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Spartanburg editor to lead state press association

Michael Smith, executive editor of the *Herald-Journal* in Spartanburg, was elected president of the S.C. Press Association at the group's Annual Meeting Saturday at The Marriott in Columbia.

Other officers elected were: Jane Pigg, publisher of *The Link* in Cheraw, as weekly newspaper vice president; P.J. Browning, publisher of *The Post and Courier* in Charleston, as daily newspaper vice president; and Sue Detar, publisher of the *Daniel Island News*, as treasurer.

Elected to two-year terms on the SCPA Executive Committee were: Elisabeth Kinney McNiell, publisher of the *Herald-Advocate* in Bennettsville; and Barry Moore, publisher of *The Press & Standard* in Walterboro.

Re-elected to continuing terms on the SCPA Executive Committee were: Michael Harrison, editor of the *Fort Mill Times*; Don Kausler Jr., regional editor of the *Morning News* in Florence; Mark Webster, publisher of *The Sun News* in Myrtle Beach; and Hal Welch, general manager of *The Journal* in Seneca.

"I am very pleased and honored that my colleagues have placed this faith in me," Smith said. "We have a top-notch association that is taking the lead in helping our industry succeed despite the challenges facing us. I look forward to working with the staff and the board over the coming year to help our member papers better serve their communities."

Smith leads the *Herald-Journal* as executive editor, but he also serves as regional editor for GateHouse Media, leading the newsrooms of the *Gaston Gazette*, the *Shelby Star* and the (Hendersonville) *Times-News* in North Carolina. Smith has been at the *Herald-Journal* for almost 34 years, starting as a reporter and serving as an assistant city editor, computer resources editor, editorial page editor and managing editor. He and his wife, Anna, live in Inman. They have two adult children.

Smith succeeds Ellen Priest of the *News and Press* in Darlington.

The election came as part of a two-day meeting attended by more than 350 newspaper journalists from across the state.

The press association is 165 years old and includes the state's 15 daily newspapers and 86 of its weekly newspapers.

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