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## SCVAGAL Newsletter

### Special Points of Interest:

- *Program Updates*
- *Recruitment and Training*
- *Volunteer Feature*
- *Legislation and Policy*

## UPDATES, RECRUITMENT, TRAINING

### Program Updates

The SCVAGAL Program is proud to announce that Joanne Metcalf (Spartanburg Regional Coordinator) and Lorraine Cleeton (Charleston Regional Coordinator) have joined us as full-time employees. They both volunteered for the program prior to becoming staff members. Sarah Pace, an MSW student at USC, has joined SCVAGAL as a graduate assistant and an intern. Also, we are expanding to Charleston, Florence, York, Greenville, and Beaufort counties.

On July 18th, we did a presentation at SCCADVASA (SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault). On September 26th, we will be doing a presentation at the Caring Connections conference at Winthrop University.

### Recruitment and Training

We are excited to announce that the next volunteer training for the SC Vulnerable Adult Guardian ad Litem Program will be held on Friday, September 12, 2014 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM and will be held in the large conference room,

Office for the Study of Aging, 730 Devine Street, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. Lunch will be provided.

If you would like to register for the training, please send your name, phone number, e-mail address, and mailing address to

[scvagal@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:scvagal@mailbox.sc.edu).

**The registration deadline is August 25, 2014.** Please pass this information on to friends and colleagues that may be interested in attending.

If you would like a refresher, you can review the online training information at <https://cms.sph.sc.edu/>

scvagal/. Email us if you need the password.

### Volunteer Feature

Jerry Dircks' background is in manufacturing. He is originally from Iowa, served as a children's GAL, and now serves with us in York and Lancaster counties, and is also a private guardian. He looks forward to contributing to and supporting the SCVAGAL program. He and his wife, Karen, have two children, and one grand-daughter, Madison. Jerry is a fan of college sports, pro football, drum corps, and reading. In October he will celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary!

Have a story you want to share about your experience as a GAL? Please send it to us!



## OTHER BUSINESS

### Legislation and Policy

On May 16, 2014, enabling legislation for the SC Vulnerable Adult Guardian ad Litem program was signed into law by Governor Nikki Haley. The SCVAGAL Legislation makes the SCVAGAL Program part of the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging. For State Fiscal Year 2014-15 the SCVAGAL Program is being funded by the SC Department of Human Services and is based

out of the Office for the Study of Aging, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina.

Our thanks to the Adult Protection Coordinating Council, AARP, Silver Haired Legislature, South Carolina Bar Association, and others who worked tirelessly to get this legislation passed. Efforts will resume in January 2015, when General Assembly returns, to secure permanent funding for the program.

***We Need Volunteers!***  
**Know some who would be the perfect advocate for an older adult? We are always looking for new volunteers!**

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