, Vernell, have six children and 14 grandchildren.

Winslow said SCAC’s immediate past president, Dwight Stewart, proved to be a remarkable leader during the past year.

“Thanks to his steady direction as SCAC President,” Winslow added, “the Association was able to thrive and succeed despite numerous national crises.”

(See SCAC President, P. 4)

SCAC Elects Other Officers

**First
Vice President**



Paul A. Cain
*Oconee County
Council Vice Chairman*

**Second
Vice President**



Debra B. Summers
*Lexington County
Council Member*

**Third
Vice President**



Roy Costner III
*Pickens County
Council Chairman*

**Immediate
Past President**



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

Secretary



Steve Willis
*Lancaster County
Administrator*

Treasurer



Belinda D. Copeland
Darlington County

SCAC elected other officers as follows: **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**—Paul A. Cain, Oconee County Council Vice Chairman; **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**—Debra B. Summers, Lexington County Council Member; **THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**—Roy Costner III, Pickens County Council

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



SCAC Presidents

2020	Jonnie Wright Sr. <i>Orangeburg County</i>	2004	Barrett S. Lawrimore <i>Charleston County</i>	1986	O.V. Player Jr. <i>Sumter County</i>
2019	Dwight L. Stewart Jr. <i>Clarendon County</i>	2003	Gonza L. Bryant <i>Greenwood County</i>	1985	Sue H. Roe <i>Aiken County</i>
2018	Charles T. Jennings <i>McCormick County</i>	2002	James A. Coleman <i>Laurens County</i>	1984	Charlie I. Crews <i>Hampton County</i>
2017	Henry H. Livingston III <i>Newberry County</i>	2001	Steve S. Kelly Jr. <i>Kershaw County</i>	1983	James P. Whitlock <i>Pickens County</i>
2016	Julie J. Armstrong <i>Charleston County</i>	2000	James H. Rozier Jr. <i>Berkeley County</i>	1982	Lonnie Hamilton III <i>Charleston County</i>
2015	John Q. Atkinson Jr. <i>Marion County</i>	1999	Polly C. Jackson <i>Lancaster County</i>	1981	Alfred B. Schooler <i>Georgetown County</i>
2014	James R. Frazier <i>Horry County</i>	1998	Robert R. Nash Sr. <i>Pickens County</i>	1980	Howard A. Taylor <i>Charleston County</i>
2013	Joseph R. Branham <i>Chester County</i>	1997	Alzena Robinson <i>Bamberg County</i>	1979	Marjorie H. Sharpe <i>Lexington County</i>
2012	Charles T. Edens <i>Sumter County</i>	1996	Betty T. Roper <i>Clarendon County</i>	1978	Berry L. Mobley <i>Lancaster County</i>
2011	Joseph B. Dill <i>Greenville County</i>	1995	George E. Bomar <i>Greenville County</i>	1977	E.E. Johnson <i>Hampton County</i>
2010	R. Carlisle Roddey <i>Chester County</i>	1994	Raymond C. Eubanks Jr. <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1976	Harold L. King <i>Darlington County</i>
2009	Diane B. Anderson <i>Laurens County</i>	1993	William L. McBride <i>Beaufort County</i>	1975	Jack Q. Gerrald <i>Horry County</i>
2008	L. Gregory Pearce Jr. <i>Richland County</i>	1992	Belle J. Kennette <i>Greenwood County</i>	1974	Arthur H. Burton <i>Charleston County</i>
2007	K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. <i>Florence County</i>	1991	James R. McGee <i>Orangeburg County</i>	1973	James O. Thomason <i>Spartanburg County</i>
2006	Belinda D. Copeland <i>Darlington County</i>	1990	Kenneth R. Huckaby <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1972	J. Hugh McCutchen <i>Williamsburg County</i>
2004-05	Waymon Mumford <i>Florence County</i>	1989	Lowell C. (Butch) Spires <i>Lexington County</i>	1971	John L. Greer <i>Union County</i>
		1988	David K. Summers Jr. <i>Calhoun County</i>	1969-70	J. Mitchell Graham <i>Charleston County</i>
		1987	Danny E. Allen <i>Spartanburg County</i>	1967-68	Charles W. Lawrimore <i>Georgetown County</i>



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

Purpose of the SCAC

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

✦ For more information about the SCAC, please contact:

**South Carolina
Association of Counties**
PO Box 8207
1919 Thurmond Mall
Columbia, SC 29202-8207
803-252-7255
smorgan@scac.sc
SCCounties.org

SCAC President ...

(Continued from P. 2)

SCAC ELECTS OTHER OFFICERS

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

SCAC RE-ELECTS BOARD MEMBERS

SCAC re-elected five board members to four-year terms (to expire 2024): Mary D. Anderson, Chesterfield County Council Member; John Q. Atkinson Jr., Marion County Council Member; Alphonso Bradley, Florence County Council Member; J. Clay Killian, Aiken County Administrator; and Henry H. Livingston III, Newberry County Council Chairman. SCAC voted for Charles T. Jennings (McCormick County Council Chairman), SCAC's Immediate Past President for 2019–20, to serve the unexpired term (to expire in 2022) of SCAC Third Vice President Roy Costner.



Excellence is what we do.



PRINTSOUTH

PRINTING • DIGITAL • MARKETING • MAILING

Excellence is what you expect. At PrintSouth Printing, our specialization is offset and digital printing. However, we offer so much more; including mailing, large format, ad specialty, and marketing. We also provide graphic and web design.

**Working hard to bring you the best solutions
for your project all under one roof.**

Call today at 803-796-2619 or visit us online at myprintsouth.com

Corinne Alford
Sales Representative
C 803-665-0023
corinne@myprintsouth.com

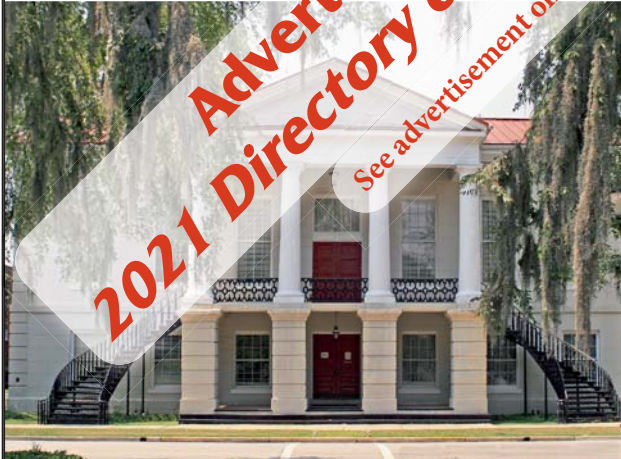
1114 Silstar Road
West Columbia, SC 29170
P 803-796-2619
online: myprintsouth.com

THANK YOU

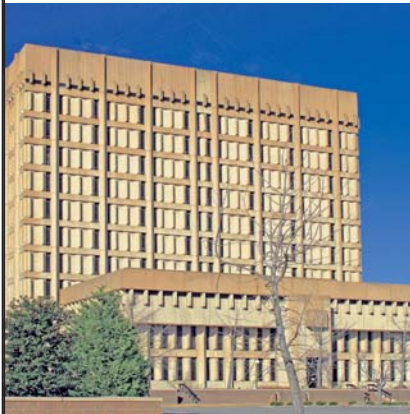


SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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**.



2021 Directory of County Officials



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**



**Advertise in SCAC's
2021 Directory
of
County Officials**



2021 Directory of County Officials



South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) publishes a *Directory of County Officials* in February each year. (See advertisement at right)

To advertise in SCAC's *2021 Directory of County Officials*, please contact the SCAC and request a purchase order. A purchase order, including detailed instructions for placing an ad in the upcoming edition of the *Directory*, will be e-mailed to you.

South Carolina
Association of Counties
P.O. Box 8207
Columbia, S.C. 29202-8207

(803) 252-7255
smorgan@scac.sc
(803) 252-7255

NOTE: Your purchase order, check or money order and advertisement must be received at the SCAC Office by **5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020.** (NO EXCEPTIONS)

South Carolina's 2021 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2021 Directory of County Officials* is scheduled to be published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

The *Directory* identifies all elected and appointed county officials in the state. This popular, award-winning publication also identifies SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors and Corporate Partners; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling).

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

**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

803-252-7255

E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc

Here. For you.

At Synovus, we truly understand what matters to you; that's why we're doing all we can to help you grow. Not just a bank, we're your neighbors and friends. People from here who understand here. And we're here. For you.

1-888-SYNOVUS | synovus.com

SYNOVUS[®]
the bank of here



Synovus Bank, Member FDIC.





A New Standard of **Quality and Service** in South Carolina



- Industrial Park Master Planning & Design
- Site Certification
- Solid Waste Management
- Stormwater Management
- Recreational Facilities
- Land Planning & Site Design
- Roadway Design
- Railway Design
- Water & Wastewater Planning & Design
- Grant Application/Administrative Assistance
- Construction Management



ALLIANCE
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

www.allianceCE.com



100
SOUTH CAROLINA

ENRSoutheast



**"Developing alliances
one county at a time."**

– Deepal Eliatamby, P.E.

SCAC's 2020 Awards Competition and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase

SCAC hosted its 2020 Awards Competition and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase on Wednesday, August 26 at the S.C. Educational Television (SCETV) in Columbia. The competition was livestreamed on Facebook and on SCAC's website at www.SCCounties.org/livestream.

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

Winners Announced on October 1

Winners of the J. Mitchell Graham and Barrett Lawrimore Memorial awards were announced on October 1 during a livestreamed Virtual Watch Party. Counties that participated in the COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase were also celebrated



during the event.

Lancaster County won the 2020 J.



Mitchell Graham Memorial Award for its EMS Boot Camp, an innovative program that has helped the fast-growing county address a continuing shortage of qualified emergency medical technicians. Now, Lancaster County is fully staffed with EMS personnel who are committed to providing high quality pre-hospital care for residents and visitors.

South Carolina Counties Entering This Year's Competition



See South Carolina County Map, Page 79

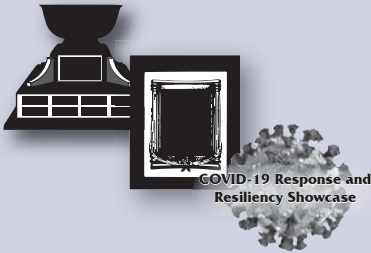
Berkeley, Pickens and Union counties won Honorable Mention awards.

Berkeley County won the 2020 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for its collaborative effort with the local school district that provides teens and young adults with special needs internship opportunities in county government to develop skills they will need for future employment.

In-depth articles on the award-winning programs and projects will be
(See 2020 Awards, P. 12)

10 Counties Present 20 Entries

County officials representing 10 counties presented 20 entries at SCAC's 2020 Awards Competition and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase, held on August 26 at SCETV in Columbia.



Main entrance to the SCETV in Columbia



SCETV staff records and livestreams the competition on Facebook and at [SCCcounties.org/livestream](https://www.scccounties.org/livestream).



Everyone—county officials presenting entries, members of the audience and judges evaluating the presentations—wore masks and practiced social distancing at the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase.

2020 Awards ...

(Continued from P. 10)

published in the next issue of *County Focus Magazine* (Winter Issue, Vol. 31, No. 4).

J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award Entries

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

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

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

The following entries were presented:

Berkeley County Honorable Mention Winner (Over 150,000 Population Category)

The ManuFirstSC™ initiative was developed to support Berkeley County manufacturing industries by providing residents with an innovative pathway to a long-term career. The program is the first-of-its-kind, pioneered in Berkeley County in 2017. Berkeley County continues to expand the program by bringing it into communities and high schools. To date, 1,090 people have been trained for manufacturing positions in the Charleston area, including approximately 100 high school students and 400 other Berkeley County citizens.

Charleston County

Charleston County Public Library, like many organizations, closed its doors and sent its workforce home as the COVID-19 virus spread. What happened in the following weeks displayed the organization's innovation, responsiveness, and dedication to the community

by creating the building blocks for future emergency situations. The library now has a strong operating model for continuation of service during future closures—whether from a resurgence of COVID-19, hurricanes, flooding, or other natural and public health disasters.

Lancaster County

Lancaster County's EMS Department responded to the statewide shortage of qualified EMTs by developing the first-of-its-kind in South Carolina EMS Boot Camp program. EMS Boot Camp is a 12-week program of classroom, self-study, skills lab, and direct observation on an ambulance that prepares qualified applicants to care for victims of sudden illness or injury. Upon successful completion, students are eligible for national and state certification exams. Once required certifications are obtained, part-time employment is guaranteed.

Pickens County Honorable Mention Winner (50,000 to 150,000 Population Category)

To save as many animals as possible, the Pickens County Animal Shelter successfully transitioned from an animal control facility whose sole purpose was removal of stray animals to a county-operated adoption facility. The adoption program enhances the quality of life for county citizens by matching them with pets that provide companionship and a sense of security, as well as better mental and physical health. This year, the project achieved a 100 percent "save rate."

Union County Honorable Mention Winner (Under 50,000 Population Category)

Yearly census estimates show a trend of declining population across rural South Carolina. These negative trends can be attributed to quality of life challenges and lack of opportunity. Long term community



impacts include economic development, workforce challenges, and increasing levels of poverty. Education and technical training are key factors in improving opportunity and quality of life. Union County partnered with local industry, the school district, and area colleges to expand access to post-secondary training for residents.

Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

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

The following entries were presented:

Berkeley County

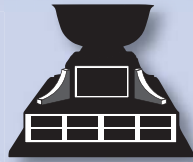
Project SEARCH prepares teens and young adults with special needs for success in employment opportunities. Throughout the school year, special needs students and interns work in various Berkeley County departments developing skills and training to prepare them for future jobs. The county works with Berkeley County School District to make this program possible in Berkeley County.

Charleston County

In 2019, Charleston County's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) launched the Dialogue to Change (DLC) project to expand community engagement to better inform and involve the public in improving the local criminal justice system. This project is an example of facilitating meaningful collaboration between community members and system leaders in justice reform. The DLC project identified community priorities, raised awareness

(See 2020 Awards, P. 14)

Winners of the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award



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



Winners of the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

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

2020 Awards ...

(Continued from P. 12)

of critical challenges, and brought the community together to find solutions. The results of this collaboration will help shape the county's criminal justice system to best meet the needs of the citizens.

Dorchester County

Dorchester County worked in partnership with the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency, Santee Cooper, and the Army Corps of Engineers to construct the Dorchester Reach, a critical water transmission line. The completion of the Reach provides a great opportunity to improve the quality of life for residents with the provision of clean, safe drinking water; reduction in the cost of insurance due to an improved ISO rating; job creation; and economic growth and prosperity in western Dorchester County.

Pickens County

Pickens County collaborated with municipalities and nonprofits to establish the Community Crisis Task Force. The task force can be activated at any time for a swift response to threats towards the health and well-being of county residents. The task force was first deployed in response to a series of weather events and the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing the county to meet the public's immediate needs for public information, financial assistance, and food.

Union County

Union County, like much of rural South Carolina, has struggled to maintain access to primary healthcare. In 2015, the financially fragile county hospital district declared bankruptcy. Union County negotiated a deal for the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System to assume operation of the county hospital, but many long-term primary care physicians retired leaving many

residents without access to primary care. To alleviate the issue, Union County partnered with the SC DHEC and ReGenesis Healthcare to recruit a federal qualified health clinic to provide primary care to the underserved citizens of the community.

COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase Entries

A new COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase was added to this year's J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition to allow counties to showcase their response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and COVID-19 respiratory disease caused by the pandemic that has affected every county in South Carolina.

The global pandemic, which emerged in Wuhan, China, in late 2019, and continues to spread worldwide. The pandemic is unique because the emergency it has created affects every county in the state.

The following entries were presented:

Berkeley County

From acquisition of protective equipment to continual communications to coordination with other agencies for testing sites and blood drives, Berkeley County took early action to ensure citizens and staff were prepared, informed, and safe. The county formed a task force, advanced remote access capability, enhanced safety to address pandemic concerns, and continues to monitor and mitigate the spread of the virus. Leaders worked with staff to develop plans and methods to ensure businesses could operate through the pandemic in a safe way.

Calhoun County

The Calhoun County Museum provided vital emotional support during the restriction and isolation of the COVID-19 crisis by bringing the museum and other county programs into citizens' homes. The program was especially important to older residents

and parents teaching from home. The museum provided non-stop service through Facebook, Zoom, its website, and telephone. Citizens from 20 South Carolina counties and 20 states connected to the museum and its historical information, genealogy, and audio-video presentations.

Charleston County

To help contain the spread of COVID-19 in Charleston County, staff launched a comprehensive mobile testing strategy. The measure focused on under served areas with limited travel capabilities and internet access. The testing sites assisted both pre-registered patients and walk-up clients. The county collaborated with Fetter Health Care Network and completed more than 1,000 citizen tests for COVID-19 in its first week of mobile testing. Eventually, more testing sites were added and more than 4,000 people have been tested.

Dorchester County

Dorchester County's response to COVID-19 began with the formation of a COVID-19 Task Force. The group worked tirelessly with county council, elected and appointed officials, and department heads to develop mitigation strategies, including public messaging and contingency plans for COVID-19. The county's priority was protecting employees and citizens through safety and sanitation measures and effective public messaging. Team Dorchester County continues to use innovative ways to ensure continuity of government operations.

Georgetown County

When COVID-19 hit South Carolina, Georgetown County was in the difficult position of not having a county administrator. Still, the county's staff and the new administrator (who came on board in April) have handled the pandemic and all the challenges it presented in a way it is proud of, working diligently—and at times creatively—to protect the health and safety of residents.

COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase



Horry County

Like counties across our state and country, Horry County experienced significant impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With challenges unique to a rapidly growing community and tourist destination, strategic operational planning and communication were critical to maintaining the local economy while keeping the community healthy and safe. Horry County implemented technology improvements, new programs, and updated standards to meet the challenges of the pandemic.

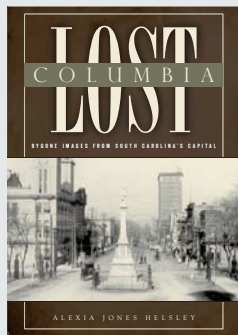
Kershaw County

On March 7, 2020, the first patient in Kershaw County and the State of South Carolina tested positive for COVID-19, followed two weeks later by the first death from the virus. Immediately, Kershaw County became the epicenter and the face of the virus within the state. Within a matter of days, the county became one of the most impacted in America. The professional response to this pandemic is a testament to the Kershaw County staff and the community they serve.

(See **2020 Awards**, P. 16)

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.

South Carolina's 2021 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2021 Directory of County Officials* is scheduled to be published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

The *Directory* identifies all elected and appointed county officials in the state. This popular, award-winning publication also identifies SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors and Corporate Partners; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling).

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

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

803-252-7255

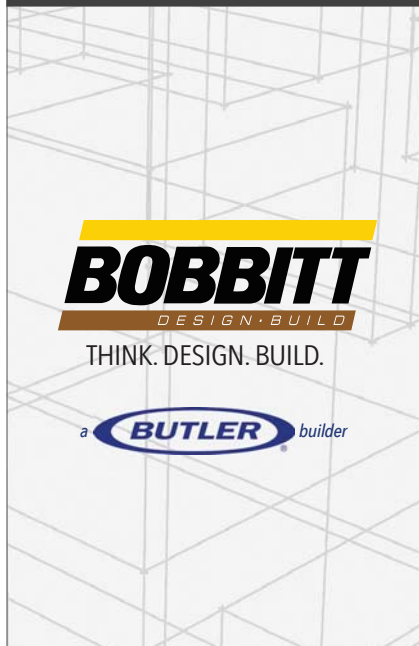
E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc



When it comes to architecture and construction for municipal buildings and community spaces, integrated DESIGN BUILD is the way to go. Bobbitt has delivered state-of-the-art facilities for municipalities across the Carolinas. View our portfolio on our website and contact us to learn more.

Turn to the experts to BUILD your community facility, where government and people connect.

bobbitt.com



2020 Awards ...

(Continued from P. 15)

Lancaster County

COVID-19 impacted every employee and government service in Lancaster County. The unprecedented nature of the pandemic, concern for the safety of employees and their families, the overwhelming amount of information from federal and state agencies, and the rapid spread of the virus mandated a deliberate, focused, and proactive approach to the crisis. County employees shouldered unique COVID-19 challenges and served the public by performing their duties with extraordinary professionalism, teamwork, compassion, energy, and resiliency.

Pickens County

KickStart Pickens County was the county's three-phase COVID-19 revitalization plan to ensure a gradual, intentional approach to reopening with consideration for public health and the local economy. As restrictions were eased to get back to a "new normal" after closures to the public, the county's careful plan allowed the county offices time to assess the needs to keep the public and staff safe as various facilities opened.

Spartanburg County

To meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Spartanburg County took a "OneSpartanburg" approach and benefitted from the teamwork and synergy that is created when a community and county unite for a common cause. This approach brought together community partners and subject matter experts from diverse backgrounds to respond to COVID-19.

Judging this year's competition were: William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston; J. Milton Pope, Principal, Parker Poe Consulting; and Paula E. Sanford, Ph.D., Public Service and Outreach Faculty Member, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia.



The more energy you need, the more you need an energy company like us.

More companies with energy-intensive needs are choosing to call South Carolina home. Why? Because we are delivering affordable energy with unmatched reliability. What's more, they also enjoy easy, streamlined connections and a strong business climate. Find out how we can help power your business too.



Actions Speak LouderSM



SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

SC ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
IS NOW ON

SOCIAL MEDIA

ABOUT US

SCAC is pleased to announce its new engagement and communications tool on social media. For more than 50 years, SCAC has helped **Local Leaders** create **Statewide Strength** through advocacy, education, and collaboration. By connecting county officials and employees to tools and resources, our county leaders can affect statewide change and build stronger communities.

Follow us on the social media platforms below to learn what's happening at the State House and how SCAC's programs and services can benefit your county. Share what's happening in your county. Let's promote the many ways our counties are making a positive difference for our citizens across the state.



PLATFORMS



FACEBOOK

Like and follow us on Facebook to learn what's happening at SCAC and in counties across the state



TWITTER

Follow @SCCounties on Twitter for up-to-the-moment news on legislation that affects counties



LINKEDIN

Find us on LinkedIn to find out about training opportunities and to network with colleagues

#SCCounties

#LocalLeaders

#StatewideStrength

INDUSTRIAL PARKS

ROADWAYS

Gas extraction pipe

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Synthetic
membrane liner

Leachate collection
and drainage system

Leachate drain

Compacted low-permeability clay

Natural rock foundation

Leachate collection sump

LAND PLANNING & SITE DESIGN

RAILWAYS

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

WATER & WASTEWATER

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

ON TIME. ON BUDGET. ON YOUR SIDE.

From the hills in the Upstate to the sands of the Lowcountry, Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc., assists South Carolina counties by listening to their needs and delivering a product that exceeds expectations. At Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc., our clients are our highest priority. Through innovative project delivery methods, focus on quality, and unparalleled responsiveness, we help bring vision into reality.



www.allianceCE.com

- Industrial Park Master Planning & Design
- Water & Wastewater Planning & Design
- Solid Waste Management
- Stormwater Management
- Recreational Facilities

- Land Planning & Site Design
- Roadway Design
- Railway Design
- Site Certification
- Grant Application
- Construction Management



ENR Southeast



Bluffton, SC | Charleston, SC | Charlotte, NC | Columbia, SC | Greenville, SC

PRINTSOUTH

PRINTING • DIGITAL • MARKETING • MAILING

Being great at something takes time. At PrintSouth Printing, our team of specialist use their years of experience to produce the best product, personalized just for you. From custom designed banners, websites, offset and digital printing to our newest product, ad specialty items, we work hard to bring you the highest quality selection with every order.



Offset & Digital
Printing



Large Format
Printing



Mailing
Services



Ad Specialty
Products



Web & Marketing
Services

1114 Silstar Road
West Columbia, SC 29170

phone: 803-796-2619
fax: 803-796-2744

online: myprintsouth.com
myprintsouth.espswebsite.com

PROVAL

Property Valuation & Analytics

Available Services

County Assessors

Tax Appeal Appraisal
Litigation/Mediation Support
Surplus Property Disposition

Rick Callaham
Greenville, South Carolina
803/457-5009
rick.proval@gmail.com

Right of Way Services

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

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

SCAC ANNOUNCES NEW CORPORATE PARTNER PROGRAM!

Effective Jan. 1, 2021

NEW OPPORTUNITIES ...

The South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) announces a NEW way to market your company, both efficiently and cost-effectively, to South Carolina's 46 counties! The new SCAC Corporate Partner Program provides a comprehensive marketing opportunity to showcase your products and services directly to county leaders. The program also offers companies year-round exposure to county officials and employees at multiple SCAC events and in the Association's quarterly magazine and annual directory.

ACCESS ...

If you are looking for ways to build and strengthen relationships with county governments, this new program is for you. As an SCAC Corporate Partner, you will be able to maintain contact with county officials throughout the year. You will also be updated on trends in county government and legislative initiatives.

COST EFFECTIVE ...

This new "one stop shop" approach will minimize costs and make it easier for you to budget because you will be able to support the SCAC as a partner at one of the levels for the entire calendar year. Still, "a la carte" options will remain available if you choose to purchase exhibit space at SCAC's Annual Conference and/or advertise.

BENEFITS OVERVIEW ...

- Four levels of partnership — \$1,500, \$3,000, \$5,000, or \$10,000
- Complimentary/discounted rates to attend (including premier exposure) three SCAC events — Mid-Year Conference (February), Annual Conference (August), and County Council Coalition Fall Meeting (October).
- Advertising in *County Focus Magazine* and annual *Directory of County Officials* will be included in the top levels and discounted advertising may be purchased at the lower levels.
- Complimentary/discounted rates to attend and exhibit at SCAC's Annual Conference.
- Complimentary promotion on SCAC's website and Annual Conference app.
- Exclusive benefits and exposure at the top levels.
- Complimentary subscription(s) to *County Focus Magazine* and copies of the annual *Directory of County Officials*.
- Benefits will be available on a calendar year basis, and
- Much more!

To learn more about the new SCAC Corporate Partner Program, please visit:

www.sccounties.org/corporate-partner-program

SCAC Staff Contacts:

Tish Anderson
tanderson@scac.sc
(803)252-7255, Ext. 333

Stuart Morgan
smorgan@scac.sc
(803)252-7255, Ext. 316



SCAC's 2020 Corporate Supporters

SCAC appreciates its corporate supporters! On Jan. 1, 2021, the Association will launch a new Corporate Partners Program. For more information, please contact the SCAC Office at (803) 252-7255.

PATRONS

ABM Building Solutions, LLC
Alpharetta, GA

BB&T Governmental Finance
Columbia, S

Brownstone
Columbia, SC

Dominion Energy
Cayce, SC

Duke Energy
South Carolina

Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
Cayce, SC

Fleettalk by Rock Communications, LLC
Fort Mill, SC

Keck & Wood, Inc.
Rock Hill, SC

Kozlarek Law LLC
Greenville, SC

NextEra Energy Capital Holdings Inc.
Juno Beach, FL

Pope Flynn Group
Columbia, Charleston and Spartanburg, SC; Charlotte, NC

Santee Cooper
Moncks Corner, SC

South Carolina Power Team
Columbia, SC

Southeast Cement Promotion Association, Inc.
Duluth, GA

SynTerra
Greenville, SC

THC, Inc.
Columbia, SC

SPONSORS

ADC Engineering
Hanahan, SC

Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.
Bluffton, Columbia and Greenville, SC;
Charlotte, NC

Analog Digital Solutions, Inc.
Fuquay-Varina, NC

Archer Company, LLC
Rock Hill, SC

AT&T
Columbia, SC

Avenu Insights & Analytics, Inc.
Birmingham, AL

Bamberg Board of Public Works
Bamberg, SC

Beaufort County Channel
Beaufort, SC

Blanchard Machinery
Columbia, SC

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Pickens, SC

Burr & Forman McNair
d/b/a Burr Forman McNair
Bluffton, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Hilton
Head and Myrtle Beach; Charlotte, NC

Celebrate Freedom Foundation
West Columbia, SC

Clemson University
Cooperative Extension
Clemson, SC

Coastal Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Walterboro, SC

Code Consulting & Inspection Services, LLC
Roebuck, SC

Compass Municipal Advisors, LLC
Columbia, SC

Davis & Floyd, Inc.
Charleston, SC

Dennis Corporation
Columbia, SC

Enterprise Fleet Management
Columbia, SC

Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Winnsboro, SC

Five Star Computing, Inc.
Columbia, SC

Gannett Fleming
Sumter, SC

GOODWYN|MILLS|CAWOOD
Greenville, SC

GovDeals, Inc.
Montgomery, AL

Gov World Auctions, LLC
Greelyville, SC

Greene Finney, LLP
Mauldin, SC

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA
Charleston, Columbia, Florence, Greenville and
Myrtle Beach, SC

Holt Consulting Company, LLC
Columbia, SC

Horry County Solid Waste Authority
Conway, SC

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Conway, SC

Howell Linkous & Nettles, LLC
Charleston, SC

**Infrastructure Consulting &
Engineering, PLLC**
Columbia, SC

LaBella Associates
Richmond, VA

Joyce
Richmond, VA

K&K Systems, Inc.
Tupelo, MS

KeyMark, Inc.
Liberty, SC

Kueper North America, LLC
Charleston, SC

J.M. Wood Auction Company, Inc.
Columbia, SC and Montgomery, AL

Mashburn Construction Company
Columbia, SC

M. B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc.
Columbia, SC

Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Lexington, SC

Moseley Architects
Charlotte, NC

Motorola Solutions – Palmetto 800
Columbia, SC

Municode/Municipal Code Corporation
Tallahassee, FL

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP
Charleston, Columbia, Greenville and
Myrtle Beach, SC; Washington, DC

Newberry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Newberry, SC

Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Hilton Head Island, SC

PalmettoPride
Columbia, SC

Pike McFarland Hall Associates
Myrtle Beach, SC

PROVAL Property Valuation & Analytics

PUBLIQ® Software
Spartanburg, SC

S&L King & Associates
Atlanta, GA

Schneider Electric
Greenville, SC

Schneider Geospatial
Indianapolis, IN

Segra
Columbia, SC

Sharp Business Systems
Greenville, SC

Siemens Corporation, Inc.
Irmo, SC

S.L. King & Associates, Inc.
Atlanta, GA

South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.
Columbia, SC

South Eastern Road Treatment, Inc.
Evans, GA

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
North Charleston, SC

Stewart · Cooper · Newell Architects
Columbia, SC, and Gastonia, NC

Synovus
Columbia, SC

Thomas & Hutton
Columbia and Mount Pleasant, SC

Thompson Turner Construction
Sumter, SC

Thorne Ambulance Service
Greenville, SC

Upstate South Carolina Alliance
Greenville, SC

Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc.
North Charleston, SC

SCAC ANNOUNCES NEW CORPORATE PARTNERS PROGRAM!

Effective Jan. 1, 2021

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

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

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

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



To Receive Sponsorship and Advertising Information, contact:

**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207
(803) 252-7255

E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

Purpose of the SCAC

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

✦ For more information about the SCAC, please contact:

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

SCCounties.org

SCCOUNTIES.ORG

*S.C. ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES*



County Jobs

Member Portal



ABOUT SCAC

ADVOCACY

RESOURCES

EVENTS & EDUCATION

PROGRAMS



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*.



PO Box 8207, Columbia SC 29202-8207 | scac@scac.sc
803.252.7255 | 800.922.6081

SCAC Officers & Board Members



PRESIDENT



Johnnie Wright Sr.
Orangeburg County
Council Chairman



First Vice President



Paul A. Cain
Oconee County
Council Vice Chairman

Second Vice President



Debra B. Summers
Lexington County
Council Member

Third Vice President



Roy Costner III
Pickens County
Council Chairman

Immediate Past President



Dwight L. Stewart Jr.
Clarendon County
Council Chairman

Treasurer



Belinda D. Copeland
Darlington County

NACo Board Member



Waymon Mumford
Florence County
Council Member



Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.®



David K. Summers Jr.
Calhoun County
Council Chairman

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



Mary D. Anderson
Chesterfield County
Council Member



Julie J. Armstrong
Charleston County
Clerk of Court



John Q. Atkinson Jr.
Marion County
Council Member



Alphonso Bradley
Florence County
Council Member



Joseph R. Branham
Chester County
Council Vice Chairman



C. David Chinniss
Dorchester County
Council Vice Chairman



Cam Crawford
Horry County
Council Member



Joseph B. Dill
Greenville County
Council Member



Charles T. Edens
Sumter County
Council Member



Ray Graham
Anderson County
Council Member



J. Frank Hart
Union County
Supervisor/Chairman



Charles T. Jennings
McCormick County
Council Chairman



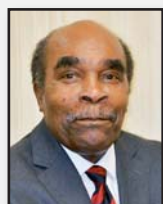
J. Clay Killian
Aiken County
Administrator



Henry H. Livingston III
Newberry County
Council Chairman



Joseph G. Mergo III
Lexington County
Administrator



William E. Robinson
Allendale County
Council Member



R. Archie Scott
Dillon County
Council Member



D. Paul Sommerville
Beaufort County
Council Vice Chair-



Cecil M. Thornton Jr.
Calhoun County
Council Member

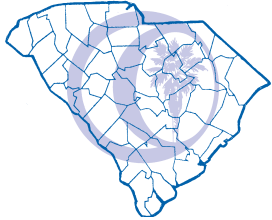


Robert Winkler
York County
Council Member



WHAT IS THE SCAC?

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



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

CONFERENCES

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

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

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

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

EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

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

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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

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

SETOFF DEBT PROGRAM

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

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

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

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

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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

RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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

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

SCAC's website address is:

SCCounties.org

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



SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Advocacy. Education. Collaboration.

• SCAC • 1919 Thurmond Mall • PO Box 8207 • Columbia, SC 29202-8207 •
• (803) 252-7255 • Toll-Free: 1-800-922-6081 • Fax (803) 252-0379 • E-mail: scac@scac.sc •

SCAC Staff

Timothy C. Winslow
Executive Director
twinslow@scac.sc

Joshua C. Rhodes
*Deputy Executive Director and
General Counsel*
jrhodes@scac.sc

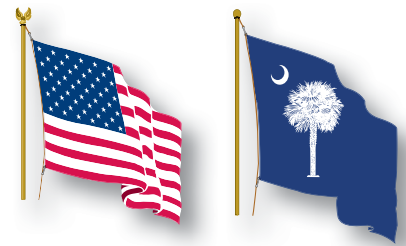
Anna B. Berger
Senior Director of Operations
aberger@scac.sc



1919 Thurmond Mall
Columbia, SC 29201

PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

803-252-7255
Fax: 803-252-0379
scac@scac.sc
www.SCCounties.org



Tish F. Anderson
Deputy Director of Administrative Services
tanderson@scac.sc

Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS
Director of Risk Management Services
rbenfield@scac.sc

Kelly H. Benson, AIC
Senior Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
kbenson@scac.sc

Sharon D. Berkowitz
Program Coordinator
sberkowitz@scac.sc

Amber L. Brazell
Program Coordinator
abrazell@scac.sc

Janet L. Cook
Senior Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
jcook@scac.sc

H. Warren Counts Jr., CPA
Controller
wcounts@scac.sc

Caroline Deevey, CIC, AAI, CISR, CRIS, INS
Insurance Trusts' Assistant Coordinator
cdeevey@scac.sc

John K. DeLoache
Senior Staff Attorney
jdeloache@scac.sc

Jennifer M. Haworth
Member Services Coordinator
jhaworth@scac.sc

Crystal D. Hayden-Jeffcoat
Claims Adjuster II, SCCWCT
cjeffcoat@scac.sc

John D. Henderson, ARM, ALCM
Director of Insurance Services
jhenderson@scac.sc

Van Henson, CPM
Risk Manager
vhenson@scac.sc

Chris W. Hinson
Senior Adjuster, SCCP<
chinson@scac.sc

Dana T. Homesley
Administrative Assistant
dhomesley@scac.sc

Kim P. Hudson
Senior Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
khudson@scac.sc

Lang C. Kelly, ARM, AIC
Claims Manager, SCCWCT
lkelly@scac.sc

Pearlena A. Khalif-Govan
Administrative Assistant
pkhalif@scac.sc

Cindy J. King
Accounting Manager, SCCWCT
cking@scac.sc

N. Taylor Lee
Administrative Specialist, SCCWCT
nlee@scac.sc

M. Kent Lesesne
Director of Governmental Affairs
klesesne@scac.sc

Robert J. Lyon, CPM, CPPB
IT/Procurement Director
rlyon@scac.sc

Owen A. McBride
Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs
omcbride@scac.sc

Mark A. McKinney
Claims Manager, SCCP<
mmckinney@scac.sc

Burdetta M. Miller
Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
bmiller@scac.sc

W. Stuart Morgan III
Public Information Director
smorgan@scac.sc

Colleen Motley
Senior Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
cmotley@scac.sc

Nilda A. Padgett
Director of Administrative Services
npadgett@scac.sc

Daina M. Riley
Staff Attorney
driley@scac.sc

Beth A. Segars
Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
dsegars@scac.sc

Pam N. Selkinghaus, ARM
Insurance Trusts' Program Coordinator
pselkinghaus@scac.sc

Ann B. Shealy
Recovery Specialist, SCCWCT
ashealy@scac.sc

Leslie M. Simpson
Staff Attorney
lsimpson@scac.sc

Alexander W. Smith
Staff Attorney
asmith@scac.sc

John J. Snelling
Senior Claims Adjuster, SCCWCT
jsnelling@scac.sc

Rachael P. Stephenson
Claims Supervisor, SCCWCT
rstephenson@scac.sc

Ryan C. Tooley
Special Projects Coordinator
rtooley@scac.sc

Susan B. Turkopuls
Director of Research and Training
sturkopuls@scac.sc

Rick K. Ucinski
Field Representative
rucinski@scac.sc

John O. Wienges
Governmental Affairs Liaison
jwienges@scac.sc

Mary E. Williams
Administrative Assistant
mwilliams@scac.sc

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<) was formed in 1995 due largely to the success of the Workers' Compensation Trust. SCCP< started with only four members and now has 24 members, including 16 counties.

Boards of Trustees

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

Risk Management

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

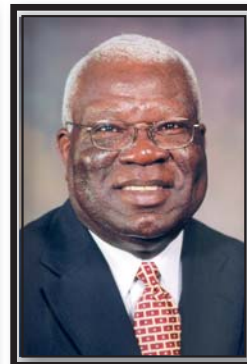
Claims Administration

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

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



CHAIRMAN
David K. Summers Jr.
Calhoun County
Council Chairman



VICE CHAIRMAN
Waymon Mumford
Florence County
Council Member



Joseph R. Branham
Chester County
Council Vice Chairman

What Is Driving Your County's Claims?

*Robert Benfield, ARM, AINS, SCAC Director of Risk Management Services, and
Van Henson, CPM, SCAC Risk Manager*

The goal of a county's risk management program is to keep bad stuff from happening and protecting the county's assets. Since the most valuable asset a county has is its employees, it only makes sense to mitigate the exposures impacting their safety.

Motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) account for over 10 percent of all member counties' workers' compensation claims and over 54 percent of their total incurred cost. MVAs also account for over 63 percent of property and liability claims within the S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust. The National Safety Council's most recent national statistics state that in 2019 there were 38,800 traffic related fatalities and 4.4 million traffic related injuries serious enough to require medical attention.

To further support the importance of safe driving habits by employees, the most recent figures released from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics show that transportation related incidents are still the number one cause of work-related fatalities at 40 percent. To put that into perspective, the second leading cause of work-related fatalities is falls, trips and slips in at 17 percent. This is indisputable evidence that we should be focusing on creating a culture of safe driving within our county departments.

Preventing a motor vehicle accident can eliminate three types of claims—workers' compensation, property, and liability. You are likely paying more in annual insurance premiums than you would be if there were an effective safe driving program in place for your county.

The common law doctrine of respondeat superior is something that all should be aware of too. This doctrine is common

in tort law and can hold an employer legally accountable for negligent employee actions if the employee was acting within the scope of his or her employment at the time of the incident. This is an important concept in distracted driving cases and why you should have in place and enforce a policy that bans all use of hand held and hands-free mobile phone devices while driving during the course and scope of employment.

During evidentiary discovery, a good attorney will likely request private and county owned mobile device records, as well as additional documents in an attempt to establish that an employee was acting within the scope of employment at the time of the incident. The attorney will also try to prove that a culture of negligence exists within your organization and will also exploit the facts if you have no policies, procedures or training in place to prohibit such behavior, or that your policies are ineffective and/or not enforced.

You will have some protections granted pursuant to the South Carolina Tort Claims Act. However, it's worth noting that federal actions can be brought against an employer if it can be shown that there is training or procedural lapses in certain cases. There also has been recent discussions in congress to consider liability reforms to hold entities more responsible for certain employee torts under federal law.

Written and enforced policies and procedures, and appropriate training provide just one layer of prevention and assistance in being able to build a stronger defense against a tort claim. County leaders should lead by example and should support all

(Continued on next page)



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

initiatives throughout every department. Technology can reciprocally be utilized to protect us against the same technology in the form of cell phone blocking apps.

Many of these apps are offered by cell phone providers or can be downloaded for free. They operate by blocking the use of the phone when the unit's GPS detects that it is in motion and exceeding 10 mph. Employee's voicemail prompts should also indicate that they are a phone-free driver and that they will respond back as soon as it is safe to do so.

Another vital component of a successful risk management program is the use of a vehicle accident review board (VARB). The purpose of this board is to review all employee-involved motor vehicle accidents and determine if the accident could have been avoided and if the employee's actions or inactions contributed to or caused the accident.

Not all accidents can be avoided, but many accidents occur due to distractions, driving too fast for conditions and poor driving habits. One of the first steps in creating a culture of safe driving within your organization is to hold your employees accountable for their actions. It is also critical that you hold your department managers and supervisors accountable for enforcing your policies.

The makeup of the VARB can vary depending on your county organization and political makeup. In some counties a representative of each department sits on the VARB. In other counties, there is a VARB for county departments and a separate VARB for law enforcement. Either way, VARBs can help reduce accidents and injuries. The VARB can also be expanded to cover heavy equipment, and any wheeled or powered conveyance accidents. Ultimately, it is left up to each county to determine the best makeup and procedures for their VARB.

In addition to reviewing MVAs and determining if the employee did or did not contribute to or cause the accident, the VARB can also assign sanctions and penalties based on its philosophy. Some examples of sanctions and penalties are as follows, but not limited to:

- Driving privileges revoked
- Require enrollment and completion of a driver improvement program or defensive driving class
- Required to pay for repairs (full amount or a percentage not to exceed set amount)
- Required to pay a percentage or full amount of the deductible
- Revoke take home privileges of county vehicles (if applicable)
- Days off without pay
- Termination for egregious violations

There are some guidelines that need to be followed when setting your sanctions and penalties to ensure you operate within labor laws and applicable wage and hours laws. SCAC can provide you with a memorandum written by a labor attorney that gives guidance in this area.

The Association recommends that you conduct annual motor vehicle record checks on all employees who drive county vehicles. You should also require employees to report to you as soon as possible if their state driving privileges have been revoked or suspended by the SCDMV. Your marked county vehicles are a moving billboard for your county and how your employees

drive those vehicles impacts public perception and your county's budget.

SCAC Staff can provide you with examples of written VARB policies. These examples will provide you with guidance on developing the scope of your VARB, makeup of the review panel, review procedures, employees' rights to defend their actions, sanctions and penalties. The Association also offer a variety of defensive driving classes that can be taught in your county for a minimum fee to cover the costs of the workbooks needed for each student.

Defensive Driving 4 Course—a four-hour, National Safety Council course designed for operators of non-emergency or maintenance vehicles. Training certificates are issued, and many insurers will redeem them for discounts on personal auto insurance.

Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator (CEVO) Police—a four-hour, National Safety Council course designed for sheriff's deputies. The course covers backing, running with lights and sirens, pulling offenders and legal rulings of accidents involving law enforcement vehicles. This course has been approved by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy for four hours of Continuing Law Enforcement Education credits.

Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator (CEVO) EMS—a four-hour, National Safety Council course designed for EMS.

Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operator (CEVO) Fire—a four-hour, National Safety Council course designed for the fire service.

Coaching the Maintenance Vehicle Operator—a four-hour, National Safety Council course designed for public works employees.

If you would like additional information on VARBs, sample policies and procedures, or to schedule defensive driver training please contact Van Henson, Vhenson@scac.sc, or Robert Benfield, Rbenfield@scac.sc. SCAC looks forward to working with you on your risk management and safety programs.



Justice for All.

Preserved for All.



Designed by William Augustus Edwards and constructed in 1914, the **York County Courthouse** holds an honored spot on the National Register of Historic Places.

To restore this icon of South Carolina's heritage and justice system, York County turned to a trusted partner in historic architectural design, **Stewart-Cooper-Newell**.

The renovation was completed in 2016.



Stewart · Cooper · Newell
Architects

(800)671-0621

www.scn-architects.com

SCAC Hosts 2020 Annual Conference, a 'Hybrid Conference,' Aug. 1 – 3

SCAC hosted its 2020 Annual Conference—a “hybrid” conference—on a condensed schedule in Hilton Head on August 1 – 3, designed to maximize safety due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Workshops were designed to help county leaders lead and serve more effectively, and the general session was streamed live for anyone unable to attend.

New SCAC officers and board members were elected.

The SCAC staff worked closely with hotel staff to ensure recommended sanitizing procedures were followed and social distancing

measures, including one person per six-foot area, were implemented. The hotel followed Hospitality Industry guidelines for reopening.

The Institute of Government for County Officials was held on August 1 and August 2. The following courses were offered: Public Budgeting; Developing Good Leadership Skills; Planning



SCAC's Newly-Elected President for 2020–21
Johnnie Wright Sr.
Orangeburg County Council Chairman



General Session, SCAC's 2020 Annual Conference, August 3

and Land Use; Current Issues: Moving Forward from the COVID-19; Building an Effective Team; and Decision-Making in a

Political Environment. Many of these courses are available online on the Association's website for anyone who was unable to attend the conference.

SCAC's 2020 Annual Awards Program was hosted on August 26 at SCETV in Columbia. Presenters presented in person, and the event was streamed live for all county officials to view.

This year's Awards Program included a COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase. The new segment was added to this year's program so counties could describe their efforts when working with communities during the coronavirus pandemic.

SCAC then livestreamed a "watch party" at SCETV on October 1 to announce the competition's winning projects, and to recognize counties that participated in the showcase.



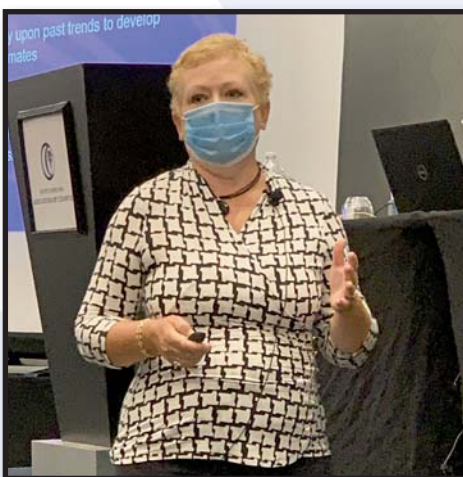
(More photos, Pp. 34 to 36)



**SCAC's Immediate Past President
Dwight L. Stewart Jr.
Clarendon County Council Chairman**



▲ SCAC Staff Member Dana Homesley shows the poster promoting SCAC's conference app, which can be downloaded from Apple iPhone or the Google Play Store for android phones.



▲ A county official completes a form affirming that he has not been exposed to COVID-19 and that he is symptom-free when picking up his conference registration packet. To help ensure social distancing, SCAC set up multiple registration desks.



▼ Gina Smith (at left) teaches the Public Budgeting class at the Institute of Government, shown above.



▲ Participating on the panel for the Institute of Government's discussion on Current Issues: Moving Forward from the COVID-19 are:

(right to left) Josh Rhodes, SCAC Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel; Michael Kozlarek of Kozlarek Law LLC; Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County Administrator; and Frank Rainwater, Executive Director, S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.



*Photos by
Stuart Morgan*

▼ SCAC Senior Staff Attorney John DeLoache (inset above-left), a panelist, speaks at the Institute of Government's Planning and Land Use class. Two other panelists participated: Michael Conley, Planning and Zoning Director, Kershaw County; and Alison Simmons, Planning and Zoning Director, Berkeley County.



◀ 2019-20 SCAC President Dwight Stewart presents a small replica of the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award to David Chinnis, Dorchester County Council Vice Chairman, who accepts the memento for Dorchester County. Dorchester County won last year's award for its Online Newsroom, an innovative approach that tells the county's story by improving information communicated to the public and reducing the spread of misinformation.



◀ SCAC's newly-elected president, Johnnie Wright Sr. presents a plaque to Immediate Past President Dwight Stewart recognizing his dedication and hard work as president of the SCAC from 2019 to 2020.



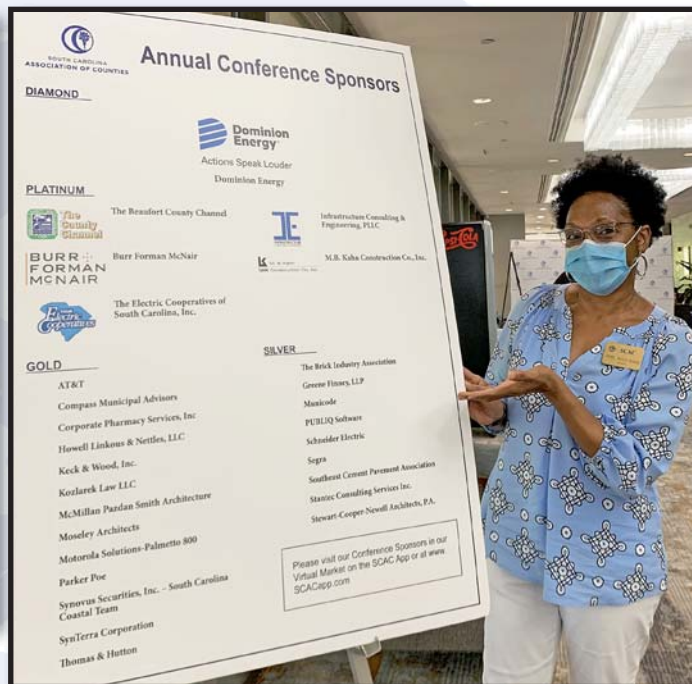
▲ Participating on the panel (right to left) at the Building Connections Between Enforcement and the Community workshop are: Anna Berger (moderator), SCAC Senior Director of Operations; Waymon Mumford, Florence County Council Member; Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott; Lancaster Sheriff Barry Faile; and Chief Greg Mullen, Clemson University. During the workshop, law enforcement and county leaders shared their experiences working with a broad range of community members to build a foundation of trust.

➤ 2019–20 SCAC President Dwight Stewart presents the President's Cup to David W. Epperson, Clarendon County Administrator. Each year, SCAC honors the county official who has merited special recognition for service to county governments and assistance to the Association's president during the past year.





▲ SCAC Immediate Past President Dwight Stewart (left) passes the president's gavel to the Association's new president, Johnnie Wright Sr.



▲ SCAC Staff Member Pearl Khalif-Govan shows the sign recognizing the many businesses that supported the Association's 53rd Annual Conference as Conference Sponsors.



SCAC's 2020 Awards Competition and COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase was held on August 26 at SCETV in Columbia. On October 1, SCAC livestreamed a Virtual Watch Party to announce the competition's award winners and to recognize counties that participated in the Showcase.

◀ Presenting Georgetown County's entry at the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition are: Brandon Ellis, Georgetown Emergency Preparedness Manager; and Jackie Broach-Akers, Public Information Officer.



▲ JUDGES—Judging this year's competition are: (right to left) William E. Tomes, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston; J. Milton Pope, Principal, Parker Poe Consulting; and Paula E. Sanford, Ph. D., Public Service and Outreach Faculty Member, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia.



▲ On August 26 at SCETV in Columbia, a cameraman records presentations made at the J. Mitchell Graham/Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards Competition. The three-judge panel (inset above-right) asked each of the presenters questions immediately following their 10 minute presentations.

SCAC 2020 Annual Conference SPONSORS

DIAMOND



**Dominion
Energy®**

Actions Speak Louder

PLATINUM



**The
County
Channel**

**BURR
FORMAN
MCNAIR**



M. B. Kahn

KAHN Construction Co., Inc.

GOLD

AT&T

**Compass Municipal Advisors
Corporate Pharmacy Services, Inc.
Howell Linkous & Nettles, LLC**

Keck & Wood, Inc.

Kozlarek Law LLC

McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture

Moseley Architects

Motorola Solutions – Palmetto 800

Parker Poe

Synovus Securities, Inc. – South Carolina Power Team

SynTerra Corporation

Thomas & Hutton

SILVER

The Brick Industry Association

Greene Finney, LLP

Municode

PUBLIQ Software

Schneider Electric

Segra

Southeast Cement Pavement Association

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects, P.A.



When it comes to architecture and construction for municipal buildings and community spaces, integrated DESIGN BUILD is the way to go. Bobbitt has delivered state-of-the-art facilities for municipalities across the Carolinas. View our portfolio on our website and contact us to learn more.

Turn to the experts to BUILD your community facility, where government and people connect.

bobbitt.com

BOBBITT
DESIGN • BUILD

THINK. DESIGN. BUILD.

a **BUTLER** builder



Excellence is what we do.



Excellence is what you expect.

At PrintSouth Printing, our specialization is offset and digital printing. However, we offer so much more; including mailing, large format, ad specialty, and marketing. We also provide graphic and web design.

Working hard to bring you the best solutions for your project all under one roof.

Call today at 803-796-2619 or visit us online at myprintsouth.com



Corinne Alford
Sales Representative
C 803-665-0023
corinne@myprintsouth.com

1114 Silstar Road
West Columbia, SC 29170
P 803-796-2619
online: myprintsouth.com

Lancaster County Courthouse
Lancaster, South Carolina

S&W

ARCHITECTURE
ENGINEERING
INTERIORS



At **Stevens & Wilkinson** we create sustainable environments that are culturally and socially significant, projects that have a lasting and positive impact on our communities.

1501 Main Street, Suite 730, Columbia, SC 29201 - stevens-wilkinson.com - [#smartdesignsolutions](https://twitter.com/smartdesignsolutions)



David W. Epperson Receives President's Cup

SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr. (Clarendon County Council Chairman) presented the President's Cup—one of the Association's highest honors—to Clarendon County Administrator David W. Epperson at the Association's 2020 Annual Conference, held August 1 – 3.

Each year, SCAC honors the county official who has merited special recognition for service to county governments and assistance to Association's president during the past year.

"This year's recipient of the President's Cup—my good friend, David Epperson—has contributed countless hours to the betterment of his community where he was born and raised. ... He is a tremendous asset to Clarendon County and county council."

—Dwight L. Stewart
SCAC President for 2019–20

"This year's recipient of the President's Cup—my good friend, David Epperson—has contributed countless hours to the betterment of his community where he was born and raised," said SCAC President Stewart when presenting the prestigious award to Epperson at the conference's general session on August 3. "Having served in a leadership position with Clarendon County since



SCAC President for 2019–20, Dwight L. Stewart Jr. (left), presents the President's Cup to David W. Epperson on August 3 during SCAC's 2020 Annual Conference. (Photo by Stuart Morgan)

2006, this gentleman has helped guide our county through historic flooding events and the Coronavirus pandemic. He is a tremendous asset to Clarendon County and county council.

"Recognized by his peers as a leader, David served as the 2018–19 President of the South Carolina County Managers, Administrators and Supervisors' Association," Stewart added. "This gentleman is active in the South Carolina Association of County Attorneys and serves as a member of SCAC's legislative tracking groups. He is also an Elder at The Presbyterian Church

of Manning and a doting father who enjoys spending time with his family and supporting his children in their hobbies. David is blessed with a loving and supportive wife, Bridgett, and two children, Harper and Maggie."

Epperson received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina (USC) and his Juris Doctor degree from the USC School of Law. He is also a graduate of SCAC's Institute of Government for County Officials.



Recipients of the SCAC President's Cup



2020—David W. Epperson, *Clarendon County*
 2019—Columbus Stephens, *McCormick County*
 2018—Wayne Adams, *Newberry County*
 2017—Belinda D. Copeland, *Darlington County*
 2016—K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr., *Florence County*
 2015—Patricia S. Hartley, *Horry County*
 2014—R. Carlisle Roddey, *Chester County*
 2013—William T. Noonan, *Sumter County*
 2012—Willis H. Meadows, *Greenville County*
 2011—David K. Summers, Jr., *Calhoun County*
 2010—James A. Coleman, *Laurens County*
 2009—Steve S. Kelly, Jr., *Kershaw County*
 2008—Waymon Mumford, *Florence County*
 2007—Waymon Mumford, *Florence County*
 2006—K.G. “Rusty” Smith, Jr., *Florence County*
 2005—Ed Favor, *Charleston County*
 2004—David K. Summers, Jr., *Calhoun County*
 2003—Roland H. Windham, *Charleston County*
 2002—O.V. Player, Jr., *Sumter County*
 2001—Judith Spooner, *Berkeley County*
 2000—Gonza L. Bryant, *Greenwood County*
 1999—Polly C. Jackson, *Lancaster County*
 1998—William L. McBride, *Beaufort County*
 1997—James H. Rozier, Jr., *Berkeley County*
 1996—Betty T. Roper, *Clarendon County*
 1995—R. Carlisle Roddey, *Chester County*
 1994—O.V. Player, Jr., *Sumter County*
 1993—Betty T. Roper, *Clarendon County*
 1992—Lonnie Hamilton III, *Charleston County*
 1991—David K. Summers, Jr., *Calhoun County*
 1990—Lachlan H. Hyatt, *Spartanburg County*
 1989—James R. McGee, *Orangeburg County*
 1988—O.V. Player, Jr., *Sumter County*
 1987—Howard A. “Buck” Taylor, *Charleston County*
 1986—Howard C. “Butch” Spires, *Lexington County*
 1985—Mary L. Barry, *Lancaster County*
 1984—Johnnie Flynn, *Berkeley County*
 1983—Candy Y. Waites, *Richland County*
 1982—Robert W. Ragin, *Charleston County*
 1981—James R. Barber III, *Richland County*
 1980—Charles W. Lawrimore, *Georgetown County*
 1979—L.H. “Sonny” Siau, *Georgetown County*
 1978—James O. Thomason, *Spartanburg County*
 1977—Oren L. Brady, Jr., *Spartanburg County*
 1976—J. Eugene Klugh, *York County*
 1975—Richard L. Black, *Charleston County*



Professional Printers

www.proprinters.com

Commercial Sheetfed,
Web & Digital Printing

Promotional Products

Online Storefronts

Storage & Fulfillment

Kitting & Mailing

For more information, contact:

Bill Reagan

803-888-3253

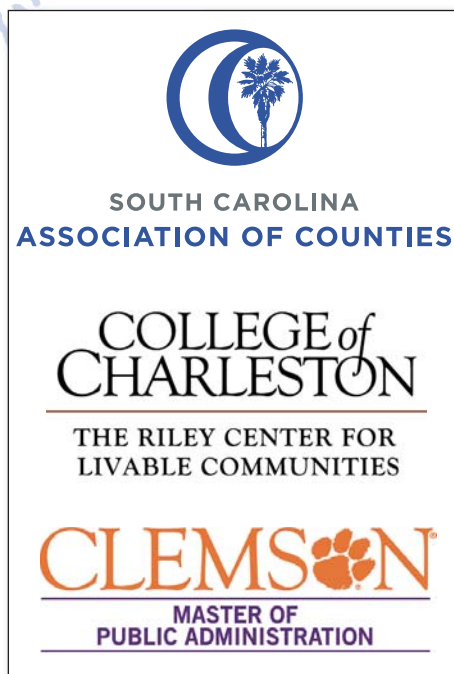
Twenty-Nine County Officials Graduate from the Institute of Government for County Officials

Twenty-nine county officials graduated on August 3 from Levels I and II of the Institute of Government for County Officials at SCAC's 2020 Annual Conference, held August 1 – 3.

"It is an honor for me to recognize members of the class of 2020," said 2019-20 SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr. (Clarendon County Council Chairman) when recognizing graduates at the conference's general session on August 3. "Your commitment to county government is admirable, and your success is well-deserved. Congratulations!"

LEVEL I

Graduating from Level I were: AIKEN COUNTY—**Brian Sanders**, Deputy County Administrator; **Cynthia Holland**, Registration & Elections Executive Director; BAMBERG COUNTY—**Sharon Hammond**, Council Chairman; BEAUFORT COUNTY—**Joseph Passiment**, Council Chairman; CALHOUN COUNTY—**Denise M. Christmas**, Deputy Administrator/CFO; CHARLESTON COUNTY—**Kristen Hess**, Deputy Clerk to Council; **Kristen L. Salisbury**, Clerk to Council; CHEROKEE COUNTY—**Stephen L. Bratton**, County Administrator; EDGEFIELD COUNTY—**Scott Cooper**, Council Chairman; FAIRFIELD COUNTY—**Moses W. Bell** and **Clarence Gilbert**, Council Members; GREENVILLE COUNTY—**Jessica Stone**, Deputy Clerk to Council; GREENWOOD



COUNTY—**Melissa Spencer**, Council Member; **Susan L. McIntyre**, Clerk to Council; HAMPTON COUNTY—**Ronald G. Winn**, Council Member; LANCASTER COUNTY—**Allen Blackmon** and **Terry Graham**, Council Members; LEE COUNTY—**Johnette M. Caughman**, Council Member; OCONEE COUNTY—**David A. Root**, County Attorney; PICKENS COUNTY—**Michael Hayes**, Risk Manager; SPARTANBURG COUNTY—**Jack A. Mabry**, Council Member; SUMTER COUNTY—**Christopher F. Sumpter II**, Council Member; and YORK COUNTY—**Robert Winkler**, Council Member.



LEVEL II

Graduating from Level II were: AIKEN COUNTY—**Brian Sanders**, Deputy County Administrator; CHESTERFIELD COUNTY—**C. Heath Ruffner**, County Attorney; EDGEFIELD COUNTY—**Scott Cooper**, Council Chairman; FAIRFIELD COUNTY—**Cornelius Robinson**, Council Chairman; **Patti L. Davis**, Clerk to Council; HAMPTON COUNTY—**Jennifer G. Youmans**, Treasurer; LANCASTER COUNTY—**Terry Graham**, Council Member; and OCONEE COUNTY—**James G. Hart**, Council Member.

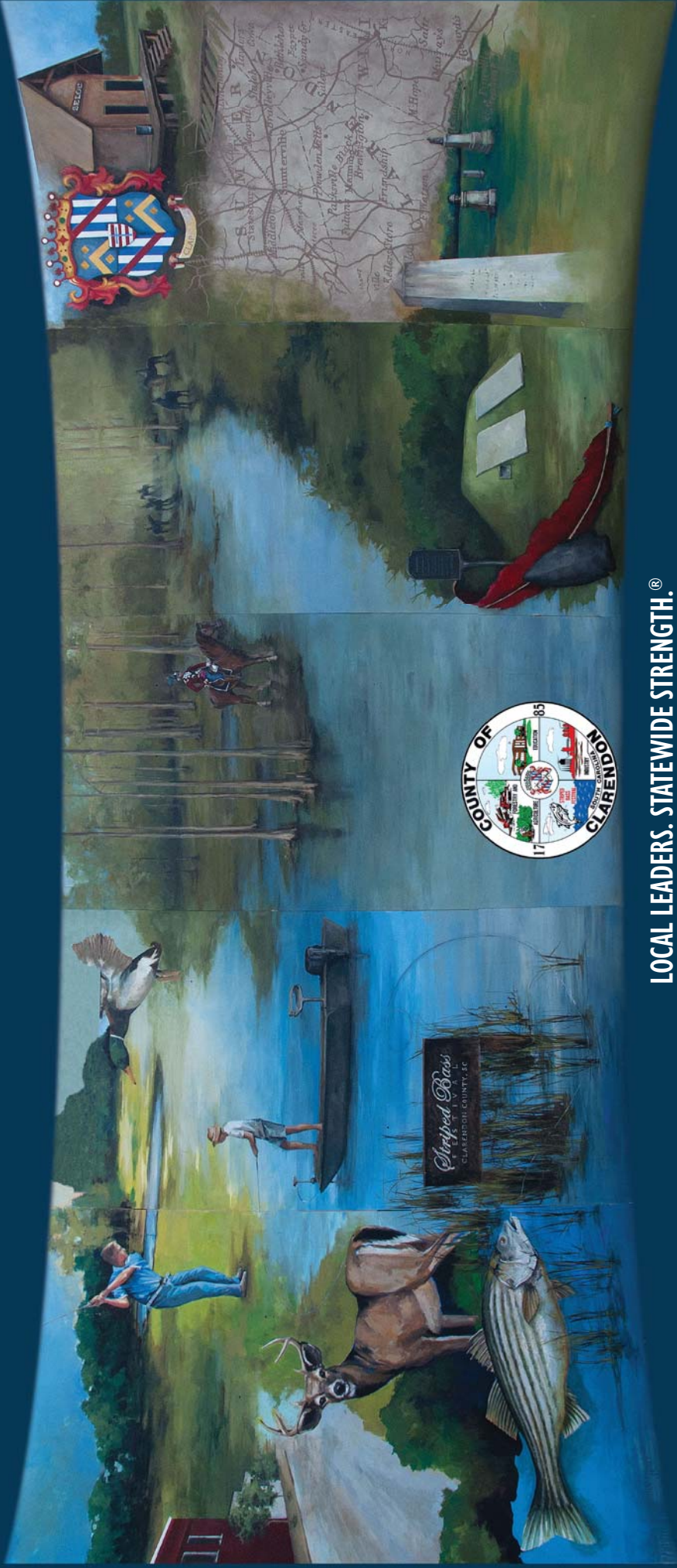
The Institute of Government for County Officials provides county officials the opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities to function more effectively. SCAC partners with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, to offer the Institute of Government three times per year. Clemson University's Master of Public Administration program sponsors the Institute.

County officials must complete 27 hours of instruction to graduate from Level I, and 18 hours of instruction to graduate from Level II.





2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



LOCAL LEADERS. STATEWIDE STRENGTH.®

DWIGHT L. STEWART JR., PRESIDENT
SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

South Carolina Counties



Photos from left to right: Union County Courthouse (photo courtesy of Bill Segars) | Marion County Archives Building | Laurens County Courthouse (photo courtesy of Bill Segars)

A Letter from the 2019-2020 President



SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

DWIGHT L. STEWART JR., PRESIDENT

Dear County Officials,

I am honored to share this year's *President's Report*, which reflects SCAC's steadfast commitment to our counties as we face unprecedented and challenging times. Your active involvement and the strong leadership of the SCAC Board of Directors and staff are the reasons our Association is immensely successful each year.

This year, SCAC's legislative advocacy team represented our interests on the Governor's accelerateSC task force and continues to work closely with our counties and the Executive Budget Office to ensure we receive reimbursement from the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund. Additionally, SCAC staff amplified our concerns and interests by fighting for our first responders and other county employees as the health crisis began to unfold in our state.

The Association has worked tirelessly to provide timely information to help us on the front lines of this health pandemic. SCAC staff has equipped our counties with invaluable resources regarding virtual council meetings, county operations and finances, the Governor's Executive Orders, and federal relief packages. This information has proven essential for us to make informed and sound decisions for our counties. Equally important, as we work collaboratively for social justice, the Association is committed to sharing information on successful programs that build relationships among law enforcement and our communities.

For more than 50 years, SCAC's legislative, educational, and financial resources have helped us gain the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to be effective leaders for our citizens. As you read this year's report, I encourage you to learn more about SCAC's diverse service package and ways you can access these resources. Our Association stands ready to assist you and your county.

As I reflect on my term as SCAC President, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your support. It has truly been a privilege to serve as your president and work side-by-side with you. I look forward to continuing our partnership as we work for the betterment of our counties and our citizens.

Sincerely,

Dwight L. Stewart Jr., President
South Carolina Association of Counties
Clarendon County Council Chairman

SCAC 2020 Executive Summary

DWIGHT L. STEWART JR., PRESIDENT

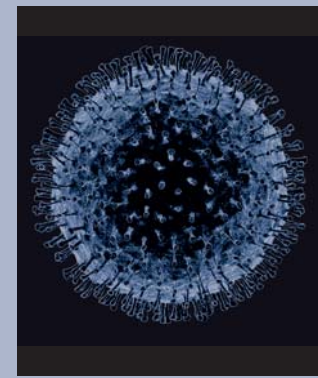
For more than 50 years, the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) has worked to empower county officials through advocacy, education, and collaboration. I am proud of the Association's commitment to helping our counties as we have faced unprecedented times this year. From guidance on virtual meetings to summaries of federal relief packages and webinars led by employment attorneys, the Association strives to share real-time information to help us make informed decisions to protect our employees, residents, and business community.

The Association has a rich history of working with county and state leaders to safeguard Home Rule and achieve specific legislative goals. As a legal advocate, SCAC conducts research, provides sound advice, and appears as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) in cases with statewide impact.

This summary covers
the period from
August 2019 to August 2020.

SCAC's educational programs foster close connections between newcomers and seasoned county leaders by equipping them with a fundamental understanding of local government and sharpening the skills needed to make sound, ethical decisions. The Association's research and publications keep county officials and employees abreast of trends and emerging issues. SCAC's insurance trusts, risk management services, and debt collection programs help our counties effectively and efficiently serve our communities.

By bringing together **Local Leaders**, the Association and county officials are able to create **Statewide Strength**. SCAC is honored to be of service to South Carolina's 46 counties. Please explore the pages of this report, which covers the period from August 2019 to August 2020, to learn more about the Association's programs and progress.



Represented county
government on
accelerateSC Committee

Published multiple resources explaining COVID-19 federal relief packages, S.C. Governor's Executive Orders, funding resources for counties, and COVID-19 implications for S.C. detention centers



Provided technical bulletins, survey reports, & FAQs on virtual council meetings and county operations and finances

Hosted webinars and virtual meetings on HR implications of federal relief packages and re-opening county offices, and state revenue projections



SCAC 2019-2020 Program Highlights

Advocates for County Government

Legislative Advocacy

In December 2019, SCAC's Legislative Committee adopted 99 policy positions to set the course for the 2020 Legislative year. These positions were published in *Policy Positions for the 2020 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly*. Their development spanned five months and included input from more than 1,200 county officials and employees.

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

SCAC staff members attend numerous subcommittee and committee meetings, track the actions of both chambers each day of session, and monitor each bill or amendment that affects county government. This includes reviewing each bill

or amendment introduced and requesting input from county officials. When legislative action occurs quickly, special *Legislative Alerts* are sent or individual telephone calls are made. During the 2020 legislative session, SCAC monitored 497 bills.

The success of the legislative program is the result of the relentless efforts of SCAC staff and the work of hundreds of county officials who remain informed and make timely contact with the members of the General

SCAC 2019-2020 Legislative Priorities

Local Government Fund (LGF) and State Appropriations Bill (H.5201).

Prior to the shutdown of the General Assembly, the House passed the budget bill and Capital Reserve Fund bill (H. 5202), a total budget of \$10.2 billion. Both bills are now in the Senate Finance Committee. Under the Sine Die Resolution, the General Assembly will reconvene in September. While the state is currently operating under a continuing resolution, the plan is to pass the budget when they reconvene.

Under the budget passed by the House, the LGF is funded with an additional \$11,687,035 over last year's amount. The budget bill also earmarks an additional \$250,000 for County Veterans' Affairs Offices, an SCAC policy position, and provides for a 2 percent merit-based raise for state employees.

The budget bill includes an increase of over \$1,500 to the salary supplement for each county coroner, probate judge, clerk of court, and sheriff, as well as a \$550,000 increase for the Councils of Governments (COGs). Finally, \$128 million will be used to provide a one-time income tax credit. While the majority of the state will continue to operate at the levels of funding from the previous fiscal year, the Senate plan appropriates \$11,687,035 to the Local Government Fund. This is full funding of the Local Government Fund per the new statutory formula



Absentee Ballots (Act No. 133).

In an effort to address voting safely during COVID-19, the General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, this bill to quickly implement changes regarding absentee ballots that will sunset on December 31, 2021. Beginning on Sunday, November 1, 2020, at 7:00 a.m., Act 133 allows absentee ballots to be examined to ensure they are properly signed and witnessed, and allows the outer sealed return-addressed envelope to be removed. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Election Day, the absentee ballots may be tabulated. Results of the tabulation may not be reported until the polls close.

This Act also has a provision, which sunsets on July 31, 2020, that allows anyone living in an area that has been declared to be in a state of emergency by the Governor with less than 46 days before the election to vote by absentee ballot. This provision, which allows voters to use COVID-19 as an excuse to vote by absentee ballot, only applies to the June primaries and any runoffs from the primaries.

Affordable Housing (Act No. 137).

This legislation enacts the “Workforce and Senior Affordable Housing Act,” an SCAC policy position. This Act provides a tax credit for those who develop low-income housing.

Armed Service Members and Spouses (Act No. 139).

This legislation enacts SCAC’s policy position regarding professional licenses for military personnel and their spouses. SCAC supports allowing active duty military personnel and their spouses to be exempt from state occupational licensing requirements if they maintain a valid occupational license in another state.

Business Licenses (H. 4431).

SCAC supports this bill, which would enact SCAC’s policy position to standardize the imposition and collection of business license taxes. This bill is revenue neutral, does not inhibit a county’s ability to impose a business license tax, and would allow for the use of an online payment portal. Because the

House passed this bill prior to May 14, 2020, the Senate may still consider this bill pursuant to this year’s Sine Die Resolution.

Cell Phones in Jails (S. 156).

SCAC supports this bill, which would aid in the elimination of unauthorized telecommunication use by inmates. Because the Senate passed this bill prior to May 14, 2020, the House may still consider this bill pursuant to this year’s Sine Die Resolution.

Property Assessment (S. 545).

SCAC opposes repealing a statutory provision that grants county auditors the authority to assess taxes on certain business personal property. This bill, as amended by the Senate, would require a county auditor to use a standardized form when assessing certain business personal property taxes. Because the Senate passed this bill prior to May 14, 2020, the House may still consider this bill pursuant to this year’s Sine Die Resolution.

Rollback Taxes (H. 3596).

This bill would reduce the amount of rollback taxes due when agricultural property is changed to another use from five years to three years. Because the House passed this bill prior to May 14, 2020, the Senate may still consider this bill pursuant to this year’s Sine Die Resolution.

Waste Tire Regulations (H. 4504).

SCAC supports increasing the criminal penalties for violating waste tire regulations and authorizing the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to promulgate additional regulations. Because the House passed this bill prior to May 14, 2020, the Senate may still consider this bill pursuant to this year’s Sine Die Resolution.

CARES Act (Act No. 142).

Act No. 142 authorizes the Executive Budget Office (EBO) to reimburse expenditures from the federal CARES Act to state and local agencies, institutions of higher learning, and hospitals for COVID-19 related expenses. As part of the reimbursement requests, these entities must submit sufficient information to the EBO and the appointed grants administrator to identify other COVID-19 related funding that they are receiving, regardless of the source, and provide a detailed accounting of how the funding is being used.

As part of Phase I funding, state and local governments were authorized to receive \$270 million, and the Office of Regulatory Staff was authorized to receive up to \$50 million to secure vendors for the development of a statewide broadband county-by-county mapping plan and a statewide broadband infrastructure plan. Under Phase II, the General Assembly authorized an additional \$115 million for state and local governments and independent colleges and universities, \$40 million for minority and small business relief, and \$25 million for non-profits.

A more thorough summary of Act No. 142 will be included in SCAC's *Acts That Affect Counties*.



Legal Advocacy

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

S.C. Public Interest Foundation et al. v. Calhoun County Council

This case involves the Foundation's efforts to halt the county's imposition of a capital project sales tax (CPST). State law limits actions related to CPST referendums to 30 days after the certification of the referendum. The Foundation failed to file its action until three months after the certification of the referendum results. The circuit court dismissed the case as outside of the statute of limitations, and thus did not consider the merits of the case. The Foundation filed an appeal with the S.C. Supreme Court. Oral arguments are scheduled for October 15, 2020.

Georgetown County v. S.C. Department of Transportation

This case involves the issue of whether a state agency can take the property of county government without paying just compensation required by the state constitution. The S.C. Court of Appeals held that because counties were a creation of the state, any property of the counties could be taken without compensation. The S.C. Supreme Court accepted the county's appeal and scheduled oral arguments by video conference; however, on June 3, 2020, the court dismissed the *grant of certiorari*. The court's dismissal means that county property is not protected from takings by the state.

Education and Collaboration

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

The Institute of Government for County Officials

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

The Institute of Government is offered in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston. Clemson University's Master of Public Administration Program is a program sponsor. As a result of these partnerships, the Association is able to make enhancements to the Institute of Government curriculum and the pool of instructors used to teach the courses.

The primary curriculum includes two levels of certification and offers advanced courses to permit graduates to stay apprised of current issues impacting county government. Twenty-seven contact hours are required for Level I certification and an additional 18 hours are required for Level II certification. This year, 267 county officials attended Level I and Level II classes, and 89 participated in the advanced courses.

Four of the Institute of Government's courses provide continuing education credit for local planning/zoning officials and employees. Institute of Government courses are also a component of the S.C. Clerks to Council Certification Program.



Training for Council Officers



In February, SCAC offers a workshop for council chairmen and vice chairmen in conjunction with the Institute of Government. The workshop provides information about the duties, powers, and responsibilities of both leadership positions.

Participants learn strategies for running effective meetings; the importance of rules of procedure; and how a bill becomes state law. The value of building effective working relationships with local delegation members, council members, other elected officials, and the county chief administrative officer is also addressed.



E-learning

Since 1996, SCAC has provided training to county officials and employees via distance education programs. Today, the Association hosts training via webinars and offers online courses that provide Institute of Government credit. Webinar sessions are made available online for streaming via SCAC's online library. The webinars are an invaluable tool for providing education at no cost to the counties.

SCAC launched its second online course this year as part of the Institute of Government. Orientation to County Government II is now available online and is offered at no cost to elected and appointed county officials. This course builds upon the topics covered in Orientation to County Government I. The course takes approximately one and a half hours to complete and includes several quizzes to reinforce the user's learning. Upon completion, the participant is granted three hours of Level I Institute of Government credit. For additional information, visit SCAC's website at SCCounties.org.

"Instructors were very knowledgeable and engaging. The legal expert and practitioner perspectives they shared were the perfect blend for this topic. The program helped me gain more clarity and understanding of practical and realistic ethical situations we face as county officials."

— Institute of Government Participant

SCAC's 2019-20 Continuing Education Programs

Due to COVID-19, the SCPEAC waived certain training requirements through June 30, 2020, to allow planning and zoning officials the ability to continue their education remotely. SCAC conducted two webinars in June for planning and zoning officials to take advantage of the SCPEAC changes. The topics were crafted to help local governments with the implications of COVID-19 and the 2020 Census Count.

"Trends in Planning & Zoning Virtual Meetings & Online Services" was offered on June 9, and "Growth Implications for South Carolina Counties" was offered June 18. Nearly 290 planning and zoning officials and employees from 35 local governments participated.

During the past year, the Association also hosted the following virtual programs: "HR Implications of Reopening County Offices during COVID-19" webinar on June 8; "State Revenue Projections and Budgetary Implications" GoToMeeting on April 9; "New COVID-19 Federal Supplemental Packages and HR Implications for Counties" webinar on April 1; and "Preventing Workplace Violence" webinar on December 4. Collectively, the Association received more than 250 registrations from county participants for these events.



Legal Training

SCAC legal staff is called upon regularly to provide presentations and training for county officials and employees on topics such as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); legislative updates; and duties and functions of council and the county chief administrative officer in the various forms of government. This training is provided free-of-charge and can be provided at county sites or the SCAC Office in Columbia.

Each year, SCAC hosts the Local Government Attorneys' Institute (the Institute). The Institute provides local and state government attorneys with timely and important legal information. More than 240 public sector attorneys attended the 2019 Institute on November 22. Topics included: Ethics and the Disciplinary Process; Marijuana in the Workplace; Federal Case Law Update; Resources to Help Create Space and Build Resilience; The Home Rule Act; and S.C. Legislative and Case Law Update.

Connecting Counties to Resources & Information

Research and Technical Assistance

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



Online Research Resources

County officials and employees are able to access an abundance of information and resources via SCAC's website. Last year, the Association enhanced its search tool to allow users to quickly and easily access documents and publications by title, topic, and resource type. This search function connects county officials and employees to county statistics, financial documents, council rules of procedure, personnel policies, planning and zoning documents, and county codes of ordinances. Millage rate caps, estimated Local Government Fund allocations, and State Regulations Updates are also available.

What's New Monthly Email

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

Online Discussion Forums

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

Social Media

SCAC launched its social media presence in February 2020. The Association is focused on three platforms to help develop new connections with counties: Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Social media is an effective tool for reaching county officials, county employees, members of the S.C. General Assembly, and the general public on legislative issues, highlighting award-winning county programs, and boosting the signal for organizations like NACo and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Follow SCAC on Facebook and Twitter: @SCCounties. Or, visit the Association's LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-carolina-association-of-counties>.



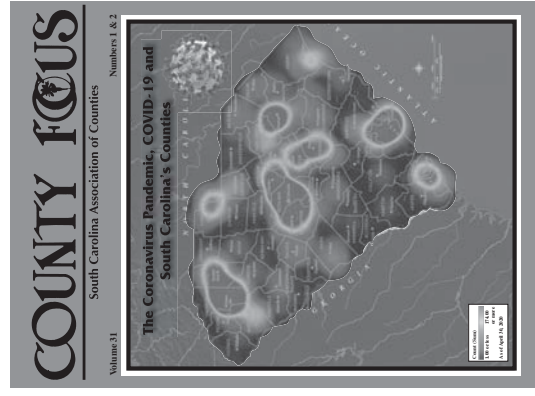
Publications and Other Resources

SCAC publishes three award-winning publications—*Carolina Counties* newsletter, *County Focus* magazine, and South Carolina's annual *Directory of County Officials*. All are available via SCCounties.org.

Carolina Counties newsletter, the Association's oldest publication, has a circulation of more than 1,000, and is distributed to South Carolina county officials, regional councils of governments (COGs), and SCAC's corporate supporters. *Carolina Counties* is published five times a year and informs local leaders of important issues affecting county government and announces upcoming events.

County Focus magazine focuses on legislative issues and successful county programs and projects. The magazine is distributed to more than 1,300 county officials, COGs, members of the S.C. General Assembly, other state officials, and SCAC's corporate supporters. The magazine publishes local news submitted by counties and calendars for SCAC and NACo events, including SCAC webinars.

SCAC has published the *Directory of County Officials* since 1973. The directory provides contact information for elected and appointed county officials, COGs, members of the S.C. General Assembly, and other state and federal officials. Copies are distributed to all county officials, COGs, and all state associations representing counties, boroughs, and parishes nationwide.



Career Center

The Association's Career Center is the first place job seekers should visit when looking for local government positions in South Carolina. Job openings are categorized and easily searchable. This is a complimentary service provided to all counties. Over the past year, 30 counties took advantage of this employment advertising tool by posting more than 164 positions, which garnered nearly 12,500 views.



SCAC Scholarship Program

SCAC has awarded more than \$170,000 in scholarships to 73 students since establishing its scholarship program in 1998. This year, the Association proudly awarded \$2,500 scholarships to five outstanding high school seniors who will attend an in-state college, university, or technical school in the fall.

Each year, SCAC awards a Presidential Scholarship to a graduating high school senior who resides in the same county as the Association's current president.

The Association also awards four Board of Directors Scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. This year, Anderson, Colleton, Darlington, and Jasper counties were selected for these awards.

Financial Service Programs

Self-Funded Insurance Programs

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

THE S.C. COUNTIES WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) was formed in 1984 by the SCAC Board of Directors in response to a crisis in the commercial insurance market. The trust currently has 79 members, including 41 counties. All aspects of trust administration, including claims administration, are handled internally by SCAC insurance staff.

THE S.C. COUNTIES PROPERTY & LIABILITY TRUST

The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust was formed in 1995 in response to rapidly rising liability insurance premiums. The trust has 26 members, including 16 counties. Claims administration as well as general administration and risk management are handled in-house by SCAC insurance staff.

Trust Management

The SCAC insurance staff is comprised of 20 highly experienced insurance professionals. SCAC employs two risk managers who work in the field supplementing the county's risk management efforts through inspections, training, and mentoring. SCAC staff provides claims management services and the flexibility of in-house underwriting. The insurance staff understands the risks faced by counties as evidenced by its customized risk management solutions.

Risk Management Education and Training

The boards of trustees have always placed great importance on the application of sound risk management techniques to control the risks members of the trusts incur in the course of county government operations.

In 2000, SCAC offered the first Certified County Risk Manager (CCRM) training program to educate county employees in the concepts of risk management so they could lead risk management efforts in their counties. Over the past 20 years, hundreds of county personnel have been trained in the concepts of risk management and have worked very effectively with the SCAC insurance staff to reduce risks and lower costs. The current risk management training program, Risk Management Principles, evolved from the CCRM program and is conducted throughout the year at member locations.

The insurance staff provides a variety of risk management services including on-site training and surveys. Because motor vehicle accidents far outweigh all other types of claims, SCAC insurance staff consistently reminds members that focusing on motor vehicle accidents has the

potential to reduce three types of claims—auto liability, auto physical damage, and workers’ compensation claims. To address the frequency and severity of motor vehicle accidents, SCAC risk managers trained 559 county employees during 29 defensive driving classes over the past year.

During the 2019-2020 policy period, seven Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training classes were held, with 287 employees being updated on OSHA’s evolving laws and regulations. The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation’s Office of Voluntary Programs provides instructors for this training.

A variety of onsite training classes were conducted throughout the year and covered topics such as: Risk Management Basics, Employee Harassment Issues, Bloodborne Pathogens, Confined Spaces, Recycling Center Exposures, Silica Exposures, and other member-specific issues. Trust members also have free access to over 700 online videos varying in topic and duration.

550+

More than 550 county employees completed defensive driving classes.



700+

Members have access to more than 700 streaming risk management training videos



285+

employees educated on OSHA laws and regulations

SCAC insurance staff is committed to staying abreast of COVID-19 implications on county operations and sharing resources with counties.



SCAC has developed several training classes to address the unique exposures of law enforcement including "Law Enforcement Risk Management and Liability Issues", "Detention Center Risk Management and Liability Issues", and "Inmate Supervision Issues." More than 800 employees have participated in these classes. Funding has been provided for online training for law enforcement and detention center officers through the "In the Line of Duty" program. Approved by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy for continuing law enforcement education credit, this complimentary training saves members money through reduced training and travel costs as well as through a reduction in officer injuries and litigation. Over 5,000 officers are registered to receive this training.

A one-day continuing education seminar is held annually for risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators. More than 80 risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators attended the 2019 seminar.

The Insurance Trusts' Membership Meeting is held annually in January. The 96 county officials in attendance this year heard from speakers on a variety of risk management topics. The purpose of this meeting is to educate and engage risk managers, county chief administrative officers, and county councils in the shared challenge of building and maintaining an effective risk management program, which protects a county's assets and maximizes safety and security for employees and residents.



Setoff Debt

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

Owed funds are collected by redirecting an individual debtor's state income tax refund to a county entity as payment for the previously uncollected debt. The GEAR program allows DOR to use additional methods, such as payment plans and wage garnishments, to collect the unpaid debt.

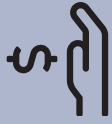
SCAC's debt collection programs have proven highly successful in returning monies for county operations such as emergency medical services, court fines and fees, delinquent taxes, hospitals, alcohol and drug treatment centers, business license fees, water and sewer services, and housing services.

The collections for counties have grown significantly from \$29 million in 2002 to over \$100 million in 2019. The number of participating entities has increased from 81 in 2002 to over 300 in 2020. Since the Association's debt collection programs began in 1992, SCAC has returned over \$1 billion to program participants.

SCAC provides numerous services to assist program participants, including free software to help counties manage their data; data searches for potential errors; and error reports and verification totals for all submitted data files. SCAC provides current addresses from state income tax returns to counties, and sends all data electronically using stringent security controls. Finally, participants may choose to receive funds via electronic transfer, allowing counties to receive funds more quickly.

Additional information on the debt collection programs can be found on SCCounties.org.

Cooperative Service Programs



SURPLUS EQUIPMENT – GOVDEALS

GovDeals has provided South Carolina counties an internet auction program for surplus equipment through [GovDeals.com](https://www.govdeals.com) for more than 20 years. GovDeals provides an electronic platform for counties to sell non-essential equipment, vehicles, and other surplus assets via national online auctions. The primary benefits to counties using GovDeals are increased revenue, and reduced asset depreciation and storage costs.

GovDeals is currently working with 42 counties and 442 other agencies in the state. This past year, South Carolina counties netted more than \$1.6 million in revenue. Since the program's inception, counties have generated nearly \$37 million in revenue.

FSI OFFICE SUPPLIES PURCHASING PROGRAM

SCAC sponsors a discount purchasing program for routine office supplies and forms. This program was created by SCAC in cooperation with Forms and Supply, Inc. (FSI), and offers substantial discounts on office supplies.

U.S. COMMUNITIES GOVERNMENT PURCHASING ALLIANCE

SCAC and the National Association of Counties (NACo) are sponsors of U.S. Communities, the leading national government purchasing cooperative. U.S. Communities provides counties with access to a broad line of competitively solicited contracts with national suppliers that have committed to providing their best overall public agency pricing.

NACO PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

The NACo Prescription Discount Program offers significant savings for uninsured and underinsured county residents. The program is available without charge to NACo member counties and their residents. The cards are accepted by more than 57,000 pharmacies nationwide, and provide savings of up to 35 percent at local pharmacies, and up to 50 percent for mail-order purchases. Citizens do not have to complete enrollment forms, and cards can be distributed with a brochure and used immediately by those who need them.

Tools for 21st Century Leaders

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

As counties continue to face challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and changing demographics, SCAC remains committed to building knowledge and competency for county officials and employees. SCAC will provide research and educational tools related to emerging issues, and will enhance its educational offerings through e-learning.

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

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

South Carolina Counties



Photos from left to right: Fairfield County Courthouse (photo courtesy of Bill Segars) | Chester County Transportation Museum | Dorchester County Courthouse (photo courtesy of Bill Segars)



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

1919 Thurmond Mall | PO Box 8207 | Columbia, SC 29202
Phone: (803) 252-7255 | In-state: (800) 922-6081 | Fax: (803) 252-0379 | scac@scac.sc | www.SCCounties.org

Mailboxes Look Like This? It Must Be Tax Season.



Many taxpayers avoid their mailboxes this time of year. While tax season can be intimidating for your customers, it's also stressful for you. We know you're working hard year-round to assist them. That's why we offer multiple applications to ensure you can work as efficiently as possible – even on the tough days. PUBLIQ® Software's solutions include:



Property Tax Management • Collection Management • Print and Mail Services

Contact us today to find out how PUBLIQ can help you better serve your community.

PUBLIQ[®]
SOFTWARE

833.278.2547 | publiqsoftware.com |



COVID-19 and the Phishing Revolution

By Courtney Mauge, Willis Towers Watson

COVID-19 and the latest exploitation of remote access network structure, pose increased cyber risk felt by organizations due to the heavy reliance placed on VPNs (Virtual Private Network) and Remote Desktop Protocols to support the growing remote workforce.¹ This has proven to be only one aspect of the heightened cyber risk exposure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to The State of Email Security Report for 2020, email continues to be the most popular attack vector for cyber-criminals.² Reports regarding phishing attacks have tripled since the concerns about COVID-19 became widespread, and most IT companies believe that at some point they will become susceptible to a cyber-attack due to an email compromise.³ According to Willis Towers Watson's 2019 Reported Claims Data, 63 percent of cyber incidents were caused directly by human error, and as such, understanding phishing scams will

be critical as the effects of the pandemic unfold.



The Evolution of Phishing Scams in the Wake of COVID 19

Social Engineering (the use of deception to manipulate individuals into some desired action) and phishing campaigns continue to be an effective method for cyber criminals to access protected networks because they feed upon human psychology and trust. COVID-19 has

given cyber criminals a unique advantage in allowing them to prey upon the fears of not only small targeted groups, but across millions of Americans. Further, the sudden move to a remote working environment for many workers arguably has led to increased distractions and the decreased likelihood that such workers would authenticate the validity of emails with nearby colleagues. In fact, it can be argued that COVID-19 opens up an entire new playground for cyber criminals.

Thus, it should be of no surprise that in the first 100 days of COVID-19, intelligence data showed a 30 percent impersonation fraud increase.⁴ By the middle of April, reports showed cyber criminals had reached a peak of sending 1.5 million malicious emails per day relating to concerns stemming from the pandemic.⁵ Many experts declared the large volume of COVID-19 related scams the largest coalescing of cyber attacks to exploit a single theme.⁶

¹Barberi, Robert O. 2020, 21 April. COVID-19 and the latest exploitation of remote access network structure. [online] Willis Towers Watson White Paper. Available at: <https://www.willistowerswatson.com/en-US/Insights/2020/04/client-alert-remote-access>.

²Mimecast. 2020. The State of Email Security 2020. Mimecast.com. Available at: https://www.mimecast.com/globalassets/cyber-resilience/content/the_state_of_email_security_report_2020.pdf?utm_source=pr&utm_medium=pr&utm_campaign=70131000001N4dRAAS

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵Montalbano, Elizabeth. 2020, 21 April. Cyberattackers Ramp Up to 1.5M COVID-19 Emails Per Day. Available at: <https://threatpost.com/cyberattackers-1-5m-covid-19-emails-per-day/154970/>

⁶Scroton, Alex. 2020, 18 March. Coronavirus now possibly largest ever cyber security threat. Available at: <https://www.computerweekly.com/news/252480238/Coronavirus-now-possibly-largest-ever-cyber-security-threat>

⁷National Cyber Awareness System Alerts. 2020, 8 April. COVID-19 Exploited by Malicious Cyber Actors. Available at <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/aa20-099a>

The spike in COVID-19 related phishing campaigns prompted the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cyber Security Infrastructure Agency (CISA) to issue a report describing the different type of phishing campaigns companies should be on high alert for. The report warns companies to remain diligent regarding emails containing Coronavirus in the subject line, COVID-19 related website links and COVID-19 related emails containing file attachments.⁷ These warnings proved critical as security reports began to unveil successful COVID-19 related phishing attacks.

For example, in early April, one observed campaign used socially engineered emails (example—an email purporting to contain information on COVID-19 but the attachment contains malware) promising access to important information about cases of COVID-19 in the receiver's local area. The emails evaded top email-detection software to spread malware stealing the user's Microsoft log-in credentials. A later analysis revealed cyber criminals were targeting individuals with emails appearing to come from the U.S. Department of Labor regarding changes to the Family Medical Leave Act, containing attachments deploying Trickbot Malware.

Further studies uncovered creative campaigns related to bonus reports, COVID-19 disaster relief, pandemic food distribution, office shutdowns, FedEx packages, quarantine protocols, changes to insurance plans, and canceled industry events. Lastly, campaigns that appear to come from trusted government sources such as the White House, Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and the Department of Health and Human Services continue to trend.

To make matters worse, COVID-19 related phishing emails can be very hard for an employee to spot. One study pointed out that most of the COVID-19 related phishing campaigns discovered appeared to come from IP addresses from within the United States. While it is possible that the IP Addresses could have been manipulated, it points to a more concerning reality: when phishing campaigns stem from the same geographic region, it is easier to mimic the culture and language.

In other words, phishing campaigns are more likely to sound, look, and feel like they come from legitimate sources. Not to mention, these emails may be more prone to bypass firewalls, meant to only block foreign IP addresses, and find its way into an employee's inbox. Additionally, the same study found that many of the emails contained company logos, trademarks and copyrights, making them look almost identical to legitimate company emails.

Finally, amid growing cyber risk concerns, a Google search result review during the core months of the U.S. pandemic, showed an increased interest of individuals to commit cybercrimes. With more individuals facing financial uncertainty, searches related to hacking, scamming, and other forms of cybercrime spiked.

Breakout search terms such as "hacking course" and "ethical hacking course" reached record highs. The study leaves the ominous omen that the surge in cybercrimes has yet to hit its peak.

In short, COVID-19 has only exacerbated cyber criminals' ability and desire to take advantage of the human element of cyber risk. As the fallout lingers, companies must remain vigilant and continue to inform employees of the increased social engineering risks tied to

COVID-19.

Conclusions as the Economy Reopens

Threat actors continue to become more sophisticated in their tactics and will continue to exploit trends and global events to conduct phishing campaigns. While COVID-19 email subject lines will inevitably decrease as lockdowns are lifted, companies should continue to take risk mitigation, addressing the pandemic, seriously. Further, as new global events take storm, companies should implement the lessons learned from COVID-19 into routine employee trainings and mock phishing campaigns. Employee understanding of how to spot and report email scams is critical to a company's success in preventing cybercrime.

Nevertheless, organizations should operate under the assumption that a social engineering attack may be successful and should be prepared to respond appropriately. Business continuity plans, as well as adequate crime and cyber insurance, will be key in the event of a successful social engineering attack. Companies should consult with a knowledgeable broker to understand available social engineering coverages and potential pre-breach services available within their policy.

Willis Towers Watson in conjunction with the South Carolina Association of Counties offers various CyberCrime Risk Solutions, as well as coverage expertise to prepare companies during these unprecedented times. Please reach out to John Henderson, SCAC Director of Insurance Services, for further information on mitigating cyber risk in the remote workspace environment.



⁸Lemos, Robert. 2020, 8 April. *After Adopting COVID-19 Lures, Sophisticated Groups Target Remote Workers*. Available at: <https://www.darkreading.com/threat-intelligence/after-adopting-covid-19-lures-sophisticated-groups-target-remote-workers/d/d-id/1337523>

⁹Montalbano, Elizabeth. 2020, 1 May. *TrickBot Attack Exploits COVID-19 Fears with DocuSign-Themed Ploy*. Available at: <https://threatpost.com/trickbot-attack-covid-19docuSign-themed-malw/155391/>

¹⁰INKY. 2020. *Around the World in 34 Phish: COVID-19 Phishing Examples*. Available at: <https://www.inky.com/around-the-world-in-34-phish-covid-19-phishing-examples>

¹¹Beazley Insights. 2020 9, June. *The enduring threat of ransomware. COVID-19 related phishing scams likely to dominate Q2*. Available at: https://www.beazley.com/news/2020/beazley_breach_insights_june_2020.html

¹²Ibid.

¹²Mikalauskas, Edvardas. 2020, 2 June. *Data suggest unprecedented interest in hacking and cybercrime during pandemic*. Cybernews.com. Available at: https://cybernews.com/security/data-suggests-unprecedented-interest-in-cybercrime-during-pandemic/?web_view=true

Pandemic Management: Options for Dealing with Financial Responsibilities in the Age of COVID-19

Lawrence Flynn, Public Finance Attorney, Pope Flynn Group

For South Carolina counties, spring-time marks the beginning of the annual budget process, a routine that identifies priorities and allocates resources for the fiscal year ahead. However, this year, the traditional cadence of this process was hijacked by the COVID-19 pandemic, with its haphazard mix of virtual meetings, gallons of hand sanitizer, fist bumps, and shots in the dark. As the time of COVID-19 approaches the end of its first year, we are all beginning to see and feel the financial impacts of those budget projections.

County Revenue Sources and the Impact of the Pandemic

For many, the meat and potatoes portion of county budgets—property taxes and state aid to subdivisions—has not been materially affected in the fiscal year 2020/21 budget cycle. This is not to say that these revenue sources are not or will not be affected by the pandemic. To the contrary, Moody's Analytics estimates that state and local governments (nationwide) face a combined revenue loss of \$500 billion through the end of 2022. Furthermore, the South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors, which

provides financial forecasts to the South Carolina General Assembly for budgeting purposes, reduced projections of



POPE FLYNN
GROUP



the State's gross general fund revenues for both fiscal year 2020 and 2021 to 4 percent and negative 3 percent growth, respectively. This will impact the State's annual budget and may result in flat or reduced funding to counties. Statutorily, if the state's budget is less than the prior year, state appropriations to counties will be reduced.

Real property tax collections and

state aid are, by their nature, trailing indicators for counties. For property taxes, the January 15, 2020 ad valorem property tax deadline occurred prior to the full effect of the pandemic being known; similarly, state income tax collections were deferred until July 15, 2020. The true impact of the pandemic on these collection sources is just coming to fruition with respect to state income taxes and likely will not be known until the January 15, 2021 tax deadline for ad valorem real property taxes.

Outside taxes and state assistance, budgeted revenues for items like sales-tax-based revenues (local option sales taxes, hospitality fees, local and state accommodations fees), enterprise revenues (utilities, stormwater, and other fees), and, to the extent they are collected (and contingent on timing), business license taxes would reflect more near-term effects resulting from the pandemic.

Addressing Revenue Losses and Delays

Regardless of the source, losses of or delays in revenues create cashflow shortages, and drawing on fund balance

and limited cash reserves creates structural imbalances and can only take you so far. To avoid fiscal strain, many counties have implemented or will implement the fail safe remedy of reshaping operations, cutting labor, and reducing expenses. However, it may be difficult to address cashflow issues solely through expense reductions. To the extent expense reduction proves insufficient, a county may explore several options for raising new revenues.

Raising Taxes/Fees/Charges

Assuming the political will exists, the easiest way to relieve budget pressure is to raise new revenue through taxes or fees.

By state law (Section 6-1-320 of the *Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976*, as amended (the “South Carolina Code”), commonly known as “Act 388”), a county’s authorization to increase its millage rate year-over-year is limited to (a) the increase in the Consumer Price Index, plus (b) the percentage increase in the population of the county in the previous calendar year (the “Millage Limitation”). In addition to the Millage Limitation, the county may further avail itself of a “look-back” provision that is commonly referred to as “millage banking.” Millage banking allows the county to increase its millage rate in the upcoming fiscal year by any millage increase “allowed but not previously imposed for the three property tax years preceding the year to which the current limit applies.”

To the extent the Millage Limitation is too restrictive or does not raise sufficient funds, there are some exceptions to Act 388 to additionally consider, including the emergency millage exception in Section 6-1-320(B) (catastrophic events, for which the pandemic arguably qualifies) and the exemption in Section 6-1-320(D) for reserve accounts, which could be levied to replenish depleted general fund balance.

In addition to operating taxes, counties may choose to institute user service charges as needed to pay for county services. New fees can generate additional revenues and relieve pressure on the general fund. Any new fee imposition

must qualify under the provisions of Section 6-1-330 of the South Carolina Code, and revenues raised by any new fee must be used for the particular governmental service for which the charge is imposed.

Lease Financing

If your county faces immediate capital needs, lease financing of personal property (equipment) may be a useful tool in lieu of up-front general fund capital expenditures. Through a lease-financing structure, an expense that would otherwise be immediately payable can be extended over several years as needed to improve cashflows. Additionally, some government entities made arrangements to lease-finance existing capital assets—essentially taking a loan against existing equipment in order to generate an immediate cash infusion and paying the asset back in future budget years on the expectation of a return to normalcy.

Tax Anticipation Notes

A tax anticipation note (“TAN”) is a short-term borrowing option available to counties. A TAN is a note issued by the county and secured by a pledge of future tax revenues and the full faith, credit and taxing power of the county. TANs are structured to mature in less than one-year and generally mature by April 15 of the upcoming tax year. While a TAN can provide short-term cashflow relief, it does not increase revenues or taxes. It simply allows you to front-load your future tax collections, and pay them back, with interest, once tax collections are received. Any decision to issue a TAN should be carefully considered; because once you start the cycle of relying on TANs, that cycle can be very hard to escape in future budget years.

General Obligation Bonds

General obligation bonds provide a powerful and flexible tool to offset general fund capital expenditures. As these borrowings are subject to debt limit considerations (limited to 8 percent of each county’s respective taxable assessed value), they should be pursued only after due consideration, but offer fewer strings than most alternatives. The South

Carolina Constitution only requires the purpose be a “public purpose” and a “corporate purpose” of the county, which would include current operations and contingency funding. Additionally, some counties have determined to issue general obligation bonds in lieu of, or to otherwise redeem, lease purchase obligations to provide or preserve capacity under the Millage Limitation applicable to the County’s levy for operations. The Millage Limitation under Act 388 does not apply to debt service millage.

Refunding/Restructuring Existing Debt

We are living in a period of historically low interest rates. The same benefits that many homeowners see from refinancing their mortgages in the current borrowing environment are available to the local government debt market. Counties should consult their financial advisors and bond counsel to determine if debt service may be reduced through refunding existing debt. These savings can reduce debt service millage levies, savings which can be captured and offset by increases in operating millage (subject to the Millage Limitation). In addition to savings-related refundings, some issuers may seek to restructure existing debt. In a restructuring, debt payments may be adjusted and deferred, creating immediate relief from debt payments.

The foregoing catalogues a sample of the tools available to counties seeking to address fiscal challenges and unknowns during the balance of fiscal year 2020/2021 and into the fiscal year 2021/2022 budget cycle. Successfully and proactively addressing cash flow challenges now will well-position your county in the months and years to come, and help to put it back on the path to post-pandemic prosperity.





Helping SC counties clean up since 1999.



A Roadside Guide to Colleton County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

Colleton County



See South Carolina
 County Map,
 P. 79

Historic Colleton County bears the name of one of South Carolina's first counties, named for Sir Peter Colleton, one of the second-generation Lords Proprietors. Its close proximity to Charlestown, the capital of the province, made Colleton a center of Revolutionary activity throughout the war. Skirmishes involving Patriot forces began as early as May 1779 when Major Pierce Butler encountered foraging parties of Major General Augustine Prevost.


Most of the Revolutionary engagements in Colleton County were often small inconclusive affairs involving troops commanded by Colonel William Harden and his officers. Nevertheless, other engagements, such as Horse Shoe, Godfrey's Savannah, Parker's Ferry and Combahee Ferry, had important ramifications for the war in South Carolina.

In addition to the Revolutionary battles and skirmishes, Colleton County is also significant as the site of South Carolina's first governmental assembly since the fall of Charlestown on May 12, 1780.

Jacksonborough Assembly

After two years as a government in exile, the South Carolina General Assembly convened in January 1782 at Jacksonborough, a small town on the Edisto River, only 30 miles from Charlestown—still occupied by the British. The Jacksonborough Assembly is best-known for its passage of acts of




 Colleton County's
 Role in the
 American War
 for Independence



confiscation and amercement to punish known Loyalists and Loyalist sympathizers in the state.

The delegates to the House of Representatives included such notable South Carolinians as Aedanus Burke, Christopher Gadsden, Edward Rutledge, Andrew Pickens, Henry and John Laurens, Thomas Brandon, and Thomas Heyward. Members of the South Carolina Senate included Francis Marion, William Harden, Thomas Sumter and William "Danger" Thomson. These senators were all Patriot officers who left the field in order to conduct the state's business.

A number who attended, including Aedanus Burke and Christopher Gadsden, opposed punitive laws to punish Loyalists. Nevertheless, the majority present voted to confiscate the estates of 237 individuals (including British subjects, those who had accepted British commissions and those who had congratulated the British on their victory when Charlestown fell) and to amerce or fine the estates of 47 others who had taken British protection.

The debate over confiscation took an unexpected turn when John Laurens, chair of the committee to identify whose

land should be confiscated, proposed enlisting slaves from the confiscated estates in the Continental Army. While, according to Gregory D. Massey, "legislators fought a 'hard Battle on the Subject of arming the Blacks,'" Laurens' proposal failed.

Revolutionary Engagements: Horse Shoe (Ford's Plantation) July 7–8, 1781

The engagement at Horse Shoe was a successful British surprise attack. The Colleton County Regiment, commanded by Colonel Isaac Hayne and Lt. Col. Thomas McLaughlin, were camped on the plantation of Mary Ford. Major Thomas Fraser with his British dragoons surprised the camp, killed McLaughlin and others, and captured Isaac Hayne, the object of the attack.

Isaac Hayne, a native of Colleton County owned a 900-acre plantation in St. Bartholomew Parish and represented the parish in the Commons House of Assembly from 1770 to 1771, and later in the state Senate from 1779 to 1780.

With the outbreak of hostilities, Hayne enlisted in the Patriot militia.

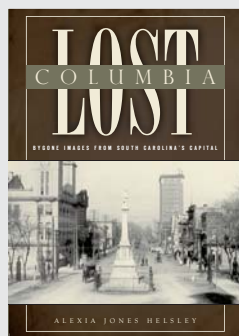
(Continued on next page)

Captured following the fall of Charlestown, he accepted British parole and returned home. Later, threatened with imprisonment, Hayne reluctantly took an oath of allegiance with the understanding that he would not have to fight against the Patriots. When the British reneged on their agreement and demanded that he serve in the British army, Hayne considered this a breach of his agreement and he returned to Patriot service.

As colonel of the Colleton Regi-

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.

ment, he led a daringly successful raid on July 8, 1781, and captured Andrew Williamson, a former Patriot commander who had defected to the British. Unfortunately, Colonel Nisbet Balfour detailed Fraser and his dragoons to find Hayne and bring him to Charlestown. There, the British charged Hayne with treason and imprisoned him in the dungeon of the Old Exchange Building in Charleston.

Hayne's status was in doubt (was he a prisoner of war on parole or a British subject?). As the former, he should be released and as the latter, he should have his day in court. Nevertheless, the British denied Hayne a trial, condemned him to death by hanging, rather than by firing squad. Lord Rawdon, the British commander, decided to make an example of Hayne in an attempt to discourage others from joining the Patriot cause. Rawdon refused pleas for mercy from clergymen, other prominent leaders and Hayne's young children, and hanged Hayne on August 4, 1781.

General George Washington, Major General Nathanael Greene and other Patriots loudly protested the execution with threats of retaliation. Greene promised "reprisals for all such inhuman insults" against British officers. Rather than discouraging Patriot enlistments, the death of Hayne inflamed anti-British sentiment in South Carolina. A monument erected in his memory called Hayne "a noble martyr in behalf of liberty."

**Revolutionary Engagements:
Godfrey's Savannah and Parker's
Ferry (August 1781)**

The Battles of Godfrey's Savannah and Parker's Ferry in August 1781 are important for the role of Brigadier General Francis Marion and for the unrealized possibilities.

By August 1781, Patriot successes inland had forced hundreds of British sympathizers to flee to Charlestown. This sudden increase in population created food shortages in the capital. As a result, British commander Colonel Nisbet Balfour organized foraging parties to scour the countryside and dispatched Lt. Col. Ernst Leopold von Borck to expropriate rice from the Combahee rice plantations.

Colonel William Harden asked Major General Greene for reinforcements. Greene shared the situation with Marion who then planned to ambush von Borck at Godfrey's Savannah on August 17. Unfortunately, despite Marion's plans, due to the complexities of coordinating with different forces and commanders, needed troops were not available, and Marion had to cancel the operation.

After this aborted effort, Marion sent Lt. Colonel Peter Horry to intercept British schooners loading rice at Chehaw. The ships sailed before Horry arrived. Marion then considered several options before planning an ambush of Lt. Colonel von Borck's men on the Parker's Ferry causeway. This time, the well-organized and executed ambush worked. With major casualties, the British forces withdrew to the safety of Charlestown, and Marion and his prisoners returned to his base.

**Revolutionary Engagements:
Combahee Ferry (Tar Bluff,
Chehaw) May 25, 1782**

The battle at Combahee Ferry was a tragic end to a promising life. While sources differ as to the exact location, this late-in-the-war engagement featured the dashing Lt. Col. John Laurens and Patriot efforts to disrupt British foraging of the Combahee River rice plantations. While the British would hang on

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ABOUT...
the person for whom Paris Mountain was named?
the man who bought the town of Pleasantburg?
the time when Greenville was the
capital of South Carolina?

Historically, Greenville County owes much to its natural advantages of scenery, location and abundant water, but it has also benefited from its colorful characters, such as Richard Pearis, Vardry McBee and the Earle family. *Hidden History of Greenville County* details the personalities, places and events that have given Greenville its progressive, diverse environment. Join archivist and history professor Alexia Helsley as she explores some of these individuals and their contributions, as well as little-known events in the area and the ever-fascinating "Dark Corner." From missions to murders, learn things about Greenville County history that you've never encountered before.

\$24.00 Postpaid (Includes tax, shipping and handling)
To order, write:
AJH Historical Enterprises
P.O. Box 3684
Irmo, S.C. 29063

THE HISTORY PRESS
WWW.HISTORYPRESS.NET

HIDDEN HISTORY OF GREENVILLE COUNTY
HELSEY
ALEXIA JONES HELSEY

to Charlestown into December, the food situation in the city was dire. The capital city was home to thousands of Loyalist sympathizers and Loyalist militia as well as occupying British troops.

As a result, Patriot forces played a cat-and-mouse game for many months in the South Carolina Lowcountry. On May 25, Major General Nathanael Greene detached Laurens with light infantry troops to assist Brigadier Mordecai Gist to contain British depredations. Laurens engaged the enemy and was either forced from his position, or ambushed and mortally wounded.

Laurens enlisted in the Continental Army in 1777, fought at Brandywine, served as aide to General George Washington and early espoused abolitionist views. Among his converts was the Marquis de Lafayette. In 1778, Laurens, the son of Henry Laurens (wealthy South Carolina plantation owner, president of the Continental Congress, and the only American ever imprisoned in the Tower of London), proposed that the Continental Congress approve the recruitment of a regiment of black slaves who would be freed when their military service ended. In 1779, Congress approved the plan with the proviso that the South Carolina and Georgia assemblies had to agree. Both states rejected the plan.

In 1781, Laurens served as an emissary to France, returned to military service in 1782 and on Aug. 25, 1782, died for American liberty.

Conclusion

The Revolution in Colleton County was a time of unrest, death and instability. Yet, the tragic death of Isaac Hayne provided needed recruits for Greene's efforts to free the state from the British occupation, and the convening of the assembly at Jacksonborough heralded the return of representative government to South Carolina.



South Carolina's 2021 Directory of County Officials

South Carolina's *2021 Directory of County Officials* is scheduled to be published and distributed in February. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

The *Directory* identifies all elected and appointed county officials in the state. This popular, award-winning publication also identifies SCAC's Officers, Board of Directors and Corporate Partners; Regional Councils of Government; Federal and State Officials; and State Senators and Representatives. Addresses and telephone numbers are included for all county officials, state officials and members of the S.C. General Assembly.

Cost: \$25.00 per copy (including tax, postage, shipping and handling).

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

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

PO Box 8207
Columbia, SC 29202-8207

803-252-7255

E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc

IN A CRISIS, EVERY SECOND COUNTS!

So does communication between all county departments.

Don't let anyone tell you there's only one option, there is a better choice!



fleettalk 803.547.2500

CAN'T AFFORD THE MILLION-DOLLAR TOWER SITES TO COVER YOUR COUNTY'S PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS? DID YOU PAY MORE THAN \$4,000 PER RADIO AND STILL DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO PROVIDE INTEROPERABILITY FOR YOUR COUNTY?

WITH FLEETTALK, YOU CAN HAVE AFFORDABLE INTEROPERABILITY FOR YOUR ENTIRE SYSTEM, IN A CRISIS, WHEN EVERY SECOND COUNTS. FOR ANY DEPARTMENT THAT REQUIRES INSTANT, STREAMLINED COMMUNICATION, RELY ON FLEETTALK.

FLEETTALK HAS STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY AND THE LARGEST WIDE AREA, TWO-WAY RADIO COVERAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.



Fleettalk's is an affordable, digital, multisite, two-way MISSION CRITICAL radio system.

Fleettalk's guarantees 95 percent portable and mobile coverage in your city or county

Fleettalk's affordability allows counties to invest in additional radios so each department can be interoperable

Call us **NOW** at **(803) 547-2500** to link up your county communications to unravel/disentangle your current mess, and make your county interoperable.

OUR SYSTEM IS ALREADY OPERATIONAL IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND NORTH CAROLINA

WE ARE READY TO HELP YOUR COUNTY NOW!



fleettalk
BY ROCK
COMMUNICATIONS

fleettalkbyrock.com

fleettalk

803.547.2500



POWER TO SUCCEED

Thanks to Santee Cooper resources like low-cost, reliable power, creative incentive packages and a wide-ranging property portfolio, South Carolina shatters the standard for business growth.

In fact, since 1988, Santee Cooper has helped generate more than \$15 billion in investment and helped bring nearly 80,000 new jobs to our state. It's how we're driving **Brighter Tomorrows, Today.**



**POWERING
SOUTH CAROLINA**

www.poweringSC.com



The Palmetto Directory

*Businesses selling products and services
to South Carolina's counties*

Also see advertising index, page 80



Bluffton, SC | Charleston, SC | Charlotte, NC
Columbia, SC | Greenville, SC

Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Bluffton: 843 757-5959 | Charleston: 843 203-1600
Charlotte: 704 527-4474 | Columbia: 803 779-2078
Greenville: 864 284-1740 | Web: www.allianceCE.com

- INDUSTRIAL PARKS
- LAND PLANNING & SITE DESIGN
- WATER & WASTEWATER
- ROADWAYS
- RAILWAYS
- RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
- SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



*Educating children,
promoting lasting patriotism
and honoring the military —
past, present and future*

For more information, please
contact: (803) 822-8812 or
info@cff-soar.org

www.GoCFF.org

*Now, You Can
Run Horizontal or
Vertical Listings
on This Page!*

For as little as \$76.50
NET per issue, you could
run a 3 5/8" X 1 3/4" list-
ing here.

It's the most afford-
able place to advertise in
County Focus Magazine.

For more formation,
please contact SCAC's
Public Information Of-
fice at 1-800-922-6081 or
smorgan@scac.sc

There **IS** an option
for affordable, reliable
statewide coverage.

fleettalk
BY **ROCK**
COMMUNICATIONS



State-of-the-art technology
plus the largest wide area,
two-way radio coverage
in the Southeast!

FleetTalkByRock.com
803.547.2500

KÜPER®

Kueper North America, based in Charleston, is the importer of Kueper plow blades and Kennametal grader blades. Kueper is also the Southeast distributor for the Sharq 300 grader dirt road maintenance system for motor graders. Both Kennametal carbide grader blade systems and the Sharq 300 last many times longer than traditional grader blades.

www.kueperblades.com
info@kueperblades.com



Keep it beautiful, keep it clean.
Adopt a highway in your
community today.

2700 Middleburg Drive | Suite 216 | Columbia, SC 29204 | 877.PAL.PRDE | info@palmettopride.org | palmettopride.org

PROVAL

Property Valuation & Analytics

Available Services

County Assessors

Tax Appeal Appraisal
Litigation/Mediation Support
Surplus Property Disposition

Right of Way Services

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

*Serving
South Carolina's
46 Counties!*

See Our Ad on P. 20

Rick Callahan
Greenville, South Carolina
803/457-5009
rick.proval@gmail.com

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

PUBLIQ™

SOFTWARE

Serving the public for over 50 years.

publiqsoftware.com

833.2PUBLIQ info@publiqsoftware.com

KÜPER®

Southeast Dealer for Sharq P300
and Kennametal Grader Blades

Motorgrader Blade Wear... *Problems Solved*



KENNAMETAL®

**Dual-Carbide Blades
Outlast 6" steel grader
blades 40:1.**

Improved Braze, More Wear-Resistant
Steel Body



Scarifier Blades

Carbide-Tipped Cutting Tools, Blocks, and
Accessories for Scarifier Blade Systems



Sharq™

- Easily Cuts and Remixes Even The Hardest Compacted Surfaces
- Breaks Up Compacted Material Without Crushing and Destroying It
- Decreases The Need To Add New Material Saving You Money

**Long Life Easily Adjustable Motor Grader
Scarifier Systems for Dirt Road Maintenance**

Kueper North America LLC
171 Church Street, Suite 300
Charleston, SC 29401

(843) 723-7361
Gwillis@kueperblades.com

County Update



See South Carolina
County Map,
Page 79

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

Bamberg County

● Bamberg County Emergency Services Director **Brittany Barnwell** was featured in multiple publications in July for her COVID-19 pandemic response efforts. Barnwell, an alumna from Lander University's Master of Science in Emergency Management program, has been coordinating the COVID-19 pandemic response for Bamberg County since mid-March.

Lander University, Laurens County Buzz, Upstate Biz SC, and Midlands Biz all included Barnwell in recent online publications describing the statewide influence of Lander University's Emergency Management program during the pandemic. The article described Barnwell and the county's Emer-

gency Services Department's commitment to ensuring the community has access to accurate information about COVID-10, coordinating free drive-through COVID-19 testing sites, and responding to crisis situations as they arise.

Barnwell earned her M.S. in Emergency Management from Lander University in 2019 and has worked for Bamberg County as Emergency Services Director since 2016.

● Phoenix Specialty Manufacturing, one of Bamberg County's largest manufacturers, which makes washers and small metal-stamped parts for a variety of uses, has become an essential employer during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Phoenix has been able to keep all 125 workers employed because it received a contract to make 2.2 million ventilator parts. The manufacturer has also been manufacturing parts for hand sanitizer pumps.

According to Phoenix Sales Manager **Steve Cornforth**, the company is making some adjustments to keep employees safe while working through the pandemic. The maintenance staff cleans common areas three times daily, and workers clean their areas twice a day. Employees and machines have been moved to ensure social distancing. The company's management team looks at what's going on with COVID-19 in the county, state and country and makes decisions daily to keep employees safe. The team also tracks absenteeism and sickness to make sure nothing starts at the facility.

● **James B. "Pedie" Hiers**, the oldest Clerk of Court in South Carolina, announced on March 30 that he would not be seeking reelection and would be retiring instead. Hiers served as Bamberg County Clerk of Court for almost 30 years.

● Thanks to a generous \$20,000 donation from former U.S. Ambassador and S.C. Governor **Nikki Haley** and her husband, **Michael**, Bamberg County senior citizens and other community members in need will benefit from

a walk-in freezer that has the capacity to store hundreds of meals. **Nikki Haley** was born in Bamberg.

The Bamberg County Office on Aging, unable to prepare hot meals in their kitchen during the Coronavirus Pandemic, typically feeds nearly 180 seniors each week, but is now providing meals for 200 seniors every week due to the pandemic. The Office on Aging, which ensures that seniors receive meals by ordering two weeks' worth of frozen meals delivered to each home, did not have sufficient freezer space to store the meals until they were to be delivered.

Charleston County

● Charleston County Acting Administrator **Bill Tuten** became county administrator on July 14. Tuten, who has served as Acting Administrator since January, previously worked as Charleston County's Special Project Liaison.

He has more than 25 years of experience working in government at the local, state and federal level. Tuten served in numerous positions with U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham and Strom Thurmond.

He received his bachelor's degree in Political Science and Government from the University of South Carolina. He is a member of the S.C. Military Base Task Force, a former member of the MUSC Board of Visitors and a Riley Fellow Graduate of the Riley Institute's Diversity Initiative.

● The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing funding to the Charleston County Community Development Department from the CARES Act to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

The county received \$1.09 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and \$535,900 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. These funds, now available, for local residents living outside the City of Charleston who need assistance and meet HUD eligibility requirements to receive assistance. The city receives its own HUD funding.

● On April 30, Charleston County and the City of Charleston each received a \$50,000 donation for Coronavirus/COVID-19 relief efforts from the State of Qatar Embassy. The county and the city work in partnership with the Doha-Charleston Sister Cities International program. Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey serves on the Doha-Charleston Sister Cities International Committee.

Neita Wiese, President of Charleston

★ *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

Sister Cities International, and Chief of Mission for the State of Qatar Embassy Hamad Almuftah, presented the donations in April. The donation from the State of Qatar Embassy will be used for the purchase of personal protective equipment in relation to Coronavirus/COVID-19.

● Charleston County, the College of Charleston and the S.C. Aquarium have partnered to create a new center of excellence with a focus on community and resilience. The Center of Resilience Excellence South Carolina (CORE SC) will collaborate with organizations throughout the state, country and globe that provide best practices on resilience.

The partnership was formed because of the team's work with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. A recently signed Memorandum of Understanding formally establishes the partnership among the three founding organizations and authorizes them to develop the Center while expanding their relationship with NASA and other organizations.

CORE SC is designed to be the nexus for research, innovation, and collaboration that leads to actionable outcomes to improve community and societal resiliency. Acting also as a virtual hub, CORE SC supports, connects, and coordinates state, national, and international partners engaged in all aspects of the life cycle of resilient program development. These aspects may include ideation, research, data acquisition, policy creation, prototype implementation, field-testing, deployment, maintenance and commercialization. CORE SC will focus on five central resiliency sectors: 1) Water 2) Energy 3) Connectivity 4) Agriculture and 5) Natural Hazards.

Dorchester County

● On January 21, **Melanie Hay** was promoted to Budget Officer and oversees the Budget & Revenue Division.

● In January, County Council recognized Animal Control Officer **Kenny Fowler** as the Employee of the Quarter. Fowler was recognized for his unwavering commitment to maintaining a high quality of life for the citizens and animals of Dorchester County.

● On February 11, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced \$5.12 million in funding for the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency. The funding was included with the Corps' 2020 Work Plan and fully funds the water system's Winding Woods Reach, a 7.7-mile water transmission line from the Town of Harleyville to the Wind-

ing Woods Industrial Park near the Town of St. George.

● As part of the county's ongoing efforts to place services at the residents and business owners' fingertips, Dorchester County launched the permits, inspection and licensing portal, Evolve, in March 2020. The Evolve Portal can be used to submit for building permits and inspections, stormwater permits, encroachment permits, zoning appeals and variances, sign permits, a business license and to pay hospitality tax.

● On March 6, Dorchester County PIO **Tiffany Norton** completed the FBI-LEEDA Media and Public Relations Course.

● On April 13, **John Tigert** joined Team Dorchester County as purchasing services manager.

● On April 20, county council unanimously appointed Council Member **David Chinnis** to serve as the county's representative on the Dorchester Paws Board of Directors.

● On April 23, Dorchester County an-
(Continued on next page)



Webcasts and Webinars

S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute
Nov. 20

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

SCAC's 2020-21 Conference Calendar

Nov. 20

S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute
Virtual

Dec. 3

Legislative Conference
Virtual

2021

Jan. 5 & 7

Orientation for Newly-Elected County Officials
Virtual

Feb. 10

Mid-Year Conference for County Officials
Institute of Government for County Officials
Embassy Suites, Columbia

Feb. 11 - 12

July 31 - Aug. 1
Aug. 1 - 4

Institute of Government for County Officials
Annual Conference
Hilton Head Marriott

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



NACo's 2021 Conference Calendar

July 16 - 19

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

Feb. 20 - 24

Legislative Conference
Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, D.C.

nounced that both the Davis-Bailey Park and the Ashley River Park are under contract for construction. Both parks will open in 2021.

● On April 23, **Tammy Thompson** was promoted to Human Resources Director.

Fairfield County

● Fairfield County hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on March 27 for the new Fairfield County Government Complex, located at 250 N. Walnut St. in Winnsboro.

Georgetown County

● **Johnny Morant Sr.**, 69, a former longtime representative of District 7 on Georgetown County Council, died on July 12.

Morant, born on Dec. 5, 1950 graduated from Choppee High School in 1969. He received a Political Science degree from Savannah State College and his law degree from the University of Illinois.

Morant worked as assistant solicitor for Richland County for two years before becoming Georgetown County's first full-time assis-

tant solicitor in 1980. In 1993, he was elected to Georgetown County Council where he served for 25 years, including as Council Chairman from 2008 to 2018. Morant founded Morant and Morant, LLC, a law firm in Georgetown, with his brother and law partner, Louis.

Morant is survived by his devoted wife, Janice; two children; two grandchildren; and seven brothers and sisters.

● Georgetown County Emergency Management received a \$250,000 mobile command and communications support trailer in June, thanks to a grant from the Pee Dee Health Care Coalition. The trailer will serve as a redundant communications asset by providing both backup cellular and satellite backup for phones and internet. On July 31, emergency management staff installed additional equipment and resources and put the newly equipped trailer in service. The project was initiated by previous Emergency Manager **Sam Hodge**, who retired last fall, and implemented by **Brandon Ellis**, who replaced him as emergency services director.

● **Angela Christian**, who became Georgetown County Administrator in March, announced two key staffing changes in July.

Wesley Bryant, who has served as county attorney for 13 years, became deputy county administrator. Bryant will oversee the county's IT department and airport, and will continue to serve as county attorney. He graduated from The Citadel and the University of South Carolina Law School. He, his wife, Katy, and their four children live in Georgetown.

Georgetown County Emergency Manager **Brandon Ellis** was promoted to director of emergency services. Ellis will oversee the county's two fire departments but will continue to serve as emergency manager.

A graduate of Francis Marion University, Ellis started his career in emergency services as a part-time and volunteer firefighter in Mullins. He later became the Marion County Director of Emergency Management. Ellis was then hired by the S.C. Emergency Management Division as a regional emergency manager before he was hired as Georgetown County Emergency Manager last fall.

● During a celebration of National Public Works Week, the Georgetown County Public Services Department presented awards to three outstanding employees.

Roselind Snow, a recycling center attendant, received the Leadership Award for her exemplary service.

Tommy Bracey, a tradesman, received the Team Player Award.

Janet Combs, administrative assistant to department director Ray Funnye, received the Green Earth Award.



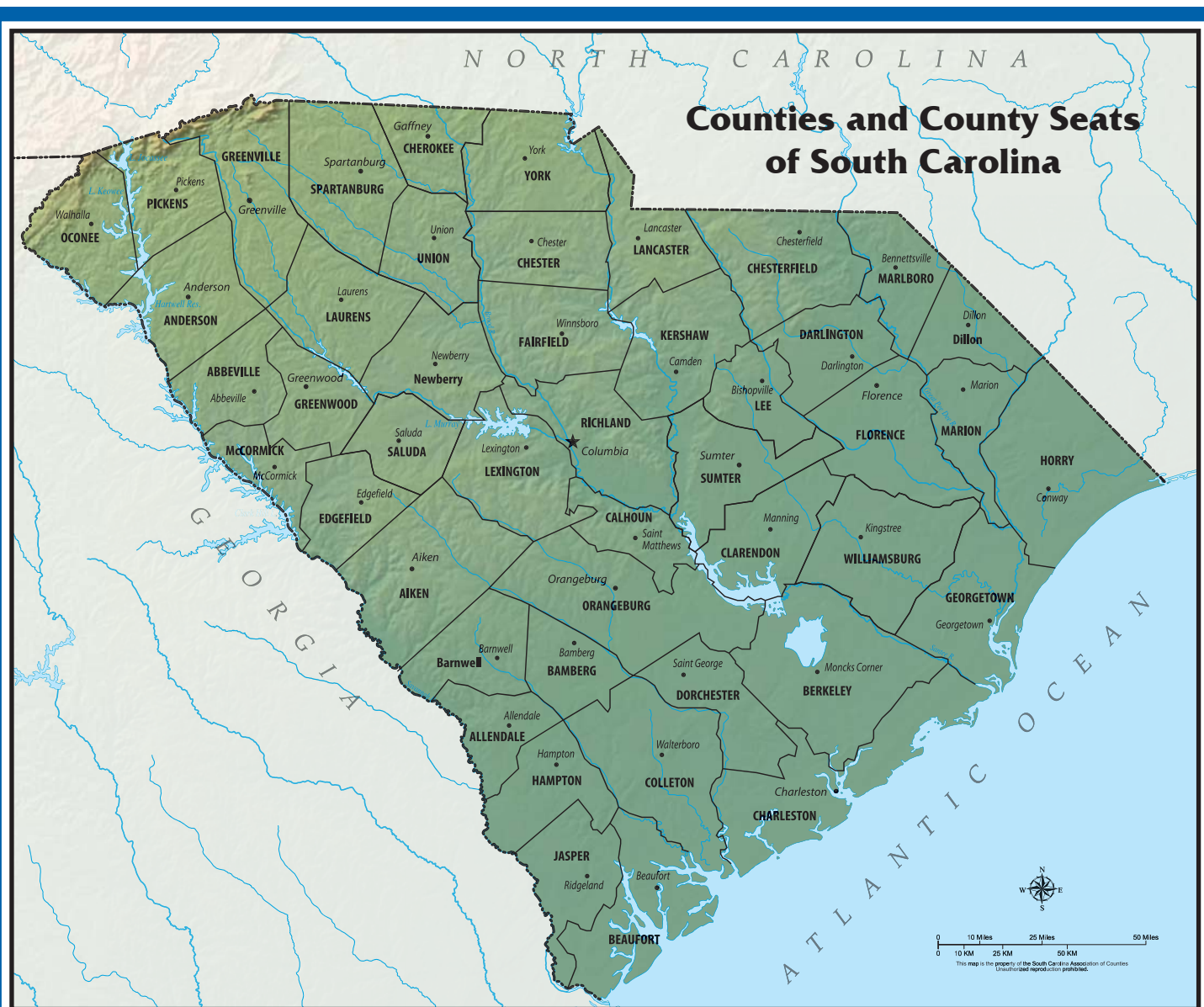
 **Professional Printers**
www.proprinters.com

Commercial Printing
Offset/Web/Digital
Design
Online Storefronts
Promotional Products

Two locations!

1730 Old Dunbar Road
West Columbia, SC 29172
803-796-4000

301-B Greystone Blvd.
Columbia, SC 29210
803-343-6775



Horry County

● The Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) recently announced its latest Spotlight on Environmental Awareness (SEA) recipients for July— Spokes of Hope, a non-profit organization that assists and strives to be a steward, not only to the community, but the environment as well. Spokes of Hope is located at 1111 SC 9, Longs, S.C. 29566. For more information, visit www.SpokesOfHopeSC.com.

The SEA program recognizes agencies/businesses/companies that practice reducing, reusing and recycling in their daily operations, promote the conservation of natural resources and/or utilizes sustainable business practices.

● The Horry County SWA recently recognized the following as Caught Green Handed recipients: Conway area resident **Chris**

Bluffkin, a regular recycler at the Mount Olive Recycling Center (August); **Ana Hernandez**, a regular recycler at the Browntown Recycling Center (July); Longs area resident **William Robert Poelker**, a regular recycler at Red Bluff Recycling Center (June); and Loris area resident **Reynaldo Perez**, a regular recycler at the Homewood Recycling Center (May).

Each month, the SWA recognizes a resident of Horry County resident for recycling.

● The Welcome Back Horry County Committee announced in June that it had launched its Greater Grand Strand is Open website at <https://www.greatergrandstrandisopen.com/>.

● The SWA recently awarded 12 \$1,000 Environmental College Scholarships for 2019–20 to high school seniors, interested in protecting the environment, at each of the county's high schools: **Claire Noelle Carter**, Academy for Arts, Science & Technology;

Kylie Nicole Harris, Academy for Technology & Academics; **Alexandra Brooke Hill**, Aynor High School; **Shelby Elise Keith**, Carolina Forest High School; **Laura Abigail McNair**, Conway High School; **Marquiez Rae'Quan Carter**, Early College High School; **Jordan Grace Elliott**, Green Sea Floyds High School; **Logan Nicole Knutson**, Loris High School; **Lauren Julianne Teal**, North Myrtle Beach High School; **Lindsey Michelle Williams**, Saint James High School; **Evan Daniel Renshaw**, Scholars Academy; **Hannah Karen Hall**, Socastee High School.

Each year for the past 11 years, the SWA program has awarded \$147,000 in scholarships to high school seniors in the county.

(Continued on next page)

Lancaster County

● Lancaster County held a Ribbon Cutting for new EMS Station 4/9 on July 26. The station, located at 9576 Old Bailes Road in Indian Land, will house two front line response units,

the EMS North END STAR Team Rehab Trailer; one Quick Response Unit; and a Backup EMS Unit.

● The EMS station's location was chosen to cut down on the response times to the extreme northern end of Lancaster County and due to the high population density in that area. The station was designed so that three full-time units can be added without having to expand the facility and creating additional construction costs. Due to COVID-19, only council members and EMS staff were invited to attend the ribbon cutting; however, the event was livestreamed for the public and an open house for the public will be planned for a later date.

● Lancaster County EMS has initiated a new program called EMS Boot Camp to help offset shortages of new EMS recruits.

EMS Director **Clay Catoe** came up with the idea of the 12-week Boot Camp class, which provides people who are interested in EMS jobs with a "free" education and a guaranteed part-time

job if they pass the class.

County Council agreed to fund the project, because the Boot Camp ensured good usage of taxpayer funds by requiring students to sign contracts agreeing that they would repay the costs of the class if they quit or failed to become certified.

Stacey Chapman, Compliance Manager, Lancaster County EMS, was the head instructor for the 12-week class that included a program of classroom, self-study, skills lab and direct observation on an ambulance.

All students, who successfully completed Boot Camp's first class, are eligible for National and State Certification Exams. All students are currently employed by Lancaster County EMS. Lexington County's EMS Department is also fully staffed.

● Lancaster County has renovated its historic jail in downtown Lancaster. The newly-renovated first floor provides office space for county staff.

The Lancaster County Jail, according to the book, *Lancaster County South Carolina Tours* by Viola C. Floyd, was designed by Robert Mills and completed in 1823 for \$8,000. The jail, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1973.



NACo
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

NACo UNITES AMERICA'S 3,069 COUNTIES

ADVOCATING
for counties
before Congress
and the
Administration

PROVIDING
solutions for
cost-savings,
efficiency and
quality services

EXCHANGING
ideas and
building
new skills

ENRICHING
public
awareness
of county
government

888.407.NACo (6226) | www.NACo.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES **STRONGER COUNTIES.
STRONGER AMERICA.**

ADVERTISERS

Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc.	9 & 19
Bobbitt Design Build	16 & 38
Dominion Energy	17
Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina	Inside-Front Cover
Fleettalk by Rock Communications	72
<i>Hidden History of Greenville County</i>	70
Kueper	75
<i>Lost Columbia</i>	15 & 70
National Association of Counties	80
PalmettoPride	68 & Inside-Back Cover
Professional Printers	41 & 78
PrintSouth	4, 20 & 38
PROVAL Property Valuation and Analytics	20
PUBLIQ Software	63
Santee Cooper	73
SCAC's New Corporate Partner Program	21
SCAC'S Social Media	18
SCAC's Website	24
Stevens & Wilkinson	39
Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects	31
Synovus	8

The Palmetto Directory Index

(See page 74)

LISTINGS:

Alliance Consulting
Engineers, Inc.
Celebrate Freedom Foundation
Fleettalk by Rock
Communications
Kueper
PalmettoPride
PROVAL Property Valuation
and Analytics
PUBLIQ Software



Helping SC counties clean up since 1999.



