

# The Iowa County



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Year Ahead**

**January 2006**



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# The Iowa County

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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.

## Opportunities In 2006

At the beginning of every year, I look forward to new opportunities, experiences and even challenges, along with the more routine occurrences of board meetings, payroll, and budgets. As I begin my tenure as ISAC President, I want to encourage all county officials to take advantage of the great and unique opportunities that their positions afford them. But let me talk specifically about four opportunities that we, individually and as an organization, must strive to build on in 2006.

One of the opportunities we have as ISAC members is to assess our organization - things we are doing well, things we should consider changing, outside forces we face, and the direction we want to go in the future. We can be very proud of ISAC. The leadership, expertise and hard work provided by our past presidents, the Board of Directors, Executive Director Bill Peterson, and the ISAC staff continue to allow us to meet the needs of and provide quality education to our members. But we must not be content to simply do things as we always have. Just as county government is constantly evolving, so too does ISAC need to evolve to remain relevant. I encourage county officials to get involved with ISAC and their respective affiliates - join a committee, attend meetings, suggest a speaker or topic for an upcoming educational conference. County officials know how the types of services they need from ISAC are evolving, and they should communicate their needs and work to help ISAC continue to meet them.

We have built a partnership with the Iowa League of Cities to further our legislative proposals and to educate the citizens, media and even the Legislature about local government. We need to continue to strengthen this partnership as we go forward. This year, we can work with the League to further the proposal for the Iowa Center for Governing Excellence (ICGE). For government to continue to do its job, it needs to continually change and adapt, and as its leaders we need to do the same. It is important that we take steps to formalize an opportunity for those involved in government at all levels to learn about leadership, government practices, and working collaboratively. The ICGE would provide those and other valuable services.

ISAC is partnering with NACo to facilitate the 2008 Presidential Election Project as a way to advocate for county issues and priorities. While we educate future presidential candidates about county government, we should also work to educate at a local level. With an open governor's office and an open congressional seat in northeast Iowa, many of us will have the opportunity to campaign for or meet candidates for those offices and for state legislative seats as well. I encourage you to take these opportunities to educate candidates and have conversations with them on county issues.

As always, ISAC staff, with assistance from the affiliate legislative liaisons and other members, will work to forward our legislative priorities. The top priorities recommended by the ISAC Board of Directors include: establishing a reformed property tax system in Iowa that will stabilize the tax base and enhance local accountability; making technical changes to the Iowa elections law; supporting local control of eminent domain for use of obtaining road rights-of-way; increasing food license fees to fully fund state and local food safety inspection activities; and encouraging the State of Iowa to pay back \$6.2 million due to a federal audit of the Medicaid Adult Rehabilitation Option (ARO). I hope all county officials will actively support our legislative priorities. Our ISAC lobbyists provide invaluable representation, but, as they will tell you, county officials themselves are the most effective advocates for our priorities. Please take advantage of the opportunity to talk with your legislators about ISAC issues; relating a statewide issue back to the local level is essential in building support for our various causes.

Holding the position of ISAC President will obviously provide me with new experiences and unknowable opportunities, but most important will be the challenges. I encourage you to contact myself or Executive Director Bill Peterson with any suggestions you have for making ISAC stronger and more effective in 2006.



ISAC's 2006  
President

**Denise Dolan**

Dubuque  
County Auditor  
18 years

*"I encourage county officials to get involved with ISAC and their respective affiliates - join a committee, attend meetings, suggest a speaker or topic for an upcoming educational conference."*

*"Please take advantage of the opportunity to talk with your legislators about ISAC issues; relating a statewide issue back to the local level is essential in building support for our various causes."*



## Iowa Center For Governing Excellence

By: *William R. Peterson*

ISAC Executive Director



You keep hearing about it. People are talking about it. The Governor has mentioned it in speeches and there are rumors that he likes it. Some legislators think it has merit. But how many of you really know what it is? It seems very nebulous. It has a rather high brow sounding title. So what is this thing that everyone seems to be talking about and thinks is a good idea? I'm referring to the Iowa Center for Governing Excellence. My goal with this article is to add some clarity to what may be a rather fuzzy picture for some of you. I will try to do that by answering five questions.

First, what organizations have been involved in developing this idea? Representatives of ISAC, the Iowa League of Cities, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Iowa Department of Management, Iowa Department of Revenue, Institute of Public Affairs (University of Iowa), State and Local Government Programs (University of Northern Iowa), and the Office of State and Local Government Programs and the Public Policy and Administration Program (Iowa State University) have all played a part in developing the proposal. I have to give the most credit for putting the idea on paper to Dr. Paul Coates, Director, Office of State and Local Programs at Iowa State University, but even he would share that credit with many others.

Second, where did this idea come from and what is it that the Iowa Center for Governing Excellence will actually do? The idea for the Center came from observing models in other states where positive results have been achieved. Some models considered were the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill; Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota; La Follette Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin – Madison; and The Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. The Iowa Center would leverage resources from the three regents institutions in Iowa, non-profit professional organizations, state government and a legislative appropriation to reach the necessary capacity to achieve the Center's objectives. Those objectives are:

1. To enhance the accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of Iowa's local governments and state agencies by providing objective and non-partisan research and training for policy makers and government officials.
2. To integrate the research capacities of universities and professional government organizations to support management and policy research.
3. To facilitate dialogues on policy design, implementation, and evaluation among Iowa's state agencies and local governments, universities, professional organizations, and citizens.

Third, why is the Iowa Center for Governing Excellence necessary? The logic behind creating the Center is simple and

can be summed up in one word – change. Iowa state and local governments are faced with a changing economic, demographic and political landscape. The resources available to respond to these changes are scarce. The capacity for state and local officials to effectively respond to these changes must be enhanced. They must have the skills and the tools necessary to manage and adapt to these changing environments. The Iowa Center can help prepare and assist government officials in leading their communities and agencies through the challenging times ahead. While some capacity currently exists for achieving the goals of the Center, it is fragmented and uncoordinated. The resources must be effectively focused for us to achieve the desired results.

The models mentioned above have been great resources for the government officials in the states that have developed these centers. For example, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia works closely with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia. They have created tools that county officials can use to help them evaluate their budgets and to compare their cost of providing services with other county governments in Georgia. The Carl Vinson Institute has also partnered with NACo to study issues related to county government nationwide.

Fourth, who determines the Center's activities, location, staffing and funding? The Center proposal suggests a coordinating council made up of representatives from participating organizations, such as those mentioned above. The coordinating council would make all decisions regarding research and training activities. The Center will primarily be a clearinghouse that will match projects, both research and training, with available resources from the partner organizations. Initially, it is proposed that staffing be provided by the Office of State and Local Government Programs at Iowa State University. Additional staffing needs would be determined by the coordinating council and funding needs identified. While it is possible that funding for the Center projects could come from foundation grants, the core functions should be funded by a state appropriation. The Center needs to have a solid financial footing to be successful and achieve the desired results.

Finally, what is the next step? County officials and others interested in this project need to share the Center's vision with state legislators and the Governor. The budget for creation and funding of the Center is approximately \$500,000. This would be an investment to help build our capacity to more effectively govern in Iowa – at both the state and local level. Change is coming, and with it new opportunities. We can either be prepared to take advantage of those opportunities or look back from the future and wonder how they passed us by.

## Top Legislative Priorities

The following issues are ISAC's top legislative priorities for the 2006 session of the Iowa General Assembly. These issues were selected by the ISAC Board of Directors from reports submitted to them by the Association's steering committees. This package was ratified by the full membership during the business meeting at the ISAC Fall School of Instruction on November 14. County officials from all across our state are pleased to present these important recommendations to the citizens and lawmakers of Iowa.

### Property Tax Reform

Last year ISAC and the Iowa League of Cities jointly proposed a comprehensive package to reform Iowa's complicated property tax system. The plan included systemic changes in assessment procedures and city and county budgeting processes, as well as a responsible property tax limitation on general and rural fund revenues. Several provisions were too controversial with various stakeholder groups. This year we offer a revised plan that maintains important principles but avoids the most controversial provisions from last year. The 2006 package stabilizes the base and improves accountability in the budgeting procedures for both cities and counties. It also ties city and county property tax revenues to an inflationary index. But most importantly, it maintains local control for county officials to provide services for the citizens they serve.

### Auditors' Technical Elections Bill

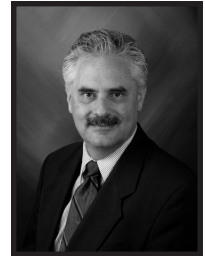
The voters of Iowa expect and deserve an elections system that is beyond reproach. County auditors are the commissioner of elections in each county and are charged with the stewardship of each voting matter that goes before the public. Because of their role, county auditors are in a unique position to know specific changes in the Iowa Code necessary to help ensure the best elections service possible. Accordingly, the Iowa State Association of County Auditors, along with ISAC, recommends a package of non-controversial elections changes to facilitate the operation and maintain the integrity of this important process. For each of the last five years, this technical elections legislation has become the vehicle for controversial issues and partisan politics, which has consistently led to defeat or a veto of this legislation. This year offers an excellent opportunity to keep politics aside and enact these necessary updates to the elections process.

### Eminent Domain

On June 23, 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Kelo et al. v. City of New London et al.*, upholding the right of state and local governments to condemn real property for economic development purposes. For years, the Supreme Court has said that local governments can condemn private land if it will fulfill a "public purpose." The *Kelo* decision supports the longstanding interpretation of economic development as a "public purpose." *Kelo* says that it is constitutional to condemn private land for economic development pur-

By: **John Easter**

ISAC Director of  
Intergovernmental Affairs



poses. But it is important to note that, constitutional or not, this practice is already severely restricted by Iowa law. Iowa counties are already prohibited by statute from condemning agricultural land for private development purposes (Iowa Code §6A.21(c)). Therefore, when it comes to agricultural lands, Iowa law already forbids the use of eminent domain for economic development. Thus Iowa counties are already prohibited by law from doing what the City of New London did in the *Kelo* case.

Condemnation is used as a last resort by Iowa counties in some circumstances, most often to acquire land for roads, which are essential for the economy of rural Iowa. ISAC therefore opposes any further weakening of counties' ability to use eminent domain and supports continued local control of eminent domain for use of obtaining road rights-of-way.

### Food Code Enforcement

In the early 1990s, the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) requested that counties enter into contracts to conduct food safety inspections. The contracts relied on food license fees to cover inspection costs. In 1996, 33 contracting agencies, including three cities, were responsible for conducting inspections in 78 counties under the regulatory requirements of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code.

Over time, several problems have developed with the food inspection program. Since the early 1990s, inspection fees have become increasingly inadequate to cover program costs, shifting the program's fee-based expense from the state to local property tax payers. Currently, the state's responsibilities for the food protection program are divided between DIA and the Iowa Department of Public Health (DPH), which results in a fragmented regulatory system. The current Iowa regulatory requirements are outdated, neglecting to address the most current FDA recommendations.

In order to help ensure excellence in food safety for Iowans, the Legislature should establish fees at adequate levels to compensate for the cost of providing inspection services, adopt the current FDA Food Code by reference, thereby eliminating the need to continually update regulatory compliance, and consolidate the food protection program functions within the Environmental Health Division of the DPH.

### Adult Rehabilitation Option Audit

As a result of a federal audit of the Medicaid Adult Rehabilitation Option (ARO), the state of Iowa must pay back \$6.2 million. When ARO was adopted, the state reduced the counties' growth funds in anticipation of the savings they would experience through implementation of ARO. Therefore, the funds to pay back the federal government should come from either the providers or the state, but not from the counties.

## ISAC Forum Debates Open Meetings Questions

At the Fall School, ISAC and the Iowa Freedom of Information Council convened a session on openness in government. County officials met in small groups with reporters to discuss specific questions regarding Iowa's Open Meetings and Public Records Laws. Here are three of the questions, along with my answers.

*Q: We are a three-member board of supervisors. Once a year, the local Farm Bureau invites all three of us to come to their office to update them on county matters and to hear their concerns. If a majority of the supervisors agree to attend a Farm Bureau meeting to share information on the budget or other county affairs, does this constitute a 'meeting'?*

A: Under Iowa Code §21.2(2), a "meeting" occurs when there is a gathering, formal or informal, of a majority of the board members "where there is deliberation or action upon any matter within the scope of (the board's) policy-making duties."

"Deliberation" includes the discussion and evaluative processes in arriving at an ultimate decision or policy (1982 Op. Att'y Gen. 423, 426).

There would probably be deliberation at this meeting. Suppose, for instance, the local Farm Bureau president asks why property taxes have gone up seven years in a row. If all three board members respond by talking about their budgeting philosophy as it applies to the upcoming budget, that's deliberation.

If this is a "meeting," then that requires an agenda posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, and minutes must be taken and published. Especially since counties are supposed to err on the side of openness, you'd have to assume that this is a meeting covered by the law.

*Q: If someone comes to the auditor's office and requests a particular document, how long does the auditor have to provide a copy of the document?*

A: A few days. There is no deadline in Iowa Code §22.2(1), part of the Public Records Law, which provides: "Every person shall have the right to examine and copy a public record and to publish or otherwise disseminate a public record or the information contained in a public record."

In *Braunschweig v. Bormann*, a 2005 Iowa Court of Appeals case, Bormann stated that at the time Braunschweig made his request, she could not find the documents, but that she secured the records and ultimately turned over all of the records in her possession.

Braunschweig claimed that the delay in giving him the records was tantamount to a refusal to produce the records. The Court of Appeals first pointed out that "the standard for compliance under chapter 22 (the Public Records Law) is substantial not absolute compliance." In assessing substantial compliance, the Court of Appeals continued, "chapter 22 is not applied in a vacuum."

The Court of Appeals concluded as follows: "...the undisputed facts are that Bormann did not have all of the documents requested at the time Braunschweig submitted his writ-

By: David Vestal

ISAC General Counsel



ten request for them on September 24, but that she gathered and turned over all of the documents in her possession within a few days thereafter....Bormann's delay, under the circumstances, was reasonable and she substantially complied with chapter 22."

County officials must demonstrate substantial compliance with the Public Records Law, and a few days delay in gathering and turning over requested documents is not a violation of Iowa Code chapter 22.

*Q: When are county supervisor emails considered public records? For instance, what about an email sent from the county computer of a supervisor to the county computer of one of the four other supervisors about county business? An email sent from the home computer of a supervisor to the home computer of one of the other four supervisors about county business? An email sent from a county resident to the home computer of one of the supervisors about county business?*

A: Emails are definitely "records," under the broad definition in Iowa Code §22.1(3). The question in every case is whether the emails are going to be "public" records, in that they are records "of or belonging to" the county.

I'd argue that any time an email is either sent to, or received by, a county computer, that is a "public record." So the email sent from the county computer of a supervisor to the county computer of one of the four other supervisors about county business is a public record.

*Howard v. Des Moines Register*, an Iowa Supreme Court case from 1979, says that "To facilitate public scrutiny of the conduct of public officers, the statute generally permits public access to writings held by them in their official capacities, regardless of origin."

A June 3, 1992, Attorney General Opinion says that the term "public records" includes any "comprehensible writing developed and/or maintained by a public body or official as a convenient, appropriate, or customary method by which the body or official discharges a public duty."

If this is true, then an email sent from the home computer of a supervisor to the home computer of one of the other four supervisors about county business, and an email sent from a county resident to the home computer of one of the supervisors about county business would also be public records.

That is not to say that they have to be retained. They don't. But if they are retained, they are a public record. Then the question is, if several county supervisors email each other back-and-forth, is that a "meeting" for purposes of the Open Meeting Law? I don't think so, but it is far from clear.

**Parting Ponderable:** "If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there is a man on base." Dave Barry



# health check

## Stroke – The Brain Attack

It happened so fast. Sharon Brooks, co-owner of a trendy San Francisco restaurant, was ringing someone out and trying to get her son's girlfriend on the phone. When the young woman answered, all that came out of Brooks' mouth was gibberish. "I tried to talk and I couldn't. I went into the bathroom and felt my left side tingling. A little while later my left side went out and I fell off the chair."

During a BBQ, a woman named Ingrid stumbled and took a fall. Though she appeared a bit shaken, she enjoyed the rest of the BBQ. Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital and had passed away.

These are two examples of people having strokes. It is important that you are able to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. If drugs are administered within three hours of the first symptoms, the damage is vastly reduced.

Here is a quick way to recognize the symptoms:

- **Ask the individual to smile.** This will help you recognize numbness or weakness in the face.
- **Ask him or her to raise both arms.** This will help you recognize weakness in the limbs.
- **Ask the person to say a simple sentence (coherently).** For

**By: Sandy Longfellow**

ISAC Administrative Assistant



example: "It is a sunny day today." This will help you recognize confusion.

If the person has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 and relate the symptoms to the dispatcher. You will have gone a long way in helping this individual!

Some other symptoms include:

- Trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Trouble seeing out of one or both eyes
- Extremely severe headache with no known cause

Even if these symptoms last only a few minutes, seek medical care immediately – a stroke is a medical emergency.

High blood pressure and family history are risks factor for stroke. You can help yourself by not smoking, keep cholesterol down, limit saturated fats, take off extra weight, get regular check-ups and avoid excess alcohol consumption. Most importantly, moderate exercise most days of the week can lower the risk up to 46% compared to people with little or no exercise. Visit [www.wellmark.com](http://www.wellmark.com) for more information. Know the signs and take the steps to address the stroke risk!

# technology center

## MP3 Players

**Q: What are MP3 Players?**

A: MP3 Players are the latest in the evolution of music formats. We have progressed thru the years from vinyl records, to eight-track tapes, to cassette tapes, to CDs, and now we have MP3 players. One of the greatest features about MP3 players is that you are able to carry around in your pocket hours of musical enjoyment. No longer must you carry a CD case and switch in and out cumbersome CDs. Instead, you can carry an MP3 player and with just a flick of a finger and a scan of your play list, you can access hundreds of songs. MP3 players come in all shapes and sizes. You can select from the simple iPod Shuffle with a flash memory of 512 MB/1 GB to the Creative Nomad Jukebox Zen Xtra with a hard drive capacity of 60 GB.

The price range is from \$99 to \$400. You will need to be aware of few things when deciding which MP3 player will fit your needs. If you wish to download hours upon hours of music, you will want to purchase an MP3 Player with a hard drive. MP3 players with hard drives tend to be bulky and cumbersome compared to other models but may have added features such as display screens, FM radio reception, recording ability, data storage and some personal information management capabilities. Keep in mind, if you want to use these added features beyond basic

**By: Tammy Norman**

ISAC Technology Services Coordinator



use, you will want to opt for a handheld. If you truly just need the ability to listen to music and do not want to spend much money, you will want to purchase a flash-based model such as the iPod Shuffle or the Dell DJ Ditty. Either of these MP3 flash players can be purchased for around \$100, if you opt for the 512 MB model. These MP3 players are no bigger than a pack of gum. If neither of these fit your needs you can opt for the MP3 CD players. MP3 CD players still play your music CDs but are also able to read CDs that are burnt with digital music. Remember though, you are still required to use a CD; you just are able to delve into the world of digital music format. Ultimately the choice is yours.

**Website Note:** The legislative session will begin January 9 and we will again be posting the legislative bills of interest to our members on the ISAC website ([www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org)). Please forward any items that you would like addressed in this column to my attention at 515-244-7181 or [tnorman@iowacounties.org](mailto:tnorman@iowacounties.org). Until next month, keep clicking!



## Inner Reflection

Here we are entering a new year and along with it the traditional New Year's Resolutions—a time of inward reflection and hope for change. This examination of self is intended to uncover areas in need of change and offer us a renewed hope that something about us will be different starting this year.

Although this would be the perfect opportunity to discuss the structure and composition of outstanding goals that would lead you to uncompromised achievement, I won't go there. Instead I want to linger awhile with the introspection and personal philosophy at the core of who we are.

I have in my home office the following quote by Bernard Shaw that I would like to share simply for your reflection: "This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is not a 'brief candle' to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to the next generations."

At first reading it seems rather harsh considering how tired we are, how draining the work of a case manager or a supervisor can be. The validity of this quote, this perspective, is apparent as we encounter the variety of individuals we do in this field. Even though it feels like we have more than our share of natural and manmade disasters, tragedies that scar or disable fragile people, history is filled with times such as this. As today's mental health professionals working with and for the vulnerable, the disenfranchised citizens, we need to reflect, to re-affirm our personal philosophy of life and our place in it before we thrust our attitudes and expectations on others. Are you a force of nature? Do you find your purpose in life a mighty one? Do you consider it a privilege to do the work you do?

**By: Linda Kemp Gethmann**

ISAC Case Management  
Specialist



I was introduced to this quote through an email posting on the Iowa Disability Advocates Listserve. It was shared by an individual with a disability as a statement of how he views his own life. The image it created for me was "this is who I am, how I am, with all that I can do, and I will do all that I can with it." Rather profound. We have witnessed the behavior of others (disabled or not) that would indicate where they live in relation to this attitude about life. You have witnessed those who have internalized the Shaw philosophy and the power of attitude as it relates to personal fulfillment. You have also witnessed a few complaining clods whining for the world to make them happy.

What are our expectations for the individuals on our caseloads? What impact would internalizing such a philosophy have on them, on their lives? It would be true joy to support a person as they endeavor to be all they can be. If it is the expectation of all those around them that they have no value as a member of our community, they may not be able to experience the joy of contributing to others, of having value through being part of the community. As case managers, you are in a position to encourage and expect a splendid torch rather than a brief candle.

Whatever your faith, whatever internal powers motivate you to live your life as you do, I would encourage some inner reflection as you face the new year that will either re-affirm your life's work or cause you to adjust your attitude. Be a splendid torch. The world needs you. Happy New Year.

## ISAC Spring School 2006

By: **Jerri Noboa**

ISAC Meetings Administrator



ISAC's Spring School of Instruction is fast approaching and online registration is up and running. The school will be held March 19-21, 2006 at the Marriott & Renaissance Savery in downtown Des Moines.

### Parking

During ISAC's Fall School of Instruction last November, attendees stated the parking ramps were full and they had to park at meters. Yet, the parking ramp at 9<sup>th</sup> & Locust, across from 801 Grand (the tallest building in downtown Des Moines), had spaces. The fee for parking at this ramp is \$7.00 per day and it is connected by skywalk, however, it is faster and closer to go outside and walk to 7<sup>th</sup> and Grand where the Marriott is located. The parking ramp at 5<sup>th</sup> between Grand and Keo (across from the convention center) was closed in November but will be open in March for our school.

### ISAC Seminars - March 19

ISAC has three great seminars planned for March 19 from 3pm - 5pm at the Marriott.

- 1) You Think You Have a Disaster Plan – But You Don't - This seminar features Larry Davis, a county supervisor from Pearl River County, Mississippi. He will describe what his county had done to prepare for a natural disaster, how the county officials responded to Katrina, and what they learned from being at ground zero of the most destructive and costliest natural disaster in the history of the United States.
- 2) Creating A Compelling Place To Work - Phil Rosenberg, author of the column "The HR Doctor Is In" which appears in NACo's monthly magazine "County News", will look at why every elected and appointed official is an HR manager. Learn field-tested approaches about how to avoid trouble and achieve a public agency workforce that will serve the taxpayers with excellence.
- 3) Out of the Shadows - A showing of the award winning documentary film "Out of the Shadows" will be held. The film chronicles Millie, mother of the film maker Susan Smiley, who suffers with schizophrenia. The result is a powerful documentary that is having a tremendous impact on mental health communities nationwide. A panel discussion will follow the showing of the documentary.

**Register online at [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org).**

## By The Numbers:

### Voter Turnout in Iowa

By: Jay Syverson, ISAC Fiscal Analyst

Historical election data, available on the Iowa Secretary of State's website ([www.sos.state.ia.us](http://www.sos.state.ia.us)), shows that Republicans tend to vote in a greater percentage than Democrats, but both parties have higher turnout rates than independents. Since 1982, Republicans have turned out a greater percentage of their registered voters than Democrats in every general election. The biggest turnout gap occurred in 1994, when 75% of registered Republicans voted, compared to just 65% of registered Democrats. Voter turnout was highest for both parties in the 1992 general election – 88% for Republicans and 87% for Democrats. Even independents turned out at an 80% rate that year, by far their highest.

But turnout rate is only one factor important in winning elections; another is volume. And from 1982 (the earliest year for which data is available) through 1992, Democrats had more registered voters than Republicans and, in spite of their lower turnout rate, more actual voters as well. However, that trend flipped in 1994, when Republicans began to outnumber Democrats, both in terms of registered voters and voters that actually cast ballots. Republican voters continued to outnumber Democratic voters through the 2004 election, although that year marked the narrowest gap between the two parties. Registered Republicans outnumbered registered Democrats 609,000 to 601,000, and voting Republicans bested voting Democrats 510,000 to 492,000. Turnout in 2004 was 83% for Republicans, 81% for Democrats, and just 65% for independents. Overall turnout in 2004 was 76%, third highest since 1982.

High turnout has not translated into steady Republican victories in statewide elections, even since Republicans took Democrats in both registered and actual voters in 1994. In fact, just the opposite has occurred. The U.S. Senate races have been a wash, with Sens. Grassley and Harkin winning their respective elections. But each of the executive races (for Governor and President) in 1996 through 2002 featured Democratic winners in Iowa (Clinton, Vilsack, Gore and Vilsack, respectively). Additionally, in both 1998 and 2002, four of the five non-gubernatorial statewide elected offices (Secretary of State Chet Culver, Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge, Treasurer of State Michael Fitzgerald and Attorney General Tom Miller) were won by Democrats. Richard Johnson and David Vaudt, elected as Auditors of State in 1998 and 2002, respectively, are the only Republicans not named Grassley to win a statewide election since 1996. That is, until President Bush won the 2004 election over Senator Kerry by about 10,000 votes. So what does this all mean? I haven't a clue. But it's interesting, and doesn't it get you just a little bit excited for the 2008 Iowa Caucuses?

## Innovation Award Winners

Creativity, monetary savings and cooperation are essential tools for county governments to deliver services to their citizens. Five counties and an ISAC affiliate were honored with awards for innovative projects during ISAC's Fall School of Instruction last November.

### Linn County - Community Training & Response Center

Linn County received an innovation award for its Community Training and Response Center. Linn County Emergency Management, Kirkwood Community College and Linn County pooled their resources and developed a single training center facility that provides space for classes, meetings, exercises and in the event of an emergency, a county Emergency Operations Center. On September 11, 2003 groundbreaking was held and on September 12, 2004 the facility was dedicated and opened for use. The total cost was approximately \$2.5 million for a 12,000 square foot addition to the Environmental Training Center at Kirkwood Community College. A portion of the funding was provided by various grants from federal agencies. Efficiency has been gained by having the community support only one facility, versus three separate district facilities that would not be fully utilized at any one time.

### Des Moines County Operation Knock & Talk

Des Moines County wanted to assist the state in its attempts to keep track of sex offenders. Des Moines County received an innovation award for its Operation Knock and Talk project, which involved law officers physically verifying the addresses listed for the registered sex offenders in the county. The cost of this project was very minimal. Officers were used during regular scheduled hours, avoiding overtime costs, along with several reserve officers volunteering their time. Keeping track of sex offenders will better enable the county to deter them from committing other crimes and, most importantly, protect the children in Des Moines County. Des Moines County Attorney Pat Jackson stated the effort marks the first time something like this has been done in the county, and possibly the state.

### Butler County Resource Center

An innovation award was presented to Butler County for converting an old office building into a county resource center. The center provides local access to essential social services, such as substance abuse treatment, domestic abuse intervention, mental health treatment and behavioral support services. The resource center houses the Cedar Valley Mental Health Center, Butler County DHS Targeted Case Management Agency, Cedar Valley Friends of the Family, Red Cross, and Pathways Behavioral Services. "Most of the benefits are realized by the individuals who require the services provided," said Bob Lincoln, Butler County CPC. "Transportation is always a challenge in rural counties and this saves residents time in getting to their appointments and more

importantly it makes it more likely they will even be able to access the services they need." The county spent \$19,443 to remodel the 1,800 square foot existing building. The monthly income is \$597 or \$7,161 annually.

### Story County Candidate Profile

The Story County Commissioner of Elections answered the call to provide more information on the candidates listed on election ballots. Voters not only want to know who is on their ballot, but also who they are. Basic candidate information was provided on the county website in an effort to increase voter participation in local elections. Mary Mosiman, Story County Auditor, said, "The candidate profile fulfills the last vital piece of information needed in any election. A citizen can easily and consistently gain a basic understanding about the person seeking an office." The project was completed with no additional costs, other than time by Mary Mosiman and Story County employees. However, cost savings are expected by the amount of time spent answering phones.

### Scott & Muscatine Counties - Aerial Photograph

An innovation award was presented to Scott County and Muscatine County for a joint aerial photograph project. Not only was the project multi-county, but it spanned several municipalities and two states. Advantages of coordinating the joint purchase of aerial photo products included substantial savings over contracting separately, reduced duplicative administrative costs, shared GIS expertise, and data acquisition spanning common metropolitan areas. The estimated total project cost for all participants is \$500,000. Several participants report an estimated 25%-40% reduction in costs compared to previous projects with similar specifications. What started as an exploratory committee in the spring of 2004 continues today as a success story of inter-governmental cooperation.

### Iowa Land Records: CLRIS (Recorders)

And finally, the Iowa County Recorders Association received an award for developing one of the first statewide county land record information systems in the country. The Association created an integrated database that connects the individual county land record information systems. All 99 counties now have high speed Internet access, remote access to land records, and a secure disaster recovery system for county land records. The CLRIS project was funded through a supplemental electronic recording fee established in fiscal year 2004. The total cost for the project was \$3.6 million. By providing access to land record information through the Internet, the Association anticipates that customers will experience savings as a result of reduction in the number of trips to the recorder's office, as well as increased efficiency in accessing information.

*2006 Innovation Award applications will be available this summer and due September 1. For further information contact Sandy Longfellow at 515-244-7181 or slongfellow@iowacounties.org.*

# counties in the spotlight

## Changes In County Government

*Editorial note: This is the fifth of a six-part series exploring the changes that have taken place in county government. Three to five county officials in each elected affiliate have been asked to answer questions about their memories of the past and outlook for the future.*

### Participants from the Attorneys Affiliate:

J. Patrick White, Johnson County Attorney, 23 years in position, 31 years in county government

Lee W. Beine, Cedar County Attorney, 24 years in position, 30 years in county government

Thomas E. Gustafson, Crawford County Attorney, 27 years in position, 27 years in county government

### Why do you enjoy being a county official?

Pat: Being county attorney since 1983, and first assistant before that, has been the almost perfect blend of my three life-long loves: the law, public service and politics.

Lee: I enjoy working in criminal prosecution and the contact and cooperation with other professionals in law enforcement. I also believe that I have a good working relationship with the other elected officials and department heads in the courthouse and with the public at large.

Tom: I have always believed that being in county government means providing public service. While the job is demanding and the time requirements are great, I still feel that prosecuting criminal cases in this county and serving as the legal advisor to the other elected county officers provides a significant service to the residents of Crawford County.

### Since you started your current position, how has the position changed?

Pat: The main change has been workload. When I was elected in 1982, the position was part-time and we had about 800 indictable cases a year. The position is now full-time and we are at 4,500 indictable cases per year. The responsibilities have also grown. Certainly the Legislature has enacted more crimes and increased the penalties.

Lee: The workload has greatly increased on both the criminal and civil sides. When I started as an assistant county attorney in 1975, the vast majority of our time was spent on criminal prosecution. While I still view criminal prosecution as the primary focus of my office, the percentage of time spent on the civil side, such as review of contracts, providing advice to other

departments and general administrative duties, has increased significantly.

Tom: The number of criminal cases to come through this office has increased dramatically, particularly over the last five years. The number of juvenile cases has similarly grown, as have the time requirements relating to this office's service as legal advisor to other county officers concerning primarily civil matters.

### If you could, would you go back to how things were when you began your career in county government, or do you prefer the present times?

Pat: I prefer the present. Literally every day has been a chance to make the world that I live and work in more fair and safe. I'd actually prefer the future when we should progress even more in terms of safety, fairness and public policy.

Lee: No, I would not go back. While I miss the slower more relaxed pace of work when I began, I am sure I am more efficient and proficient now.

Tom: I believe this is an exciting time for county government. There are counties like Crawford County that are experiencing growth in both population and business opportunities. While there are challenges and extra work associated with that growth, the overall benefits to Crawford County from this growth should be positive and long term in nature.

### Where do you feel the focus should be in the future of county government?

Pat: County government needs to take a leadership role in analyzing and choosing the best structure and mechanisms for delivery of public services. To achieve a true state-local partnership is hard, time-consuming, slow work - but it's too important not to do it. The more we work on that goal, the better the relationships will become, and, in turn, the better Iowans will be served.

Lee: I think county government needs to try and increase efficiency and perhaps look at cooperating with other local governments in sharing resources and services to avoid efforts by some to force consolidation. I do not believe that mandatory consolidation of counties and/or other local governments will result in increased efficiency in the long run and will only serve to dilute local control.

Tom: The focus of county government in the future should be what it was designed to be more than 150 years ago, provide service to the citizens of a county. I do believe that government services are best delivered when they are done on a local basis. The acceptance of new technology, which allows those services to be delivered, is critical to the continued existence of county government as we have known it for so many years.



# counties in the spotlight

## Improving Quality of Life

Polk, Warren and Dallas counties are working to create a community where people will want to live, work and play through the program Project Destiny. The first part of the plan will focus on improving the quality of life for residents in the three counties. Investments would be made to trails and organizations that would advance arts, science and recreational amenities. The second part of the plan focuses on transforming the human services delivery system. Human services work groups would be developed and resources given to early childhood development programs. Part three of Project Destiny would revolve around local governments. The plan calls for county, city and school governments to work together to eliminate duplicated services. It also suggests the creation of a metro planning authority to design uniform building codes, permitting requirements, inspections and fees. The fourth part of the project is to promote life-long learning within the communities. And finally, the fifth part of the project is to establish a local option sales tax that would help fund many of the projects targeted by the first four parts of the project. The plan states that the sharing of tax base growth would reduce property tax difference among central Iowa communities.

*(Taken from the Record-Herald & Indianola Tribune, November 16)*

## Sharing Property Taxes

In what may be a first for county government, Audubon County and Cass County have agreed to share property taxes. The counties plan to split the tax revenue generated from companies that land in a 400-acre business park being developed along Interstate 80 and Highway 71. The state plans to improve the interstate interchange over the next couple of years, making the location more easily accessible. Cass and Audubon leaders said they had little to lose by cooperating on the business park in an effort to ignite job creation. The agreement between the two counties should be reached by year-end.

*(Taken from the Des Moines Register, November 14)*

## Increased Tourism In Iowa

Domestic travelers spent over \$1.1 billion in Polk County during 2004, according to the 2004 Economic Impact of Travel Study. Polk County led all Iowa counties and received nearly one-quarter of the \$5 billion spent by travelers statewide in 2004. This year's travel expenditures represent an 8.31% increase for the state and 8.57% increase for Polk County over the previous year. Nationally, travel spending increase by 6.8%. *(Taken from the Polk County Press Citizen, November 11)*

## Board Member Retires

Bob Haylock, former ISAC Board member and Hardin/Butler County Engineer, was honored at a retirement open house celebration December 16 at the Butler County Courthouse. He retired from county government December 21.

## Educating Citizens

Polk County completed its first-ever Citizens' Academy with a graduation of 16 citizens through the 10-week program. The Citizens' Academy was created to address the lack of awareness regarding county government services. Each session was presented in a "hands-on" interactive style to bring government services to life for the participants. Polk County hopes the 16 graduates take the information they learned back to their respective organizations, communities and clients. The County, in return, became more aware of the feelings, concerns and needs of its citizens. The Citizens' Academy will be held annually and the 2006 classes will begin next September. There is no cost to participate. The class is limited to 20 individuals and is filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Register For ISAC University - Deadline January 12

Every January following a non-election year, ISAC presents "ISAC University," a continuing education conference for county officials. This year's conference will be held January 18-19, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines with a focus on leadership development. County officials will attend sessions helping them to understand their leadership styles and enhance their leadership skills. Attendees will gain practical advice for managing conflict, adapting to change and communicating with their colleagues and the public. In order to maximize the effectiveness of each session and encourage interactive learning, registration will be limited to 150 people. No at-the-door registration is allowed. Visit [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org) to register today!

## Grants For Community-Based Wetland Restoration Projects

NACo and the Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program project partners are currently accepting applications for the 2006 Five Star Restoration Challenge Grants. The Five Star Program provides modest financial assistance on a competitive basis to support community-based wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities. Project sites can be public land, such as parks, streams and school campuses, or private land, such as corporate facilities. The deadline for applications is March 10, 2006. In 2005, 53 projects, out of approximately 220 applicants, received grants averaging \$10,000.

For more information on the Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program, how to apply, and examples of past Five Star projects, visit [www.naco.org/techassistance](http://www.naco.org/techassistance) under "water quality", or contact Erik Johnston at 202/942-4246 or [ejohnston@naco.org](mailto:ejohnston@naco.org).

## Nationwide Retirement

Many Iowa counties make available to their employees the National Association of Counties (NACo) deferred compensation plan. The NACo plan affords county employees the opportunity to set aside some of their current income on a pretax bases for retirement. The account grows tax-deferred until retirement, when the employee can draw the money out to help meet income needs at that time.

Counties that have been visited recently by a Nationwide Retirement specialist include: Bremer, Plymouth, Palo Alto and Dickinson counties. Counties that will be visited in the near future include: Carroll, Floyd, Kossuth, Monona, Pocahontas, Story and Winnebago counties. Contact will be made with Wright County and Cerro Gordo County for meetings in the early spring.

The three Nationwide Retirement representatives in Iowa include: Chad Christensen (402-730-6066 or [chrisc9@nationwide.com](mailto:chrisc9@nationwide.com)) in the western part of the state; Tom O'Connor (309-531-9304 or [oonnot@nationwide.com](mailto:oonnot@nationwide.com)) in the eastern part of the state and Ken Carpenter (314-724-2740 or [carpenk6@nationwide.com](mailto:carpenk6@nationwide.com)) in the central part of the state. If you are uncertain who your representative is contact Joyce Hall (573-642-4148 or [hallj@nationwide.com](mailto:hallj@nationwide.com)).

For more information about the NACo deferred compensation plan call Nationwide Retirement Solutions at 877-677-3678 or visit the Nationwide Retirement Solutions website at [www.nrsforu.com](http://www.nrsforu.com).

## NACo Cost Containment/ Cost Recovery Program

*Question: Name three inexpensive things you can do to avoid hiring problem employees and identify human resources problems before they become disasters.*

### 1. Pre-employment Background Check

This is the single most effective way to avoid hiring the wrong people into your organization. Employers spend an average of \$4,000 on a new hire, but few bother to verify that the information an applicant has provided is actually true.

Given that one out of every three job applications and two out of every three resumes contain inaccuracies that could affect the hiring process, this is a pretty big gamble. Additionally, employers can be considered liable for the actions of their employees if they knew or should have known that person was likely to undertake conduct harmful to other individuals.

### 2. Employee Drug Testing Services

Substance abuse is the number one cause of just about everything bad that happens in the workplace. Employees who abuse alcohol or drugs are twice as likely to be late for work, three times more likely to miss work altogether, four times more likely to injure themselves or others at work, and five times more likely to file a workers' compensation claim than workers who are non-abusers.

According to the National Institute for Drug Abuse, alcohol abuse, the use of illegal drugs and prescription drug abuse cost the U.S. economy more than \$375 billion annually in the form of absenteeism, diminished productivity, health care expenses, workplace violence, social services costs and criminal activity. That figure is greater than the annual budgets of many industrialized countries.

### 3. Employee Hotline

Employees are frequently not comfortable reporting workplace harassment, discrimination or wrongful acts directly to their supervisors or management. Not having a way for employees to let the right people know when bad things are happening in the workplace leaves the employer vulnerable to potentially enormous losses.

Most of these cases can be prevented if the proper member of management is made aware of the situation. Additionally, many major insurance companies offer discounts on employment practices liability insurance to employers that have a hotline.

*Employee Relations Network offers all three of these services at discounted prices through NACo's Cost Containment/ Cost Recovery Program. For more information on the program, contact Nancy Irish at 202/ 661-8824 or [nirish@naco.org](mailto:nirish@naco.org).*

## Counties Look To Tourists To Boost Revenue

By: Joseph Hansen, NACo research associate

Tourism and marketing have become big businesses for local governments. According to a survey conducted by the Travel Industry Association, 47 states were planning on collectively spending more than \$600 million for travel and tourism marketing in 2005, a 10% increase from 2004. Texas led the way, spending nearly \$14 million.

Of course, governments see their tourism and marketing budget as an investment. In Texas, the investment in their tourism campaign leads to direct results. In 2003, the state realized \$2.9 billion in state and local tax revenue from travel spending. Tourism also directly supports 451,000 jobs in the state. (The Iowa Department of Tourism reports that tourism generated \$273 million in state tax receipts and \$75 million in local receipts in 2004. The Iowa tourism industry supports 62,000 jobs in the state.)

Counties have implemented many types of marketing strategies to lure tourists to visit and stay. One popular method of advertisement for many counties has been the Internet. Counties across the country have developed websites, and it's not only for the bigger counties. Stokes County, N.C., a small county in the northern part of the state bordering Virginia, developed [www.visitstokesnc.com](http://www.visitstokesnc.com), mainly in an effort to attract neighboring citizens. In 2004, Stokes County saw an impact of \$16 million from visitors, while neighboring Surry County generated \$66 million in visitor revenue. The website allows users to view attractions, businesses, restaurants and lodging around the county, information that would only have been available through the state tourism board. Obviously, the hope is to have people visit the county and stay overnight, promoting local businesses.

Counties have also continued to re-evaluate their marketing strategies. Brevard County, Fla. has dubbed itself "The Space Coast," as it is home to the Kennedy Space Center. The county's Tourism Development Council will consider allocating \$3.4 million on an ad campaign themed "Mission: Explore," which would include the image of an astronaut at many of the county's destinations. The campaign is planned to be national in scope. Warren County, N.Y. has also created a website ([www.northwarren.com](http://www.northwarren.com)), a logo and a marketing campaign at a cost of \$7,000, proving that a new marketing campaign doesn't need to break the bank.

Counties have turned to targeted advertisements in order to lure a certain segment of the population. The state of Florida is leading multiple campaigns aimed at attracting minority tourists. The state has also launched a campaign to advertise more in Spanish to attract Hispanics. The new Spanish language website for the state tourism board will feature an emphasis on family entertainment and cultural attractions for Hispanics.

While money is tight, counties have found ways to raise the funds necessary to create these advertising campaigns. Many counties use the local hotel or tourist tax to fund their marketing endeavors; other counties had to look elsewhere for funding. In Maine, the state allotted grants to regions of the state to help them promote themselves.

In California, San Luis Obispo County teamed with other local visitor bureaus to create a campaign to promote the entire Central Coast of California, not just the individual counties or cities in the area. The multiple agencies pooled their money in the hopes of sharing the economic boom from the campaign.

*For further information on promoting tourism in your county, contact your local Chamber of Commerce or Convention & Visitors Bureau. The Iowa Department of Economic Development can be reached at (515) 242-4705 or [tourism@iowalifechanging.com](mailto:tourism@iowalifechanging.com).*

## Legislative Conference

NACo's 2006 Legislative Conference will be held March 4 - 8, 2006, at the Hilton Washington & Towers in Washington, D.C. Online registration is now available ([www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)).

The conference will feature a new "day" pattern for the first time. Featured educational sessions will include comprehensive, up-to-date information about: eminent domain, potential reductions of federal funding, telecommunication rewrite, emergency management and disaster preparedness, homeland security, and court appointed special advocates.

ISAC will be hosting two functions on Wednesday, March 8 in conjunction with the NACo Legislative Conference. First, Iowa county officials attending the conference are invited to participate in a breakfast meeting from 8:00am to 9:00am. The breakfast will be held at the Hilton Washington & Towers. This meeting will provide county officials with background information on the issues to be discussed during the Congressional Roundtable held later in the morning.

Following the breakfast, ISAC will be hosting a Congressional Roundtable from 10:00am to 11:00am in Room 1116, Longworth House Office Building. Members of Iowa's Congressional delegation will be invited to attend and report on Congressional actions and proposals. The roundtable will be an interactive discussion between county officials and their Congressional representatives.

*If you are attending the NACo Legislative Conference, please contact Denise Obrecht ([dobrecht@iowacounties.org](mailto:dobrecht@iowacounties.org)) at the ISAC office to confirm your participation in these two events on March 8.*

## Public Involvement Workshop

Building public understanding and acceptance of public-funded planning and construction projects will be the topic of an upcoming seminar geared specifically for public works officials and agency officials who administer projects using the public's money.

The workshop, entitled "Public Involvement Works," will be held Thursday, February 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs. Lunch and refreshments are included in the \$20 registration fee. Due to the interactive nature of this workshop, space is limited and early registration is recommended.

This workshop will be a mix of interactive exercises and case studies that address common challenges that decision-makers face in implementing successful projects. Topics will include: determining the appropriate level of public involvement, effectively communicating with stakeholders, holding productive public meetings, managing conflict while avoiding polarization, building public trust and more.

*A course description and registration materials are available at [www.schemmer.com/piworks](http://www.schemmer.com/piworks) or contact Kate Gronstal, The Schemmer Associates, at 712-329-0300, or [kgronstal@schemmer.com](mailto:kgronstal@schemmer.com). The training session is sponsored by The Schemmer Associates, a full-service architectural and engineering firm, with certificated specialists in public participation.*

## Police Conference

The Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute is hosting a conference at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis on January 17. The conference looks at innovative systems of police accountability that build community trust, reduce liability, increase efficiency and provide the means for agencies to document the quality of their work. The featured speakers will be Samuel Walker, the author of *The New World of Police Accountability* (2005) and David Harris, the author of *Good Cops* (2005). We will also have presentations from the Colorado Springs Police Department, the Pittsburgh Police Bureau, the Overland Park Kansas Police Department, and the San Jose California Independent Auditor's Office. The cost of the conference is \$35. Lunch is provided. Scholarships are available for members of the community. *Registration information is available on ISAC's website ([www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org)) under 'Upcoming Events.'*

## Request For Comments

The State Historic Preservation Office is looking to receive feedback to their revised strategic plan. For some time, the State Historic Preservation Office has been working with others to revise a plan that dates back to 1993. The document, a work in progress, is sufficiently close enough to a complete draft. This plan is intended to be comprehensive for the state, covering not simply operations of the state historic preservation office, but those preservation activities of other agencies and organizations in Iowa. The State Historic Preservation Office invites you to examine the strategic plan at [www.iowahistory.org/preservation/strategic-plan/index.html](http://www.iowahistory.org/preservation/strategic-plan/index.html).

*Please forward your comments to Lowell Soike, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, at [Lowell.Soike@iowa.gov](mailto:Lowell.Soike@iowa.gov) or (515) 281-3306 by Friday, January 20.*

## classified ad

### Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

City of Carlisle, (3,750 est. pop.) adjacent to Des Moines, is seeking candidates for position of Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Prefer experience and/or degree in accounting, finance or similar field. Position serves as office manager and chief financial officer for the City of Carlisle and the Carlisle Municipal Utilities. Job activities include working closely with department heads in areas of accounting and budget management, as well as records management, accounts payable, payroll, utility billing and investments. Familiarity with INCODE software a plus; prefer a self-motivated team person interested in a metro community experiencing strong growth. Salary DOQ, excellent benefits, FLSA exempt. If interested contact Neil Ruddy, City Administrator, City of Carlisle, 195 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Carlisle, Iowa 50047, (515) 989-3224 or [carlisle@ccr.net](mailto:carlisle@ccr.net). Deadline is January 13, 2006.

*ISAC will place employment ads for county or city positions free of charge in The Iowa County and on ISAC's website ([www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org)) under 'News.' Employment ads can be sent to Denise Obrecht at [dobrecht@iowacounties.org](mailto:dobrecht@iowacounties.org).*



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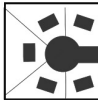
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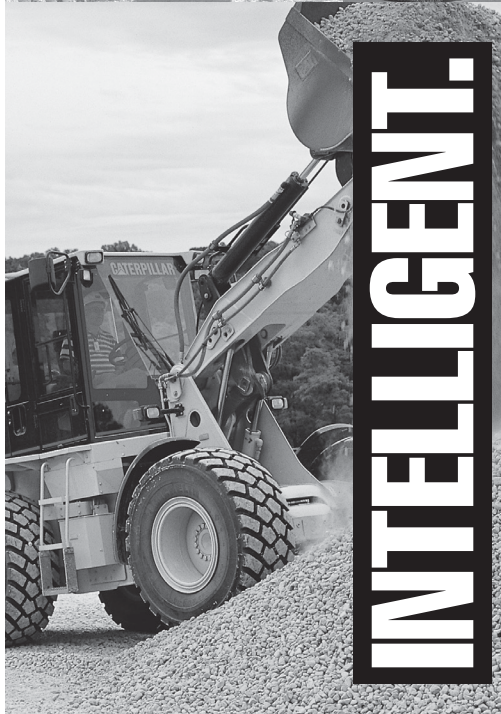


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641.423.7240  
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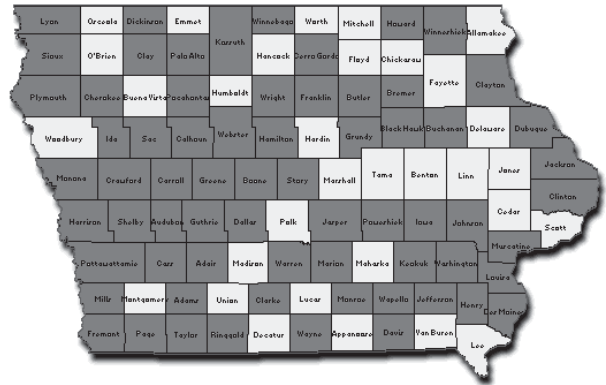




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**County Risk Management Services, Inc. (CRMS)** has provided marketing services for the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) and the Iowa Municipalities Workers Compensation Association (IMWCA) since 1987.



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

**IMWCA** was formed in 1981 to offer workers compensation and employers liability coverage to Iowa public entities. Current membership stands at 477 members (65 counties). **ICAP’s** inception was 1986. ICAP provides property and casualty coverages to 518 members (65 counties).

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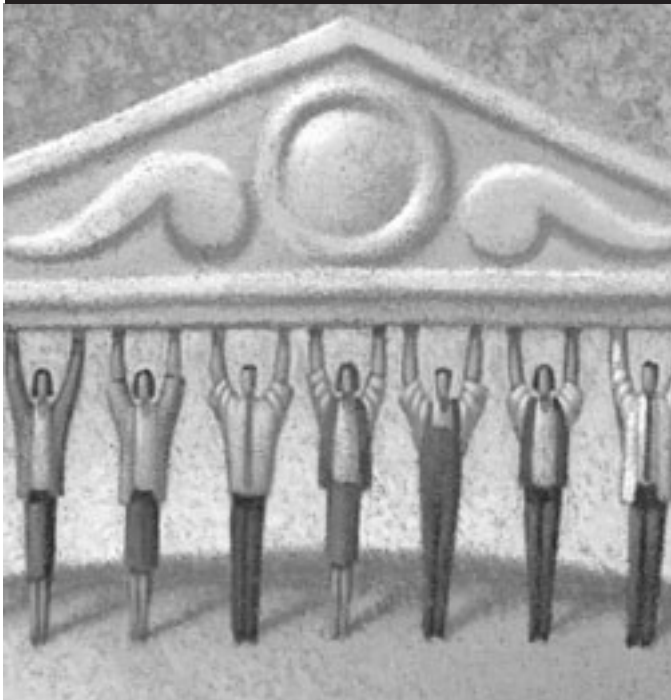
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As our Anniversary draws near, we will provide more detailed information regarding events that we will be sponsoring for our clients. (You can make a suggestion at our corporate website!)

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# calendar

## JANUARY

- 2 ISAC Office Closed
- 10 CCMS Administrators  
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 12 CCMS West Support Group  
(Valentino's, Council Bluffs)
- 13 ISAC Legislative Liaisons (ISAC Office)
- 17 CCMS North Central Support Group  
(Pizza Ranch, Garner)
- 17-20 SEAT III  
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 17-18 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 18 CCMS East Support Group  
(Coral Ridge Mall, Coralville)
- 18-19 ISAC University  
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 19 Supervisors Executive Board  
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 19 CCMS East Support Group  
(Musser Public Library, Muscatine)
- 19 Engineers Board Meeting (ISAC Office)
- 20 Statewide Supervisors Meeting  
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 26 ICIT Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

## FEBRUARY

- 16 Engineers Executive Board (ISAC Office)
- 17 ISAC Legislative Liaisons (ISAC Office)
- 23-24 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

## MARCH

- 1-3 CCMS Fundamentals  
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 4-8 NACo Legislative Conference  
(Washington, DC)
- 17 ISAC Legislative Liaisons  
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 19-21 ISAC Spring School of Instruction  
(Marriott & Renaissance Savery, Des Moines)

## APRIL

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

## MAY

- 10-12 Treasurers Conference (Council Bluffs)
- 11 CCMS Advanced Case Manager  
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 18 Engineers Executive Board (ISAC Office)

## JUNE

- 6-7 CCMS Supervisors Training  
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 14-16 Information Technology Conference  
(Mason City)
- 21-23 CCMS Fundamentals  
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)

## JULY

- 13 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 25-28 Auditors Conference  
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)

## AUGUST

- 2-4 Records Conference  
(Arrowwood Resort, Okoboji)
- 3-4 Supervisors Executive Board (Burlington)
- 4-8 NACo Annual Conference (Chicago, IL)
- 9-11 CCMS Annual Conference  
(Sheraton, West Des Moines)

## SEPTEMBER

- 8 ISAC Steering Committee  
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 21-22 ISAC Board of Directors (Dubuque Area)
- 21-23 Conservation Directors Conference  
(Davenport)

## OCTOBER

- 6 ISAC Steering Committees (location TBA)
- 26-27 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

## NOVEMBER

- 27-28 SEAT Training (Des Moines)
- 29- ISAC Fall School of Instruction
- Dec. 1 (Marriott & Renaissance Savery, Des Moines)

## DECEMBER

- 5-7 Engineers Conference  
(Scheman Center, Ames)
- 7 District II Winter Meeting (location TBA)
- 13 District IV Winter Meeting (location TBA)
- 15 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org) and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled thus far in 2006, agendas and meeting notices can be found on ISAC's website. A majority of ISAC's meetings offer online registration. If you have any questions about the meetings listed above, please contact Jerri Noboa at (515) 244-7181 or [jnboea@iowacounties.org](mailto:jnboea@iowacounties.org).



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