

The Iowa County

Providing Welfare Benefits to Illegal Immigrants



August 2004

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The Iowa County

August 2004 * Volume 33, Number 8

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Denise Obrecht, EDITOR



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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Illegal Immigrants' Access to County Welfare Benefits *Limitations in providing public benefits*

Recently a question was raised by an ISAC member regarding the county's responsibility to provide welfare funding for persons who are in the country illegally (illegal immigrants). The Iowa Legislature amended Iowa Code §252.25 in 1996 to make it clear that eligibility for general assistance applies only to those poor persons who are lawfully in the county. Federal Welfare Reform legislation, also passed in 1996, prohibits the expenditure of public benefits for the benefit of illegal immigrants unless a state affirmatively allows eligibility via state law (8 U.S.C. 1621). This legislation specifically allows a state to prohibit the eligibility of illegal immigrants for programs of general cash public assistance.

Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliations Act in 1996 in an effort to decrease the use of welfare programs by immigrants, whether legal or illegal. In addition to federal welfare benefits, this legislation prohibited state and local entities from providing public benefits to illegal immigrants, with the following four exceptions:

- 1) Health care items and services for the treatment of an emergency medical condition not related to an organ transplant procedure;
- 2) Short-term, non-cash, in-kind emergency disaster relief;
- 3) Public health assistance for immunizations and for testing and treatment of symptoms of communicable diseases; and
- 4) Programs, services or assistance specified by the Attorney General which a) deliver in-kind services at the community level; b) do not condition assistance on the individual recipient's income or resources; and c) are necessary for the protection of life or safety.

The last category includes:

- Crisis counseling and intervention programs, services and assistance relating to child protection, adult protective services, violence and abuse prevention, victims of domestic violence or other criminal activity, or treatment of mental illness or substance abuse;
- Short-term shelter or housing assistance for the homeless, for victims of domestic violence, or for run-away, abused or abandoned children;
- Programs, services, or assistance during periods of heat, cold, or other adverse weather conditions;
- Soup kitchens, community food banks, senior nutrition programs such as meals on wheels, and other such community nutritional services for persons requiring special assistance;
- Medical and public health services (including treatment and prevention of diseases and injuries) and mental health disability, or substance abuse assistance necessary to protect life or safety;
- Activities designed to protect the life or safety of workers, children and youths, or community residents; and
- Any other programs services or assistance necessary for the protection of life and safety.

Iowa counties have the option of whether to provide these benefits. One factor that counties and their General Relief Directors need to keep in mind is that U.S.-born children of illegal immigrants have the same eligibility as any other American citizen. Therefore, many households seeking assistance may have a mixture of members, some who are excluded from benefits and some who are not.

By: Linda Hinton

ISAC Assistant
Legal Counsel



Illegal Immigration: A Local Look

Iowa, not traditionally thought as a state of high immigration, is nevertheless beginning to feel the effects of current mass immigration policies. Overall Iowa's immigration population more than doubled during the 1990s, increasing by 110%. The US Citizenship & Immigrant Services (formerly INS) estimated in February 2003 that the illegal immigrant population in Iowa was about 24,000 residents. This was more than triple the previous estimate made October 1996, which was 6,400. That estimate represented an increase of about 1,400 since October 1992. The Center for Immigration Studies listed five counties as "immigration hot spots" in 1996. They were Jefferson, Johnson, Muscatine, Story and Woodbury counties. The Center claimed that if more up-to-date information were available Buena Vista and Marshall counties would be on the list. The Federation for American Immigration Reform reports that one out of every four workers in Iowa and Nebraska meat packing plants are illegal immigrants. In 1996 and 1997, the US Citizenship & Immigrant Services apprehended 513 illegal aliens at seven Nebraska and Iowa meatpacking plants. In 1996, nearly 10% of the workers on one shift at the IBP pork processing plant in Storm Lake, Iowa were arrested for lacking proper work authorization. This was cited as an example of how a large company transforms a town by its employment practices and then leaves it to the community to cope with the resulting problems of public education and other services for new immigrants.

Illegal Immigration: A National Look

In 2000, the number of illegal immigrants in the United States was 6.5 million. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that there are 8-9 million illegal immigrants in the United States today. In addition, the Census Bureau estimates a net increase of 500,000 illegal immigrants annually. The two magnets which attract illegal immigrants are jobs and family connections. The typical Mexican worker earns one-tenth his American counterpart, and numerous American businesses are willing to hire cheap, compliant labor from abroad; such businesses are seldom punished because our country lacks a viable system to verify new hires' work eligibility. In addition, communities of recently arrived legal immigrants help create immigration networks used by illegal immigrants and serve as incubators for illegal immigration, providing jobs, housing and entree to America for illegal immigrant relatives and fellow countrymen. California was estimated to have the most unauthorized residents in January 2000, about 2.1 million, or 32% of the national total. In 2000, the five states with the largest number of immigrants were California, Texas, New York, Illinois, and Florida. Mexico is the largest source country for unauthorized immigration to the United States. The estimated unauthorized resident population from Mexico increased from about 2 million in 1990 to 4.8 million in January 2000. In addition to Mexico, six countries had more than 100,000 unauthorized residents in the United States in January 2000—El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia, Honduras, China, and Ecuador.

Source: Center for Immigration Studies

2000 Illegal Immigrant Population

Alabama	22,632
Alaska	4,715
Arizona	266,869
Arkansas	25,461
California	2,083,087
Colorado	135,792
Connecticut	36,777
Delaware	9,430
Florida	317,791
Georgia	215,004
Hawaii	1,886
Idaho	17,917
Illinois	407,376
Indiana	42,435
Iowa	22,632
Kansas	44,321
Kentucky	14,145
Louisiana	4,715
Maine	Less than 1,000
Maryland	52,808
Massachusetts	82,041
Michigan	66,010
Minnesota	56,580
Mississippi	7,544
Missouri	20,746
Montana	Less than 1,000
Nebraska	22,632
Nevada	95,243
New Hampshire	Less than 1,000
New Jersey	208,403
New Mexico	36,777
New York	461,127
North Carolina	194,258
North Dakota	Less than 1,000
Ohio	37,720
Oklahoma	43,378
Oregon	84,870
Pennsylvania	46,207
Rhode Island	15,088
South Carolina	33,948
South Dakota	Less than 1,000
Tennessee	43,378
Texas	981,663
Utah	61,295
Vermont	Less than 1,000
Virginia	97,129
Washington	128,248
West Virginia	Less than 1,000
Wisconsin	38,663
Wyoming	Less than 1,000

Source: Center for Immigration Studies

capitol comments

Communication

When the gavel falls to open the 2005 legislative session in January, competition for the attention of state lawmakers will likely be keen. How do we get on their radar screen? The concept is simple; the earlier we connect with our senators and representatives, the better our chances are for successful results. Those who have made their case to legislators in the interim are far ahead of those who wait until the session begins.

August is upon us. This is the time when the daylight hours grow noticeably shorter and “back to school” ads flood the newspapers and television. While we cheer at neighborhood softball championships and chow on barbecued brats and burgers, county officials mustn’t forget about their responsibilities to the citizens they serve.

County officials strive for excellence in all they do for the people. They want to attain the best job possible at the most efficient cost. But in order to do that, we must be equipped with the tools necessary to meet citizen needs. As our world changes, our needs change too, hence, the necessity to continually interact with state lawmakers.

Meetings Held Last Fall

In response to significant state appropriation cuts in 2003, ISAC worked with county officials last fall to coordinate meetings with selected state legislators to educate them on local government needs for 2004. While time and space constraints kept us from meeting with *all* counties and their legislators, we tried to involve as many as possible.

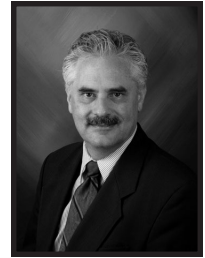
The meetings included a careful balance between House and Senate, majority and minority, urban and rural, geographic differences, veteran legislators and newcomers, old friends to counties, and lawmakers we don’t normally work directly with. Some meetings were held in courthouses, while others included lunch or dinner at the local restaurant. Most were arranged by the supervisors or auditor and often included other officials as determined in each county. Some meetings involved officials from more than one county for legislators who serve multi-county districts.

Citizens were feeling the blow from the cuts in state revenues and local officials did not want that to happen again. At about this same time last year, state revenues were still flat and there was even some talk about cutting the property tax credits all together and holding the taxpayer harmless, thus shifting the cost to local governments and their property taxpayers. We knew that in order to avoid a fiscal calamity, we needed to educate lawmakers about the direct impacts further cuts would have on the same citizens who are served by both state and local officials.

Were these meetings helpful? Counties did have a fairly successful year. For starters, funding of the property tax credits for fiscal year 2005 remained status quo and we maintained our ability to prorate the credits based on the level of funding by the

By: *John Easter*

ISAC Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs



state. Shortfalls were not shifted to local governments. In fact, the legislature supplied an additional \$3.3 million to fully fund the Elderly and Disabled Credit. In addition, we solved numerous other ISAC and affiliate legislative objectives. Some may claim we could have attained those levels of appropriations and the other successes whether we had those meetings or not. I believe the meetings helped.

Another measure, while anecdotal, involved the county and state officials who actually attended the meetings. Virtually everyone who was there felt that the effort was worthwhile and should be repeated in the future. The open dialogue helped officials on both levels to better understand the respective pressures felt by each. It also helped to translate the cuts from abstract dollar sums to specific and direct impacts on citizens and local communities.

Plan A Meeting With Your Legislator

Many counties already make it a part of their normal routine to meet with their legislators this time of year. Some counties only do it on occasion, while others may not even meet with them at all. Everyone should do it.

Now is a good time to begin thinking about meeting with your senators and representatives to prepare for the coming legislative session. We encourage the affiliate members in each county to work together in planning your meetings. Once you have arranged a date, time and location, please feel free to contact the policy staff at ISAC if you want one of us to participate as a resource. Due to space and time restrictions we cannot promise that we can come to each and every meeting out there, but we will make every effort to do so.

Will elections affect the dynamics of the meetings this year? They could. Most incumbents who are candidates should have an interest in what the political pulse is at the local level. Some may say they are too busy campaigning and ask to wait until after election-day. For races involving open seats, perhaps county officials should consider meeting with each viable candidate.

The more credibility we can build with our legislators, the more effective counties will be in influencing them on matters of public policy. It is much easier to build credibility by getting to know them during the interim than it is to wait until an urgent contact bulletin is sent out by ISAC during the crush of the legislative session. We will probably never have the means to measure the precise impact these meetings have on producing successful legislative results. However, the cumulative effect is sure to make the jobs of serving your citizens much better in the long run.

Communication is the key. Plan your meeting today.

When Are Hourly Employees Entitled to Compensation?

FLSA

There is a lot of confusion out there regarding the application of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to training-related travel of hourly employees. None of this applies to salaried (FLSA-exempt) employees. A representative of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor has signed off on this explanation.

Do hourly employees get paid for lunch hours at training conferences? According to the federal regulation, 29 CFR section 785.19, “bona fide meal periods” are not work time, and the employee need not be compensated. But to be a “bona fide meal period,” the employee must be completely relieved from duty. The employee is not relieved if the employee is required to perform any duties, whether active or inactive, while eating. If an employee attends a lunch that is included in the meeting registration fee, even if there is conversation at the table about work-related topics, the employee does not have to be paid for that time. However, if the lunch includes a speaker, then the employee would have to be paid for the lunch period.

What if the lunch period is longer than the employee would get at the job back home? That doesn’t matter. The question is, was this a “bona fide meal period.”

What about time spent traveling to education conferences? Do we have to pay hourly employees for that time? That’s 29 CFR section 785.39. The regulations say that for travel completed in a single day, all time spent traveling is compensable time, and the employee must be paid. It does not matter whether the travel takes place during normal work hours or not.

Does this apply to passengers, too? Yes.

What about overnight travel? Travel that keeps an employee away from home overnight is called “travel away from home” in the regulations. For drivers, all “travel away from home” is compensable while the employee is driving a vehicle. For passengers, “travel away from home” is compensable work time when it cuts across the employee’s workday. The employee is simply substituting travel for other duties. So assume an hourly employee is traveling to a Des Moines conference. The employee normally works from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On day one he travels as a passenger in a vehicle from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. to get to Des Moines. He would get paid for four hours (from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) but would not get paid for the hour from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The next day he attends the conference all day. At 5 p.m. he leaves Des Moines, and is driven home, arriving at 10 p.m. He would not get paid for those travel hours, since they were after the employee’s

By: *David Vestal*

ISAC Deputy Director



normal workday. The same applies whether the employee is a passenger on an airplane or in an automobile.

Court Update

Here are summaries of two Iowa Supreme Court cases of interest to county officials:

Barreca v Nickolas (6/16/04): While presiding at a city council meeting, Davenport Alderman George Nickolas repeated an anonymous source’s false allegations that “illicit and nefarious activities involving minors, thongs and water” were occurring at a local teen dance club. The club owner sued Nickolas for defamation. Nickolas was granted a summary judgment, based on his qualified privilege as a local legislative official. On appeal, the Iowa Supreme Court held that the qualified privilege applied since Nickolas was responding in his capacity as an alderman to a complaint about illegal conduct at a local business. But the Court remanded the case to the trial court to determine whether Nickolas abused this qualified privilege. The test, said the Court, is whether he made the statement “with knowledge that it is false or with reckless disregard for its truth or falsity.” The Court said that Nickolas was not entitled to summary judgment, since he repeated the erroneous allegations about the dance club to the public “with no basis other than an anonymous and uncorroborated tip.”

ABC Disposal Systems, Inc. v. DNR (6/16/04): This case involves the legal concept of “equitable estoppel.” ABC owned some land, and wanted to use it for truck-to-trailer transfers of solid waste. Before investing any money, ABC asked DNR officials whether such transfers would require a sanitary disposal project permit. The DNR officials said no. ABC built the facility. But then the DNR reversed itself, ordered ABC to get a permit, and even slapped ABC with a civil penalty of \$5,000 for not having a permit. ABC objected, claiming that under the doctrine of equitable estoppel, it cannot be penalized because it relied in good faith on the DNR official’s erroneous statement that no permit was required. The Iowa Supreme Court reaffirmed that equitable estoppel cannot be used against a government except in exceptional circumstances. Especially when, like here, the government is carrying out statutory duties assigned to it. The Court said ABC was required to get a permit.

Parting Ponderable

Here is a sad account of love gone bad from the *Des Moines Register*. “Henderson, Texas (AP) A man set up a bubble bath for his wife, complete with candles and music,...then tried to electrocute her by pushing a radio into the tub.”

health check

Maintaining Your Health

A co-worker gave me an article a while back that I thought was strikingly refreshing. This article by David Gardner and Tom Gardner suggests five ways to maintain health. I want to highlight three here that I think are not usually included in health information.

Reflection

Surprisingly, I thought, they began with reflection. Reflection is the exercise and feeding of your spirit in this life. They recommend 30 minutes of sitting – quiet reflection each day. In reflection you can find a simpler life, strengthened mind, more laughter and newfound reasons for being.

Personal Habits

The Gardners suggested reviewing your personal habits. If you don't find yourself smiling regularly throughout your days, is it not time to reconsider how you are spending those days? There's no study in the world that suggests smiling is anything but therapeutic. Research your minor and major ailments online. "There is no great doctor in the world who would counsel you against doing your own due diligence." If you smoke consider quitting as it does nothing to enhance your health. If you are struggling to get a good nights sleep, take time to investigate

By: Sandy Longfellow

ISAC Administrative Assistant



your problem whether it is sleep apnea, snoring, insomnia or too much TV in the bedroom. Six to eight hours is necessary to restore the body.

Social Bonds

The greatest gift you can give to your friends and family are not eventual commitments in a will. What your entire family needs is the gift of your experience, your insight and your emotional support. The Gardners make the point that there are two times more suicides each year than there are homicides. "What can we infer from that? That sadness, more than anger, threatens this world. A solitary quietude creates more lethal environments than mere aggression. Perhaps its time to ask if you've formed enough partnerships, secured enough friendships, forgiven enough old quarrels, and light-handedly assisted enough family members to squeeze all the satisfaction you deserve out of this life."

Even though these gentlemen appear to have no particular expertise in living a healthy life, I think they have hit on some of the essentials. If you would like a copy of their whole article, email me at slongfellow@iowacounties.org.

technology center

Understanding Spyware

Q: "What is spyware?"

A: Spyware is programming that is placed on your computer to gather information without your knowledge. The information that the spyware gathers is usually turned around and sold to interested third parties. Some spyware programs collect personal information such as your Internet surfing habits or even gathering information from your personal files. Companies use "Commercial Spyware" to track employees Internet browsing activities and families use "Domestic Spyware" to monitor other family members (such as reviewing children's chat room sessions). Law enforcement officers are known to use spyware to track and monitor criminal activity. The criminals themselves use the same type of software to steal personal information from unsuspecting computer users.

How does spyware get onto your computer? There are several ways for these companies to accomplish their goal. They are doing it by sending out enticing spam e-mail that can trick you into allowing this to be completed. Popups are another deceptive and tricky measure they use to have end users unwittingly allow this to occur. If you download "free" utilities, games, tool bars or media players, they may come packaged with spyware. File sharing programs are another culprit along with corrupt websites or

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Technical
Administrative Assistant



even software applications.

Now that you know how the spyware can be placed on your computer, what ways, if any, are there to prevent this from happening? The first step to take is to make sure that your Internet Security settings are set at a minimum of "Medium." Watch out for any suspicious e-mails and do not click on "Popups." Look out for anything that states its "free." It usually comes with hidden strings, not always, but please use caution. If your computer seems to be slow and you struggle with popups constantly, you may want to take a moment and review the "Anti-Spyware" software programs that are out there (<http://www.anti-spyware-review.toptenreviews.com/free-spyware-detectors.html>).

Website Note: ISAC's Fall School online registration form will be placed on the ISAC website August 1st. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please forward any items that you would like addressed in this column to my attention at tnorman@iowacounties.org or by calling 515-244-7181. Until next month, keep clicking!

counties in the spotlight

The **Worth County** Public Health Department held a health fair on May 22. Worth County offered free blood pressure checks, free vision tests and free hearing tests. The Northwood Police Department did bike checks and bike registration. The Worth County Sheriff office did fingerprinting child identifications. And a guest speaker discussed the risk factors and warning signs of stroke, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral vascular disease and osteoporosis.



This cowboy enjoyed the games and balloons at the Worth County Health Fair.

When it comes to quality of life, **Johnson County** is tops in Iowa and in the top 4% in the country. That's according to a study published this week by American City Business Journals. The study included 20 statistical indicators including education, home values, income levels and diversity to rate the nation's 3,141 counties and independent cities. Other counties of note in Iowa were **Polk County** (184th nationally), **Linn County** (192nd) and **Story County** (208th). **Washington County** came in at 765th nationally, while **Muscatine County** ranked 780th.

(Taken from the Iowa City Press-Citizen, May 27)

Disaster assistance is now available for 58 Iowa counties to help residents recover from the effects of recent tornadoes, severe storms and flooding. The counties recently added to the list of eligible counties for Individual Assistance are: **Adair, Adams, Allamakee, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Cedar, Chickasaw, Clay, Clinton, Dallas, Dubuque, Floyd, Franklin, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hardin, Howard, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Kossuth, Madison, Marshall, Montgomery, Palo Alto, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Sac, Shelby, Story, Tama, Warren, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Worth and Wright.** The 14 counties included in the original disaster declaration are: **Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cass, Cerro Gordo, Clayton, Delaware, Fayette, Hancock, Humboldt, Jones, Linn, Mitchell and Pocahontas.** Disaster affected residents and business owners in these 58 counties are eligible to apply for a range of state and federal disaster assistance programs under the major disaster declaration for Iowa issued by President Bush on May 25 to cover the damage that began May 19.

(Taken from the Herald, June 16)

Promote County Government!

County Finances

Revenues & Expenditures for Iowa Counties

Prepared by the:
Iowa State Association of Counties

The History of County Government



Prepared by the:
Iowa State Association of Counties

The Structure of County Government

Elected and Appointed Offices

Prepared by the:
Iowa State Association of Counties

Three brochures are available for counties to use in efforts to promote county government. The brochure entitled 'County Finances' outlines county expenditures and county revenue. The brochure entitled 'History of County Government' reviews the history of county government in Iowa and the United States. And finally, the brochure entitled 'The Structure of County Government' states the duties of county offices and services offered. These brochures are excellent marketing pieces for counties to have available for courthouse visitors. Contact Denise Obrecht at dobrecht@iowacounties.org or 515-244-7181 if you would like copies of these brochures. The brochures are also available on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'About County Government.'

counties in the spotlight

Iowa Communities Receive Grant Funds For Drug Enforcement, Treatment And Prevention

The Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy made approximately \$5 million in federal grant funds available to local and state agencies for 53 drug enforcement, drug treatment, and drug/crime prevention programs, effective immediately. Funding awards totaling \$4,985,218 were announced by the Office of Drug Control Policy, which administers the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Formula Grant Program for the state of Iowa. The Byrne program is administered federally by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Grant funds, combined with a 25% cash match by the recipients, will be used to support a variety of drug and violent crime control efforts throughout the state of Iowa. Projects receiving Byrne grant funding include multiple jurisdiction drug enforcement task forces, drug courts, drug treatment for criminal offenders, community-based crime and substance abuse prevention initiatives, and technology advancements to improve Iowa’s criminal justice system. The following counties received grant funding:

<u>Grant Recipient</u>	<u>Title of Grant-Funded Project</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>
Buchanan County Board of Supervisors	Rural Area Interdiction Detail	\$91,639
Cerro Gordo County	Adolescent Link to Early Response Team (ALERT)	\$65,997
Clinton County	Enhanced Adult Offenders Treatment Program	\$30,054
Clinton County	Meth Reduction Project	\$33,457
Dallas County/Perry	SAFE Community Coalition	\$25,500
Des Moines County	Southeast Iowa Narcotics Task Force	\$177,816
Dubuque County	Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Law Enforcement Task Force	\$145,373
Marshall County	Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force	\$138,769
Muscatine County	Muscatine County Drug Task Force	\$144,454
Polk County	Multi-Jurisdictional	\$481,283
Scott County	Controlled Substance Enforcement Coop	\$149,756
Sioux County	Northwest Iowa Drug Task Force	\$46,072
Story County	Central Iowa Drug Task Force	\$101,237
Story County	Jail Based Substance Abuse Assessment & Treatment	\$30,482
Webster County	Teen Intervene Program for Success	\$35,580
Webster County	Community & Family Resources Recovery House	\$48,488

memorial

Dorothea Bowers

The former Pocahontas County Auditor, Dorothea Bowers, passed away on Monday, June 20. Dorothea served as Auditor from 1977 to 1992. She was on many affiliate and state committees and was past president of ISACA. She experienced failing health the past couple years and recently entered a care facility near her daughter. Funeral services were held in Pocahontas on Thursday, June 24.



classified ad

County Engineer

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors seeks a county engineer for the Secondary Road Department to organize and direct road planning, engineering, roadside vegetation, construction and maintenance activities for 900+ miles of road, as well as supervise employees. Must have planning background with an understanding of both urban and rural designs. Must have Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and at least 5 years experience as a civil engineer with 2 years in a management level position or equivalent combination. Must have valid Iowa Professional Engineer’s license and driver’s license. Starting salary \$77 to \$89K DOQ; outstanding health insurance and benefits. Send resume and cover letter to: Johnson County Human Resources, 913 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA 52240 by August 6, 2004. AA/EOE

Meet Your Board

Mike King

Mike King was elected in 1990 to hold the position of Union County Supervisor. He enjoys serving on the ISAC Board of Directors and “seeing how other counties views and perspectives around the state affect county government and residents.” Mike currently serves as past president of the Kiwanis and past president of the Iowa State Association of Supervisors. He is a member of the Creston Golf Eagles, Elks, Holy Spirit Parish, Iowa and National Cattleman’s Association and past zone chairman of Ducks Unlimited. Before serving as Union County Supervisor, Mike was co-owner of the Elm’s Club in Creston, Iowa for 28 years. His wife Donna took up the reigns and is now the co-owner of the club. They have three children. Their son Jamie is vice president for the ECI Computer Company in Virginia. Their daughter Carrie is an RN at Sioux City and married to Chris, vice president of KNID & KNOX. And their daughter Jenny works at Allied in Des Moines. In Mike’s spare time he enjoys hunting, golf and taking care of a 100 head cow-calf herd.



ISAC Fall School 2004

By: *Jerri Noboa*

ISAC Meetings Administrator



Register On-line

As of August 1, county officials can register on-line for ISAC’s Fall School of Instruction to be held November 14-16, 2004. Attendees will be able to sign-up for one of three seminars to be held on Sunday, November 14 from 3pm - 6pm. The ISAC staff is planning excellent presentations on topics such as GIS, collaborating with other organizations, and dealing with conflict. And remember, if you drive into Des Moines on Sunday you won’t have to deal with any traffic problems! To register on-line visit ISAC’s website (www.iowacounties.org) then click on ‘Upcoming Events.’

Conference Agenda

Sunday, November 14

1pm - 6pm	ISAC Registration Marriott
1pm - 3pm	Committee Meetings
3pm - 6pm	Pre-Conference Seminars
6pm - 8pm	Committee Meetings
6:30pm	Board/Staff Dinner
6pm - 9pm	Hospitality Rooms

Monday, November 15

7:30am - 4pm	ISAC Registration Marriott
7:30am - 8:30am	Coffee & Rolls (Exhibitors Area)
8:30am - 10am	General Session w/keynote speaker
10am - 10:30am	Break (Exhibitors Area)
10am - 4:45pm	Affiliate Time
Noon - 1:30pm	CRIS Luncheon
2pm - 2:30pm	Break (Exhibitors Area)
5:30pm - 6:30pm	President’s Reception Sponsored by Exhibitors (Exhibitors Area)
6:30pm - 9pm	Hospitality Rooms
9pm - Midnight	Dance (Renaissance Savery)

Tuesday, November 16

8am - 4pm	ISAC Registration Marriott
8:30am - 10am	General Session w/ISAC business meeting
10am - 4pm	Affiliate Time

Visit ISAC’s website (www.iowacounties.org) under ‘Upcoming Events’ for further Fall School 2004 information.

Register on-line for ISAC’s Fall School of Instruction

November 14-16, 2004

Visit www.iowacounties.org,
click on ‘Upcoming Events’

Information regarding:

- seminars
- agendas
- lodging
- parking
- entertainment

ISAC brief

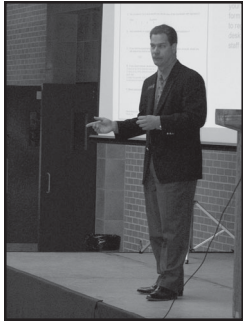
2004 ISAC District Workshops

ISAC completed their final piece in the policy cycle by conducting ISAC Legislative District Workshops in June. The workshops consisted of meetings with the county officials in each of the six ISAC districts throughout Iowa. At these meetings, a brief district meeting is held then ISAC staff provide a presentation about the legislative year and its outcomes. Bill Peterson, ISAC Executive Director, discussed the role of values in business, which include client focus, personal and business excellence, respect others, teamwork, and integrity. He also gave an update on ISAC's involvement in property tax reform. John Easter, ISAC Director of Intergovernmental Relations, reviewed the outcome of bills that affected county officials this legislative session. Linda Hinton, Assistant Legal Counsel, discussed human services legislation. Area legislators then were invited to share their feelings regarding the legislative session and answer questions from the county officials in attendance. Finally, breakout sessions for affiliate groups were held and ISAC staff made special presentations to them about bills affecting their particular areas.

ISAC would like to thank the following legislators that attended the 2004 District Workshops: Sen. Daryl Beall, Sen. Bob Brunkhorst, Sen. David Johnson, Sen. John Kibbie, Sen. Keith Kreiman, Sen. Paul McKinley, Sen. David Miller, Sen. Herman Quirnbach, Sen. Amanda Ragan, Sen. Bryan Sievers, Sen. Mark Zieman, Rep. Dwayne Alons, Rep. Carmine Boal, Rep. Danny Carroll, Rep. Mark Davitt, Rep. Betty De Boef, Rep. Jack Drake, Rep. Mary Gaskill, Rep. Polly Granzow, Rep. Lisa Heddens, Rep. Clarence Hoffman, Rep. Dan Huseman, Rep. Willard Jenkins, Rep. Mark Kuhn, Rep. James Kurtenbach, Rep. Gene Maddox, Rep. Dolores Mertz, Rep. Jo Oldson, Rep. Henry Rayhons, Rep. Don Shultz, Rep. Greg Stevens, Rep. Doug Struyk, Rep. Kurt Swaim, Rep. David Tjepkes, Rep. Jodi Tymeson, Rep. Linda Upmeyer, and Rep. John Whitaker.



Attendees at the District V Workshop in Ottumwa.



Top: Rep. Jim Kurtenbach in Forest City. Top Right: Rep. David Tjepkes and Rep. Carmine Boal in Des Moines. Right: John Easter, ISAC Dir. of Intergovernmental Affairs; Rep. Jack Drake and Rep. Doug Struyk in Council Bluffs.



Top: Rep. Gene Maddox in Des Moines. Top right: Sen. Herman Quirnbach in Des Moines. Right: Tim Hoschek, Des Moines County Supervisor, in Ottumwa. Bottom: Sen. Amanda Ragan, Rep. Linda Upmeyer and Rep. Dolores Mertz in Forest City.



County Leaders Attend County Leadership Institute

Linda Langston, Linn County Supervisor, was one of 21 county leaders from across the United States that traveled to New York City the first week of June to complete the inaugural County Leadership Institute. This institute is an intensive four-day program developed by New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service in partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo).

Langston said, "Our class was a diverse group coming from 21 different states, representing counties of all sizes from small, rural counties to large urban counties. There was also a diverse representation of gender, race, age, political persuasion, interests and knowledge. There were two county state association executives, one county manager, some long time elected officials and others like myself who were recently elected."

The Institute focused on the challenges of forging broad-based collaborative efforts to address the complex challenges facing counties. "Effective public service lead-

ers do not have the luxury of focusing solely on leading change in their own jurisdictions; they need to be able to reach out across their boundaries to unite public, private, and nonprofit interest from many communities," said Ellen Schall, dean of NYU Wagner. "This Institute helped county officials think creatively about how they could build coalitions in their region, in their state, and across the country to unleash innovative solutions."

Attendees were asked to come to the Institute with an issue they were currently facing that involved collaboration. Langston said, "We presented some of our most challenging collaborative leadership issues to our fellow participants and sought each other's help. We learned about creative ways to address collaborative leadership, the political pitfalls and opportunities of leadership. We were inspired; we were renewed; we were challenged."

On the last day of the conference the attendees learned about significant government initiatives over the history of our country. The group also made suggestions for future classes.



Linda Langston (right), Linn County Supervisor, receives her County Leadership certificate from NACo Executive Director Larry Naake and Robert F. Wagner Dean Ellen Schall.

Langston said, "Our minds were challenged every day. I encourage all ISAC members to seek out information regarding this program next year. It was an enriching experience and the friends that I made are already ones that I am continuing to be in contact with to explore problem solving and collaborations." If anyone would like to contact Langston regarding the program please email her at linda.langston@linncounty.org. The County Leadership Institute is expected to become an annual program open to a select group of county officials through an application process.

U.S. Communities Offers Nationwide Purchasing Program

A program entitled U.S. Communities offers counties joint purchasing on a nation-wide basis while complementing other purchasing options. The National Association of Counties (NACo), Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), jointly sponsor the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (U.S. Communities).

U.S. Communities allows counties in Iowa to receive volume discounts that larger cities and counties receive. These larger entities have established contracts with national vendors to pass these discounts to other cities and counties. The contracts also include a provision that if a vendor offers a lower price through another program or contract, that price will be offered to participants in the U.S. Communities program. Items that can be purchased through the program include office supplies, janitorial supplies, technology products, tools, park equipment, and furniture.

U.S. Communities allows a county to purchase items not simply regionally but nationally. The program has over 7,000 public entities currently participating and has the potential of combining the purchasing power of over 87,000 public entities. The program complements other purchasing programs by providing an additional way for local entities to save and providing a variety of products through the program that may not be available through other cost-saving means.

Entities are not required to make a minimum purchase or pay membership fees to participate. Counties may find it beneficial to learn how much an item will cost through the program and then seek out that price through a local vendor. Many new vendors and different types of products are now available through the program. To learn more about the advantages of using the U.S. Communities program, visit www.uscommunities.org or call 866-472-7467.

alumni corner

ISAC Alumni Association News

District IV Alums held their first ever reunion at the ISAC District Workshop in Council Bluffs. The members in attendance had a great time sharing news of their new lives as retirees and reminiscing a bit about their "past" life. Several threads continue to bind the members together. They are each exploring new groups and interests. Former Page County Treasurer Donna Wheeler has become one of those fun-loving Red Hat Society ladies in a community where she knew few people. And they each enjoy working with people in varying volunteer capacities. Sharon Winchell, former Cass County Treasurer, is a research volunteer at the genealogy center of the Danish Immigrant Museum and recently represented them at the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival in Moorhead, Minnesota. Of course, they all enjoy more time for families, friends, and leisurely travel. Other members present included former county treasurers including Connie Hockett (formerly Connie Sheriff), Adair County; Barbara Bower, Ringgold County; Harriett Sloss, Guthrie County; and Betty Markham, Shelby County.

The ISAC Alumni Association provides an opportunity to have the best of both worlds, enjoy the camaraderie with friends and former colleagues and keep up-to-date and help with current county government issues without the day to day responsibility. All former elected or appointed county employees are eligible to join the ISAC Alumni Association. Membership applications can be found by visiting ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) then clicking on 'About ISAC.' If you have further questions feel free to contact Jerri Noboa at jnobia@iowacounties.org or 515-244-7181.

miscellaneous

Workshop Announcement

Two workshops will be held in September to teach participants how to perform in-depth demographic studies using the recently released 2000 U.S. Census and how to use Census Data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in concert.

Effectively Using the 2000 U.S. Census – Focus on Iowa

Date: September 1st 9am-4:15pm

Cost: \$235

Using Census Data in GIS Mapping (ArcView 8.3)

September 2nd & 3rd 9am-4:15pm

Cost: \$470

Cost includes all materials and access to a PC on the Internet during class. Class size is limited, the majority of the workshops sell out, so please register early. All Workshop participants will receive: 1) a workbook on creating a compelling, detailed demographic analysis of your community/target population; 2) sample data from several Iowa counties showing demographic trends; and sample GIS (computer) maps for Iowa counties and a free GIS map browser - ArcExplorer

Workshops will be held at 3850 Merle Hay Rd. Suite 200, Des Moines, IA 50310. On-line registration is available at www.CalmRiver.com or you can register via e-mail at Register@CalmRiver.com - please include your name, organization, telephone number and preferred class date. You can also register by phone at (800) 707-2256.

Iowa Downtown Summit in August

"Downtown: Pearls of Change" is the theme of the 18th Annual Iowa Downtown Summit to be held August 24-25, 2004 in Muscatine, Iowa. Featured this year will be a variety of sessions to foster a better understanding of alternative strategies for downtown development.

The Summit, sponsored by the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Federal Home Loan Bank, offers interesting and informative sessions on how rural and urban communities across America are revitalizing their city centers by thinking outside the box and discovering new options. A special focus this year is "Alternative Building Codes" which have been implemented in other states, specifically for downtown's historic architecture.

Judy O'Bannon, trustee for National Trust for Historic Preservation and former First Lady of Indiana, will present the opening keynote, "Midwestern Downtowns – Preserving our Sense of Place." Thomas Hylton, president for Save Our Land, Inc., from Pottstown, Pennsylvania, will share his thought-provoking capstone, "Save Our Land, Save our Towns," views on rediscovering our traditional cities and towns as the best way to save our farms and forests.

Registrations received before August 16 are \$75 per person; after August 16 the fee is \$100. Those interested in attending can register by calling the Iowa Downtown Resource Center at (515) 242-4733 or email downtown@ided.state.ia.us. Conference information can also be obtained at www.mainstreetiowa.org.

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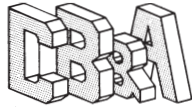
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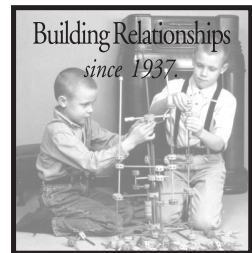
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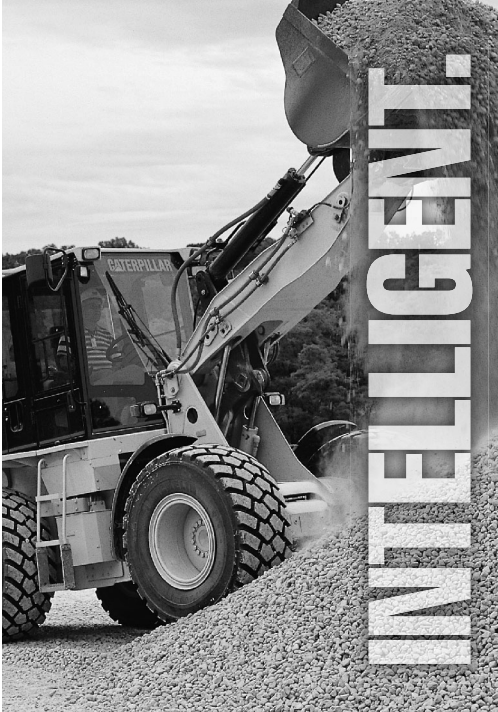


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AUGUST

- 3 CRIS Work Group (ISAC Office)
- 5-6 Supervisors Executive Board
(Independence area)
- 10 Recorders Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 11 Community Services Training Committee
(ISAC Office)
- 11-13 *CCMS Annual Conference*
(Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 11 Recorders Legislative Meeting
(Grand Harbor Resort, Dubuque)
- 12 SRFDAC (ISAC Office)
- 12-13 Recorders Summer Conference
(Grand Harbor Resort, Dubuque)
- 13 Supervisors Resolutions Committee
(ISAC Office)
- 26-27 Community Services Retreat
(Country Inn & Suites, Clive)

SEPTEMBER

- 1 ISAC Steering Committees
(Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 14 Recorders Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 16-19 Conservation Directors Annual Conference
(LeMars)
- 19-22 Sheriffs & Deputies Jails School
(Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 22-24 *CCMS Fundamentals*
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 23 IEHA Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 23-24 ISAC Board of Directors
(Sheraton Hotel, Iowa City)
- 23-24 CPC Ethics Training
(Hotel Winneshiek, Decorah)
- 29 ISAC Steering Committees
(Stoney Creek Inn, Des Moines/Johnston))

OCTOBER

- 3-6 Assessors Fall School (West Des Moines)
- 12 Recorders Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 12 *CCMS Administrators*
(Baymont Conference Center, Des Moines)
- 21-22 *CCMS Strengths Based Training*
(Baymont Conference Center, Des Moines)
- 28-29 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

NOVEMBER

- 4 *CCMS Advanced Case Manager*
(Baymont Conference Center, Des Moines)
- 9 Recorders Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 9-12 County Attorneys Fall Conference
(Cedar Rapids)
- 14-16 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Downtown
Marriott/Renaissance Savery, Des Moines)
- 15 *CCMS Board of Directors*
(Downtown Marriott, Des Moines)

DECEMBER

- 1 District 4 Winter Meeting (location TBA)
- 2 District 2 Winter Meeting
(Elks Lodge, Charles City)
- 12-15 Sheriffs & Deputies Winter School
(Downtown Marriott, Des Moines)
- 14 Recorders Task Force (ISAC Office)
- 16 IEHA Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 17 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!

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