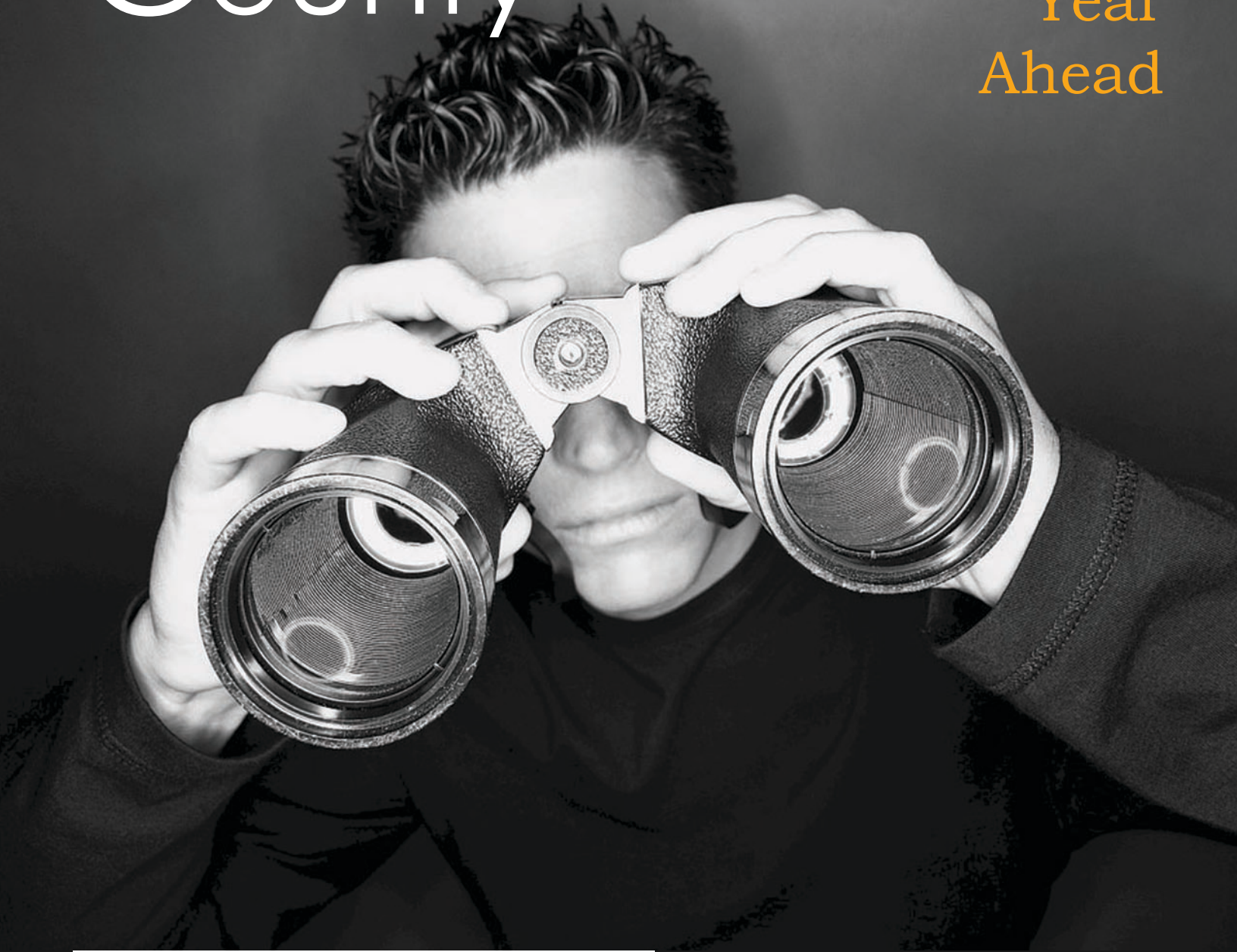


The Iowa County

Focusing
on the
Year
Ahead



January 2007



BETTER CONTROL, BETTER CYCLE TIMES.

SMOOTH OPERATOR.



CAT® G-SERIES WHEEL LOADERS... TECHNOLOGY TO HELP MAKE EVERY OPERATOR BETTER.

The G-Series Wheel Loaders from Caterpillar® offer size, power and comfort throughout the product line. Built using state-of-the-art computer modeling, the intelligent design of the G-Series delivers more visibility and comfort in the cab, leading to better cycle times and more productivity.

The rugged and dependable Cat power train allows the G-Series to offer better rim pull and more powerful loader hydraulics, as well.

Add available features such as a reversing fan to remove dust, the Cat Machine Security System and the unmatched support from Ziegler Cat and the Cat G-Series Wheel Loaders are easily your best choice. Contact us today about the G-Series Wheel Loaders.



www.zieglercat.com

1500 Ziegler Drive N.W.
Altoona, IA 50009
515.957.3800
800.342.7002

3366 5th Ave. S.
Ft. Dodge, IA 50501
515.576.3161
800.342.1848

11490 265th St.
Mason City, IA 50401
641.423.7240
800.342.1849

308 North Lawler
Postville, IA 52162
563.864.7461
800.526.0889

5300 Harbor Drive
Sioux City, IA 51111
712.252.4401
800.342.1847

©2006 Caterpillar Inc.

CAT, CATERPILLAR, their respective logos and "Caterpillar Yellow," as well as corporate and product identity used herein, are trademarks of Caterpillar and may not be used without permission.

Spec equipment with ease at www.GovBidSpec.com

The Iowa County

January 2007 * Volume 36, Number 1

The Iowa County. The official magazine of the Iowa State Association of Counties
501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 244-7181 FAX (515) 244-6397
www.iowacounties.org
Denise Obrecht, EDITOR

ISAC President & Executive Director	4-5
Capitol Comments <i>John Easter</i>	6
Legal Briefs <i>David Vestal</i>	7
Case Management <i>Linda Kemp</i>	8
Technology Center <i>Robin Harlow</i>	9
By the Numbers <i>Jay Syverson</i>	10
Health Check <i>Sandy Longfellow</i>	10
ISAC Meetings <i>Jerri Noboa</i>	11-12
Counties in the Spotlight	13
ISAC Brief	14-15
NACo News	16
In Memory	17
Miscellaneous	17
Calendar of Events	23

ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties. *The Iowa County* (ISSN 0892-3795, USPS 0002-150) is published monthly by the Iowa State Association of Counties 501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q, Des Moines, IA 50309-4540. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines, IA 50318. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Iowa County*, 501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q, Des Moines, IA 50309-4540. Subscriptions: \$25 per year.

ISAC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Kim Painter - Johnson County Recorder

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Mike King - Union County Supervisor

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Gary Anderson - Appanoose County Sheriff

3RD VICE PRESIDENT

Chuck Rieken - Cass County Supervisor

ISAC DIRECTORS

Marjorie Pitts - Clay County Auditor

Tim McGee - Lucas County Assessor

Pam Dettmann - First Assistant, Des Moines Co. Attorney

Linn Adams - Hardin County Community Services

Steve Lekwa - Story County Conservation Director

Derek White - Carroll County Emergency Mgmt.

Robert Sperry - Story County Engineer

Mark Linda - Black Hawk Co. Environ. Health

Wayne Chizek - Marshall Co. Information Technology

Ralph Wilmoth - Johnson County Public Health

Timothy Hoschek - Des Moines County Supervisor

Wayne Walter - Winneshiek County Treasurer

Les Beck - Linn County Zoning

Denise Dolan - Dubuque County Auditor (Past Pres.)

Grant Veeder - Black Hawk County Auditor (NACo rep.)

Jane Halliburton - Story County Supervisor (NACo rep.)

ISAC STAFF

William R. Peterson - Executive Director

Lauren Adams - Financial Administrative Assistant

John Easter - Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

Deb Eckerman - Case Management Specialist

Robin Harlow - Technology Project Manager

Linda Hinton - Assistant Legal Counsel

Brad Holtan - Accounting Manager

Linda Kemp - Case Management Specialist

Sandy Longfellow - Administrative Assistant

Jerri Noboa - Meetings Administrator

Tammy Norman - Technology Services Coordinator

Denise Obrecht - Marketing/Comm. Coordinator

Jackie Olson Leech - Case Management Specialist

Angie Ross - Receptionist

Jay Syverson - Fiscal Analyst

David Vestal - General Counsel

Dan Vonnahme - Case Management Specialist

Deborah Westvold - Case Management Director

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.

Rummaging Through the Attic

It's an odd title, but it seems like a good thing to do as another year approaches. Rummaging around is great activity. It is aimless, but provides countless points of possible focus or sheer reverie. It has the potential to be productive, though you could also, of course, just spend your whole day looking at everything you have squirreled away and not discard any of it. In short, rummaging is what you make it.

The title came to me because each year is like that attic - we can focus if we choose, or we can ramble. We can be efficient and send those objects no longer having any prospect for reasonable use to the junk heap, or we can just look around at everything and become immobilized by the array of possibilities.

In recent weeks and months, all of us associated with ISAC have developed a focus for the coming legislative session through our steering committee process. But there are many other things we can and should do, and they are not necessarily so precise or focused. I'd like to share some thoughts on how each of us can take action to enhance our vitality and standing as an association in the year to come.

- **Review goals and objectives.** Whether for your own office, your county or your affiliate, this is a great time to take stock. We accomplish a lot - but we have to remember to replenish our efforts on the other end so we always have a current goal in mind, an endeavor on which we can focus our best efforts.
- **Re-evaluate your processes.** The most fundamental question of all, no matter where you apply it is: "How do you *do* things?" What are your traditions, and how are they working? Do you have the leadership team you want in your affiliate? How are they chosen? Has that changed in the last decade? Maybe it doesn't need to - maybe it should. Only you can decide, but if you don't pull your processes out of mothballs now and again, you won't even ask the necessary questions - and that's a missed opportunity you can't afford.
- **Recharge the batteries.** Not everyone can have an official retreat to focus the mind on strategic goals. But the things that typically make up a retreat are things you should do for yourself annually. Even if it's just a day where you close the door to your office for four hours and shut off your phone, with a great cup of coffee in one hand and a note pad in the other, jotting down ideas - do it. You will be surprised what even a small amount of time held in reserve for yourself can do for you and your organization. Goals will come to mind. Innovative changes in service delivery will occur to you.

By: **Kim Painter**

ISAC President &
Johnson County Recorder



We tell ourselves a lot of big stories about innovation. Chief among these is that we have no innate talent for it. Don't fall into that trap. Innovation is not so much a gift as it is a habit - cultivate the habit of innovation by giving yourself these small amounts of time in which it can flourish, and you will be amazed at the results.

Make no mistake, as elected officials and various appointed department heads, we are obliged to run by a very different set of rules than a Warren Buffet, Bill Gates or Richard Branson. But the constraints of serving public entities also create unique opportunities and privileges for us. It's crucial that we leverage the positive aspects of being public servants as we plan for the future of our offices. The trust we enjoy, the transparency of our decision-making processes - these things give us an opportunity to share openly with our constituents our vision for the future. We should share that vision often, so people begin to see us more as CEOs and strategic thinkers and less as individuals who are part of an overarching structure of state and local government that hasn't changed overtly in a very long time.

Change itself is one of the more difficult things we in government are called to discuss, but in my experience it generates more anxiety than it should. We are not strangers to change. In fact, county officials generate enormous amounts of constructive change each year. But there is a countervailing fact that serves to push public discourse against us at times: We are not widely *perceived* as creating change. More often, sadly, we are viewed as placeholders or worse.

We all know that people live or die in public life on the basis of perception. If county officials fail to communicate our successful innovations to the public, we will never get credit for them. Old perceptions will stand unchallenged. This is another fine reason to take stock each year - you end up with a list of accomplishments you can share with the public in your county.

If each of us learns to communicate innovation, misperceptions will give way to a more realistic and balanced view. Ultimately, we'll find ourselves on the winning side of public opinion more often, and discussion about the structure of government in Iowa will be based on reality instead of perception. An outcome like that makes for a great start to any New Year!

New Year's Resolutions

The New Year is traditionally when individuals go through the process of identifying aspects of their personal and professional life that they believe need improvement. They draw up their list, on paper or in their mental notebooks, and vow to make improvements. Personally, I've never tried this - it sounds like a lot of work. And what about all the negative feelings this process would obviously generate - it can't be good for you. Besides, if I need a list of things to improve on there are a few people around that are always willing to point them out to me, and I usually don't have to ask them to do it.

However, I am not opposed to the idea of resolving to do things. A couple of years ago I was attending my son's graduation ceremony at the University of Missouri - Kansas City. The commencement speaker was a gentleman by the name of Mark Ernst, the CEO of H&R Block. He was addressing a group of MBA graduates and he suggested five values that they might consider as they entered the business world. They made a lot of sense so I decided to adopt them for myself. I thought I would share them with you to start the New Year. I review them a few times a year - just as a reminder.

The first value is *client focus*. It is easy to lose sight of the people that we are supposed to serve. Sometimes in the process of trying to do our job, we forget exactly why we are doing what we do. When I get so busy that my customers seem to get in the way of getting the job done, I know it is time to refocus.

The second value is *personal and business excellence*. Mark Ernst suggested that excellence is a rather nebulous goal and not easily defined, so he tried to put it in perspective. He suggested that we should try "to do the best we can given the realities of today." There are few times in life when everything is perfect and we have all the resources we need to get things done. If we sit around wringing our hands about this reality we won't get anything done. We need to set our priorities and do the best we can.

The third value is to *respect others*. There is tremendous diversity in the world. People are different in many ways, have different views on what should be done, how it should be done and why it should be done. We often let those differences obscure our view of others. Whether it is our coworkers or our clients, it is important to respect them as individuals despite our differences.

The fourth value is *teamwork*. We all have our own jobs to do in the organizations in which we work. And sometimes we get focused only on what we have to get done. The prob-

By: **Bill Peterson**

ISAC Executive Director



lem is our success is truly achieved only if the organization is successful. This value relates back to client focus and understanding the mission of your organization. Achieving success requires that everyone in the organization work together to get the job done. We have to combine our collective strengths for that to happen. Long term organizational success is only achieved when we work together.

The final value is *integrity*. I think this is really the glue that holds all the others together. Ernst described integrity as "being personally honest and ethical in all you do." He points out it is important to be honest and ethical not just when others are looking, but even when they aren't. This value also carries with it the highest stakes. If others believe that I don't have integrity or the organization I work for doesn't have integrity, it will be pretty difficult to achieve organizational goals. This value isn't just about me as the organization's executive director - it is affected by everyone whether a staff member or a county official.

So the five values are client focus, personal and business excellence, to respect others, teamwork and integrity. It seems like a lot to take on for one year. I would be less likely to think it was possible if there weren't some good examples of others that seemed to have been able to do it. One day this past November, I had the opportunity to spend the day with individuals from around the state that I believe applied a similar set of values to themselves. They were being recognized for the service they provided to their communities and the state of Iowa. I am not going to name them (although if they read this they will probably know who I am talking about) because they are the ones I personally know about. There are a lot of others that are leaving public service this year that have the same core values that won't get recognized. So let me just say thanks - you've all been a great example of how it can be done. My New Year's resolution is to see if I can do as well. If I don't, there are still those out there willing to tell me. Good luck!

ISAC's Top Priorities

In preparation for the 2007 legislative session, the ISAC Board of Directors is proud to recommend these top legislative priorities for consideration by the 82nd General Assembly. These priorities were ratified by our full membership at the 2006 ISAC Fall School of Instruction in November.

Property Tax Reform

ISAC supports property tax reform that stabilizes the tax base, resolves unfair discrepancies within the current tax base, improves accountability in the budgeting processes of cities and counties and imposes a reasonable limitation on city and county property taxes, while maintaining local control for citizens and their elected representatives.

ISAC has taken a proactive position with the Iowa League of Cities the last two years to advance such reforms in the legislative process. The 2007 session of the Iowa General Assembly offers an excellent opportunity to work from the plan we proposed in 2006 to reach the reform goals identified above.

Adequate Funding for Mental Health Services

In 1996 the Legislature froze the dollar amount in property taxes that a county could collect for MH/DD services and promised that the state would cover all increases in costs of services due to inflation, new consumers and other costs over and above inflation. During lean budget years \$18 million in growth funding cuts were made by the state. When combining those cuts with increasing costs of services, county fund balances are exhausted. Now the MH/DD system is in a state of crisis.

ISAC supports legislation to allow counties the option of using the levy rate as the cap instead of the dollars levied without any loss of property tax relief or allowed growth. Additionally, the \$18 million cut made in FY02, as adjusted for inflation, must be fully restored and future growth must be adequately funded. In addition, since the brain injury program is operated by the state, growth funds for that system should be separate from county operated M/DD growth funds.

Sex Offender Residency Law

The Iowa Sex Offender Residency Law generally says that a person who has committed a sex offense against a minor "shall not reside within 2,000 feet of an elementary or secondary school or a child care facility." Iowa is one of 14 states that have enacted residency restrictions for sex offenders. A more workable solution should be designed to strengthen Iowa's laws to protect children from sexual predators. The Legislature should:

- Replace the 2,000-foot residency restriction with safe zones that would prohibit sex offenders from entering areas near schools and day cares. For consistency preempt local safe zone ordinances.
- Enhance the effectiveness of the Sex Offender Registry by repealing the residency restriction, thus improving

By: **John Easter**

ISAC Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs



tracking ability by law enforcement. Currently, the number of sex offenders who are unaccounted for continues to increase, from 142 in June 2005 to 373 in September 2006.

- Support Department of Corrections efforts to require treatment before release, conduct risk assessments and have real-time electronic monitoring of the most serious offenders.
- Focus on prevention by appropriating \$250,000 to create a parental education and awareness program. Of sex offenders currently in Iowa's prison system for sex crimes, more than 95% said their victims were family members, relatives or acquaintances.
- Change current laws related to admissibility of evidence of similar offenses and related to enticing a minor to further protect children.

28E Publication Requirements

SF 2410 was passed in the last hours of the 2006 legislative session. It was the Legislature's response to the Central Iowa Employment Training Consortium (CIETC) scandal. Section 7 of SF 2410 requires that every 28E entity publish its board minutes in a general circulation newspaper. This creates a number of unintended consequences, including the following:

- *Cost of publication:* No one knows how many functioning 28E entities there are in Iowa. Assume conservatively that there are 2,500 entities and that each spends just \$400 per year complying with the publication requirements. That's \$1 million in new expenses for Iowa's taxpayers. The actual cost may be much greater.
- *Solving the wrong problem:* The publication requirements in SF 2410 would not have prevented the misdeeds at CIETC, which occurred because of intentional wrongdoing, so taxpayers would be spending \$1 million for something that is not guaranteed to solve the problem.
- *Administrative difficulties:* Some of the language in section 7 does not anticipate potential administrative problems. For instance, under section 7 a sole administrator of a 28E agreement is a "government body" for purposes of the open meetings law which means that minutes of "meetings" held by that one person have to be published. The circumstances are unclear when one person holds a meeting or engages in deliberation or action.

The Legislature should work with local governments to come up with an alternative to section 7 of SF 2410. Section 7 should be repealed and we should go back to the drawing board. Transparency is better achieved if you post board minutes on the Internet, where people will actually see them, rather than in the newspaper. And that would save local taxpayers a lot of money.

Mills County Agrees to Settle Costly Septic Tank Lawsuit

Improper Inspection

Mills County officials have agreed to pay the plaintiffs \$2.7 million to settle a seven-year-old class-action lawsuit involving more than 700 improperly approved septic systems.

I wrote about this lawsuit in January 2002. The lawsuit, *Saddler v. Miller*, was filed in 1999 in state court against the Mills County Board of Health, the Mills County Board of Supervisors and Creighton Miller, the county sanitarian at the time.

The facts in this case could not have been worse for the county. The plaintiffs alleged that the Mills County sanitarian improperly approved 740 septic tank systems during the period of 1986 through 1998. The lawsuit claimed that the septic systems, installed by private contractors, were “grossly inadequate” under state standards.

At that time, Mills County was one of the fastest-growing areas of Iowa, with most of the growth coming in the rural area outside of Glenwood. The homes involved are located in an area that was booming with new construction. Many of the homes involved cost \$200,000 or more.

The plaintiffs claimed that the septic systems that the county approved were too small for the particular homes and did not comply with state standards. Many of the plaintiffs claimed that as a result of the undersized septic tanks they had sewage backing up into their basements and overflowing into their backyards.

The lawsuit also alleged that Miller failed to advise contractors on how to install the systems and failed to adequately inspect the systems once they were installed. The lawsuit claimed that Miller failed to conduct the required percolation tests or soil analysis before approving the septic systems. Miller was a former county supervisor who acknowledged in a sworn statement that he had no training for the job.

The final settlement amounts to an average of \$3,650 per affected home. If the court approves the settlement, distribution of settlement funds could begin in 2007. The county’s private attorney told me that most of the settlement will be covered by insurance. The homeowners could have sued the contractors who installed the septic systems. They certainly deserve some of the blame here. They should have known what the standards required. But the lesson here is that the county board of health and the county sanitarian are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the contractors meet state standards.

Outside Counsel

When can elected county officials hire outside legal counsel? This was the issue decided by the Iowa Supreme Court in June 2006 in the case of *Stream v. Gordy* (716 N.W.2d 187).

Charles Stream was the Mahaska County attorney. He shared a full-time secretary with the sheriff’s office, splitting the secretary’s time and salary. When the secretary left, in February 2003, he hired a part-time secretary and told her he would at-

By: David Vestal

ISAC General Counsel



tempt to make the position full-time by sharing her with another office. The board of supervisors approved hiring the secretary at a salary of \$9,000 with no benefits.

In March Stream and the county assessor agreed to share the secretary and pay her \$22,000 plus benefits. Stream’s sharing arrangement, and the idea of raising the secretary’s salary, came before the board of supervisors in June 2003, and they voted it down.

When Stream learned of the decision, without seeking Board approval, Stream hired outside counsel. He and the assessor agreed to join in a lawsuit against the supervisors and to share the costs of hiring outside counsel from their respective budgets. They filed a lawsuit challenging the Board’s decision. They claimed the supervisors’ vote was “an attempt to control an autonomous county office.”

The district court ruled in favor of Stream, finding the supervisors’ failure to approve the employee-sharing arrangement with full-time compensation and benefits was illegal. The court also ruled the county attorney and the assessor acted legally when they retained outside counsel.

The appeal to the Iowa Supreme Court involved two important issues. The first was whether the board of supervisors has the authority to determine the salaries for employees of other elected county officials (other than deputies). The Iowa Supreme Court held that the legislature vested this power with the supervisors (Iowa Code §331.904(4)).

The Court said that in order to ensure that the supervisors properly fund all aspects of county government, they must strike a balance between the public needs of each county office and the limited financial resources available to the county. “We must leave the interdependent political, social, and economic judgments necessary to allocating the county’s limited financial resources among the various county agencies to the supervisors and not to the individual county officials,” said the Court.

The other issue was whether the county attorney had the authority to hire outside counsel. The Court said no. The county attorney was required to seek authorization from the board of supervisors prior to obtaining outside counsel. Further, the Court said that the county attorney’s failure to do so prevented him from requiring the county to pay outside counsel’s legal fees.

The same analysis would hold true for other elected officials. According to *Stream* they have no authority to hire outside counsel. If the county attorney has a conflict or for whatever reason is unavailable, the elected official must get approval from the board of supervisors before hiring outside counsel.

Parting Ponderable: “In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.” George Orwell

Psychiatric Advance Directive

A Tool for Consumer Empowerment

I had the privilege to attend the National Association for Case Management (NACM) conference in October. It was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, a very pretty location. The sessions I attended included several topics that I hope to incorporate in our CCMS trainings. One that remained as a highlight in my mind was a session on Psychiatric Advance Directives (PADs). The recovery movement has reminded us of the importance autonomy has in the recovery process. This topic fit right in. The presenter was Anna Scheyett, MSW, LCSW, from the University of North Carolina. Anna has been very active in the research surrounding efficacy of the PAD. The following is taken from her presentation.

PADs are legal instruments that allow a competent person to refuse or give consent to future psychiatric treatment if he/she becomes incapacitated. We are all aware of living wills and medical power of attorney that are legally-recognized documents. A PAD is created on the same premise. When you are competent and of sound mind you provide direction as to how you want to be cared for and what treatment you do or do not want. In the psychiatric arena there are nuances that seem to complicate that premise.

A typical advance directive offers self-directed planning of your own health care in case you are incapacitated. It allows you to indicate your consent to or refusal of specific types of treatment. It also allows you to provide a statement of values and preferences that are consistent with cultural and personal values. It designates a trusted person to act on your behalf while you are incapacitated. A PAD is also an adaptation of an end-of-life directive because it assumes you will recover capacity. It assumes that directives are made based on experience. For example, if a treatment in the past was ineffective or harmful you should be able to choose not to have it again. The PAD contains mental health specific issues and context related to advance treatment decision making.

An advance directive can not only discuss mental health treatment choices, it can state significant medical issues that individuals with severe mental illness may have. That could include diabetes, heart conditions, high blood pressure, allergies or adverse reactions to medications.

It all sounds so logical and simple, but of course it is not. There are issues driving the ethical and policy debate around the use of PADs. There is tension between supporting a person's autonomy and the "best interests" of the person as determined by the medical or psychiatric professional. This would be the civil rights perspective versus medical paternalism. There is also the discontinuity of care - people may indicate their choice of hospital but if no beds are available or no funding source available their choice is ignored. The issue of involuntary commitment would also trump a PAD.

By: Linda Kemp

ISAC Case Management Specialist



The goals of an advance directive are at best to ensure individuals are treated in accordance with their wishes, to facilitate more informed and open dialogue between individuals and their treatment providers, and to provide an informational "bridge" during times of crisis.

There has been some research around the attitude about a PAD and its actual use by the person with the illness. People who felt most vulnerable or had a serious experience with hospitalization wanted one, but those who actually had a PAD were not part of that group.

Possible barriers to having a PAD were summarized and presented to individuals in the study and included the following list:

- Hard to find someone or somewhere to get help to complete the PAD.
- Don't know enough about PADs.
- Don't know what to say or write in the PAD.
- Don't have someone trustworthy enough to make decisions on your behalf.
- Don't have a trustworthy doctor.
- Don't like to sign legal documents (or you don't trust legal documents).

Eighty-five percent endorsed at least one barrier; 55% reported three or more of the barriers as issues. On one hand the PAD provides an opportunity for a person with an illness to have some sense of control over their life and possibly lessen the impact of a crisis. On the other hand the PAD requires significant thought, trust and construction that a person with a significant illness could find overwhelming to develop on their own.

Wording in a legal document is always something to consider. It needs to reflect a competent person rather than an angry person reacting to past experience. The document needs to be available when a crisis occurs. So many questions and possible barriers, and yet the value remains. In looking at the list of barriers the role of a case manager could be significant. Knowledge of the existence of a PAD, advocacy with those who would be contrary to the content, linking the individual to someone who could help develop the document - just a few of the possibilities.

One of the participants in the study said the following: "It's probably one of the best things that has come into mental health in a long time because it gives you rights, while you're sound and while you know what's best for you - and you're the only person that knows what's best for you deep down...I would still recommend that people at least consider it because it's nothing but beneficial..."

The presenter provided the worksheets used to develop a PAD, which I would be glad to share with anyone interested. It is a topic that should be part of the discussion around recovery for persons with mental illness in Iowa.

Budgeting for the ETC

Last month I mentioned that as the Electronic Transactions Clearinghouse (ETC) was getting off the ground in October 2003, each member of ETC was assessed a \$2,500 joiner fee, plus an "annual" fee. Each county's initial fee can be found on the ISAC website (www.iowacounties.org/Technology.htm). In the three years of operation of ETC, this "annual" fee has never been collected. Meanwhile in these three years, expenses were paid to host the system to keep it operational. The counties in return remained compliant with the HIPAA rules.

As part of the review of the ETC program, a three year budget was developed. This budget was developed to reflect an entity that is maintained and positioned to grow. The following factors came into play when this budget was developed: migrating and enhancement of ETC; BizTalk upgrade and maintenance; systems analyst; consult and programming; budget stability and ETC assessment.

Migrating and Enhancement of ETC

For FY07 this is the single largest expense. As described in December's article, this project is making the ETC connected not only to legacy systems, but allowing for the knowledge transfer of both the HIPAA process and ETC operation. As an update, by mid-January, ETC will be processing HIPAA transactions for both Polk County and Linn County. The enhancement was built to allow other counties to be able to take advantage of these new interfaces. In 2007 ETC will work hard to engage counties and their providers in the system.

BizTalk Upgrade and Maintenance

This is going to be the second largest expense in 2007. ETC is made up of three components: the website (interface), BizTalk (application) and SQL Server Database (storage). The heart and soul of ETC is the BizTalk application and the modules that support HIPAA transactions. In the last three years Microsoft's BizTalk application has gone through two complete upgrades, with a third scheduled for the summer of 2007. Since ETC's version of BizTalk has never been upgraded, by summer 2007 our BizTalk will be three major upgrades behind. Purchasing the BizTalk upgrade in FY07 will save ETC \$20,000 in software costs - over waiting to purchase in FY08. Starting in 2008, the budget will include a software maintenance expense that will allow ETC to be upgraded on a more regular basis and at a nominal cost.

Systems Analyst

In FY07 systems analyst is small compared to the Migration project and BizTalk upgrades. But in 2008 and 2009 this item actually becomes the single largest item. One of the goals for internal hosting of ETC is the transfer of the technical knowledge of ETC into the collective county knowledge base. Having

By: *Robin Harlow*

ISAC Technology Project Manager



a technical staff in place to support ETC and its related technology will allow this knowledge to be leveraged in other projects. The more knowledge we gain and retain the better we are at gauging the value of a proposed third party service, and determining when and where we should use outside services. As we look to upgrade the BizTalk server in FY07, having this knowledge will allow ETC to *not* incur a third party fee to perform the upgrade. This fee would be in excess of \$30,000.

Consulting and Programming

The more we learn about how the ETC operates, the more we can work to reduce the expense related to hiring outside consultants. When working with consultants I have two rules: 1) hire what you don't know and 2) before they leave, learn what you hired them for. With ETC we know how to run and set up the website and we understand databases. What we don't understand is BizTalk. FY08 and FY09 would reflect a 50% reduction in this expense, with the expectation that we would be better prepared to support and maintain BizTalk ourselves.

Budget Stability

Once we get through FY07, the intent is to stabilize ETC's budget by anticipating projects and purchasing maintenance contracts that level out the cost of software upgrades. This will help counties better plan for this expense.

ETC Assessment

In order to actually have a budget, ETC must begin to collect the annual assessment as outlined in the 28E agreement. The current plans are to assess for the current year (FY07) and next year (FY08) jointly. This assessment will be due in July 2007. A county may, if it wishes, pay the current year assessment prior to July 2007. Because of the improvements in functionality and upgrades to the system, the FY07 assessment will be somewhat larger than the FY08. I expect that the individual assessments for FY07 and FY08 are by themselves significantly lower than the assessment collected in 2003. Once approved by the ISAC Board, the details of each member county's assessment should be communicated in January 2007.

2007 and Beyond...

Getting the initial volume through ETC should be viewed as a springboard for the wider use of the core ETC technology. The planning involved in developing a three-year budget will help lay a foundation that will allow us to move ETC from just keeping a county compliant, to becoming a useful tool that assists the county in its day-to-day operations.

by the numbers

Snow Plowing Costs

By: Jay Syverson

ISAC Fiscal Analyst



If you haven't already driven to or from work on a snow-covered road, you surely will before winter ends. And once you do you start to appreciate the efforts of snow plow drivers around the state who clear those roads while you sleep. This month's *By the Numbers* looks at what it costs counties to keep those roads clean.

In 2007 counties plan to spend over \$22 million on snow and ice control, which includes the basics of plowing roads and spreading chemicals, and also buying materials and other related costs. There are almost 90,000 miles of secondary roads in Iowa. Assuming that counties plow all of those roads - and only those roads - then it costs about \$245 to keep one mile of secondary roads plowed all season long. Iowa has almost 3 million people, so it costs about \$7.40 per person to keep the secondary roads plowed all season long. The average annual snowfall in Iowa is 32.4 inches, so it costs about \$680,000 to plow one inch of snow from county roads. And finally, there are between 15 and 30 days of measurable snow each year in Iowa. If we take the middle and say there are 22 days when the plows need to be out, then it costs \$1 million to clear the secondary roads every time we get a measurable snowfall.

But those costs vary significantly around the state. It only costs \$217 to keep one mile of secondary roads plowed in southern Iowa. It costs \$251 in northern Iowa and, somewhat surprisingly, even more (\$267) in central Iowa. Twelve counties spend less than \$100 on snow removal per secondary road mile. A third of all counties spend less than \$170, but only four of those counties are in northern Iowa. Eight counties spend over \$400,000 on snow plowing. Johnson County tops the list with a snow removal budget of \$1.8 million; Dubuque County is next at \$645,000; and Winneshiek County is third at \$462,000. Twenty counties spend under \$100,000 on snow plowing. Most of those are in southern Iowa, but Sac County, which falls in the central Iowa category for purposes of this article, has a snow removal budget of zero. Per capita costs also vary significantly, with snow removal costing over \$20 per person in smaller counties like Adams and Osceola, and under \$1.00 per person in larger counties like Polk, Linn and Woodbury.

Sources: County budgets; Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Climatology Bureau; The National Climatic Data Center

health check

Urban Myth or Not?

By: Sandy Longfellow

ISAC Administrative Assistant



The other day I had a conversation with a friend about an email I had received. The essence of the email was not to reuse plastic bottles by putting them in the freezer with water in them. This topic had been brought to my attention before, but this time I was going to check it out. There is a website dedicated to finding the truth in urban myths - www.snopes.com. Here are a few examples.

Bottle Royale: This traveling email asserts that water bottles are safe for only one use because they contain a "potentially carcinogenic element." After getting information from Johns Hopkins University it was discovered that the only danger is not washing the bottle before it is reused. By not washing it, there could be bacteria lurking from prior users.

Bag-teria: An email was circulating about a study done on women's purses. The bottoms of the purses were swabbed and tested. The health report showed that women place their purses on the floors of restaurants, subways, public restrooms and on the foldout child seat of shopping carts. Imagine what has been there. About one-fourth of the purses showed dangerous types of bacteria and bacterial contamination. So, this email turned out to reveal real concerns. Don't place your purse on the kitchen counter when you get home!

Eraser's Edge: Lots of emails circulate about fears regarding noxious or dangerous substances being included in common cleaning products. Variations include Resolve carpet cleaner that caused the death of a young boy who drank it, Dawn dishwashing liquid eroding corneas of the eyes of a toddler and pets being felled by Swiffer WetJet, Febreze fabric refresher and Ultra Clorox. The latest is about Mr. Clean Magic Erasers. There are persistent rumors that there is formaldehyde included in the ingredients. One ingredient in these erasers might have been misinterpreted, but we are assured they are safe.

Strokelore: There has been a message being sent out about recognizing the signs of a stroke. It recommends three questions to ask someone you think is having a stroke - ask them to smile, to raise both arms and to speak a simple sentence. Although this method hasn't been endorsed by the American Stroke Association, it does address some major symptoms of a stroke including confusion/trouble speaking and numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg. Other symptoms include severe headache, trouble walking/dizziness and trouble seeing.

ISAC Spring School 2007

By: **Jerri Noboa**

ISAC Meetings Administrator



We would like to thank everyone who attended ISAC's 2006 Fall School of Instruction. As always, we would like your feedback to help us better serve you in the future. Please go to our website at www.iowacounties.org and fill out the Fall School Evaluation Form listed on our homepage. Thanks again for helping make our Fall School a success!

ISAC's Spring School is fast approaching and online registration is up and running at www.iowacounties.org. The school will be held March 18-20 at the Downtown Marriott and Renaissance Savery here in Des Moines. Last month's magazine had hotel reservation information in it, which is also available on ISAC's website.

If you come to our conference on Sunday, March 18, the city parking ramps are free for that day only. An attendant will place a ticket in your window stating that you are to start paying on Monday. Valet parking at both the Marriott and Renaissance Savery is \$15 per day, not including tip. For more parking information visit ISAC's website.

On Sunday evening from 5pm - 6:30pm join the exhibitors for a reception in the Marriott Exhibit Hall. We have a great keynote speaker on Monday morning during the general session, Charlie Wittmack. Charlie became the first Iowan to climb to the highest point on earth – the summit of Mt. Everest. You'll hear stories of the people who inspired him to make his Everest dream a reality, and how they taught him to overcome fear and embrace adventure in order to find success on the mountain and in life.

On Thursday evening we will be inviting the Iowa legislators to a reception that will be held preceding the ISAC Dance. I am pleased to announce that the Whitesidewalls will again be performing at the ISAC Dance.

New County Officers School

On Wednesday, January 17, ISAC will host its New County Officers (NCO) School at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines. This event is organized specifically to provide newly-elected county officials with the baseline information they need to begin their job. Registration for the two-day NCO school is \$100 in advance, \$120 at the door. A one-day registration fee of \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door is also available. Register today at www.iowacounties.org!

County-a-Day Replaced by District Legislative Days

Have you noticed that there is no sign-up available for "County-a-Day"? That is because it is being replaced this year by District Legislative Days. We believe that a greater concentration of county officials at the Capitol on fewer days will increase county officials' visibility and impact. There will be six district-focused meetings held weekly during the first half of the session. Each ISAC district will be invited to come to the Capitol to spend a day meeting with ISAC lobbyists, department heads and legislators. All county officials are invited to attend. This is a great opportunity for county officials to sit down with state policy makers and shed light on how specific bills and actions will affect their county. This program will be part of an effort to bring officials from all 99 counties to visit the Capitol at least once during the legislative session.

As a member of ISAC, we count on you to help us promote the association's legislative objectives for the year. As a county official, you share constituents with your legislators. This local connection helps your voice have a significant impact on the way lawmakers vote on key issues affecting counties. In order to take advantage of your unique influence, it's imperative that your legislators hear from you! By taking part in District Legislative Days, you will have significant impact on the legislation that impacts the future of local government. The dates and regions are as follows:

- Wednesday, January 24 District 1 (Central Iowa)
- Wednesday, January 31 District 5 (Southeast Iowa)
- Wednesday, February 14 District 4 (Southwest Iowa)
- Wednesday, February 21 District 6 (Eastern Iowa)
- Tuesday, February 27 District 3 (Northwest Iowa)
- Wednesday, March 14 District 2 (Northeast Iowa)

The day will begin with a program at the Wallace Building Auditorium (502 East 9th Street). The agenda for that meeting will be as follows:

- 9:00am Welcome and introductions – Bill Peterson
- 9:15am Governor's office representative (invited)
- 9:45am Department head (invited)
- 10:15am ISAC lobby staff highlights and Q & A
- 10:45am Adjourn to the Capitol

County officials are encouraged to schedule individual meetings with their legislators and to attend legislative committee meetings and floor sessions the rest of the day.

You can register your county by calling Angie Ross, ISAC staff, at 515-244-7181 or by email at aross@iowacounties.org. Tell Angie your district, the date you plan to attend, the number of county officials you anticipate will be coming, who the contact person from your county will be, and how they can be reached in the future (phone number or email address).

For more information on District Legislative Days visit ISAC's website at www.iowacounties.org.

ISAC meetings

ISAC's Legislative Package Approved at the Fall School

More than 800 county officials traveled to Des Moines for ISAC's 63rd Fall School of Instruction held at the Downtown Marriott and Renaissance Savery in Des Moines on November 29-December 1. During the ISAC general session the 2007 legislative package was debated and approved. The top priorities include: establishing a reformed property tax system in Iowa that will stabilize the tax base and enhance local accountability; providing adequate funding for mental health services; replacing the 2,000 foot sex offender residency law with "safe zones" that prohibit sex offenders from coming near schools and daycare centers and revisiting the balance between government accountability to the public and fiscal responsibility for inter-governmental agreements. The priorities are the basis for ISAC's lobbying efforts during the upcoming legislative session.

New this year was a keynote panel that discussed the results from the November elections. The panel included: Jeneane Beck, KUNI Public Radio; Dave Kraemer, Ames Daily Tribune; and Doug Neumann, Cedar Rapids Gazette. The general session also included a farewell speech by ISAC President Denise Dolan and a speech on the upcoming year by ISAC 1st VP Kim Painter. An ISAC Innovation Award was given to Johnson County for its MH/DD Jail Alternatives Program.

A special thank you to ISAC's conference sponsors: Iowa Municipal Insurance, LTD; The Sidwell Company; TrueNorth Companies; Cost Advisory Services, Inc.; Cott Systems, Inc.; Solutions, Inc.; and The Schneider Corporation. Thank you to the 65 exhibitors that attended ISAC's Fall School of Instruction. Sponsors and exhibitors not only support the association financially, they also add to the wealth of information on how county officials can improve their individual counties through the use of their products and services. Also, thank you to the 12 companies that advertised in the Fall School program. Their advertising allows ISAC to offset the cost associated with printing the program. To view the ISAC Fall School program visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) and click on 'News' then 'Publications.'

We hope to see everyone again at ISAC's Spring School March 18-20 at the Downtown Marriott and Renaissance Savery in Des Moines. Affiliate meeting locations can be found on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org).



Photos from left: Carlton Salmons, CIETC attorney, was one of the speakers for the ISAC seminar entitled "Avoiding the Next CIETC: How to Serve on a 28E Board." County officials worked in small groups during Otis White's seminar on regionalism and overcoming barriers to cooperation. James Hanks, Ahlers & Cooney PC Attorney, held an ISAC seminar on personnel issues.



Photos from left: Floyd Magnusson was recognized for his years of service on the IPAIT Board. Ken Bilbrey and Jody Smith accepted certificates for 20 years of service to county officials through the ICAP program. Malinda Lamb, Johnson County MH/DD Mobile Crisis Coordinator, accepted the Johnson County Innovation Award from ISAC President Denise Dolan. Doug Neumann, Cedar Rapids Gazette, was one of the panelists for the general session keynote panel.

Tourism County of the Year

Hamilton County received the Tourism County of the Year award from the Iowa Division of Tourism in October. Hamilton County was recognized for its well-rounded mix of local events and attractions and an effective marketing campaign. Requests for visitor information have increased by 500% since 2005, said Catherine Bergman, executive director of Hamilton County S.E.E.D. The local receipts have increased 6.5% and the state tax receipts have increased 5.07%. *(Taken from the Messenger, October 27)*

Ferry Service in Iowa?

Louisa County may be establishing a ferry service on the Mississippi River in the future. Louisa County supervisors signed an agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation so that county can receive funding from Illinois for a study needed to re-establish a ferry service between Louisa County and Mercer County, Ill. The Board also agreed to sign an agreement with the Iowa Department of Economic Development, pending written confirmation that the study is appropriate for the project. The purpose of the ferry is transportation and economic development. *(Taken from the Wapello Republican, November 9)*

Auditor Moving to State Post

Longtime Linn County Auditor Linda Langenberg has accepted the position of Iowa's deputy secretary of state in charge of elections. Linda served in county government for 30 years. She worked for Johnson County for 1.5 years and then the past 28.5 years in Linn County. *(Taken from the Gazette, December 5)*

Ethanol Plant

Cass County passed a resolution in support of going ahead with an incentive plan for a new ethanol plant, after working out a number of details, including setting up an Urban Renewal District and a TIF bond to pay for requested infrastructure improvements. CassCo Amazing Energy asked the supervisors for a 50% tax abatement for the next 10 years, a paved road, water and sewer systems extended to the ethanol plant site and suggested that TIF money could be used to pay for the improvements. *(Taken from the Atlantic News-Telegraph, November 17)*

Jail Alternatives Program

Johnson County was experiencing jail over-crowding and an increasing number of inmates with mental health issues. The Board of Supervisors appointed a Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee to address this difficulty. This committee worked collaboratively with Johnson County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Department, the sheriff's department, county attorney's office as well as representatives from local law enforcement, courts, advocacy groups, consumers, and both mental health and substance abuse providers to develop and implement a Mental Health Jail Alternatives Program.

Funding was provided as a component of the Johnson County MH/DD Services FY05 budget. The project was also awarded a National Institute of Mental Health Adult Cross Training Curriculum grant.

Using formal screening techniques, mental health professionals identify inmates who may be appropriate for treatment as an alternative to incarceration. These individuals are professionally evaluated and must meet established mental health and legal criteria. During the first year of the program, the jail alternative program has worked with 107 individuals, and of these, 34 have been placed or released from jail early and placed in mental health treatment. Another 17 individuals on probation, parole or re-entering the community from prison have been served by this program.

Benefits realized are both social and financial. By addressing the mental health needs of the community, the incidents of criminal activity are being reduced in number and severity, while the cost of prosecuting and jailing offenders is reduced. Persons with mental health issues are being seen less in the criminal justice system and more appropriately in the service delivery system.

Johnson County received an ISAC Innovation Award at the Fall School of Instruction for its MH/DD Jail Alternatives Program.

Correction:

Marie Krutzfield was listed as the outgoing Keokuk County Recorder, which is incorrect. She is the Jones County Recorder and will not be retiring.

Public Policy Process

The relationship between Iowa counties and the state is dynamic. Intergovernmental relations involve more than just contacting legislators. There are many facets involved in the process as counties participate in developing public policy that affects local government. The goal for counties in this effort is to produce policy that enables county officials to serve their citizens in the most flexible, efficient and cost-effective way possible.

This section describes the entire process used by ISAC in bringing the county message to our state policy makers. As the 82nd General Assembly and Governor Culver begin in the new session, it is a good time for new county officials to learn the process ISAC uses throughout the year. It is also a good time for the rest of us to become reacquainted with our own process.

Steering Committees & Policy Development

Our public policy process begins with the seven ISAC steering committees. Committee chairs are appointed by the ISAC President for two-year terms on a staggered basis. Each ISAC affiliate is entitled to name three members to each steering committee. While any county official may attend a steering committee meeting, only designated members may vote. A vice-chair and secretary are determined by each committee annually.

The following ISAC staff members are appointed to provide staff services to the steering committees: County Administration and Organization - Bill Peterson; Environment and Public Health - Deb Westvold; Human Services - Linda Hinton; Land Use and Rural Affairs - Tammy Norman; Public Safety - David Vestal; Taxation and Finance - Jay Syverson; and Transportation - John Easter.

The steering committees meet two times in the early fall to recommend policy direction for ISAC. Policies are created in two essential ways: policy statements and legislative objectives.

Policy Statements: First, the committees establish policy statements. Policy statements express long-term or continued statements of principle important for local control, local government authority and efficient county operation. These statements are designed to guide the Association in responding to proposed public policy issues affecting county government.

Legislative Objectives: Second, the committees adopt and prioritize legislative objectives. These are matters that ISAC attempts to initiate as legislation or as amendments to legislation. They are prepared in a problem/solution format. Policy statements and legislative objectives reflect proposals raised by the ISAC affiliates, unmet objectives from the previous year and any other item brought to the steering committee by other individuals or organizations.

Once the steering committees have done their work, the ISAC Board of Directors reviews, amends and approves each report and identifies “top priorities” during the October board meeting. These top priorities are typically selected from legislative objectives, but sometimes policy statements are also included. While the ISAC staff works on all of the issues raised by the steering committees, the top priorities receive special attention during the legislative session.

At the ISAC Fall School, the entire package (including the identified top priorities) is ratified by the full membership. Changes to the package may be made from the floor during the general session. ISAC publishes the final package in a booklet for the General Assembly and other interested groups. ISAC also produces a brochure highlighting the top policy priorities. All of this information is available on ISAC’s website (www.iowacounties.org) under ‘Services’ then ‘Legislative Information.’

Affiliates in the Legislative Process

Each affiliate has its own way of dealing with the legislative process. ISAC staff is available to assist the affiliates with their legislative programs, but the ultimate responsibility rests with each affiliate.

Every affiliate designates a person(s) as their legislative liaison. These liaisons serve as the primary contact point through which ISAC staff communicates with the affiliate memberships during the session. For example, with the assistance of ISAC staff at the Capitol, the liaison coordinates legislative strategy (such as letter writing or telephone contacts with legislators) when important issues come up.

Most affiliates have a legislative committee that reviews bills and provides direction to their liaisons and ISAC. Such committees help spread the workload among a cross-section of their own affiliate members. Individuals on these committees also become a good resource for the affiliate liaisons and ISAC staff to rely on when special expertise on an issue is needed.

Throughout the policy cycle, the ISAC lobbying staff and all affiliate legislative liaisons hold special strategy meetings. There are usually about four of these meetings during the year. These meetings help ISAC to develop strategy within and among the various affiliates. These meetings also enable each affiliate to become acquainted with other affiliate representatives and learn about their issues and how they deal with them.

ISAC Lobbyist/Staff & Issue Areas

- John Easter (lobbyist) - Tax and finance, elections, public safety, transportation and any other issues as needed
- Linda Hinton (lobbyist) - Mental health, public health, children and families, and any other issues as needed

In addition to the lobbyists, the following ISAC staff share in the workload with affiliate liaisons by providing technical analysis to help formulate ISAC positions.

- Bill Peterson - Any issue as needed
- Jay Syverson - Tax, finance, and fiscal impact analysis
- David Vestal - Corrections, law enforcement, homeland security and general research
- Deb Westvold - Mental health and social services

ISAC Bill Review & Registration Process

Assignment of Bills to ISAC Review Staff and Affiliate: Every morning during the legislative session, the ISAC lobbying team reviews the daily bill packet and makes initial bill assignments to the appropriate ISAC legislative review staff and affiliate(s). Each assigned bill is posted on the “Legislative Tracking Tool” on the ISAC website. During the session, the Legislative Tracking Tool is updated every day.

Registration on Bills: In order to lobby on any piece of legislation, interest groups such as ISAC must register to lobby on each bill in the house where the legislation originated. There are three registration choices. The options are: For, Against, or Undecided. Accordingly, when it is obvious that ISAC should register, an “F”, “A”, or “U” will be posted next to the bill number on the Legislative Tracking Tool, along with the staff initials, affiliate assignment and a brief description of the bill.

FYI System: Often there are bills that *could* have an impact on counties, but the ISAC lobbyists may not be sure during their initial review. In such cases, we do not register on the bill, but we send it out to affiliates with a notation of “FYI.” ISAC proceeds with appropriate action on these bills once the affiliate(s) analyze the bill and make their recommendations. If the affiliate wants ISAC to simply track the bill without registering on it, “TK” will be noted with the bill posting.

ISAC Update

One of the most effective communications tools for our membership during the legislative session is the weekly ISAC Update. This electronic newsletter features the hot topics of the week. It reports important changes and developments on key issues and alerts county officials which legislators to contact, when to contact them and the appropriate message that needs to be delivered.

This grassroots newsletter is emailed to every county official that has email capabilities (that ISAC is aware of) and is posted on the ISAC website. If a county official does not have email, the auditor in each county handles the distribution. This device helps crystallize the county position on important issues and brings continuity to the county message across the state. It also helps to assure timely contacts with state policy makers.

District Legislative Days

District Legislative Days is a program for county officials in each of the six ISAC districts to spend one predetermined day at the Capitol during the legislative session. The goals of this effort are to raise awareness of counties with state policymakers and to assist ISAC in lobbying issues. The presence of county officials works to enhance relations between state and local officials. This program also provides our membership an opportunity to learn the legislative process first-hand.

District Workshops

At the end of each legislative session, the ISAC staff compiles and summarizes all enacted bills that affect counties into a legislative summary book. The summary book is organized into topic areas that correlate with ISAC steering committees. Also included are indexes of bill summaries listed by affiliate.

The final stage of the policy cycle is the June district workshops. The workshops consist of meetings with the county officials in each of the six ISAC districts throughout Iowa. At this meeting, copies of the bill summary books are distributed and ISAC staff provides presentations about the legislative year and its outcomes. Area legislators are invited. Finally, breakout sessions for affiliate groups are held and the ISAC staff makes special presentations about bills affecting their particular areas.

Legislative Interim Committees & Administrative Rule Making

After the district workshops, and until the cycle starts up again with the steering committee process, ISAC monitors legislative interim committees. The committees are appointed by legislative leaders to study certain issue areas. Many committees look at matters that affect counties, and ISAC is often asked to provide testimony to these committees.

The interim period also provides time for ISAC to track the administrative rule-making process by executive branch agencies. Many rules are promulgated to implement legislation that ISAC has worked on. Again, this sometimes involves testimony on issues and appropriate coordination with affiliates.

Finally, affiliates use the interim period to study issues to propose to ISAC steering committees for the following year. ISAC staff provides assistance to affiliates during the interim if requested. Before you know it, it is time to start all over again.

The Aging Population

By: Gary Gortenburg, NACo Program Director, CSD

A survey of more than 1,790 counties, towns and other municipalities found that just 46% have strategies to deal with the rapidly increasing baby boom population. The report, "The Maturing of America: Getting Communities on Track for an Aging Population," was conducted through a partnership with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, NACo, the National League of Cities and Partners for Livable Communities.

The survey was designed to address three key preparedness questions:

- whether efforts are being made to assess and put into place programs, policies and services that address the needs of older adults and their caregivers;
- whether counties and cities can ensure that their communities are "livable" for all ages; and
- how well equipped an area is to harness the talent, wisdom and experience of older adults.

Survey findings indicate that local governments generally offer basic health and nutrition programs, but as yet do not have policies, programs or services in place to promote the quality of life and the ability of older adults to live independently and contribute to their communities for as long as possible. These services might include job training, flextime and other job accommodations, home chore services, home modification and senior-friendly housing options, tax relief, roadway redesign or public transportation assistance as well as volunteer opportunities targeted to older adults.

In one-third of the communities surveyed, older adults do not have access to a range of needed preventive health care services, such as health education, community-based health screenings and counseling on prescription drug programs. Fifty percent of communities surveyed reported having home modification programs that adapt existing homes of older adults to address physical limitations, an important concern as most people prefer to remain in their own homes as they age.

Many communities are not addressing the mobility needs of an aging population. Only 56% reported having call a ride or door-through-door transportation services, and only 40% reported having road signage that meets the needs of older drivers. More than 33% do not have a system to locate older adults in case they become ill, and 70% do not have prevention programs on elder abuse and neglect.

More than one-third of communities do not have fitness programs for older adults, though 86% have biking/hiking trails. More than 60% provide civic engagement or volunteer opportunities, including those for older adults.

The full report can be viewed at www.n4a.org.

Legislative Conference

The 110th Congress, First Session, will hit town in January, and a great number of programs that assist counties will be under intense scrutiny. As a county official you need to know what this means for counties, what you can do about the issues, and how you can strengthen the voice of local government on Capitol Hill. With a philosophy of "those who show up decide," you have a host of reasons to attend the NACo Legislative Conference. The conference will be held March 3-7, 2007, at the Hilton Washington & Towers in Washington, D.C.

Ceasefire on Health Care

Former Louisiana Senator John Breaux will moderate a bipartisan forum on local and state governments advancing health care system innovations and reforms. The panel will feature a high-level Republican elected official and The Honorable Ron Sims, County Executive from King County, Washington. Senator Breaux developed Ceasefire to inspire change within the health care system by bringing together leaders from both sides of the aisle so that incremental, market-based solutions could be achieved. Previous Ceasefire events attracted national media attention for finding common ground in discussions between Senator Clinton and former House Speaker Gingrich, former HHS Secretaries Thompson and Shalala, and others. This is the first Ceasefire forum to look beyond the federal role and focus on state and local efforts.

Luncheon Will Feature ...The Capital Steps

Back by popular demand, the Capital Steps is the only group in America that attempts to be funnier than the U.S. Congress. A troupe of current and former Congressional staffers who monitor events and personalities on Capitol Hill, in the Oval Office, and in other centers of power and prestige around the world, take a humorous look at serious issues while providing a nationwide laugh for millions.

For up-to-date information on the 2007 Legislative Conference and to register online visit the NACo website at www.naco.org.

Mark Your Calendars

NACo 2007 Annual Conference
July 13 - 17, 2007

Richmond, Virginia

in memory

Dennis Lange

Dennis D. Lange, 53, of Orange City died December 3 at the Orange City Area Health Center. Dennis began employment for the Sioux County Auditor's Office, as Deputy Commissioner of Elections, following graduation. In 1984 Denny was elected to the office of Sioux County Auditor, a position he held until failing health forced his retirement in May 2006. His dedication to that position earned him a place of respect and admiration among his peers and employees.



He was a member of American Reformed Church in Orange City where he served as a deacon. He was an avid runner, gardener, enjoyed traveling and golfing with his friends.

In August 2003, Denny learned that he had a malignant brain tumor. This was the beginning of a courageous battle against that disease. For over three years Denny and his wife Judy met the challenges of each day with faith, determination and courage.

Joel Sorenson

Joel Sorenson, Clay County Supervisor, passed away on November 23rd at the age of 70. He was active in Clay County and served as Clay County Supervisor for 16 years. He was an active member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Spencer, serving on the church board. He also served on several boards in Clay County, including the Terril School Board, UDM Board and the Farm Bureau Board. He was also active with the FFA and was a member of the AMPI Dairy Producers Association, Clay County Cattleman's Association and the Clay County Pork Producer's Association, where he was also on the board.



miscellaneous

Transportation Conference

Find out how the rail and trucking transportation systems interact and how users can maximize the system to grow their business and strengthen Iowa's economy. Attend the conference entitled "*Economic Development and Transportation: Moving Iowa Forward*" to be held January 18 at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines.

7:30 am Registration and continental breakfast
8:30 am - 4:45 pm Conference reception, lunch and breaks included

The conference will bring together users and providers of the trucking and rail systems, and economic development officials who interact with the users and providers of the systems. The conference goal is to identify how the rail and trucking transportation systems interact, and how users can maximize the system to grow their business and strengthen Iowa's economy.

The conference is presented by the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) and the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). Cost is \$40 per person if RSVP/payment received by Friday, January 5th. Registrations postmarked after January 5 or received at the door will be \$50 per person. Registration forms are available on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Upcoming Events.' Accommodations are available at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines (515-244-1700).

For more information, please contact: Dick Vegors, IDED, at 515-242-4796 or dick.vegors@iowalifechanging.com. Peggy Baer, IDOT, at 515-239-1052 or peggy.baer@dot.iowa.gov.

Need Information About ISAC's Spring School?

Visit ISAC's website!

www.iowacounties.org

- Affiliate Agendas
- Directions
- ISAC Seminars
- Lodging
- Online Registration
- Entertainment

Advertisers Index

Aerial Services, Inc.	19
Bartlett & West Engineers, Inc.	19
Calhoun-Burns & Associates, Inc.	20
Cost Advisory Services, Inc.	18
County Risk Management Services, Inc.	22
Horizons, Inc.	18
IIW ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS, P.C	18
JEO Consulting Group, Inc	18
Jerico Services	19
Kuehl & Payer, Ltd.	19
Nationwide Retirement Solutions	21
Snyder & Associates, Inc.	20
Solutions, Inc.	21
Speer Financial, Inc.	20
The Sidwell Company	24
Trileaf Corporation	20
TrueNorth Companies	20
Yaggy Colby Associates	19
Ziegler CAT	2

Please support our advertisers.

If you are interested in advertising in The Iowa County please contact Denise Obrecht at 515-244-7181 or dobrecht@iowacounties.org. Advertising information is also available on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Corporate Opportunities.'

Past issues of The Iowa County can be viewed on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'News.'



AN EARTHDATA COMPANY

- Planimetric and topographic mapping
- Digital and film aerial photography
- LiDAR acquisition and processing
- Orthophoto mapping
- GIS services

**HIGH QUALITY
AERIAL MAPPING
SINCE 1968**

www.horizonsinc.com 800-933-9869 mnooffice@horizonsinc.com

JEO
Consulting Group, Inc.
Engineering Architecture Surveying Planning

www.jeo.com 724 Simon Avenue, Carroll, IA 51401
712.792.9711

AN IOWA COMPANY
SERVING
IOWA COUNTIES



**FOR COST ALLOCATION AND
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**Contact Randall (515-778-9397)
or Jeff (515-238-7989)**

IIW Engineers & Surveyors, P.C.



4155 Pennsylvania Ave.
Dubuque, IA 52002-2628

Voice: 563-556-2464
Fax: 563-556-7811

Municipal Engineering
Civil Engineering
Environmental Engineering
Structural Engineering
Transportation Engineering
Land Surveying

Quality Control Testing / Inspection
Geotechnical Engineering
Architectural Engineering

www.iiwengr.com

Integrity. Expertise. Solutions



*Municipal
Building & Site Design
Transportation
Land Development*

**ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS
SURVEYORS • PLANNERS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

Mason City, IA Rochester, MN
Mpls/St. Paul, MN Delafield, WI

641-424-6344 yaggy.com




JERICO SERVICES, INC.

Dust Control Chemicals Base Stabilization
Salt Wetting Equipment Sand Pile Mixing Ice Control Chemicals

Liquidow® Calcium Chloride

Indianola, IA Weeping Water, NE
(800)397-3977 (800)422-4820

www.jericoservices.com



**CONSULTING ENGINEERS
LAND SURVEYORS
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS**

**WATER • WASTEWATER
TRANSPORTATION • BRIDGES
SWIMMING POOLS
DRAINAGE • LAND SURVEYING
EXECUTIVE SEARCHES
MANAGEMENT STUDIES**

1725 N. Lake Ave.
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588
Phone 712.732.7745

1609 Hwy. 18 E
Algona, Iowa 50511
Phone 515.295.2980

423 West Main Street
Sac City, IA 50583
Phone 712.662.7859

Email Address: mrk@kpltd.com

Aerial Services, Inc.
Mapping Your World® since 1967


Full-service Geospatial Solutions

- Aerial Photography & Orthos
- GIS Services
- 3D Mapping
- Advanced 3D Visualization & Obliques
- Ground-based LiDAR
- Aerial LiDAR



319-277-0436
877-274-4447

www.AerialServicesInc.com
Cedar Falls, Iowa



IT'S ABOUT
RAPID RESPONSE
SERVICE. THE BARTLETT & WEST WAY.

"You need your engineer when you need your engineer. Emergencies don't arrive on schedule. It's good to know help is just a phone call away ..."

**BARTLETT & WEST
ENGINEERS**
SERVICE. THE BARTLETT & WEST WAY.

- UNDERSTANDING YOUR NEEDS
- ACCESSIBILITY & RESPONSIVENESS
- INTEGRITY
- QUALITY
- PROACTIVE COMMUNICATION

Perry Gjersvik, Project Manager

6919 VISTA DRIVE ■ WEST DES MOINES IA ■ 515.440.2856 ■ WWW.BARTWEST.COM



CALHOUN-BURNS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
1801 FULLER ROAD / P.O. BOX 65859
WEST DES MOINES, IOWA 50265-0859

STRUCTURAL • HIGHWAY • CIVIL

BRIDGES	RESIDENT ENGINEERING	HYDRAULICS
BUILDINGS	BRIDGE INSPECTION	STREETS
CULVERTS	BRIDGE RATING	HIGHWAYS
PHONE (515) 224-4344		FAX (515) 224-1385



Environmental & Property Consultants

Environmental Consulting Services

Phase I Site Assessments • UST/AST Closure • Tier 1
Tier 2 • Corrective Action Design • Remediation • Tier 3
Site Monitoring • SPCC • Secondary Containment • Asbestos Testing and
Abatement • Indoor Air Quality Assessments

Call for **FREE** consultation and proposal

1-515-986-5151

Trileaf Corporation
5613 Gateway Drive, Suite 500
Grimes, Iowa 50111



SNYDER & ASSOCIATES
Engineers and Planners

IOWA:

Ankeny (515)964-2020
Atlantic (712)243-6505
Cedar Rapids (319)362-9394
Council Bluffs (712)322-3202

MISSOURI:

Maryville (660)582-8888
St. Joseph (816)364-5222

Municipal Engineering
Bridges
Urban and Regional Planning
Surveying
Environmental Services
Geographic Information Systems
Energy
Water Resources Engineering
Transportation
Land Development
Landscape Architecture
Right-Of-Way Services
Construction Observation
Graphic and Media Services

www.snyder-associates.com

thinking beyond engineering.



SPEER FINANCIAL, INC.

PUBLIC FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS SINCE 1954

Lowering Your Borrowing Cost With:

- Independent Financial Advice.
- A Team of Financial Specialists Responsive to Your Schedule.
- Expertise in Credit Techniques and Rating Agency Presentations.
- Innovative Approaches Tailored To Your Tough Financing Problems.
- Preparing Long-Term Financing Plans.
- Aggressive Marketing of Competitive Bond Sales To Generate Many Bids.
- Your Effective Advocates With Underwriters in Negotiated Placements.

**Please Call Vice President
Larry Burger in our Iowa Office**

Suite 608 • 531 Commercial St. • Waterloo, IA 50701
(319) 291-2077 • FAX (319) 291-8628

Suite 4100 • One North LaSalle St. • Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 346-3700 • FAX (312) 346-8833



We'll show you the way...to quality employee benefits.

TrueNorth prides itself on providing integrated solutions for our clients. We differentiate ourselves from the competition by acting as a single source for your unique employee benefit needs, including:

Group Health Plans - Fully Insured & Self-Funded • HSAs • Life • AD&D • Dental • Vision • Disability • Section 125

Our goal is to help you achieve what you would want...if you knew the possibilities.

800-588-8993



421 Fourth Avenue SE • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401



Are you finding it difficult to keep up with today's technology?

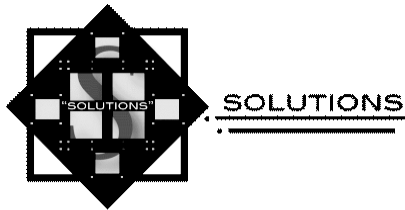
Do you want to increase the efficiency of your office?

Software — Service — Products

The real power of your IT infrastructure involves the sharing of critical ideas and information. Solutions, Inc. will help you harness this power by implementing the right combination of technologies to satisfy both your current and future network needs.

From software and hardware to services and support, Solutions, Inc. has 20 years of experience developing creative technology solutions for county government.

It's not just our name, It's what we provide!




2311 W. 18th St.
Spencer, IA 51301
Phone: 712-262-4520
Fax: 712-262-3477

A partner committed to your success



- Flexible solutions to build your unique program
- Service when, where and how you want it
- Education that motivates employees
- Confidence we'll deliver on our promises

Contact us today!

 **1-877-677-3678**

 **nrsforu.com**

©2006, Nationwide Retirement Solutions, One Nationwide Plaza, Columbus, OH 43215. Nationwide®, On Your Side, and the Nationwide framemark are federally registered service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

Securities offered through Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, member NASD, NRV-0100AO 0705



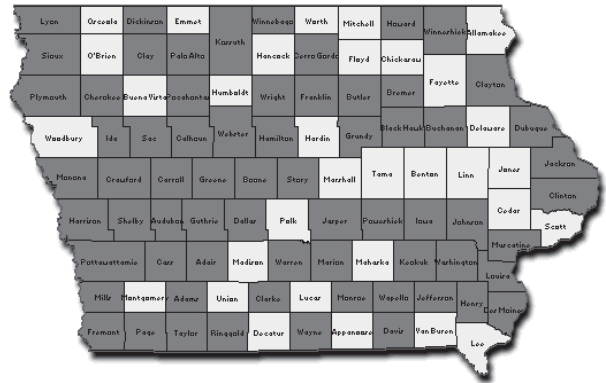
**Nationwide®
Retirement Solutions**

On Your Side®

“It’s not that other coverage providers won’t do what we do. It’s just that they can’t.”



County Risk Management Services, Inc. (CRMS) has provided marketing services for the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) and the Iowa Municipalities Workers Compensation Association (IMWCA) since 1987.



Its principals (clockwise from lower center: Clarence Hoffman, Fred Dolezal, Russ Sporer, Ken Bilbrey) work with local insurance agents across the state to introduce and represent these programs to Iowa Counties. Currently, sixty-seven counties are represented by CRMS and participate in one or both programs.

IMWCA was formed in 1981 to offer workers compensation and employers liability coverage to Iowa public entities. Current membership stands at 477 members (65 counties). **ICAP’s** inception was 1986. ICAP provides property and casualty coverages to 550 members (65 counties).

What We Can Do That They Can’t

- *Provide Member ownership
- *Offer coverages specifically designed for Iowa public entities
- *Represent the only program that has not increased casualty rates since 1986
- *Offer only programs endorsed by the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC)

Both programs offer their coverages to Iowa counties, cities and 28E organizations. Both are specifically designed for Iowa public entities.



For Additional Information, call County Risk Management Services at 800-397-4947

calendar

JANUARY

- 8 CCMS Training Committee (ISAC Office)
- 9 CCMS Administrators
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 10 CCMS NW Support Group
(Season's Center, Spencer)
- 12 ISAC Legislative Liaisons Orientation
(ISAC Office)
- 16 CCMS NC Support Group
(Pizza Ranch, Garner)
- 17-18 New County Officers School
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 18 Supervisors Executive Board
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 18 CCMS West Support Group
(The Windrow Restaurant, Creston)
- 18 CRIS Board Meeting
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 19 Statewide Supervisors Conference
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 19 CCMS Board Meeting
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 24 District 1 Legislative Day at the Capitol
(Wallace Bldg. Auditorium, Des Moines)
- 26 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 31 District 5 Legislative Day at the Capitol
(Wallace Bldg. Auditorium, Des Moines)

FEBRUARY

- 9 ISAC Executive Board Meeting (ISAC Office)
- 14 District 4 Legislative Day at the Capitol
(Wallace Bldg. Auditorium, Des Moines)
- 15 Scholarship Judges (ISAC Office)
- 16 ISAC Legislative Liaisons (ISAC Office)
- 21 Scholarship Judges Snow Day (ISAC Office)
- 21 District 6 Legislative Day at the Capitol
(Wallace Bldg. Auditorium, Des Moines)
- 22-23 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 27 District 3 Legislative Day at the Capitol
(Wallace Bldg. Auditorium, Des Moines)

MARCH

- 3-7 NACo Legislative Conference
(Washington DC)
- 14 District 2 Legislative Day at the Capitol
(Wallace Bldg. Auditorium, Des Moines)

- 16 ISAC Legislative Liaisons (ISAC Office)
- 18-20 ISAC Spring School of Instruction
(Marriott/Renaissance Savery, Des Moines)
- 28-30 CCMS Fundamentals
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)

APRIL

- 10 CCMS Administrators
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 11 CCMS Cost Report Training
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 13 ISAC Legislative Liaisons (ISAC Office)
- 27 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

MAY

- 9-11 Treasurers Conference (Clinton)
- 10 CCMS Advanced Case Managers
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)

JUNE

- 6-7 CCMS Supervisors Training
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 20-22 CCMS Fundamentals
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)

JULY

- 6 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 13-17 NACo Annual Conference (Richmond, VA)
- 25-27 Auditors Annual Conference (Cedar Rapids)

AUGUST

- 8-10 CCMS Annual Conference
(Sheraton, West Des Moines)
- 29 ISAC Steering Committee Meeting
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled thus far in 2007, 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, please contact Jerri Noboa at (515) 244-7181 or jnobia@iowacounties.org.

Sidwell: 80 Years Young in 2007!



It's true: life was a lot easier back when it was all about parcels and hand-drawn maps. But technology has changed, and so have your needs -- you need a provider that understands them both and has been there for you from the very beginning. From our inception in 1927, to our entry in the aerial survey field in 1960, to our first GIS deliveries in 1982, to the release of our cutting-edge, geodatabase-compliant Parcel Builder™ software, Sidwell has been there every step of the way to support the mapping, GIS and land records management needs of local government. And in 2007, we're 80 years young, and better than ever – let us show you how!

Iowa Office:

P.O. Box 71
Decorah, Iowa 52101
563.380.2010
smoellers@sidwellco.com

Corporate Headquarters:

675 Sidwell Court
St. Charles, Illinois 60174
877.SIDWELL
www.sidwellco.com

