

**SCAGPO  
BUYWAYS**

**SCAGPO**  
WANTS TO  
INSPIRE  
**LEADERS**  
IN  
**2025**



**SCAGPO**

South Carolina Association of  
Governmental Purchasing Officials

CHARTERED IN 1978

**NIGP**

The Institute for  
Public Procurement



# SCAGPO BUYWAYS



WELCOME TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING OFFICIALS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, BUYWAYS!

This is the first edition of Buyways for the 2025 Calendar Year.

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Meet SCAGPO's

# 2025 BOARD



***PRESIDENT***

LA TASHA TERRY MBA, CPPO, NIGP-CPP

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***VICE PRESIDENT***

LISA G. VILLEPONTEAUX, MBA, NIGP-  
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***IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT***

WILLIE ATIENZA, NIGP-CPP, CPPB

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Meet SCAGPO's

# 2025 BOARD



**TREASURER**

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**SECRETARY**

TERESA S. LIVINGSTON  
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**DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR**

JO MARIE BROWN, CPPO, CPPB, NIGP-CPP  
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Meet SCAGPO's

# 2025 BOARD



**REGION 1 DIRECTOR**

Ashley Kennedy-Shell

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**REGION 2 DIRECTOR**

Rachel Shelley

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**REGION 3 DIRECTOR**

Holly Morris Park

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**REGION 4 DIRECTOR**

Page Putnam

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**REGION 5 DIRECTOR**

Lillie Hoots

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Meet SCAGPO's

# 2025 BOARD



***Director at Large***

Clarissa Belton, NIGP-CPP, CPPB, CPM  
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***Director at Large***

Denise Badillo, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB  
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***Director at Large***

Georgia Gillens, CPPO, CPPB, NIGP-CPP, CPM  
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***Director at Large***

Mary LaBord Sims  
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***Director at Large***

Sedona Schuehle  
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Meet SCAGPO's  
**2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**



***Awards and Scholarships***

Chair: Jo Marie Brown

e-mail: [awards@scagpo.org](mailto:awards@scagpo.org).

***Certification***

Chair: Shateka Holliday

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***Co-Sponsorship***

Chair: Stephen Pullie

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***Finance***

Chair: Aryanna Dasilva

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***Forum***

Chair: Lawana Robinson-Lee

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Meet SCAGPO's  
**2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**



***Forum***

Co-Chair: Rebecca Dantzler  
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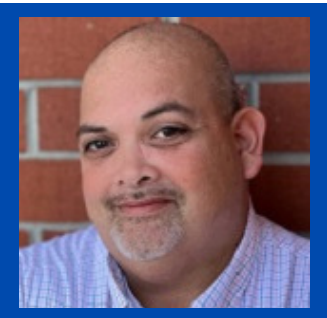
***Historian***

Chair: Jo Marie Brown  
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***Information and Publicity***

Chair: Willie Atienza  
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***Information and Publicity***

Co-Chair: Sedona Schuehle  
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***Relations Officer***

Teresa Livingston  
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Meet SCAGPO's  
**2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**



***Legislative and Resolution***

Chair: Zac Yarbrough

e-mail: [legislative@scagpo.org](mailto:legislative@scagpo.org).

***Legislative and Resolution***

Co-Chair: Daniel Ashley

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***Membership***

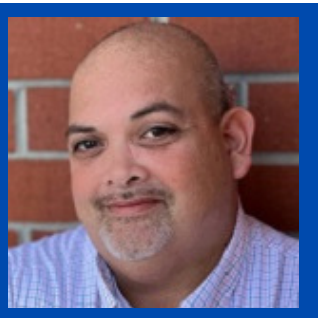
Chair: Shaneka McDaniel-Oliver

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***Membership***

Co-Chair: Corinna Aiken

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***Nominating***

Chair: Willie Atienza

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Meet SCAGPO's  
**2025 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**



***Parliamentarian***

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***Professional Development***

Chair: Dora Robson

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***Professional Development***

Co-Chair: Shirley Drayton

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***Program***

Chair: Lisa Villeponteaux

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***To volunteer with SCAGPO's committees please see the 2025 Volunteer Form on the home page of [www.scagpo.org](http://www.scagpo.org).***

***For a complete list of committees, subcommittees, and their chairpersons, please visit the "Leadership" page of [www.scagpo.org](http://www.scagpo.org), then select "Committee Chairs."***

# 2024 FORUM AWARDEES

## **Hall of Fame Inductee**



Congratulations **Voight Shealy!** Thank you for your 37 years of service to State Procurement, including 2 as CPO, and your dedication to SCAGPO from 1984 until retirement in 2014. Voight dedicated 14 years contributing to SCAGPO's forums, and was a vocal supporter of MBEs promoting their partnership with the State.

## **James H. Barnes Award**

Congratulations **Jo Marie Brown** and thanks for 16 years of dedication to SCAGPO and NIGP. She boasts over 2 decades of private and public procurement experience. She is described as a natural leader who fosters a spirit of teamwork and professionalism. Seek her out through our mentorship program and see just why this was so well deserved!



**The James H. Barnes award is the highest award given to a SCAGPO member.**

# 2024 FORUM AWARDEES

## ***B.D. Bland Distinguished Service Award***



Congratulations **Clarissa Belton!** Clarissa has been a member of SCAGPO since 1993 and exemplified leadership, commitment, and integrity throughout her career. She has held various roles with SCAGPO and embraced the dual pillars of service and certification, striving to advance both her professional development and that of her colleagues.

## ***President's Award***



Congratulations **Sedona Schuehle!** 2024 President Willie Atienza gave this award to Sedona for her willingness to jump in headfirst, assisting any board or committee member with anything that may be needed. She brings fresh new ideas, fostering collaboration between the young professionals and the experienced senior members while keeping the organization relevant and forward-thinking.

# 2024 FORUM AWARDEES

## ***Buyer of the Year***



Congratulations **Nakendra Perry!** She takes on procurement assignments with ease and provides needed guidances to using entities throughout her projects. Nakendra's expertise is sought out and recognized by her peers and across the agencies she serves. She is respected and appreciated for being a responsive and trusted advisor by those she encounters.

Congratulations **Tripp Clark!** Tripp has been an active member of SCAGPO and NIGP for over 30 years. He is a staple at SCAGPO events and is a go-to source of information on agency procurement processes. At the time of SCDEC's split into two agencies, Tripp has been their Procurement Director for 31 years, and is now the Director for the newly formed SCDPH. Tripp was instrumental during the smooth transition of DHEC into two new agencies.

## ***Manager of the Year***



***Visit the Awards & Scholarships page of our website to nominate a SCAGPO member for one of these awards!***

# SCAGPO 2025 BOARD CALENDAR

***Reminder that SCAGPO's board meetings are open to all who want to join! If you're interested in being a board member in the future, please attend one or more of these calendar events to see what the roles entail!***

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
January	15 <sup>th</sup>	Non Mandatory Star Chapter Training	12:00-1:00	Online
February	5 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00 – 1:30	Zoom
February	6 <sup>th</sup>	Board Transition Meeting	9:00 – 2:00	Midland's Tech NE
February	20-22	NIGP Leadership Summit	TBD	Chicago
March	12 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00 – 1:00	Zoom
March	20 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Quarterly Training	8:30 – 5:00	SC State Museum
March	25 <sup>th</sup>	Reverse Trade Show – Columbia	PENDING	PENDING
April	9 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00 – 1:00	Zoom
April	19 <sup>th</sup>	Storage Unit Cleaning Day	10:00-1:00	
April	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Reverse Trade Show – Charleston	PENDING	PENDING
May	7 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00 – 1:00	Zoom
May	TBD	Summer Quarterly Training	8:30 – 5:00	TBD
June	4 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00 – 2:00	Zoom
July	July 27-30	NIGP Forum	TBD	Colorado
August	6 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00 – 1:00	Zoom
August	21 <sup>st</sup>	Young Professional Conference	TBD	Richland 2 District Office
September	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00 – 1:00	Zoom
September	TBD	Fall Quarterly Training	8:30 – 5:00	TBD
October	8 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00 – 1:30	Zoom
November	5 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	12:00 -1:00	Zoom
November	12 <sup>th</sup>	Board Meeting	1:00-2:00	Charleston, SC
November	12 <sup>th</sup>	SCAGPO Annual Forum	TBD	Charleston, SC
November	14 <sup>th</sup>	Membership Meeting	TBD	Charleston, SC
December	TBD	SCAGPO Holiday Luncheon	TBD	TBD
December	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Board Transition Meeting	TBD	TBD

# SPRING 2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE UPCOMING TRAINING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES! SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS.



Presented by Danny Mays,  
CPPO, CPSM, NIGP-CPP!

## MARCH 10

**Lunch & Learn: 12:00 PM - 1:15PM**  
Exploring the Value of Procurement:  
It's NOT Just Purchasing! / Zoom

## MARCH 20

**Spring Quarterly Training: 8:30AM - 5:00PM**  
Spring into Leadership! / SC State  
Museum

## March 25

**REVERSE TRADE SHOW**  
Lexington Municipal Complex

## April 23

**REVERSE TRADE SHOW**  
Charleston Area Convention Center

# FREE WEBINAR SCHEDULE

<b>03/06/2025</b>	<b>Ethics: Ensuring Integrity and Compliance in Procurement</b>
<b>04/03/2025</b>	<b>Negotiation Skills: Achieving Optimal Outcomes</b>
<b>05/01/2025</b>	<b>Team Dynamics: Building High-Performing, Collaborative Teams</b>
<b>06/05/2025</b>	<b>Self-Leadership: Unlocking Personal Potential to Drive Team Success</b>
<b>07/03/2025</b>	<b>Risk Management: Identifying, Assessing, and Mitigating Risks</b>
<b>08/07/2025</b>	<b>Mindfulness and Resilience: Managing Stress in High-Pressure Environments</b>
<b>09/04/2025</b>	<b>Sustainable Procurement: Aligning Procurement with Environmental and Social Responsibility Goals</b>
<b>10/02/2025</b>	<b>Data-Driven Decision Making: Leveraging Analytics for Better Outcomes</b>
<b>11/06/2025</b>	<b>Teamwork and Collaboration: Building High-Performing Teams</b>
<b>12/04/2025</b>	<b>Strategic Leadership: Driving Organizational Success</b>

*Earn FREE certification hours with these webinars provided by the Professional Development Committee!*

*Thank you Lourdes Coss for last month's presentation on Effective Communication!*

**FREE**

# GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION PROCUREMENT MONTH 2025

## State of South Carolina Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, public procurement and fixed asset management professionals support and enhance the delivery of governmental services by promoting ethical purchasing practices; and

WHEREAS, public purchasing involves the management of goods, the establishment of sources and shipping through inventory and warehousing, the disposal of surplus items, and the determination of which product or service to buy to meet a specific need at the lowest possible price within the required deadline without sacrificing quality or service; and

WHEREAS, public purchasing and materials management professionals in South Carolina are dedicated to pursuing efficiency in the operation of government and providing the highest value for taxpayers' dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2025 as

### PROCUREMENT MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many contributions made by public purchasing professionals to the responsible management and monitoring of goods and services.



Handwritten signature of Henry Dargan McMaster in black ink.

HENRY DARGAN McMASTER  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# **PROCUREMENT MONTH 2025**

***It's almost March, the most wonderful time of the year,  
procurement month!***

***This year for procurement month we want to know:  
What does SCAGPO mean to you?***

***Send your response along with a headshot to  
information@scagpo.org to be featured on SCAGPO's social  
media, website, and next quarter's BuyWays!***

***Remember to bring a print out of the Governor's  
Proclamation if you or your team meet with local  
leadership!***

***Time to celebrate! On the next page we have included a  
Procurement Month activity calendar. We'd love to see how  
y'all participate!***



# PROCUREMENT MONTH 2025

## ACTIVITY CALENDAR

### Week 1: Kickoff Week

**Monday, March 3** / Procurement Month Launch Party: Kick-off Procurement Month with an office celebration!

**Tuesday, March 4** / Trivia Tuesday: Test your knowledge with a fun trivia contest focused on procurement policies, industry trends, and best practices.

**Wednesday, March 5** / Mentor Match Program: Pair individuals with experienced procurement professionals to foster knowledge transfer and career guidance.

**Thursday, March 6** / Procurement Training Day: Participate in workshops to enhance professional and procurement skills.

**Friday, March 7** / Collaborative brainstorming and visual thinking: Allow users to create digital canvases where multiple participants can contribute simultaneously.



### Week 2: Innovation and Procurement Excellence Week

**Monday, March 10** / Tech Tools Showcase: Explore demonstrations of the latest procurement technologies and tools, highlighting their role in enhancing efficiency and driving innovation.

**Tuesday, March 10** / Experts in Procurement Innovation: Host A panel of procurement professionals sharing insights and experiences about innovative procurement strategies.

**Wednesday, March 12** / Procurement Excellence Awards: Celebrate outstanding members or projects that exemplify excellence in procurement practices, innovation, or cost savings.

**Thursday, March 13** / Interactive Case Studies and Problem-Solving Sessions: Have breakout sessions that allow participants to engage in real-life procurement challenges, encouraging innovative collaborative problem-solving

**Friday, March 14** / SCAGPO Swag Day: Show off your SCAGPO pride by wearing your SCAGPO-branded apparel! Take pictures with your colleagues and share them on social media using #SCAGPOSwagDay.

**Send photos to [information@scagpo.org](mailto:information@scagpo.org) as well!**

# PROCUREMENT MONTH 2025 ACTIVITY CALENDAR

## Week 3: Education and Awareness Week

**Monday, March 17** / Procurement 101 Presentation: Host an informational session to educate non-procurement colleagues on procurement.

**Tuesday, March 18** / Career development: Utilize questionnaires and surveys to help individuals identify their current skills and areas for improvement

**Wednesday, March 19** / Professional Development Day: Access resources and guidance on professional certifications like CPPO or CPPB, and explore opportunities for continuing education in procurement.

**Thursday, March 22** / Procurement Insights and Inspiration: Share procurement tips and quotes via Social Media

**Friday, March 21** / Procurement Showcase: Create a showcase of recent achievements, like successful projects, cost savings, and innovative solutions implemented by the procurement team.

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## Week 4: Community and Reflection Week

**Monday, March 24** / Day of Arts: Contribute shared pieces of art related to procurement via social media.

**Tuesday, March 25** / Community Giving Day: Participate in a community service initiative, such as donating supplies or volunteering as a team!

**Wednesday, March 26** / Procurement Networking: Share procurement success stories and notable achievements.

**Thursday, March 27** / Procurement Reflections: Host a session to reflect on the impact of procurement in your organization and identify areas to grow.

**Friday, March 28** / Celebrate with Fun Friday: Conclude Procurement Month with an engaging team-building activity!

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## Ongoing Activities Throughout March

**Procurement Month Social Media Campaign:** Share stories and accomplishments on LinkedIn or your organization's platforms using #Procurement Month.

**Procurement Kudos Board:** Encourage colleagues to post messages of appreciation for the procurement team's hard work and achievements.

**This calendar is tailored to celebrate SCAGPO members and the vital role of procurement professionals, making March 2025 an inspiring and memorable Procurement Month!**

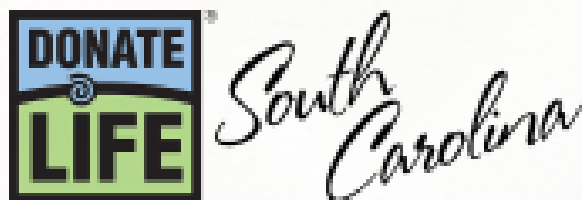
# **DONATE LIFE SOUTH CAROLINA**

**GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!**

**Over 2 million South Carolina residents have registered as organ donors, providing recipients with the gift of life with an organ transplant. Donate Life will be presenting at March's Quarterly Training.**

**For more information please visit  
<https://www.donatelifesc.org/>.**

**If you become a donor, send SCAGPO a picture so we can give you a shoutout!**



# ***UPDATES***

SCAGPO extends its deepest condolences to Janice Davis, a Procurement Officer for SCDPPPS, for the recent passing of her father.

SCAGPO extends its deepest condolences to Johanne Sullivan, the Procurement Director at USC, for the recent passing of her father.

SCAGPO extends its deepest condolences to Patrick Westcott, Contract Specialist at SCDPH for the passing of his mother.

Please keep these members and their families in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



***JOHANNE SULLIVAN HAS MOVED FROM SCDC TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA. PLEASE FORWARD COMMUNICATIONS ACCORDINGLY!***

# **DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT**

## **EMMETT KIRWAN**

For our first Director Spotlight, we are featuring SCDOT's Procurement Director of Commodities and Services, **Emmet Kirwan, NIGP-CPP!**



**1. What inspired you to pursue a career in procurement, and how did you rise to the director level?**

**A:** When I was at Calhoun County doing my internship for my MPA which later lead to a job there, I had to jump in feet first on some emergency response purchasing. So, like most of us I "fell into" procurement. Having to quickly learn federal guidance while at the same time realizing, along with the County Administrator that there was no Procurement Ordinance, started my career. I worked at Calhoun for 8 years and decided I wanted to cut the commute from Columbia to St. Matthews. I was lucky enough to get hired by Norma Hall in 2011 when she was at ITMO when it was under the Budget and Control Board (now wrapped up into the Division of Procurement Services). Under Norma and Ron Conner I went from being a contracts administrator to conducting procurements for ITMO. When the Board was dissolved Norma came back to SCDOT to finish out her career and brought me and Ron Conner with her. I was over agency wide contracts and Ron was over the District Procurement Managers and handled Headquarters procurements. I continued to grow professionally and under Norma's guidance was able to successfully become the Director when she retired in 2018. It took a lot of work, a lot of education and professional development, and encouragement to get here and I encourage everyone in the profession to always look for those professional development opportunities.

# **DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT**

## **EMMETT KIRWAN**

**2. What were some of the biggest challenges you faced in your career, and how did you overcome them?** A: As with most of us, just getting thrown into the deep end and learning along the way. Probably my biggest challenge was learning how to manage people. It doesn't always come easy, but knowing we all are coming to work every day with our own challenges helps.

Another big challenge we all faced was 2020-2021. At SCDOT each division was asked to create their ideal organizational structure while cutting positions by 15%. Finance and Administration, where I fall, took a different tack than Engineering did. SCDOT has three procurement divisions and one CPO. I was able to get a person in each district office by working together with the other two divisions to utilize unfilled FTE positions that were not going to get filled. I got lucky with the seven people I have on board and managing them is a pleasure.

Another challenge I faced during COVID was working with an upper level manager at DOT who wanted to do a procurement we could not do. Or at least not the way he wanted to do it. I presented the two viable options and he kept insisting I was wrong. Over the course of about 18 months it went from me giving him the options to a meeting that involved my Deputy Secretary, the agency's CPO, and SCDOT Chief Counsel. There were meetings in between where he kept bringing in more people thinking that I would have a different answer. I didn't. While it was a challenge, having the support of my management and Chief Counsel was a plus. Keeping my cool the whole time probably was harder than giving him the options!

**3. What leadership principles do you live by, and how do they influence your team?** A: One big principle is I'm not going to ask someone on my team to do something I haven't done before without being right there with them. I still publish solicitations and handle some interesting procurements, but I always include someone else from my staff so they can learn along with me. As a leader, I cannot hold all the information. My staff is empowered to make decisions and they know I'll support them. We all make mistakes, even me, and admitting that and letting your team see that can earn their respect.

# **DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT**

## **EMMETT KIRWAN**

**4. How do you handle difficult procurement decisions, especially under tight budgets or competing priorities?** A: As you can imagine, SCDOT has lots of competing priorities. Time management and setting expectations up front helps a lot. One of the things me and my staff do to help manage expectations is to conduct training for every person who interacts with my office. Also, at least once year, hold a training day in each of our seven districts plus headquarters. As a mostly non-appropriated agency we also have to make sure we get the most bang for our gas tax dollars. We help the areas of the agency make determinations of priorities by putting the decisions back on them most of the time. My staff and I can help guide end users to a decision but ultimately it is their budget. We've also pulled some funds back to a higher level to accomplish those tasks that are a priority for the Secretary.

**5. What strategies do you use to foster collaboration between procurement and other departments?** A: So in addition to holding trainings in each district, I make an effort to attend our District Maintenance and Mechanical Engineers quarterly meetings. I also make myself available to the county staff and headquarters staff. One of the best things that happened was being able to get a procurement manager in every district office. It has helped break down the perception that we don't understand the field offices. We also make sure to reach out to offices and let them know when contracts they have in place are expiring and that we need to get started on the renewal process. Most of the time it works so we aren't swamped with dozens of requests all at once.

# **DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT**

## **EMMETT KIRWAN**

**6. How do you ensure ethical procurement practices while maintaining efficiency?** A: The law is the law and there is no way around it. I also have been fortunate to have two agency heads who understand we will get it done but legally. I look at procurement as how can I get you to a yes but also explaining the process.

**7. How has procurement technology evolved since you started your career, and what trends do you see shaping the future?** A: When I first came to state procurement, they were still sending out SCBO by mail and telling people to replace pages in their contract books. This, even though the state contracts were listed online. I remember having to put the page number on contract sheets for ITMO contracts and not understanding why we were still doing that. I remember being told that we couldn't stop doing that as people still had their books and wouldn't give them up. That was in 2011. Obviously they don't do that any longer, thank goodness. We now have AI helping with specifications and market research, and being able to quickly find another agency's solicitation and see what works for us using what we can.

Down the road I see procurement bringing a lot of value to the table using technology resources. SCDOT's Professional Services section already does all of their qualifications scoring in a program developed for the agency. It truly keeps the process sealed and no one knows the outcome except the procurement officer (PO). It allows the panel to score ahead of time, get their initial comments down, and for the PO to review prior to the scoring meeting.

Consensus scoring is also something that has come along since I started. The trick is to not have someone on the panel who is so strong that others won't voice dissent.

# **DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT**

## **EMMETT KIRWAN**

**8. What advice would you give to aspiring procurement professionals looking to move into leadership roles?** A: Take at least one leadership class. If you are a state employee, see if your agency will let you attend the one put on by State HR. If your agency has a leadership class or course, take it. The Certified Public Manager course offered by the Department of Administration is also great. 20 months of intense work, but well worth it. Look at leaders you respect both in and outside the profession. What qualities do they have? What are their values? Find out from them how they got where they are. Also, you don't have to be the smartest person in the room. Ask questions. Don't just surround yourself with people who will say yes to you. Have people that will question why and make you think about decisions.

**9. How do you continue to grow as a leader and stay updated on industry best practices?** A: Through SCAGPO, NIGP, NASPO, and other professional resources. I also make an effort to look at and read through the protest decisions of our state CPOs and the Procurement Review Panel. Networking at NIGP Forum has also been a great help. Ask your peers and never being afraid to ask the CPOs a hypothetical when you just don't know.

**10. What's the best leadership advice you've ever received, and how has it impacted you?** A: Listen and respect your staff. No one likes a bully or a know-it-all. Don't act like one. Command the room for sure when necessary, but often times we gain more from just listening and reading the room. It has allowed me to sometimes hear where an office wants to go and help them get there. Help them figure out their priorities.

# **DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT**

## **EMMETT KIRWAN**

11. ***What do you find most rewarding about your role as a procurement director?*** A: Being able to see the results of my work and growing my staff professionally. I do work at a unique agency in that I can drive pretty much anywhere in the state and see something going on that my staff or I had a hand in, from mowing along the roads to building demolitions to make way for Carolina Crossroads to reclamation crews turning a dirt road into a paved road.

We can all see the impact our work has from the local level through state procurement. Somewhere along the way that contract you had a hand in impacted someone's life.

***Thank you Emmett for being our first Director Spotlight and bringing value to our membership through your insight!***



# **SCAGPO LEADERS WITH NATIONAL IMPACT**



Congratulations ***La Tasha Terry, MBA, CPPO, NIGP-CPP*** on being appointed as our ***Area 4 NIGP Chapter Ambassador!***



Congratulations ***Stacy Adams, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, CPPB*** on being appointed as our ***NASPO Chair for the Southern Regional Council!***

***SCAGPO thanks both of you for your continuing dedication to our organization, NIGP, NASPO, and the public procurement profession! We cannot wait to see what all you accomplish!***

# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Dear SCAGPO Members,**

**I am looking forward to all that this year has in store for SCAGPO and am excited about the opportunities ahead. I encourage each of you to take full advantage of our monthly webinars led by Lourdes Coss, an NIGP-certified instructor. These sessions provide FREE CEUs and offer valuable professional development, so don't miss out!**

**Additionally, we need full participation in our upcoming reverse trade shows. All proceeds from these events go directly back to our members, helping those who wish to represent SCAGPO at an NIGP event. Your involvement makes a significant impact!**

**Mark your calendars, our quarterly training in March promises to be a phenomenal day of learning and fellowship. Plus, be sure to tune in to Danny Mays' Lunch & Learn on March 10th, where he will explore the value of procurement beyond purchasing.**

**Happy Procurement Month to you all! As always, myself and the board are here to assist, welcome your ideas, and encourage you to sign up for committees, we need your help to continue making SCAGPO a success.**

**Looking forward to a great year together!**

**La Tasha Terry, MBA, NIGP-CPP, CPPO  
SCAGPO President  
NIGP Area 4 Chapter Ambassador**

***DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR  
NEXT QUARTER'S BUYWAYS  
NEWSLETTER?***

***EMAIL YOUR IDEAS TO  
INFORMATION@SCAGPO.ORG  
OR SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER  
WITH THE INFORMATION  
AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE!***

