

COUNTY FOCUS

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
FALL 2022

2022 Annual Conference

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in
the Workplace: Finding Your Way**

**Fiscal Impact Statements:
Estimating the Cost of “Mandates”
for the Legislative Process**



Debra B. Summers
Elected SCAC President



Julian Davis Receives President's Cup



**S.C. Legislators provide legislative update at annual
conference's opening session.**

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Oconee County
Council Vice Chairman

Secretary

Charles T. Edens
Sumter County
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Treasurer

Belinda D. Copeland
Darlington County

**SCAC Board of Directors
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SCAC STAFF

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Timothy C. Winslow

**Deputy Executive Director
and General Counsel**
Joshua C. Rhodes

Senior Director of Operations
Anna B. Berger

**SCAC Staff Members
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COUNTY FOCUS

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SCAC Elects Debra B. Summers President

SCAC elected officers for 2022-23 and five board members to four-year terms at its Annual Conference, held Aug. 1 – 4, 2022.

Elected PRESIDENT was Lexington County Council Member Debra B. Summers. She succeeds Oconee County Council Vice Chairman Paul A. Cain, who served as 2021–22 SCAC President.

“It’s an honor for me to have been elected to serve as president of the South Carolina Association of Counties,” said Debra B. Summers. “I’m looking forward to working with representatives from around the state to help move South Carolina forward.”

“Paul Cain’s service as president of the SCAC is much appreciated, and has helped bridge relationships for the future,” Summers added. “My desire as president of the SCAC is to strengthen communication with our counties so that they all benefit from the tremendous assets that the association offers all 46 counties in South Carolina. After all, we’re blessed to have such a resource that all counties can utilize.”

Summers has served on Lexington County Council for almost 18 years, as chair and vice chair of county council, and on every county



Debra K. Summers
SCAC President

council committee. Born and raised in the Midlands of South Carolina, she currently serves on the Greater Cayce-West Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Central Midlands Regional Transit Authority, and Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council Board. She also serves as an advisory member of the Board of Our Place of Hope.

She has previously served in other capacities within her community, including: River Alliance Board; Lexington Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission; SCAC Board of Directors; Lexington Chamber Board; Central Midlands Council of Governments; Engenuity Board; and Central S.C. Alliance Board. Summers has also served for nine years on the Lexington Medical Center Board of Directors.

She and her husband, Bud, have three children and eight grandchildren.

“It’s an honor for me to have been elected to serve as president of the South Carolina Association of Counties. I’m looking forward to working with representatives from around the state to help move South Carolina forward.”

SCAC President Debra B. Summers
(Lexington County Council Member)

“Debbie Summers is universally regarded as a proven and trusted leader in the Lexington community and the State of South Carolina,” said SCAC Executive Director Tim Winslow. “SCAC staff looks forward to her dynamic and positive leadership in the coming year.”

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SCAC's Other New Officers

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Council Chairman*

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

**Third
Vice President**



Mary D. Anderson
*Chesterfield County
Council Member*

**Immediate
Past President**



Paul A. Cain
*Oconee County
Council Vice Chairman*

Secretary



Charles T. Edens
*Sumter County
Council Member*

Treasurer




Belinda D. Copeland
Darlington County

SCAC Elects Other Officers and Board Members

Officers

SCAC elected other officers as follows: **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**—Roy Costner III, Pickens County Council Vice Chairman; **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**—William E. Robinson, Allendale County Council Member; **THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**—Mary D. Anderson, Chesterfield County Council Member; **SECRETARY**—Charles T. Edens, Sumter County Council Member; **TREASURER**—Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County; and **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**—Paul A. Cain, Oconee County Council Vice Chairman.

Board Members

SCAC elected the following board members to four-year terms (to expire in 2026): Daniel Alexander, Barnwell County Council Member; C. David Chinnis, Dorchester County Council Member; Barbara B. Clark, Jasper County Council Chairwoman; Charles T. Jennings, McCormick County Council Chairman; and Herman “Butch” G. Kirven Jr., Greenville County Council Member. 

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Follow SCAC on social media 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.

Beaufort County Wins SCAC's 2022 J. Mitchell Graham and Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Awards

BEAUFORT COUNTY became one of only a few counties in South Carolina at SCAC's 2022 Awards Competition to win the association's top two awards—the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award and Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award—the same year.

The county won the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award, its fifth, for implementing a decal system for the county's waste collection program, and Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award, its third, for collaborating to create *The Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual*.

When asked how he felt about Beaufort County winning both awards this year, Jared Fralix, Assistant County Administrator, Infrastructure, Beaufort County, was succinct:

"We're ecstatic!" he replied.

J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award

Beaufort County, without a landfill, contracts haulers to transport waste from collection centers across the county to landfills in adjacent Jasper County.

But several years ago, with a rapidly growing population and rising tourism in the area, the county searched for a better way to handle waste. The county succeeded by creating and implementing a decal system in the spring of 2021 that has already saved the county \$734,903 in disposal and hauling costs.

"We were impressed with the innovative approach to using de-



SCAC President Paul A. Cain (second from left) presents SCAC's J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award to Beaufort County Council Chairman Joseph Passiment (left), and (left to right) Assistant County Administrator, Infrastructure, Beaufort County, Jared Fralix; Solid Waste & Recycling Business Manager Angel Marcinkoski, and Council Vice Chairman Paul Sommerville.



commissioned smartphones as scanners instead of buying dedicated handheld scanners, saving the county money," said William E. Tones, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, when Beaufort County representatives accepted the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award on August 3 at SCAC's Annual Conference. "County staff also did a great job in meeting the challenges faced in the initial decal registration process."

Eleven collection centers in Beaufort County served 61,555 households, and 80 percent of the county's households had curbside pickup in 2018.

Because the county was unable to implement countywide curbside collection, and collection centers were struggling to handle issues associated with the growing demand for waste disposal, Beaufort County hired a consultant in 2019 to find a better

way to handle waste.

County Council and the county's Public Facility Committee approved the creation of a decal system recommended in the consultant's report, and hired a Solid Waste and Recycling Business Manager to create a decal system in the spring of 2020. The county's Solid Waste and Recycling staff then worked with the county's GIS Office to develop a decal program in-house that could register and manage the issuing of decals.

The program involved creating a scanner app, a data management system, and an online registration form. Two of the county's 11 waste collection centers were closed because their collections prevented

them from being expanded, and traffic safety concerns, and because they could not be retrofitted for the decal system.

The decal system allows staff to use older decommissioned iPhones to scan decals and determine the number of times that a decal has been scanned each week. GIS and IT staff, using the smartphones instead of dedicated scanners, designed a mobile app to work with the registration and decal management system. The app uses the Ionic Platform, which can be updated easily as updates become available.

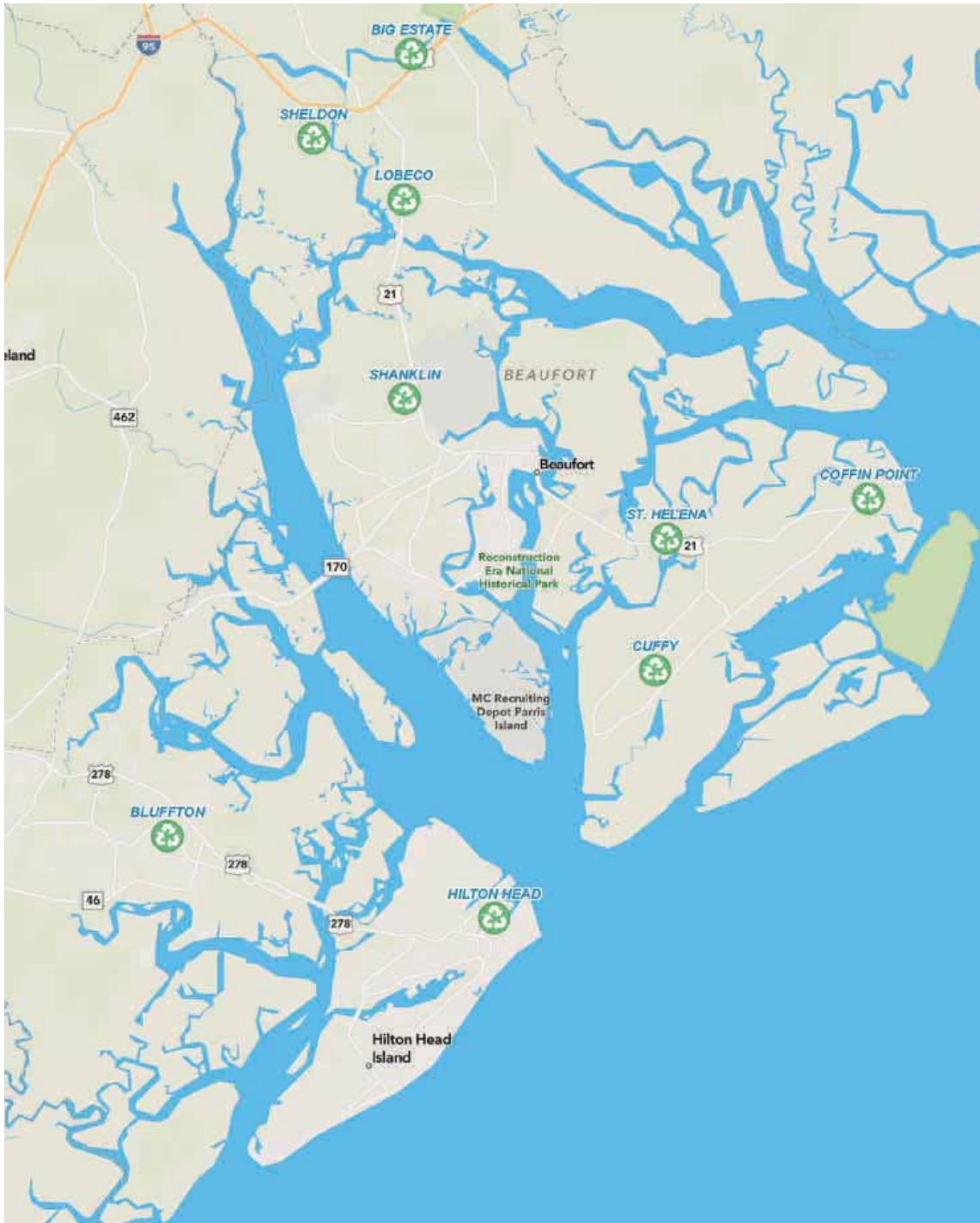
Next, GIS and IT staff worked with the Assessor's Office staff to gather a comprehensive list of all physical addresses in the county to link an online registration form to a data manager system. Registration

data, collected through the beaufortcountysc.gov website, ties in with the GIS System using a parcel address layer specifically set up to display only valid residential parcels.

This allows staff to collect only registration data for addresses that are valid for Beaufort County, and provides access to other field information, including owner's name, Parcel Information Number (PIN), Alternate Identification Number (AIN) and mailing address, and to verify registrations for decals. Once registration data is stored in a database, registered decals are emailed to registrants, and registration data is forwarded to county staff, and stored on county servers.

Beaufort County launched a soft opening of the system in the spring of 2021. But the county suspended the launch after encountering some problems in the decal registration process related to multi-family dwellings, parcels with multiple dwellings, and the definition of what is a livable dwelling.

"We solved the problem by adapting the definition of a residence, as defined by the Assessor's Office, which described a
(Continued on next page)



Beaufort County's nine waste collection centers

residential unit as a single-family unit up to a quadplex, and any unit larger than this as a commercial unit,” Jarid Fralix said.

The county then launched the decal system in November 2021 that:

- Regulates entrance information and usage of the county’s collection centers
- Reduces operation costs, traffic and environmental concerns caused by the misuse of centers by businesses, contractors, and out-of-county residents.

Beaufort County’s waste collection centers exist to benefit county residents, and the county’s decal system prevents anyone else from using them.

“We discovered, as suspected,” Fralix said, “that many contractors and out-of-county residents were illegally using the county’s collection centers, costing the county thousands of dollars in disposal fees.”

Decals are free for residential property owners in Beaufort County.

Each decal is tied to a specific parcel of land (not a vehicle or mobile home), using an Alternate Identification Number (AIN) recorded at the Assessor’s Office. Each parcel must have a dwelling on it to prevent people, who own property in the county but live outside the county, from using a collection center in Beaufort County. Each property address, which is assigned a decal, is limited to visiting a county collection center three times per week.

Only a Beaufort County residential property owner can receive a decal. Commercial properties, vacant property owners, contractors,

BEAUFORT COUNTY SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

10 Convenience Center Tips

Please be patient and kind to the attendants.
They positive and respectful as they work to assist you.

Have your decal ready for scanning.
This makes the process quicker for you and the attendant.

No decal? No entrance.
Be prepared to exit the convenience center as directed by the attendant.

No commercial waste allowed.
Convenience Centers are for residential waste only.

Secure and cover your load.
Help keep our roads clean and safe.

Load size and weekly limits.
A load is considered no more than 28 inches high and is the size of one pickup truck bed or one 8'x8' trailer.

Limit three (3) visits per week per property owner address. Limit four (4) tires per visit.

No box trucks.
Resident? Commercial? We can't tell.

No loitering, scavenging or leaving items on the ramp.
Please all items in the appropriate waste bin.

No smoking.
Smoking is prohibited on all Beaufort County properties.

No shoes? No shirt? No service.
For your own safety, please wear the appropriate attire.

For more information visit our website at www.beaufortcountysc.gov/recycle or call the Solid Waste and Recycling Office at 843-255-2930.

Beaufort County Convenience Centers

www.beaufortcountysc.gov/recycle

Convenience Centers are trash and recycling drop-off stations open **ONLY** to Beaufort County residents.

New Operation Hours for All Locations
7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Open: Monday – Tuesday – Thursday – Friday – Saturday – Sunday
Bluffton – Hilton Head – Shanklin – St. Helena

Open: Monday – Thursday – Saturday
Big Estate – Coffin Point – Labecca

Open: Sunday – Tuesday – Friday
Cuffy – Sheldon

All Centers Closed Wednesday and County Holidays

Holiday Closures

New Year's Day	Independence Day
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Labor Day
Easter Sunday	Veteran's Day
Memorial Day	Thanksgiving Day
	Christmas Eve "Closes at 1:00PM"
	Christmas Day

NO Open Dumping in Beaufort County
Local municipalities are actively responding to open dumping.

Construction & Demolition Debris
Please have large loads of C&D, bulky items and/or yard waste to Oakwood Landfill.

726 Strathart Way Flagland, SC 29936
843-947-6003 Closed: Saturday and Sunday
Charges may apply to commercial waste. No charge to residents.



A Beaufort County waste collection center employee uses an iPhone to scan a decal on a vehicle’s windshield.

and out-of-county residents are not issued decals, and are not allowed to use the collection centers. Renters of residential properties, who cannot get a decal, must obtain a copy of the decal from a property owner to use a collection center.

“Prior to issuing each decal, we review and verify that the user is indeed a Beaufort County resident,” Fralix explained. “Residency is verified by ensuring the applicant’s address is the same as that held by the county Assessors’ Office, which must match the information to the tax map identification number (AIN).

“Decals provide information on specific users that we never had previously,” he added. “Our county’s IT staff developed an internal program to assist in this verification process.”

Attendants at each of Beaufort County’s nine collection centers scan decals to ensure that only residents, who are registered to use the centers, are able to use them.

Residents, who do not have decals, can take recyclables to two

waste collection centers, one on Shanklin Road in Beaufort, and the other on Simmons Road in Bluffton. But they are not allowed to use the waste collection areas at the centers, and must use separate exit lanes when departing the facilities.

Beaufort County paid a little more than \$50,000 to create and implement the decal system. The greatest expense was the cost of postage and producing the decals. The county significantly cut the cost of creating the decal system by using staff to create the system in-house.

“In addition to saving our county on the cost of waste disposal and hauling, our county’s new decal system is allowing us to gain more data on the use of our convenience centers,” Fralix said. “Now, we’re starting to see secondary and tertiary

benefits that are allowing us to be more effective in the services we provide.”

For more information, contact Angel Marcinkoski, Business/ (Continued on next page)



2022 J. Mitchell Graham Honorable Mention Award Winners

Honorable Mention Population Category Less than 50,000

Colleton County

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award honorable mention in the population category of less than 50,000 was awarded to Colleton County for its Fire-Rescue Department’s efforts to improve access to urgent trauma care in rural parts of the county. Colleton County implemented the Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Administration by Paramedics pilot program after recognizing a need for improved transport care of critically sick or injured rural residents, who are often located far from the closest trauma center.

The standard of care for severely injured patients is arrival at a trauma center within one hour or less from the time of injury. Known as the Golden Hour, this timeframe allows patients their best opportunity to receive stabilizing treatment for their survival. Due to Colleton County’s large geographic area, meeting this benchmark is often a challenge for first responders.

The Colleton County Fire-Rescue Department worked with county council and administration, as well as community and state partners, to develop an innovative life-saving program. The Pre-Hospital Whole Blood Administration by Paramedics program

allows rural EMS providers to administer whole blood products in ambulances, which stabilizes patients to a much higher degree during transport, giving the receiving trauma center the opportunity to adequately continue resuscitation and treatment of the patient. This successful pilot program has saved lives and is becoming a standard practice in South Carolina.

For more information, contact Meagan Utsey, Administrative Services Director, Colleton County, at (843) 549-5221.

Honorable Mention Population Category 50,000 to 150,000

Pickens County

Pickens County was awarded the J. Mitchell Graham honorable mention in the population category 50,000 to 150,000 for its efforts to reduce the high suicide death rate in the county by educating the public, fostering awareness, and increasing lethal means safety.

Pickens County ranks highest in the state for suicide deaths per 100,000 population. The county recognized that service members, veterans and their families (SMVF), are especially at risk. The county developed the SMVF Crisis Intercept Mapping for Suicide Prevention, which is a tool to help stakeholders visualize how at-risk SMVF flow through four key “intercept points” in the crisis care system. These intercept points provide opportunities for diversion to appropriate prevention and support services.

The four intercept points are First Contact, Acute Care, Care (See *Honorable Mentions*, P. 8)



COLLETON COUNTY
FOUNDED 1682



Decal Manager, Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling, at amarcinkoski@bcgov.net or (843) 255-2930.

This is the 50th year the SCAC has awarded the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award. The award, named in honor of the late J. Mitchell Graham who served as SCAC president from 1969 to 1970, recognizes

Honorable Mentions ... (Continued from P. 7)

Transitions, and Ongoing Treatment and Recovery Support. For example, when someone calls 911, EMS may be their First Contact and will transport them to an emergency room or receiving facility for Acute Care. There, patients are screened for suicidality and may be identified as SMVF. This identification allows them to be connected to additional resources, or Care Transitions, such as Upstate Warrior Solution. The final step and goal in the critical care process is provision of ongoing treatment and recovery support.

While these efforts are focused on veterans, resources have also been shared successfully to the public at-large in order to reach a much broader portion of the community.

For more information, contact Jessica Varpey, Collaboration Manager, Pickens County, at (864) 898-5831.

Honorable Mention Population Category Greater than 150,000

Anderson County

The honorable mention in the population category greater than 150,000 was awarded to Anderson County for reforming its EMS system into a two-tier response system by placing paramedics in Quick Response Vehicles instead of ambulances.

The Covid-19 pandemic put pressure on Anderson County's emergency response system, with an associated 40 percent increase in calls to its 911 center. According to county officials, response times and performance were already sub-par and had been for years due to institutional, structural, and organizational deficiencies. County Council decided that with the increased calls and no apparent end to the pandemic in sight, they had to enact bold change. Anderson County Council voted to overhaul and unify its EMS system from top to bottom, turning a crisis into an opportunity.

Despite certain challenges, Anderson County was able to debut the new system in only 45 days. The new system doubled the county's emergency response capability, allowing paramedics to be dispatched to only life-threatening emergencies. Within weeks of implementation, response times sharply decreased and within a year response time goals—defined as nine minutes, 59 seconds or less—were being met 95 percent of the time versus 65 percent under the old system. The new two-tiered system resulted in improvements to the EMS program that are unprecedented in the history of Anderson County.

For more information, contact Jon Caine, Special Projects Manager, Anderson County, at (864) 934-0087.



counties that address community challenges, implement operational improvements, or enhance their citizens' quality of life in a unique way.

Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award

Beaufort County won SCAC's 2022 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award for collaborating with Jasper County and four municipalities (Bluffton, Hardeeville, Beaufort and Port Royal) in both counties to create *The Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual*.

The manual implements better site design principles and requires green infrastructure and low impact development practices to help the region meet the overall goal of achieving fishable, swimmable and drinkable water standards set forth by the EPA.

"Adopting regional standards makes it easier for the development community to work with all of the jurisdictions and discourages 'jurisdictional shopping' for a community with less stringent standards," said William E. Tomes when presenting the BL Award to Beaufort County representatives on August 3 at SCAC's Annual Conference.

There is another reason why Beaufort County made the project a "collaborative effort."

"We took a collaborative approach because stormwater doesn't know boundaries or jurisdictional limits," Jared Fralix said. "Because the way stormwater is treated in one jurisdiction directly affects how stormwater is affected in the neighboring jurisdiction, it just makes sense that we had work together and collaborate to make a substantial change."

Every jurisdiction in Beaufort County and Jasper County had already started to implement their own stormwater regulations or deferred to state stormwater regulations.

"This created one of our greatest challenges," Fralix said. "We set a vision of what our regulations should be locally, which were above and beyond what's required at the state level. We then coordinated multiple meetings, which helped us overcome our differences, and also helped us collectively identify regulations that we would agree to."

"Stormwater is one area where taking a collaborative approach makes sense," he added. "By collaborating, we recognized there were many other areas where taking a regional approach would benefit everyone. So, we hope to work together on other regional initiatives in the future."

The Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual, prepared by the Center for Watershed Protection and published in March 2020, consists of six main chapters, and includes several appendices. The manual is posted on Beaufort County's website at www.BeaufortCountySC.gov where it is available to be viewed and downloaded.

Beaufort County, upon request and at no cost, will print the manual, or copy the manual to an external drive. For more information, contact Jon Spencer, Senior Administrator for Stormwater, Beaufort County, at Jonathan.spencer@bcgov.net or (843) 255-2805.

The county has also posted a web-based water quality calculator online to allow anyone to easily calculate pollutant percentage

removals based on site design. The calculator is located at www.beaufortcountysc.gov/stormwater/manuals-and-plans.html

“Beaufort County’s staff worked alongside the development community to ensure their conceptual plans align with standards of the Stormwater Department,” Fralix said. “Our staff has also provided a training video online for the development community to view if they have any questions. Also, our staff is always available to guide and assist anyone who has questions.”

The collaborative project to create *The Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual* is already proving to be successful.

The Clean Water Act, enforced by the EPA, sets the standards for water quality for the nation. The goals of the Act include making sure recreational waters are fishable, swimmable, and drinkable.

Stormwater runoff starts on land and ultimately ends up in creeks, rivers, and streams without receiving any treatment. Stormwater runoff carries with it any pollutants that it comes into contact with prior to entering waterways.

The pollutants that stormwater runoff carries can negatively impact water quality, causing bodies of water

to be unfishable and unswimmable. Drinking standards do not apply to the salt marshes and tidal intrusions, the “receiving waterbodies” of Beaufort and Jasper counties.

Since February 2021, *The Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual* has required all new construction within municipalities to meet EPA water quality and water quantity controls. These controls
(Continued on next page)



SCAC President Paul A. Cain (second from left) presents SCAC’s 2022 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperational Award to (left to right) Beaufort County Council Chairman Joseph Passiment (left); Katie Herrera, Beaufort County Stormwater Manager; Assistant County Administrator, Infrastructure, Jared Fralix; and Council Vice Chairman Paul Sommerville.



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help ensure that jurisdictions in Beaufort and Jasper counties comply with the Clean Water Act by treating stormwater runoff prior to allowing it to enter bodies of water in both counties.

Eighty-one stormwater projects have been submitted for review under the manual's new design standards, as of September 9, 2022, according to Fralix. Many of the projects are in the final stages of approval. Two stormwater projects have already received full permitting

2022 Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Honorable Mention Award Winners

Abbeville, Greenwood, and McCormick Counties

For the first time in the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation competition, the judges recognized one of the entrants with an honorable mention. The original intent of the award was to recognize counties that work across county lines in an effort to improve their communities. This year, Abbeville, Greenwood, and McCormick counties accomplished that with the MatTrans Project and earned an honorable mention for their regional partnership.

Greenwood and Abbeville counties partnered with the McCormick Area Transit system (MatTrans) to provide much needed public transportation to residents who were having difficulty getting to work, school, and medical appointments. MatTrans was already contracting with McCormick County to provide transportation services for its citizens, many of which were being transported to Greenwood County for medical appointments.

After Greenwood and Abbeville County Councils signed resolutions to partner with McCormick Area Transit, a 20-year unmet need was addressed for citizens of these counties. The transit program exceeded

expectations by not only providing transportation to residents for critical medical appointments, but also by providing a reliable means of transportation to citizens that have found a lack transportation to be a repeated barrier to sustained employment.

Since the partnership began, ridership has increased significantly, outpacing even the most optimistic projections, and the transit system continues to expand.

For more information, contact Sussan McIntyre, Clerk to Council, Greenwood County, at (864) 942-8507.



"Heritage With A Future"




South Carolina Lowcountry municipal and consultant partners responsible for the completion and implementation of *The Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual*: (left to right) Lisa Wagner, Jasper County Planning Director; Kathryn Ellis, EIT McCormick Taylor, Inc. - Water Resources Designer II; Katie Herrera, Beaufort County Stormwater Manager; Kim Jones, MS Town of Bluffton - Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience; Rhett Lott, City of Hardeeville Public Works Director; and Bill Baugher, Town of Bluffton Watershed Management Division Manager.

under the new manual's standards.

"We're extremely happy with our county's award-winning collaborative project to create *The Southern Lowcountry Stormwater Design Manual*," Fralix said. "We're also hopeful that through the collective implementation of the manual's design standards that the waters within our region will be swimmable, fishable, and drinkable for many years to come."

"We want to ensure," he added, "that we are good stewards of the natural resources that we so love within our communities."

This is the 25th year the association has awarded the Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award. The award, named in honor of the late Barrett S. Lawrimore who served as SCAC president in 2004, 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. 



2021–22 SCAC President Paul A. Cain (Oconee County Council Vice Chairman) presents the president's gavel to SCAC's newly-elected president for 2022–23, Debra B. Summers (Lexington County Council Member).



Darryl Ross, author and motivational speaker, delivers the keynote speech at the general session on Thursday, Aug. 4. His speech inspired conference attendees to lead their counties during challenging times.



NACo President Denise Winfrey addressed county officials at the general session on Thursday, Aug. 4.

Photos of SCAC's 2022 Annual Conference

Aug. 1 - 4



Jon B. Pierce, Ph.D., Fellow, Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, teaches The Policy Role of Council class, on Monday, Aug. 1, at the Institute of Government.



Dr. Peter Cressy, Director of Executive Leadership Programs, Washington Presidential Library, provides the keynote address for the opening session on Wednesday, Aug. 3.



NACo Executive Director Matt Chase speaks at Federal and State Legislative Lighting Round Workshop on Wednesday, Aug. 3.



Mark W. Tollison (inset-left), Greenville County Attorney, teaches a Planning and Land Use class on Monday, Aug. 1, at the Institute of Government.





Angela Christian, Georgetown County Administrator (inset-right), speaks at the workshop, Current Issues—Strengthening Your County’s Cyber Resilience, held on Monday, Aug. 3, at the Institute of Government.



Molly Fortune, Executive Director, S.C. American Revolution Sestercentennial (250th) Commission, speaks at the general session on Thursday, Aug. 4.



Lynn Sturkie, Lexington County Administrator (second from left) visits Stantec’s exhibit at SCAC’s 2022 Annual Conference. Also shown (left to right) are: Gopi OmRaju, Senior Project Director, Stantec; Rick Day, Vice President, Stantec; and David Beaty, Principal, Stantec. Thirty-five SCAC Corporate Partners exhibit at the association’s annual conference.



William E. Tones, Fellow, Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston, teaches a Developing Good Leadership Skills class on Tuesday, Aug. 2, at the Institute of Government.



Nanette Edwards, Executive Director, S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff, spoke at the Maximizing Broadband Resources and Deployment in South Carolina workshop on Wednesday, Aug. 3.



Esther Wagner, Awareness & Education Manager, PalmettoPride, speaks at the general session on Thursday, Aug. 4.



Members of the S.C. General Assembly provide a legislative update at the opening session on Wednesday, Aug. 3. Shown are: (left to right) Russell L. Ott (Dist. 93), Rep. Marvin R. Pendarvis (Dist. 113), Rep. Brandon M. Newton (Dist. 45), Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (District 66), Rep. William E. Sandifer (Dist. 2), House Speaker G. Murrell Smith Jr. (Dist. 67), Sen. Kevin L. Johnson (Dist. 36), Sen. Greg Hembree (Dist. 28), Sen. Thomas C. Davis (Dist. 46), SCAC President Paul Cain and SCAC Director of Governmental Affairs Kent Lesesne.



Moses Bell, Fairfield County Council Chairman, and other county officials (see photos below) spoke and asked questions during the panel discussion, *The Great Resignation and Other Human Resource Trends*, on Tuesday, Aug. 2.



Participating in a panel discussion, *The Great Resignation and Other Human Resource Trends*, part of an advanced course held on Tuesday, Aug. 2, at the Institute Government, were: (left to right) Justin Werner, Deputy General Counsel, S.C. Public Employee Benefit Authority; Steven R. Vermette, National Sales Leader, Public Sector, Colonial Life; Leonardo Brown, Richland County Administrator; and Fred A. Williams, Partner, Gignilliat Savitz and Bettis Law Firm.



Roy Costner, Pickens County Council Chairman



Chanel Lewis, Hampton County Finance Director/Human Resources (Interim)



The S.C. Clerks to County Council Association inducts new officers. Shown (left to right) are: Kristen Wurster, Treasurer, Charleston County; Ja'Net Bishop (Former Treasurer), Darlington County; Kristen Salisbury, Secretary, Charleston County; Mary Blanding (Former Past President), Sumter County; Kimberly Roberts, Member-at-Large, Fairfield County; Tammi Epps-McClary (Former Member-at-Large), Williamsburg County; Crystal Barnes, Vice President, McCormick County; Connie Portee, President, Orangeburg County; and Lynn Sopolosky Past President, Abbeville County.



Susan McIntyre (left), Greenwood County Clerk to Council, receives her Clerks Certification from the S.C. Clerks to County Council Association (SCCCA). Also shown are (left to right) Sabrina Davis, SCCCA Certification Committee Member, Marion County; Crystal Barnes, SCCCA Co-Chair Certification Committee, McCormick County; and Kendra Stewart, Ph.D., Professor and Director, The Riley Center for Livable Communities, College of Charleston.



ABBEVILLE, GREENWOOD AND MCCORMICK COUNTIES WIN HONORABLE MENTION BARRETT LAW RIMORE MEMORIAL AWARDS—Accepting the honorable mention awards for regional cooperation are: (left to right) Abbeville County Council Member Rick Campbell; McCormick County Council Member Charles H. Cook; County Council Chairman Charles Jennings; County Administrator Columbus Stephens, County Council Member Henry Banks, County Council Vice Chairman Bernard Hamby; SCAC President Paul A. Cain (presenting award); Greenwood County Council Member Theo Lane; County Manager Toby Chappell; County Council Member Melissa Spencer; Abbeville County Council Chairman William C. “Billy” Norris; County Council Member James P. McCord; McCormick County Council Member Jacqueline F. Brown; and County Council Member Dayne Pruitt.



SCAC's 2022-23 Debra B. Summers (right) presents a plaque to SCAC's 2021-22 President, Paul A. Cain, to recognize his service during the past year.



McCormick County officials proudly pose for a photo with their county's newly won Honorable Mention Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Award shortly after receiving the award for regional cooperation. Shown are: (left to right) McCormick County Council Member Henry Banks; Charles H. Cook, County Council Member; Bernard Hamby, County Council Chairman Charles Jennings, County Administrator Columbus Stephens; and Council Members Jacqueline F. Brown, and Charles H. Cook.



SCAC President Paul Cain (second from right) presents a small replica of the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial (JMG) Award to representatives of Greenwood County, which won last year's JMG Award. Accepting the replica are: (left to right) Greenwood County Manager Toby Chappell, and Council Members Theo Lane, Melissa Spencer, and Dayne Pruitt.



Angel Marcinkoski (left), Beaufort County Solid Waste & Recycling Business Manager, and Katie Herrera, Beaufort County Stormwater Manager, show the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award and Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award that Beaufort County won this year.



PICKENS COUNTY WINS J. MITCHELL GRAHAM HONORABLE MENTION (50,000 TO 150,000 POPULATION CATEGORY)—SCAC President Paul A. Cain (third from left) presents the award to: (left to right) Pickens County Council Vice Chairman Roy Costner III; Council Member Ensley Feemster; Council Chairman Chris Bowers; Collaboration Manager Jessica Varney; County Administrator Ken Roper; and Council Member Henry Wilson.



COLLETON COUNTY WINS J. MITCHELL GRAHAM HONORABLE MENTION (LESS THAN 50,000 POPULATION CATEGORY)—SCAC President Paul A. Cain (left) presents the award to: (left to right) Colleton County Council Member Arthur L. Williams; Council Vice Chairman Phillip M. Taylor Sr.; and Council Member Joseph F. Flowers, M.D.



ANDERSON COUNTY WINS J. MITCHELL GRAHAM HONORABLE MENTION (GREATER THAN 150,000 POPULATION CATEGORY)—SCAC President Paul A. Cain presents the award to: (left to right) Anderson County Special Projects Manager, Jon Caime; and Anderson County Council Members Glenn A. Davis and S. Ray Graham.


Julian Davis Receives President's Cup

SCAC President Paul A. Cain (Oconee County Council Vice Chairman) presented the President's Cup—one of the association's highest honors—to Oconee County Council Member Julian Davis at SCAC's Annual Conference, held August 1 – 4.

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.

"My good friend and colleague, Julian (Davis), has served the Oconee community in countless ways," said 2021-22 SCAC President

4 and is truly committed to making decisions that benefit Oconee County as a whole," Cain added. "He has served as council chairman, and is a board member of the Appalachian Council of Governments, and the Seneca Business Development Support Center. He is a recipient of the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce Award. Tonight's honoree has also served as a soccer coach for Seneca High School, and the City of Seneca Recreation Department."

Davis, who has worked in the insurance industry for 19 years, owns an Allstate Insurance Agency. He and his wife, Stephanie, have two children, Dylan and Layla. 



SCAC President Paul A. Cain (Oconee County Council Vice Chairman) presents the association's President's Cup to Oconee County Council Member Julian Davis on August 3 at SCAC's 2022 Annual Conference.

Paul A. Cain when presenting the President's Cup on August 3. "He is passionate about helping those struggling with homelessness, and is a founding member and the board president of Our Daily Rest Homeless Shelter. Committed to helping individuals with hearing impairments, this gentleman is a three-time recipient of the Sertoma of the Year Award bestowed by the Seneca Sertoma Club.

"Julian works tirelessly to represent his constituents of District



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Sixty-Six County Officials Graduate From the Institute of Government for County Officials

Sixty-six county officials graduated on August 3 from Levels I and II of the Institute of Government for County Officials at the Annual Conference of the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC), held Aug. 1 – 4.

“It is an honor for me to recognize members of the class of 2022,” said 2021-22 SCAC President Paul A. Cain (Oconee County Council Vice Chairman) when recognizing graduates at the conference’s opening session on August 3. “Thank you for your dedication to county government, as demonstrated by your graduation today. Congratulations!”

LEVEL I

Graduating from Level I were: AIKEN COUNTY—**Lee Andrew Siders**, Council Vice Chairman; ALLENDALE COUNTY—**Joe Mole III**, Building/Zoning Administrator; BEAUFORT COUNTY—**Sarah Brock**, Clerk to Council; BERKELEY COUNTY—**Johnny P. Cribb**, Supervisor/Chairman; **Amanda D. Turner**, Clerk to Council; CHEROKEE COUNTY—**Lyman Dawkins III**, Council Member; CHESTER COUNTY—**Dr. Wylie G. Frederick**, Supervisor/Chairman; **Angela**

T. Strother, Executive Assistant; CLARENDON COUNTY—**Jacqueline Blackwell**, Coroner; COLLETON COUNTY—**Arthur L. “Art” Williams**, Council Member; DARLINGTON COUNTY—**Angie S. Godbold**, Council Member; DORCHESTER COUNTY—**Edward Crosby**, **Harriet A. Holman** and **S. Todd Friddle**, Council Members; **Tracey L. Langley**, Clerk to Council; FAIRFIELD COUNTY—**Shirley Greene**, Council Vice Chairwoman; **Timothy Roseborough**, Council Member; FLORENCE COUNTY—**Jerry W. Yarborough Jr.**, Council Member; HAMPTON COUNTY—**Darin L. Williams**, Council Vice Chairman; **Chanel Lewis**, Finance Director/Human Resources; JASPER COUNTY—**Alvin Adkins** and **John Kemp**, Council Members; **Danny O. Lucas**, Development Services/Airport Manager; KERSHAW COUNTY—**Danny Templar**, County Administrator; LEXINGTON COUNTY—**Charlene Wessinger**, Council Member; **Lynn Sturkie**, County Administrator; McCORMICK COUNTY—**Charles Cook**, Council Member; NEWBERRY COUNTY—**John M. Scurry**, Council Member; OCONEE COUNTY—**Julian Davis III**, Council Member; **Amanda F. Brock**, County Administrator; ORANGEBURG COUNTY—**Kenneth McCaster**, Council Member; PICKENS COUNTY—**Allison Fowler**, Community and Tourism Development



LEVEL I GRADUATES—(Front row, left to right) Chanel Lewis, Shirley Greene, Sarah Brock, Harriet Holman, Chakisse Newton, Angie S. Godbold; (back row, left to right) Darin Williams, Torrance Wilson, Charles Cook, Timothy Roseborough, S. Todd Friddle, Jerry Yarborough, Jr., Arthur Williams, Joe Mole III, Dr. Wylie Frederick, and John Scurry.



LEVEL I GRADUATES—(Front row, left to right) Tracey Langley, Allison Fowler, Jessica Varney, Jacqueline Blackwell, Amanda Brock, Lisa Bryant, Charlene Wessinger, Amanda Turner; (back row, left to right) Ken Roper, Tommy Webster, Michael Moore, Julie Davis III, Alvin Adkins, Kenneth McCaster, Lynn Sturkie, and Danny Lucas.



LEVEL II GRADUATES—(Front row, left to right) Sherrie Thompson, Kristen Salisbury, Kristen Wurster, Deloris Frazier, Susan L. McIntyre, Melissa Spencer, Chakisse Newton; (back row, left to right) Richard Hall, Clarence Gilbert, Julian Davis III, Michael Vaughn (2021 Graduate); William Hearn Jr., John Caime, Scotty Whetstone, James Byars, Ennis Fant, Mike Barnes, and Leonardo Brown.

Director; **Jessica Varney**, Collaboration Manager; **Ken Roper**, County Administrator; **Lisa Bryant**, Human Resources/Administrative Director; **Meagan Nations**, Clerk to Council; **Tommy Webster**, Director of Operations and Facilities; **RICHLAND COUNTY**—**Chakisse Newton**, Council Member; **SALUDA COUNTY**—**Justin Anderson**, Council Vice Chairman; **J. Carey Bedenbaugh**, Council Member; **WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY**—**Torrance Wilson**, Council Member; **YORK COUNTY**—**Christi Cox**, Council Chairwoman; **Allison Love**, Council Member; **Kevin Madden**, Assistant County Manager/CFO; **Michael Moore**, Assistant County Manager.

LEVEL II

Graduating from Level II were: **AIKEN COUNTY**—**Cynthia Holland**, Voter Registration/Elections Executive Director; **ANDERSON COUNTY**—**Jon Caime**, Special Projects Coordinator; **BARNWELL COUNTY**—**Elaine S. Ferguson**, Clerk to Council (retired);

CALHOUN COUNTY—**Richard Hall**, Building and Planning Official; **CHARLESTON COUNTY**—**Kristen H. Wurster**, Deputy Clerk to Council; **Kristen L. Salisbury**, Clerk to Council; **CHEROKEE COUNTY**—**J. Quay Little**, Council Vice Chairman; **CLARENDON COUNTY**—**Terri H. Ridgeway**, Senior Secretary; **DARLINGTON COUNTY**—**Sherman Dibble III**, Finance Director; **DORCHESTER COUNTY**—**James Byars**, Council Vice Chairman; **William R. Hearn Jr.**, Council Chairman; **EDGEFIELD COUNTY**—**Albert Talbert**, Council Vice Chairman; **FAIRFIELD COUNTY**—**Clarence Gilbert**, Council Member; **GREENVILLE COUNTY**—**Ennis Fant**, Council Member; **GREENWOOD COUNTY**—**Melissa Spencer**, Council Member; **Susan L. McIntyre**, Clerk to Council; **KERSHAW COUNTY**—**Danny Templar**, County Administrator; **LANCASTER COUNTY**—**Sherrie Simpson**, Clerk to Council; **LEXINGTON COUNTY**—**Scotty R. Whetstone**, Council Chairman; **OCONEE COUNTY**—**Julian Davis III**, Council Member; **ORANGEBURG**

(Continued on next page)

COUNTY—**Deloris Frazier**, Council Member; RICHLAND COUNTY—**Chakisse Newton**, Council Member; Leonardo Brown, County Administrator.

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.



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Goodwill Actively Steers New Course

By Jarid Munsch, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
Community Engagement, Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands SC

Change can be seen in an instant. But it's usually a mistake to think it happens that way. So, while it's tempting to focus on all the conspicuous transformations our country, our state, and our local communities have undertaken, Goodwill is an organization eagerly leaning into one of the great inflection points of its life. It's actively steering a course of heightened community outreach, broader relevance, mission innovation, and service excellence.

Broader Relevance

Goodwill has long worked toward a community where opportunity abounds, all people are thriving, and our differences are valued. Now more than ever, the organization is committed to displaying that impact beyond the donation drop-off. This renewed approach under-

scores the different benefits Goodwill offers people from all walks of life and celebrates the benevolent connections fostered between them. It is an approach shared through new community engagement, a reimagined Job Connection experience, and other touchpoints large and small.

Mission Innovation

Mission innovations push Goodwill's "ABC" philosophy—advancing folks beyond A job to a Better job and then a Career—beyond a theoretical ideal and into the real world of quantifiable results. In the past year, nine out of 10 training and certification graduates secured positions with a wage increase of 15 percent. Goodwill is meeting the moment of the changing employment ecosystem while simultaneously meeting clients wherever they may be.

In 2022, the organization took their commitment to mission on the road—literally. Mission Mobile is a 30-foot, air-conditioned opportunity extender that carries employment outreach to the farthest corners of our service area. Spaciously designed and outfitted with the latest technology, it's an environment where real one-on-one work can be done, including career counseling, resume development, and interview and computer skills training.

In addition, three new Goodwill brick-and-mortar locations opened and nearly 2,200 job fairs, hiring events, and workshops were held, including those with programming tailored to specific groups such as youth, seniors and veterans.

Service Excellence

Providing tomorrow's droppers, shoppers, and job seekers with an optimal experience begins with an up-to-date understanding of their current performance. This year, Goodwill launched a Customer Ambassador Survey program to learn exactly where improvement opportunities lie. Participation is incentivized with gift card sweepstakes and online feedback is being sought in retail stores, donation drop-offs, and Job Connections.

The better performance outcomes Goodwill has, the more sustainable our communities become. With a strategic pledge to optimize donation-to-sales conversion, more than 30 million pounds of material was given new life this past fiscal year, as opposed to ending up in a landfill. It's an important benchmark, especially when keeping pace with the ever-present goal of maintaining donation numbers to fund

(See *Goodwill*, P. 24)

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Goodwill ... (Continued from P. 22)

mission services.

All this is the inspiration behind the countless new ways Goodwill is serving the community. A lens that has a host of diverse characters — from donors to team members to shoppers to job seekers — playing essential roles in improving each other's lives.

Goodwill is turning its name into an outward and deliberate action that creates an ecosystem of impact. A person-to-person phenomenon that fosters material and economic sustainability throughout the local community. Comprised of people from all walks of life, exchanging worth, and finding value in all its forms. From donors to shoppers to job seekers, retail locations turning unwanted items into unrivaled value and life-changing employment. Simple convenience for some. Profound opportunity for others. Goodwill to all.

Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina (GIUMSC) helps people become independent through education and training, leading to employment. Last year, GIUMSC provided career and education services to more than 10,000 job seekers by investing more than 90 cents of every dollar spent into its Mission programs and having a community economic impact of more than \$100 million. For more information on our programs and services, visit goodwillsc.org. 



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Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace: Finding Your Way

By Sheila M. Willis, Partner
Fisher & Phillips LLP

Although the focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) appears to have reached a fever pitch following the murder of George Floyd, employers have been grappling with these concepts and how they play out in the workplace for decades. From embracing women “leaning in” to the workplace more or #MeToo repercussions, to understanding benefits, name changes, and bathroom concerns for members of the LG-BTQIA+ community, to addressing systemic racism in open forums in the workplace, employers have been confronting the sometimes confounding aspects of embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Some employers seem to “have it all figured out,” while other employers are just beginning their journey. Regardless of where you may fall on the spectrum, there are some basic concepts that are helpful to all—either as a reminder or a roadmap.



hiring decisions based on a person’s gender, race, or other protected characteristic is illegal. Still, hiring more diverse candidates is a way to diversify your workforce—so what is the best way to do that?

The first step is to have a diverse applicant pool, beginning

with expanding your outreach efforts. Employers should evaluate where they are posting jobs, what career fairs they are attending, and what partnership they have in the community. If the desire is to have more women engineers, the company should see if there is a woman engineer industry group in the area where they can post jobs or attend events. If the desire is to increase more veterans, the company should partner with

veteran organizations. Increasing the diversity of your applicant pool will ultimately have the effect of increasing the diversity in your workforce.

Increasing Diversity

The general starting point in this area is defining “diversity.” This small word, with a big impact, has many meanings. At its core, it means “differences.” Difference in race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, geographic location, education, and so much more. In the employment context, however, “diversity” often becomes the catchall term that encompasses those differences that are easily seen and counted for purposes of demonstrating that an organization is made up of more than just one particular race or gender. Thus, a company’s first move to tackle its “diversity” initiatives is to increase representation. The thought, of course, is that the way to make the organization more diverse is simply to just bring in more diverse talent. However, hiring diverse candidates just to hire diverse candidates should not be the goal and is not the best way to address DEI issues. In fact, making

Build an Inclusive Work Environment

A diverse workforce is only the first step. Employers must be committed to cultivating an environment of inclusivity in the workplace. Vernā Myers has said, “[d]iversity is being invited to the party. Inclusion is being asked to dance.” The dancing—that concept that a person is able to fully participate in an environment where they feel safe enough to metaphorically “show off their dance moves” is key. Cultivating an environment of inclusivity may involve re-thinking the types of office celebrations offered, the types of health benefits provided, and other aspects of the employment experience. Employers may also re-think how they handle meeting participation, allowing all participants the opportunity to speak. Ensuring that employees feel safe (physically and mentally) and have a sense of belonging goes
(Continued on next page)



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a long way to having an inclusive environment.

Developing Equity

Another key piece of the puzzle is creating an equitable workplace. Evaluating and ensuring equity in the workplace is easier said than done. It requires an evaluation of the systems in your workplace—from the simple to the complex. For example, your workplace may be wheelchair accessible, but are the mirrors in the restroom low enough to be wheelchair height? This is equity—creating a space where employees have equal access to participate in the work environment. In a more complex realm, employers should review employees' access to certain systems and opportunities. For example, how are employees selected for training or other opportunities for professional development? Has employee compensation been reviewed to ensure equity? Equity analyses often require a review beyond the face of a policy, procedure, or practice. Employers should evaluate their internal systems to ensure that there is equitable access.

The Bottom Line

Employers should consider a comprehensive approach that considers all aspects of the employment process—not just hiring, compensation, promotions, and more, to truly ensure they make impactful steps in their DEI efforts. 

For more information, contact the author, Ms. Sheila M. Willis, at swillis@fisherphillips.com.



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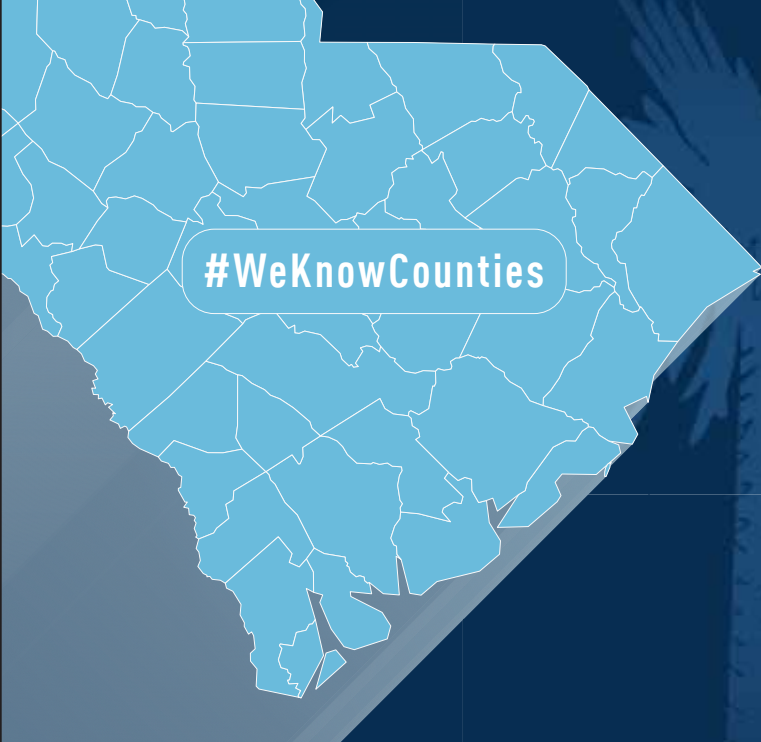
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Fiscal Impact Statements: Estimating the Cost of “Mandates” for the Legislative Process

By Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director and
Lisa Jolliff, Fiscal Analysis Division Director
S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

The S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) serves as a fiscal research resource for the General Assembly, state agencies, and local governments. In previous communications, we have shared information about our role in the local redistricting process, county boundary clarification, and GIS mapping services. This time, we would like to share more about our role in providing fiscal analysis or a fiscal impact statement on legislation affecting local government revenues and expenditures and the importance of coordinating and collaborating this analysis with local governments.

In general, and pursuant to state law as well as House and Senate rules, RFA provides fiscal impact statements on proposed legislation to help legislators understand how the proposed bill would impact tax revenues, services, or government budgets. Specifically, [S.C. Code of Laws § 2-7-76](#) requires that bills affecting the revenues or expenditures of a county or municipality have a fiscal impact statement attached.


A fiscal impact statement is an analysis of the aspects of the bill affecting government finances and the estimated change in revenues and expenditures that will occur if the bill becomes law. It is another piece of information for the General Assembly to consider in the legislative process as they weigh both the positives and negatives of potential changes to state law. It is an “estimate” of the fiscal effects of the proposed change based on the “opinion” of our office. It may be of interest to note that, as a fiscal impact statement is based on RFA’s opinion and interpretation of the bill, it cannot be used to determine legislative intent of the bill should a controversy arise after enactment.

Developing the estimate is not something we can do in isolation. Our goal is to provide the best information possible to the General Assembly, which requires collaboration and coordination with local governments.

While we have some tax and revenue data that provide much of the basis for completing a fiscal impact statement, there are situations where we do not have data or an understanding of local processes or budgets. Gathering needed information and insights from local governments is a critical part of the process. But simply obtaining data may not provide a complete picture without also understanding the practical effect on operations and programs, which are best known by your offices. Often there can be an indirect or unintended monetary impact that may not be readily apparent by reading a bill and is something only local officials understand.

To assist with sharing information, we have an email system to notify local governments of the bills on our list of requests and to receive responses. We appreciate very much the cooperation and assistance we have received from all our contacts, but there are still practical issues that are difficult to resolve. For example, the timing of the legislative process is not always convenient, and we often need a quick turnaround time, which sometimes conflicts with the regular duties and daily deadlines for local government officials. Sometimes, the timing of these requests resembles either a downpour or drought and may seem overwhelming or not noticeable, which may cause items to fall through the cracks. Finally, not all local governments operate in the same way, and the response from one might be contrary to the impact from a non-responding government. Without input from a variety of governments in different situations around the state, we may be missing the full picture.

Differences among counties in terms of urban versus rural, coastal versus upstate, and other distinctions can result in widely varying impacts for legislation. A bill affecting agricultural property may have a much larger impact on rural counties. By contrast, changes in services or other responsibilities could have a much larger impact on urban areas. If the General Assembly attempts to interpret the impact of legislation with only part of the picture, the conclusions may be distorted. Our goal in surveying counties is to ensure that the analysis we provide encompasses the full picture for all of South Carolina, not just a small portion.

With the approach of a new legislative session, we welcome the opportunity to work with the South Carolina Association of Counties and county officials to find ways to continue to improve our process and analysis. We rely on your cooperation and participation in the process to help make sure the best information can be presented in a timely manner and always appreciate your feedback. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with all of you. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at impact@rfa.sc.gov. 



Join SCAC's 2023 Corporate Partner Program!



NEW OPPORTUNITIES ...

The South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) offers a unique way to market your company—both efficiently and cost-effectively—to South Carolina's 46 counties! SCAC's Corporate Partner Program provides a comprehensive marketing opportunity to showcase products and services directly to county leaders. The program also offers year-round exposure to county officials and employees at multiple SCAC events, and opportunities to advertise 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 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 "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 an entire calendar year. Still, "a la carte" options will remain available if you choose to advertise in SCAC's publications.

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 in February, Annual Conference in August, and County Council Coalition Fall Meeting in October. In addition, all Partners will be recognized during all three events, whether virtual or in-person.
- Advertising in *County Focus Magazine* and annual *Directory of County Officials* will be included in the top three levels and discounted advertising may be purchased at the Bronze Level.
- Complimentary/discounted rates to attend and exhibit exclusively 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 SCAC's Corporate Partner Program, please visit:

SCCounties.org/corporate-partner-program

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SCAC Corporate Partners



Best Digital Solutions, LLC
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SC Emergency Medical Services Association
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Thompson Turner Construction
Truist Governmental Finance
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For more information regarding SCAC's Corporate Partner Program, please visit sccounties.org/corporate-partner-program or contact Tish Anderson at tanderson@scac.sc. Participation as an SCAC Corporate Partner shall not imply, nor be considered or presented as, an endorsement by SCAC of any service or product provided by the company.



SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



SCCOUNTIES.ORG



TIMELY NEWS &
INFORMATION



ORIGINAL PUBLICATIONS



COUNTY JOB POSTINGS

SCAC'S PURPOSE

- To promote more efficient county governments;
- To study, discuss, and recommend improvements in government;
- To investigate and provide a 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; and
- To promote legislation that supports efficient administration of local government in South Carolina.

CORE SERVICES

- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Research & Resources
- ✓ Events & Education
- ✓ Insurance Trusts
- ✓ Programs



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

Officers & Board Members



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Chester County
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S.C. Counties Workers'
Compensation Trust &
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Waymon Mumford
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Robert Winkler
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Johnnie Wright Sr.
Orangeburg County
Council Chairman

What is the SCAC?

Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.®



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 webinars on a variety of topics for county officials and employees throughout the year at no charge to counties. Recordings of the webinars are made available in the Association's online educational library via SCCounties.org/webcasts-and-webinars.

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.



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SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



History of the Trusts

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

The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust (SCCP<) 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 of Trustees 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
Joseph R. Branham
Chester County
Council Vice Chairman



VICE CHAIRMAN
Waymon Mumford
Florence County
Council Member



Charles T. Jennings
McCormick County
Council Chairman

The Importance of Timely-Reported Claims

By Mark A. McKinney
SCCP< Claims Manager

The timely-reporting of claims is a crucial element of the claims process and should be well supported by the policies and procedures of your county. Failure to report a claim in accordance with the policy's requirements can result in a potential denial of coverage for your county for the claim. Furthermore, promptly reporting claims enables you to take full advantage of the resources and expertise provided by your carriers. The sooner a claim is reported, the sooner it can begin to be managed and the less it will ultimately cost.

Placing timely filing limits on claims ensures that all claims are sent as soon as possible, making it easier for doctors to receive their money, and for insurance companies to process claims in a timely manner.


All workplace incidents should be reported, documented, and investigated. This includes any situation in which:

- an employee was injured or died
- property or equipment damage occurred
- an employee became ill while at work due to a possible reaction of workplace conditions
- any other person (not an employee) was injured or became ill as a possible result of actions caused by the county or an employee
- an employee was in a motor vehicle accident while driving for their job
- a near-miss occurred that could have resulted in injury, death, or property damage

Timely reporting also allows sites to recognize clusters and trends of incidents, including potentially serious incidents (i.e. near



misses). This, in turn, provides an opportunity for management to address root causes. Reporting is important if resilient safety cultures are to become the norm within your county.

Look to your risk management department for its reporting requirements and to see they are getting the information needed for timely reporting of claims. Make sure it is getting all the investigation material needed for the prompt reporting of a claim. Remember, your carrier needs to know it all—the good, the bad, and the ugly. 



Henry H. Livingston III
*Newberry County
Council Member*



Gary M. Mixon
*Sumter County
Administrator*



Debra B. Summers
*Lexington County
Council Member*



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



**SECRETARY/
TREASURER**
Timothy C. Winslow
Executive Director, SCAC

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



LOCAL LEADERS. STATEWIDE STRENGTH.®



2022

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



A Letter from SCAC's 2021-2022 President

Dear County Officials,

I am honored to share this year's *President's Report* highlighting the association's excellent programs, services, and accomplishments during the past year. Your commitment to working with your local delegation members throughout the year, your county's adoption of sound risk management principles, and your participation in SCAC's educational and networking sessions are truly what makes our association successful.

On the legislative front, SCAC's advocacy team continued its work this year to pass legislation that assists counties and to stop harmful bills in their tracks. Although 2022 was a challenging year, the persistent efforts of county officials and SCAC staff made the session successful for our counties.

Against enormous odds, SCAC staff and county officials were victorious in passing legislation that resolves the user fee issue, which was created by the SC Supreme Court's ruling in the *Burns* case that was issued on June 30, 2021. The association's effort to resolve the user fee issue was complicated by the fact that the association only had the second half of a legislative session during an election year to respond to the decision; with your help, the association met the challenge head-on and was successful in returning this necessary authority to counties. Other wins for counties include legislation to expand counties' fiscal authority for Local Option Sales Taxes and continued revenue sharing through the state budget. The Local Government Fund continues to be fully funded with annual increases and the newly created Rural Stabilization Fund saw a \$2 million increase.

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 counties.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your support this past year. It has truly been a privilege to serve and work side by side with you. I am proud of the accomplishments we've made for our counties and for the State of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Cain, 2021-2022 President
South Carolina Association of Counties
Oconee County Council Vice Chairman



SCAC 2022 President's Report

PAUL A. CAIN, PRESIDENT

For more than 50 years, the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) has worked to empower county officials through advocacy, education, and collaboration. By providing opportunities for county leaders to build connections and learn from shared experiences, the association helps county leaders effectively govern and lead their counties.

The association has a rich history of working with county and state leaders to safeguard Home Rule. By partnering with county officials who work with local delegation members throughout the year, SCAC successfully amplifies the voices and concerns of county government.

As the legal advocate for South Carolina's counties, association staff conducts research, provides sound advice to county attorneys and county leaders, and appears as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) in cases with state-wide impact.

SCAC's educational programs foster close connections between newcomers and seasoned county leaders and sharpen 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 and risk management services are unparalleled and offer significant resources to help counties protect their human and financial resources. The association's debt collection programs have been highly successful in returning monies for county operations that would otherwise go uncollected.

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 2021 to August 2022, to learn more about the association's programs and progress.

ADVOCATE FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Legislative Advocacy

The primary reason for starting the association in 1967 was to provide legislative advocacy and statewide representation for counties. County officials recognized that having a unified voice to express their positions to the General Assembly led to better results. The association achieved its first major legislative victories with the passage of the local government constitutional amendment in 1972 and the Home Rule Act in 1975.

Today, the development of policy positions involves significantly more participation by county officials. The Legislative Committee has 75 members: each county council chairman or designee (46), and SCAC's Board of Directors (29). Additional members with expertise in various policy areas are appointed by SCAC's president to serve on one of four policy steering committees.

2022 President's Report

The Legislative Committee begins its work in July, seeking input from more than 1,200 county officials and employees. This input is assigned to the appropriate steering committees for work sessions in September and November.

In October, the County Council Coalition provides input for draft policy positions. After further review and study in November, the steering committees develop initial policy positions for consideration by SCAC's Legislative Committee in December. The final positions are published in *Policy Positions for the South Carolina General Assembly*.

Once policy positions are adopted, it is the responsibility of the membership and SCAC staff to advocate for their implementation. The success or failure of policy positions is largely dependent upon participation of county officials.

SCAC provides resources to involve county officials in the legislative process and keep them informed of the General Assembly's actions. During the legislative session, county officials receive weekly *Friday Reports* and *Legislative Alerts* when immediate action is needed.

SCAC staff attends numerous committee meetings in order to report on legislative action. The actions of the House and Senate are monitored each day the General Assembly is in session. This includes reviewing each bill or amendment introduced and requesting input from county officials.

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 members of the General Assembly.

While much of the 2022 session of the General Assembly centered around school vouchers, medical marijuana, elections reform, restructuring the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and convention of states, it was remarkably successful for county government and SCAC, both as it relates to policy positions that were achieved and harmful legislation that was amended or defeated.

This is the second year of a two-year session, and any legislation introduced that did not pass will have to be reintroduced next year. Following are highlights of the legislative victories and policy positions for which SCAC advocated throughout the legislative session.

User Fee Authorization – Act No. 236.

SCAC was successful in passing its top legislative priority to address the issue raised in the June 30, 2021, SC Supreme Court decision in *Burns v. Greenville County*, which imperiled various user fees, especially road use fees, imposed by counties in South Carolina. This legislation reinstates the *Brown* test (the 1997 decision establishing the criteria for a user fee prior to the *Burns* decision) and allows the general public to benefit from a user fee provided the fee payer benefits and the other elements of the *Brown* test are met. Passing this legislation was an extremely difficult task in a single legislative year that was also an election year and could not have been accomplished without the tireless support of county officials.

This legislation also clarifies when a spouse of a deceased disabled veteran or law enforcement officer may receive a property tax exemption. The Act further exempts certain agricultural structures from property taxes and provides for reduced real property assessments when the property is damaged by a hurricane, flood, or wind event.



Senator Shane Massey, SC Senate Majority Leader, talks with McCormick County officials during the 2022 legislative session.

820+ SCAC staff monitored 826 bills during the 2022 legislative session.

2022 President's Report

Local Option Sales Tax Flexibility – Act No. 189.

This legislation, an SCAC policy position, allows counties that impose a Transportation Penny Tax to also conduct a referendum to impose a 1 percent Capital Project Sales Tax. The legislation deletes the restriction that the area of the county can only be subject to one of those authorizations. Counties with the Capital Project Sales Tax may also conduct a referendum to impose the Transportation Penny. This Act provides much needed fiscal flexibility to counties and is an important step towards fiscal independence for counties.

Electronic Waste – Act No. 234.

This legislation, an SCAC priority, establishes a new statewide “Manufacturer Electronic Waste Recovery Program” for covered televisions and computer monitor devices. Counties are currently faced with large financial burdens to recycle these items because there is no market for the devices and these devices cannot go into a land-fill. Under the old program, manufacturers only had to recycle 80 percent of the pounds sold, leaving counties to shoulder the cost of recycling any devices that remained at county facilities.

The new program requires that all covered television and computer monitor devices must be picked up from counties, providing significant cost savings for disposing of these devices. Language in the Act provides protection to counties from financial liability once these devices leave a county facility which addresses issues that have occurred in the past where counties were sued for devices that were stored off site. The legislation provides for a sunset of the program in 2029 and requires all stakeholders to reconvene on June 1, 2026, to assess how the program is working and whether additional changes are needed.

County governments had to have legislation to continue the E-waste program that was set to expire. Not only was SCAC successful in achieving this priority, but the new framework is a vast improvement on the previous E-waste program.

Local Government Fund (LGF) and State Appropriations Bill - Act No. 239.

Under the budget adopted by the General Assembly, the LGF is funded with an increase of \$12.58 million. This represents full funding to the LGF under the statutory formula. The budget also earmarks \$12 million for the Rural County Stabilization Fund. Any county that has a

population growth, as determined by the 2020 Census, of less than 5.35 percent since the 2010 Census is eligible to receive monies from the fund. The budget also includes \$250 million in additional funding for County Transportation Committees

County Green Space – Act No. 166.

This legislation allows counties to impose by ordinance, subject to referendum approval in the county during a general election, a Green Space Sales and Use Tax of up to 1 percent for land preservation. This legislation represents another significant achievement for fiscal flexibility for counties in South Carolina.

Opioid Recovery Fund – Act No. 222.

This legislation is part of the requirement of the opioid lawsuit settlement for South Carolina and the 46 counties and 43 municipalities that were a part of the lawsuit. The legislation establishes the opioid recovery fund accounts with the state treasurer and creates the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board to administer and distribute the funds. The board will be composed of nine members, five of which will be appointed from a list provided by SCAC (three appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the Speaker of the House, and one appointed by the President of the Senate). The association was successful in preserving counties' majority representation on the board despite attempts by other groups to increase their participation.



County officials from Greenville and Horry testify on the user fee legislation during the 2022 session.

2022 President's Report



Senator Tom Alexander, President of the SC Senate, addresses county officials during SCAC's 2022 Mid-Year Conference.



Jasper County officials talk with Senator Ronnie Sabb during SCAC's 2022 Mid-Year Conference.



Dorchester County officials advocate for the Local Option Sales Tax Flexibility legislation at the State House.

Legal Advocacy

SCAC's legal staff, working through the county attorney, spends hundreds of hours each year conducting in-depth research on pertinent statutes, case law, and attorney general opinions; preparing written advisory opinions; and providing informal telephone consultations.

The association also assists counties involved in litigation of statewide interest, including appearing as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court). This year, legal staff assisted with legal research and filed an *amicus* brief before the state court of appeals in support of Clarendon, Florence, Lee, Sumter, and Williamsburg counties in an appeal from the administrative law court concerning a tax exemption granted to Farmer's Telephone Cooperative and its subsidiary companies.

The exemption was granted to the taxpayers for property related to cellular phone and internet services based on a statutory tax exemption provided decades ago for rural landline telephone services. The appeal is still pending before the court of appeals; however, the General Assembly passed legislation to codify a prospective tax exemption for the property at issue.

Another service SCAC legal staff provides is a monthly update of state regulations and appellate court decisions of interest to counties. The updates are sent to county chief administrative officers and county attorneys for distribution to county departments. SCAC staff ensures that counties are aware of certain regulations as they are proposed and drafted, giving counties an opportunity for input in the development of regulations. Association staff also reviews appellate court opinions and provides an overview of any decision that will impact county or other local government operations.

BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCIES FOR COUNTY LEADERS

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 educational program is offered in partnership 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 hours are required for Level I certification and an additional 18 hours are required for

Level II certification. Institute courses offered this year consisted of online learning and in-person classes. Several Institute of Government classes were recorded and made available for online viewing on the association's learning portal. Sixty county officials and employees participated in online Institute of Government classes. In addition, nearly 250 county officials attended in-person classes.

Last year, 13 county officials graduated from Level I and 12 graduated from Level II. Many more are expected to graduate during the 2022 annual conference, reflecting a resurgence in Institute of Government participation after a period of lower attendance during the pandemic.

At the time of this report, every sitting council member from Dorchester and Lancaster counties has graduated from either Level I or Level II of the Institute of Government. SCAC would like to congratulate these counties for their commitment to learning.



2021 Institute of Government graduates are recognized during the association's 2021 annual conference.

County leaders learn about the US Treasury's Final Rule for the American Rescue Plan Act and county investments during an Institute of Government class.



Additional Leadership Development Opportunities

SCAC partners with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to build strong county leaders in South Carolina. The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program empowering county government professionals with the leadership skills to deliver results for counties. The NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy is similarly structured and geared for county employees dedicated to cybersecurity, IT, and risk management. Through the SCAC/NACo partnership, South Carolina counties are eligible for a significantly reduced registration fee. To learn more about these leadership academies and to register, visit NACo's website at naco.org.

“

Wow! Loved the feedback, engaging stories, and practical advice that the instructor provided.

The training has empowered me to do better at planning and setting goals.

— Institute of Government Participants

Orientation for Newly Elected Council Members

The association hosts an orientation program for newly elected council members in even-numbered years. Designed to provide a thorough insight into their new roles and responsibilities, the event also highlights how association programs and services are valuable resources for them. The training is provided free-of-charge, and par-

ticipants earn six hours of Institute of Government credit toward Level I certification. The next class is scheduled for December 8, 2022, and newly elected council members will be invited to attend.

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.

This year, SCAC provided guidance to counties on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) including the acceptable uses of the funds as defined by the US Treasury.

Each year, SCAC hosts the Local Government Attorneys' Institute (Institute). The Institute provides local and state government attorneys with timely and important legal information. The 2021 Institute was held virtually and more than 200 public sector attorneys participated. Topics included: Ethics and Discipline Update; Redistricting and the 2020 Census; Mental Health Awareness in the Legal Profession; Employment Considerations in Light of Recent Supreme Court Decisions; Ethics for Elected Officials and Certain Government Employees; and Who is My Attorney.

2022 President's Report

Planning and Zoning Training

State law requires appointed officials who serve on a planning commission, board of zoning appeals, or board of architectural review to attend at least six hours of orientation training within the first year of serving. Three hours of continuing education are required annually thereafter. The requirements also apply to planning professionals, zoning administrators, zoning officials, and deputies and assistants to these positions.

SCAC's planning and zoning training programs are approved by the S.C. Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCPEAC). The association provides orientation training and continuing education that addresses current issues and changes in state law. One course fulfills the

annual planning and zoning three-hour continuing education requirement. Local planning and zoning officials and employees may also earn continuing education credit from four specific courses offered by the Institute of Government.

In April, SCAC launched a new online planning and zoning orientation course which includes four one-and-a-half hour modules. The training meets the six-hour orientation training requirement and covers topics such as land use planning, the zoning process, land development regulations, and procedural and educational requirements. More than 135 planning and zoning officials have completed the association's online planning and zoning classes this past year.

Annual Awards Program

The association's awards program provides a unique opportunity for county officials to learn about innovative practices, technology, and trends; to strengthen their professional network; and to share ideas and expertise.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award recognizes counties that address community challenges in a unique way. The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award highlights the critical need for regional partnerships, strategies, and solutions.

The association hosts an online video library of award competition presentations and written entries. SCAC also highlights the projects and summarizes all entries in *County Focus* magazine and on social media.



Anderson, Charleston, Pickens, and York counties were among the counties that participated in SCAC's 2022 Annual Awards Program.

CONNECT COUNTIES TO RESOURCES & INFORMATION

Research and Technical Assistance

Online Research Resources

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

Property Tax Report

SCAC publishes *Property Tax Rates by County*. This annual report is the most comprehensive, up-to-date listing of county property tax millage rates. *Property Tax Rates by County* is the primary source of statewide county property taxes and, as such, is widely used by local and state officials, the legislature, developers, and the public.

Wage and Salary Report

The FY 2022 *Wage and Salary Report*, as well as the companion online searchable wage and salary database, were published in November. This report is published every other year and contains the results of SCAC's survey of more than 200 county government positions. In addition to detailed salary data by county and position, the report includes information on annual and sick leave benefits, holidays, budgets, payrolls, employee totals, and classification systems.

County Profiles

SCAC's *County Profiles* resource consists of county statistical information gathered from a variety of state and federal sources. Each county is represented by a one-page profile containing a brief county history, recent population trends, economic data, tax data, and county financial and employment data. A county profile for every county, as well as the data tables underlying each profile, is available on the SCAC website. An update to the *County Profiles* publication is currently underway and the 2022 edition is scheduled for release in September.

Surveys

Association staff conducts statewide surveys and gathers information on policies and practices of individual counties. The results help inform county policymakers and practitioners. The information is also used by the association's legislative staff, state agencies, and the SC General Assembly. A sample of recent surveys includes: ARPA Premium Pay and broadband expenditures; water and sewer infrastructure to attract business; road and user fees; emergency management organizational structure; accident response fees; top litter spots on state-maintained roads; and the impact of property tax exemptions for farm structures.

Online Discussion Forums

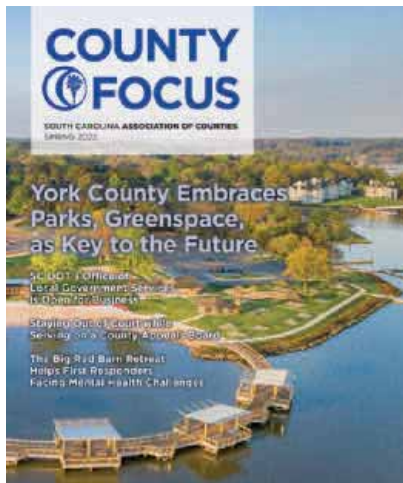
SCAC administers online discussion forums for seven distinct groups of county officials, allowing them to post questions and share county-related information. The association hosts listservs for county chief administrative officers; the SC Association of Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors; the SC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



Communications and Outreach

SCAC publishes three award-winning publications to keep county leaders informed: *County Focus* Magazine; *Carolina Counties* Newsletter; and the *Directory of County Officials*. Over the years, these publications have received numerous awards from the National Association of County Information Officers, SC Society of Association Executives, and SC Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators.

The association's magazine and newsletter are distributed to more than 1,300 county officials and employees, Councils of Governments (COGs), members of the SC General Assembly, other state officials, and SCAC's Corporate Partners.



Carolina Counties Newsletter

SCAC's newsletter educates local leaders on important issues affecting county government. The newsletter also covers current issues, past events, and announces upcoming events.

Directory of County Officials

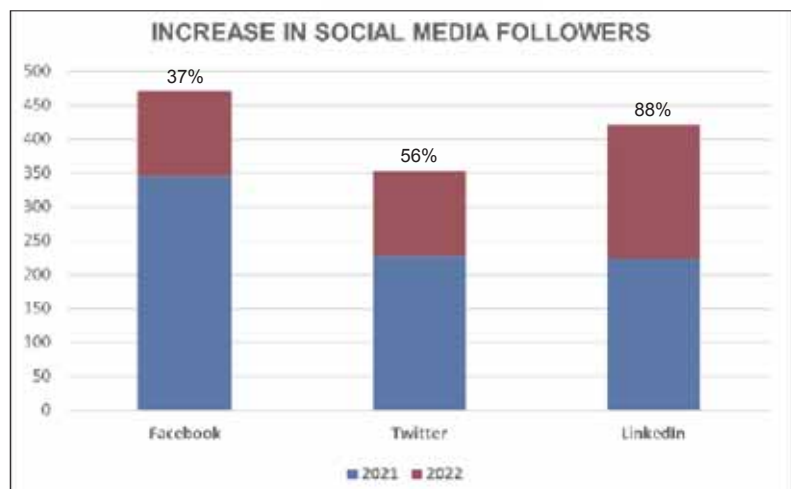
SCAC's annual directory provides contact information for elected and appointed county officials, COGs, members of the SC General Assembly, and other state and federal officials. Copies are distributed to all officials and organizations listed in the directory, and to all state associations representing counties, boroughs, and parishes nationwide.

County Focus Magazine

SCAC's quarterly magazine focuses on legislative issues, successful county programs and projects, and a broad range of other issues affecting county governments. *County Focus* also publishes local news submitted by counties and calendars for SCAC and NACo events.

Social Media

The association focuses 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 SC General Assembly, and the general public on legislative issues, highlighting award winning county programs, and boosting the signal for South Carolina counties, as well as for organizations like NACo and Government Finance Officers Association. SCAC's number of followers has grown by nearly 400 individuals over the previous year and engagement has increased nearly ten-fold. Follow SCAC on Facebook and Twitter: @SCCounties. Or, visit the association's LinkedIn page: [linkedin.com/company/south-carolina-association-of-counties](https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-carolina-association-of-counties).



250+

Number of positions posted
in SCAC's career center with
20,350 views.

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, 60 counties, COGs, and governmental entities took advantage of this employment advertising tool.

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.

SCAC Scholarship Program

SCAC has awarded \$207,500 in scholarships to 83 students in all 46 counties 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. This year's scholarship was awarded to a student from Oconee County. The association also awarded four Board of Directors Scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. Allendale, Horry, Newberry, and Williamsburg counties were selected in the 2022 draw for these awards.



ASSIST COUNTIES AS STEWARDS OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

Self-Funded Insurance Programs

The association sponsors two self-insurance pools—The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) and The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust. The SCAC insurance staff, comprised of 22 highly experienced insurance professionals, provides trust management, customized risk management services, and claims management services.

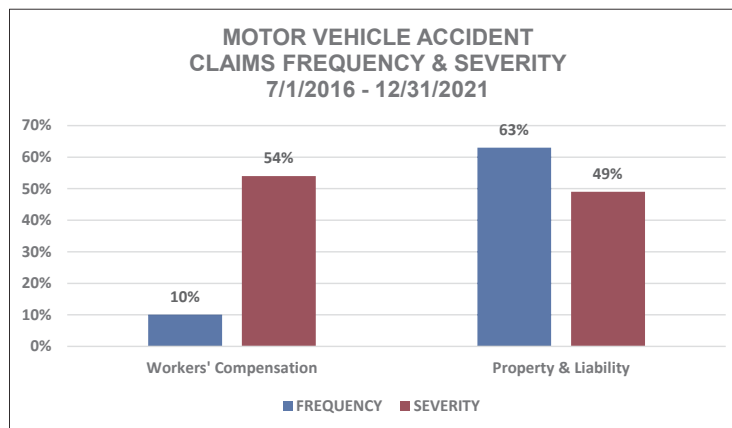
Motor vehicle accidents are very costly for members of both trusts accounting for more than 10 percent of the claims in the SCCWCT and 54 percent of the total incurred costs of all claims. These accidents also account for more than 63 percent of the claims incurred in the S.C. Counties Property and Liability Trust. The prevention of motor vehicle accidents is a top priority for SCAC risk managers. Preventing a motor vehicle accident can eliminate three types of claims—workers compensation, auto liability, and auto property damage.

A vehicle accident review board is a critical component of a successful risk management program. The purpose of this board is to review employee motor vehicle accidents to determine if the accident could have been prevented and if the employee's actions contributed to the accident. Not all accidents are preventable, but many are due to distractions, driving too fast for conditions, and poor driving habits. It is vital that employees be held accountable for preventable motor vehicle accidents.

35 Number of county personnel representing 17 counties who participated in the association's inaugural Law Enforcement Defensive & Distracted Driver Program at Michelin Laurens Proving Grounds. Pictured are officers from Chester, Chesterfield, Lancaster, and Sumter counties.

Motor vehicle accidents impact officers' lives and the budgets of sheriffs' offices across the state. They are also a leading cause of officer deaths. Twenty percent of law enforcement workers' compensation claims and 80 percent of property and liability claims are related to motor vehicle accidents.

To help mitigate this exposure, the association has partnered with several entities to create a pilot Law Enforcement Defensive & Distracted Driver Program. The program includes classroom and hands-on driver training at the Michelin Laurens Proving Grounds in Laurens County. The first class, held on May 3, was tailored for sheriffs/chiefs and command staff, and the second class, held on May 5, was a train-the-trainer class geared for training officers. This session incorporated an online eLearning segment. The goal of the program is to reduce officer deaths, vehicle collisions, time away from the job, impacts on budgets, and to improve overall officer safety.





Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.®

Debt Collection Programs

SCAC assists county entities in two debt collection programs administered by the SC 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.

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.

The association is committed to building knowledge and competencies for county leaders and to providing research and educational tools related to emerging trends.

The collections for counties have grown significantly from \$29 million in 2002 to more than \$100 million in 2021. The number of participating entities has increased from 81 in 2002 to more than 300 in 2022. Since the association's debt collection programs began in 1992, SCAC has returned more than \$1.5 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. 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.

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

SCAC Past Presidents

1960s – 1970s

Charles W. Lawrimore, Georgetown County*
J. Mitchell Graham, Charleston County
John L. Greer, Union County
J. Hugh McCutchen, Williamsburg County
James O. Thomason, Spartanburg County
Arthur H. Burton, Charleston County
Jack Q. Gerrald, Horry County
Harold L. King, Darlington County
E.E. Johnson, Hampton County
Berry L. Mobley, Lancaster County
Marjorie H. Sharpe, Lexington County

1980s

Howard A. Taylor, Charleston County
Alfred B. Schooler, Georgetown County
Lonnie Hamilton III, Charleston County
James P. Whitlock, Pickens County
Charlie I. Crews, Hampton County
Sue H. Roe, Aiken County
O.V. Player Jr., Sumter County
Danny E. Allen, Spartanburg County
David K. Summers Jr., Calhoun County
Lowell C. “Butch” Spires, Lexington County

1990s

Kenneth R. Huckaby, Spartanburg County
James R. McGee, Orangeburg County
Belle J. Kennette, Greenwood County
William L. McBride, Beaufort County
Raymond C. Eubanks Jr., Spartanburg County
George E. Bomar, Greenville County
Betty T. Roper, Clarendon County
Alzena Robinson, Bamberg County
Robert R. Nash Sr., Ph.D., Pickens County
Polly C. Jackson, Lancaster County

2000 – 2009

James H. Rozier Jr., Berkeley County
Steve S. Kelly Jr., Kershaw County
James A. Coleman, Laurens County
Gonza L. Bryant, Greenwood County
Barrett S. Lawrimore, Charleston County
Waymon Mumford, Florence County**
Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County
K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr., Florence County
L. Gregory Pearce Jr., Richland County

2010 – 2019

Diane B. Anderson, Laurens County
R. Carlisle Roddey, Chester County
Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County
Charles T. Edens, Sumter County
Joseph R. Branham, Chester County
James R. Frazier, Horry County
John Q. Atkinson Jr., Marion County
Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County
Henry H. Livingston III, Newberry County
Charles T. Jennings, McCormick County

2020 to Present

Dwight L. Stewart Jr., Clarendon County
Johnnie Wright Sr., Orangeburg County

Presidents are listed in chronological order for each decade. *Charles W. Lawrimore served as SCAC's first president from 1967-1968. **Waymon Mumford served as president for two terms from 2004-2006.



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**



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SCAC Training Opportunities

As one of the core priorities of the South Carolina Association of Counties, training programs and opportunities are available to county officials and employees that cover a wide range of topics and are available in various formats. The goal is to provide knowledge and information to allow county officials and employees the ability to make more efficient decisions and prepare for various scenarios. Additionally, the educational opportunities can inform officials and employees of emerging trends, issues, and even resources that are available. The following are main training programs offered by SCAC:

composed of electives of the participant's choosing.

Courses are offered both in a classroom setting and online. Online courses can be taken at any time via SCAC's Learning Portal. Additionally, there are two Level I Required courses that are free and only available online which provide the introductory training for the program. In-person courses are offered in conjunction with SCAC's conferences throughout the year. SCAC also offers at least one advanced course each year to provide a training opportunity on a relevant topic for participants who have graduated from both levels.



Institute of Government for County Officials

The Institute of Government for County Officials (The Institute) is a training program designed to equip county officials and employees with the tools needed to enhance their skills and abilities to function more effectively in their positions. First offered in 1989, the curriculum has been enhanced over the years due to a cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston, and a sponsorship by Clemson University's Master of Public Administration Program. The Institute is available to all county officials and employees.

There are two separate levels in the program referred to as Level I and Level II. New participants must begin with Level I courses first before they can begin earning credit in Level II courses. To graduate from Level I, 27 hours of credit must be completed; 18 hours of the 27 must be composed of required coursework that forms the foundation of subsequent training. The remaining nine hours of Level I credit is

Planning and Zoning Training for Local Government Officials


SCAC is an approved provider of planning and zoning training by the South Carolina Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCPEAC), which is the entity responsible under South Carolina law for establishing training requirements for planning and zoning officials and staff. Appointed officials serving on planning and zoning related boards and commissions, such as the board of zoning appeals, as well as related professional staff, such as the zoning administrator, are all required to complete training under state law.

There are two types of planning and zoning training as determined by the SCPEAC: orientation training and continuing education. One hundred and eighty days prior to and no later than 365 days after initial appointment or employment, planning and zoning officials and staff must complete orientation training. SCAC offers orientation training on its Learning Portal for free in the form of four different modules that are each 1.5 hours in length to total six hours of train-

ing. Every year after, officials and staff must complete three hours of continuing education annually. SCAC strives to offer new continuing education every year typically in the form of a live webinar; however, all the past webinars are available on the Learning Portal for those who miss the live webinar or would like to earn credit on a different planning and zoning topic.

Webinars

When a subject or topic becomes a priority to county government, SCAC will host specialized training for county officials and staff in the form of a webinar. A webinar is a web-based seminar hosted in real-time which allows attendees in remote locations to view, listen, and participate via a device with internet connectivity. After the live presentation, a recorded copy of the webinar is placed on SCAC website for viewing. Webinar topics have included legal updates on SC Supreme Court decisions, human resource considerations, and reviews of how federal Acts effect county operations.

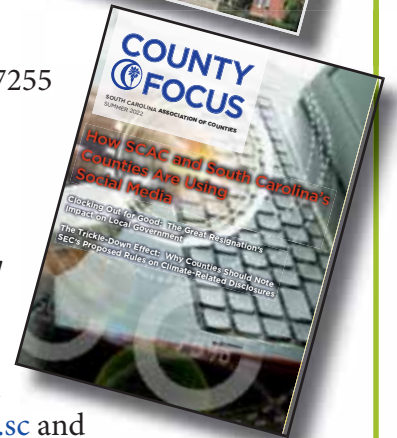
More information on all these training opportunities can be found on SCAC websites. Additionally, please contact Ryan Tooley at rtooley@scac.sc if you have any questions or want further information about any of these programs. To stay informed on any upcoming training opportunities, please check SCAC website and enroll in SCAC email notifications. 

Advertise in SCAC's Publications!

SCAC's corporate partners receive advertising benefits when they advertise in the association's annual *Directory of County Officials* and quarterly magazine, *County Focus*. To learn more about the full range of benefits you would receive as a corporate partner, contact Tish Anderson at (803) 252-7255 or tanderson@scac.sc.

Or, just advertise in SCAC's 2023 *Directory of County Officials* and *County Focus Magazine*! To learn more, please call Stuart Morgan at (803) 252-7255 or email Stuart at smorgan@scac.sc and request advertising information.

The advertising deadline for the winter issue of *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 33, No. 4) is **Dec. 15**. The advertising deadline for the 2023 *Directory of County Officials* is **Dec. 30, 2022**.



**SOUTH CAROLINA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

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Columbia, SC 29202-8207**

**803-252-7255
E-mail: smorgan@scac.sc**

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Fairfield County Unveils New Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Plaza

Fairfield County unveiled a new Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Plaza on August 31 in Winnsboro, the county seat.

“We believe that the Dr. King Memorial Plaza supports our values as a community, which cares and respects everyone,” said Fairfield County Council Chairman Moses W. Bell, who spoke at the unveiling ceremony. “As a visionary, Dr. King inspired and continues to inspire us to believe we can build a community of care, justice, equality and unity.”

“When President Ronald Reagan signed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day into law in 1983,” Bell added, “the president said Dr. King, by his own life’s example, symbolized what was right about America, what was noblest and best, what human beings have pursued since the beginning of history.”

Fairfield County Council members and local residents attended the ceremony, and Fairfield Central High School’s orchestra provided the music.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Plaza features a black granite fountain, and a life-size bronze statue of the civil rights leader speaking from behind a podium at its center. Running across the top of the memorial is a quote by Dr. King that reads: “All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

The memorial plaza was constructed between May and August 2022 on Congress Street, downtown Winnsboro, at the site of the former Mt. Zion Institute, which served as a private preparatory school from 1777 until it became a public school in 1878. The institute’s main building, constructed in 1937 when the school was modernized and several buildings were added to the three-acre campus, now serves



Preparing to cut the ribbon at the unveiling of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Plaza are: (left to right); Sylvia Harrison, Fairfield County School Board Vice Chair; William Montgomery, Fairfield County Sheriff; Belva Bush-Belton, Ridgeway Town Council Member; Demetrius Chatman, Winnsboro Town Council Member; Donald Prioleau, Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Ridgeway; Douglas Pauley, Fairfield County Council Member; Moses Bell, Fairfield County Council Chair; Shirley Greene, Fairfield County Council Vice Chair; Tim Roseborough, Fairfield County Council Member; John McMeeken, Mayor, Town of Winnsboro; and Malik Whitaker, Fairfield County Administrator. (Photo by Synithia Williams, Fairfield County Deputy County Administrator.)

as the Fairfield County Government Complex.


“Dr. King once passionately said, ‘We can all be great, because we can all serve,’” Bell said. “So, it just made sense to put the memorial plaza at the county’s new government complex where the county’s administration, planning, zoning, recreation, children’s center, 911, and Sheriff’s Office are located.”

Synithia Williams, Deputy County Administrator, Fairfield County, said the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Plaza’s location represents history and tradition to some and oppression and exclusion to others. Yet, the county placed the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Plaza at the site to create a location of unity for all segments of the community.

“Originally, Mt. Zion College, a preparatory school for wealthy planters during the eighteenth century, was located at the site,” Williams explained. “While the school had a prestigious background,

for many Black residents in Fairfield County, the location was a symbol of segregation that was further driven home when a Confederate memorial was relocated there in 1961.

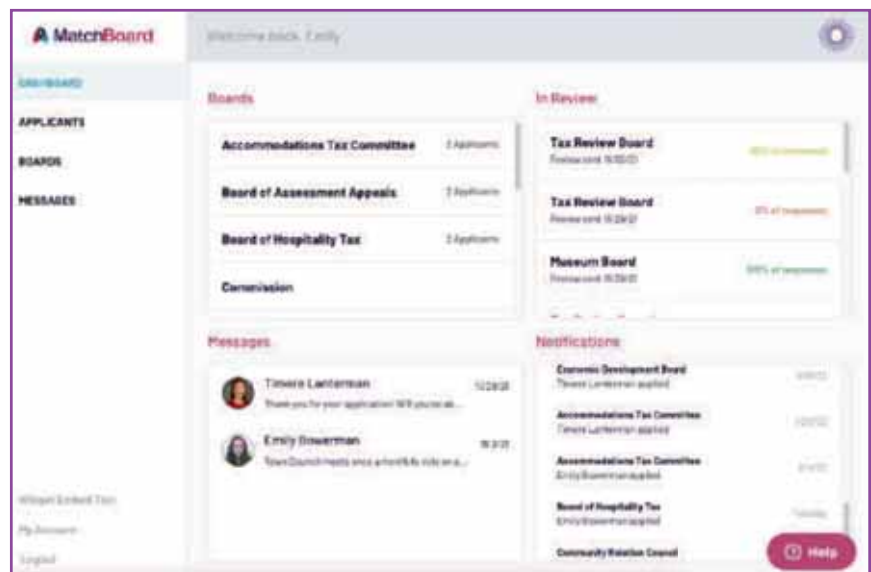
“The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Plaza was not added to the site to erase the history of the property, but to bridge a gap between the past and the present instead,” she added. “From the well-respected South Carolinians who attended the school to monuments’ row—which includes a Confederate monument that represents history to some and oppression to others, and a World War II monument that represents the sacrifice of America’s veterans—our county’s new Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Plaza now represents the equality of all, and the grounds tell the story of America.”

Dominion Energy funded the construction of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Plaza, which cost \$604,115. The project’s landscape architect/engineer was Johnson, Laschober & Associates of Charleston. The bronze statue’s sculptor was Stann Watts of Atlas Bronze Casting. The contractor was AOS, LLC. 



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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).

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A Roadside Guide to Greenville County

The County's Role in the American War for Independence

By Alexia Jones Helsley
www.historyismybag.com

This column is based on the author's book: *The Lost History of Greenville County*.

In 1775, Greenville County was still Cherokee land. Attempting to avoid land conflicts, the British government opposed efforts by men such as Richard Pearis to settle there.

Yet, several Cherokee leaders deeded land in what is now Greenville to Pearis, who had a Cherokee wife. The British Indian agent prosecuted Pearis in court at Ninety-Six. Though fined, Pearis continued to develop his plantation, Great Plains, and even recruited other Virginians to settle the contested area.

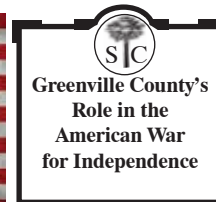
Pearis also found a way around the British ban on non-Cherokee landowners by asking the Cherokee to deed the land to his son George, who was half Cherokee. George then claimed English citizenship and deeded the property to his father. Nevertheless, Pearis did not register those land transfers until after the British took Charlestown.

With the push toward independence, Pearis became a Loyalist. He recruited, and led Loyalist troops, held a British commission and, like many other Loyalists, left the state when the Revolution ended. He received a British pension and eventually settled in the Bahamas. So, the Greenville area's most prominent non-Cherokee inhabitant was an active enemy of the Patriot cause.

Consequently, it is not surprising that the only Revolutionary battle in modern Greenville County was a clash between Loyalist and Patriot forces. When the Commons House of Assembly dissolved itself and reconvened as South Carolina's First Provincial Congress, leaders were concerned about the backcountry and pro-British sentiment there. Among other initiatives, in October 1775, the Council of Safety moved to secure Cherokee loyalty by shipping powder needed for winter hunting. Enroute, a band of Loyalists led by Patrick Cunningham captured the powder.

In November, Loyalists and Patriots clashed at Ninety-Six, and in late November, Colonel Richard Richardson and Lt. Colonel William "Danger" Thomson led Patriot troops into the backcountry to capture known Loyalist leaders. While pursuing Cunningham, Richardson and his men captured Richard Pearis and several other Loyalists and sent them, under guard, to Charlestown.

Cunningham eluded Richardson's round-up. So, when Richardson learned that Cunningham and his band were camped in Cherokee territory, he dispatched Thomson and his rangers to capture them. After a difficult 23-mile march, on December 21, Thomson sighted




the Loyalist camp.

The Battle of Great Canebrake

In the wee hours of December 22, Thomson's men surprised the sleeping Loyalists. In the ensuing melee, the Patriots captured 130 Loyalists, but the partially clothed Cunningham jumped on a horse and once again escaped, shouting to his men: "Shift for yourselves."

The exact location of the battle is unknown, but it occurred along the Reedy

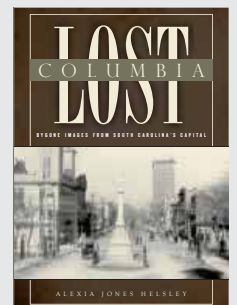
River in the southern part of modern Greenville County. Thomson and his men with their captives rejoined Richardson and began marching to the Congarees. Unfortunately, on December 23, snow began to fall, and it fell for 36 hours. As a result, the troops and their captives had to march through 15 to 24 inches of snow. Cold and frostbite plagued the return march. Consequently, this campaign was known as the "Snow Campaign," or as Benjamin Rowan, a survivor, called it, "the Snowy Campaign."

The Battle of the Great Canebrake was a Patriot victory, and, with many Loyalist leaders, including Pearis, imprisoned in Charlestown, for a time, the Backcountry was quiet. 

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.





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Township Auditorium



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SCAC is pleased to partner with NACo to build strong county leaders. The [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#) is an online 12-week program that empowers frontline county government professionals with the leadership skills to deliver results for counties. The [NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy](#) is similarly structured and geared for county employees dedicated to cybersecurity and IT.

NACo launched these programs in partnership with the team from the Professional Development Academy, including the late General Colin Powell, Dr. Marshall Goldsmith, and many other executives from both private industry and government agencies.

Over 1,600 counties have enrolled emerging and existing leaders since the launch of the program last year, with incredible feedback and results. In fact, the positive feedback and demand for this NACo program has been truly unprecedented.



The programs have proven relevant and practical for leaders and are convenient and non-disruptive to busy schedules. The 12 weeks of content are expertly facilitated online, and it takes about 4-5 hours per week for participants to fully engage in the program.

\$1,895 per enrollee for South Carolina counties. The retail price is \$2,995.

To enroll visit the [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#) and [NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy](#) webpages at naco.org/skills. For questions and assistance in enrolling please contact Luke Afeman at lukea@pdaleadership.com, Professional Development Academy/NACo Leadership Academy.



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The Late General Colin Powell

"The commitment of time and energy towards this program served as an important reminder of the value of continued learning and professional development...for all levels of public servants/leaders. The High Performance Leadership Program completely reignited my passion and commitment to my career in local government service."

*Beth Goodale
Georgetown County (SC) Recreation
& Community Services Director*

"I think it would be helpful to all levels of leadership in the organization, but especially to mid-level managers that are seen as "rising stars"...I thought it was an excellent program."

*Clay Killian
Aiken County (SC) Administrator*

County Update

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

Bamberg County

● Bamberg County Council honored **James W. Bowden, Sr.**, a two-time Denmark Tech alumnus and the first African-American vice president at Duke Energy, by naming him a Bamberg County Ambassador.

Bowden received his degree in electronic technology in 1972 and degree in industrial technology in 1993 from Denmark Tech, and worked for Duke Energy for 42 years. He started as an operating service technician in Greenville in 1972, became Duke Energy's first African-American vice president in 2005, and retired in 2010.

Bowden currently serves as a Denmark Technical College Area Commissioner and as the president of the Denmark Technical College National Alumni Association.

● Bamberg County Airport celebrated S.C. Aviation Week on August 18 at the Bamberg County Airport. S.C. Aviation Week is a statewide celebration of the economic and educational impact of airports and the aviation industry. The S.C. Aviation Association and S.C. Aeronautics Commission partnered to celebrate S.C. Aviation Week Aug. 14-20

to focus on National Aviation Day and Wilbur Wright's birthday on August 19.

● Bamberg County Government, sheriff's department, local municipalities, and law enforcement agencies switched to a new digital emergency radio system on June 1 to replaces the county's analog system. The S.C. statewide 800 MHz Radio and Mobile Data System, Palmetto 800, is a cost-shared public/private partnership between state government, local governments, power utilities and Motorola Solutions, Inc. The Palmetto 800 system is designed to provide public safety grade statewide coverage, enhance statewide interoperability and provide agencies with a superior communications technology at an economical price to meet their public

safety communications needs.

● Bamberg County Council approved the county's Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget on
(Continued on next page)

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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 mansions to murders, learn things about Greenville County history that you've never encountered before.

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NACo's Conference Calendar

2023

Legislative Conference
Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.
Feb. 11 - 14

Annual Conference
Austin, Texas
July 21 - 24

June 20.

Charleston County

● Charleston County's Public Safety Directorate recently hired **Tom Van Koughnett** as the director for the new Tri-County Biological Science Center. Prior to joining the county, Koughnett was instrumental in the implementation and accreditation of a new biology unit at the Oakland County Sheriff's Office in Michigan. He also served as the lead administrator for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) program at the local level. Van Koughnett worked as a forensic scientist for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, and Michigan State Police, and was key in

the accreditation process of a new biology unit in Florida.

● The Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has named its new director, Charleston County Magistrate Judge **Ellen Steinberg**. Steinberg assumed her new duties on August 12. Prior to becoming a magistrate judge, she worked as an assistant solicitor for the ninth circuit, an assistant public defender, a family court attorney, a prosecutor for the Department of Social Services, and as a teacher in the paralegal department at Trident Technical College. She was also a founding member of the CJCC and a prior

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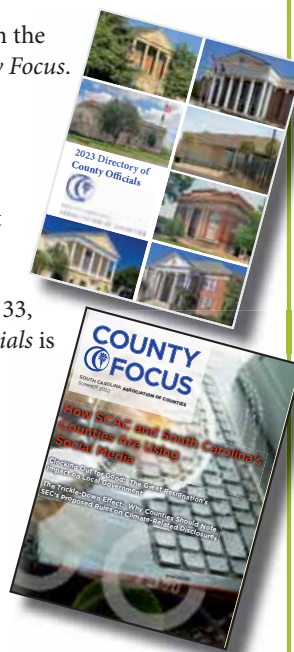
Or, just advertise in SCAC's 2023 *Directory of County Officials* and *County Focus Magazine*! To learn more, please call Stuart Morgan at (803) 252-7255 or email Stuart at smorgan@scac.sc and request advertising information.

The advertising deadline for the winter issue of *County Focus Magazine* (Vol. 33, No. 4) is **Dec. 15**. The advertising deadline for the 2023 *Directory of County Officials* is **Dec. 30, 2022**.

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CJCC vice chairwoman.

Steinberg is a founding member of the Tri-County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council. She serves on several local boards, and participates in attorney and judge mentorship programs.

The CJCC is a collaboration of elected and senior officials, law enforcement leaders, judicial and court leadership, behavioral health professionals, victim and legal advocates, and various community leaders working in service of the Charleston community.

The mission of the CJCC is to assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to Charleston County's criminal justice system and thereby improve public safety and community well-being. The CJCC is currently jointly funded by Charleston County and a Safety + Justice Challenge grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

● SHL Medical, a world-leading provider of drug delivery solutions, announced plans (See *County Update*, P. 71)



**SOUTH CAROLINA
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Conference Calendar

2022

Nov. 18 S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute
Virtual

Dec. 1 & 2 Legislative Conference
AC Hotel, Greenville

Dec. 8 Newly Elected County Officials
DoubleTree, Columbia

2023

Jan. 24 & 25 S.C. Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting
Omni Hotel, Hilton Head Island

Feb. 22 Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day

Feb. 23 Institute of Government
USC Alumni Center, Columbia

July 31 & Aug. 1 Institute of Government
Aug. 1-3 Annual Conference
Wild Dunes, Isle of Palms

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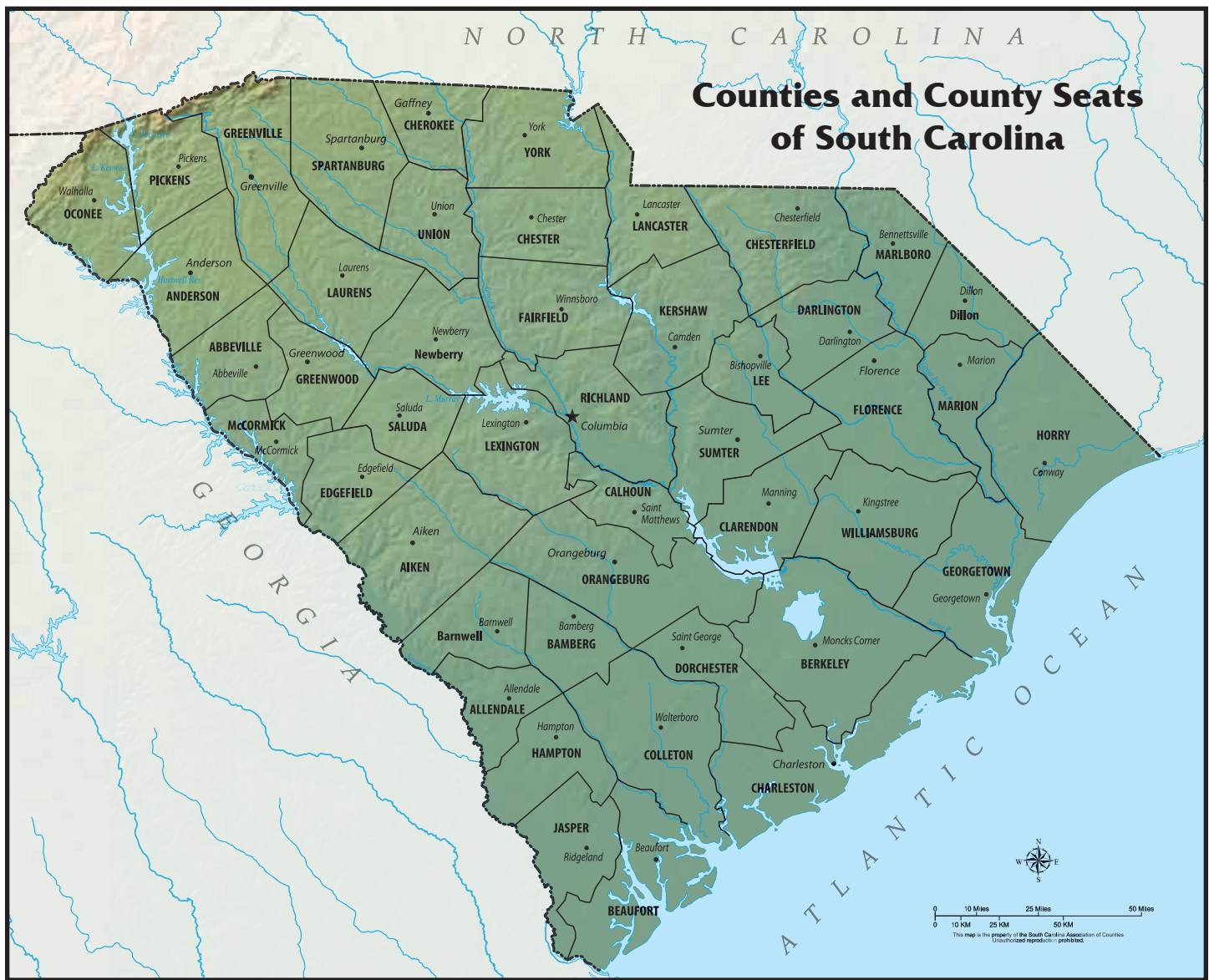


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Sumter Public Safety Complex



County Update ... (Continued from P. 69)

on July 18 to establish operations in Charleston County. The company's initial \$90 million investment will create an estimated 165 new jobs. Headquartered in Switzerland, SHL Medical designs, develops, and manufactures drug delivery solutions for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies around the world. The company also offers contract manufacturing and engineering services for products such as wafer testing equipment, laboratory handling equipment, neurosurgical devices, and industrial equipment.

SHL Medical, located at 7791 Palmetto Commerce Parkway in North Charleston, is expected to launch operations by the second quarter of 2024.

- Charleston County and school district leaders honored Charleston County high school students on July 15 who completed the first part of the Paving the Way to Better Public Safety Internship. The two-year program, a partnership between Charleston County Public Safety Directorate and the Charleston County School District, includes four to six weeks of paid training in the summer months for high school juniors and another four to eight weeks of paid training for returning seniors the next summer.

Graduates of the program are eligible for fast track to employment in Charleston County's 9-1-1 Consolidated Dispatch Center or Emergency Medical Services.

- The Charleston County Coroner's Office has been awarded \$53,820 in grant funds

from the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant, which is administered by the S.C. Department of Public Safety Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs. Funds will be used to hire a Forensic Autopsy Technician who will assist with the examination and documentation of forensic findings during forensic autopsies completed at the Charleston County Coroner's Office.

- Charleston County Coroner, **Bobbi Jo O'Neal**, was named the S.C. Coroner's Association 2022 Coroner of the Year at its annual conference held in North Myrtle Beach. She was also elected to serve as President of the S.C. Coroner's Association from July 2022 to June 2024. O'Neal is currently serving as the President of the International Association

(Continued on next page)



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of Coroner's & Medical Examiners (IACME). Her term ends in 2023.


Dorchester County

● Dorchester County held a groundbreaking ceremony on August 18 for the new Oakbrook Library on the Ashley River at 2830 Bacons Bridge Road in Summerville, on the Ashley River. Elected officials, community leaders, and the public attended the ceremony. Oakbrook is the county's fastest growing area and one of council's priorities for revitalization and redevelopment. With the community's support from the 2019 bond referendum, funding was secured for this state-of-the-art, 20,000 square foot facility. This new library will provide traditional and innovative library services that will meet the evolving needs and expectations of our residents. The Oakbrook Library is expected to be completed by fall of 2023.

Lexington County

● Lexington County Animal Services (LCAS) hosted a ribbon-cutting event on August 18 to unveil

its new barn on its property at 321 Ball Park Road in Lexington. The newly-constructed 4,800-square-foot barn has the capacity to house numerous large animals including horses, cows, pigs, and other types of domestic farm animals. The opening of the barn, which took approximately nine months to complete, is the final step in a three-year process where the "large animal response" responsibility has transitioned from the Lexington County Sheriff's Department (LCSD) to LCAS.

To begin this transition, officers with LCAS trained with LCSD officers with experience in large animal response. LCAS officers also attended classes in the field. As the transition continued, LCAS began to take over the investigation of cases, and respond to calls for stray or neglected farm animals. LCAS hired and trained an investigator who has the primary responsibility to investigate large animal complaints in Lexington County. Two shelter staff positions were also created to care for animals in the barn. 

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