

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman
August 4, 2007
South Carolina Association of Counties

Good morning. On behalf of Beaufort County Council, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to Paradise.

I am proud to say that Hilton Head Island is internationally known as one of the world's finest resort destinations. While you are here, I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to play some golf or tennis, visit our beaches, restaurants, shops and galleries, see our natural and historic landmarks, rent a kayak and travel up and down our waterways, tour our dolphin breeding grounds and wildlife habitat areas, and generally have a good ol' time and spend lots of money.

There is also history in the charming village of Old Town Bluffton, just off the island, and great shopping at the outlet malls between Bluffton and Hilton Head. The federal Pinckney Island Wildlife Preserve is just off island over the Hilton Head bridge. In the City of Beaufort, 45 minutes to the north, you will find the finest examples of antebellum architecture anywhere and a rich history going back to pre-revolutionary days., a bit further up the road at Penn Center on St. Helena Island there is an African American museum and the historic campus of one of the first black schools in the south. There Martin Luther King, Jr. penned some of his famous works.

There is much to do and see and we encourage you to relax and enjoy yourselves here in our corner of the state. Those of us who call Beaufort County home feel truly blessed and we want to share this blessing with you.

I would like to thank the South Carolina Association of Counties for selecting Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County again this year for the annual conference. You all keep coming back year after year and I take that to mean you like us. Please know that we like you too and we certainly welcome your visit and look forward to your return.

Again, have a great time while you're here and spend lots of money!

Thank you!