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Controlling The Deer Population

March 2005

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The Iowa County

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Deer Management Options	4-5
Capitol Comments <i>John Easter</i>	6
Legal Briefs <i>David Vestal</i>	7
Health Check <i>Sandy Longfellow</i>	8
Technology Center <i>Tammy Norman</i>	8
Counties in the Spotlight	9
ISAC Brief	10-12
Associate Member Highlights	13
NACo News	14
Miscellaneous	15-16
Calendar of Events	23

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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.

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Deer Management Options

By: Willie Suchy, Wildlife Biologist, Iowa DNR

Deer management in Iowa may be characterized as balancing the public's demand for hunting and viewing opportunities with the need to keep deer numbers compatible with agricultural interests, public safety and ecological limitations. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) objective is to maintain a stable deer population that balances the above demands. In many areas of the state deer numbers are currently too high. But how many is too many? For some people, one deer is too many - for others there are never too many. Finding and maintaining a balance has always been and will always be the primary challenge of Iowa's deer management program.

Hunting To Manage Deer Numbers

Hunting is the most effective and efficient management tool to control deer numbers. And in most areas today, if rural landowners are willing to allow access to hunters they should not have "problems" with deer numbers. Unfortunately as Iowa loses its rural population, more hunters come from urban areas. This "distance" between landowner and hunter makes giving access to hunt more difficult for some landowners. Landowners just don't feel as comfortable giving access to people they don't know as well. And because of our more litigious society they are probably justifiably concerned about "strangers" on their property since their property is their livelihood as well. State laws do however offer protection from liability if the landowner does not charge a fee for hunting.

Another reason that hunters can't obtain access is that more landowners want to "save" the deer for themselves. Often this attitude is driven by the landowner's hopes of killing a "trophy" deer. For these landowners more deer means a better chance at a trophy. The landowner and his/her family and maybe a few of their friends are the only ones allowed to hunt. These hunters are usually good hunters and often very selective. They tend to shoot bucks and discourage others from taking does as they try to increase the number of deer on their property. Some even put

out feeders and supplemental minerals in hopes of altering the deer's behavior so the deer stay on their property. Now if we could "train" deer to recognize that some landowners welcome them and others would just as soon they not eat the crops that the landowner depends upon for their living, everyone would be happy.

Deer however can't tell the difference. Because of this, these landowners need to recognize that although they would like to see more deer, having more deer may negatively impact their neighbors. Cooperation and communication are the key components needed to remedy this situation. Hunters and landowners need to look at all the options available and make conscientious decisions on how to reach and maintain an acceptable number of deer.

The key to controlling any deer population is to remove enough does. Our research indicates that to maintain a steady population about one-third of the does need to be killed every year. Currently there are many options available to hunters and landowners to kill more does. Landowners can get a free license and two antlerless licenses for their property during any deer season. They could also get a free license for the bonus season. Hunters could also obtain antlerless licenses in any county as long as the quota is not filled. The good news is that if hunters are selective in the type of bucks they shoot they can have fewer deer and better hunting. Letting the young bucks grow to maturity and removing does reduces deer numbers and provides better hunting for the future.

Depredation Program

Landowners who are experiencing excessive damage from deer can get help with developing a plan to kill more antlerless deer using the DNR's depredation program. A biologist will visit with the landowner and look at the damage and assess the number of deer that need to be removed. If the landowners want to participate the biologist will develop a plan and issue depredation licenses for the landowner's property. These licenses are for antlerless deer only. The landowner can get two antlerless licenses and can

recruit hunters to use the rest of these licenses. Typically the goal of the plan is to kill enough extra does over the next two or three years to get deer numbers down to a reasonable level.

A new hunter registry program was started in 2004 to help those landowners who couldn't find enough hunters to shoot antlerless deer. In 2004 nearly 800 hunters registered on a DNR website saying they would shoot antlerless deer if a landowner wanted. The biologist can provide the landowner a list of these hunters if they can't find enough hunters. There are plans in 2005 to try to be more proactive in getting potential hunters together with landowners using this program.

Some hunters and landowners might wonder why they really need another deer to eat. Many times hunters can find people in their local community to take a deer if they just ask. Deer meat is very lean and healthy. The DNR also initiated a program in 2003 called Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) in 55 counties in central and southern Iowa. The program allows hunters to bring their deer to participating lockers free of charge. The lockers process the deer and the Food Bank of Central Iowa distributes the ground deer to local food pantries. In 2003 nearly 1,600 deer were donated to the HUSH program and distributed to food pantries. The DNR pays for the processing. Money to fund the program was donated by the Iowa Farm Bureau, the Iowa Bowhunters Association, Whitetails Unlimited, Hunter Specialties and several other groups to cover the cost of processing the deer. Hunters themselves can voluntarily donate \$5 to the program when they buy a deer license. In 2004 more than 4,000 hunters donated about \$20,000. Hopefully this program can be expanded to the rest of the state if adequate funding is found.

Special Hunts

In some situations deer numbers are too high because a park or city provides deer with a refuge. In these refuges deer numbers explode. Without hunting, deer numbers can double every three years. Hunting in these areas are normally restricted because of safety concerns or conflicts with other users. The DNR offers help in finding a solution for these problems by trying to initiate controlled hunts.

These special management hunts have been held on several state and county parks with good success.

Kent Park in Johnson County and Scott County Park in Scott County are two county managed parks where special hunts have lowered deer numbers considerably. In the mid 1990s aerial counts in Kent Park showed that more than 300 deer were in the park and surrounding area. After several years of special hunts the counts have been around 100 deer.

Special hunts are even held in some cities. Currently, special hunts are held in Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Dubuque, Marion, Coralville, Des Moines, West Des Moines, Johnston and Urbandale. The hunt in Black Hawk County has been going on for the longest period of time. It began in 1994 and has been conducted every year since. Aerial surveys indicated that there were more than 50 deer per square mile in 1994. Since 2000, the number has stayed around 20 to 30 deer per square mile. This has been accomplished without any problems with safety. In fact most park users don't even know the special hunts are taking place.

The DNR assists communities that are having deer problems by helping to put together a "deer management task force." A biologist will work with this group of citizens and local authorities to develop a strategy to assess deer numbers and discuss the options available. The DNR provides technical assistance such as flying surveys to assess deer numbers and looking at deer habitat and damage. However, the task force has to decide which control option best fits their community.

Contacts

Finding a balance and maintaining it is a big challenge, but that is the goal of the DNR's deer management program. If we work together on these issues I am confident that we can meet that challenge. If you have further questions or comments please contact me. My phone number is (641) 774-2958. My email address is willie.suchy@dnr.state.ia.us. I would like to discuss your situation. Contacts for your local DNR biologist or conservation officer. The DNR depredation biologist for your area is listed on the DNR's website at www.iowadnr.com.

capitol comments

Sunshine

The forecast is sunny in the Iowa Capitol. The clouds of unposted meetings are disappearing. Brighter days are ahead.

A new practice has become more common in the Iowa Legislature this year. In an effort to better involve the public in the business of making public policy, postings of Senate legislative subcommittee meetings can be found on the bulletin board in the Senate lounge and in other listings for meetings. Meeting times, locations and bill numbers are included in the notices. On some postings, the content of the bill is included with the bill number.

The House of Representatives has been posting similar notices the last few years. Since last year, House staffer Betty Soener compiles each posted subcommittee meeting onto a single sheet by order of the meeting time. As new meetings are posted, she adds them to the list and as meetings occur, they are dropped off. This information is user-friendly, consistent in format and is complete with the time and location of the meeting, the bill number, a short description or title and the names of subcommittee members.

As funnel dates approach, the numerous pieces of paper announcing subcommittee meetings are randomly tacked onto the small bulletin board in the House lounge and they become a haphazard mix. Some are on official House stationery and some are on plain note paper. Most are typed and others are handwritten. All include bill numbers. However, many do not include a brief title or description of the bill. Unless you carry a list of bills with you, you have no idea what the bill is about. Betty's list makes an important improvement in providing all of this information to the public. Also in recent years, the Iowa Legislative News Service Bulletin has been listing these meetings.

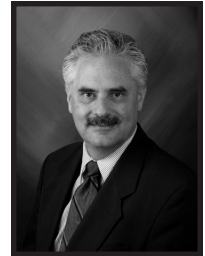
Another example of recent efforts involves the governance workgroup assembled by Governor Vilsack to examine ways to streamline state and local services. Since this workgroup is not actually a standing legislative committee, it is not subject to the rules of the General Assembly. However, legislative members of the workgroup insisted that the body operate under the requirements of the Open Meetings Law. As a result, meeting notices are posted around the Capitol for subcommittee and full workgroup meetings. Along with other details about the meetings, the notices are also posted on the website www.Iowa.gov.

Sunshine Laws

Open meetings requirements and processes for public input are commonly known as "sunshine laws." In most other states, these practices are required by statutory or constitutional law. They have formal public hearings with time allotted for public testimony in standing legislative committees. When I attend meetings of the National Association of Coun-

By: **John Easter**

ISAC Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs



ties with colleagues from across the country, they are surprised to learn that public input in standing legislative committee meetings in Iowa is only allowed when specially arranged or when a committee member obtains unanimous consent from the committee to hear from someone in the audience. Even in this case, input is typically limited to an answer to a specific question from a committee member. That is why adequate notification for subcommittee meetings is so important.

In the past, some legislation would come before a full committee without adequate public input because a subcommittee was not held or notice was not posted in a timely fashion. Most legislation is technical in nature. It was very frustrating to watch policy being made by legislators who were poorly informed or even misinformed.

ISAC supports open meetings and increased participation in the legislative process. The ISAC County Administration and Organization Steering Committee adopted a policy statement that reads "The limited level of citizen involvement is in distinct contrast to some basic tenets of our system of government. We believe in openness in our decision making. We believe in encouraging public participation... Standardized notices should be filed and posted for every committee or subcommittee meeting. Any committee notice should be posted in a conspicuous place in the state Capitol at least 24-hours in advance of the meeting. Such notice should include the time and location of the meeting, and a listing of any bills, topics or items to be discussed. Legislative items to be considered should include the bill number and a short title or description of each bill..."

Still Room For Improvement

These new practices are an excellent step toward meeting the policy recommended by ISAC. The 81st General Assembly deserves positive recognition for that. But there is room for continued improvement. Some subcommittee postings do not include brief descriptions of bills. Some bills are still considered in full committee without the benefit of subcommittee meetings. And in other cases, subcommittees are held on the spur of the moment or without adequate (24-hour) notice. Hopefully, over time, these wrinkles will be ironed out. But the most difficult work – breaking old habits and establishing new - has been accomplished.

Now, where's my sunscreen?

Hiring and Firing of Deputies Hinges on Certificate

By: David Vestal

ISAC General Counsel



Certificates of Appointment

Technically, how does an elected county official such as an auditor or a treasurer hire or fire a deputy, assistant or clerk? That's covered in Iowa Code §331.903(2): "When an appointment has been approved by the board, the principal officer making the appointment shall issue a written certificate of appointment which shall be filed and kept in the office of the auditor. A certificate of appointment may be revoked in writing by the principal officer making the appointment, which revocation shall also be filed and kept in the office of the auditor."

But exactly how do certificates of appointment work? There are very few published court cases or Attorney General's Opinions discussing certificates of appointment, so I don't know all of the answers. For instance, is the appointment supposed to be for a certain length of time? Or are they open-ended, and last until they are revoked? The statute does not say. I can tell you that the standard certificate of appointment form prepared by one Iowa company and used by many auditors has a blank space where the appointing officer is required to fill in an expiration date for the appointment.

Probably the best source to solve this mystery is a December 24, 1990 Attorney General's Opinion. The question asked was whether an assistant county attorney is subject to removal at the end of the county attorney's term. The Attorney General responded that Iowa Code §331.903 (quoted above) "does not establish a term for the appointment of assistant officers. Nor do we find any other Code provision setting a duration for such appointments."

The opinion then approvingly cited a treatise on municipal government as follows: "Ordinarily, in contemplation of law, the position of assistants or subordinates ends with that of their superior officer, although if an assistant or subordinate is permitted to continue service undisturbed by the officer's successor, that person becomes the new officer's assistant at the pleasure of the new officer, and, if necessary, the law will presume that appointment."

So for instance, a county could have a situation where a person is appointed as a deputy in the treasurer's office for a one-year term, and at the end of that year the appointment ends and the person is dismissed unless a new certificate is issued.

Pseudophedrine

Many counties are considering adopting pseudophedrine ordinances. One question that has come up is the effect of those ordinances within city limits. In other words, does the Polk County ordinance regulate pseudophedrine sales within the city of Des Moines? The answer is yes.

In accordance with the County Home Rule Amendment to the Iowa Constitution, a county has authority to enact an ordinance effective in municipalities within the county so long as that authority does not conflict with the power and author-

ity of the municipality. In the event of a conflict, the authority of the city prevails within the city limits. This is not just true for pseudophedrine. It also goes for most other areas subject to county ordinances.

There are some areas where by statute counties can only regulate outside city limits (beer and liquor permits) and there are other areas where counties have express statutory jurisdiction within city limits (weed control). By statute, some county ordinances are applicable within incorporated cities only if the city so elects (county building code). There are also some areas where by statute counties can regulate within cities unless the city takes action to assume authority (boards of health, local air pollution control).

But the general rule is that unless there is a conflict the county has authority to enact an ordinance effective in municipalities within the county (Iowa Attorney General's Opinion 86-8-4). As far as what constitutes a conflict between city and county ordinances, that is going to be decided on case-by-case. Certainly, a city ordinance in direct conflict with a county ordinance would prevail.

Punitive Damages

We all get into problems sometimes by not paying attention to what we are doing. Counties are no different. One county contacted me recently with a problem. They bought liability insurance, and the package they bought included punitive damages coverage for claims against the county itself. That was a mistake. Generally, counties are immune from punitive damages claims. That's in Iowa Code §670.4. But in Iowa Code §670.7, it goes on to say that counties lose that immunity if they purchase insurance that includes punitive damages coverage for claims against the county itself.

Now the county is facing several lawsuits where they are facing large punitive damages claims. Even if they lose, the county's insurance carrier will have to pay the punitive damages claims. But still, why open that whole can of worms? Never purchase liability coverage that covers punitive damages claims against the county. Coverage for punitive damages claims against county employees is okay. But not coverage for claims against the county itself.

Parting Ponderable: With the Academy Awards just over, it's a great time to think about movies. Movie buffs will generally tell you that 1939 was the best year ever for movies. That year gave us *Beau Geste*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Gone with the Wind*, and *Stagecoach*. But for my money, I'll take 1973: *American Graffiti*, *The Sting*, *The Exorcist*, *Bang the Drum Slowly*, and *The Paper Chase*. Who can top that?

health check

Dealing with the Clueless

Do you think that some of those people you work with are clueless? Well, lets be a little kinder and try to think about how we can get along with co-workers with whom we have less than a pleasant relationship. It has been said that the only thing you can change is your own attitude and I think an article in the February issue of the Hope Health Newsletter does a great job of giving us clues to better relationships:

- **Remember that everyone has “off days.”** Remember your own “off days.” Treat others the way you like to be treated.
- **Be quiet.** Smile. Respond calmly. Don’t meet emotion with emotion.
- **Go into a time warp.** Ask yourself if this petty situation will be important to you 10 years from now. If not, forget it.
- **Exercise your sense of humor.** Look for the funny aspects of a situation. This one isn’t easy but if you get in the habit of examining a situation and looking for the humor you will be amazed.
- **Rename the situation.** Instead of thinking of a person as being “difficult” think of him or her as being “challenging.” Better yet – take it as an opportunity to be kind. Adding a little kindness to any situation makes it better!
- **Listen.** Sometimes people will talk themselves out or play through their problem – if you have the patience.

By: **Sandy Longfellow**

ISAC Administrative Assistant



- **Withdraw.** Leave. Is there anything keeping you there?
- **Take notes.** Ask for an action plan that can deal with the problem that’s presented.
- **Let others own their own problems.** If someone brings you the “gift” of hostility and you refuse to accept it, then the gift-giver is stuck with his or her gift.
- **Think “Go with the Flow.”** Go with the person by repeating their words and acknowledging their behavior, feelings, and/or words.
- **Think “ducks.”** Your feathers are well-oiled. Let everything roll off your back.
- **Role Play.** Pretend you’re James Bond. Bond is *never* fazed!
- **Take care of yourself.** When you’re well-rested, exercised, and fed (emotionally, physically, and spiritually), *everything* goes better.

The Hope Health Newsletter is a wonderful publication to distribute to employees. They address issues that are essential to a sense of well-being. Visit www.hopehealth.com and browse around.

technology center

CD-Rs and CD-RWs, What Is The Difference?

Q: What is the difference between CD-Rs and CD-RWs and is it important?

A: Simply put the difference between CD-Rs and CD-RWs is the fact that information burned onto a CD-R cannot be written over. It can be added to but once the maximum storage capacity is reached, you must move onto another CD. A CD-RW can be written onto or burned to over and over again. What are the advantages or disadvantages to this? If you have information that you need to take with you or just need for a short period of time, you may be interested in using CD-RWs. However, I prefer to use a Jump Drive for these instances (see my November article “What are jump drives and are they difficult to use?”). From the research I have done on this topic, I would suggest using CD-Rs or DVDs to store information that you need to keep for an extended period of time. Now here is where many of us are misled. Burning information onto a CD or DVD does not mean that you will be able to view it 20 years from now. Aside from the fact of software and hardware compatibility issues, is the simple fact the CD will have deteriorated beyond its life expectancy, which is approximately six years. Truthfully, I was

By: **Tammy Norman**

ISAC Technical
Services Coordinator



under the impression that as long as I stored my CDs carefully and protected them from scratches and breakage I could be assured that the information would be there in the future. Not so. So please keep in mind, CDs or DVDs are not a media that can be used to store permanent records.

What is the difference between CD-Rs and DVDs? Basically the amount of information that can be stored is what differentiates a CD from a DVD. A standard DVD can store as much as seven times what a CD can hold. Plus, you are able to store approximately 133 minutes of high resolution video on or burn eight hours of music. The downside is that many of us currently do not own a computer that has a DVD burner installed. So, the next time you go out to purchase a new computer, this may be a component that you will want to have installed.

Website Note: We now have the 2005-2006 county directory online. Visit ISAC’s website (www.iowacounties.org) and click on ‘County Information.’ Please forward any items that you would like addressed in this column to my attention at tnorman@iowacounties.org or 515-244-7181. Until next month, keep clicking!

counties in the spotlight

Conservation & Environmental Education Excellence Award Winners

The Iowa Association of Naturalists and the Iowa Conservation Education Council announced this year's recipients of their Conservation and Environmental Education Excellence Awards Program. The winners are as follows.

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award: Pamela Holz, Washington County Conservation Board Naturalist. This award commends outstanding efforts by an environmental educator. Pamela has been a naturalist on the Washington County Conservation Board for six years and has grown the program from 5,000 to 10,000 participants. She assisted with the planning for the new Conservation Education Center. She also created text and design concept for the permanent exhibits in the exhibit hall with help from the ISU design students.

Chris Holt Youth Environmental Education Award: Clinton County Conservation Board and Clinton County Area Solid Waste Agency. This award commends an outstanding environmental education program for or by youth. Clinton County's 2nd Annual Pollution Safari day camp focused on the area of pollution and the environment. Twenty-two participants from elementary to middle school age toured the landfill, recycling center, Soaring Eagles Nature Center, Rock Creek Marina and Campground and the Mississippi River aboard the Blue Heron Eco-Cruise pontoon boat. Students participated in many activities including making recycled paper, building a worm compost bin, planting trees, and cleaning up a beach along the Mississippi River.

"Ding" Darling Environmental Education Award: Polk County Conservation Board. This award commends an outstanding environmental education program or event which educates the general public. Polk County's 5th Annual Pelican Festival was held at Jester Park to celebrate the fall migration of pelicans through Saylorville Lake. Approximately 4,000 people attend the event annually. The event has become the largest one-day birding festival in Iowa.

Outstanding County Conservation Board Environmental Education Program: Buchanan County Conservation Board. This award commends excellence in a county conservation board's environmental education program of counties with a population of less than 35,000. The Buchanan County Conservation Board offers a wide range of school programs, public programs and camps. In a joint project with East Buchanan Schools, a new website was developed for the conservation board. More than 10,000 people visit the Buchanan County Nature Center each year.

Outstanding County Conservation Board Environmental Education Program: Linn County Conservation Department. This award commends excellence in a county conservation board's environmental education program of counties with a population of more than 35,000. During 2004, more than 300 programs

were offered at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center with almost 15,000 people attending. Linn County Environmental Council sponsors the Cedar Rapids Connections Program series - an ongoing lecture series that intends to connect students and public to outstanding members of the scientific community.

Pottawattamie County's HawkWatch Program

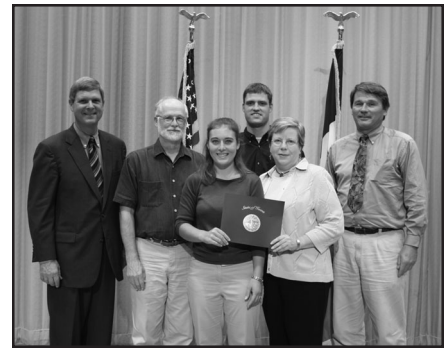
The Pottawattamie County Conservation Board and their HawkWatch Program at the Hitchcock Nature Center had a record breaking year in 2004 and was recently honored with the Governor's Volunteer Award.

On November 2, 2004 an adult Red-tailed Hawk soared high above the Hitchcock Nature Center viewing deck. The sight of this raptor brought more excitement than those that had previously flown overhead. This raptor officially broke the 10,000 mark, a long awaited HawkWatch goal.

Far surpassing all of the annual counts since its debut in 1992, the 2004 HawkWatch season ended on December 20, recording an astonishing 11,953 raptors. This exceeded last year's count by over 2,000 raptors. The season was highlighted by an extremely rare Gyr Falcon sighting. Yet to be confirmed by the Iowa Records Committee, this will be the first ever Gyr Falcon sighting at Hitchcock.

The rare Gyr Falcon sighting and dramatic increase in annual number of raptors recorded is primarily attributed to the dedication of the HawkWatch volunteers. Their commitment and service was recognized last fall as the Hitchcock HawkWatch was selected as a recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Award. This honor is bestowed to those who donate their time and talents to assist Iowa's nonprofit organizations. During the fall migration season, volunteers man the outlook posts during daylight hours from August through December, enduring an array of unfavorable weather conditions.

This fall, the Hitchcock HawkWatch is anticipated to have another record breaking year with the installation of a 50 foot viewing tower. The HawkWatch tower will provide a 360° view of the skies above, thus ensuring greater count accuracy.



Governor Tom Vilsack (far left) presented the Volunteer Award to the Hitchcock HawkWatch on October 22, 2004. Accepting the award on behalf of the HawkWatch volunteers were Clem Klaphake, Phylisha Eshelman, Chad Graeve, Sue Mattix and Jim Meyer.

ISAC brief

ISAC Spring School 2005

By: Jerri Noboa

ISAC Meetings Administrator



Legislative Reception/ISAC Dance:

On Wednesday, March 16, ISAC will be hosting a Legislative Reception and at the new Hy-Vee Hall at the Event Center. A bus will shuttle those that do not want to walk the skywalk system from the hotels to the Event Center. The reception will be from 8:00pm-9:00pm

The ISAC Dance will follow from 9:00pm until midnight. The band that will be performing is the BureauCats, who are known as "The Best In Governmental Rock and Roll." The BureauCats are a rock 'n roll band almost entirely comprised of Scott County employees. The band has been partnering with ISAC to raise money for ISAC's Scholarship Fund. This year, the BureauCats will be giving a \$1,500 scholarship to a child



of a county official who is a high school senior and intends to participate in music while in college. The BureauCats scholarship will be presented in conjunction with the ISAC scholarships on Thursday, March 17.

Keynote Speaker: Yvonne Conte, founder and "Director of Fun" at Crack-A-Smile Seminars, will be the keynote speaker for the ISAC Spring School of Instruction on March 17 during the ISAC General Session. Her presentation is entitled "The Positive Power of Humor." Fasten your seatbelt! You're in for a bumpy ride as Yvonne weaves her unique comedic style in this hilarious interactive, educational and inspiring session. While her vehicle is laughter, her message is serious. She is sure to get you excited about your job and revitalize your life. The Positive Power of Humor's dynamic fun approach, exceptional design and reputation for producing immediate and long term results has distinguished this workshop as a landmark in the industry and a refreshing change from the norm.



Construction Update: Things have changed again since you were in Des Moines in November for ISAC's Fall School of Instruction. The 6th Street Bridge is now complete but not the 7th Street Bridge. So here is how you get in and out of Des Moines for ISAC's Spring School of Instruction March 16-18, 2005 at the Marriott and Renaissance Savery. Come in on 7th from the west; in on 3rd from the east and out on 2nd Ave. Complete information on the parking ramps in downtown Des Moines is on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Upcoming Events.'

Loging: The room blocks at the Marriott and Renaissance Savery are full. The Hotel Fort Des Moines is located in the skywalk and close to the convention site with rates being \$69/flat and suites at \$89. Call 800-532-1466 and use booking #3321 for the ISAC block.

Exhibitors: Please remember to visit the exhibitors on Thursday, March 17 on the 3rd floor of the Marriott. There will be more than 60 companies exhibiting their services to county officials. Coffee and rolls will be available from 7:30am-8:30am, popcorn and pop from mid-morning until mid-afternoon and the President's Reception with desserts and ice cream from 4:30pm-5:30pm. The exhibitors do a terrific job of supporting ISAC and county government.

Information Tables: We again will have an information table location on the 2nd floor of the Marriott and the mezzanine area of the Renaissance Savery with information on Des Moines restaurants, area maps, coupon books, etc. The Alumni Association will have a table outside the exhibit hall of the Marriott where they will be selling county directories - \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Correction: The accounting department phone number for the Marriott was incorrect in last month's article - it should be 515-245-5500.

Register On-line for ISAC's Spring School of Instruction March 16-18, 2005

Visit www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' Information is available regarding reserving hotel rooms, affiliate agendas, seminars, the keynote speaker, parking and entertainment. Early bird registration ends March 9 so register today!

New County Officers School A Success

More than 200 county officials attended ISAC's New County Officers School January 19-20, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines. ISAC lined up many of the most knowledgeable presenters in the state to spend January 19 covering issues which pertain to all county officers such as county budgeting, ethics and county home rule. In the morning, all attendees received training on open meetings/public records, ethics and personnel law. Jacqueline Byers, NACo Director of Research, was the luncheon speaker and discussed the history of county government. After lunch, breakout sessions were offered: County Home Rule, Budgeting 101, Property Tax Overview, Working with the Media, Resolving Courthouse Conflicts. At the end of the day on January 19, ISAC hosted a reception to allow new county officials to meet and network. On January 20, several ISAC affiliates (supervisors, sheriffs, auditors, and treasurers) put on a full day of individualized training. As one evaluation comment stated, "This conference gave new officials a good overview of major issues."



Far left: Brian Cooper, Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, and Amy Duncan, Indianola Record Herald and Tribune, gave tips on working with the media. Center: Renee Von Bokern, Von Bokern Associates, presented on Personnel Law. Right: Anastasia Baker, former ISAC deputy legal counsel, discussed ethics.

Supervisors Meeting Recap: Property Taxes, Budgets, Mandates

County supervisors held their annual statewide meeting on January 21, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines. More than 160 supervisors heard instructional seminars and discussed issues relating to accountability and credibility in county government, county budgets and financial issues, public health services and the cost of mandated publications. ISAC's lobbying staff was also on hand to update the supervisors on what's happening in the legislative arena. During lunch, five legislators – some in leadership positions – spoke to the audience about property taxes, education and economic development, and even had time to answer a few questions. The lawmakers in attendance were Senator Mike Gronstal (D-Pottawattamie, Senate Democratic Leader), Senator Herman Quirnbach (D-Story, Co-Chair of Local Government), Senator Doug Shull (R-Warren, Co-Chair of Local Government), Representative Pat Murphy (D-Dubuque, House Minority Leader) and Representative Cecil Dolecheck (R-Ringgold, Assistant Majority Leader).

Right: Representative Pat Murphy discussed property taxes with the supervisors. Center: Representative Cecil Dolecheck gave an update on the legislative session at the annual supervisors statewide meeting. Far Right: Senator Mike Gronstal and Senator Herman Quirnbach are pictured listening to their fellow legislators speak.



ISAC brief

Olive Trees and 28Es!

A Workshop on Hot Topics in Government Service Sharing

Uneven patterns of economic growth across Iowa and local budget crises are placing strains on the service delivery capacity of local governments. Consolidation or reducing the number of local government entities are often proposed as solutions to this perceived problem. However there are many options besides consolidation to achieve sharing of services or functions among local governments.

ISAC, the Iowa League of Cities and Iowa State University/Iowa State Extension are holding a workshop to explore service sharing alternatives for local governments on March 18 at the Marriott in downtown Des Moines. We will review and discuss a statewide inventory of 28E agreements that presents some activities that local governments in Iowa are already doing in the way of services sharing. Lessons learned from the "Olive Tree" pilot project in Poweshiek and Boone Counties on fostering intercommunity collaboration will also be presented. After presentation and discussion of the two projects, and an address by keynote speaker, participants will have the opportunity to meet in smaller, facilitated sessions to discuss the implications of this research.

- 8:30am-9:00am Registration and Networking
9:00am-9:15am Welcome and Introduction
- Bill Peterson, ISAC
9:15am-10:15am Session One: Early results from the Iowa 28E Study
- Kurt Thurmaier and Yu-Che Chen
Summary of initial findings from 28E study
• Trends and composition of 28E agreements in Iowa, 1993-2004
• Preliminary survey results examining effectiveness of agreements
10:15am-10:30am Break
10:30am-11:45am Session Two: The Olive Tree Project: Citizens [Re]defining Their Communities
- Rick Morse and Kurt Thurmaier
Preliminary findings from pilot project implemented in Boone and Poweshiek counties
• Concepts, objectives, and strategies of project
• Progress in Boone and Poweshiek counties, including results from county-wide surveys and community meetings
• Reaction panel of Boone and Poweshiek county officials

- 11:45am-1:00pm Lunch and Keynote Speaker
- David Warm, Executive Director, Mid-America Regional Council
1:15pm-2:30pm Break-out Work Sessions: Groups organized by region and facilitated by ISU Extension personnel
• How can and should these ideas be applied?
• What opportunities exist in counties and regions?
• What resources and support are needed?
• Where to begin as communities, counties, and regions?
2:30pm-3pm Groups Report Back and Wrap Up

There is a registration fee of \$30, which includes materials and lunch. To register on-line visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org). City officials and legislators will also be in attendance. This conference will be held in conjunction with the ISAC Spring School. Affiliates have been asked not to plan any programming for Friday, March 18 so county officials can attend this workshop.

Meet The Board Members

Grant Veeder



Grant Veeder has held the position of Black Hawk County Auditor for 16 years. He spent eight years as a deputy auditor, mostly in elections. Grant is a member of the ISAC Board due to his appointment on the NACo Board of Directors. He is also a member of Partners in Education, Friends of KUNI Board and Public Employees Credit Union Board. He said, "ISAC gives county officials the best opportunity for partnering with other Iowa officials in planning our state's future. I hope we build on the foundation that has been established in that area in the last several years." Grant's family includes his wife Kim, a systems analyst for Black Hawk County. She is also the interim director of the County's Management Information Services Department following the retirement of Bob Canney. Grant and Kim have two sons: Ryan, a high school junior, and Sean, an 8th grader. Grant enjoys reading and writing and has a very modest collection of baseball memorabilia.

Visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'About ISAC' for ISAC Board of Directors contact information and meeting minutes.

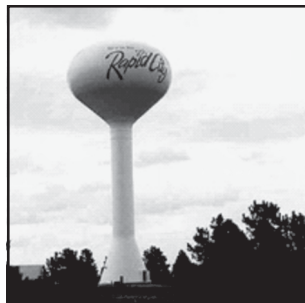
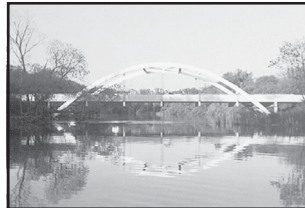
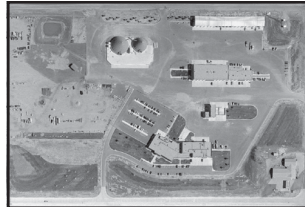
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For more information on these and other Delta Dental Plan of Iowa programs, call 1-800-544-0718.

Thank You ISAC Associate Members

ISAC would like to thank the companies that become associate members. They not only support the association financially, but also to add to the wealth of information on how county officials can improve their individual counties through the use of their products and services. Take the extra step and learn about what the ISAC Associate Members have to offer. Visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Associate Members' for a listing of current ISAC Associate Members.

Honoring County Heroes

By: NACo President Angelo Kyle

National County Government Week, celebrated this year from April 10-16, is the perfect time to honor and recognize county employees who serve America. Whether it is policing streets, fighting fires, saving lives in hospitals, keeping families healthy, repairing bridges, plowing snow, helping troubled youth, training laid-off workers, or the countless other jobs county employees partake in, these men and woman deserve to be recognized for the work they do every day.

The theme for this year's National County Government Week celebration is "Honoring County Heroes." Many of the residents in your county don't know how county employees serve America. National County Government Week offers an opportunity to highlight not only their service, but also other programs and services your county runs.

During National County Government Week, inform and educate your citizens about how your county is serving America.

- Discuss the recent programs your county implemented, which seek new and innovative ways to reduce crime.
- Talk about the new equipment your county has received, which in turn, will make it easier for police officers, emergency workers and fire fighters to do their jobs on a daily basis.
- Emphasize the various programs your county runs to help needy children and families.

First celebrated in 1990, National County Government Week was initiated to raise public awareness about counties. Counties represent diverse and vibrant communities in every region of the country. The activities during National County Government Week help citizens better understand how counties respond to their needs and, by extension, how counties across America serve the nation.

County Government Week also offers an ideal time for recognition ceremonies. You could recognize employees for the work they do, volunteers for the service they provide or poll workers for the hours the spend working on Election Day.

Nationally, NACo will celebrate County Government Week in a number of different ways. I have launched a year-long national initiative seeking to ensure that county employees can afford to live in the communities in which they serve. I encourage you to study my initiative and think about other ways we can help out our county heroes.

NACo will hold two award ceremonies during National County Government Week. The 3rd Annual Counties Care for Kids Award recognizes innovative and model early childhood county government programs. The 6th Annual Acts of Caring Awards honor the top county volunteer programs in the country.

I encourage you to be one of the more than 1,000 counties that work each year to help citizens better understand the valuable services counties provide. Thank you for considering participation in National County Government Week.

Suggested National County Government Week Activities

• Honor County Employees

Take this week to honor and recognize county employees. Run ads thanking them for their hard work. Let citizens know who maintains their roads, polices their streets, helps troubled youth and keeps families healthy

• Encourage College Study of County Employment

Involve local universities, community colleges and high school students. Start by asking members of extra curricular government groups and model legislatures to inform their fellow students about the different types of jobs available through the county.

• Essay Contest on County Workers

Sponsor an essay contest for high school seniors. The topic could be: How has a county employee improved or furthered my life in any way? Feature the winning essays in the county newsletter.

• Bridge-naming Contest

Hold a bridge-naming contest for several county-owned bridges.

• Emergency Vehicles

Display emergency vehicles such as fire trucks and police cars at county events.

• Involve County Extension Agent

Invite the County Extension staff to set up displays about current programs being offered through your County Extension Service such as: 4-H Youth programs, nutrition education (adult and youth obesity) and senior nutrition, financial management, parenting education, affordable housing, home horticulture, alternative agriculture markets, tobacco research, and rural and farm equipment safety.

• Career Day

Consider planning a career day at local high schools. Share information about various occupations within county government. Social workers, nurses, transportation employees, police officers, sheriff deputies and fire departments should be included. Make general information on county government available to teachers to use in presentations or as part of their curriculum.

• Debates

Encourage college and high school students to become involved in and aware of county issues by debating an important and timely issue. Hold the debates in classrooms or as part of a high-school assembly.

Visit NACo's website at www.naco.org for additional suggested activities for National County Government Week.

Iowa Meth Watch Program

Communities all across Iowa are suffering from the plague of methamphetamine production and usage. Meth Watch is the first national effort aimed at curbing the spread of methamphetamines, and provides a critical step in reducing the availability of meth in communities nationwide.



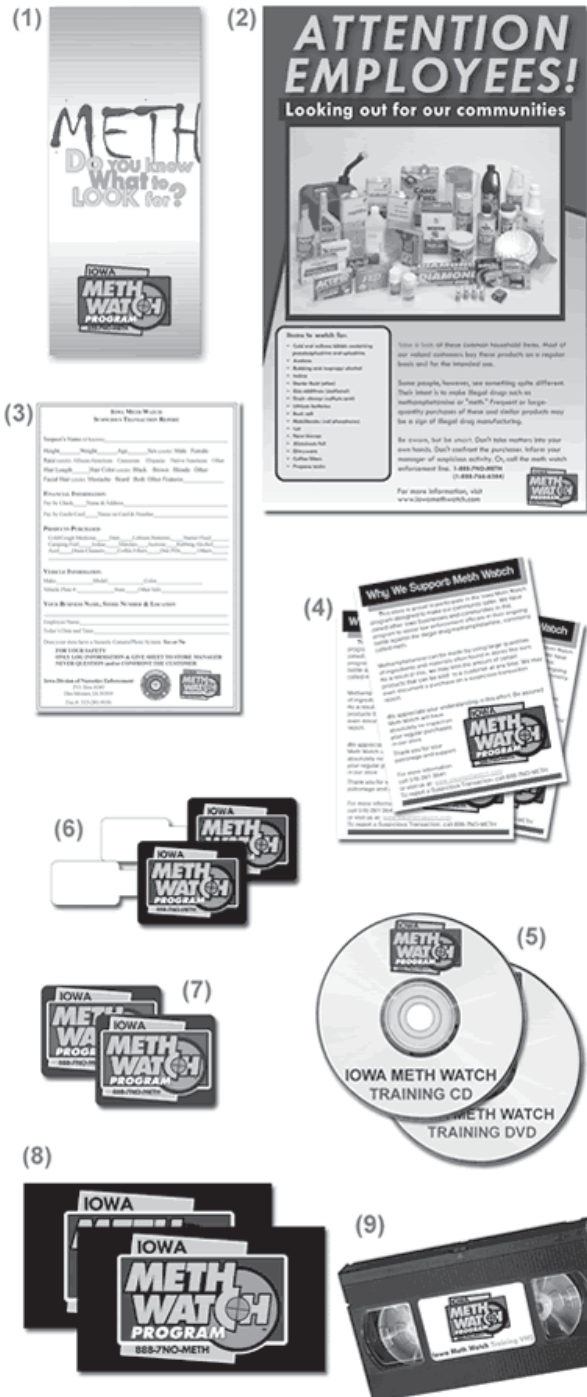
The Iowa Meth Watch Program provides a one-stop resource to help all Iowans interested in implementing a Meth Watch program within their communities. The key goal of this program is to promote cooperation between your retail store, law enforcement and a concerned community to prevent the diversion of legitimate products for illegal use.

Meth Watch places the products where they can be easily monitored. In addition, strategically posted Iowa Meth Watch signs and tags on their doors and windows, around their cash registers and on the shelves where precursor products are located. Meth Watch will train store owners and employees to recognize, but not to confront, suspicious customers, and to contact law enforcement with as much identifying information as possible. Meth Watch is a voluntary program that involves many people at the community and state level, including law enforcement, state and local public officials, the national guard, community activists, and drug prevention personnel.

Your local grocery store, no matter the size, is a prime target for meth cooks who may steal or buy large quantities of precursor ingredients from your store. Meth cooks and addicts can be dangerous. Your community's active participation in the Iowa Meth Watch Program equals safer stores, better customer relations, increased employee awareness and improved communications with law enforcement. Many stores have experienced a decrease in loss from theft that is directly related to their participation in Meth Watch. Without your active support, methamphetamine production will continue to grow in Iowa. Your business, your neighborhood, your environment – everyone and everything will be affected.

- (1) Visit www.iowamethwatch.com for more information about the Iowa Meth Watch Program.
- (2) To report suspicious behavior call the Iowa Meth Watch Hotline 1-888-7NO-METH (1-888-766-6384) or contact your local law enforcement agency.
- (3) For additional details and to order your store's Iowa Meth Watch kit, email info@iowamethwatch.com.

Products Available For Counties



- 1) Tri-Fold Brochure
- 2) Employee Poster
- 3) Suspicious Transaction Report
- 4) Customer Information Sheets
- 5) Training CD/DVD
- 6) Shelf Tags
- 7) Register Stickers
- 8) Door Decals
- 9) Training VHS



Governor's Conference Building Iowa as a Healthy Community

Mark your calendars for the Governor's Conference on Public Health: Building Iowa as a Healthy Community, also known as Barn Raising V, on July 28-29, 2005, at Drake University in Des Moines. The biennial conference brings together cutting-edge experts from several health care arenas. The purpose is to expand participants' knowledge, introduce new tools and resources and share successful program models through workshops and networking. The registration fee of \$50.00 covers CEUs, conference materials, meals, and a smoke-free reception.

Over the course of the two-day conference, there will be 40 workshops that will cover a variety of topics. The workshops will be divided into four tracks: New Forces Shaping Healthy Communities, Telling the Story of Public Health and Tools to Get the Job Done, Public Health Administrators and Board of Health Members, and Change Models.

New forces shaping health communities workshop topics include: infectious diseases, Medicare, mental health, hazardous substances in our bodies, long-term care, obesity, biological and chemical threats, older Iowans, barriers to inappropriate use of medications, Iowa's health work force needs, youth violence and recreational waterborne disease.

Breakout sessions for telling the story of public health and tools to get the job done include: building advocacy coalitions, communicating the need for preventive care to policy makers, the logic model, using CHNA-HIP data, health risks, changing tobacco behaviors, health provider understanding of diverse populations, barriers to access of care, Iowa Brain Injury Resource Network, meaningful meetings and health literacy.

County officials can attend breakouts on: public health law, resources, disease management of patients with chronic conditions, working with the media, preventing disease outbreaks in early childhood environments, investigating food-borne disease outbreaks and using the EPI manual.

The final set of workshops will cover change models and will include: planning models, streamlining the care of stroke patients, changing the community culture to focus on the responsibility for the safety of children, screening Hispanic children and changing a community, creating livable and walkable communities, removing kids from harms' way, complying with the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act and motivational interviewing.

For registration information visit www.idph.state.ia.us under 'Conferences.'

Community Development Conference March 23

The fifth annual Midstates Community and Economic Development Conference, a joint project of Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, will be held March 23, 2005 at the Marina Inn in South Sioux City, Nebraska. This one day conference is designed for local elected officials and other local leaders. The conference offers successful strategies and ideas in innovative rural community development. Workshops will be presented by local leaders who have been successful in three areas: entrepreneurship, finding resources and community development. Over 200 local leaders attended the 2004 conference. A complete program brochure and registration form is available on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Hot Topics.' Registrations are due March 15. For more information please call Alan Vandelaar, Iowa State University Extension at 712-276-2157.

Land Acquisition Design Courses In March & April

Jim Graham, with Graham Land Acquisition Associates (GLAA), has scheduled two of his professionally-accredited land acquisition design courses to be held in March and April in Ames, Iowa.

LAD Volume 1, *Economic Development* is a two day seminar scheduled for March 23-24, 2005. The course focus will be on controlling, managing and acquiring land for joint public and private economic development projects. Mechanisms will be discussed on ways to make intergovernmental agreements, funding, staffing, acquisition procedures and power pooling agreements work.

LAD Volume 4, *Land Survey and Property Description* is also a two day seminar scheduled for April 13-14, 2005. The course focus will be on the application of federal and state law, requirements for a legal land description, proper title search and field review, and quieting and settling boundary disputes.

Participants may use the course Certificate of Completion to make application for continuing education credits from the Iowa Engineering and Land Surveying Examining Board and Iowa Real Estate Commission. Application for Iowa Bar Association credits has been applied for. The courses will be held at the Quality Inn and Suites, 2601 E. 13th St., Ames, Iowa, 50010. Overnight lodging can be obtained by calling (515) 232-9260.

For direct questions on course content or to receive an advanced copy of course brochures, contact Gale Brice at 515-382-1698 or see the course summary on GLAA's website at www.glaa.com. To reserve your spot, call today!

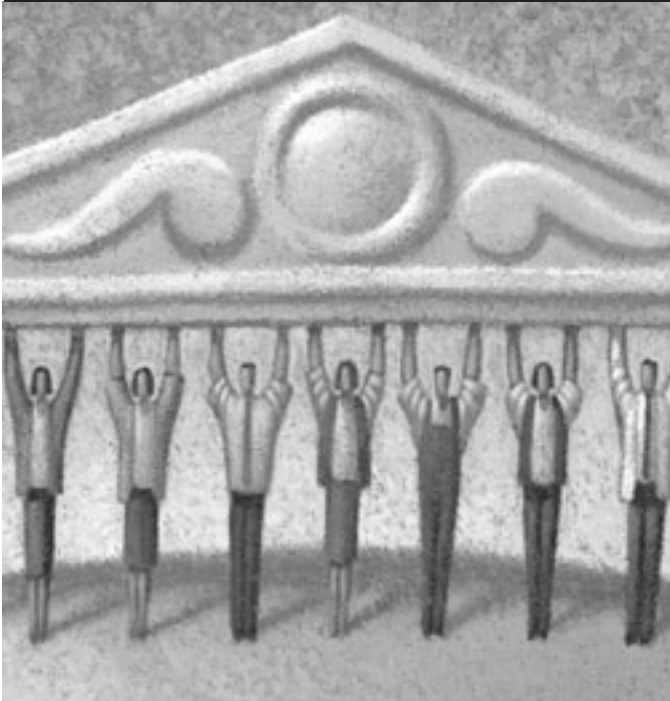
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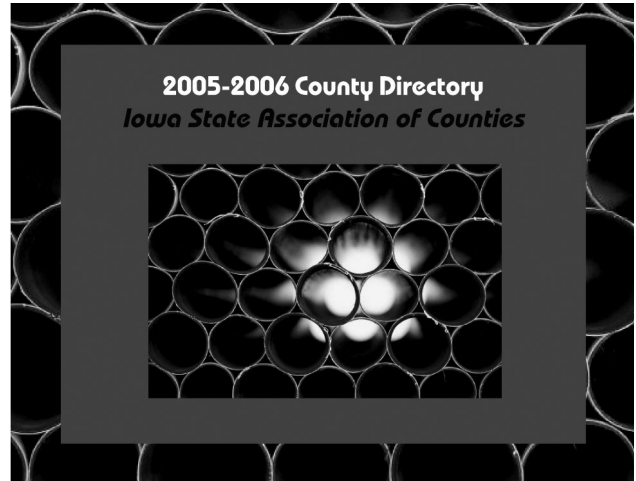
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2005-2006 County Directory Available For Sale

The 2005-2006 ISAC County Directory is now for sale. Order forms are available on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'County Information.' The directories will be sold for \$15 to county officials, \$25 to non-county officials.

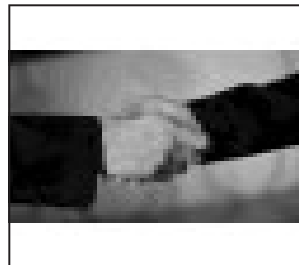
The ISAC County Directory is the most detailed county directory in Iowa because it contains the phone number, address, fax number, email address, and party affiliation for every county department head in all 99 counties. The directory also includes ISAC services, county seats, county officials by county and in alphabetical order, key state phone numbers and congressional delegation contact information.



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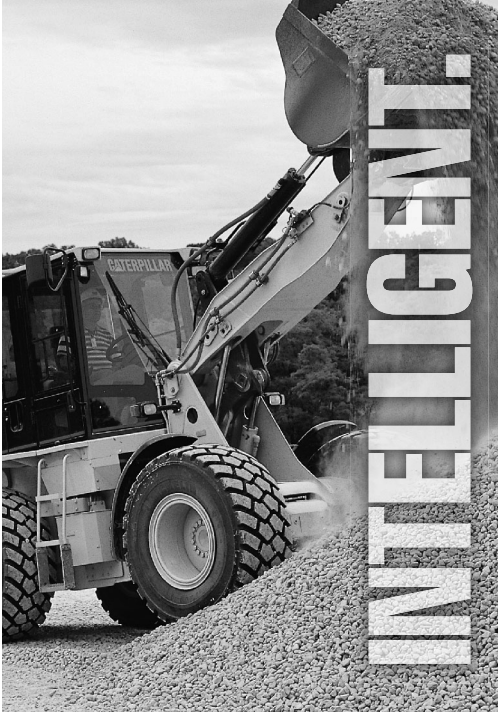
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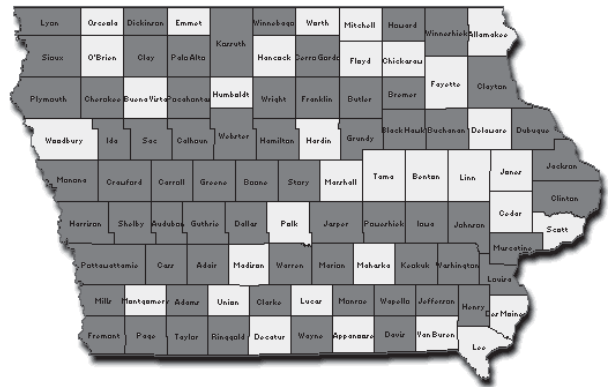
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The IMWCA was formed in 1981 to offer workers compensation and employers liability coverage to Iowa public entities. Current membership stands at 474 members (64 counties). ICAP’s inception was 1986. ICAP provides property and casualty coverages to 500 members (63 counties).

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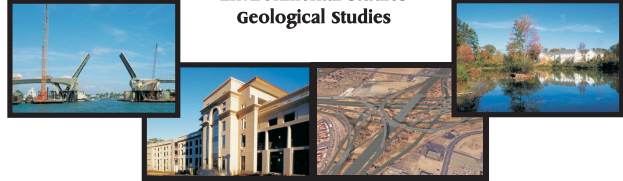
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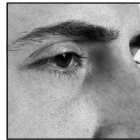
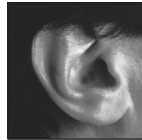


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Quote of the Month:

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.
- Thomas A. Edison (1847 - 1931)



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MARCH

- 2-4 CCMS Fundamentals
(Baymont Conference Center, DM))
- 4-8 NACo Legislative Conference
(Washington, DC)
- 10 CCMS NE Support Group
(Bill's Pizza & Smokehouse, Independence)
- 11 Legislative Liaisons (ISAC Office)
- 15 Supervisors Executive Board (Marriott, DM)
- 16 CCMS Board of Directors (Marriott, DM)
- 16-18 ISAC Spring School
(Marriott & Renaissance Savery, DM)

APRIL

- 6 CCMS NW Support Group
(Seasons Center, Spencer)
- 12 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Baymont Conference Center, DM)
- 13 CCMS Cost Report Training
(Baymont Conference Center, DM)
- 27 ISAC Board of Directors & League of Cities
Board of Directors Dinner/Meeting
(Jester Park, Granger)
- 28 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

MAY

- 12 CCMS Advanced Case Manager
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)

JUNE

- 7-8 CCMS Supervisors Training
(Baymont Conference Center, DM)
- 8 District Workshop (District II or IV)
- 9 District I Workshop (Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 10 District V Workshop
(Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa)
- 15 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Jester Park, Granger)
- 15-17 Information Technology Annual Conference
(Cedar Rapids)
- 17 District VI Workshop
(Grand River Center, Dubuque)
- 22-24 CCMS Fundamentals
(Baymont Conference Center, DM)

JULY

- 12 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 13 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 15-19 NACo Annual Conference (Hawaii)
- 27-29 Auditors Summer Conference (Fort Dodge)

AUGUST

- 4-5 Supervisors Executive Board (Atlantic area)
- 10-12 CCMS Annual Conference
(Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 11-13 Recorders Annual Conference
(Grand Harbor Resort, Dubuque)

SEPTEMBER

- 9 ISAC Steering Committees (location TBA)
- 21-23 CCMS Fundamentals
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 22-23 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

OCTOBER

- 6 ISAC Steering Committees
(Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 8-12 Assessors Annual Conference
(Marriott, West Des Moines)
- 11 CCMS Administrators
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 13-14 CCMS Strengths Based Training
(Baymont Conference Center, DM)
- 19 CCMS Support Staff Training
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 27-28 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

For agendas or additional information on any of the above listed meetings please visit our website at www.iowacounties.org and click on Upcoming Events! If you have any questions about the meetings listed above, please contact Jerri at (515) 244-7181 or by email at jnoba@iowacounties.org.

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