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Iowa State Association of Counties



May 2013

ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser

NACo Legislative Conference



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ISAC's Mission:

To promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

ISAC's Vision:

To be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

legal briefs

Rural Subdivisions and the Ag Exemption to County Zoning

By: Gary Taylor
Iowa State University



Iowa Code §335.2 states that county zoning cannot be enforced against “land, farm houses, farm barns, farm outbuildings or other buildings or structures which are primarily adapted, by reason of nature and area, for use for agricultural purposes, while so used.” This agricultural exemption has been the subject of court cases throughout the years focusing on what constitutes a “use for agricultural purposes.” Despite the lessons provided by these cases, county officials still wrestle with many unanswered questions about the interpretation of Iowa Code §335.2. One of the most vexing issues has been rural acreages and large-lot rural subdivisions. Is the owner of a five-acre residence who has a job in the nearby city qualified for the exemption if he raises an acre or two of crops or a few head of livestock?

On March 29 the Iowa Supreme Court decided *Lang v. Linn County Board of Adjustment*, in which the Court reviewed two separate decisions by the county to deny exemptions for two separate parcels: a 6.52-acre parcel that included the Langs’ residence, and a 43.3-acre parcel with 2 houses. While the case does not definitively answer the exemption question for every rural acreage, it does provide several helpful guidelines for county officials going forward.

The Court began by pointing out the differences between the language of Iowa Code §335.2 as it appears today, and as it was prior to amendments made in 1963. The differences were critical to the Court’s reasoning. Prior to 1963 the statute was concerned with land, farm houses and buildings “which are adapted, by reason of nature and area, for use for agricultural purposes as a primary means of livelihood, while so used.”

Thus, prior to 1963 the statute did not contain the word “primarily,” (“primarily adapted”) but did tie the exemption to use for agricultural purposes “as a primary means of livelihood” for the landowner.

In the Court’s view, the addition of the word “primarily” allows county zoning authorities to consider “the relative size, value, and construction date of the house compared to the scope, value, and duration of the claimed agricultural activities,” and deny the exemption when the agricultural activities “are basically a sideline designed to obtain an agricultural zoning exemption for the owners’ residence.” For the Langs’ residence on 6.52-acres, the Court determined that it was “a residential tail wagging a farmland dog and that the property as a whole was not primarily dedicated to agriculture.” Although the Langs claimed in their exemption filing to be producing trees, raspberries, blackberries, asparagus, apples, grapes, and tomatoes, they provided no records of production or sales. Photographs indicated that the asparagus, grape vines and raspberry bushes, at least, were wild and in a wooded thicket. The Court did not believe that “the legislature intended to allow a homeowner to avoid county zoning requirements simply by having a tomato patch in his or her backyard.”

The Langs also claimed that the county improperly applied a minimum acreage test and flunked the Langs’ 6.52-acre parcel simply because it was too small. Previous cases have held that a county cannot use parcel size as the sole measure for determining whether a parcel is primarily adapted for agriculture; however, in *Lang* the Court affirmed that parcel

Continues on page 6.



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Get Involved in the Legislative Process

For this month's edition of Capitol Comments the government relations team decided to check in with the four former county supervisors who are now serving their first terms in the Iowa Legislature. Last November Ken Rozenboom, Mark Segebart, and Amy Sinclair were elected to the Senate, and Sally Stutsman was elected to the House of Representatives. The legislators were asked to describe the transition from the boardroom to the Capitol, what things were the same and what things were different, and what projects or issues they've been working on. Interestingly all four legislators serve in the minority party in their respective chamber; the three senators are Republicans and the lone representative is a Democrat. This is the most likely reason they all mentioned, in one way or another, the difficulty of getting legislation passed. Another common theme in the responses was the great amount of partisanship compared to county government. In the following paragraphs you will be introduced to the former supervisors and read their thoughts on the jump to state-level government.



Senator Ken Rozenboom is a former Mahaska County Supervisor, serving since 2011. He represents Senate District 40, which includes all of Mahaska, Monroe, and Appanoose counties and parts of Wapello and Marion counties. Senator Rozenboom said one of the most significant differences between county and state government is the partisan divide. He pointed to the boards and committees that supervisors

sit on and noted that most go about their business not as Republicans or Democrats but as board members without labels. "It would be wonderful if legislative work could follow that same model," Rozenboom said. "The public would be better served."

Another major difference Rozenboom has observed is that a county supervisor is one of three or five board members making all of the decisions, whereas a state legislator is one of 50 or 100 and focuses primarily on committee assignments. Senator Rozenboom says that while it can be frustrating to be in the minority party and not be able to get a lot of legislation passed, he continues to work to build relationships and find common ground on legislation that is good for all Iowans.

By: Lucas Beenken

ISAC Legislative Affairs Assistant



Senator Mark Segebart is a former Crawford County Supervisor, serving since 1997. He represents Senate District 6, which includes eight townships in Crawford County and all of Buena Vista, Sac, Carroll, and Audubon counties. Senator Segebart said the transition from being a county supervisor to a state senator is an interesting process. Specifically, he pointed to how at the county level, no matter your opinion or vote, after a decision was made it was accepted and everyone worked to implement it. He said at the state level an issue is never really over, and it can and will be used against you in the next election.



Segebart says being in the minority party has given him the time to get comfortable with his job and the responsibilities that come with it. But this also comes with the frustration of your ideas and issues not being taken up by the majority party. Despite this difficulty, he has been able to help resolve several constituent issues. Senator Segebart seems to be enjoying his new position as he stated, "My first session has been a hoot and an honor to serve my district and my county."

Senator Amy Sinclair is a former Wayne County Supervisor, serving since 2005. She represents Senate District 14, which includes all of Wayne, Decatur, Clarke, and Lucas counties, most of Marion County, and part of Jasper County. Senator Sinclair said county and state government is similar in that you are setting policy and doing what you can to help your constituents. However, she noted that at the county level helping citizens was much more hands-on and addressing people's needs is much more efficient and effective. She says this is due to having to wade through red tape at the state level and figure out if and how a particular problem can be solved.



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legal briefs

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size can be one of the factors considered when making the determination, stating that “if size were not relevant, then nothing could prevent a developer from obtaining a zoning exemption for an entire development subdivided into half-acre lots so long as some agricultural product were planted in the development and tended by the homeowners.”

Because the Linn County Zoning Ordinance prohibits more than one dwelling on a single undivided parcel of land, the Langs sought an exemption for a second house built on a 43.3-acre tract, claiming that the occupant (the Langs’ son) would be performing farming tasks on the property. The county did not dispute that the 43.3 acres should be considered agricultural, but disagreed that the second house was “primarily adapted” for agriculture since the son had a regular day job, and that he would be spending only 2½-hours per day at most on farming activities. The Court sided with the county, stating that “it is appropriate for the county to ask how much time the tenants of the house spend on farming activities. Otherwise, a farmer could erect multiple homes and avoid county zoning simply by

assigning nominal farm tasks to an occupant of each home.” Implicit in the Court’s reasoning is that although a landowner no longer must show that the property is his “primary means of livelihood,” the landowner must be able to closely tie the *activities* of the person occupying the house to the agricultural production taking place on the property.

The Court concluded with a common-sense observation of how misapplying the exemption to rural acreages has the potential to cause problems in the future: “When a house has been erected by taking advantage of an agricultural exemption, but then is later sold to a person who is not engaged in agriculture, the house becomes a nonconforming use, which limits the new owner’s ability to modify or, if necessary, to rebuild the house.”

Gary Taylor is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University. He conducts workshops and provides assistance to Iowa counties and cities on planning, zoning, and other land use matters.

capitol comments

Continued from page 5.

Sinclair has also observed the political jockeying not seen at the local level. She said legislators often argue and vote for or against a position for political capital rather than based on merit. Despite the differences Senator Sinclair says her motives remain the same, “At the end of the day there is one similarity that prompted me to make my first run for supervisor as well as seek a seat in the Iowa Senate – my passion to represent people and be their voice.”



Representative Sally Stutsman is a former Johnson County Supervisor, serving since 1995. She represents House District 77 which includes most of rural Johnson County. Although she is on the other side of the Rotunda, Representative Stutsman has also experienced the partisan nature of state government and the difficulty of getting legislation passed as a member of the

minority party. She said that most bills are non-controversial and there is a general consensus on their passage, but on those that cause disagreement there seems to be little room for compromise across the aisle.

Stutsman says the transition from the board of supervisors to the state legislature has been pretty smooth, but there was definitely a learning curve because the process is so different. She says dealing with complex issues like mental health redesign, property tax reform, Medicaid expansion, and budgeting has been easier because of her experience at the local level. “I can’t say enough about how well my experiences as a county supervisor have served me,” Stutsman said, “being in county government is a great training ground for the legislature.”

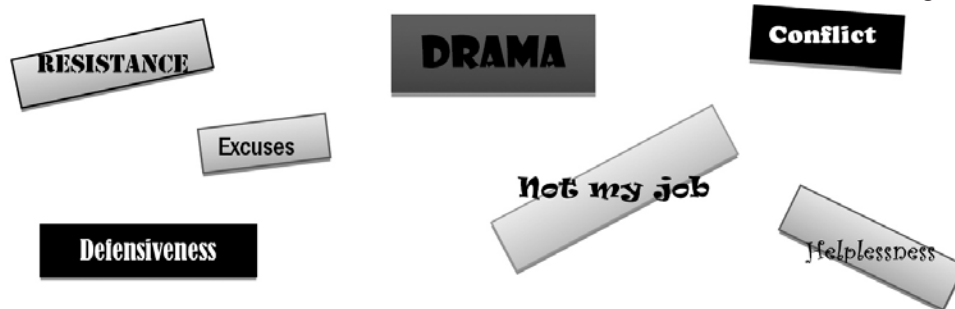
Are you a leader? This is for you!

By: **Linda Kemp**

ISAC County Case Management Specialist



Do the words below describe your work place environment in any way? If you answer no, you are lucky to be working in an atmosphere that promotes results and harmony. If any of the words strike a chord, I have some good news! There is a way to reduce negative detractors in the work environment. At least I can introduce you to an author and speaker who can help you examine your leadership role, your leadership style, and suggest changes in you that can reduce the drama and the negative atmosphere.



be, who prefer creating drama to getting the job done.

I have been in many Targeted Case Management programs where there is a great sense of harmony and an absence of people issues. There the challenges are the circumstances. Leaders are constantly challenged by circumstances. Cy's words not only apply to a corporate setting, but also apply to the publicly funded human services field as well. Pace of change, fewer resources, budget cuts—all are clearly circumstances that present challenges for you as leaders.

Cy has a focus on dealing with realities. She recognizes workers who argue against realities rather than engaging with realities and moving in a positive direction. This is truly a challenge for the leadership in any program because as a leader you are to help the

The book is Reality-Based Leadership: Ditch the Drama, Restore Sanity to the Workplace, & Turn Excuses into Results by Cy Wakeman. The book jacket (a marketing tool to be sure, but I agreed with it once I read what Cy had to say) included this grabber:

- UNCOVER destructive thought patterns within yourself and others.
- DIFFUSE drama and lead the person in front of you.
- STOP MANAGING and start leading, empowering others to focus on facts and think for themselves.

From the introduction to the book Cy writes:

If I ask you what drives you crazy at work—what holds you back from being an amazing leader and producing extraordinary results—chances are you won't have to reflect very long before coming up with an answer. Frustration is at an all-time high and the responses I get to this question generally fall in one of two categories: people and circumstances.

The circumstances: sky-high customer expectations, the rising cost of doing business, increased regulation, the recession, the pace of change, budget cuts, and being asked to do more with fewer resources.

The people: whiny, high-maintenance employees with a sense of entitlement where their motivation and accountability ought to

employees assigned to you to deal with reality, to deal with circumstances that cannot be changed, but only encountered with engagement. Cy calls out leaders who have not helped and whose style even interferes with staff development. She writes: *We talk more about our people than we do to them. We judge, and when we are judging we are no longer serving, leading, or learning. We can't expect others to add value when we don't. We spend too much time with our worst performers, and we don't reward our best. We over-manage and under-lead, trying to control people rather than connecting to them and developing their potential. We blindly hope everyone will show up tomorrow with a better attitude without taking measurable steps to ensure that it happens. It's no wonder drama—not peace—reigns supreme in most workplaces.*

Over the years I have witnessed how troubling personnel issues are for the leadership, both administrators and supervisors. The employees are each complicated individuals with histories, families, personalities, talents, quirks, and the list goes on! From the leadership perspective, there is work to be done, deadlines to meet, clients and families to help effectively, efficiently, and with compassion. Having a challenging employee is one of, if not the worst issue a supervisor and administrator faces.

Continues on page 11.

meetings

ISAC Legislative District Meetings Schedule

Each summer, the ISAC staff travels to the six ISAC districts to conduct a series of legislative district meetings to provide county officials with a summary of the legislation that passed during the session and to discuss upcoming issues of importance.

Registration for the district meetings is available at www.iowacounties.org. The pre-registration fee is \$50, and registration is \$60 at the door. Morning refreshments and lunch is included in your registration fee, as well as a copy of the ISAC Summary of Legislation. Pre-registration is greatly appreciated so that ISAC staff can plan accordingly for meals and materials.

The agenda is as follows:

- 9:00 am - 9:30 am Registration
- 9:00 am - 9:30 am Morning Refreshments
- 9:30 am - 9:45 am District Meeting
- 9:45 am - 11:30 am General Session
- 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Lunch
- 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm Affiliate Time

The agenda begins with 15 minutes devoted to district business. After the district president conducts necessary district business, the program will be turned over to ISAC staff for the General Session.

The following ISAC staff members will be attending and presenting during the ISAC district legislative meetings:

- Bill Peterson, ISAC Executive Director
- Linda Hinton, ISAC Government Relation Manager
- Hanna De Groot, ISAC Public Policy Specialist
- Lucas Beenken, ISAC Legislative Affairs Assistant
- Kristi Harshbarger, ISAC Legal Counsel

For those affiliates wishing to have an ISAC staff member visit their afternoon session, please contact Stacy Horner (shorner@iowacounties.org) to schedule a time. If you have any questions, please call the ISAC Office at 515.244.7181.

The 2013 ISAC District Legislative Meetings will be held:

District 4

Tuesday, June 11

Hilton Garden Inn

2702 Mid America Drive, Council Bluffs

**Registration deadline 4:00 pm, Monday, June 3*

By: Stacy Horner

ISAC Meeting/Event
Administrator



District 1

Wednesday, June 12

Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center

5291 Stoney Creek Court, Johnston

**Registration deadline 4:00 pm, Monday, June 3*

District 5

Tuesday, June 18

BridgeView Center

102 Church Street, Ottumwa

**Registration deadline 4:00 pm, Monday, June 10*

District 6

Wednesday, June 19

The Hotel at Kirkwood Center

7725 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids

**Registration deadline 4:00 pm, Monday, June 10*

District 2

Thursday, June 20

Historic Park Inn

7 West State Street, Mason City

**Registration deadline 4:00 pm, Monday, June 10*

District 3

Friday, June 21

Buena Vista University (Siebens Forum)

610 W 4th Street, Storm Lake

<http://www.bvu.edu/map/>

**Registration deadline 4:00 pm, Monday, June 10*

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Spring School and County Day at the Capitol Successful

ISAC would like to thank all of you who attended the 2013 ISAC Spring School of Instruction held on March 14-15 in Des Moines. This year, we also held the 5th Annual County Day at the Capitol in conjunction with the conference on March 13. The purpose of County Day at the Capitol is to give county officials and employees the opportunity to be involved in the legislative process by promoting legislation that is of importance to counties. There were ISAC affiliate member organization displays setup in the Capitol Rotunda, county attendees were able to meet with their respective legislators and ISAC served 650 lunches to legislators and county officials. It was a great day at the Capitol, and thank you for your participation! Please don't forget to "like" ISAC's Facebook page to view all of the event photos from both events.

This year's spring school was held at Des Moines Marriott Downtown, which serves as a great location for all of our affiliates to meet under the same roof. The exhibit hall featured three refreshments breaks that were held allowing members the opportunity to meet with various exhibitors about their products and services throughout the day on Thursday. Thank you to the 42 exhibitors that attended and supported the conference. An event of this scale would not be possible without the exhibitors.

We also want to thank ISAC's preferred vendors: Endorsed Elite Preferred Vendor – County Risk Management Services, Inc. representing ICAP and IMWCA; Platinum Preferred Vendors – DEVNET, Inc., Matt Parrott/Election Source, The Schneider Corporation, Northland Securities, Inc., Tyler Technologies, and Webspec Design; Gold Preferred Vendors – IMAGETek, The Samuels Group, Vanguard Appraisals, Inc., Speer Financial, Inc., Lattice Communications, Inc., Cost Advisory Services, Inc. and SilverStone Group; Silver Preferred Vendors – AssetWorks, Inc., Bankers Trust, Cott Systems, Henry M. Adkins and Son, Nyhart, Ruan Securities, a division of D.A. Davidson and Co., The Austin Peter's Group and TrueNorth Companies; Endorsed Preferred Vendors – Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust, National Association of Counties, Nationwide Retirement Solutions, U.S. Communities and Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa.

To begin the conference, an Exhibitor Learning Center presentation entitled Taking and Expanding your Community into Online Services was given by The Schneider Corporation. ISAC hosted the following educational seminars concurrently: Playing it Safe with Workers' Compensation; Overview: Basics of Lean Government; Tourism Tools; and Health Care Reform: Making Sense of It. The FY 2014 ISAC budget was approved by the membership during the ISAC Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony also held later that morning. The ISAC Scholarship Program awarded \$2,500 scholarships to the following outstanding high school students:

Kendria Peterson, Ames High School in Story County (District 1); Kayla Lueder, North Fayette High School in Fayette County (District 2); Taylor Holmes, Marcus-Meriden High School in Cherokee County (District 3); Zane Rau, Abraham Lincoln High School in Pottawattamie County (District 4); Zach Gish, Wapello High School in Louisa County (District 5); and Sarah Mork, Marion High School in Linn County (District 6). Ashley Dvorsky from City High School in Johnson County and Vince LaRue from Wapsie Valley High School in Bremer County both received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Iowa Counties Information Technology Organization, and Matthew O'Brien from Belle Plaine High School in Tama County received the past president's scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. Scholarship eligibility is limited to children of county officials or county employees.

ISAC scholarships are funded through the ISAC Education Foundation. Although not honored during the spring school, the following students received runner-up scholarships in the amount of \$1,000: Molly O'Brien, Belle Plaine High School in Tama County; Zachariah Lillquist, Forest City High School in Winnebago County; Shelby Wollmuth, Sibley-Ocheyedan High School in Osceola County; Sam Dreher, Audubon High School in Audubon County; Madison Pullis, Mt. Pleasant Community High School in Henry County; and Noah Hagen, Xavier High School in Benton County. A one-time scholarship in the amount of \$1,200 was awarded to Summer Wulf, Denison High School in Crawford County. Funds for this scholarship were donated by ISAC's district 3.

Please mark your calendars now for the 2013 ISAC Golf Scholarship Fundraiser being held on Thursday, August 22 at Otter Creek Golf Course in Ankeny. (Forms are available on pages 13-14 and at www.iowacounties.org.)

Following an afternoon full of affiliate meetings, the hospitality rooms, as well as the ISAC Dance gave members the opportunity to socialize and enjoy music provided by Knight Life Productions. All registered conference attendees enjoyed a box lunch and morning refreshments provided by ISAC during a Friday full of affiliate meetings.

We look forward to seeing everyone at ISAC's 2013 Fall School of Instruction being held November 13-15 at the Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center. Registration and conference hotel room blocks for the 2013 fall school will not open until late summer, so please do not make your reservations until conference details are announced this summer.

We greatly appreciated all the feedback that was given on our online post-conference survey. All feedback is taken into consideration when planning and making any alterations to future conferences. Please contact me at shomer@iowacounties.org if you ever have any comments or suggestions regarding ISAC conferences and events. We look forward to seeing you again this fall!

ISAC brief

Farewell Gina

It is with a heavy heart that I announce that I will be leaving ISAC to join my fiancé in Colorado at the end of April. We decided to move when my fiancé was offered a job in Longmont at the end of January. It has been a dream of ours for a long time to eventually move to Colorado, and now that we have the opportunity we are very excited for this new adventure in our life.

We were engaged in the middle of February, and we are planning an October wedding at Red Rocks. I am having fun planning all the wedding and reception details before I leave. My fiancé has been living in Colorado since the beginning of March. We had two houses to sell, so when I am not planning our fall nuptials, I have been keeping busy moving out of my house that has since sold and helping my fiancé move out of his house in which we have accepted an offer and should close at the end of April.

My fiancé and I will be living just outside of Boulder on your way to Denver. I do not have a position yet in Colorado, but with all of the experience I have gained while working at ISAC, I plan on having one very soon after my move.

I have met a lot of great people while working at ISAC. I will miss everyone when I leave and especially the people that I

By: Gina Fontanini

ISAC Program Support
Coordinator



have worked with. I will miss the ISAC employees I have worked with every day and that made every day enjoyable to show up for work. The community services affiliate has been very patient with me as I learned everything I could about the mental health and case management systems in Iowa. My favorite part of my work has been the development and implementation of the case management module in CSN. The reason is that I had the opportunity to follow a project from its infancy and then see it become a great tool that helps people every day of their lives. I cannot put into words the amount of gratitude I have for the opportunities I have had while working at ISAC.

I hope to be back many times in the next year to plan my reception that will be here in Des Moines next fall. I plan on stopping by to say hi! I will leave you with a quote that my fiancé has recited to me since we first met from a song called [40 miles from Denver](#) which is about life in the Boulder/Nederland area not far from where we will be living.

“In that cool mountain air, on an Appalachian trail. Oh, life is better there.”

2013 ISAC Preferred Vendors

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representing ICAP and IMWCA

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Webspec Design

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Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa

Please contact Rachel Bicego at rbicego@iowa-counties.org if you are interested in learning more about the ISAC Preferred Vendor Program.

Farewell Ashley

By: Ashley Moore

ISAC Program Support Analyst



It is very interesting how life events can change our perspective. If you would have asked me how long I planned on living in Des Moines when I arrived here four years ago, my answer would have been “as little time as possible.” From the very beginning I was counting down the days until I could return to my family and friends in Florida. Now that it is time to move away my heart is torn; Iowa has become my home and my time to leave has come too soon.

This bittersweet time has arrived as a result of being married to a medical student. My husband Kyle’s journey to become a Podiatrist brought us to Des Moines and is now moving us to Pittsburgh. Last month he accepted a three year Podiatry residency position with West Penn Hospital. We are both thrilled with this new opportunity and are excited to start this next chapter of our lives.

April 11 marked my two year anniversary as an IT Program Support Analyst at ISAC, and April 26 marked my last. It has been a privilege to work for the counties of Iowa, and I am extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity. Hired to join the ISAC IT department, my time has primarily been

spent supporting the Community Services Network (CSN). While reflecting on my employment with ISAC, I cannot help but think of all the wonderful people I have met and worked with along the way. It is amazing how much I have learned about Iowa’s mental health system and for that I have a lot of people to thank.

Iowa is a wonderful place. Since moving here from Florida in 2009 I have learned to detassel corn, drive in snow, and call coke ‘pop.’ A few things I will miss include: the Iowa State Fair (I love food on a stick!), the Des Moines Farmer’s Market, Gray’s Lake, Tulip Time, and RAGBRAI. Things that I will not miss include: chiseling/digging my car out ice/snow, snow in October, snow in April, and snow in general! Most of all, I will miss the many kind people I have enjoyed working with over the past two years. Having grown up in the South I thought I knew all about hospitality, but the people of Iowa have shown me hospitality like none other. For this reason and many others, I will always cherish my time in Iowa. Thank you for making this journey, a journey I was hesitant to start, such a wonderful experience.

CCMS

Continued from page 7.

Reality-Based leaders are able to change the way people think and how they perceive their circumstances. This is a major shift for some, and I do not expect that just reading a brief article such as this will make a difference. I do recommend this book for careful consideration. It is only 144 pages, gives guidance and tools to use, and could facilitate a change in the way you approach challenging employee issues.

OR! CCMS members can attend a full day of training with Nicole Price from the Cy Wakeman organization to lead the Reality-Based Leadership training. This is the annual Supervisors’ Training scheduled for June 6 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston. Nicole began collaborating with Cy in 2011 and has provided trainings that introduce the Reality-Based Leadership philosophy to a variety of groups including corporate and non-profits. The testimonials are glowing. They

applaud her personality, style of presenting, and her ability to create an enjoyable and productive experience.

Through your participation you will begin to understand your role in creating a peace that comes with effectively dealing with realities. You will understand the difference between leading and managing. (Example: “Do you get interrupted every 20 minutes throughout your day with questions that employees could answer themselves with a little bit of effort? If you drop everything and answer them...you are managing not leading.”) You will know and understand the Golden Rule of Teamwork.

I hope you are intrigued enough to participate in this opportunity. Counties who are CCMS members can register now on the CCMS website <http://ccms.iowacounties.org>. It will be a day well spent!

ISAC brief

Farewell Josh

By: Josh DeGroot

ISAC Program Support
Coordinator



It is never easy to say good bye, especially when you are saying good bye to something you enjoy, but that's what I want to do in this letter. My time at ISAC has come to an end and I will be moving on to the next phase in my life journey. The church that my wife and I have been a part of and helped to plant a few years back has asked me to come on staff full time. This is something that I have a passion for and am very excited for the new adventure! That being said, I couldn't imagine leaving ISAC under any other circumstance. It has been so satisfying working here, and I have gotten to know and work with amazing people. So, I'd like to spend a bit of time thanking some people.

First, I would like to thank Bill Peterson for giving me the opportunity to work here at ISAC. I still remember the day that Bill called and offered me the job and the excitement I had at the opportunity to come on staff here. Thank you Bill for this and creating a unique culture here at ISAC that is impeccably professional and yet feels like family.

I need to extend a huge thanks to Robin Harlow. Robin does an amazing job at giving direction in the work we do, but then empowering (that's Robin's word, but it fits) us to do what we were hired to do. So, thank you Robin, for allowing for such an enjoyable environment to do our day to day work.

I so appreciate Andrea, Ashley, Gina, Sam, and Chelsea – the rest of the CSN staff that I have worked with. You are all

so good at what you do and have been amazing to work with. You have made my time working here such a joy – thank you!

Tammy Norman made my stay at ISAC feel like home with her warm hearted greetings every morning and the snacks she was always treating the staff with. My kids still remember the time they visited the office and she loaded them up with candy! Thank you, Tammy, for all that you do and your incredible encouragement.

I have learned so much from the rest of the entire staff at ISAC that I am incredibly grateful. Before I started here, I would have had no grid for what a county association organization does. Wow, this organization does so much to serve the counties and people of Iowa. Thank you ISAC staff for letting me in on your work a bit.

Finally, I want to thank the county folks that I have worked with. I have met and worked with such amazing people that care about what they do and want to do their job well to serve the people of Iowa well. Thank you for allowing me the pleasure of working with you

So on to the next phase of this journey called life. I am excited about what lies ahead, but certainly won't forget these past [almost] three years here at ISAC.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Ninth Annual

ISAC



Scholarship Golf Fundraiser



August 22, 2013

Otter Creek Golf Course, Ankeny

Golfer and sponsor registration forms available
this summer at www.iowacounties.org.



The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) announces the Ninth Annual ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser to be held Thursday, August 22, 2013 at Otter Creek Golf Course in Ankeny, Iowa. The ISAC Education Foundation Fundraising Committee will host the event to raise money for the ISAC Education Foundation, which awards scholarships to high school seniors who are children of county officials or county employees.

The 18-hole scramble (best-shot) with a shotgun start will begin promptly at 10:00 am. Registration begins at 9:00 am. You may register individually or in a group of up to four people. The \$80/golfer fee includes golf with a shared cart, lunch, beverages, welcome gifts and dinner following golf.

Individuals wishing to golf or just attend dinner (approximately 4:00 pm) should fill out and return the registration form by Friday, July 26, 2013. Payment must accompany your registration and is non-refundable. The course is limited to 144 golfers, and we have sold out in the past, so register early to reserve your spot! If you have any questions please contact Brad Holtan at 515.244.7181 or bholtan@iowacounties.org.

Directions:

FROM I-35: Take exit 94 (NE 36th Street exit). Turn West onto NE 36th Street. Turn right on NE Otter Creek Drive. See Map below.



We look forward to seeing you on August 22! Remember, registration begins at 9:00 am and golf begins with a shotgun start at 10:00 am sharp - please be prompt.



When: Thursday, August 22, 2013
 9:00 am – Registration
 10:00 am – Golf - four-person scramble (best-shot)
 Approximately 4:00 pm – Dinner (immediately following golf)

Where: Otter Creek Golf Course
 4100 NE Otter Creek Drive, Ankeny, Iowa 50021
 515.965.6464

Cost: \$80 (18 holes of golf with a shared cart, lunch, beverages, welcome gifts, and dinner)
 \$20 (dinner only)

- ___ I will play in the ISAC Golf Fundraiser on August 22. My \$80 is enclosed.
- ___ I will play in the ISAC Golf Fundraiser on August 22. As a qualifying sponsor my fee is waived.
- ___ I have organized a group to play in the ISAC Golf Fundraiser. Our total entry fee is enclosed.
- ___ No golf, dinner only. My \$20 is enclosed.

Contact Name: _____

County/Company: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Fax/Email: _____

If you wish to arrange a group of players, please confirm your group prior to indicating the names on this form. Individuals and groups of less than four will be paired with other players.

1) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

3) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

4) Name: _____ County/Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment MUST accompany registration and is non-refundable. Make checks payable to the ISAC Education Foundation. Entries must be received by Friday, July 26, 2013, and are filled on a first come, first served basis. Mail to: ISAC, Attn: Golf Fundraiser, 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266. If you have any questions, please contact Brad Holtan at 515.244.7181 or bholtan@iowacounties.org.

NACo Legislative Conference

By: *Grant Veeder*

NACo Board of Directors
Iowa Representative,
Black Hawk County Auditor



The 2013 NACo Legislative Conference was held as usual in our nation's capital at the beginning of March. A hardy band of Iowans attended, led by NACo First Vice President Linda Langston and ISAC President Darin Raymond. Some changes were apparent this year, evidence of the influence of new NACo Executive Director Matt Chase, who began his tenure last September. Most noticeable was a shortening of the program, with the intent both of saving money for attendees and of providing ample time to visit members of Congress.



The conference had several guest speakers, including Moody's Corporation Chief Analytics Economist Mark Zandi, Senator Roy Blunt (R-Missouri),

Senator James Risch (R-Idaho), Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-California), Representative James Clyburn (D-South Carolina), Representative Lee Terry (R-Nebraska), Attorney General Eric Holder, and perennial favorite Tom Vilsack, the Secretary of Agriculture and former Iowa governor. Secretary Vilsack outlined the negative effects sequestration will have on his department. "There is no way, based on how the sequester is structured, that I can avoid furloughing food safety inspectors," he said. From a different perspective, Senator Blunt says the cuts are needed, and noted that "the common sense solution comes from the level of government that's closest to the problem." Meaning that Congress should do whatever county officials tell them to do.

The keynote speaker was Washington Post Associate Editor Bob Woodward, who along with reporter Carl Bernstein broke the "Watergate" story that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974. Woodward has been reporting on and writing books about presidents ever since, and a recent disagreement between him and the Obama White House was fresh in our minds when he spoke to us at the conference. While he didn't address the flap du jour (did a White House aide really threaten him over printing a story disputing the President's version of the sequestration rollout?), he was very critical of Obama's leadership style. He unspooled a story of how Congressional leaders meeting him at the White House

in budget negotiations asked him to leave the room at one point, and how at another point Harry Reid's chief of staff David Krone told the President to his face, "I'm disappointed that you don't have a backup plan." Harrumph.

For the first time in recent memory, the Capitol Steps comedy troupe didn't perform at our conference-wide luncheon. Maybe they were omitted as an economy measure, or maybe there just isn't enough material in Washington to make fun of anymore. We may have to start electing senators and representatives with foibles again.

The NACo Board of Directors considered resolutions from the 11 steering committees, to determine which ones would be considered by the full membership at the annual conference. A resolution that was presented in several committees called for NACo to support legislation that "prevents the enforcement of any federal rule or regulation not specifically ratified by the U.S. Congress, unless approved or ratified by the respective state legislature in states wherein the rule is to be applied." This apparently grew out of legitimate indignation at an EPA rule in Utah, but imagining its full implementation is mind boggling. The resolution passed three steering committees, but was rejected unanimously by the board. I mention it because it is representative of a small but growing radicalism in NACo regarding the shortcomings



of the federal government. Whether it's demanding a balanced budget or distrusting bureaucratic rule-making, it shows a willingness to bite the hand that feeds us rather than inviting its caresses through reasoning and cajolery. This raises a host of questions: Is NACo effective in its dealings with the federal government? Would we be more or less effective if we delivered sweeping indictments of Washington? If we go along to get along, are we being cynical? If we call things like we see them, do we risk being ineffective? If only I could stay on the Board past my term limit, I'm sure I could find the answers to these questions.

Continues on page 18.

affiliate highlights

ICIT 2013 Mid-Year Technology Conference: The Untouchables

Are you an avid protector of da constituency you have pledged to serve and above...you know...bribery or corruption? If so, we are forming an elite team and we wants to meet with ya.

You are invited to a top secret recruitment meeting code named: ICIT Mid-Year. Palookas and pushovers needn't show up.

Da Iowa Counties Information Technology (ICIT) Organization's technology conference will be held June 12-14, 2013, at that swanky joint...you know da West Des Moines Marriott.

Dis conference will feature discussions on nifty issues related to da unique aspects of technology implementation, development, security and deployment within Iowa counties and local governments. Dis is all on the up and up!!!

ICIT welcomes all county and local government GIS and IT staff, technology vendors/exhibitors, or anyone else interested in learning more about technology. It's our wish to extend a special invitation to all yous to join us for some swell learning and networking opportunities.

Dis two and a half day conference will consist of general sessions covering GIS, IT, security, miscellaneous topics and vendor demos. Though da program has not been finalized, some of da sessions we are working on include: Big Data, Data Protection and Recovery, Data Sharing and Open Records, Geoprocessing and Python, GIS during an Emergency Response, IT Risk Management, and NextGen911, to name a few.

Da Committee is also working on question & answer session as well as lunch with state of Iowa CIO, Robert von Wolffradt and some other CIO's, IT and GIS professionals from da IDOT, DNR, DHS, da Justice department (seriously?) and da State Security Officer.

Da registration covers all three days, all da sessions, two breakfasts, two lunches, a vendor reception, a dinner banquet and an evening of entertainment at the Four Deuces Speakeasy. Hooch not included.

Dis conference will be da cat's meow, da bee's knees, you know what I mean.

If you need more information or you wish to register for da conference, visit our web site <http://www.icitmidyear.com/>. Now sit tight and we'll catch ya later...

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The Incomplete Supreme Court

As soon as Lincoln declared the blockade of Southern ports on April 19, 1861, the U.S. Navy started to intercept commercial ships on the high seas and to capture blockade runners. The Navy took them before prize courts, which would determine if the ships were legal prizes, and thus liable to be condemned and sold along with their contents. There were lawyers and judges in the major ports well versed in maritime law, but the Civil War presented new legal questions for them. Lawyers for the owners of the captured ships claimed that (1) the blockade was illegal because the government didn't recognize the Confederacy as an independent nation, and (2) a nation can't take prizes unless it is at war, and the United States wasn't at war, because the Constitution says that only Congress can declare war. The prize court judges generally upheld the government, but the cases were appealed, and there was reason for Lincoln to be concerned once they reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

The court had a pro-South tilt at the time of Lincoln's election. This was basically the court that had rendered the Dred Scott decision in 1857, in which Chief Justice Roger B. Taney wrote that black people "had no rights which the white man was bound to respect." Seven of the nine justices agreed that Dred Scott should remain in bondage, despite that he had lived many years in free states and territories, a fact that traditionally had conferred freedom on any slaves so situated, according to courts both north and south. One justice had quit in protest after a quarrel with Taney over the decision, and he was replaced by a doughface, which is what they called a Northerner with Southern sympathies. The doughface, Nathan Clifford of Maine, made it clear he agreed with Judge Taney's decision. Another justice died nine months before Lincoln took office, and President Buchanan never got around to replacing him. Then Justice John McLean died shortly after the inauguration. And then another justice, John Campbell of Alabama, decided to light out for Dixie after the attack on Fort Sumter.

So by the time the Prize Cases were percolating up to the federal level, it was a court of six rather than nine members, and all six had agreed with the Dred Scott decision. Just because they were proslavery didn't guarantee that they'd support the South in all respects, but Lincoln knew his chances of getting a majority in the Prize Cases were slim to none.

Why hadn't Lincoln filled the vacancies? Mostly it was because back then the justices didn't just sit as a supreme court. The country had nine circuits, and every year the justices spent several months as circuit court judges. By this time the circuits were out of whack, population-wise. (Iowa, like several other western states, wasn't even in a circuit.) Plus, two districts were in Confederate states, and

By: Grant Veeder

NACo Board of Directors
Iowa Representative,
Black Hawk County Auditor



Lincoln thought it unlikely that any justices could serve in circuits "overrun by revolt." In his December 3, 1861 state of the Union address, he posited three solutions: (1) Reorganize the circuits. (2) Relieve the Supreme Court judges of their circuit court duties. (3) Do away with judicial circuits. Congress decided to go with #1. (Justices had complained about riding the circuit since 1789. They would continue to complain until 1891. In that same year the circuit courts started to give way to the U.S. Courts of Appeals.)

Were politics going to be involved in his selections? Yes. When there's a Supreme Court vacancy, the president and everyone else wants to know how the likely candidates feel about current controversies. Nowadays it's how do they feel about gay marriage? About gun control? About counting ballots in elections in Florida? Back then, you'd want to know their sentiments on slavery, and states' rights, and how far the president's war powers extended.

Meanwhile, there was political jockeying involved in the shaping of the court reorganization bill. As a matter of fact, Iowa political leaders were working very hard to keep Iowa from being placed in the same judicial circuit as Illinois. It seemed a foregone conclusion that Lincoln would choose one of the new justices from the Illinois bar, of which he was still a member. The Iowans had their own candidate, Samuel Freeman Miller, and their hopes would be dashed if Iowa and Illinois were thrown together.

The reorganization that became law in July of 1862 included a Ninth Circuit consisting of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota and Missouri. Lobbying for Miller had been intense. Lincoln, however, was besieged by office-seekers on a daily basis, so when an Iowa delegation including Governor Samuel Kirkwood and Senator James Harlan and several congressmen visited him at the White House, he apparently wasn't paying close attention to their presentation. When they were finished, Lincoln impishly picked up his pen and asked who they wanted appointed to what. When an astonished Harlan said they wanted him to put Miller on the Supreme Court, Lincoln put down his pen and said, "I had supposed you wanted me to make some one a brigadier general for you."

But he eventually appointed Miller, along with Judge David Davis, who had traveled Illinois's old 8th Judicial Circuit with Lincoln and managed his presidential bid, and Noah Swayne of Ohio. Lincoln was pretty sure he had picked three safe new justices. But a Supreme Court judge, once on the court, is never a sure thing. Next installment: *The Prize Cases*.

miscellaneous

Invitation: Iowa Public Benchmarking Project Phase II

County leaders want to run their organizations more efficiently. Knowing where to focus resources for the greatest result can make their efficiency investment go further. Iowa's county building owners have the chance to participate in the Iowa Benchmarking System (IBS) – a system that helps facilities use less energy while giving them more focus on their facility's energy needs.

IBS, offered in partnership between the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Energy Center, University of Northern Iowa, Iowa Department of Administrative Services, and The Weidt Group, announces a new opportunity for public facilities owners to join more than 100 leading Iowa building managers already using the system. Through the use of this proven technology based system, county facility managers can target buildings and energy saving improvements with the greatest return for their investment. You can also access reports

to learn more about how your facility compares to similar facilities in Iowa and around the country. When energy saving improvements are made to your facility, IBS can be used as a tool to track the results over time and to ensure your investment is reaping the anticipated energy reductions.

Participation in the Iowa Benchmarking Program for qualified public facilities is available at no cost for up to 800 additional selected buildings. Assistance for data entry and management is provided through the Iowa Energy Center, freeing your time and money to focus on achieving and measuring results. If you need assistance in identifying ways to make facility improvements based on the results you see, the Iowa Benchmarking Program partnership can help you gain easy access to the energy assistance programs offered in your area.

Selection for this enrollment period ends on June 1, 2013.

To learn more about the opportunity, or if your organization is interested in participating, please visit our website at <http://www.iowaenergycenter.org/benchmark/> or contact jeff.beneke@uni.edu.

NACo news

Continued from page 15.

The Iowa contingent had the pleasure of visiting all four Iowa congressmen and both senators. With the help of a pre-conference NACo webinar, we prepared ourselves in advance to make important points, to use an efficient division of labor, to know the individual members' key issues and to flatter the members effectively. We were of course interested in their take on deficit reduction, the sequestration and the federal debt, but we also took care to ask them what issues they were working on while those monster problems were using up all of the oxygen in town. But since they mostly wanted to know what we were interested in, we urged them to support the reauthorization of the Farm Bill and to oppose the capping or elimination of tax-exempt municipal bonds. Acknowledging that they had no vote on bills before the Iowa legislature, we nonetheless asked them to exert their considerable influence back home to secure Medicaid expansion and an increase in the gas tax.

It was a good thing we finished our Hill visits on Tuesday March 5, because on Wednesday a thick blanket of imaginary snow covered the District of Columbia and shut it down tight. Schools closed, the government was paralyzed, and weather announcers went into cardiac arrest. It was a sobering reminder of how imaginary weather can affect county government, and it reignited interest in drafting and promulgating imaginary disaster plans.

Hopefully NACo has prepared for the possibility of snow at the annual conference in Fort Worth, July 19-22, because there will be A TON of Iowans there to cheer the accession of Linda Langston to the presidency. Don't miss it!

Editor's note: The cover photo pictures (left to right): Wayne Clinton, Story County Supervisor; ISAC President Darin Raymond, Plymouth County Attorney; Congressman Steve King; Carl Mattes, Humboldt County Supervisor; and Judy Mattes.

The Importance of Annual Retirement Plan Checkups

- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

There's much truth to that familiar adage by inventor Ben Franklin. It's easier to prevent a problem rather than fix it after the fact. You buy insurance to protect your family, home and cars, and you're encouraged to have a regular policy review to make sure your coverage is just right. The same could be said about your deferred compensation account. You proactively invest today for your financial future, but how often do you review the progress of your account?

Assets may shift over time

Nationwide, your deferred compensation program provider, recommends conducting an annual account checkup, paying particular attention to how asset allocation percentages may shift over time. That's because some investments may grow (or lose) earnings faster than others, causing some classes to be over-represented versus the original investment strategy.

Left uncorrected, the account can take on more risk than you may be comfortable with, or become too conservative to potentially achieve the anticipated goals over the long term. Regular account reviews can identify these shifts and allow you to bring your portfolio back to its original asset allocation mix — a process known as rebalancing.

Your life may shift over time

Even if your portfolio has remained the same, your personal situation may have changed. Regular checkups also give you a chance to review your investment strategies and adjust for how market conditions or other factors have evolved over time.

By: Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Inc.

Make it easy to remember your annual review

Because so many unexpected events can happen each year, many experts suggest account reviews tied to annual events. While any annual event would do, tax time and during your employer's open enrollment are two timely periods to follow. Not only are you in that "frame of mind," you'll mostly likely have at hand the data necessary to make informed decisions.

Ask your Nationwide representative for assistance

Your Nationwide representative can help you with an annual plan review at any time. Call us today today at 1.877.NRSforu (1.877.677.3678). We are ready to assist you.

The use of diversification and asset allocation as part of an overall investment strategy does not assure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.

Neither the company nor its representatives give legal or tax advice. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor for answers to specific questions. Information provided by Retirement Specialists is for educational purposes only and is not intended as investment advice.

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2013 calendar

May 2013

- 2 CCMS Advanced Case Management Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 9 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 22-24 NACo WIR Conference
(Flagstaff, Arizona)

June 2013

- 6 CCMS Supervisors Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 11 District 4 Legislative District Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Council Bluffs)
- 12 District 1 Legislative District Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 12-14 ICIT Mid-Year Conference
(West Des Moines Marriott)
- 18 District 5 Legislative District Meeting
(Bridgeview Center, Ottumwa)
- 19 District 6 Legislative District Meeting
(The Hotel at Kirkwood Center, Cedar Rapids)
- 19-20 CCMS Fundamentals Training
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 20 District 2 Legislative District Meeting
(Historic Park Inn, Mason City)
- 21 District 3 Legislative District Meeting
(Buena Vista University, Storm Lake)

July 2013

- 9 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 19-23 NACo Annual Conference
(Fort Worth, Texas)
- 31-2 CCMS Annual Conference
(Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)
- 31-2 ISACA Summer Conference
(Iowa City)

August 2013

- 1-2 Supervisors Executive Board Retreat (Ames)
- 14-16 Recorders Summer Conference (Cedar Rapids)
- 15-16 ISAC LPC Retreat
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 22 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Otter Creek Golf Course, Ankeny)

September 2013

- 11-12 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Plymouth County)
- 26 ISAC LPC Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

October 2013

- 8 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 16-17 CCMS Fundamentals Training
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 17-18 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

November 2013

- 7 CCMS Advanced Case Management Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 13-15 ISAC Fall School of Instruction
(Veteran's Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

December 2013

- 4 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 5-7 NACo Board of Directors Meeting
(Cedar Rapids)
- 10-12 ICEA Annual Conference
(Ames)

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled for 2013, agendas and meeting notices can be found on ISAC's website. A majority of ISAC's meetings offer online registration. If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC Calendar, please contact Stacy Horner at 515.244.7181 or shorner@iowacounties.org.

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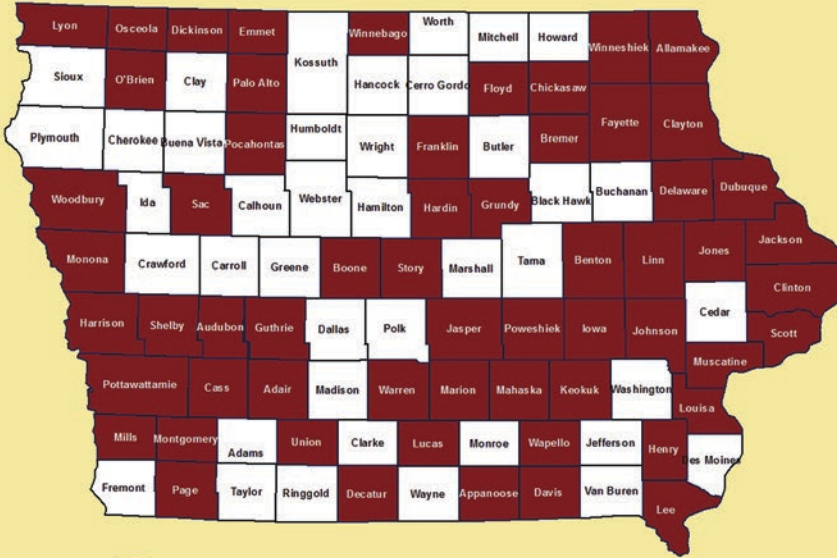
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