



Risk Management Services Conference: Preparedness in Practice: Protecting People, Property and Progress

South Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust and South Carolina Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund

August 25 – 27, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Downtown
1200 Pickens St.,
Columbia, SC

Meeting Information

The three-day conference will feature motivational speaker Shellie Forney, whose daughter was tragically killed by a distracted driver. Municipal Association of SC advocacy staff will discuss legislation that could impact members of the SC Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund and SC Municipal Insurance Trust. Additional topics will include first amendment auditors, sovereign citizens, reducing risk when terminating employees, a workers' compensation commission update and a cybersecurity panel. Meteorologist Tim Miller will also present on changing weather patterns in South Carolina.

The SC Municipal Insurance Trust and SC Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund strongly encourage risk management staff to attend. Attendance at all three sessions will count toward the risk self-assessment requirement for SCMIT and SCMIRF members. For Risk Management Institute participants, attendance at all of the sessions will also count as an RMI elective and core credit.

Agenda

August 25

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Registration
2:00 – 2:10 p.m.	Welcome
2:10 – 3:10 p.m.	Risk Management Ice Breaker
3:10 – 4:10 p.m.	Distracted Driving
4:10 – 4:15 p.m.	Adjourn (Dinner on Your Own)

**South Carolina
Municipal
Insurance
Trust Board of
Trustees**

Shawn Bell
City of Fountain
Inn
Chair

Allison Gantte
City of Clemson
Vice-Chair

Mark Aakhus
Town of Edisto
Beach

Janet Bethea
City of Dillon

Steven Huffles
City of Lancaster

Pamela Otto
Town of Sullivan's
Island

Blake Stone
City of Abbeville

Shannon Tanner
City of Florence

Ashley Watkins
Town of
Springdale

**South Carolina
Municipal
Insurance
and Risk
Financing
Fund Board of
Trustees**

Shaun Greenwood
City of Forest
Acres
Chair

**Andrew
Strickland**
City of Anderson
Vice-Chair

Lee Bailey
City of Woodruff

Kevin Cornett
City of Isle of
Palms

Charles Cribb
City of Georgetown

Daniel P. Moore
City of Hartsville

Howie Owens
City of Sumter

Neil Parsons
City of Hardeeville

Rob Wolfe
Town of Cheraw



Risk Management Services

August 26

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.	Legislative Update
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.	First Amendment Auditors and Sovereign Citizens
11:30 a.m. – noon	Act 218 Law Enforcement Betterment Bill Audit Update
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and Exhibitor Ice Cream Social
1:30 – 2:15 p.m.	Reducing Risk When Terminating an Employee
2:15 – 3:00 p.m.	Changing Weather Patterns in South Carolina
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Break
3:15 – 4:00 p.m.	Workers' Compensation Commission Update
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Policies and Procedures for Public Works
4:30 – 4:45 p.m.	Adjourn (Dinner of Your Own)

August 27

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.	Cybersecurity Panel – Lessons Learned From a Cyber Breach
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.	Best Practices in Performance Management
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m. – noon	Safety Game
Noon – 12:15 p.m.	Adjourn



Speakers

Bob Bianco, Policy Evaluator, SC Criminal Justice Academy

Bob Bianco is a policy evaluator with the Legal Unit at SCCJA. He attended Eastern Kentucky University majoring in police administration and minoring in business. Bianco began his career as a patrolman for the City of Pewee Valley. He later joined Oldham County Police Department and held the positions of patrolman, detective, SWAT operator and sergeant of detectives. He was selected as the agency's 1994 officer of the year, and selected to attend the 1995 FBI National Academy training in Quantico, Virginia, Session 180. In 1996, he joined the FBI as a special agent. He retired from the FBI while holding the role of applicant coordinator and intern program coordinator in 2022.

Cynthia Dooley, Commission, SC Workers' Compensation Commission

Cynthia C. Dooley graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of South Carolina in 1978. She worked for Aetna Casualty & Surety as a senior claims representative for 13 years. She then graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1997 and joined the insurance defense firm of Turner Padgett, where she worked for 25 years specializing in workers' compensation defense. She also became a certified mediator in 2007 and was inducted into the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals in 2022. Dooley was appointed by Gov. Henry McMaster to the SC Workers' Compensation Commission as a Commissioner in 2022. She is the first person to hold the position as a commissioner that has previous experience as a workers' compensation insurance adjuster and workers' compensation defense attorney. She served as the chair of the workers' compensation section of the SC Bar from 2021 – 2022. Dooley currently serves on the board of directors for the SC Workers' Compensation Educational Association, Southern Association of Workers' Compensation Administrators and National Association of Workers' Compensation Judiciary.

Casey Fields, Director of Advocacy, Municipal Association of SC

Fields joined the Association in 2006. She oversees the advocacy department. Prior to becoming the director of advocacy, she served as the manager of municipal advocacy and was responsible for the Association's grassroots strategy for legislative issues and was the organization's primary contact with the news media. Before joining the Association, she was the legislative liaison at South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness and advocacy and public awareness coordinator at the SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Fields is a graduate of the College of Charleston and holds a master's degree from the University of South Carolina in social work and public administration.

Shelley Forney, Motivational Speaker

Shelley Forney is a renowned presenter who shares impactful stories about the dangers of distracted driving. In 2008, her life and the lives of her family were changed forever. This motivated her to become an advocate and speaker for distracted driving awareness. She presents powerful talks, educating audiences about the risks of electronics and other distractions behind the wheel. Through storytelling and statistics, Forney inspires change in driving habits and safety policies. She has advocated for stronger distracted driving laws and provided key testimony to support legislation. Forney's passion for this cause is fueled by her profound personal loss. Though still devastated, she finds purpose in potentially lifesaving outreach. Forney's dedication to awareness makes her an influential voice for distracted driving reform.



Desirée Fragoso, Field Services Manager, Municipal Association of SC

Desirée Fragoso joined the Association in 2025. She previously served as the assistant city administrator and then city administrator at the City of Isle of Palms. She also worked at the Joseph P. Riley Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston and the City of San Juan Federal Affairs Office. Fragoso received her Master of Public Administration from the College of Charleston and her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Political Science from the University of Puerto Rico. She is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Allison Gantte, Deputy City Administrator, City of Clemson

Alli Gantte has served as deputy city administrator for the City of Clemson since 2021. Previously, she was the town administrator for Pacolet, SC. Gantte holds degrees in Public Administration from the University of Tennessee and East Tennessee State University. She is involved in numerous professional organizations and in 2024 was recognized as a Top Influencer in Local Government and a SC Women in Business award recipient. Gantte has served on the SC Municipal Insurance Trust Board since 2023.

Shellie Haroski, Senior HR Consultant, Find Great People

Shellie Haroski joined FGP's Consulting Division in 2010 and has over 25 years of solutions-oriented HR experience. Her areas of expertise include employee engagement surveys, organizational design, talent acquisition, performance management, HR best practices and legal and regulatory compliance. Haroski brings wide experience across a diverse range of industries including manufacturing, nonprofit, local government, financial and professional services. Prior to joining FGP, she served as an HR Manager for companies responsible for talent selection and development, compensation and employee engagement.

Haroski received a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a double concentration in management and finance. She received her Senior Professional in HR certification from the Human Resources Certification Institute and her SPHR-SPC from the Society of HR Management. She also received her Registered Corporate Coach designation in 2018.

Leonard Larkin, Information Technology Manager, Town of Summerville

Lenny Larkin has served as the information technology manager for the Town of Summerville for over 18 years. In this role, he leads with a forward-thinking approach that ensures the town's infrastructure is secure and efficient. He is a Certified Information Security Manager. Larkin currently serves as the vice president of the Municipal Technology Association of SC, helping cities and towns across the state leverage technology to better serve their communities.

Tim Miller, Chief Meteorologist, University of Florida and Director of Florida Public Radio Emergency Network and the South Carolina Emergency Information Network

Tim Miller currently serves as chief meteorologist of the University of Florida and Director of Florida Public Radio Emergency Network and the South Carolina Emergency Information Network. Miller leads the production and delivery of weather and public safety content through WUFT-TV, WRUF-TV, WUFT-FM, WRUF-AM, WRUF-FM, FPREN stations, South Carolina emergency information network, associated websites and affiliates. He is responsible for strategic relationships and collaboration with governmental weather and public safety entities on a local, state and national level and establishing the FPREN strategic direction for content-creation and coordination with Florida public media stations. Miller previously held meteorologist positions at ABC affiliate WJBF-TV, NBC-affiliate WIS-TV Fox's WACH-TV. He has won five Emmy awards for outstanding weather coverage.

**David Morrison, Attorney, Garfield Spreeuwers Law Group, LLC**

David Morrison is currently an attorney with Garfield Spreeuwers Law Group, LLC. Prior to joining Garfield Spreeuwers, he was the owner of the Morrison Law Firm, LLC in Columbia. He obtained his law degree and his Master of Business Administration from the University of South Carolina, and received his undergraduate degree from Wofford College. He is licensed to practice law in South Carolina and North Carolina. Morrison holds a certification from the state of South Carolina as a civil dispute mediator.

Michael O'Connell, Policy Evaluator, SC Criminal Justice Academy

Michael O'Connell's law enforcement career began at the Newberry Police Department in 1991. He served in the patrol division for 16 years and attained the rank of lieutenant. He later became the training officer/accreditation manager, helping the department gain SC Law Enforcement Accreditation. O'Connell has an associate degree in criminal justice from Piedmont Technical College. He retired from the Newberry Police Department in 2017 after 26 years of service. O'Connell currently serves as a policy evaluator at the SC Criminal Justice Academy.

Bethany Pendley, Loss Control Manager, Municipal Association of SC

Bethany Pendley joined the Association in May 2020 as the loss control manager. Prior to coming to the Association, she worked for MetLife for 22 years in a variety of roles including senior claims adjuster, senior claims supervisor, claims manager and most recently senior business instructor and learning partner. Pendley has a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina, is a licensed property and casualty adjuster, and holds numerous certifications and designations including an Associate in Insurance Services and Associate in Claims from the Insurance Institute of America.

Eric Shytle, General Counsel, Municipal Association of SC

Eric Shytle joined the Association in 2019. He previously worked for the City of Sumter as chief of staff for two years and as general counsel for six years. Prior to working at the City of Sumter, Shytle was an attorney at Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A. for 12 years. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia, his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law, and his master's in public administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Sonji Spann, Director of Claims, SC Workers' Compensation Commission

Sonji Spann is a 1988 graduate of SC State University. Spann started her workers' compensation career at the State Accident Fund in 1988. She is a licensed adjuster and was the claims manager at the State Accident Fund from 2002 – 2014. She joined the SC Workers' Compensation Commission in February 2014 as the Director of the Claims Department.

Fred Williams, Attorney, Bettis Law Group

Fred Williams earned his undergraduate degree from Guilford College. He is a 2005 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law. Williams' legal experience includes handling issues involving race, gender and disability discrimination. He has represented clients, including hospitals and governmental agencies, before the U.S. District Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission. He is a certified specialist in labor and employment law and a member of the Employment and Labor Law Specialization Advisory Board.

**Registration Information**

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Register online by August 5 at www.masc.sc.

Special room rates are available at the Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Columbia. Book online to receive the group rate. The deadline to book at the group rate is August 4. <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/masc-rms-annual-conference-8-25-2025/>

The session room may be cool, so you may want to bring a sweater or jacket.

For special-needs requests, contact Amy Gillian at 803.354.4774 or losscontrol@masc.sc by August 5, and staff will accommodate if possible.

General Information

The SC Municipal Insurance Trust and the SC Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund offer training sessions on a variety of risk management and safety and health topics. The programs also provide members a forum for sharing ideas and staying current on state and federal laws.

Upcoming Meeting

- Defensive Driving Training – September 23, 2025
- Risk Management Services Annual Members Meeting – November 5, 2025

Meeting Location

Monday-Wednesday, August 25 – 27, 2025
Hilton Garden Inn Columbia Downtown
1200 Pickens St.
Columbia, SC 29210

Contact Information

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