

The Iowa County



County Airports: Luxury Item or
Economic Development Tool?

April 2003

ISAC
Iowa State Association of Counties

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The Iowa County

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contents

April 2003 * Volume 32, Number 4

FEATURES

**The Debate on Supporting
County Airports** 4-5

IN EVERY ISSUE

Counties in the Spotlight 5

Around the Statehouse *Robert Mulqueen* 6

Legal Briefs *David Vestal* 7

Health Check *Sandy Longfellow* 8

Technology Center *Tammy Norman* 8

Case Management *Deborah Westvold* 9

Profiles 10

ISAC Brief 11

Miscellaneous 11

Associate Member Highlights 12

Communication 12

NACo News 13

Calendar of Events 19

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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.

The Debate On Supporting County Airports

Iowa has always been a leader in use of aviation. Airports around the state have provided transportation means, help during emergencies and enjoyment for local citizens for years. But as the cost of flying has increased, the use of such airports has seen a great decline. It is not as common to have local farmers own their own aircraft or even have small landing strips on their farms. More regional or county airports took over with hard surface runways and sheltered hangars making aviation safer but costlier. And with the availability of commercial air travel and better road systems, the local airport has started to be seen as a luxury item for local governments.

Multi-Jurisdictional Ownerships

In Iowa, many airports call themselves county airports, though there are no airports solely owned and operated by a county. Roy Criss, Aviation Marketing Manager for the Iowa Department of Transportation, says there are currently only three counties that provide funds to their local airport (Guthrie, Audubon, and Polk counties). The county is a part of the overseeing authority, along with one or more governmental entities (in all Iowa cases, the city participates in the ownership). This overseeing authority operates the airport and is responsible for the financial support of the airport. Criss said, "We do encourage a multi-jurisdictional form of ownership, which certainly could include the county, along with other entities." One example is the Polk County Aviation Authority which was formed in 1990 through the efforts of Polk County and the cities of Altoona, Ankeny and Bondurant. The four local governments joined together to provide funding for the Polk County Regional Airport. At present, there are two areas in the state looking at regionalizing, thus becoming multi-jurisdictional: Knoxville/Pella/Oskaloosa and Orange City/Sioux Center. Criss said, "Multi-jurisdictional ownerships have obvious advantages: a broader constituency, access to greater resources, maximized capital investment and more efficient use of human resources."

Asset for Job Recruitment

The Iowa Department of Transportation states that the financial impact of aviation in Iowa each year is \$834 million indirectly and 9,865 jobs. Dr. David Athrons, physician and manager of the Guthrie County Regional Airport, wouldn't have considered moving to Guthrie County to take a job if there hadn't been a local airport. "For myself and another physician here on staff, to move here to Guthrie Center meant having a good school, church, hospital and airport."

In Iowa, companies such as Winnebago, Manley Toy

Direct, Pella Windows, and Casey's have positioned their facilities near small community general aviation airports. This evidence, plus testimonials from business people from other industries, provides compelling proof that a healthy local airport can be a community's best economic engine.

Emergency Medical Services

Other than bringing jobs to the area and a cooperative effort between cities and counties, general aviation airports aid in emergency medical services. The DOT Office of Aviation stated Iowa airports, particularly smaller general aviation airports in rural areas, are essential for the delivery of medical and emergency services. According to officials at Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Iowa Methodist's LifeFlight helicopter typically performs 700 emergency flights per year, 95% of these to rural areas. Medical supplies can also be flown into the airport in times of need. Dr. Athrons said, "In times of crisis I have personally flown to Des Moines to get blood for our hospital." At the Audubon County Airport specialists fly in every week to the local outpatient clinic. "This is a big help to the elderly in our county," said Lisa Frederiksen, Audubon County Auditor.

How Much Does This Cost?

Polk County has committed to the continuation of a special levy until at least the year 2021. This special levy contributes approximately \$165,000 per year in Polk County funds to the Polk County Regional Airport. In addition to local property taxes, over the past 10 years Polk County has also made available to the airport over \$3.2 million in low interest and forgivable loans. Guthrie



Aviation History in Iowa

- ➔ The fascination with flying in Iowa dates back to the balloon era. An unmanned, gas-filled balloon flight occurred in Burlington July 4, 1845.
- ➔ Glider flight had been proven practical by German and American engineers. In 1898, Carl Bates, a 14-year-old from Clear Lake, built and flew the first man-carrying glider in Iowa.
- ➔ Arthur J. Hartman piloted Iowa's first "areoplane" flight which took place on the fairway of the old Burlington Country Club. The plane rose 10 feet into the air before coming down so hard that it damaged the undercarriage. According to records, some 46 flights by 23 aviators were made over different cities in Iowa during the years between 1910 and 1911.

feature continued

County has made an agreement with the Guthrie County Regional Airport to give \$.13 per thousand of rural value to the airport, approximately \$49,000 annually. Guthrie County has been providing funding for 15 years. Audubon County has a similar agreement with the funding they have been providing for approximately 15 years to the Audubon County Airport. Currently, the county gives \$.12 per thousand of rural value to the airport, more than \$28,000 annually.

Economic Value to Counties?

A recent study by researchers from Washington State University found local airports are the key to bringing industry to rural America. An economic impact study commissioned by the DOT last year calculated general aviation airports deliver \$176 million in economic value to rural Iowa. With these statistics are the counties that currently provide funds to county airports happy with their investment?

Polk County has experienced tremendous economic growth, and has become a model for others to follow when considering the development of a regional airport to assist local governments in their economic development efforts. Kurt Bailey, Polk County Engineer from Public Works, said Polk County and the cities of Altoona, Ankeny and Bondurant “believed that the establishment of a regional airport would promote economic development in northeastern Polk County by providing another mode of goods transport, providing easy access for local corporate and business travel, and allowing the storage and use of pleasure craft. Since that time, Polk County has experienced tremendous economic growth, so it would be fair to say that this effort has been very successful.”

Audubon County feels that overall the funding they provide to the local airport has been a positive experience. Guthrie County Supervisors have not seen proof of an increase in economic development in their county. Guthrie County stated this will be the last year to give funds to the airport. Janet Dickson, Guthrie County Auditor, said “The reason the county began to provide funding to the Guthrie County Regional Airport was for economic development, but it has not proven to help in that area; instead it has been used by individuals for fun. With budget cuts, it will be hard to justify putting more money in it. The debt will be paid off and they will have to pay for up keep with user fees.”

Madison County used to give funds to their local airport, until 1997 when a vote of the people took place and citizens didn’t feel the county should be supporting the local airport any longer. Joan Welch, Madison County Auditor, said the rural citizens in the county were against the continuation of putting funds towards the airport and “didn’t think there was a benefit for the dollar.” The airport is now a municipal airport and receives no county funds.

These four examples show vastly different results, but the creation of an airport was important to each county at a certain time. Now the question, in these tight budget times, do they support the infrastructure they helped to create? And if they end ongoing support for the airport can it continue to serve the citizens of their county effectively?

A special thank you to Roy Criss from the DOT for information provided in this article. For further information visit the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Aviation website at www.iawings.com.

counties in the spotlight

Delaware County has joined the honor roll of 24 counties in Iowa that have constructed 100 miles of concrete roads. The award was presented to Delaware County by the Iowa Concrete Paving Association (ICPA) at their 39th Annual Blue Ribbon Awards Banquet before a crowd of over 400 people at the Airport Holiday Inn. *(Taken from the Dyersville Commercial, February 12)*



Pictured: Board Chairman Bill Skinner, center; Supervisor Shirley Helmrichs, left, Steve Koeneke, right and Delaware County Engineer Mark Nahra, back. Photo courtesy of Bill Rediger, Dyersville Commercial.

Renee McClellan, **Hardin County** Auditor, has been named by the Iowa State Association of County Auditors to represent Iowa on the new federal Election Assistance Standards Board. The board is one of the new committees designated to oversee election policy. The board will be reviewing voting system guidelines, Title III voting requirements and best practice recommendations. Eventually the board will help carry out duties currently performed by the Federal Elections Commission. The board was created as a result of Help America Vote Act, the new federal election law. The Standards Board will be composed of 110 election officials (55 state and 55 local) from America and its territories. The committee will meet not less than once every two years. Renee will be serving with Iowa Secretary of State Chet Culver.

(Taken from the Times-Citizen, February 12)

The Year of Economic Development

"Laws, like houses, lean on one another." – Edmund Burke (1765)

"The first casualty when war comes is truth."

– Senator Hiram Johnson (1918)

Every year, you read "each legislative session has its own personality." The 2003 session is no different. The 2001 and the 2002 session were contentious periods, each party's leadership wrangling for attention and making points about the other. Both sessions were more argumentative and harsh than usual. The 2001 legislative session came on the heels of the 2000 presidential election bitterness. The 2002 legislative session was, at least in part, caught up in the violent whirlwind of the 2002 gubernatorial campaign. Both sessions were dealing with the sense of shock over the lowest state revenues in memory. The negative growth in the state's economy was lower than the worst years of the farm depression of the 1980s. Day after day in those two sessions, the fiscal news simply became worse. Anticipating the next revenue estimate was felt keenly but in a grim and horrible fashion, something akin to eagerly awaiting the next available automobile accident.

This year, at least through the first part of March, the atmosphere has been civil. Legislative leaders on both sides, including committee chairs and ranking (minority party) members, have been cooperative, though not chummy. Tax policy has been a dominant theme, though when hasn't it been? Whether the governor's declaration of forced change in the property tax system, Senator Miller's SF 41, Farm Bureau's STIR proposal or Farm Bureau's package of property tax changes, a lot of early attention has been on significant property tax revisions. (See my column in last month's issue.)

This has been dubbed the Year of Economic Development...or something to that effect. The legislature and the governor's office have spent significant time discussing the ways and means (wordplay intended) of finding, in the midst of a recession, significant state money to spend. Money to keep in the state or boost the prospects for attracting certain agriculturally based industries or research and development entities.

Regional Economic Development

After the unveiling of the Iowa Farm Bureau's STIR plan, attention was paid to their emphasis on spending some of the proposed \$2 billion (derived from a state bond issue) on "regional economic development." In an effort to study what regional development has already been attempted or what models might be in place in order to avoid "re-inventing the wheel," two legislators involved in economic development issues spoke with ISAC lobbyists about county roles in such efforts. Representative Clarence Hoffman (R-Crawford), chair of the House Economic Growth Committee; and Representative Don Shultz (D-Black Hawk), ranking member of the House Ways and Means

By: Robert Mulqueen

ISAC Public Policy Analyst



Committee; wanted to look at multi-community development organizations, existing county-wide or multi-county community development organizations which have been organized over the last 15 to 20 years all over the state.

Many of these entities are the product of 28E agreements between a county or counties and some or all of the incorporated cities within them. Rather than compete with one another, the community development organization is created as a county-wide or a multi-county effort. The financial resources of such groups are funding from the cities and counties who are parties to their creation. Private cash, as well as funding from the county and cities, is also often thrown into the hat for the hiring of a director or coordinator. The emphasis of such an organization might be attracting an industry. It might be primarily tourism. Or it might be a long term community based plan involving self-examination of the area through surveys of existing income averages or attitudes about the quality of local schools, transportation, retail, cultural opportunities or housing availability and quality. Such an effort would be followed by decisions about what emphasis the organization should put on job creation or expansion. Locally based efforts could be the building blocks for the "regional development" which the STIR proposal mentions.

Proposals Worthy of Examination

From the county perspective, while Farm Bureau's STIR package fostered House study bills which go over old ground and rekindle past bitter disputes and received a lot of attention (including the fight over the county's ability to transfer funds from the general fund to the rural services fund), other proposals which may well have survived the first funnel are worthy of your examination. These include several bills which would speed the county charter/community commonwealth process and/or which would make optional, in any new county government, whether or not elective offices would be partisan. (Stop and think about that for a moment.) Another, which has received attention from county supervisors and engineers, is the Department of Transportation's transfer of jurisdiction proposal. And finally there is the bundling of the measure which complies with the Federal Help America Vote Act [HAVA] (and the accompanying \$30 million which could come to Iowa in return for a state match of \$1.5 million over the next three years) with a variety of other election law changes in one bill. This could be a mess, resulting in a county obligation to comply with HAVA's provisions without any Federal aid. Why? A nasty fight over other provisions of one version of the HAVA compliance bill which have to do with absentee voting and what office would be the state elections administrator. Stay tuned...and stay in touch with your legislators.

Worth County Health Ordinance Ruling Based On State Preemption Statute

By: David Vestal

ISAC Deputy Director



Regulating CAFOs: Can counties use local health ordinances to regulate large livestock confinements? The answer is no, at least according to one district court judge. On February 24, District Court Judge Stephen Carroll ruled on the Worth County health ordinance. His 28-page decision is the first time an ordinance like this has received this kind of judicial scrutiny. And the result is not encouraging for counties.

At issue was the “Worth County Rural Health and Family Protection Ordinance.” The ordinance was drafted by the Worth County Board of Health, working with local groups including livestock producers. It then was enacted by the Worth County Board of Supervisors in July of 2001.

The ordinance contained definitions of several key terms such as “animal feeding operation.” It then regulated three aspects of confinement feeding operations: 1. Toxic Air Emissions – the ordinance required that confinement facilities not degrade air quality in the county, and set specific standards for allowable concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide and ammonia. The testing and enforcement was to be done by the Worth County Board of Health. 2. Worker Safety – the ordinance set standards for indoor air quality in confinement facilities regarding hydrogen sulfide, carbon monoxide, dust and ammonia. 3. Water Pollution – the ordinance required the installation of ground water monitoring wells and the testing for contaminants by operators.

After the ordinance was enacted, several local producers and the Worth County Farm Bureau filed a lawsuit challenging the legality of the ordinance. Both sides filed motions for summary judgment, seeking to avoid a full trial.

Judge Carroll granted the producers’ motion for summary judgment. In his opinion, he focused on county home rule and the legal doctrine of “preemption,” which applies when the state has specifically prohibited local action in a given area. In this case, the issue was whether the Iowa Legislature has “preempted” counties from acting to regulate livestock confinements.

The key was Iowa Code §331.304A, passed in 1998, which provides in part: “A county shall not adopt or enforce county legislation regulating a condition or activity occurring on land used for the production, care, feeding, or housing of animals unless the regulation of the production, care, feeding, or housing of animals is expressly authorized by state law.”

Worth County first argued that the health ordinance does not control an activity or operation of an animal feeding operation. But the judge ruled that the ordinance did regulate conditions occurring on land in connection with the production of livestock. He concluded that Iowa Code §331.304A expressly preempted the Worth County ordinance. The legislature, he said, “in clear and unambiguous language,” reserved to itself the regulation of livestock confinement facilities.

The next issue was whether Iowa Code §331.304A is

constitutional. Worth County argued that the statute violates the County Home Rule amendment to the Iowa Constitution.

The county’s argument was that the language in the statute strips counties of their home rule authority by limiting their powers to those expressly enumerated by the legislature.

Judge Carroll ruled against the county, and held that Iowa Code §331.304A is a limitation expressly imposed by state law, and that it does not interfere with the general grant of home rule authority in the Iowa Constitution. The judge went on to say that if it were not for Iowa Code §331.304A, he did not think that the Worth County ordinance was inconsistent with state law.

Judge Carroll’s conclusions were that Iowa Code §331.304A is constitutional, that it expressly preempts the Worth County ordinance, and that the ordinance is therefore void and unenforceable.

At the time of this writing, Worth County was looking seriously at appealing the decision to the Iowa Supreme Court. The stakes would become higher at that point – this decision is not technically binding on other counties, whereas an Iowa Supreme Court decision would be.

This decision, though not unexpected, raises serious concerns about the existing confinement-related health regulations in three other counties. It also raises concerns about the animal confinement moratoria in place in seven Iowa counties. The decision does not tell us anything about county home rule that we did not already know. But it does point out how counties do not have any good options when it comes to regulating livestock facilities. *The full decision is on the ISAC’s website under “Hot Topics.”*

Board Meetings: One issue that comes up frequently is the power of board chairs. It seems that many supervisor boards adhere to the rule that board chairs can only vote in the event of a tie vote. But Robert’s Rules says that on small boards (less than a dozen members), board chairs have all of the powers of any other board member, so they can vote on every issue, make motions, and second motions.

A related issue is abstentions. According to Robert’s Rules, if it takes a majority vote to decide a matter, a majority means more than half of those voting, *excluding abstentions*. You don’t count the abstentions. For instance, on a five-member board, if the vote is two-to-one with two abstentions, the motion passes despite getting only two votes.

Parting Ponderable: “Greatness is not in where we stand, but in what direction we are moving. We must sail sometimes with the wind, and sometimes against it – but sail we must, and not drift, nor lie at anchor.” Oliver Wendell Holmes

health check

Poison Control

Being a parent is definitely an adventure. Sometimes I wonder how either the parents or the children survive it! Many advocate groups help us become aware of hazards in our home. Something that had never even occurred to me was the danger in having five gallon buckets in your yard or garage that have water in them. When a news headline appeared in which a child drowned in such a bucket – we take notice. Below are tips from the Poison Control Center on how to keep our children safe around the house.

1. Use child-resistant packaging properly by closing the container securely after use.
2. Keep all chemicals and medicines locked up and out of sight.
3. Keep items in original containers!
4. Never use cups, glasses, or soft-drink bottles to hold paint thinner, turpentine, gasoline, or other household chemicals.
5. Leave original labels on all products and read the label before using.
6. Do not put decorative lamps and candles that contain lamp oil where children can reach them because lamp oil is toxic.
7. Always leave the light on when giving or taking medicine. Check the dosage every time.

By: Sandy Longfellow

ISAC Administrative Assistant



8. Avoid taking medicine in front of children. Refer to medicine as “medicine” not “candy.”
9. Clean out the medicine cabinet periodically and safely dispose of unneeded medicine when the illness for which they were prescribed is over. Pour the contents down the drain or toilet, and rinse the container before discarding.

Here’s one I would add – don’t assume your children can’t get open the child-proof caps! A trip to the emergency room with a bottle of aspirin proved that one wrong. Also, I have a little story concerning #7. My cousin got up one night to take some cough medicine. This cough medicine was some clear, foul tasting stuff. Well, he didn’t turn on the light and drank nail polish remover instead of cough medicine! Needless to say, another trip to the emergency room.

If you have a poisoning emergency, call the National Poison Emergency Hotline at 1-800-222-1222. Keep the number by your phone so you won’t have to search for it in an emergency. You can also look up information at their website www.poisonprevention.org.

technology center

Tips for Outlook!



Q. Is it possible to have specific incoming e-mail messages sent/moved automatically to an assigned folder?

A. Yes, this is definitely possible and easily done. If you are using Outlook, you will need to select the message from your Inbox that you want to transfer into a folder. From the toolbar click on “Tools,” then “Organize.” The “Ways to Organize Inbox” popup box will appear on your screen. You will need to select/highlight “Using Folder,” then “*Create a rule to move new messages from (it will default to the e-mail message that you have already selected) into (select the folder which you want these messages to be moved into),” click on “Create.” Once this has been completed, all incoming e-mail messages will automatically be moved into the folder that you designated. This tool is a great way to clean your inbox of mail. Once you have identified an e-mail message as being “junk mail” you can use this same tool to send it into your “Deleted Items” folder or select “Junk E-Mail” and this will take you thru the same process.

Another way to identify e-mails and keep them from being lost in your Inbox is by using colors. If you select “Using Colors” this enables you to highlight incoming messages from a specified source with the color of your choice. Color can help to easily identify an e-mail that is from a source that needs quick

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Technical
Administrative Assistant



responses or that you receive frequent emails from.

A feature that Outlook has, that sometimes is overlooked, is the “Out of Office Assistant.” This feature enables you to send out a message to incoming e-mails that tell the sender that you are currently out of the office. You are able to modify the message to suit your needs, tell them when you expect to be back or whom they can contact in the meantime. To enable this feature, you will need to select from your toolbar “Tools,” then “Out of Office Assistant...”, and click on “I am currently Out of the Office.” Then under “AutoReply only once to each sender with the following text:”, you will be able to type the message you wish to be sent out while you are gone. Once you return, just do the same steps but select “I am currently In the Office.”

Website Note: “Front burner” items that need attention and have support material that is of importance to counties, have been given their own button on ISAC’s homepage. Therefore, enabling website users easy access to these “hot topics”. Examples of such buttons are “HIPAA” and “Master Matrix.” So keep visiting the ISAC website, it can be an excellent resource tool for you. Until next month, keep clicking!

Case Management Legislation

Case Management Rules

On March 11 the Prior Authorization process for determining eligibility for case management went into effect. While CCMS staff participated with the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) and Magellan Behavioral Care (MBC) to make the prior authorization process workable, ISAC's long-range goal is to remove case management service from the state's managed care contract. ISAC, and the CCMS Board of Directors, have taken the position that the DHS should provide oversight of the case management program, including verification of eligibility. There are two pieces of legislation that have been introduced to address this concern. The first one, House Joint Resolution (HJR) 8 would nullify the rules that were just adopted and remove the prior authorization process all together. The second piece of legislation, HF 403 appears to provide a stronger role in determining whether DHS can contract with a managed care entity. It also gives the legislature the authority to determine whether case management should be included. Both of these pieces of legislation are consistent with the position adopted by ISAC.

By: **Deborah Westvold**

ISAC Case Management Director



HIPAA Update

April 14, 2003 is the date that the HIPAA Privacy Standards need to be implemented. CCMS staff participated in the HIPAA work group to develop model documents and recommendations for counties regarding implementation of HIPAA. The gap analysis that CCMS staff completed indicates that the majority of case management practices are HIPAA compliant. The changes that we have made to the Model Case Management Policies and Procedures manual can be found on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Case Management.' At this time it appears that the CCMS model Release of Information Form is compliant with HIPAA standard for the Authorization to release protected health information.

Don't forget that ISAC's website has a HIPAA link to a wide array of information and model forms to assist the county implementation of HIPAA.

If you are a case manager and have an address, phone, staff, or e-mail change please contact Sandy Longfellow at 515-244-7181 or slongfellow@iowacounties.org

Click on ISAC's Website

www.iowacounties.org

You won't want to miss these new features:

- √ HIPAA Privacy Policies & Procedures
- √ Worth County Health Ordinance Court Decision (Regarding livestock-related ordinance struck down by District Court on February 24, 2003)
- √ ISAC Responses to Fiscal Notes
- √ Pictures from ISAC's Spring School
- √ Information on ISAC's Summer District Workshop Schedule



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profiles

Meet Your Board Members

GARY ANDERSON
ISAC Board Member



Gary Anderson has done it all in Appanoose County law enforcement including, dispatcher, jailer, civil clerk, jail administrator, deputy sheriff, chief deputy sheriff and now sheriff for the past two years. Gary said, "I have taken great pride in being a county employee and now an elected official. Being a member of the ISAC Board helps strengthen county government and allows for the betterment of county government policy and direction, which directly affects all of the citizens of the state of Iowa." He hopes to see ISAC continue to strengthen relationships with various organizations across Iowa and continue to be a leader in government policy.

Gary is a member of the Iowa State Review Board for the Mid-State Organized Crime Information Center, the Centerville Rotary Club, and the Centerville Chamber of Commerce. He is also on the board of directors for the South Central Iowa Clandestine Lab Task Force and South Central Iowa Drug Task Force. Gary's family includes his wife Stephanie who is currently a homemaker and works hard at the development and care of their children three young children, Austin, Keaton and Alyssa. In his free time Gary enjoys computer technology, reading, jet skiing, boating, yard work, and attending Kung Fu with his oldest son, Austin.

Short Takes on | Governor Vilsack's Administration



Dusky Terry
Senior Advisor to Gov. Vilsack

Dusky Terry, Senior Advisor to Governor Thomas Vilsack, joined the Vilsack-Pederson Administration in January 1999 after Vilsack's successful bid to become Iowa's first Democratic Governor in over 30 years. Terry's current focus is on the Administration's priorities of growing Iowa's economy, improving education, and renewing the state's commitment to the environment.



In addition to his current position, Terry served in the Governor's Office as Constituent Casework Coordinator; Policy Advisor on Agriculture, Environment, and Transportation; and Legislative Director. Before joining the Administration, he was a member of the Iowans for Vilsack/Pederson, Inc. campaign and returned to the campaign in 2002 for the re-election effort. He previously worked in the Parks, Recreation and Preserves Division of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. He also worked for the Iowa Waste Reduction Center and for the Main Street Greenfield redevelopment organization.

A native of rural Greenfield, Iowa, Terry was raised on a dairy and grain farm. He received his bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the University of Northern Iowa with a minor in Environmental Studies. Terry currently resides in rural Greenfield.

Dr. Steve Gleason
Chief of Staff to Gov. Vilsack

Dr. Steve Gleason is a native Iowan who became Chief of Staff to the Governor in 2002. Previously he served as director of the Iowa Department of Public Health. Although Steve is a board certified physician who holds an academic appointment as Assistant Professor at the Mayo clinic, he also holds a Ph. D. in business, and has had a lengthy career in management, policy, and politics.



Before coming to state government he served as national vice president for medical operations for Catholic Health Initiatives, as a senior White House health advisor to the Clinton administration, and senior medical advisor to the administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration (Medicare and Medicaid).

For 15 years previously he served as founder, president and chief medical officer of the 110-physician Mercy Clinics.

Dr. Gleason was born in Leon, Iowa and was raised in Kellerton until his family moved to Des Moines in 1952.

Creation of the ISAC Tax Study Committee

At the February ISAC board meeting, the ISAC Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion to create the ISAC Tax Study Committee. A compilation of various county officials and ISAC staff, the committee will analyze and evaluate various economic development proposals and tax bills. Included among the first of the proposals the committee will analyze are:

- The STIR Iowa plan, a \$2 billion economic development plan created by the Iowa Farm Bureau
- The REV Iowa plan, a \$500 million economic development plan recently unveiled by the Iowa League of Cities
- The Balanced Approach plan, a \$830 million economic development plan even more recently unveiled by the Iowa Chamber Alliance
- Senate File 41, a comprehensive review of the property tax system authored by Senator David Miller (R-Fairfield)

Additionally, the committee will work toward developing a plan to simplify and streamline the property tax system as part of a comprehensive study of Iowa's major revenue sources. If you have suggestions as to what the ideal property tax system would entail, or want to make comments related to the goals of the committee, please email Jay Syverson at jsyverson@iowacounties.org.

miscellaneous

Workshops On Illegal Dumping

In an effort to raise awareness on illegal dumping in Iowa, the DNR's Energy & Waste Management Bureau will host six, one-day regional workshops across Iowa in April and May.

The illegal disposal of solid waste presents serious environmental and public health problems. The indiscriminant dumping of tires, appliances, construction debris and other solid wastes and hazardous substances has far-reaching effects on the environment, the quality of life in communities, and the disposal practices and habits of the general public.

Local government officials and other interested parties are encouraged to attend this free workshop, which will highlight ways to combat the problem.

Workshops will begin with a review of the issues and problems associated with illegal dumping. Following the review, workshop focus will swing to resources, tools, plans and



strategies that local governments can implement. All of these methods will help governments reduce illegal dumping, respond to dumping issues and provide public awareness. Throughout the workshops, strategies will stress encouragement of a positive change by Iowa citizens in their waste disposal habits.

The workshop will be presented by Reed, Stowe & Yanke, one of the nation's leading consultants to state and local governments on effective programs to combat illegal dumping.

Workshops are free to attendees, but pre-registration is required because of space limitations. To register, contact (515) 281-8489, or e-mail mel.pins@dnr.state.ia.us. Also, watch for upcoming information in the mail and on the web at www.iowadnr.com.

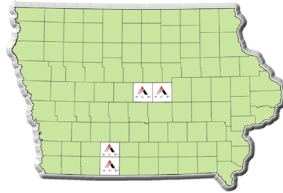
Workshop dates and locations are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 22 | Council Bluffs (Iowa Western Community College), 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| April 23 | Sioux City (Council Oak Community Center), 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. |
| April 24 | Des Moines area (Urbandale Public Library), 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| May 13 | Iowa City (Johnson Co. Conservation Educational Center, Oxford), 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| May 14 | Waterloo (Hawkeye Community College - Tama Hall), 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| May 15 | Clear Lake (Best Western Holiday Lodge), 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |

associate member highlights

Iowa County Recorders Choose ACS

Four Iowa county recorders of deeds – Story, Marshall, Ringgold and Union – have chosen Affiliated Computer Services, America’s leading provider of outsourcing and IT solution services to local and state governments, as their single-source provider for computerized land record recording and indexing systems, services and supplies.



ACS’ unique, computerized systems completely integrate and coordinate the complex process of fee recording, indexing, and scanning of public documents. ACS systems speed document workflow by increasing the efficiency of recorder of deeds office personnel, eliminating redundant keyboarding, speeding document search and retrieval, and providing secure, economical document storage and disaster recovery services.

ACS also offers web-delivery of public records through www.LandAccess.com, where the public can search, view and print copies of recorded documents from participating counties from any Internet-enabled personal computer.

Furthermore, ACS’ Electronic Recordation Exchange (eXRSM) is speeding the dawn of a new era: *fully electronic recordation*, where recordable instruments are created and

signed in electronic form, electronically delivered for recordation, recorded, signed, payments processed, and returned, entirely eliminating the handling and storage of paper documents. Throughout this technologically complex process, eXRSM is the ‘middleman’ that handles technical issues and services.

ACS’ Government Records Management (GRM) Division (www.acsgrm.com) is America’s largest and most experienced government records management company with Division headquarters in Syracuse, NY and additional facilities in Dallas, TX and Stone Mountain, GA. The Syracuse and Dallas facilities feature advanced Data Centers that host data for some of our nation’s largest cities and counties.

Over 1,300 county and municipal clerks, recorders of deeds, title companies and other clients in 29 states rely on ACS GRM as their single source service provider for all records management and processing services. ACS is a single-source vendor that offers everything recorders need, under one roof, for fast, efficient delivery of services and trouble-free issue resolution.

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communication

Stop Your Complaining!

Sometimes talking about problems is useful. It helps us gain support and assistance from others. But constant complaining and finger-pointing can have the opposite effect. We irritate and alienate the very co-workers we depend on for help.

The next time you’re tempted to gripe about your workload, another employee or the organization in general, stop and ask yourself:

- “How else could I look at the situation?”
- “What is my goal here? Am I accomplishing anything by complaining?”
- “What effect will this comment have on the people listening to me?”
- “What kind of reaction do I expect? Do I want people to agree with me? Rescue me?”

In most cases, you’ll find that complaining accomplishes very little. It’s a self-serving diversion that destroys morale and undermines professionalism. Put a stop to the moaning and groaning, and colleagues will view you as a positive, competent presence in the office.

And once you have your own complaining under con-

trol, pass your positive attitude on to co-workers. Example: When fellow employees come to you, grouching about a problem, ask, “What are you going to do about it?” If they expected you to commiserate with them, that question will stop them dead in their tracks. And it will encourage them to think about solutions, rather than dwell on problems.

(Taken from *Communications Briefings*, February 2003)

How to Satisfy Your Customers

When customers have problems, the last thing they want is an uncaring, robotic response to their complaints. You can keep customers satisfied if you remember that when they complain they want you to:

- Tell them how the problem happened.
- Allow them to speak with someone in authority.
- Let them know how long it will take to fix the problem.
- Contact them promptly when the problem is resolved.
- Give them progress reports if you can’t solve the problem immediately.
- Explain ways to prevent future problems.

(Taken from *Communication Briefings*, March 2003)

Funding Cuts Cause Nearly 72% Of America's Counties To Face Budget Shortfalls

Raising taxes, reducing services are options to replace lost revenue

Nearly 72% of America's counties are facing budget shortfalls because of funding cuts at the federal and state levels and the struggling economy, according to a survey released by the National Association of Counties (NACo).

"America's counties are facing difficult decisions," said NACo President Ken Mayfield. "With less money coming from federal and state governments, limitations on raising more revenue locally, and efficiencies and costs savings exhausted while the demand for essential services are increasing, there could be serious consequences for millions of Americans in communities across the country."

Forty-five percent of the counties facing shortfalls are considering some form of tax increases, according to the survey. The survey showed that some counties have already raised local taxes and are considering additional increases. More than half of these counties have increased residential property taxes (52%), commercial and agricultural property taxes (52%) and local option sales taxes (54%). Seventy-three percent are considering increasing special purpose sales taxes and 61% are looking at raising motor vehicle taxes as a way of making up for the lost revenue.

"By being forced to consider increasing taxes, in order to provide essential services to the American people, counties are stuck in a no-win situation. They need help because the demand for services continues to rise," Mayfield said. "The federal government can provide that help and ease the strain on local property taxpayers."

Mayfield outlined a three-point legislative program to help counties. The proposal includes approval of an economic growth package, legislation to require collection of remote sales taxes by Internet and catalog companies, and approval of funding for homeland security.

The 12-question survey was conducted in January 2003 for NACo by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. All 3,066 counties in the country were sent surveys. The results are based on 715 responses that closely reflect the population distribution of counties nationally.

The survey showed that revenue for counties was down in six categories. Fifty-three percent said state revenue was down. Twenty-four percent reported reductions in county sales tax revenue. Fifteen percent reported less revenue from county property taxes and 13% less revenue from federal pass-through programs. Just under 29% said they were experiencing no revenue shortfalls.

Counties that are experiencing shortfalls have identified a number of areas where decreases in services could occur. Twenty-five percent of the counties are planning decreases in public health services. Highways and street construction services

would be reduced by 26% of the counties and family and human services would be decreased by 24% of the counties.

Other services that would be decreased include: highways and street maintenance (23%), healthcare programs (23%), sheriff's department (23%), infrastructure maintenance (19%), parks and recreation (17%), arts and culture (14%) and public safety (14%).

Thirty-seven percent of the counties facing state reductions for mandated programs will reduce services for that mandated program. Other methods to make up the difference for those cuts for mandated programs are to use reserve funds (31%), increase county funding (22%), use contingency funds (19%) and increase taxes (17%).

The survey showed that the demand for services continues to rise primarily in the justice and public safety area, information technology and public health. *Visit NACo's website at www.naco.org/nacosurvey.pdf for the complete survey results.*

NACo Internet University for Employees

Thinking of buying access to NACo Internet University (NIU) for employees? The NIU system contains more than 1,000 courses divided into two libraries (IT Library and Professional Skill Development Library). It's a great resource for your employees, and your first step in creating an "e-learning" environment for your county.



Your next step: ensuring that your employees take advantage of the NIU classes. The following few suggestions can make for a great e-learning environment in county departments:

- Demonstrate to the top administrator how to use the NIU e-learning system and practice with them. Do so with department heads or the next level of county management, and encourage them to promote NIU e-learning to their employees.
- Involve all other levels, county managers, department heads, and employees in organizational-needs assessments in the form of discussions, focus groups or surveys.
- Encourage employees to print out their own certificates when they've successfully completed courses. Remind them of the value of continuing education to their professional development and to the success of their county department.

Advertisers Index

Aerial Services, Inc.	17	JEO Consulting Group Inc.	19
Aero-Metric, Inc.	19	Jerico Services, Inc.	14
Barker Lemar Engineering	16	Kuehl & Payer, Ltd.	17
Calhoun-Burns and Associates, Inc.	17	PMC, ProMap Corporation	20
County Risk Management Services Inc.	16	Prairie View Management, Inc.	9
Delta Dental Plan of Iowa	16	Public Employee Training Services	9
Fidlar Doubleday, Inc.	18	Ruan Securities Corporation	17
IMAGETEK, Inc.	14	The Sidwell Company	2
IMWCA	17	Solutions, Inc.	18
Investors Management Group (IPAIT)	15		

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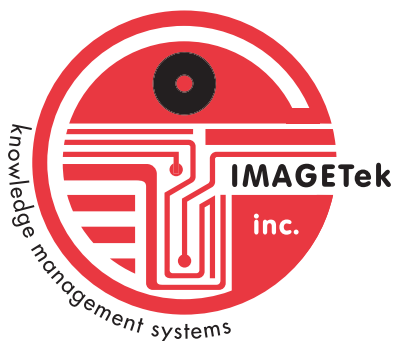
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- Ronald Reagan



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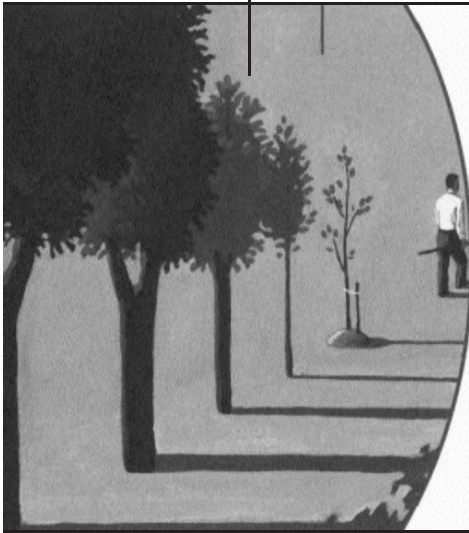
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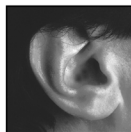
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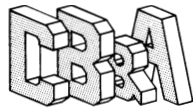
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calendar

APRIL

- 3 CCMS North East Support Group
- East Bremer Diner, Waverly
- 7-11 SEAT Module I
- Four Points Sheraton on Army Post, DM
- 8 DATA Training Workshop
- Cronks Cafe, Denison
- 9 DATA Training Workshop
- Story City Community Hall, Story City
- 10 DATA Training Workshop
- Monticello Berndes Center, Monticello
- 10 CCMS North Central Support Group
- Bennigan's, Clear Lake
- 15 CCMS Administrators - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 16 CCMS Cost Report Training
- Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 16-18 COZO Conference
- Best Western Regency, Marshalltown
- 17 CCMS Support Staff Training
- Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 17 CCMS West Support Group
- Montgomery Co. Courthouse, Red Oak
- 24 ISAC Board of Directors - ISAC Office
- 25 Wellness - DMACC, Carroll
- 27-30 Sheriffs & Deputies Civil School
- Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 30 CRIS Board - ISAC Office

MAY

- 6 CCMS New Supervisor Forum TENTATIVE
- Baymont Hotel, DM (formerly Best Inns & Suites)
- 7 CCMS Supervisor Training TENTATIVE
- Baymont Hotel, DM (formerly Best Inns & Suites)
- 7-9 Treasurer's Statewide Conference - Bos
Landon Golf Resort Conference Center,
Pella

JUNE

- 4-5 CCMS Advanced Case Manager
- location TBA TENTATIVE
- 11 CCMS Central Support Group
- Botanical Center, DM
- 11 ISAC District Legislative Workshop
- location TBA
- 12 ISAC District Legislative Workshop
- location TBA
- 13 ISAC District Legislative Workshop
- location TBA
- 24 ISAC District Legislative Workshop
- location TBA
- 25 ISAC District Legislative Workshop
- location TBA
- 26 ISAC District Legislative Workshop
- location TBA

JULY

- 11-15 NACo Annual Conference - Milwaukee
- 15 CCMS Administrators - location TBA
- 30 CRIS Board - ISAC Office

AUGUST

- 7-8 Supervisors' Executive Board - Clinton Area
- 11 Recorders' Legislative Committee
- Council Bluffs Area
- 12-13 Recorders' Summer Conference
- Council Bluffs Area
- 13-15 CCMS Annual Conference
- Holiday Inn Airport, DM



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 jnboa@iowacounties.org.

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