

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman
August 2012
SCAC Annual Conference

Good morning. On behalf of Beaufort County Council, it is my great pleasure to welcome you back – for the 24th year – to Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County. It is my wish that each of you will accept our sincere and heartfelt welcome.

It is a privilege and an honor to be the host county for this event. We appreciate all that you do for your home districts and for all the people of South Carolina. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the South Carolina Association of Counties for visiting us again this year.

Every year since you first came here in 1988, I have stood before you and welcomed you to my special part of the world. I am sure I speak for all elected representatives in Beaufort County when I tell you that we are extremely pleased to have been chosen by your organization for this important annual event. Thank you for selecting us time and again for your annual conference.

Those of us who serve in county and municipal offices are proud to represent the people of this great region. We are also proud of what we have to offer you in the way of recreation and entertainment and encourage each of you to take advantage of the many opportunities to enjoy yourselves here. We have beautiful white sand beaches, golf, tennis, swimming, and great restaurants. We have fascinating history tours, kayak rentals, dolphin tours and nightclubs. There is also the federal Pinckney Island Wildlife refuge, where you can hike the trails and see Lowcountry nature at its finest and wildest.

Just across the bridge in Bluffton, we have discount shopping malls where the bargains are plentiful and an historic downtown Bluffton known for its uniquely individual state of mind. The historic antebellum town of Beaufort is also worth a day trip 45-minutes to the north. From there you can visit St. Helena Island – where the Gullah Culture thrives today -- and Penn Center with its African American museum. Penn was one of the first black schools in the south, a sanctuary for Dr. Martin Luther King Junior during the Civil Rights era.

We love our little corner of the South Carolina Lowcountry and hope you will love it, too, and that you will take the time to explore it and enjoy it. When you will do – it will be easy to see why Beaufort County and Hilton Head Island attract more than 1-million visitors each year. Tourism is a major sector of our local economy and we love visitors. We have learned what draws them here and how to make them happy. We want you to be happy during your stay as well.

Have a wonderful time! Please come back and see us again next year.