

D. Paul Sommerville
August 1, 2017
SCAC 50th Annual Conference

Good morning and happy anniversary! We sure look good to be 50! If the adage is true, we are not getting old, but we are getting wiser and better than ever with age!

I am Paul Sommerville, Chairman of Beaufort County Council. On behalf of my colleagues, other local elected officials, staff and residents, we are honored and pleased to have you with us on Hilton Head Island in beautiful Beaufort County.

You all keep coming back year after year and we take that to mean you really like us. Please know that we like you too and we certainly welcome your visit and look forward to your return.

We also hope that you have been enjoying the area and this wonderful conference. Mike Cone and his team always do a great job of keeping us up-to-date with information and resources to lead and serve our communities and keep them strong. Let's give our SCAC team a huge round of applause for all the great work they do for us every day and for putting together this event.

Let's also give a round of applause to those graduating this morning from Levels 1 and 2 of the Institute of Government for county officials.

For 50 years this Association has helped county officials to give others and our respective communities 18,250 days of service. We are at the front line of what is impacting our state. Regardless of geography or political affiliations, we all know what it means to govern and make tough choices with the common goal of creating and sustaining great communities for current and future generations.

South Carolina is a wonderful place and we are truly blessed to live here. The state of our state is good, but we are challenged to maintain, enhance and improve conditions in South Carolina.

Our gathering represents a golden opportunity for us as local leaders to continue working in partnership for statewide strength. I hope this conference has inspired and perhaps revitalized your commitment to service and leadership that will show in your work for your county and the residents of South Carolina. Please continue the good work that you do and utilize the rest of your time here to foster relationships and dialogue that will help you to better serve your county.

Again, many thanks to the Association and to all of you for your commitment to your county and the people of our state.