

The Iowa  
County

IOWA STATE  
ASSOCIATION  
OF COUNTIES



*Javier Gonzales Delivers Keynote  
Address At ISAC's Spring School*

County & City  
Joint Projects

Spring School  
Wrap-Up

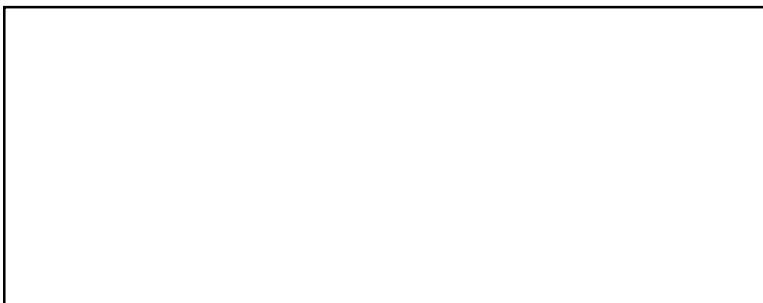
The Legislative  
Session  
Review

District  
Legislative  
Workshops  
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"Solutions" Inc.

Upgrading to  
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May 2002



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# The Iowa County

The official magazine of the  
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## Counties & Cities Joining For Success

The relationships between the following counties and cities began tentatively but through time have shown how two separate local governments can work towards the same goal - service to the people.

### Mitchell County EDC

Mitchell County has worked hard to form a partnership with three cities in order to make economic development a priority. In Fall 1999, discussions were initiated by Mitchell County as to interest in forming a county-wide economic development effort. Osage, St. Ansgar, and Stacyville expressed interest. Over the next several months members from these cities, Mitchell County Supervisors, the Mitchell County Attorney, interested individuals from various businesses, as well as the economic development groups from St. Ansgar and Osage (Stacyville did not have a "formal" group at that time) held discussion meetings.

By June 2000, a formal 28E agreement between the three city governments, three city economic development groups, and the county was in place. The agreement spells out membership, term limits, who will provide funding (no specific method of determining the funding is mentioned - just that the three cities and county will provide funding), and various other legal requirements recommended by the county attorney.

The group has completed the following projects: a first-ever county-wide housing needs assessment, a joint website ([www.comejoinus.org](http://www.comejoinus.org)), an industry call program completed with both rural entities as well as city entities, a "Day at IDED" that promoted visioning meetings in all three cities as well as a county-wide meeting, and completed a work exercise with Institute of Decision Making - UNI from which a three-year plan and a business plan was developed.

"To date, there has been maintained a spirit of complete cooperation - what we do as a group will benefit everyone within Mitchell County, whether it is a prospect for St. Ansgar, Osage or Stacyville," said Cheryl Jahnel, Mitchell County Supervisor.

### Des Moines County/Burlington Sharing Space

Des Moines County has contracted with the city of Burlington to share space in the city's youth center. The county has begun a program of having a "Drop-In" Center for persons with disabilities. The city's youth center and the county's drop-in center have similar goals and visions. Both are encouraging a certain population to socialize and learn skills in a staffed, healthy, and safe environment. The programs both require a similar building and equipment. The cooperative agreement involves Des Moines County using the youth center during Burlington's downtime. "The city-county agreement has turned

out to be a 'win-win' situation for both governmental agencies," said Connie Schwartz, Des Moines County CPC. The county is not burdened with financing and maintaining a building on its own, and the city has gained an income source to help offset some of its operating expenses.

### Cities Contracting With Sheriff Departments

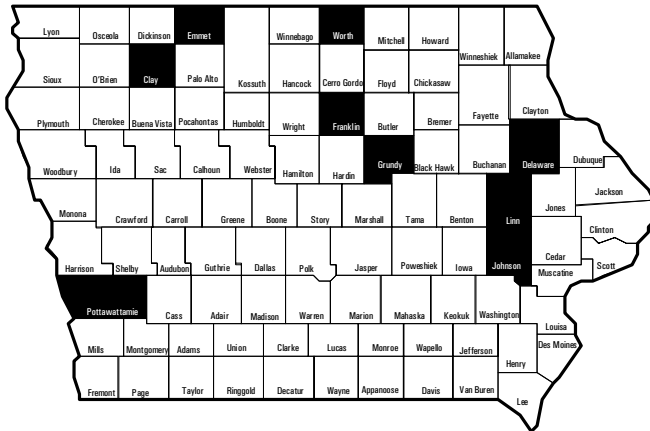
A large portion of cities across Iowa are teaming up with county sheriff departments to provide protection for their community. Mills County contracts with six communities. One advantage to a contract arrangement is cities save money routing calls to county sheriffs. Cities are only charged actual cost, the actual time that a sheriff handles a call. You compare that with paying for full time deputies, overtime, retirement, health and workman's compensation insurance, uniforms, training and vehicle repair, and there are substantial savings for towns. Cities also get limited protection, emergency calls answered and arrests made. Another advantage is smaller towns can be used as training ground for officers waiting to become certified with the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. Contracts with cities also helps county officials keep in touch with rural areas. "Counties and cities are linked and this helps us keep our finger on any problems or issues," said Mack Taylor, Mills County Sheriff.

### Story County/Ames Website

An interactive website ([www.iowacounties.org/assessors](http://www.iowacounties.org/assessors)) has been formed with data compiled from the Ames City Assessor, Story County Assessor, Story County Treasurer and Story County Information Technology. The website allows anyone to look up data on property characteristics, aerial photography, property lines, taxes paid and unpaid, and sales information. The website received an ISAC Innovation Award at the 2001 Fall School of Instruction. Gary Bilyeu, Story County Assessor, said before the website was created "people were traveling miles to stand at our counter and look up information. This was costly and time consuming for both the customer and our staff." The structure of the GIS used on the website comes from a committee called Mapping And Policy Support (MAPS). The following entities are represented on the committee: Story County Engineer, Story County Assessor, Story County Planning & Zoning, Story County Information Technology, Ames City Planning, Ames Assessor, Ames Public Works, Nevada City Building Department and ProMap Corporation.

Counties and cities continue to see the success of working together on projects for greater efficiency, economic savings and relationship building. Great strides are being made towards innovative projects and partnerships. County-city agreements can be a "win-win" situation if the parties involved can learn to trust, be optimistic and most of all, take the risk. For further information visit ISAC's website ([www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org)) under "County News."

# counties in the spotlight



The **Emmet County** Emergency Medical Services has been selected to receive a Response 2020/System Development Grant in the amount of \$17,070. Up to \$12,070 can be used for public information and education. Up to \$5,000 can be used for systems organization and management. A minimum of \$3,000 in-kind match is required.

*(Taken from the Daily News, March 6, 2002)*

The **Pottawattamie County** Board of Supervisors gave a pledge of \$75,000 for the Veteran's Memorial Plaza fund. The Veteran's Plaza is set to be located at Bayliss Park in Council Bluffs. The plaza will include three sculpted figures in front of a low wall, with a reflecting pool of water. The wall will display the names of those who died or were missing in action during World War I, World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam War.

*(Taken from the Daily Nonpareil, March 12, 2002)*



Former **Clay County** Treasurer Bernard "Bernie" Wheeler passed away at the Sioux Valley Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD March 18. He was 82. Bernie held the position of Clay County Treasurer from 1973-1989 and was ISAC President from 1979-1980. Bernie served in WWII and worked in Spencer, IA for Globe Machinery and Supply and Wheeler Manufacturing. He was a member of Sacred Heart

Catholic Church, the Spencer Rotary and on the Clay County Fair Board for many years. Bernie is survived by his wife Clare, six daughters, 12 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Eldon Koeneke, **Delaware County** Supervisor, died March 26 while visiting family members in Fort Smith, Arkansas. This was an unexpected death that shocked and saddened those in Delaware County. Eldon was in his 10<sup>th</sup> year as county supervisor. While serving as supervisor Eldon was involved with the Rural Transit Association, Empowerment Board, Workforce Development, District Correctional Board, Juvenile Justice Board and Operation New View. Survivors include his wife Peg, three sons and four grandchildren.

Counties across Iowa joined together to celebrate National County Government Week April 7-13 and voice how important county government is to this nation. **Grundy County** celebrated by inviting local 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to tour the courthouse April 9 where they met elected officials, participated in a voting demonstration, observed a mock trial, visited the law center and heard about public health services. The students then traveled to the county landfill to learn about preserving the environment and what it means to recycle. **Franklin County** held a coffee and distributed information on elected officials duties April 12 and **Worth County** held an open house April 9 to showcase the specific departments in the county. **Linn County** General Assistance and the Linn County Health Services Program participated in a "Community Orientation Day" held at Kirkwood Community College on April 9. **Johnson County** honored volunteers serving on county boards and commissions. The county held its first annual appreciation dinner for the hundreds of Johnson County residents who spend many hours throughout the year contributing to issues affecting county government. The dinner took place April 9 at the county fairgrounds with displays promoting county government services on-site. Elected officials, along with county department heads, help serve and cook.

Homeland Security will be the focus of the Iowa Emergency Management Division's Annual Conference, June 3-5. A variety of speakers will share their experiences and viewpoints on this topic that is important to the state and nation. Scheduled speakers include: Edward J. Gabriel, Assistant Chief New York City Fire Department; Mike Fagel, director of the North Aurora, IL, Emergency Management Agency; Peter Teahen, director of the National Mass Fatalities Institute; Dan Eggleston, director of Emergency Services for the City of Franklin, VA; Henry Siegelson, Disaster Planning International; and Kevin Curran, FBI Special Agent.

Topics included are a safety officer's view of Ground Zero, reflections on ground zero, recovering from a disaster when your locality's government is one of the victims, mass casualty and community preparedness response; and a terrorism threat update from the FBI. Information will be presented in large-group and small-group settings, giving participants an opportunity to share experiences and learn from others. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites, 101 East Locust St., Des Moines. The conference begins Monday, June 3 at 11 am with a brunch. A luncheon buffet is planned for Tuesday and Wednesday, and a cookout is scheduled for Tuesday evening. The conference will adjourn June 5 at 4pm. The registration fee is \$125. To register, or for additional information, contact the Iowa Emergency Management Division, 515/281-3231.

*If you would like to submit information for Counties in the Spotlight contact Denise Obrecht at 515-244-7181 or [dobrecht@iowacounties.org](mailto:dobrecht@iowacounties.org).*

# around the statehouse

## Wrap-up Column: Part 1

*“Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson after.”*

-Vernon Law

*“Experience is not what happens to you; it is what you do with what happens to you.”*

- Aldous Huxley

*“Only if she were digging in.”*

- Early Winn, notorious brush-back pitcher, on whether he would use such tactics on his own mother

### How Did We Do This Year?

With this year’s short session, I am writing a wrap-up column (part one), with another wrap-up (part two) in the June issue. Today’s question: “How did we do this year?”

To begin with, quite a number of legislative proposals in the 2002 ISAC Legislative Priority Book never made it into the form of legislative proposals. The period for requesting individually sponsored bills was concentrated into only four days after the gavel came down to begin the 2002 session on January 14. This time span is usually from three weeks to a month. Of the proposals which county government initiated, we had success or a measure of success with:

- Election law technical changes.
- Elimination of the use of social security numbers on recorded documents.
- Inclusion of county conservation peace officers into the Protection Occupation class under IPERS.
- Retaining the Iowa bottle & can redemption law without changes, although a bill to expand the law to juice bottles did not survive.
- Retained the appropriation for Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program at \$10 million in an extremely tight budget year.
- Arranged to fund preliminary engineering studies for small community wastewater systems through administrative rules to a clean water funding bill.
- Succeeded in achieving an appropriation of \$750,000 for state reimbursement for state prisoners in county jails.
- Approval of the county treasurers omnibus technical legislation.
- Expanded the number of county treasurer’s offices that have the option of issuing drivers licenses from 48 to 81.
- Funded the County Engineers Service Bureau from the Road Use Tax Fund.
- Simplified the petition requirement for reclassifying a county road from class “C” back to level “A.”

**By: Robert Mulqueen**  
ISAC Public Policy Analyst



### Didn't Happen

As with any legislative session, from almost any point of view, what was *not* done is as important as what was done.

In the 2000 and in the 2001 legislative sessions, considerable time and effort by county officials and the ISAC staff was spent fending off the effort to limit county flexibility in determining their budgets, which was led by the Iowa Farm Bureau.

This year we faced a variation on that theme. A “Christmas mix” which would have touched on such budget and spending items as: county flexibility in funding sheriffs’ patrols, the procedures for instituting local option sales taxes, changing the rules of the road with regard to budget protests to the State Appeal Board, requiring a 60% vote in both chambers of the Legislature on measures reducing local government assistance or having to do with new or changed property tax levies, and creating a “property tax replacement fund” at the state level. With the work of numerous county officials and the loyalty of many state representatives – both Republican and Democratic – this effort was also beaten back.

Other initiatives that didn’t happen include: a significant change in the bottle and can deposit law, an attempt to mandate committees in each county to examine county-city consolidation (this is not to say that counties shouldn’t examine this option), and making all apartments and mobile homes eligible for the residential property tax roll back. There were others, of course. Other county initiatives which didn’t make the grade include: state authorization for an election officials training program, approval of a county technology fee, changing the school budget filing date, county access to the Iowa Communications Network, an increase in the food inspection fees, an increase of local public health funding, an omnibus 911 communications technical bill, or budget appeal reform.

### Thanks!

What was accomplished this year was, as always, not solely the work of the ISAC staff, nor of Mike Wentzein, who labored each day for the Supervisors Association. A variety of individual officials spent a bit (or a lot) of time under the gold dome this session on behalf of their affiliate. Beyond that cast of characters have been the usual behind-the-scenes county officials who sent the letters and emails, made telephone calls, and attended Saturday legislative coffees. You made a difference. Thank you.

Next month: Hogs.

## Use Caution When Regulating County Employees' Speech

### Outspoken Employees

Assume you are a county auditor, and you decide to close your office one day a week to save money. What if one outspoken employee in your office disagrees with this policy and begins writing letters in opposition to the policy and criticizing it at public meetings. Do you have to put up with this conduct from one of your own employees?

This issue has been analyzed in cases like the federal district court case of *Deemer v. Durell*, 110 F.Supp.2d 1177 (IA. 1998) and the U.S. Supreme Court case of *Pickering v. Bd. of Education*, 391 U.S. 563 (1968). From those cases and others, it is clear that county officials have to be very careful in taking any action against outspoken county employees, because county employees have First Amendment rights which they do not lose when they start collecting a county paycheck.

The first question a court would ask - is the speech involved regarding a matter of public concern? If it is not, and the county employee is talking about matters that do not warrant First Amendment protection, then the employee's speech can be curtailed. But most matters about how a county office is being operated involve matters of public concern.

If the speech is on a matter of public concern, then it deserves the protection of the First Amendment, and a court will have to find the proper balance between the employee's constitutional free speech rights and the county's interest as an employer in promoting efficient provision of public services.

In balancing an employee's and employer's competing interests, a court would weigh six interrelated factors: (1) the need for harmony in the workplace; (2) whether a close working relationship must exist between the employee and employer when the speech in question could cause that relationship to deteriorate; (3) the time, manner, and place of the speech; (4) the context in which the dispute arose; (5) the degree of public interest in the speech; and (6) whether the speech impeded the employee's ability to perform her duties. Each case will be different, but that is how a court would go about deciding a case like this.

Weighing those factors in *Deemer*, the Court found that in the context of a two-person recorder's office, the factors, taken as a whole, weighed in favor of the employer's interest in maintaining the efficient provision of services. The Court held that the county recorder could not be forced to retain a deputy recorder vying for her job, especially one whom she thought was her best friend. "The lack of trust between the employees would clearly impede the efficient performance of duties in the recorder's office," said the Court.

When courts begin using six-part balancing tests, you know that there is not going to be any way for courthouse officials to know in advance what employee conduct they can curtail, and what employee conduct they have to allow.

**By: David Vestal**  
ISAC Deputy Director



The key is to recognize that there is a First Amendment issue involved when you try to regulate the speech of county employees.

### Bidding Requirements

A recent case clarifies Iowa's law regarding bidding requirements for construction projects. In *Garling Construction, Inc., v. City of Shellsburg* (00-0371), Garling, a general contractor with more than 20 years experience, submitted a low bid for the city project of \$308,500. DeKlotz Construction, a local contractor that had never bid a public project, submitted the next lowest bid of \$318,000. The city council passed a resolution accepting DeKlotz's bid.

The bidding law, Iowa Code §384.99, requires that cities and counties award contracts to "the lowest responsible bidder." In this case, the city council made no official determination that Garling was not a responsible bidder. Later, council members said candidly that they chose DeKlotz because it was a local company.

Garling challenged the decision, and sought money damages for lost profits. The district court found for the city, and Garling appealed. The Iowa Supreme Court affirmed the lower court decision.

The well-established law, said the Court, is that an unsuccessful bidder lacks standing to bring a suit challenging the legality of the bidding procedures. The logic is that the truly damaged party is the taxpayer, not the one who has lost a bid through some claimed error. Competitive bidding statutes were enacted for the benefit of the taxpayers, not the bidders, said the Court.

Violations of bidding statutes can still be challenged by injunction actions or declaratory judgment actions, just not actions for money damages, said the Court.

The positive message here for counties is that when they are awarding construction contracts, and deciding who is the "lowest responsible bidder," failure to follow the bidding requirements is not going to result in a successful action for money damages brought by the losing bidders.

### Parting Ponderable

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though the whale was quite large, its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Quite irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven, I will ask Jonah."

Still irritated, the teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

## health check

### Do You Know A Friend Or Loved One That Is Depressed?



Depression is a topic that I have a great deal of experience in but I often feel like I know very little. My family has dealt with depression in various forms for over 20 years. I think that in this time of history, mental health issues are as well treated as ever before. Here are a few thoughts concerning this health issue.

**Symptoms:** Depression is one of those things that sneak up on you. You have to be alert and open to its presence. From dealing with some type of clinical depression to dealing with it during menopause, it can get you down before you know it. Here are some things to look for: depressed mood, loss of interest or pleasure, weight gain or loss, changes in sleep, fatigue or low energy, poor concentration or indecisiveness, feelings of worthlessness or guilt, thoughts of death or suicide.

**Deal with it!** It is sometimes hard to know that you are depressed. That seems odd, but I have found it to be true. Your family and friends may recognize it before you do. Please deal with it. Don't ignore it for too long thinking it will go away. Having said that, we are all prone to experiencing bad days. They may even string out for a while, but try to recognize when something is different and a trend is developing.

**Professional help:** In society today, I think getting help to get over rough times is much easier and much more accepted. Personally, I think almost everyone could use a visit to a

**By: Sandy Longfellow**  
ISAC Administrative Assistant



counselor at some time or other in their lives. I also think it is very beneficial. You must keep in mind, though, that just like your physician, sometimes you and a counselor just won't "gel." You need to find someone that you are comfortable with and that will be helpful to you.

**Results:** Depression is an illness that can come and go. Most people experience it first in their early twenties, and two-thirds of patients with one type of depression will have another. Some people take medicine for as little as six months and some are on medication for years. The most exciting thing though is that with the right mix of medicine and counseling, 70-80 percent of people recover!

**Help Yourself:** There are many things that you can do on a daily basis to prevent depression. I think one of the top on the list is physical activity! Get up and get some exercise, go dancing, have a ball! The next most important is sleep. Get enough sleep - don't minimize the affect of lack of sleep. You also need to have good nutrition, avoid nicotine and alcohol, meditate or pray, pay attention to loving and supportive relationships. You might also consider hormone replacement therapy.

In conclusion, I urge you to do yourself or your loved one a favor and check out the options available to recognize and deal with depression. As they say, "you'll be glad you did!"

## technology center

### Upgrading to Windows XP

**Q.** I have been told that I should upgrade my Windows operating system to Windows XP. I currently have Windows 98, should I purchase the upgrade?

**A.** I would highly recommend the upgrade after using both Windows 98 and Windows XP. When I was using Windows 98, my computer was extremely unstable and had to be shut down several times a day. Now since I have been utilizing Windows XP, the shut downs are extremely rare. Upon doing some research, I have found that Windows XP ran over 30 times longer without encountering problems as systems running Windows 98SE. The stability Windows XP offers, in my opinion, is well worth the cost of the upgrade.

Another new and improved look to Windows XP is the redesigned Start Menu. Your five favorite programs always are displayed along with your default email and Internet browser. With a click of the mouse, you can access "Help and Support" and have questions regarding Windows XP answered for you. It is arranged in an easy to navigate system that is extremely useful if you are connected to the Internet at the time you are asking the questions. You are able to type in your questions and you will be

**By: Tammy Norman**  
ISAC Technical  
Administrative Assistant



directed to Microsoft's on-line help. A very nice touch for those of us who struggle with new software. The "Help" feature can be a tremendous asset, if one would just use it.

Windows XP also offers some other neat "extras" such as the ability to open Zip files. You no longer need Winzip to open zipped files that are sent to you. Windows XP will do it for you. CD recording is available, as long as your computer has a CD recorder drive, you will be able to write or burn files to blank discs without purchasing additional software. You will be able to make digital music files and store them on your computer without using programs such as MusicMatch Jukebox. Windows XP has the ability to go mobile. It enables you to easily install and connect new devices to your computer with a feature entitled AutoPlay.

I have been satisfied with Windows XP and find it to be an extremely stable operating system. After using Windows 98, Windows XP was definitely an upgrade worth the money. Until next month, keep clicking!



## CCMS News

### Impact of the MBC of Iowa Retrospective Review Process

#### 1. Changes That MBC Has Implemented

■ *Changes in the outcome of the retrospective reviews:* At this time, MBC will no longer be decertifying TCM funding for persons with chronic mental illness. However, they will continue to perform the retrospective reviews and perform statistical analysis of the results.

■ *Changes in the criteria:* The first draft of the criteria, to which CCMS and ISAC objected strongly, appeared to be based on a clinical model of case management that did not conform with the brokerage model of case management that Iowa has implemented through the state Medicaid plan. The criteria was also based on a number of false assumptions including: a) that the activities performed by case managers are being performed by others in the community, such as residential care facility (RCF) staff. In reality, only case managers play a unique role in the system; and b) that the Iowa Plan is the funder of last resort, after county funding. In reality, the county is the funder of last resort—county funds should only be accessed there is not another funding source, such as Medicaid.

#### 2. Changes That TCM Programs Are Implementing

■ *Improvements in coordination with the consumer's psychiatrist and treatment team:* The review process focused on the coordination of collaboration of the case manager with the consumer's psychiatrist and other members of the treatment team. While this is not, and should not be, the only focus of case management (as the early version of the MBC criteria proposed), this is an important activity of targeted case management.

■ *Continued Training on Diagnostic Categories and Symptoms:* The CCMS Annual Conference in August will include more information on the clinical aspects of chronic mental illness, including an in-depth session on diagnostic categories and symptomatology.

■ *Improvements in Documentation:* CCMS staff have also identified ways in which the assessment and documentation processes can be improved to provide more information on the impact of the consumer's mental illness on their lives.

■ *Reaffirmation of Current TCM Activities Compliance with the Iowa Medicaid Plan:* The Iowa Medicaid Plan defines case management as: "a method employed by human services agencies to effectively manage multiple resources for the benefit of Medicaid clients. Case management exists to assist service recipients in gaining access to appropriate and needed medical services and interrelated social and educational services. The goal of case management is to ensure that necessary evaluations are conducted; that individual service and treatment plans are developed, implemented, and monitored; and that reassessment of client needs and service provisions occurs on an ongoing and regularly scheduled basis."

*By: Deborah Westvold*  
ISAC Case Management  
Director



### CCMS Annual Conference

The CCMS Annual Conference will be August 13-15, 2002 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines. This year's conference continues to build upon ideas for collaboration with consumers, providers, and other stakeholders. In addition, workshops will be on such topics as: vocational programs, the HCBS waivers, and diagnoses and symptoms. A pre-conference on Ethics with Bruce Buchanan will be conducted on Tuesday morning, August 13. Conference brochures and registration material will be mailed out the beginning of May.


### HIPAA

The deadlines for implementation of the Health Improvement Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) continue to loom ahead. Because of the broad scope of responsibility of county governments, determining which offices are affected and what action the county needs to take is a complex undertaking. On May 1, 2002, ISAC is sponsoring a training for county officials on HIPAA. In addition, ISAC staff, along with a number of county officials, are participating on work groups that are a part of Iowa's implementation effort.

#### **Key Dates For Compliance**

Transactions & Code Sets	October 16, 2002 <i>(Possible to apply for an extension)</i>
Privacy	April 13, 2003
Security	Not out yet

As we learn more about the impact of HIPAA on county government, we will provide updates.



Visit CCMS's website  
([www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org))  
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ALUMNI

### Robert K. Ermer



Robert Ermer served as Cerro Gordo Supervisor for 16 years with noteworthy achievements as ISAC President and Supervisors Association President. "Being on the Board of Supervisors gave me the opportunity to set policy, improve the service of our constituents, be a part of ISAC & NACo, and meet lots of great people. Hopefully I had a part in shaping county government today and for the future." He is currently active in Ermer Insurance & Financial Services Inc. He is a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, V.F.W., Rockwell Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Rockwell Chamber, Sacred Heart Church (lector), Cerro Gordo Independent Insurance Agents, and Prairie Ridge Addiction Center (board of director). "I think ISAC is an essential player in good county government and counties need to take an active role in ISAC for the betterment of county government. It is essential for their survival." Bob enjoys golf, cribbage, bridge and his 11 grandchildren (one more on the way in June). His family includes wife Marilyn and six children: Gregory, Robert, Joanne, Janet, Daniel, and Brian. Robert can be reached at bobermer@netins.net.

Visit ISAC's website at [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org) and go under "About ISAC" for information on current alumni members, benefits of becoming an alumni member and an application form. For further information contact Jerri by phone at 515-244-7181 or by email at [jnoba@iowacounties.org](mailto:jnoba@iowacounties.org).

## Quote of the Month:

*"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."*  
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## Meet Your Board Members

### Gary Bilyeu

ISAC Board Member



Gary Bilyeu has served as the Story County Assessor for 20 years with past experience as the Cerro Gordo County Deputy Assessor. He holds membership with the International Association of Assessing Officers and has taken an active role in ISAC's Taxation & Finance Steering Committee. "I hope for greater cooperation among counties and within counties through the leadership of ISAC's board." His family includes his wife Lonnie of 28 years and four children: Rachel, Rebekah, Abraham, and Deborah. Gary enjoys all sports, especially basketball and golf.

## miscellaneous

### Iowa to Host National Building Energy Code Workshop

The 2002 National Workshop on State Building Energy Codes will bring building officials and experts from across the country to Des Moines, July 15-18, 2002. The four-day conference will provide an opportunity to learn the latest developments in policy, adoption, advocacy and enforcement of building energy codes. Architects, engineers, building code officials, utilities, insurance industry professionals, and others are invited to attend this important national event. The conference is hosted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Energy. For more information, contact Craig Stark at the Iowa DNR at (515) 281-4739; email [Craig.Stark@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Craig.Stark@dnr.state.ia.us), or visit the website [www.state.ia.us/dnr/energy/events](http://www.state.ia.us/dnr/energy/events).

### Iowa Energy Bank: Forum to Save Energy

A free one day conference is being offered June 12, 2002 in Cedar Rapids, IA to help your community save money, improve buildings, and increase comfort. Now is the time to find energy solutions for your community's bottom line. This forum is for community officials, economic development staffs, business managers, school superintendents, building managers and key decision makers. The conference will be held at the Crown Plaza in Cedar Rapids, IA from 8:45am-5pm. Sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Energy, Alliant Energy, MidAmerican Energy, and Central Iowa Power Cooperative. Call Chad Stobbe at 515-242-5851 for registration information.

# associate member highlights



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“Solutions” latest development is our Web Based Real Estate that integrates a web browser interface into our new Real Estate Software Application. With this interface the public has the ability to access county information on-line and county courthouses can establish valuable intranets. If you would like to view this live, visit Clay County’s website at [www.co.clay.ia.us](http://www.co.clay.ia.us).

## Contact Information:

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# NACo news

## Acts of Caring Award Recipient: Polk County

Polk County was recently awarded an Acts of Caring Award for its Prompt Elderly Emergency Response Advocate Program. The ceremony took place during National County Government Week on Thursday, April 11 at 8:30am at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington D.C.

The P.E.E.R. was started in the late 1980s and taken over by Polk County in 1990 to assist elderly citizens by providing counseling, resources and information on available services. The program recruits and trains seniors over the age of 60 to become volunteers and link with elderly citizens who need assistance. The goal is to help the elderly citizen to stay in his/her home as long and as safely as possible. The volunteers meet with the elderly in their homes, allowing the county to serve homebound and isolated elderly citizens. The program benefits the elderly citizens, as well as the state, county and

city governments by saving on Medicaid costs and keeping homes maintained and on the tax rolls.

The program currently has 26 trained volunteers. The volunteers help the elderly by filling out paperwork for public assistance programs, making calls on behalf of the clients, delivering meals after hospitalization, linking clients to transportation programs, assisting the frail elderly and listening. The dollar value of the volunteer time is estimated at \$11,189. In addition, the volunteers have assisted 69 Medicaid recipients for savings of \$27,669.58 in the last fiscal year.

The Acts of Caring Awards is a national program that recognizes and promotes county volunteer programs that provide a legacy for the future. The Acts of Caring Awards program is part of NACo’s Counties Serve America campaign, a national initiative to address public confidence in government and to raise public awareness and understanding about county governments-what counties do and how they serve their communities. NACo carries out Counties Serve America in partnership with Nationwide Retirement Solutions.



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# ISAC brief

## Spring School 2002 Wrap-up

ISAC held its 59th Spring School of Instruction & Business Meeting March 20-22 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines. Approximately 1,000 people were in attendance for education, skills training and networking.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Javier M. Gonzales, NACo President and Santa Fe County (N.M.) Commissioner, that spoke on homeland security during ISAC's General Session. Gonzales is the youngest NACo president ever, as well as the first Hispanic to serve as NACo's president. He has taken a strong interest in helping counties address the challenges associated with the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.

ISAC awarded scholarships to seven outstanding high school students during ISAC's General Session. The winner for the top scholarship in the amount of \$3,000 was Nolan Raney from Greene County. Five other students received scholarships in the amount of \$1,500: Adam Thoms, Bremer County; Kristy McGowan, Buena Vista County; Ashley Hayes, Cass County; Brandi Schippers, Mahaska County; and Jessica Gerlach, Jackson County. The Past President's Scholarship was rewarded to Bri Rewerts from Story County in the amount of \$1,500. Criteria used in judging the scholarships are scholastic achievement, financial need, participation in extracurricular/community activities and overall character. Eligibility is limited to children of county officials or county employees.

Years of Service awards were given to county officials with 15 years of service or more (in five-year increments) during ISAC's General Session. Mary Lechtenberg, Carroll County Deputy Auditor, was recognized for 50 years of service, along with hundreds of other county officials. This program honors the county officials whom have shown dedication to serving citizens through county government. Approximately 250 county officials received a Years of Service Award.

ISAC's Fall School of Instruction will be held November 20-22, 2002 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines. We look forward to seeing you there!



Above: The panel on consolidation issues held during the Supervisors meeting. Left: Javier Gonzales was the keynote speaker for the conference. Below: Eddie Moore Jr. presented the seminar "Cultural Competency."



Above: Township Trustees Panel during the Supervisors meeting. Top Right: Mary Lechtenberg, Carroll County Deputy Auditor, is recognized for 50 years of service. Middle Right: Scholarship winners L to R: Bri Rewerts, Kristy McGowan, Adam Thoms, Nolan Raney and Brandi Schippers. Below Right: Nolan Raney pictured with his parents William and Peg Raney. William is a Jefferson Co. supervisor. Below: Kristy McGowan receives her scholarship certificate from ISAC President Grant Veeder.



Above: The exhibit area was a busy place during Spring School. Above right: A representative at the ING booth explains retirement plans. Right: GeoAnalytics, Inc. representatives propose the benefits of IT consulting to a county official.





Above: Lannie Miller, Palo Alto Supervisor, and Joyce Jensen, Cass County Recorder, play a part in Gayle Becwar's act. Right: Bob Knowler, Woodbury County Treasurer, takes center stage with Gayle Becwar. Below: Competition was tough during the ISAC Game Night.



## Spring School 2003 Lottery Winners

The following counties are eligible for three rooms at the Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines for the 2003 ISAC Spring School. They include: Appanoose, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clay, Davis, Des Moines, Dubuque, Grundy, Guthrie, Hancock, Henry, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Kossuth, Louisa, Marion, Monroe, Plymouth, Scott, Sioux, Tama, Taylor, Wapello, Winneshiek, Woodbury and Worth. Your county auditor will receive a form from the hotel before the school. Fill in the names of the three people that will receive the rooms and return to the hotel. Remember your county is responsible for payment of the rooms. This was our third year of having a lottery drawing for the spring schools. In the spring of 2003, the lottery will start all over. If you have any questions contact Jerri Noboa at 515-244-7181 or email her at [jnoboa@iowacounties.org](mailto:jnoboa@iowacounties.org).

### Thank You Spring School Sponsors!

- The Sidwell Co. - Co-sponsored Ice Cream Social
- First American Real Estate Tax Service - Co-sponsored Coffee Break
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Simple Average Monthly Rate  
**1.386%**  
Annualized Compounded Rate  
**1.395%**  
Average Assets in the Trust:  
**\$276,135,548**

# 2002 ISAC District Legislative Workshops

## LOCATIONS

(Maps available upon request)

**District I** – June 11 – Holiday Inn Airport (6111 Fleur Dr.), Des Moines

**District II** – June 20 – Waldorf College (Campus Center-106 S. 6th St.), Forest City

**District III** – June 21 – Buena Vista University (Siebens Forum-610 W. 4th St.), Storm Lake

**District IV** – June 12 – St. Peter & Paul Catholic Center (105 W. 5th St.), Atlantic

**District V** – June 14 – Indian Hills Community College (Advance Tech Center- Grandview & Elm), Ottumwa

**District VI** – June 19 – University of Northern Iowa (1227 West 27th St.), Cedar Falls

## AGENDA

8:30am - 9:30am

Registration

9:30am - 11am

General Session

- District Meeting

11am - Noon

Affiliate Meetings

Noon - 1pm

Lunch

1pm - 3:30pm

Affiliate Meetings

## ISAC DISTRICT MAP



# 2002 ISAC District Legislative Workshops

## ISAC REGISTRATION POLICIES

**Pre-registration:** ISAC's registration policy offers a reduction of \$5 for those who pre-register with a check by the deadline.

**Non-member Fee:** Anyone who is not a member of ISAC is required to pay \$120 (three times the at-the-door fee) to attend an ISAC Legislative Workshop.

**Multiple District Fee:** If you are attending more than one district, you pay full price for your district, \$10 for all other districts, and you receive only one manual.

**No Cash or Credit Cards:** We prefer no cash at registration desk. We also do not accept credit cards. Please be prepared to write a check.

**Refund Policy:** Refunds are restricted to those who request them in writing from the ISAC office within 14 days of the close of the workshops and are due to an illness, death, or adverse weather. Include your explanation with the written request for a refund. (A nonrefundable \$5 administrative fee will be charged on all refunds.)

**POSTMARK DEADLINES:** June 3 for Districts I, IV & V (June 11,12,14)  
June 10 for Districts VI, II, III (June 19, 20, 21)

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## ISAC DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOPS REGISTRATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ *(Please Print)*

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop Locations (check one):**

- District I - June 11
- District II - June 20
- District III - June 21
- District IV - June 12
- District V - June 14
- District VI - June 19

**Registration Options:**

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| Payment Enclosed with Registration     | \$35 |
| <b>or</b>                              |      |
| Will Bring Warrant or Check to Meeting | \$40 |
| On-site Registration                   | \$40 |

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- 8-9 CCMS Advanced Case Manager  
- Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 16 CCMS East Support Group  
- Coral Ridge Mall, Coralville
- 22 CCMS Central Supervisors Support Group  
- Urbandale Library, Urbandale
- 22 CRIS Member Meeting - Best Inns & Suites, DM

## JUNE

- 5 CCMS New Supervisor Forum  
- Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 6 CCMS Supervisors Training - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 9-13 County Attorneys Spring Training - Arnolds Park
- 10 CCMS Central Support Group - Botanical Center, DM
- 11 District I ISAC Legislative Workshop  
- Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 12 District IV ISAC Legislative Workshop  
- St. Peter & Paul Catholic Center, Atlantic
- 14 District V ISAC Legislative Workshop  
- Indian Hills, Ottumwa
- 19 District VI ISAC Legislative Workshop  
- University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls
- 20 District II ISAC Legislative Workshop  
- Waldorf College, Forest City
- 21 District III ISAC Legislative Workshop  
- Buena Vista University, Storm Lake
- 25-27 Midwest Conference of Counties (MCC)  
- Radisson Hotel City Centre, Indianapolis, IN

## JULY

- 4-5 ISAC OFFICE CLOSED
- 10 CCMS North West Support - Storm Lake
- 12-16 NACo Annual Conference - New Orleans
- 16 CCMS Administrators - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 23 ISAC Board, IA School Association Board & IA League  
of Cities Board Dinner - Fort Des Moines, DM
- 24-26 Auditors' Summer School - Amanas

## AUGUST

- 13-15 CCMS Annual Conference - Holiday Inn Airport, DM

## SEPTEMBER

- 5 ISAC Steering Committees - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 12-13 Iowa County Attorneys Association (ICAA) Legislative  
Committee Workshop - DM
- 17 CCMS Mandatory Reporter Training  
- Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 18-19 CCMS Fundamentals - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 19-20 ISAC Board of Directors - Waterloo area
- 22-25 Sheriffs & Deputies Civil School  
- Holiday Inn Airport, DM

## OCTOBER

- 2 CPC's Statewide Meeting - Best Western Inn, Ankeny
- 3 ISAC Steering Committees - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 9 CCMS North West Support - Spencer
- 15 CCMS Administrators - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 17-18 CCMS Strengths Based Training  
- Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 22-23 Mental Health Conference - Scheman Center, Ames
- 24-25 ISAC Board of Directors - ISAC Office

## NOVEMBER

- 7 CCMS Support Staff Training - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 10-13 County Attorneys Fall Training Conference - DM
- 20 CCMS Board of Directors - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 20 ISAC Board of Directors - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 20-22 ISAC Fall School Conference - Holiday Inn Airport, DM

## DECEMBER

- 5 District II Winter Meeting - Elks Lodge, Charles City
- 8-11 Sheriffs & Deputies Winter School  
- Downtown Marriott, Des Moines
- 10-12 Engineers Winter Meeting - Scheman Center, Ames
- 13 ISAC Board of Directors - ISAC Office

*For agendas or additional information on any of the above listed meetings please visit our website at [www.iowacounties.org](http://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 [jnboia@iowacounties.org](mailto:jnboia@iowacounties.org).*



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