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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 Fight Against Terrorism

The homeland security mission for the Iowa Emergency Management Division has significantly broadened our responsibilities to include securing our state from terrorist threats or attacks. To carry out this mission to detect, prepare for, prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks within the state, coordination and collaboration with our partners has become even more vital. One of the important partners in this endeavor is local government, to include the local emergency management agency.

The Iowa Emergency Management Division and local emergency management partnership is more essential than ever as we work to meet homeland security challenges that we face. To assist local government in meeting these challenges, limited federal funding sources have been made available.

At the writing of this article it is still very uncertain what the homeland security federal fiscal year 2003 funding picture will look like. It is hoped that Congress will provide sufficient funding for state and local agencies to implement the Iowa Homeland Security Initiative as well as doing what we can to aid in the implementation of the National Homeland Security Strategy.

FY02 Supplemental Appropriation

President Bush signed into law the 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Responding to Terrorist Attacks on the United States. In this act Congress gave authority to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to carry out the FY2002 supplemental grant for state and local all-hazards emergency operational planning. Citizen Corps activities and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) development and implementation.

Iowa was allocated $1,011,387 for planning, and $284,935 for Citizen Corps and CERT development and training. Seventy-five percent of these funds must be allocated to local emergency management agencies. Final grant approval notifications to jurisdictions are expected to be made by late January.

Sixty-seven counties submitted planning grant applications. Twenty-four of those counties also applied for Citizen Corps grants, while 25 applied for CERT grants. The planning grants are primarily to be used to ensure that countywide comprehensive emergency operations plans for mitigation, response, and recovery are completed and approved by the Iowa Emergency Management Division. Planning grants are also to be used to ensure that counties have a strategic plan that meets state standards and that the local emergency management commission completes a self-assessment of countywide emergency management capabilities.

Department of Justice Equipment Grant Program

Many Iowa counties are benefiting from their participation in the Department of Justice (DOJ) Equipment Program. This four-year initiative was established to address critical national needs in the area of specialized response equipment for domestic preparedness. The program provides financial assistance for the purchase of equipment to enhance the capability of state and local agencies to respond to incidents of terrorism involving the use of chemical and biological agents, as well as radiological and explosive devices.

In October 2000, Iowa Emergency Management began to promote the first phase of the DOJ Equipment Grant Program. Under the program, Iowa received $2.4 million to purchase first responder equipment in four key areas: personal protection equipment, communications, detection, and decontamination. Forty-one Iowa counties participated in the program and completed an extensive assessment process along with state government. In Iowa, approximately 80% of the funds were passed to local responder organizations; all participating counties received a base amount of $15,000. Almost 95% of the equipment under this first wave of the program has been purchased and is now being used by local first responders.

In June 2002, the second phase of the program was announced. Due in large part to the attacks of September 11 and a guaranteed base amount of $15,000, 90 Iowa counties participated. Funding for Iowa for this second phase is $4.3 million. The state is now researching a new purchasing process for this equipment that will simplify the process for local government and management of the program. If this option is pursued, equipment purchases may begin in February 2003.

Public Health

An important partner in state and local homeland security efforts is the public health community. State emergency management and county emergency management coordinators have been working closely with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) on funding initiatives from the federal government. The program’s six focus areas require development of preparedness and response plans. The total award for Iowa is $11,383,675. IDPH established six planning regions in the state in order to develop local public health and medical service planning activities. County emergency management coordinators are working closely with public health and medical services personnel on these committees.

Local governments have a pivotal role in preparing our nation to respond to and recover from an emergency, whether natural or human-made. The task of preparing our state and nation to respond to the consequences of a terrorist attack is daunting but doable, thanks to the expertise and dedication of emergency management professionals in our counties.

For additional information on homeland security in Iowa, you may go to www.iowahomelandsecurity.org. The Iowa Emergency Management Division is under the administration of Ellen M. Gordon who has also served as Iowa’s Homeland Security Advisor since October 2001.
Woodbury County was putting them up for auction, but now 54 computers past their prime for government work will be made available for a second career in public safety. The Woodbury County Board of Supervisors agreed to a request from Gary Brown, director of emergency services, to make the desktop units available to the 14 fire and 12 emergency medical units throughout the county. Brown said they can be used for training on a number of fronts, including recognizing and responding to bioterrorism and fire fighting.

Brown said a number of rural Internet service providers are willing to give free Internet service to the volunteer departments, and that getting them all connected is “our ultimate goal.” Brown said there are many training CDs available on how to recognize and respond to terrorist threats such as anthrax, botulism and livestock diseases, as well as standard fire and rescue training. Also, emergency management conferences he attends often issue a related training CD, which could now be shared throughout the county.

The computers became available as part of a regular PC replacement program of WCICC, which maintains the Sioux City and Woodbury County information systems. They had been decommissioned and were awaiting auction until Brown made his appeal. Malloy estimated the units might have sold for a total of $2,000 to $3,000, minus the auctioneer’s fee. He said they are no longer adequate to do the computing work the county needs done. The computers will remain the property of the county, but will be lent indefinitely to the rescue squads and fire departments. (Taken from the Sioux City Journal, December 9)

Did you know….

• Dallas County is among the 100 fastest growing counties in the country? From April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2001, its population grew by 2,164 people, or 5.3%!
• The popularity of the name Marion County is attested by the 17 counties in the U.S. of that name.

Other facts are available on ISAC’s website under County Information/County History.

Meet Your Board Members

Robert Canney
ISAC Board Member

Robert Canney has served as MIS Director for Black Hawk County for 22 years as of last May. Prior to this, he worked in Information Technology for private industry, Allied Group Insurance group for 12 years. Robert said, “I have attended one board meeting in December and can tell this is going to be an enjoyable learning experience. I have met some great people, board members and ISAC staff and can tell they are going to be great to work with.” The Iowa Counties Information Technology Organization recently became an affiliate member of ISAC. “As the ‘new kids on the block’ I hope we can be a resource for the development and enhancement of IT and GIS information that will benefit counties.”

Robert is the past president of International Government Management Information Sciences (GMIS). In his free time he enjoys fishing and watching his grandson wrestle in youth wrestling. Robert’s family includes wife, Martha of 41 years, who works for Ruan Transportation, Waterloo terminal, as an Administrative Assistant. They also have two grown children: Julie Sorensen is a Programmer/Analyst for Waterloo Industries in Waterloo and David works for Happel Construction Co. in Waverly.

Kathy Nicholls
ISAC Board Member

Kathy Nicholls has been in Wright County for 15 years as a public health nurse, clinical manager, and currently the assistant administrator. Previously, she served as a nurse in Polk County and taught nursing at the Marion Health Center in Sioux City. Kathy became the Public Health Nurse representative on the ISAC Board of Directors in November and anticipates the position will give her a broader perspective of county government. She hopes ISAC continues to be the voice for county employees.

Kathy is on the Building Families Empowerment Board with members from Wright County, Hamilton County and Humboldt County. In her spare time she enjoys scrap booking and genealogy. Her family includes husband John who works in property management and daughter Sydney who is a high school student.
Increase in Iowa’s Renewable Energy

“Man, it was tough. The wind was blowing about 100 degrees.”
- Mickey Rivers (Texas Rangers designated hitter, on the weather during a ball game)

“Her own mother lived the latter years of her life in the horrible suspicion that electricity was dripping invisibly all over the house.”
- James Thurber

There’s a theory, or perhaps a parable, which I first heard about a decade ago which strives to emphasize the interconnectedness of actions and reactions. It is usually put in the following fashion: The fluttering of a butterfly’s wings may well bring about cataclysmic events which... (Fill in the blank.) The idea put forth is that the ever-so-slight whiff of air produced by the butterfly’s actions spreads, like the ripple in a pond, to larger currents of air and then, in ever increasing amounts, to the physical reactions to such flows.

The Advent of Wind Power in Iowa

Back in the late 1970s a windmill in Denmark was taken apart and reconstructed in Elk Horn, Iowa as a monument to Danish immigrants who settled in Iowa. Numerous such windmills in Denmark and throughout northern Europe were used for the operation of grinding grain or pumping water. This windmill in Elk Horn joined the thousands of smaller steel and wood windmills which once were so common on American farms. The heyday of such farm windmills in the Midwest was between 1870 and the 1930s when they provided the mechanical means to pump water and to generate electricity. By the 1980s and, increasingly, during the 1990s, windmills of another design began to appear in the Midwest and in northern Iowa.

The advent of wind powered electric generation was, for the most part, taking place in California in the late 20th Century. But in 1993, one of the first such devices in Iowa was erected and put into operation by Waverly Light and Power, the municipal utility for Waverly, Iowa. This 80 kilowatt wind turbine was joined, in 1999, by two more 750 kilowatt turbines erected by Waverly Light and Power near Alta, Iowa in Buena Vista County. These two windmills were a small part of the “wind farm” built in Buena Vista and Cherokee counties which now are comprised of some 260 wind turbines. Late in 2001, the Waverly municipal utility’s first turbine was retired and replaced by a larger 900 kilowatt device built near Waverly. The electricity generated by the larger turbine in the first two weeks of its operation was greater than the small 1993 turbine could produce in one year. These three turbines helped to bring electric power to 760 homes in Waverly and provide five percent of the utility’s annual energy output. The wind farm around Alta was soon joined by turbines south of Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County. This was followed by propellered giants in Worth County.

The Growth of an Energy Source

What once was a west coast phenomenon has become a fact of life in 22 states. Iowa is currently third in wind turbines behind only California and Texas. But we are pikers compared to the Europeans. Wind turbines in Europe provide 28 million people with a significant part of their electricity.

The construction of the new group of turbines in Worth County mirrors the growth of this energy source in the U.S. Between June 1998 and June 1999, over a billion dollars worth of wind turbines came on line in the U.S. These were enough to power 350,000 homes. The U.S. Department of Energy’s “Wind Powering America” project has set a goal of producing 5% of the nation’s electricity from wind power by 2020. According to this federal agency, if this goal were met it would create $60 billion in capital investment and 80,000 new jobs in the next 20 years. In 2001, the Environmental Law and Policy Center, based in Chicago, published a report entitled “Repowering the Midwest” that states the advantages of significantly increasing the amount of wind power in a region where there exists corridors of steady wind flow:

- Reduction of the air pollution caused by burning fossil fuels, chiefly coal and natural gas, which contributes to global warming. Increasing wind power would also lessen our reliance on nuclear power. Wind power is non-polluting and is readily available.
- Improvement of energy reliability and security. Secure sources of petroleum are brought into question when we realize how much is imported to the U.S. from such volatile localities as Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and Indonesia.
- Creation of new jobs in the maintenance of wind turbine arrays and in the manufacture of wind turbine equipment.
- New outside income for landowners, usually farmers. Farmers lease land to the wind power developer, land which, in a larger scale array, amounts to only 2.5 acres per megawatt capacity. In other words, leasing “islands” for wind turbines allows a farmer to do so while still keeping the land in production.
- Increasing the property tax base.

Related ISAC Policy Statement

Included in ISAC’s 2003 Policy Statements is support for the development of alternative and renewable energy sources in Iowa and recommends an increase in Iowa’s renewable energy portfolio from the current 4% to 10% by 2010 and to 20% by 2020. For a copy of “Repowering the Midwest” or “Job Jolt: The Economic Impacts of Repowering the Midwest,” contact the Environmental Law and Policy Center at 35 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 1300, Chicago, Illinois  60601. There is a connection between county issues and energy alternatives. Think of that butterfly’s wings as the turn of a wind turbine’s blades.
When Can a Court of Law Overtake a Board Decision?

Standard of Review

At what point is a board of supervisors’ decision so flawed that a court has the right to step in and reverse that decision? For instance, this issue arose when Lyon County was sued by the Farm Bureau over the decisions the county had made in preparing the budget. How much discretion does a county have in such a matter?

This issue – what is the standard of review when a court is asked to overturn the decision of a board of supervisors? – was addressed recently by the Iowa Supreme Court in Bushby v. Washington County Conservation Bd. (01-1548).

The plaintiffs were opponents of a proposed tree-clearing project in a county park. The plaintiffs went to court to get an injunction to stop the project. The district court granted the county’s motion for summary judgment and the plaintiffs appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court.

The plaintiffs requested that the Court step in and overturn the actions of the Conservation Board and the Board of Supervisors.

In searching for the right standard to apply, the Court cited with apparent approval the following quote from a 1967 case called Bd. of Directors of Independent Sch. Dist. of Waterloo v. Green: “The courts of this state are not concerned with the wisdom of discretionary acts on the part of school boards. . . . The duty of all courts . . . is to uphold a school regulation unless it is clearly arbitrary and unreasonable . . . . [O]ur task is to determine whether it is so unreasonable and arbitrary as to be illegal, void and unenforceable.” 147 N.W.2d 854, 858.

So apparently that is the test we are supposed to apply in second guessing board decisions - were the actions of the board “so unreasonable and arbitrary as to be illegal, void and unenforceable.”

The Court held that the members of the Washington County Conservation Board and Washington County Board of Supervisors who voted to approve the tree removal were sufficiently aware of the number of trees to be removed, their location within the park, and the reasons for the proposed removal. The Court found that the actions of the Conservation Board and Board of Supervisors were not shown to have been unreasonable or arbitrary.

There were two other important but unrelated issues decided in that case. The first was “standing,” that is, do these particular plaintiffs even have the right to sue for alleged injuries to trees in a county park? The Court held that plaintiffs in cases involving environmental concerns establish standing if they assert they use the affected area and are persons for whom the aesthetic and recreational values of the area will be lessened by the challenged activity. The Court held that these plaintiffs did allege sufficient facts to confer standing in this case.

Second, the plaintiffs claimed that the Board of Su-

Wrongful Discharge

A recent Iowa case decided by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals raised an issue related to the concept of wrongful discharge. In Mercer v. City of Cedar Rapids, 308 F.2d 840 (2002), Teresa Mercer was a married Cedar Rapids probationary police officer who became romantically involved with a captain in the Cedar Rapids Police Department. This led to a series of altercations involving Mercer and her husband, who was a reserve police officer. After an internal investigation, Mercer was terminated.

She sued the Cedar Rapids Police Department on a number of theories including equal protection and due process, as well as sex discrimination and slander. She lost on all counts except the slander claim. Both sides appealed. The Eighth Circuit reversed the slander claim, and upheld the dismissal of all of Mercer’s other claims.

Mercer’s most interesting claim was wrongful discharge. Under Iowa law, an employee has a cause of action for wrongful discharge if she engaged in conduct protected by a clear public policy, she was terminated on account of that protected conduct, the dismissal jeopardized the public policy, and the employer had no overriding business justification for the dismissal.

So what was the “well-recognized and clear public policy” that was jeopardized by Mercer’s termination? Mercer argued that terminating her for her affair with another police officer violated the Iowa public policy “favoring the right of privacy.”

The Eighth Circuit held that there is no clear public policy in Iowa that protects an employee’s privacy interest in a romantic relationship with a co-worker, especially when the relationship adversely affects the workplace. The Court acknowledged that an extra-marital affair between two co-workers can damage the morale, discipline and reputation of a work force.

The Court cited a 1996 federal case from Iowa that upheld an employer’s discharge of an employee for violating the employer’s employee dating policy.

Parting Ponderable: Actual newspaper headlines, as reported on the Internet:

- Deaf Mute Gets New Hearing In Killing
- Police Begin Campaign To Run Down Jaywalkers

By: David Vestal
ISAC Deputy Director
Get Out of Debt Free

I remember the Monopoly game card that says “Get out of Jail Free!” and I wished that there would be a “Get out of Debt Free” card. But, of course, we all know that it doesn’t work that way. Unfortunately, we aren’t going to win the lottery so most of us could use a long hard look at our financial situation. I don’t know about you but some of those holiday indulgences come back to haunt us around this time of the year. If you do find yourself in a financial bind, here are some things to keep in mind while resolving the situation.

Commitment. You need to be committed to this process and put it in writing. Without a firm and specific commitment your dreams will never become reality. Without a specific commitment you will probably give up when you discover you cannot have everything you want whenever you want it.

Stop Spending. Stop all non-essential and discretionary spending for at least 48 hours. By putting the brakes on spending you will be able to take the deep breath you need to proceed with the next steps. As you reach for your checkbook or credit card, stop and think about your commitment to change your financial habits.

Analyze. Look at the details of your finances. Don’t get caught up in regret, guilt or anger. Gather the facts and analyze them without the emotional baggage. Get out a note pad and answer these questions:
1. What is your current income?
2. What are your expenses?
3. What do you own?
4. What do you owe?

Track. The most important thing you can do to empower your money life is discover where all your money goes. When you discover where it goes you will be able to control where you want it to go. Put a note card in your pocket or purse and write down what you spend and where. Don’t think you can remember when you get home – do it now.

Stop debting. It is essential that you stop adding to your debt. Put your credit cards away – don’t carry them with you. I have a friend that would freeze hers in a cup of water. By the time she was able to defrost it she had thought about her potential purchase.

Stop spending coins. At the end of the day empty your pockets or purse of any coins and put them in a container. If you don’t spend them you will be very surprised at how quickly they will accumulate in no time at all, with no pain at all.

I would like to recommend a resource to you if you really need to get out of debt. Mary Hunt has many publications that are very helpful. Look at www.cheapskatemonthly.com for more information. Her book “Debt-Proof Living” is a must.

How to Protect Your Computer From Viruses

Q. How can I protect my computer from becoming infected with a computer virus?

A. Unfortunately, if you surf the Internet, receive e-mail messages, download information from a floppy diskette or CD, you could be exposed to computer viruses. However, there are safe guards available to help protect your computer from computer viruses. They can also help you rid your computer of computer viruses if it becomes infected. One such anti-virus software program is Symantec Norton Anti-Virus. Another anti-virus program is McAfee, an on-line service. Both are good programs, in fact, they can be used together to help provide additional protection. If you must choose just one, I would suggest using Norton’s. Norton’s software program is available for a cost of approximately $49.95 (this will need to be updated periodically) and McAfee can be purchased for an annual fee of $29.95 per year.

Keep in mind even with anti-virus software, you need to exercise caution. Whenever you open e-mail message or download any type of program your computer will be susceptible to becoming infected with a virus. A virus cannot harm you unless you activate it. Therefore, you can be your best defense against computer viruses. If you receive any type of “suspicious” e-mails, do not open them! Contact the originator of the e-mail message and verify it had sent by them and it is a legitimate message. This will save you a tremendous amount of time and worry. Once a virus has been downloaded, you are left to repair the damage it has caused, so prevention is the best course of action.

If you have inadvertently opened an infected file and your computer has become infected, Norton and McAfee will be able to provide help and support to enable you or your tech support person to clean your computer and become functional once again. Therefore, it is extremely important to invest in an anti-virus software program. Not only for the preventive side but for the invaluable service provided once you have become infected and need to remove the virus.

Website Note: Now that the legislative session has begun, you can check out ISAC’s website (www.iowacounties.org) to view the legislative bills that we are tracking. You will be able to locate this information under the “Legislative Information” button off the ISAC homepage. Until next month, keep clicking!
Supervision
- THE “X” FACTOR FOR TCM

There is an old saying that goes “Behind every good man, there is a good woman.” This basic principal might also apply to Targeted Case Management – behind every good Case Manager there is a good supervisor. Supervision is the backbone of a successful program. The Supervisor must wear many hats – teacher, coach, advocate, leader, and supportive resource to name just a few. The task is somewhat analogous to the jugglers one used to see on the old variety shows – the supervisor must move quickly from plate to plate to keep them spinning on the stick to avoid having them all come crashing down at once. With that in mind, let us review some of the primary functions of the Targeted Case Management Supervisor.

Roles of Supervision

According to George Mink (PhD), the Roles of Supervision are three-fold:

1. Administrative
   - Delegation of tasks and roles
   - Evaluation and review of work
   - Maintaining the work flow
   - Providing upward and downward communication

2. Educational
   - Developing worker skills
   - Providing regular opportunities for training
   - Clarifying skills required for the job

3. Supportive
   - Providing clear and timely feedback
   - Being available for consultation
   - Developing a mutually supportive team
   - Giving direct personal support
   - Assisting in advocacy

(Reprinted from materials presented at a workshop entitled: “How Supervisors Can Use Leadership through Encouragement to Enhance the Competence and Skills of Their Case Managers” May 1996)

In addition to these general roles, there are three specific items to program management of Targeted Case Management that warrant specific attention:

Policies and Procedures

It is important that all of your staff have a good understanding of the operational rules of your organization. This goes beyond the myriad of federal and state regulations (including Chap. 24) that are required. It also needs to address the specific day-to-day details that are needed for Case Managers to do their job (such as time-frames for documentation to be completed, filed and mailed out; responsibilities for time-tracking, etc.). As supervisor, it is important to be sure that your agency’s actual practice follows the procedures indicated as policy. If your practices change over the course of time, be sure they reflect standards and then formalize these changes by amending the Policy & Procedures. It is good practice to review this document annually with all staff present to insure understanding by all and to allow input from those in the field.

Billing Practices

It is essential that you set up a system to insure that billable contacts have occurred and that the documentation to reflect these contacts is in the case file before billing occurs. “Mea culpa” does not play in the world of Medicaid. You must be sure you have a reliable, ongoing system to track timely completion of required documentation. Do not assume everything is “hunky dory” simply because it has been so in the past – good Case Managers can get overwhelmed and sometimes need assistance with time management and prioritization of duties. It is important to recognize issues before they become problems. Remember that support staff can be a great assistance in this matter. In regards to billing, “If it’s not documented, it didn’t happen.” Have the safeguards in place to avoid repayment of services.

Monitoring

Be sure to continue to monitor your agency’s Policy & Procedures for compliance and accuracy. Monitor your staff through file reviews and supervisory meetings. Document staff performance (including required training attendance) and your ongoing supervision of staff. Be sure to conduct annual performance evaluations of staff that include staff development goals and a plan of action to provide clear feedback of their job expectations and performance.

In addition to all this, it is important to remember to stay within the parameters of your job. For example, allow your Case Managers to advocate for their clients (let the CPC or Board of Supervisors perform their function regarding service funding). Also, allow your Case Managers to do their job after they have received proper training. You should not make a habit of attending client staffings for your Case Managers in your role as supervisor – you have many other duties that you need to attend to.

Clearly, there are many responsibilities that the supervisor of a Targeted Case Management unit is responsible for. And, the challenge continues to grow in these times of change and tightening budgets but we have seen the superb effort and accomplishments of those agencies we work with. We salute and commend your dedication and perseverance for the task at hand. “Let’s keep those plates a spinning!”
The 2002 Innovation Awards were presented to five projects during ISAC’s Fall School General Session November 21, 2002. The ISAC Innovation Program provides the opportunity for officials and staff of counties in Iowa to receive appropriate recognition by their peers and the public for superior and innovative efforts in their profession.

Mobile Crisis Response Team
submitted by Maria Walker, Polk County Program Planner

Polk County citizens in a mental health crisis often end up interfacing with the county sheriff or local police. They are called because a family member, friend or neighbor doesn’t know how to deal with the person in crisis or because businesses find a person not “acting right.” Law enforcement receives minimal training on working with people who have mental illness. Additionally, their options to deal with the situation are limited. The outcomes include transport to a hospital, making an arrest, taking someone to jail, or simply leaving the individual.

There is no good linkage to get people the appropriate help they need, particularly when the crisis happens in the middle of the night. The project goal was to improve the access to appropriate mental health treatment and support services for people in crisis. A mobile team of mental health professionals was formed through Eyerly-Ball Community Mental Health Center. The MCRT works closely with both the county sheriff’s department and local city police departments to jointly respond to mental health crisis calls. The team has been equipped with police radios and rotates between patrolling in their own vehicle and at times riding with assigned patrol officers. An additional feature of the project includes a case manager that follows up the next day for people that have been contacted the previous night.

In an article written by Lt. Charlie Richardson he states: “The Mobile Crisis Response Team has already proven its worth, and we hope that it will be a permanent partner to the Des Moines Police Department, and a permanent fixture in our community.”

www.iowatreasurers.org
submitted by Mary Maloney, Polk County Treasurer
President of the Iowa State County Treasurers Association

In a survey conducted by the Iowa State County Treasurers Association (ISCTA) it was discovered that Iowans were interested in initiating payments to the county treasurer over the Internet. In response to this demand, and knowing that more than half of its members did not have a county website, ISCTA sought to develop a portal for county treasurers with a means for every county to have a web presence through the treasurer’s office.

The ISCTA executive board partnered with the State of Iowa Information Technology Department and Iowa Interactive, Inc. (a subsidiary of the National Information Consortium) as well as the ISCTA Website Task Force to develop a website that provides novices and experienced web users alike an easy-to-use, browser based content management system.

By working with these partners, the website was developed without the use of any state or county funds. Instead, citizens who use the property tax payment service will pay a nominal service delivery fee to cover the cost of development and ongoing operations. The collaborative effort saved ISCTA and Iowa’s counties more than $250,000 in development costs. There were no out-of-pocket development costs born by ISCTA.

Iowa property owners began paying current taxes online at www.iowatreasurers.org beginning September 2002. Citizens can pay property taxes using major credit cards and e-checks 24-hours a day during the collection period and allowing payments up to 11:59 pm September 30 without added penalties or interest.

The result of this project included: a web presence for all 99 county treasurers, citizens get an online service for paying taxes, and easy access to over 40 forms for conducting business with the treasurers. Another innovation provided to treasurers was a password protected Extranet that assists in online training, surveys, polls, newsletters, etc.

Other innovation award winners included: “Courthouse GIS Day” submitted by Kathy J. Thoms, Bremer County, Director of Finance and Management; “Dallas County Archives and Records Center” submitted by Anne Mau, Dallas County Board Secretary; and “Franklin County Navigator” submitted by Jean Hirth, Franklin County Public Health. These award winners were featured in the January issue of The Iowa County.

Quote of the Month:
“I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the US Congress.”
- Ronald Reagan
Winter District Meetings Held

Winter District Meetings were held in December to hear from ISAC staff on the up-coming legislative session, hear from area legislators on legislative issues of importance and expectations, and give affiliates time to meet individually.

The 2nd District County Officers Meeting was held December 5, 2002 in Charles City. The 5th District County Officers Meeting was held December 18, 2002 in Fairfield. And finally, the 1st District County Officers Meeting was held December 19, 2002 in Des Moines.

County officials at the 1st District County Officers Meeting in Des Moines had a unique opportunity to hear the last formal speech by retiring State Auditor Richard Johnson.

Mr. Johnson reflected on his career in state government from the past, the present and his vision of the future. He was appointed by Governor Ray in 1979 and successfully ran for re-election each following term. When he started at the State Auditor’s office, he was one of 2 CPA’s in a staff of 160. Now there are over 60 CPA’s in a staff of 105.

In reflecting on the future of local government, particularly county government and the ever present call for consolidation or regionalization, Mr. Johnson felt counties should be asking what services can be provided to citizens. The county should be the main source of local government service delivery. A specific example would be the possibility of the county auditor through 28E agreements, acting as the fiduciary responsibility with small towns, fire departments, etc. for those entities not required to be audited because of size.

Auditor Johnson, closed with the introduction of his successor David A. Vaudt, who stated he was looking forward to serving, felt he had inherited an excellent, professional staff, and was committed to the same excellent non-partisan service which had been delivered under Mr. Johnson’s leadership.

Public Finance

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The directories are $15 for county officials and $25 for non-county officials.
Contact information for county officials, congressional delegates, ISAC legislative liaisons, and state offices is included.

Visit the ISAC website (www.iowacounties.org) under ‘Publications’ and download an order form.
Reserve your copy today!
In reviewing the salary survey, please keep the following in mind:
1. An asterisk following the salary of the county supervisors indicates that a differential is paid to the chairperson of the board of supervisors in that county.
2. These higher salaries are listed in footnotes at the bottom of the second page.
3. Some counties provide a housing allowance to the sheriff. This sum is not included in the salary listed below.
4. Large differences in salary among county officials could be a result of varying work loads, experience, or hours worked.
5. Refer to the county employee sheet for additional information on the offices of elected officials.

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prepared by Iowa State Association of Counties (11/02)
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**AVERAGE** 2,926,324 24,449 2.7% 50,658 3.3% 39,768 3.2% 39,341 3.1% 38,856 3.2% 54,171 3.9%

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* Supervisor Chair Salaries
- Adair County voters approved change in number of supervisors from 5 to 3 effective Jan. 1, 2001.
- Woodbury Auditor assumed most of the Recorder's duties when Sheriff's salary includes both duties.
- Washington County Sheriff is also the City of Washington Police Chief. Sheriff's salary includes both duties. The Recorder's position was eliminated by referendum in 1995.
County-A-Day Under Way

It’s that time of year again when county officials should be planning their signup for the ISAC “County-A-Day” legislative visitation program. The 2003 session promises to be an active one with county officials playing a key role in shaping outcomes on vital issues. County-A-Day offers county officials an opportunity to come into Des Moines and spend a day with the ISAC legislative team on Capitol Hill, along with meeting your own legislators. New this year, County-A-Day participants will be asked to go directly to the Capitol for a brief tour at 8:30am, followed by a legislative brief with ISAC lobbyists at 8:45am. Then the rest of the day is up to the participants to plan by attending meetings and visiting with their legislators.

If your county is interested but has not signed up, please contact Denise Obrecht at (515) 244-7181 or dobrecht@iowacounties.org to register. We are encouraging that each available day be limited to two counties for better management of the program. Therefore, since it will be run on a first come-first serve basis, it is important to select your county day as soon as possible. More information is available on ISAC’s website (www.iowacounties.org) under ‘Legislative Information.’

Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control

CPESC is a professional credential sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the International Erosion Control Association. Instructors Jay Michels and Jay Riggs conduct a one-day tutorial designed to help individuals expand their knowledge of erosion control and storm water management, which could lead to taking the CPESC certification test. The training will take place March 20, 2003 at Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU), 1735 NE 70th Avenue, Ankeny, IA. The next day, March 21, 2003, a CPESC exam will be administered to test-registered students. Training cost is $100; $90 if registration is received by March 7th. The testing fee is additional. For more information about the certification process and how to qualify to take the exam call 828-756-4484 or visit www.cpesc.net.

The training is sponsored by URBAN; the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Dallas, Madison, Marion, Polk, Story and Warren counties; Iowa State University; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship—Department of Soil Conservation; and USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information or to register go to, www.urbanwaterquality.org or contact Jennifer Welch at 515-964-1883, Ext. 3.

Conservation Workshops

In March 2003, federal law requires many communities to implement their own storm water management programs. To help professionals and city officials understand and comply with National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems Phase II storm water program regulations, workshops will be held this winter. The full-day sessions are designed to help those involved in community planning, development, and storm water management stay in regulatory compliance while offering strategies to lower costs and reduce pollution and the potential for flooding. The conferences are:

Focus on Prevention
Instructors Jay Michels and Jay Riggs examine construction site design strategies to prevent soil loss and the pollution, costs, and fines that can result. The conference will focus on conservation measures including building site design, innovative storm water management, and incorporating cost-share and incentive programs. Held February 11, 2003 at Farm Bureau, 5400 University, West Des Moines, IA., the cost is $75.00; $70 if registration is received by March 7th.

Looking For Spring School Information?

If you have been hunting in the magazine for Spring School information, look to www.iowacounties.org. Information on registration, hotel accommodations, and entertainment is only one click away, just visit ISAC’s website at www.iowacounties.org under ‘Upcoming Events.’ ISAC’s Spring School of Instruction & Business Meeting will be held March 19-21, 2003 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines. The Auditors, Information Technology and Conservation Directors will be meeting at the Sheraton Four Points on Army Post. Affiliate agendas will be posted on the website the end of February. For further questions contact Jerri Noboa at 515-244-7181 or jnoboa@iowacounties.org.
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# Calendar

## February
- 9-12: Sheriffs & Deputies Patrol School - Four Points Sheraton, DM
- 19-20: ISAC Board of Directors - ISAC Office
- 28-Mar: NACo Legislative Conference, Washington DC

## March
- 5: CCMS Central Supervisors Support Group - ISAC Office
- 11: CCMS Central Support Group - Botanical Center, Des Moines
- 12: CCMS Fundamentals of Case Management - location TBA
- 19: CCMS Board of Directors - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 19-21: ISAC Spring School of Instruction - Holiday Inn Airport, DM

## April
- 15: CCMS Administrators - location TBA
- 16: CCMS Cost Report Training - location TBA
- 16-18: COZO Conference - Best Western Regency, Marshalltown

## May
- 6-7: CCMS Support Staff Training - location TBA

## June
- 4: CCMS New Supervisor Forum - location TBA
- 5: CCMS Supervisor Training - location TBA
- 11: CCMS Central Support Group - Botanical Center, DM

## July
- 11-15: NACo Annual Conference - Milwaukee, WI

## August
- 7-8: Supervisors’ Executive Board - Clinton

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