

# COUNTY FOCUS

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
VOL. 33, NO. 4/VOL. 34, NO. 1

## **Opioid Recovery Fund:** What Counties Need to Know

**“Best of Both Worlds”:**  
Preserving the Past,  
Preparing for Aiken  
County’s Future

**South Carolina Expands the  
U.S. “Battery Belt” in  
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Page 21**

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Page 23**

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# COUNTY FOCUS

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Opioid Recovery Fund: What Counties Need to Know to Promote Community Health, Wellness and Resilience**  
BY SARA GOLDSBY, S.C. DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES
- 6 "Best of Both Worlds": Preserving the Past, Preparing for Aiken County's Future**  
BY W. STUART MORGAN III
- 12 South Carolina Expands U.S. "Battery Belt" with Historic \$3.5 Billion Project in Berkeley County**  
BY JENNA-LEY JAMISON, BERKELEY COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
- 16 Unprecedented Economic Development Investment in the Southeast**  
BY DR. JENNIFER CLYBURN REED, FEDERAL CO-CHAIR, THE SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION
- 25 SCAC Insurance Trusts Member Benefits**  
BY ROBERT E. BENFIELD, ARM, AINS, SCAC DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE SERVICES
- 28 Dorchester County's Leadership Apprentice Program Offers Way to Invest in Employees**  
BY MICHELLE A. MILLS, DORCHESTER COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
- 33 SCAC Names President's Cup for David K. Summers Jr.**  
BY W. STUART MORGAN III
- 39 A Roadside Guide to Greenwood County**  
*The County's Role in the American War for Independence*  
BY ALEXIA JONES HELSLEY

2



6



12



16



**SOUTHEAST CRESCENT  
REGIONAL COMMISSION**

# Opioid Recovery Fund: What Counties Need to Know to Promote Community Health, Wellness and Resilience

By Sara Goldsby, MPH, MSW

**S**outh Carolina has been hard at work addressing the opioid crisis since 2014, when we—like the rest of the nation—realized we had a significant problem with prescription drug use. Since then, our state has made significant progress, but despite policy changes and multi-faceted public safety and public health efforts, we have seen overdoses rise. Communities nationwide and in South Carolina have felt the deep and complex impacts as the drug crisis has evolved in ways that we never could have anticipated.

In 2019, when our state saw the year-over-year increase in drug mortality level off and fall well below the increase seen nationally, we knew that our coordinated efforts had made headway against the problem. Then we experienced the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought on isolation, feelings of uncertainty, loss, and despair, driving increased use of alcohol and other drugs as a means of coping with a new reality.

Simultaneously, due to a vast infusion of the opioid fentanyl, in 2020 the illicit drug market became the most deadly the United States has ever known. Now, as we have turned the corner into 2023, there are virtually no South Carolinians who have not been close to the consequences of the addiction crisis.

With the luck of timing and by way of incredible litigation work, the first compensation from national settlements with opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacy chains has made its way to our state. And the figures so far are substantial. Even with claims against additional manufacturers pending, the expected payments to the state and its political subdivisions are expected to total more than \$600 million over the next two decades. Furthermore, the wisdom of

the attorneys and experts who handled the national settlements have built in strict requirements that the money only be used for widely recognized and approved strategies to relieve the specific emergency we are experiencing.

Leaders across the field of addiction agree that we know what works to address opioid use disorder. Rigorous scientific research and evaluation have proven that the evidence-based programs and services outlined as the Core Strategies and Approved Uses of the finalized settlement

agreements work to prevent addiction, save lives, and foster long-term recovery. The challenge has been to scale up and spread these best practices and strategies for universal access. By investing the settlement funds in the targeted strategies, we can meet that challenge.

A first step is understanding the science of addiction, and in particular the unique science of opioid use disorder as a chronic relapsing brain disease that is preventable, treatable, not curable, and sometimes fatal. Just like people manage chronic diseases like asthma and diabetes, substance use disorders can become manageable with the right interventions, treatment, and support. If we were facing an emergency with any other chronic disease, we would be leaping to program and service solutions that focused on ushering people to wellness. Implementing the Core Strategies of the settlement agreements will do just that, keeping people alive as the top priority.

Strategies like having naloxone, the overdose antidote, on hand when and where people are at risk of overdose have already saved thousands of South Carolinians from accidental death. Expanding the availability of the three Food and Drug Administration-approved medications (methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone) that address opioid dependency, making them available without barriers to access, is saving lives in other states and, as a Core Strategy of the settlement, should also be one of our highest priorities. This expansion will take training and capacity building for our healthcare providers, EMTs, other first responders, and our criminal justice system, but the outcomes for lives stand to be most substantial. Of course, special attention should be paid to populations that are more vulnerable to the consequences of opioid use disorder, and so programs for pregnant and postpartum women, babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome, and incarcerated individuals are all important to develop.

When it comes to prevention in schools, many curricula and programs have been designed and evaluated to provide real outcomes in youth and adolescent behavior—preventing substance use and



## Resources to Help Your County

**South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board**

<https://scorf.sc.gov/>

**SCAC's Opioid Solutions page**

<https://www.sccounties.org/opioid-solutions>

**S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services**

opioid education and resources website:

<https://justplainskillers.com/>



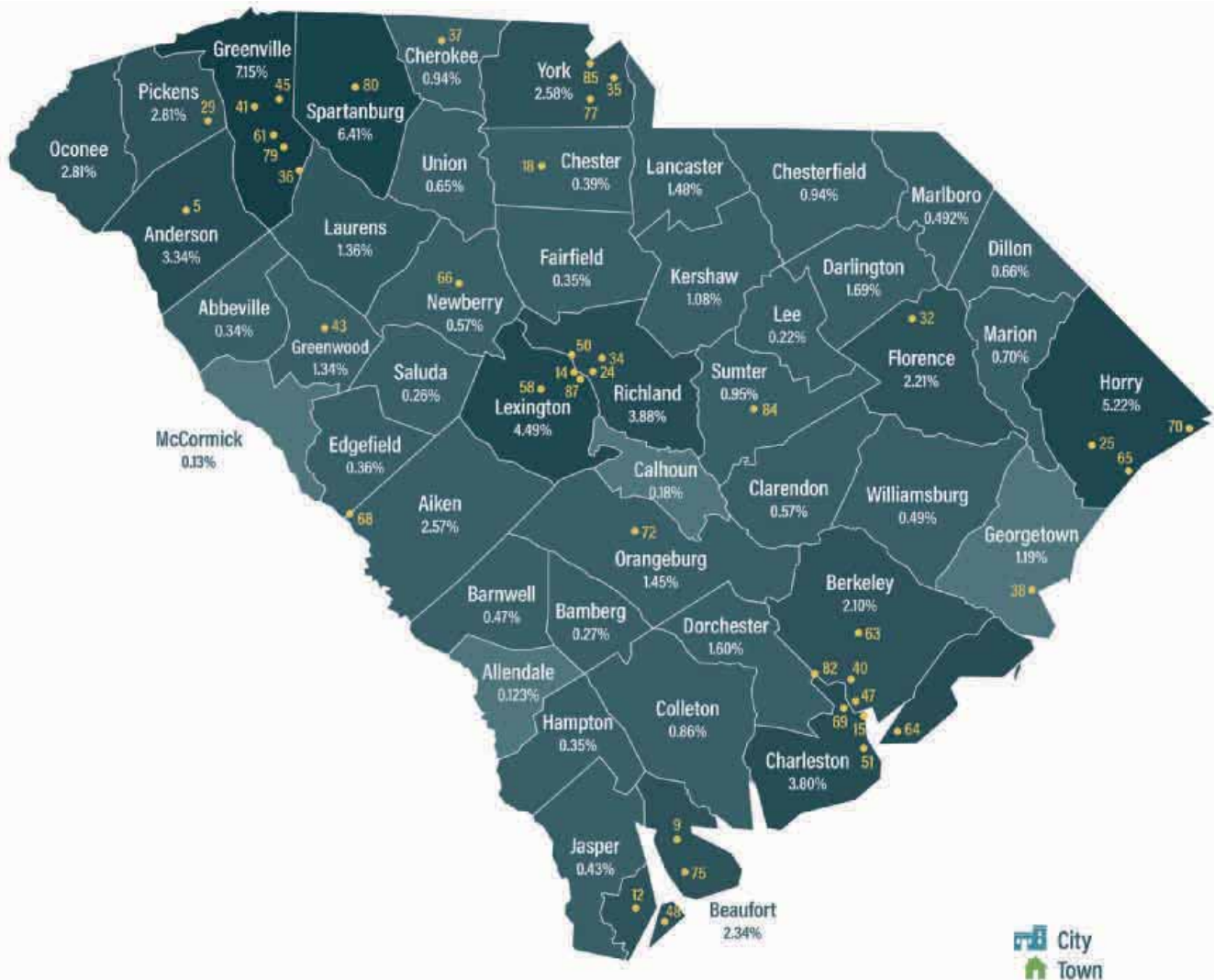
misuse. Information dissemination strategies like school assemblies are important but do not carry the value of robust programming like Botvin LifeSkills Training and the Strengthening Families Program, which prevent negative health outcomes by enhancing protective

factors related to social and learning competencies.

The guaranteed political subdivision funds of the opioid settlement give counties tremendous opportunity and responsibility to  
(Continued on next page)

## Allocations to South Carolina Counties and Cities

The following table is to be used by the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board for the purpose of allocating money in the Guaranteed Political Subdivision Subfund to the counties and cities of South Carolina.



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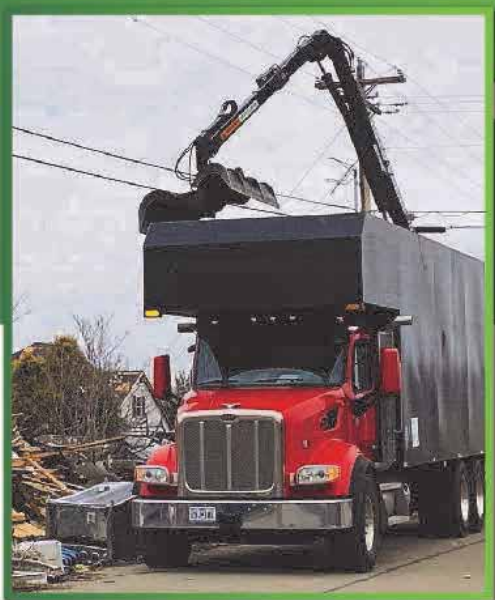
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cultivate communities where the necessary tools, services, and supports for recovery and wellness exist for individuals and families. The South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund Board's website (available at <https://scorf.sc.gov/>) has all the available information on the settlement agreements, what funding is currently available, and how counties can apply for the Guaranteed Political Subdivision Subfunds. In addition, *South Carolina's Guide to Approved Uses for Investing Opioid Settlement Funds* offers even more detail on the intended uses of settlement dollars and was created as a technical resource for county leaders navigating strategies and program implementation.

Additional assets to leverage are the state's county alcohol and drug abuse authorities, which house expertise in the Core Strategies. Information on both county authorities and opioid treatment programs—which are South Carolina's publicly funded and trusted centers for services—can be found at <https://justplainkillers.com/>, a site that also offers additional county-level data and other South Carolina-specific information related to opioids.

As we come together with more resources than ever before for a very specific kind of public service, it is important to remember the mission and why we are charged with this work. Recognizing the value of the lives we serve—and the resilience that our South Carolina families and communities embody—is crucial to bringing hope and optimism to the work ahead. There may be no better place to begin to bring about the health, wellness, and recovery we expect to achieve in the coming years. 

*Sara Goldsby, MPH, MSW, is the Director of the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services.*



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SOUTH CAROLINA  
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# “Best of Both Worlds”: Preserving the Past, Preparing for Aiken County’s Future

By W. Stuart Morgan III

**T**he Aiken County Public Library—an impressive-looking multi-story building located in the City of Aiken’s downtown historic district—officially re-opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony last January after a two-year renovation.

Impressively, the project to reconfigure and modernize the main library in the Aiken-Bamberg-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library System was conducted between January 2020 and December 2021 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic!

“The choice facing Aiken County in 2020 was whether to continue using the existing library or to build a new one,” said Aiken County Council Chairman Gary Bunker. “After operating as a library for 30 years, renovating the existing structure to serve another 20 to 30 years was deemed to be the most cost-effective approach.

“We extended the life of the facility, upgraded its technology and layout, and created a more positive and welcoming experience for customers and staff,” he added. “The library now has a much more user-friendly environment that is brighter, and with more open spaces. Steps were rebuilt and a new front entrance elevator was installed to meet access requirements and enhance safety. The library was designed to fully enter the digital age. Meeting spaces and conference rooms now allow for a wider range of interactive and Internet-based presentations.”

The project cost \$3 million. Aiken County spent \$2 million, using Capital Project Sales Tax funding, and Friends of the Aiken County



Library made up the remaining \$1 million.

“The project exceeded my expectations in every way,” said Bill Reynolds, who served as President of the Friends of the Aiken County Library. “The parking lot is full most times of the day. So, the public is taking advantage of the new facility.”



*(Left to right)* Aiken County Council Chairman Gary Bunker; Bill Reynolds, President of Friends of the Aiken County Library during library renovation project; Jessica Christian, Library Manager, Aiken County Public Library; and Mary Jo Dawson, Director, Aiken-Bamberg-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library.

## The Newly Renovated Aiken County Public Library

The Aiken County Public Library looks like an old school building because it shares a history with the Aiken Institute, chartered in 1888 and constructed in 1891 to serve as an “all grades school.” The Institute became Aiken Elementary School in 1937 after a high school was built. The wing added to the Aiken Institute when it expanded in 1913 became the Aiken County Public Library in 1990.

A new large sign stands on the library’s completely re-landscaped lawn. Five hundred personalized bricks, sold by Friends to raise funds for the project, line the walkway leading up to the ADA-compliant steps flanking the library’s front covered entrance.

The three-story, red-brick building features white-trimmed windows and a silver metal roof, which has two large silver-roofed cupolas.

Inside, the library is open, airy

and filled with light.

Beautiful globe light fixtures are installed just within the entrance  
*(See Library, P. 8)*

**“We extended the life of the facility, upgraded its technology and layout, and created a more positive and welcoming experience for customers and staff.”**

Gary Bunker,  
Aiken County Council Chairman



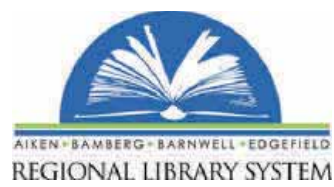




# Featuring Special Rooms and Sections, Conference Rooms and Much More ...

The Aiken County Library's spacious two-floor interior was designed to accommodate a broad range of interests, and to provide ample space for everyone.

The library's first floor includes: a café-style seating area; a central service desk, located close to collections of new books, DVDs and audiobooks; a section where used books are sold year-round; a section for youth services; a teen room; four rooms dedicated



to younger ages that house picture books, fiction and nonfiction for middle age readers; a giant Lego building table; two meeting room spaces; a large community meeting room; and a creative lab/classroom, capable of seating 25.

The library's second floor includes: a South Carolina and Local History Room; a floor-to-ceiling case featuring monthly displays of arts, crafts, history, and culture; a public service desk, reading tables, and comfortable armchairs conveniently located near current newspapers and periodicals; five small-group meeting rooms; a 14-person conference room, which features audio visual and videoconferencing capabilities; collections of adult fiction, nonfiction, large print, and biography; staff offices and storage spaces.



## **Library ...** (Continued from P. 6)

where two donor walls, one honoring the 1990 renovation and the other honoring library donors, are displayed.

The library's 10,000-square-foot, two-floor interior has been refurbished with \$200,000 worth of new furnishings. A grand central staircase, a new ADA-compliant elevator in the front, and a rebuilt 1990s-era elevator in back, connect the first and second floors.

Digital signage on both floors posts library programs, events and services. Wi-Fi is provided throughout the library.

Ample parking is also provided outside on three sides of the library.

"Our library is located in Aiken's historic district, blocks from downtown, City Hall, and the county courthouse," Reynolds said.

"Residents love this iconic building and its convenient location. There also is a popular city park featuring a children's playground located on the library grounds.

"To abandon a lovely, historic building and build a new facility away from the center of Aiken would have been wrong for the community," he added. "Renovating the old library and modernizing its interior provided the best of both worlds by maintaining the library's lovely exterior and its wonderful location."

Remarkably, Aiken County kept the library open for public use during most of the project.

"This was one our goals," Reynolds said, "and I'm glad we were able to do it.

"Keeping the library open required a tremendous amount of patience and hard work on the part of library staff who often worked

in the midst of a construction zone,” he added. “With help from our contractor, library staff coordinated several different moves during the project as we closed one area of the site and re-opened another. The goodwill and patience of library users also helped make this approach work. They tolerated noise, dust and disruption because they wanted the project to succeed.”

The Aiken County Public Library project was designed by McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture and completed by J.E. Stewart Builders.



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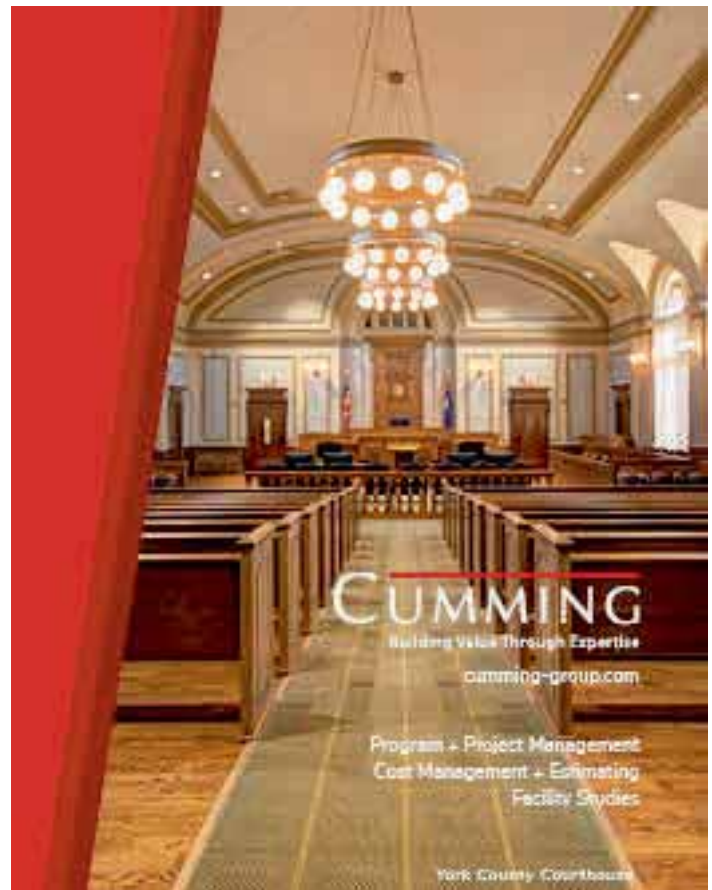
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**– Deepal Eliatamby, P.E.**

# South Carolina Expands U.S. “Battery Belt” with Historic \$3.5 Billion Project in Berkeley County

By Jenna-Ley Jamison, Berkeley County PIO

**Berkeley County** made history in 2022 with its landmark \$3.5 billion investment announcement with battery manufacturer Redwood Materials.

“This (announcement) will take us this year to \$10.1 billion in capital investments in South Carolina,” Gov. Henry McMaster said at a December ceremony at Santee Cooper’s Camp Hall Commerce Park in Ridgeville. “This is transformative and it’s going to open the door to the future of innovation and imagination in South Carolina; and I promise you our people are...ready for that, ready to meet that challenge.”

Headquartered in Carson City, Nevada, Redwood Materials is a producer of anode and cathode battery components for electric vehicles. Founded by Tesla’s former Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder JB Straubel, the company plans to establish operations on

607 acres at Camp Hall and create 1,500 jobs.

“This is a phenomenal site for us to expand,” Straubel said at the event held with the Governor’s Office and the S.C. Department

of Commerce. “Overall, we’re absolutely convinced this is the right place for us to be and this is a very smart decision for us to continue our investments here. ...This is really just the beginning.”

At its Berkeley County campus, Redwood Materials plans to manufacture battery components built from as much recycled material as possible; in turn, this material will go to help construct at least 1 million electric vehicles globally per year and create a circular supply chain for electric vehicles. This endeavor will launch a new, exciting chapter in the electrification of the future and help build a resilient supply chain for the nation’s “Battery Belt.”

(See *Berkeley County*, P. 14)



Artist's rendering of Santee Cooper's Camp Hall Commerce Park in Ridgeville





Berkeley County Supervisor and Council Chairman Johnny Cribb speaks at the economic development event hosted on Dec. 14 at Santee Cooper's Camp Hall Commerce Park in Ridgeville. The event, sponsored primarily by the S.C. Department of Commerce, Redwood Materials, the Governor's Office and Santee Cooper, was held to announce the Redwood Materials expansion at the commerce park.

*(Photo at right)* JB Straubel, Founder and CEO of Redwood Materials, presents a gift, the logo for Redwood Materials, to Gov. Henry McMaster.



Gov. Henry McMaster said the \$3.5 billion investment by Redwood Materials takes South Carolina to \$10.1 billion in capital investments in 2022.



Redwood officials pose for a photo with Berkeley County leaders and officials: *(Left to right)* Berkeley County Council Member Amy Stern; Ashley Teasdel, Deputy Secretary of the S.C. Department of Commerce (SCDOC); Berkeley County Council Vice Chairman Phillip Obie II and Council Member Tommy Newell; Alexis Georgeson, Vice President of Communications and Government Relations, Redwood Materials; Berkeley County Supervisor Johnny Cribb; JB Straubel, Redwood Materials Founder/CEO; Mandy Brawley, Director of the Global Business Development Division, SCDOC; Karen Manning, Chief Legal Counsel, SCDOC; Kevin Kassekert, COO, Redwood Materials; Kristen Lanier, Berkeley County Economic Development Director; and Alina Zagaytova, General Counsel, Redwood Materials

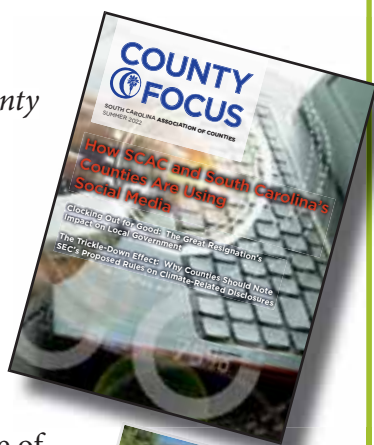
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To just learn more about advertising in SCAC's publications, please contact Stuart Morgan at (803) 252-7255 or [smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc).

The extended deadline for the next issue of *County Focus Magazine*, the spring issue (Vol. 34, No. 1), is **April 15**. The advertising deadline for the *2024 Directory of County Officials* will be announced in October.



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## Berkeley County ... (Continued from P. 12)

The nation's battery belt has seen a recent expansion in the Palmetto State, not only with news of Redwood Materials but also Envision AESC—a Japanese electric vehicle battery technology company, which is creating 1,100 jobs in Florence County through the construction of a battery cell giga-factory."

Redwood Materials works with multiple partners—that have existing operations across the United States—to produce battery components by reclaiming and recycling end-of-life batteries and production scrap. These partners include Volvo, Envision AESC, Proterra, Panasonic, Volkswagen, and Audi. Redwood plans to begin operations at Camp Hall later this year.

By building a world-class workforce, Redwood officials believe this new site will drive down consumer costs, all the while focusing on carrying out the company's goals of sustainability, clean energy, and emissions reduction.

This historic project for both the county and state also will establish jobs that will pay well over Berkeley County's average wage and bring in significant tax revenue to fund critical infrastructure projects. Based on the county's current average assessed home value, the county's tax collections from Redwood Materials are expected to generate tax revenue equivalent to 7,500 homes, said Berkeley County Supervisor Johnny Cribb.


"We have been fortunate to land significant industrial projects that have provided both good jobs and the opportunity to keep our county property tax rate the lowest in the state," Cribb said. "This project, and specifically this company, will generate enough funds to complete the widening of Hwy. 176 approximately seven years faster and provide significant revenue for both the school district and county to provide necessary services."

For example, the revenue from Redwood throughout the fee agreement will allow the school district to hire as many as 88 new teachers and the county to hire as many as 44 additional sheriff's deputies/EMTs, he explained.

"We're excited about the employment opportunities this project will present and the increased ability to mitigate the challenges we face in providing services and infrastructure," Cribb said.

Since 2015, Camp Hall Commerce Park has been a gamechanger for Berkeley County's industrial sector, state commerce and international trade. The site is infrastructure ready and with nearby access to the ports, offers global accessibility. From Volvo's decision to set up operations at the site in 2015 to now Redwood Materials and so many other quality companies over the years, Camp Hall is a model example of what the next generation commerce park should be. It's a true testament to how strong local, state and community partnerships can lead to successful endeavors—and in this case, manufacturing space to revolutionize the future.

"We're excited about looking to the future with this plant, this investment, this campus," said Santee Cooper Board Director Stephen Mudge. "It's a unique commerce park that's recognized nationally."

For more information about Redwood Materials or to apply for a job at the Camp Hall site, visit [redwoodmaterials.com](http://redwoodmaterials.com). 



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# Unprecedented Economic Development Investment in the Southeast

By Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed, Federal Co-Chair  
The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

**The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC)** is an economic development partnership of the federal government and seven state governments including South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and Florida. SCRC leadership is comprised of the federal co-chair, a states' co-chair (one of the seven governors), and the other six governors. This year, Gov. Henry McMaster served as the states' co-chair.

As SCRC's first federal co-chair and a native South Carolinian, I'm pleased to share priorities from the five-year strategic plan. SCRC's mission is to build sustainable communities and increase economic growth, particularly in economically distressed areas. As a result of collaborative efforts between the Commission and partners at the federal, state, and local levels, and input from residents, this plan represents the priorities, needs, and perspectives of the 51 million people across 428 counties and county equivalents. Thirty-nine of South Carolina's 46 counties are in the SCRC region.

The Commission will invest \$20 million in the region via a flagship grant program scheduled to launch in late spring/early summer 2023.

Situated between the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean, the region is home to more than 600 colleges and universities, historic sites and tourist attractions that draw visitors and new residents.

Although the region provides a wealth of assets and opportunities, challenges remain. The poverty rate in the region is among the highest in the country, with six million people living in SCRC's 166 distressed counties. Pockets of persistent poverty exist throughout. Infrastructure in the region is categorized as mediocre by the American Society of Civil Engineers, while healthcare costs, healthcare access, and health outcomes rank among the lowest in the country.

The median household income level and job growth rate are below average, and the region's stunning natural landscapes are threatened by extreme weather events such as hurricanes and floods.

With these challenges in mind, SCRC has created a strategic plan to build sustainable communities and strengthen economic growth in the region by providing financial resources to build communities, create jobs, and improve lives.

SCRC will provide grant funding to implement programs and projects that will drive positive outcomes across these six strategic goals: (1) critical infrastructure, (2) health and support services access and outcomes, (3) strengthen workforce capacity, (4) foster entrepreneurial and business development activities, (5) expand affordable housing stock and access, and (6) promote environmental conservation, preservation, and access.

SCRC grants will be awarded to state, local, and Native American governments as well as public or nonprofit organizations for projects that align with our strategic investment priorities, state economic and infrastructure development plans, and state strategy statements. All grant applications are made through, evaluated by, and certified by the corresponding state, then approved by the Commission.

In the next five years, SCRC's grant program will provide funding to achieve four cross-cutting performance targets in alignment with the Commission's goals.

**Target 1: Number of households and businesses with new or improved access to critical services.** SCRC aims to impact 3,000 households and businesses each year, 15,000 by FY 2027.

**Target 2: Number of jobs created and/or retained.** SCRC is committed to investments

that will enable community and economic development through job growth, including 220 jobs created and/or retained in the first year, 1,100 through FY 2027.

**Target 3: Number of communities with enhanced capacity.** Capacity building, via technical assistance, technological support, and institutional strengthening, enables communities to bridge critical service gaps and enhance quality of life for residents. Our plan targets meaningful investment in at least 20 counties/communities annually,



**SOUTHEAST CRESCENT  
REGIONAL COMMISSION**



**Dr. Jennifer Clyburn Reed**



100 counties/communities by FY 2027. SCRC will invest at least 50 percent of grant program funding to distressed counties and isolated areas of distress.

**Target 4: Value of community and resident wealth attained or built.** SCRC seeks investment opportunities that build long-term and intergenerational wealth opportunities. For every \$1 invested in the region, SCRC seeks to create \$2 in wealth for its communities and residents.

SCRC is committed to investing in the future of its 210,000 square mile footprint by continuing to work closely with state and local community partners like you to maximize the impact of investments and improve outcomes as we activate the strategic plan through the launch of the grant program. For updates on the grant program and SCRC activities throughout South Carolina and the region, sign up at [scrc.gov](https://scrc.gov).



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# 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 — Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day in February, Annual Conference in August, and County Council Coalition Fall Meeting in October. 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](https://SCCounties.org/corporate-partner-program)**

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# SCAC Corporate Partners



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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

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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:

- **Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day**—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 Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day Conference 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](http://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 competitive purchasing discounts through Forms and Supply, Inc. and the U.S. Communities purchasing cooperative.

## Legal Assistance

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

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

## Setoff Debt Program

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

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

## Legislative Information

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

SCAC monitors each bill as it is introduced and keeps its members up-to-date on all legislative activity with a weekly *Friday Report*.

The Association also dispatches *Legislative Alerts* and publishes *Acts That Affect Counties* each year.

## Public Information

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

## Research and Technical Assistance

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

SCAC's website address is:  
**[SCCounties.org](http://SCCounties.org)**

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



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# SCAC-Sponsored Insurance Trusts



## History of the Trusts

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

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

## Boards of Trustees

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



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Chester County  
Council Chairman



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

# SCAC Insurance Trusts Member Benefits

By Robert E. Benfield, ARM, AINS  
SCAC Director of Insurance Services

**T**he South Carolina Association of Counties sponsors two insurance Trusts to meet the unique insurance and risk management needs associated with county government operations. The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) was formed in 1984 and consists of 41 Counties, and the S.C. Counties Property and Liability Trust (SCCP&LT) was formed in 1995 and consists of 17 counties.

Both Trusts were formed to help counties find affordable insurance when the commercial markets tightened, and the cost of insurance coverage increased significantly for county government operations. The commercial markets have recently tightened again with some insurers refusing to cover county law enforcement and detention center operations.

Trust members enjoy several insurance and risk management benefits, many of which are not offered through the commercial markets. Some of these benefits include:

**The Trusts Are Run by Counties for Counties**—The Trusts are the only entities in existence that are run by South Carolina counties to insure South Carolina counties. The Trusts' Board of Trustees consists of seven county officials who meet several times a year to review claim trends, financials, and discuss mitigation strategies to meet the unique challenges facing county government operations. Unlike the general commercial markets, the Board can direct services to meet the unique needs and challenges facing South Carolina counties.

**Members Own the Trusts, and They Are Nonprofit**—Unlike an insurance company, the Trusts were created by the members to

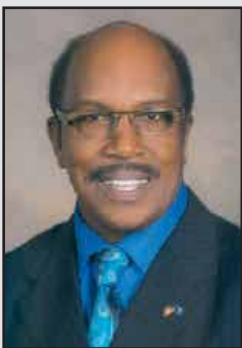
serve the members. The Trusts were created to meet the special insurance needs of South Carolina counties when the commercial market hardened.

**Coverages and Services Are Tailored**—Coverages and services are tailored to meet the unique needs of South Carolina county governments instead of the general insurance industry. Membership in the Trusts is limited to South Carolina counties and government related entities. All members share similar exposures and operations which are specific to South Carolina. Since the Trusts are member owned and only serve governmental entities, the Trusts will never terminate coverage for county operations such as law enforcement, detention centers, EMS, or fire.

**Long Term Budget Stability**—Membership in the Trusts helps counties minimize the peaks and valleys in their insurance premiums over the long term. Members' premiums are based on their claims experience. The Trusts' Board limits premium increases to provide financial stability to the members and limit extreme fluctuations which impact the commercial markets.

**Unique Risk Management Services Offered to Members**—The Trusts offer risk management services tailored to meet the unique needs of South Carolina counties. A variety of training classes are offered to members that are designed specifically for county entities versus a generic approach to cover all industries. We only service county entities and sub-entities in South Carolina, which allows us to formulate our training programs to meet their operational needs.

*(Continued on next page)*



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



**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



Membership meetings are held throughout the year allowing members to receive training, discuss exposures and mitigation strategies, and share information. We are also able to provide our members with networking and information sharing opportunities through our risk managers forum group. This allows members to directly access one another to discuss their distinctive county needs and see how others are or have addressed similar issues.

Trust staff have the experience to consult members and provide guidance on all Federal and State Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-related issues. We can provide assistance to ensure compliance with all OSHA regulatory requirements prior to an inspection, during an inspection and post-inspection procedures.

**Specialized Law Enforcement and Detention Center Risk Control Services**—Our staff has extensive experience working with South Carolina county sheriff's offices and detention centers. We provide policy and procedures reviews, on-site inspections, detention center staffing needs assessments approved by the S.C. Department of Corrections, consultation, and assistance with formulating mitigation strategies for identified hazards and deficiencies. We provide on-site and online training to members which is approved by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy for Continuing Law Enforcement Education credits. These approved credits count toward the officers mandated yearly training requirements.

**Non-auditable Pricing**—Trust pricing is basically non-auditable; meaning that members will not be assessed for normal additional


equipment, property, or autos acquired during the policy year. This is a benefit not found in the commercial insurance market.

**Local Service**—Risk management and claims services are provided by dedicated full-time personnel who specialize in assisting county governments. The service team professionals that assist the Trusts are all located in South Carolina where they can provide prompt responsive service. All of our risk management and claims teams are located in-house, which allows for better communication, collaboration, and responsiveness to our member's needs. We are a one-stop-shop.

**No-Deductible Glass Coverage**—There is no deductible for auto glass claims as long as the auto is covered for comp/collision, and they use our preferred vendor.

**New Member Discount**—New SCCP&LT members receive a 5 percent reduction in premium for the first five years of their membership.

The Trusts strive to meet the insurance and risk management needs of our members. We solicit their input and add or modify coverages as their needs change. If you are currently a member of either Trust, we thank you for your membership and participation.

If you are not a member, or would like to expand your membership, please e-mail Robert Benfield at [Rbenfield@scac.sc](mailto:Rbenfield@scac.sc) to set up a meeting to discuss your county's insurance needs. I look forward to talking with you soon. 

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# Dorchester County's Leadership Apprentice Program Offers Way to Invest in Employees

By Michelle A. Mills, Dorchester County PIO

**A**s part of a comprehensive strategy for recruitment and retention, Dorchester County Human Resources began exploring opportunities to further support and develop employees. The goal was to offer a leadership skills training program that included on-the-job experience along with ongoing support through coaching and mentorships.

"Dorchester County was looking for a meaningful way to invest in employees by providing an opportunity to develop the skills they needed to succeed in the workplace," said Dorchester County Council Member Jay Byars. "While the program requires a high level of commitment from students both from an academic and personal standpoint, the program has been overwhelmingly successful."

On October 3, 2022, eight employees were recognized by Dorchester County Council for completion of the four-year long program which included 8,000 hours of on-the-job training along with 900 hours of job-related education. As a result of their efforts, graduates earned a certificate of completion from the U.S.

Department of Labor and an Associate Degree in Applied Science, Management from Trident Technical College.

"I appreciate Dorchester County giving me such an awesome opportunity," said recent graduate Lindsay Grooms, a GIS analyst within the Assessor's Office. "I was so thankful to be able to further my education with as little disruption as possible to my family life. It is tough to go back to school as a full-time parent and employee. While it was not easy, it was possible with a full-time job and three kids ranging from elementary to high school. The program was easy to follow and keep on track. I had a wonderful mentor to make things that much smoother. I encourage coworkers to take advantage of this great program with Dorchester County, and I would do it again if given the chance."

The program was not only a success to those who graduated, but also to the mentors and coaches.

County Auditor JJ Messervy had been an advocate for a way to further develop employees and became one of the first to



**DORCHESTER COUNTY RECOGNIZES FALL 2022 GRADUATING CLASS, PUBLIC LEADERSHIP APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM—(Left to right) Council Member Jay Byars, Chairman Todd Friddle, Human Resource Director Tammy Thompson, Melissa Burns, Clyde Brownlee, Tonda Westbury, Lindsay Grooms, Elizabeth Young, Robert Hewitt, Council Member Bill Hearn, Vice Chairman David Chinnis; Council Members George Bailey and Eddie Crosby; Demetrius Smith, Apprentice Carolina; and Council Member Harriet Holman. (Photo by Michelle A. Mills)**

volunteer to mentor students. He was grateful that county council and administration took a leap to invest in the future leaders of the organization.

"I created life-long friendships and relationships with both of my mentees by going through this program," he said. "One even had two children during the pandemic, and both mentees overcame multiple challenges. It was truly inspiring to see their dedication, commitment, and growth, and I couldn't be prouder that I had the opportunity to participate in this program."

In 2018, the Dorchester County's Public Leadership Apprenticeship Program rolled out with 15 participating in the first cohort. The program was two-fold and consisted of an academic track and an experiential development track. Dorchester County formed a partnership with Trident Technical College with the county covering 100 percent of tuition costs.


Employees were also coached through one-on-one sessions and hands-on experience by mentors within Dorchester County Government. Through on-the-job training, employees were encouraged to develop the following leadership skills:

- Fundamentals of Government
- Business Acumen
- Leadership
- Department Goals
- Public Accountability and Ethics

- Talent Management
- Strategic Planning

Monthly mentorship meetings supported students allowing them to connect on both a personal and professional level. The program also included eligibility to receive up to four salary step increases following the completion of each educational and on-the-job benchmark due to the increased skill and competence students gained throughout the program.

Dorchester County's Public Leadership Apprenticeship Program has continued to evolve, and the next cohort is planning to graduate in fall of 2023.

To learn more about the program and how you could replicate a similar one in your own county, contact Tammy Thompson, Dorchester County HR Director, [tthompson@dorchestercountysc.gov](mailto:tthompson@dorchestercountysc.gov). 



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# SCAC Names President's Cup for David K. Summers Jr.

By W. Stuart Morgan III

**SCAC's** Board of Directors unanimously voted on Dec. 1, 2022, to rename one of its most prestigious awards—the President's Cup—in honor of the late David K. Summers Jr., former SCAC president and Calhoun County Council chairman.

Mr. Summers, the longest serving member of SCAC's Board of Directors, died on Feb. 26, 2022.

"I am confident that I'm one of many, who was embraced and mentored by Mr. Summers," said SCAC President Debra Summers of Lexington County Council. "He welcomed new board members, and wanted them to fully understand their responsibilities. He was someone who others felt comfortable to approach with questions and concerns. He was also supportive of SCAC's staff, and attentive to their needs as the association grew."

Mr. Summers was elected to Calhoun County Council in 1979, and served as chairman for 41 years. He served as SCAC president in 1988.

"I can't begin to tell you how many times, after I was elected to Lexington County Council back in 2004, that I was asked if I was related to Mr. David Summers," Debra Summers said. "He and I tried to figure out if we had any family connections, but we never found one. Although we weren't related, it would have been a pleasure for me to have been able to say that Mr. David Summers and I were."

Mr. Summers served as Chairman of the S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust, and Property & Liability Trust.

"I believe the most meaningful contribution that Mr. Summers made to SCAC was the vision for and development of the South Carolina Counties Workers' Compensation Trust, which was formed in 1984," Summers said. "In 1995, largely due to the success of the Workers' Compensation Trust, the S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust was formed."

Mr. Summers also served as chairman of the Three Rivers Solid Waste Authority (TRSWA) Board of Directors. In fact, on July 15, 2021, TRSWA's Board of Directors named its new administration building in Jackson in honor of Mr. Summers, who chaired the TRSWA from its inception in December 1992 until he resigned due to health reasons in February 2021.

He received the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest honor, from Gov. Carroll Campbell in 1991. He also received SCAC's President's Cup three times—in 1991, 2004, and 2011.




David K. Summers Jr.

"This touched my heart because that meant to me that he led by example and wanted others to be successful on their journey of serving in leadership roles for the association," Summers said when learning about her colleague's accomplishments. "Again, he was a mentor to many of us."

Mr. Summers was born in Orangeburg on May 16, 1940, son of the late David Keener Summers and Frances Olivia Bardin Summers. He was predeceased in 2021 by his wife, Nancy Griffith Summers, and daughters, Kathryn Summers Cherup and Ashley Summers Harvey.

He was co-owner of the Golden Kernel Pecan Company, a member of the National Pecan Shellers Board of Directors, and served in the Army Reserves. He graduated from Cameron High School in 1958, and the University of South Carolina in 1962.

Mr. Summers served as past president of the St. Matthews Rotary Club and Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Dantzler Masonic Lodge, Orangeburg Elks Club, Commander of St. Matthew American Legion Post 12 and the Sons of the American Revolution Battle of Eutaw Springs Chapter. He also served on the USC Board of Visitors. He was an active member of Cameron Southern Methodist Church, serving on the Board of Stewards and as a member of the Board of Trustees Church Camp S&M properties.

Each year, SCAC presents the President's Cup, one of the association's oldest awards that debuted in 1975, to honor the county official who has merited special recognition for service to county governments and assistance to the association's president upon completion of his or her one-year term. 



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To just learn more about advertising in SCAC's publications, contact Stuart Morgan at (803) 252-7255 or [smorgan@scac.sc](mailto:smorgan@scac.sc).

The extended advertising deadline for the next issue of *County Focus Magazine*, the spring issue (Vol. 34, No. 1), is **April 15**. The advertising deadline for the 2024 *Directory of County Officials* will be announced in October.

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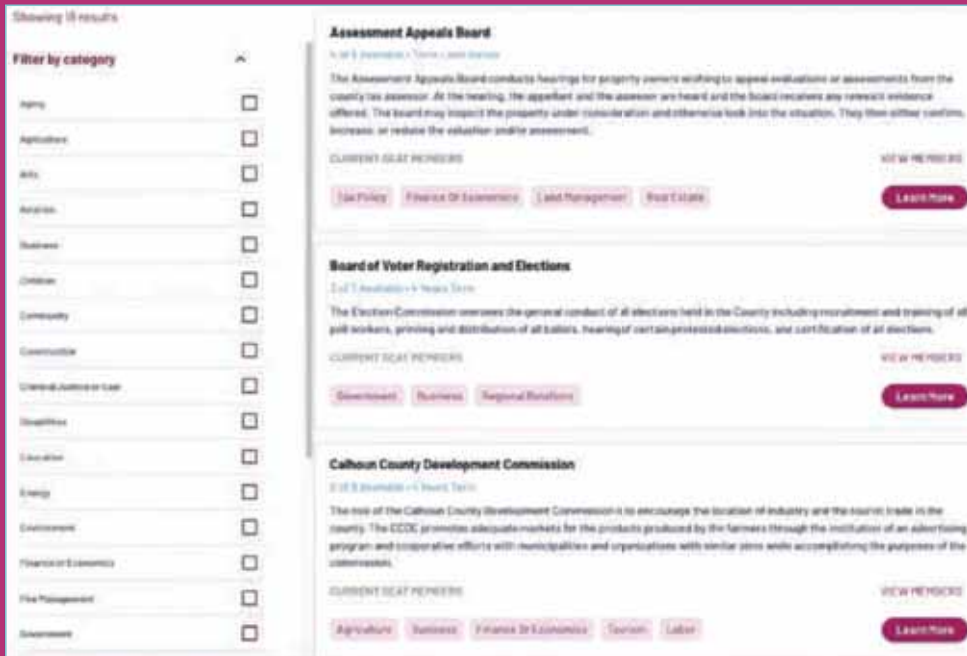
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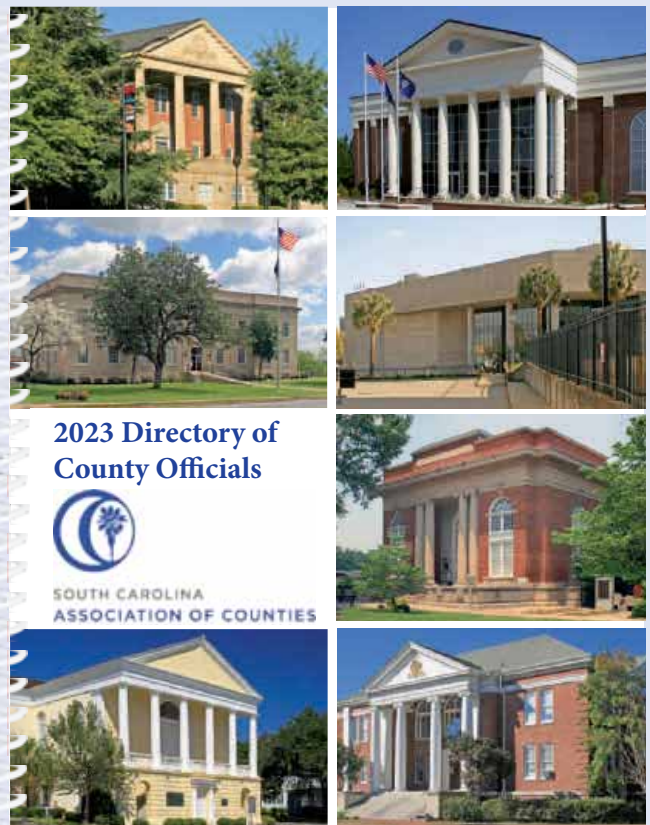
# SCAC's *2023 Directory of County Officials*

SCAC's *2023 Directory of County Officials* will be published and distributed in March. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

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# A Roadside Guide to Greenwood County

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

By Alexia Jones Helsley

**Greenwood County**, established in 1897, is one of South Carolina's newer counties.

Nevertheless, the area has a long and significant history. During the French and Indian War, settlers moved into the area and claimed land that later became the village of Ninety-Six on the Cherokee Path. The Cherokee Path connecting the capital of Charlestown with the Cherokee Nation made Ninety-Six an important destination and way station for traders, entrepreneurs, and defensive initiatives.

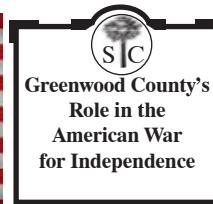
After the Regulation movement, Ninety-Six was one of the new court districts created to bring law and order to the backcountry. The town of Ninety-Six was the administrative and judicial center for the new district. When war broke out between the colonists and the Mother Country, Ninety-Six was a prosperous village with a courthouse and jail and a fort for protection.

During the tumultuous years of the American Revolution, Greenwood was the site of a number of important battles and skirmishes. Several involved the judicial center of Ninety-Six. For example, in July 1775, according to J. L. Lewis, Loyalists under the command of Captain Moses Kirkland and Colonel Thomas Fletchall seized control of the fort at Ninety-Six and temporarily jailed Major James Mayson of the SC Third Regiment of Rangers. From this point, British and Patriot forces repeatedly clashed for control of the strategically significant site.

In the fall of 1775, the situation in the capital of Charlestown became more difficult. Loyalists seized a supply of ammunition and gunpowder enroute to the Cherokee. As a result, the Council of Safety dispatched Col. Richard Richardson to recover the gunpowder and arrest Loyalist leaders. While he was organizing his men to march to the Backcountry of South Carolina, Major Andrew Williamson heard of the seizure and marched with 500-600 volunteers to Ninety-Six arriving November 16.

### The Siege of Ninety-Six, November 19 – 21, 1775

Once there, Williamson surveyed the area and decided to erect a make-shift fortification on the plantation of John Savage. Williamson had three swivel guns at his disposal and wanted a clear area to enhance the guns' effectiveness. His troops created a stockade using animal hides and split-rail fences and fortified Savage's barn. While these



activities were underway, Major James Mayson arrived with reinforcements, but no water, and a much larger Loyalist force (1000-2000) under the commander of Captain Robert Cunningham and Major Joseph Robinson surrounded the hastily constructed fort. There was sporadic activity until November 21, when the Patriots short of gunpowder and water, agreed to a cessation of hostilities and withdrew.

Unfortunately, during the conflict, South Carolina Patriots suffered their first casualty—James Birmingham of the Long Cane militia. His memorial at Ninety-Six, states “The first South Carolinian to give his life in the cause of freedom.” The siege, the first land battle in the South, ended in a stalemate.

Later in the fall, December 23-30, Colonel Richardson and his troops arrived in the backcountry. Known as the “Snow Campaign,” Richardson's force temporarily subdued Loyalist activity. He arrested several key Loyalists whom he sent, under guard, to Charlestown.

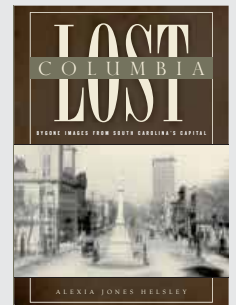
Consequently, with the defeat of the Cherokee and temporary pacification of the Loyalists, the district and village saw little action.

*(Continued on next page)*

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

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

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





Nevertheless, after the British implemented their “Southern Strategy” and captured Charlestown in May 1780, the Patriot commander at Ninety-Six surrendered the fort to the British. The British, cognizant of the village’s strategic importance, upgraded the fort there, and Ninety-Six became an important center for Loyalist activity.

Patriots, such as James Thurston, were also imprisoned there. In 1791, Thurston petitioned the South Carolina General Assembly for a pension. He bitterly complained “that his punishment was much greater than he had reason to expect from a Civiliz’d people.” He contracted smallpox and lacking proper care and supplies lost sight in both eyes. The State of South Carolina granted Thurston a pension. His is just one of many stories that illustrate the trials and challenges of life in Revolutionary South Carolina.

In early 1781, Patriot victories at Kings Mountain and Cowpens and the dynamic leadership of Major General Nathanael Greene, the new commander of the Continental Army in the South, altered the situation. Charles, Lord Cornwallis, led a British army into North Carolina. Greene and Cornwallis clashed at Guilford Courthouse. Although the British won the victory, losses of manpower and supplies drove Cornwallis northward into Virginia. Rather than pursuing him, Greene and his army returned to South Carolina determined to retake control of the state. He worked with partisan leaders such as Thomas Sumter and Francis Marion and successfully reduced British control of the Midlands of South Carolina.

## The Siege of Ninety-Six, May 21 – June 19, 1781

In May, Greene with his chief engineer, Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko arrived at Ninety-Six. In 1778, the Polish-born Kosciuszko traveled to America to enlist in the Continental Army. After the Revolution, Kosciuszko returned to Poland and fought for Polish independence.


At Ninety-Six, they encountered the virtually impregnable Star Fort. Colonel John Harris Cruger, a New York Loyalist born in Jamaica, Commander, First Battalion of DeLancey’s Brigade had charge of the fort. In June 1780, Cornwallis ordered Cruger to Ninety-Six. He arrived in August and began to upgrade existing fortifications and build new ones, such as the Star Fort. Because of his loyalty to the Crown, Cruger lost his property in New York, emigrated to Great Britain, and later died in London.

Green began the siege on May 22, 1781, with approximately 1,000 men, and it lasted until June 18, 1781. It was perhaps the longest siege of the American Revolution. The Loyalists defenders, although fewer in number – 500-600 – had the Star Fort to protect them. This earthen fort is among the best-preserved 18th century fortifications in the United States. The fort, now part of Ninety-Six National Historic Site, is original.

Lt. Henry Haldane designed the eight-point fort to allow firing in all directions. At the time of the siege, the walls of fort were probably 14-foot tall with sandbags atop. There were sniper attacks to limit the fort’s access to water, attempts by both sides to set fires, artillery barrages, and unsuccessful tunneling efforts. Siege trenches were dug and a 30-foot Maham tower built, so Greene’s troops could fire into the fort.

On June 18, a courageous group of 50 – known as the Forlorn Hope due to their extremely hazardous mission – launched an attack on the fort. Fire from Maham tower supported the attackers. But as the men ran forward, a large group of Loyalists ran from the fort and surrounded the men. Hand-to-hand combat ensued, and after 45 minutes, Major General Greene called off the assault. Only 20 of the Forlorn Hope survived the attack. Cruger refused to surrender or to allow a cease fire to bury the dead.

Many Patriots died during the siege and among the injured was Kosciuszko who ignominiously was bayoneted in his rump while inspecting a trench near the Star Fort. Fearing the arrival of reinforcements, Greene ended the siege and left.

The siege was not the victory Greene wanted, but the tide of war had turned, and the British could no longer defend such a far-flung outpost. Cruger allowed area Loyalists to pack up their belongings, and then burned the town of Ninety-Six and marched away. The Patriots controlled Ninety-Six and the Carolina Backcountry. 





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*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	<b>Horry</b>
Anderson	Jasper
Bamberg	Kershaw
Barnwell	Lancaster
Beaufort	Laurens
Berkeley	Lee
Calhoun	<b>Lexington</b>
<b>Charleston</b>	Marion
Cherokee	Marlboro
Chester	McCormick
<b>Chesterfield</b>	Newberry
Clarendon	Oconee
Colleton	Orangeburg
Darlington	Pickens
Dillon	Richland
Dorchester	Saluda
Edgefield	Spartanburg
Fairfield	Sumter
Florence	Union
<b>Georgetown</b>	Williamsburg
Greenville	York

## Charleston County

● Striped Pig Distillery, LLC, a woman-owned and family-operated distillery, announced plans on Dec. 12 to expand operations in Charleston County. The company will invest \$10 million and create more than 50 new jobs. Known as Charleston's first distillery since Prohibition, Striped Pig Distillery specializes in crafting Southern-style spirits including bourbon, gin, rum, organic vodka and flavored iterations of each spirit. Located at 2225 Old School Drive in North Charleston, Striped Pig Distillery's expansion will add 24,000 square feet to its existing facility to accommodate a new bottling line and event space. The expansion will be completed by summer 2023.

● Metal Trades, Inc., a family-owned steel and metal manufacturer, announced plans on Dec. 2 to expand its operations in Charleston County. The company's \$14.4 million investment will create 64 new jobs. Founded in 1962, Metal Trades, Inc. is a heavy steel fabricator that serves the marine industry, specializing in steel and sheet metal fabrication for commercial and government markets. The company's broad portfolio includes steel processing, fabrication, welding, piping, machining, electrical installation, blasting

and painting. Located at 4194 Highway 165 in Meggett, Metal Trades, Inc.'s expansion includes the construction of a new facility on its campus. The expansion will allow the company to build components and fixtures in-house for the United States Navy.

● ZELTWANGER LP, an innovative machine technology company, announced plans on Nov. 29 to expand its operations in Charleston County. The company's \$12.5 million investment will create 24 new jobs. Headquartered in Germany, ZELTWANGER LP is a leading manufacturing service provider for highly complex and precise machine parts worldwide. The company assembles and manufactures machine products and serves a wide portfolio of industries including plant engineering, automotive, e-mobility, medical technology, automation technology, the packaging industry, and the aerospace industry. Relocating within the county to 9551 Palmetto Commerce Parkway in North Charleston, ZELTWANGER LP's new facility will accommodate additional production due to increased demand in the Charleston area. The expansion is expected to be completed by the first half of 2023.

● Charleston County Economic Development Director **Steve Dykes** received the Order of the Palmetto during the annual Economic Development Industry Appreciation luncheon on Feb. 8. The award recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding service to the state of South Carolina. Dykes

has served as the director of Charleston County Economic Development since the inception of the department in 1993. Over the last 30 years, he has spearheaded the county's recruitment, retention, and expansion efforts, leveraging more than \$6.8 billion in capital investment and the creation of more than 39,000 jobs within Charleston County.

● The Charleston County Coroner's Office was recently awarded \$625,212 in grant funds by the Lowcountry Healthcare Coalition through a grant from the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response. Funds will be used to develop a tri-county plan for the set-up and operation of a Family Assistance Center in the event of a mass casualty event, to purchase a forensic radiology system, and to purchase a point of care toxicology analyzer. This analyzer will provide immediate drug testing results and real-time data to the coroner's office, law enforcement and medical providers. This information will be used to impact the opioid epidemic with real-time data as it relates to fatal drug overdoses. The mission of the Lowcountry Healthcare Coalition is to support local healthcare organizations and encourage partnerships with response agencies as well as regional community partners to adequately plan and respond to man-made or natural hazard emergencies.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Chesterfield County

● Palmetto Pride Board Member **Jane Pigg** presented permanent litter bags to Sheriff **James Dixon** in October for all the county deputy vehicles. Pigg also presented County Administrator **Tim Eubanks** a litter bag for every county vehicle. The litter bags were given by Palmetto Pride, which fights litter

in South Carolina, addressing prevention through education, supporting enforcement, connecting community groups to resources and mobilizing volunteers.

## Georgetown County

● Sheriff **Carter Weaver** hosted a “Sheriff’s Community Forum: The Opioid and Fentanyl Crisis in Georgetown County” on Oct.

11 and 13. The forum featured a panel of experts from the medical community, law enforcement, the school district and addiction treatment who shared the real damage the opioid epidemic is inflicting in the community.

● A highway in the Pleasant Hill community was named to honor former long-time Georgetown County Sheriff **A. Lane Cribb** on Sept. 22. The new road sign was unveiled near the intersection of County Line Road and Pleasant Hill Dr. (Hwy. 513). Cribb’s family and friends, and local officials, including current Sheriff **Weaver**, gathered for the ceremony and a reception afterward at the Pleasant Hill Community Center.

Cribb, 73, served as county sheriff from 1992 until his death in Sept. 2019.

● Georgetown County Public Information Officer **Jackie Broach** recently won a 2022 Award of Excellence in Photography from the National Association of County Information Officers. **Broach** received the professional designation of “Public Information Officer” (PIO) on Dec. 5 from The Commission on Professional Credentialing. Broach is one of only 17 PIOs worldwide to hold this designation, and is the first PIO in South Carolina to receive it.

● The Georgetown County Library held a groundbreaking ceremony on January 12 to begin renovating and expanding its main branch on Cleland Street. The project, which began on Feb. 1 and is expected to take a year to complete, will be funded as follows: \$869,425, capital sales tax; \$568,502, American Rescue Plan Act; and \$1.4 million, bequested by the late **Jean Flournoy Moody**, a library patron who participated extensively in library programs.

● The Georgetown County Board of Elections and Voter Registration recognized retiring board member **Billy Altman** on Jan. 11 for 20 years of service. The January meeting was Altman’s last as a board member. He and his wife are moving to Columbia.

● **Michelle LaRocco**, manager of the Georgetown County Environmental Services Division, has been appointed to the S.C. Recycling Market Development Advisory Council by **Gov. Henry McMaster**. The 14-member council advises on building the growth of the state’s recycling industry and makes recycling market program recommendations to the governor and General Assembly each year. It supports the economic growth of the state’s recycling industry through building recycling markets, increasing material

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recovery and promoting the recycling value chain. LaRocco, employed by Georgetown County since Dec. 2017, received her Masters of Environmental Management degree from Duke University and also studied environmental biology at Barnard College. She also participated in the American Public Works Association's Emerging Leaders Academy in

2019.

● **Aaron Bostic** was recently hired as the new assistant fire chief for Georgetown County Fire-EMS, taking over for retiring assistant chief **Tony Hucks**. Bostic has served at Midway Fire-Rescue since 2015 where he rose through the ranks to lieutenant.

(See County Update, P. 47)



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

## Conference Calendar

**2023**


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

**Sept. 21 ..... Continuing Education Update for Risk Managers**  
 Wild Dunes, Isle of Palms

**Oct. 18 ..... Institute of Government**  
**Oct. 19 ..... County Council Coalition**  
 Embassy Suites, Columbia

**Nov. 17 ..... S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute**  
 (USC Alumni Center)

**Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 ..... Legislative Conference**  
 AC Hotel, Greenville



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Conference Calendar**

**Annual Conference**  
**Austin, Texas**  
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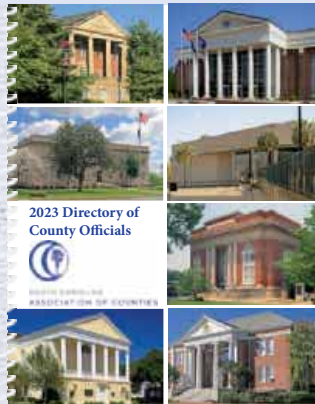
## SCAC's 2023 Directory of County Officials

SCAC's 2023 Directory of County Officials will be published and distributed in March. So, order a copy if you want to know "Who's Who" in South Carolina county government.

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

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

- To order your copy of the 2023 Directory of County Officials, please contact:



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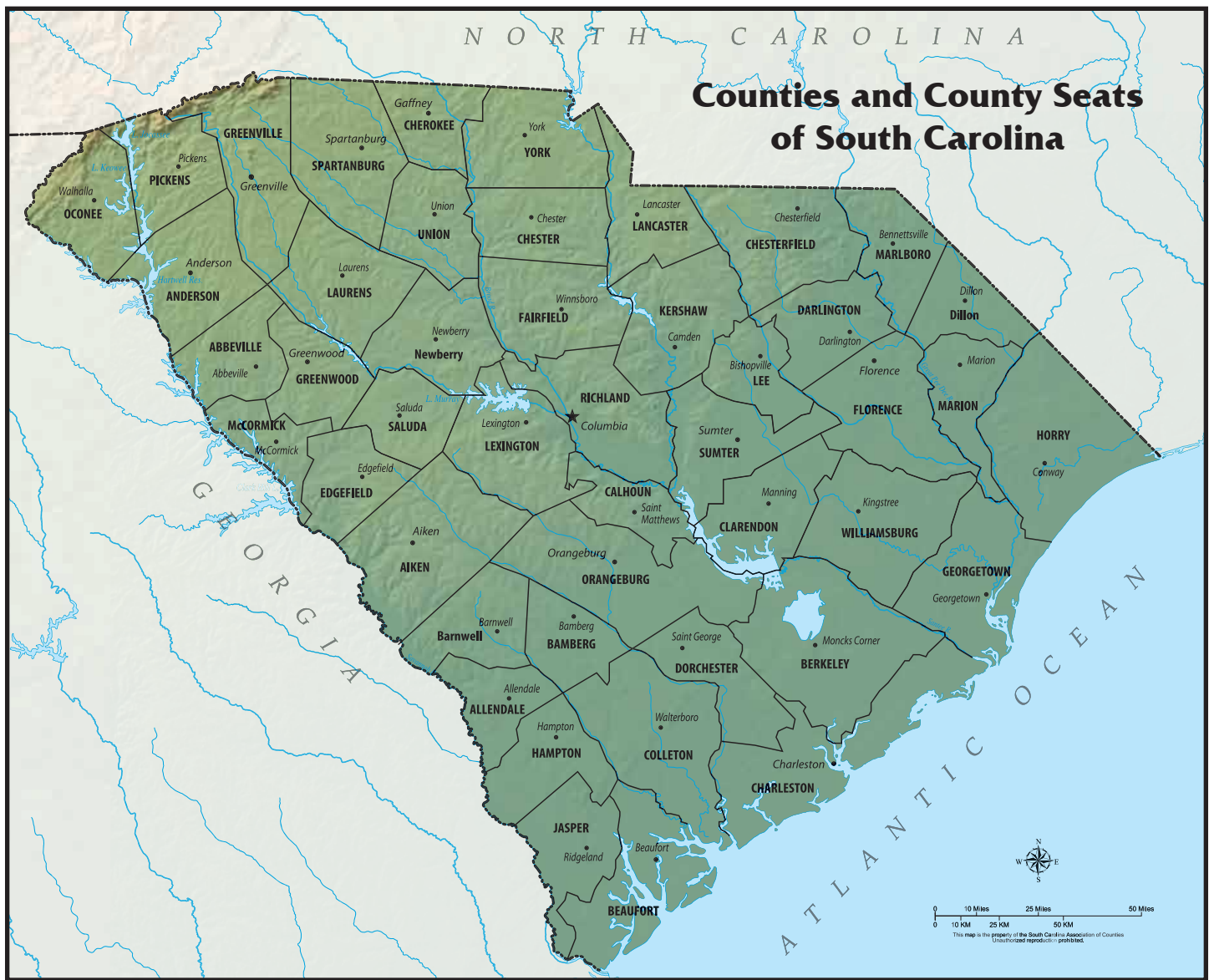
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### County Update ... (Continued from P. 45)

- Georgetown County government has—for the fifth consecutive year—received the highest form of recognition available in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The county's Finance Department was presented with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The award was presented by the Government Finance Officers Association for the county's most recent comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

- **Karen Worzalla**, senior accountant with the Georgetown County Finance De-

partment, was named Georgetown County's Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2022. She has been employed by the county for nine years.

- **Brian Ullom** was recognized by Georgetown County Council on Jan. 10 as the county's Manager of the Year. Ullom is Division Chief of Training for Georgetown County Fire-EMS. He manages 62 career and 78 volunteer firefighters and EMTs. He maintains and holds many certifications as a firefighter, paramedic and instructor.

- Midway Fire Rescue Master Firefighter-Paramedic **Niki Crippen** was recognized on Jan. 10 by Georgetown County Council for her volunteer service. She was named the County's Employee Volunteer of the Year for the many hours she dedicates each year as a

counselor and mentor for Camp Can Do, a summer camp cosponsored by the Burned Children's Fund and the MUSC Pediatric Burn Center.

- Sheriff **Weaver** recently recognized employees of the year for 2022. MSgt. **James Ketcham** was named Deputy of the Year. **Leslie Horton** was named Telecommunicator of the Year. Cpl. **Priscilla Anderson** was named Detention Officer of the Year. Sheriff Weaver also recognized four employees of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office for their work in recent incidents: Deputies **Tanner Ard** and **Cody Barlow**, Tele-Communicator **Maggie Naas** and Detention Center Civilian Staff Assistant **Juan Diaz-Reyes**.

(Continued on next page)

## Horry County

- Horry County Fire Rescue held a groundbreaking ceremony on Dec. 1 to begin


construction of a new community fire station, HCFR Station 4, in the Forestbrook area. Horry County council members and other community speakers spoke.

- The Horry County Solid Waste Authority celebrated America Recycles Day on November 15 at Aynor Building Supply.

unemployment rates in the Palmetto State. The Annual Report features descriptions of several of the companies that have moved or expanded here in the past 12 months, ranging from weight-training equipment manufacturing to health food supplemental ingredients to pontoon boats and a new South Carolina field office for the FBI. View the Annual Report here or view by visiting [www.LexingtonCountyUSA.com](http://www.LexingtonCountyUSA.com).

- **SCAC President Debra Summers**, Lexington County Council Member, presided over SCAC's Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day on Feb. 22 at the USC Alumni Center in Columbia.

After a legislative briefing at 10 a.m., Summers led more than 200 county officials representing 42 of South Carolina's 46 counties to the State House while the House and Senate were in session so they could talk with their legislative delegation members and advocate for their counties. Summers and all other county officials were later recognized by the House.

The conference—featuring presentations by the S.C. Department of Transportation, National Association of Counties, and the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce—continued in the afternoon at the USC Alumni Center. 

## Lexington County

- The County of Lexington Department of Economic Development announced on Oct. 20 that it had released its Annual Report, highlighting a year of significant growth and the groundwork being laid for continued expansion. The report noted that 13 announcements in the past 12 months have resulted in commitments of \$448.7 million in capital investment and 1,107 new jobs in a county that already regularly boasts some of the highest job growth and lowest



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Charter Spectrum.....	34	PROVAL Property Valuation and Analytics.....	9
Colonial Life.....	17	PUBLIQ Software – A Springbrook Company.....	4
Corporate Pharmacy Services, Inc.....	9	Ramey Kemp Associates.....	10
Cumming Management Group, Inc.....	10	Santee Cooper.....	27
Custom Tree Care Inc.....	4	SCAC's 2023 Awards Competition.....	5
Dominion Energy.....	35	SCAC's Corporate Partnership Program.....	18 & 19
ECS Southeast LLP.....	46	SCAC'S Social Media.....	34
Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina.....	Inside-Front Cover	SCAC's Website.....	20
Fleettalk.....	32	Segra.....	44
GovWorld Auctions.....	29	SC Power Team.....	30
Hidden History of Greenville County.....	43	SSOE   Stevens & Wilkinson.....	41
Lost Columbia.....	39	Stewart-Cooper-Newell Architects.....	31
MatchBoard.....	37	THC, Inc.....	10
NACo – Cybersecurity for Counties.....	36	Thomas & Hutton.....	40
New SCAC/NACo Online Leadership Academy.....	42	The Felkel Group.....	17
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