

The Iowa County October 2001

The Iowa County

The official magazine of the Iowa State Association of Counties 701 E. Court Avenue Des Moines, IA 50309 (515) 244-7181 FAX (515) 244-6397 www.iowacounties.org

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feature

2001

ISAC Fall Legislative Conference

November 14-16, 2001 Holiday Inn Airport Des Moines, Iowa

ISAC is busy planning the 2001 Fall Legislative Conference to be held November 14-16 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines. ISAC will plan the agenda for Thursday morning, including the business meeting, keynote speaker and five seminars on topics of current interest to county officials. The seminars are Time Mastery, Managing For Results, The Changing Face of Iowa, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and IRS Regulations: What County Officials Needs To Know. Check the September issue of The Iowa County for detailed descriptions of the seminars that are planned.

The keynote speaker Thursday morning is Wilson W. Orr is the director of the NASA Sustainability and Global Change Program at Prescott College in Arizona. He knows communities are facing many complex local issues such as population growth, weather threats, and water use. Change one of the variables and the outcome could be entirely different. He educates counties on how their decisions today will affect their future. The NASA Sustainability and Global Change Program uses remote-sensing data, GIS maps, aerial photography, 3-D modeling and presentation technologies to help local governments gauge the impact of growth or disasters in their communities.

The General Session will wrap up with legislative priorities voted upon by the membership in attendance. Proposals are presented by each of ISAC's seven legislative steering committees and a proposed slate of top objectives are recommended by the ISAC Board of Directors. The final package of priorities, as approved at this meeting, is the basis for ISAC's lobbying efforts during the legislative session that begins the following January.

Programming all day Wednesday, Thursday afternoon, and Friday morning is left to the affiliate associations to plan. Several of the affiliates agendas are printed throughout the magazine. The CPCs and General Assistance affiliates will be meeting at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel on November 14-16, and the Emergency Management Directors will be meeting at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel November 15-16. If you

Holiday Inn Airport FULL

6111 Fleur Dr. Rates: \$65/single - \$75/double Phone: 800-248-4013 or 515-287-2400 **Wingate Inn**

6800 Fleur Dr.

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Heartland Inn Airport

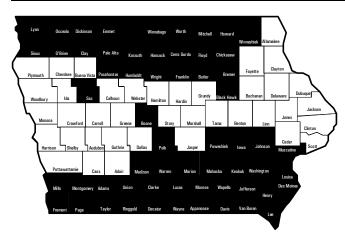
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This magazine features information pertaining to the conference. If you have further questions please visit ISAC's website at <u>www.iowacounties.org</u> with up to date information on the conference. Look forward to seeing all of you there!

Topics Detailed In September Issue of The Iowa County

Parking Arrangements Room Lottery President's Reception/ISAC Dance Exhibit Space Seminar Topics Conference Agenda Conference Registration

counties in the spotlight



Boone County has been working on rewriting their Health and Sanitation Ordinance to better address the growing number of homes in the county and their septic needs, the encroachment of hog confinements, the regulation of salvage yards and their relationship to appliance handling, and the enforcement of nuisance and health complaints. The ordinance has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Health and will now be reviewed at a public hearing with the Board of Supervisors. The County Planning and Development/Health Sanitation Department existed with only one person three years ago, but has since seen the addition of two more employees. This has allowed many improvements in the implementation and enforcement of state and county codes.

(Submitted by Boone County Sanitation Department)

Governor Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson, along with the Iowa Empowerment Board, announced that 58 community partnerships representing all 99 counties were awarded Community Empowerment School Ready Grants totaling \$15.6 million and Community Empowerment Early Childhood Grants totaling \$6.2 million. The grants will be used to provide preschool services, home visitation and parent support services to families with children age birth through five. School Ready grants are state dollars appropriated to the Department of Education and Early Childhood grants are federal dollars appropriated to the Department of Human Services.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary, Ann M. Veneman declared 56 Iowa counties eligible for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency farm loans. The primary designated counties are Osceola, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Winnebago, Howard, Floyd, Keokuk, Clarke, Lucas, Monroe, Wapello, Jefferson, Henry, Louisa, Des Moines, Page, Taylor, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, Appanoose, Davis, Van Buren and Lee. Low-interest emergency loans from FSA are also available to family farmers in counties contiguous to the primary designated counties. These contiguous counties include Adams, Bremer, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clay, Franklin, Fremont, Hancock, Humboldt, Iowa, Johnson, Lyon, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Mills, Mitchell, Montgomery, Muscatine, O'Brien, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Poweshiek, Sioux, Union, Warren, Washington, Winneshiek, Worth, and Wright counties. Interested farmers and business operators dependent on agriculture should contact their local FSA office for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures.

On July 12, 2001, the National Weather Service approved **Polk County** as a Storm Ready Community. Polk County will hold the distinction of being the first county in Iowa to achieve this designation. The intent of the StormReady program is to develop formal plans for hazardous weather operations and create public awareness of local severe weather threats. The accreditation required participation and support from all of the municipalities in Polk County. The official ceremony to present the accreditation took place September 11, 2001 as part of the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting.

Chuck Bettin, **Sac County** E911 Coordinator and Sanitarian, was seriously injured August 4 while he was practicing takeoffs and landings in the ultralight aircraft which he had recently purchased and taken up numerous times. A mechanical failure caused the plane to crash in a pasture two miles north of Lake View. The doctors expect a full recovery with therapy and hope he will be walking in six months. Chuck is currently resting in a local hospital until some of the swelling in his leg and ankle subsides. From there he will return to the University of Iowa Hospital for more surgery. Get-well wishes can be sent to his home address: 229 Broughton, Lake View, IA 51450.

(Taken from The Lake View Resort, August 22 and Jim Dowling, Sac County Auditor)

Ramona Williams, **Black Hawk County** Recorder from 1958-1990 and ISAC President from 1969-1970, died August 24, 2001 from cancer at the age of 82. Patricia Sass, Black Hawk County Recorder said, "I have known Ramona for many years. She and I had coffee every morning before she retired. We also had lunch quite often until she was no longer able to go. Ramona had many friends in the workplace and was respected by all."

(Taken from the Waterloo Courier, August 31 and Patricia Sass, Black Hawk County Recorder)

New County Officials

Eileen Monson - Audubon County Assessor (position formerly held by Loretta Campbell)

Correction

Ruan Securities - Fax number 515-247-2025

Submit information for the "Counties in the Spotlight" to dobrecht@iowacounties.org or fax to (515) 244-6397.

around the statehouse

Approach Towards Rural Life

"Fortunate too is the man who has come to know the gods of the countryside." - Virgil

"I'll fight him for nothing if the price is right." - Marlon Starling, welterweight boxer

In some long past class that we took in political science or philosophy, a teacher scrawled on the blackboard the term "social contract." If we were awake, we took a note or two about this term. Although the sharper political scientists and philosophers who read this magazine may take issue with the definitions used here, the term generally refers to an understanding that our society should reach agreements about how we are organized in order to ensure order, safety, and justice.

"The Storehouse Social Contract"

The reference to the social contract was made by the recent Rural Summit conference's keynote speaker, Karl Stauber. Mr. Stauber is a former USDA official and is currently president of the Northwest Area Foundation. The Northwest Area Foundation was founded in 1934 by the son and heir of James J. Hill, founder and president of the Great Northern Railway. The foundation, headquartered in Saint Paul, MN, was meant to benefit the populations of the eight states served by the Great Northern: Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

Stauber's remarks were thoughtful and controversial for some. His comment about the social contract was in the context of the contemporary relationship between rural and urban America. He said that there is no longer a social contract between rural America and the rest of the increasingly suburban nation. Such an arrangement has been made for over a century. What emerged, after the rise of industrial America and the end of the frontier, around 1890, was what Stauber referred to as "the storehouse social contract." The quid pro quo would be that rural America would supply foodstuffs (grain and meat) and fiber (primarily cotton and wool) for the growing industrial economy of the cities. In return, urban America would ensure rural areas the infrastructure with which to be connected with the rest of the nation. Rail connections, telegraph and later telephone connections would be guaranteed to the most remote areas. ("Remote" from the urban point of view. I am reminded of the television interview during the late 1980s with veteran CBS News reporter Eric Severeid. He was asked, after he related that he was born and raised near a small town in North Dakota, whether that was "the middle of nowhere." Rather than showing irritation at what must have seemed a rude remark, Severeid responded, "No, but you could see it from there.")

Stauber said, his rural-urban arrangement of the late 19^{th} Century ground to a halt in the late 70s and early 80s with the deregulation of transport services, which had guaranteed service

By: Robert Mulqueen ISAC Public Policy Analyst

to rural areas. No more. By that time it was apparent that the U.S. had gone through nearly a century of urban dominance and had evolved into one of suburban dominance. By the 2000 census it came to pass that of the 435 Congressional districts in the



U.S. House of Representatives, 220 of them are suburban. The shrinking of rural America and, for that matter, rural Iowa, is apparent to anyone who reads the newspaper. Technology has led to an increase in the amount of land or the number of live-stock worked by a farmer, farm family or farm manager. At the same time, the steel plow, the tractor, agricultural chemicals, and now, genetic manipulation, have resulted in a decrease in the number of people working the land, and of the number of people who bring them goods and services in small towns. The recessions of the '50s and the '80s did little to help rural America either.

Rural Development's Purpose

Mr. Stauber stated that rural development's purpose is to; 1) reduce poverty, 2) stabilize the middle class, and 3) protect and enhance the natural environment. This view led the Northwest Area Foundation, in 1998, to redefine their mission. No longer is this organization making grants to groups for a variety of "greater good" purposes in the eight states in which the Foundation works. They are concentrating on community based projects dwelling on poverty in rural communities and building community sustainability by encouraging a community's economy and social structure to be able to be autonomous, ...to be its own engine of continuity and growth. The keynote address concluded with Stauber's suggestions on changes in thinking and approach toward rural life and rural revitalization.

•We should not allow ourselves to be caught up in an "us vs. them" mentality. Urban interests are not the enemy of rural interests.

•Social and human capital is every bit as important as financial capital.

•We must decommodify America. Being the low cost producer is not a sustainable strategy and not a wise course.

•We should invest in places, not in sectors. Communities of all types must take precedence.

•We must welcome those who we regard as "outsiders," whether they be immigrants from across the ocean, across the border, or across the nation.

Karl Stauber also suggested that local governments be regionalized. This is a topic that others have suggested and which has been an irritant to county officials. The other high points of his comments are worthy of considerable thought and exchange of views all by themselves. Perhaps we could bring Mr. Stauber back from St. Paul to discuss some of his comments in detail.

legal briefs

Removing Appointees

Conference Papers: At this year's just-completed International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) conference, city and county attorneys presented papers based on their real-world experiences tackling local government issues. These papers, which usually run 10-15 pages, provide lots of useful information. If you want free papers on any of the following topics, call Tammy at the ISAC office: Applicability of ADA to Local Zoning Decisions; Takings; National Incentives for Local Smart Growth; Government Liability for Operating a Website; E-Mail Policies for Local Governments; Protecting Employees From Workplace Violence; The Legal Aspects of Sexual Harassment; Cellular Tower Zoning; Update of Section 1983 Litigation.

Removing Board Appointees: In August, the Hancock County Board of Supervisors took the very unusual step of removing two members of the County Conservation Board in the middle of their five-year terms. The removals followed the resignations of several other Conservation Board members.

According to county documents, the removed Conservation Board members had engaged in "multiple purposeful law violations," including: going into closed sessions without a vote and without invoking a legal reason for the closed sessions; holding closed sessions without taking minutes or recording the sessions; conducting board business at informal sessions held before and after the actual board meetings; and discussing and voting on matters not listed on the posted agendas.

Under Iowa Code section 350.2, conservation board members can be removed in cases of malfeasance, nonfeasance, disability or failure to participate in board activities..." Removed board members must be given an opportunity for a hearing. These are serious charges, and the Board of Supervisors and relatively new County Attorney Karen Kaufman should be commended for this decisive action.

There is certainly no reason to think that Hancock County is unique. The Hancock County situation should cause all county supervisors and county auditors to ask themselves, "How closely is our conservation board following the law?"

Emergency Responses: In December 2000, I discussed the "emergency response" immunity statute, Iowa Code 670.4(11). That statute immunizes counties and cities from liability for claims "arising out of an act or omission in connection with an emergency response." There has now been another decision interpreting this statute.

In Adams v. City of Des Moines, 629 N.W.2d 367 (Iowa 2001), Danny Adams was operating a crane at a roofing project at a Des Moines house. The boom on his truck came into contact with a high voltage wire, setting fire to the house. After firefighters extinguished the fire, they told Adams to move the truck. Adams mistakenly thought that the power had been turned off. When he grabbed the door of the truck,

By: David Vestal ISAC Deputy Director

he was thrown to the ground by a jolt of electricity. Adams sued the city of Des Moines for his injuries. The city moved for summary judgment, citing the emergency response exception. The district court granted the motion for summary judgment. On appeal, the Iowa Supreme Court affirmed.



Adams argued that the emergency was over before the firefighter ordered him to move his truck. The Court focused not on the emergency, but the response. It said that even if the emergency was over, the firefighter's action was clearly done "in connection with an emergency response."

According to the Court, the language in Iowa Code section 670.4(11) "does not limit immunity to actions taken contemporaneously with the emergency; it immunizes actions that are part of the emergency response." The Court did caution that this decision does not mean that this statute will automatically immunize city firefighters for any post-emergency action, "no matter how remote." But the Court said that in this case, several factors weighed in favor of immunity, including that the conduct occurred shortly after the fire was extinguished while the firefighters remained at the house.

Adams is further proof that the Iowa Supreme Court is willing to read the broad language in Iowa Code section 670.4(11) as conveying a legislative intent to cover a wide range of situations.

Churches and Zoning: Also in December 2000 I wrote about a new federal law, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA). In a nutshell, the new law allows churches to circumvent county zoning and land use ordinances. It requires that local governments employ a compelling interest/least restrictive means test when dealing with faith-based groups and practices. So a county can now be sued in federal court over zoning decisions that the county makes. And if the county loses, the county must pay the attorney's fees of its opponent.

I predicted that this law would quickly generate a lot of heartache for local governments. My prediction is coming true. Churches nationwide are using RLUIPA as a powerful weapon in a wide range of zoning disputes. There have been at least 17 lawsuits filed so far. And in many other cases, churches have gotten what they wanted simply by threatening to sue under this law. In one recent case, a federal court issued a preliminary injunction barring the town of New Milford, CT. from stopping regular prayer meetings a couple has been hosting in their suburban home with as many as 75 people attending.

Parting Ponderable: This Midwestern university and perennial sports powerhouse adopted its current nickname in 1900, replacing earlier nicknames such as "Golden Knights," "Antelopes," and "Bugeaters." Name the university. The answer is on page 12.

health check

Catch People Doing Something Right!

When you were a child, how did you react when your mom or dad told you that you had done a good job? Teachers spend a lot of time giving out rewards such as stickers, privileges, and treats because it produces positive feelings in a child and the desired positive behavior. When we have a job evaluation, we want to know that we are doing a good job.

Things do not change that much from childhood to adulthood. We all still like to hear that we are doing a good job. It is amazing that even the smallest recognition can add a very positive dynamic to your workplace. I want to give you a few ideas on how to give recognition in your workplace.

Kudos – This is something that we do here in the ISAC office. Each time we have a staff meeting, kudos are on the agenda. This is a time when we can thank our co–workers for helping us out or for recognizing a job well done. We also have a written certificate that can be given. (I have kept everyone I have received.)

Thank You Cards – If you don't want to give a thank you in a formal way such as a staff meeting, have them available and encourage employees to give them on a personal basis. Just dropping a thank you note off at someone's desk showing appreciation can really perk up a day. Electronic cards are also very nice and very easy to accomplish.

Years of Service Certificates - For many years,

By: Sandy Longfellow ISAC Benefits Administrative Assistant



ISAC has given years of service certificates during the Spring Conference. The wonderful comments of appreciation that filter back to me are always amazing. Employees love to be recognized for the number of years they serve.

Food – It seems like everyone enjoys a food treat! There are many different ways to accomplish this one. You could reward someone with lunch. If a department or section does a good job you could bring snacks for them, healthy of course. Sometimes if a department is under a lot of pressure, such as during elections, recognizing that by giving them bagels in the morning is very welcome.

Parking Spaces – Recognizing exceptional work by designating a close parking space can be a great honor for an employee.

Time off – Sometimes a job well done is so important that a complimentary day off is an appropriate recognition.

Use your imagination – There are many, many ways to show you appreciate your co-workers and those you supervise. As mentioned in a book called *Priceless Motiva-tion*, "People are the lifeblood of your business. By valuing and recognizing them, you harness the power of motivation."

technology center

Opening Tricky Files

Q: Sometimes I am unable to open a file. The extensions vary but here are a couple examples of files that I cannot open: txt, .xls, .tif, or .jpg. Any suggestions?

A: The reason you may be unable to open these files, is that you do not have the program associated with them loaded onto your computer. In an ideal world there would be one universal program that could open anything, however, that is not reality. The best programs to open the files are the programs that they were originally created in. Microsoft Access is .mdb, Microsoft Word is .doc and so on. However, files can be opened by other programs, though the formatting may be not be true to the original. One program that can easily open the text or .txt files is Notepad. It comes in your Windows software. The Internet browser that is loaded on your computer can open picture files such as .jpg or .tif files. You can open Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint with free reader/viewer programs. You can download these directly from ISAC's website: *http://www.iowacounties.org/Viewers.htm.*

You can try to open a file with a program by going to

By: Tammy Norman ISAC Technical Adminstrative Assistant



My Computer, View, File Options, and select File Types. This will allow you to select a program that you can use to try

and open the file. Once you have completed these steps and find a program that works, you can assign it to automatically open all files with that extension, allowing you to forgo this procedure the next time. Ultimately, there may be situations in which only the actual program itself can open the file. If all else fails, see if the originator can save it in a file type that you can open.

Website Note: Remember that you can find meeting information and registration forms by going to ISAC's website and selecting *Calendar of Events*. Here you can find links to download and print off the actual meeting registration forms. Please keep your questions and comments coming in, I do enjoy hearing from you. Until next month, keep clicking!

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case management

DHS Rescinds Rule To Cut 3% From Case Management Rates

By: Deborah Westvold

ISAC Case Management Director

Thanks to everyone who wrote comments regarding the inclusion of case management in the reduction in rates for non-institutional medical assistance providers. The letter dated August 28, 2001, from Cathy Anderson, Acting Administrator of



the Division of Medical Services states in part: "Since promulgating rules related to provider reimbursement, the Department has received several comments regarding the reduction for TCM. Based upon these concerns and upon careful internal review of the applicability of the 3% reduction to TCM providers, the Department has concluded that this reduction should not apply to this provider category."

What happens next? It will take a while for Consultec and MBC to make the necessary changes to the TCM rates to reflect this change. In the near future, Consultec will be sending letters reflecting the new rates and information on how they plan to handle the adjustments. Don't worry, Consultec does plan to make the adjustments for the difference fairly soon. Hopefully, you'll get a letter with the new rates before you need to send your billings for October services. Until then, continue to bill at the rate that Consultec has given you.

CCMS Annual Conference: "Sink" Or Swim

By: Dan Vonnahme

ISAC Case Management Specialist

That huge, collective sigh of relief you heard emanating from Des Moines a few weeks ago was the result of the conclusion of the 9th Annual CCMS Case Management Conference. Entitled "Plunging Ahead ...Unclogging the System." The

theme reflected an approach of collaborative creativity in serving persons with disabilities. The wonderful involvement of the participants, the presenters, the CCMS Training Committee, and others too numerous to mention left us feeling flushed with success (pun intended)!

Whenever CCMS staff does training on goal writing, we talk about identifying motivating factors to help achieve goals. When it comes to putting on an annual, statewide conference, our motivation is clear — FEAR! What if we have another invasion by the Bush People? (George W., you owe us one!) What if all the Case Managers throughout the state have all their cases blow up simultaneously and nobody is able to attend? What if someone actually sees me as I race through the hotel lobby wearing a bowling shirt and a black and gold derby while carrying a step-ladder with a toilet seat attached to it? (These items were props for the Wednesday Reception - honest!) What if...? Here are some of the things we did to alleviate those 1001 fears:

1. Bring in the Big Guns -

When it comes to Targeted Case Management (TCM), they don't come much bigger than Martha Hodge and Dr. Wally Kisthardt. Both are pioneers in the field of TCM and are nationally known for their innovative insights.



How big was that fish? Martha Hodge makes a point about recovery skills.

When we heard that Martha was slated for retirement this year, we felt a curtain call was in order after the tremendous feedback she had received several years ago. Wally Kisthardt continues to be the traveling minstrel for TCM. His message highlights the hope, joy, and humor that our work **can** contain (and **must** contain) if we are to survive the challenge of change. In addition, Mark Darby's closing keynote "You Can't Walk on Water in Lead Shoes" focused on how our perceptions can affect the way we approach our work and our interactions with co-workers and the people we serve.

2. Hit the Hot Topics - Thanks to ongoing input from CCMS member agencies, the CCMS Training Committee, and the Training Needs Assessments completed at the last conference, we were able to offer 23 breakout sessions in five different training tracks (Administration, Supervision, MR/DD, CMI, and General). Ethics, Adult Rehabilitation Option, the Recovery Movement in Iowa, Autism, Transition, Legal Issues, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome were just a sampling of topics covered. Special thanks goes out to all the dedicated presenters. Your willingness to share your expertise and insight is greatly appreciated and is extremely helpful in expanding the knowledge base of those in the field.

3. Have Some Fun - We all work very hard to bring quality services to our customers. An important part of creativity is allowing yourself the "luxury" of having some fun. And the attendees at this conference seem to realize this. Our reception on Wednesday was well attended and allowed people the chance to unwind a bit after a busy day of learning. I also witnessed a great deal of natural networking that was occurring - people from dif-



Carolyn Edgar contemplates a pro golf career after sinking a long putt.

ferent agencies getting together in the evenings. By connecting with others throughout the state, the collective Targeted Case Management knowledge pool gets larger and deeper. So thanks again to everyone for helping make this year's conference a success. And how do we feel after such an undertaking? I guess the one word that comes to mind is "Drained"...I hope to see you again next year.

fiscal facts

Proposed Equalization Results

On August 15, the Iowa Department of Revenue and Finance issued tentative adjustments to assessed property values by classes of property, known as *assessment equalization adjustments*. These equalization adjustments are based on assessment year 2001 for fiscal year payable 2002/2003. The Department is required by Iowa law to "equalize" property assessments every two (odd) years to ensure that each class of property in each assessing jurisdiction is assessed at the statutory level of actual value. The intent of this is to create an equitable relationship among the assessments for the various classes of properties.

Assessment equalization is not the same as assessment of property that is performed by Iowa's 99 county assessors and eight city assessors every two (odd) years on individual properties within their assessing jurisdiction. Assessment equalization adjustment applies to the aggregate valuation of entire classes of property (i.e.: residential, commercial, agricultural) and occurs after the assessor's revaluation of individual properties. If the county or city assessors' reported assessed valuations, by class of property, are more than 5% above or below those determined by the Department of Revenue, then the Department is required to order a percentage adjustment in the assessing jurisdictions' valuation for that class of property in order to bring it to actual value. The Department's determination for actual aggregate valuation is based upon; (1) an assessment/sales ratio study, (2) appraisals and investigations made by the Department's Property Tax Section appraisal staff, and (3) for agricultural realty, a study of each county's actual productivity.

State equalization and local assessor valuation of property do not, by themselves, increase property taxes since they affect only property valuation, not the level of property taxes due. However, they can result in a shifting of the property tax burden among classes of property or individual properties, respectively.

Authorized county, city, and assessing jurisdiction officials may request a hearing with the Department of Revenue to appeal the tentative equalization adjustments every odd year. Four counties appealed by the deadline of August 27. Department equalization hearings were held during the month of September. Final state equalization orders will be released on October 1. The assessing jurisdictions have 10 days thereafter (until October 10) to apply for alternative methods of implementing the equalization orders. Notice of equalization orders will be published by the county auditor in the local newspaper by October 15. Taxpayers may protest the *application* of final equalization orders to the local Board of Review from October 16 to October 25.

By: Cris Plocher ISAC Fiscal/ Policy Analyst

Overall in the state, the tentative equalization adjustment results are shown below by property class in relation to assessing jurisdictions' experiences:



Agricultural	Residential	Commercial
30 Increases	41 Increases	33 Increases
68 No Adjustments	66 No Adjustments	72 No Adjustments
9 Decreases	0 Decreases	2 Decreases

Source: Iowa Department of Revenue and Finance

Total impact in the state from local assessor revaluation *and* state equalization actions creates the following increases in statewide 2001 values (for fiscal year payable 2002/ 2003), by property class:

Property Class	Assessor Revaluation	Equalization	Total Impact
Agricultural	0.1%	1.5%	1.6%
Residential	6.1%	4.1%	10.2%
Commercial	3.9%	2.5%	6.4%

Source: Iowa Department of Revenue and Finance

To view the 2001 results of local assessor revaluations and the tentative equalization adjustments for each county, go to the ISAC's website at http:// www.iowacounties.org, then select Research/Surveys where you will find 2001 Valuation Adjustments. For other questions contact the ISAC office.

It Is Quiz Time

Here are some frequently asked questions. Can you identify who *commonly* provides these services?

1. I can't afford my mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment anymore, who can help me determine whether I am eligible for county funding assistance?

County Central Point of Coordination (CPC) Administrator

2. I've got a three day eviction notice, who can you help me pay my rent?

General (Relief) Assistance Director (CPC is also involved with funding eligibility and assistance)

3. Who do I notify of illegal garbage dumping on the side of the road (outside the city)?

County Sheriff's Office and/or County Engineer Dept.

4. How do I get information on registration and title of motor vehicles and handicap permits?

County Treasurer's Office

5. Who can help me with questions pertaining to real estate mapping?

County Assessor's Office or County Auditor's Office

The lowa County

October 2001

profiles

CORNER

Darwin Hall put in time as the Guthrie Auditor 23 years to Darwin Hall put in his time as the Guthrie Co. Auditor, 23 years to be exact. He said he enjoyed serving the public with other county officials while in office. He is now working as a cashier for his



daughter's auction service and working for Guthrie livestock on special cattle sales. In his spare time Darwin enjoys walking, going to the casino, horse racing, and going to the grandchildren's ballgames and other sports. Besides being a member of ISAC Alumni, Darwin is a member of the American Legion. His family members include his wife Shirley, three children, seven grandchildren and one great grandson.

Jack Foresman

Jack Foresman went from being a Cherokee Co. Supervisor for 18 years to being an associate broker for Northwest Realty in Cherokee. He is also still farming with his two sons but likes to say he



is "semi-retired." Jack enjoyed working with people while in office. His hopes for ISAC are "trying to bring elected county officials, state elected officials and federal elected officials closer together with the tax paying public." Jack's hobbies are fishing, golfing and going to ISAC meetings for fellowship and discussion of county issues. His wife currently manages their C-store in Quimby, Iowa.

For information on becoming an ISAC Alumni member contact Jerri by phone at 515-244-7181 or by email at jnoboa@iowacounties.org. There are currently 52 ISAC Alumni members. Check out the new Alumni Association link on the ISAC website at www.iowacounties.org under "About ISAC."

CORNER

ALUMN

Join The ISAC Alumni Association

If you are retiring at the end of the year from county government, why not come and sign up to join the ISAC Alumni Association! The Alumni Association will have a registration table near the ISAC registration area during the ISAC Fall School.

Anyone who is a former elected or appointed county employee is eligible to join. The dues are \$20 per year. For that, you will receive a subscription to The Iowa County magazine and an invitation to the ISAC Schools (free registration and same sleeping room rate as other attendees).

November Alumni Meeting

The Alumni Association will have a luncheon meeting during the ISAC Fall School. Lunch will be dutch treat and a business meeting will follow. Remember, no registration is required to attend the ISAC fall school, it is part of your alumni dues. The lunch/meeting will be noon on Thursday, November 15 at the Holiday Inn Airport in the Crystal Tree. If you are planning to attend the luncheon, and/or would like to be a greeter, collect tickets or help at ISAC registration desk, call Jerri Noboa at 515-244-7181 or email her at jnoboa@iowacounties.org.

Meet Your Board Members

Michael Riepe ISAC Past President

Michael Riepe has served on the ISAC Board for nearly a decade and currently holds the position of Past President. He admits "we don't always agree, but we strive hard to maintain lines of communication,



common understanding and seek workable solutions and positive results through consensus building." Michael has been the Henry County Attorney for 22 1/2 years. His past experiences include having his own practice in Mt. Pleasant for 5 years and serving with the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve for 24 years (he retired in 1992 with the rank of Captain).

In Michael's spare time he enjoys chorale music, gardening, traveling, sports, community theater and the log village at Midwest Old Thresher's Reunion in Mt. Pleasant. His family includes wife Heidi, piano teacher; son Sam, computer tech in Austin, TX; son Ben, elementary education teacher in Denver, CO; and daughter Kate, secondary education teacher in Dubuque, IA. He said, "I hope that people will continue to be willing to take time out from their jobs and families to participate in and provide leadership to ISAC's affiliates and the ISAC Board." Michael will be finishing his term with the ISAC board soon and wishes to thank the wide variety of public officials from across the state and staff for their friendship, dedication and hard work.

ISAC brief

ISAC Brainstorms With Other Associations

On August 21, the members of the ISAC staff got a glimpse of what life is like for other local government associations. The entire ISAC staff spent the afternoon in a work session with the staffs of the Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB).

The meeting was organized to give staff members of the three associations a chance to get acquainted, share information, and learn from each other. There were 15 ISAC employees at the meeting, along with 22 from the League of Cities and 25 from the IASB.

meeting.

ISAC Executive Director Bill

Peterson said that the executive di-

rectors of the three associations

came up with the idea to have the

there was a lot of expertise in these other associations that we could tap

into," said Peterson. "For instance,

it didn't make a lot of sense that the

meeting planners from the three as-

sociations do the same job, but did

not know each other."

"We just decided that



Iowa School Board Association staff puts together a puzzle from ISAC's opening skit.

The afternoon began

with each association making a light-hearted presentation designed to introduce their association. Next, the staff members broke into small groups according to occupation to talk about the particular challenges they faced. Finally, the staff members met in small groups to discuss workplace trends and how they might affect the respective associations.

The meeting was held at

Sec Taylor Stadium in Des Moines. Following the afternoon's work, the three staffs watched Bill Peterson throw out the first pitch before the evening's Iowa Cubs baseball game. They then

first.



Cubs baseball game. They then enjoyed a buffet dinner and settled into watch the I-Cubs defeat the Nashville Sounds. A follow–up meeting is being planned for later this year.

The Iowa League of Cities staff

races to complete their activity

Bill Peterson, ISAC Executive Director, throws out the first pitch at the Iowa Cubs game.

Legal Briefs continued from page 7 Answer: Nebraska

ISAC Implements New Rate Setting Program

The County Rate Information System (CRIS) program has hit the ground running. This is a new 28E organization created by 29 member counties to establish a rate setting process. The purpose of the program is to: 1) negotiate appropriate rates with providers; 2) establish consistent, uniform methods for calculating and reporting providers' actual costs; and 3) standardize service and unit definitions so that meaningful comparisons between providers of like services across the state will be possible.

The 11 member Board is made up of seven county supervisors, three CPC Administrators/County Financial Staff, and one ISAC Board Representative. The county supervisor members are: Benjamin Diewold, Des Moines County; Patrick Gibbs, Scott County; Robert Brownell, Polk County; Dave Mineart, Warren County; Mike Bergan, Winneshiek County; David Vermedahl, Benton County; and Ric Gerard, Iowa County. The CPC Administrator/County Financial Staff members are: Sue Novak, Linn County; Connie Fett, Cedar County; and Linn Adams, Hardin County. The ISAC Board position is currently vacant.

The Board has met twice and already accomplished a great deal. They have approved the Cost Report and Service Information Forms and Instructions for providers to use. The training on the process and the forms will occur the first week of October. The Board has selected Eide Bailly to work with counties and providers to the set the rates and has contracts with ISAC to provide administrative support to the program.

For more information on the County Rate Information System, please visit the ISAC website at www.iowacounties.org.

Raising Funds For Scholarship Program

It is time to raise funds for the ISAC Scholarship Fund and the Recorders have a plan in place. Raffle tickets and cookbooks will be for sale at the ISAC Fall Conference to benefit the ISAC Scholarship program. Tickets for a handmade quilt will sell for \$1 individually or \$5 for a group of four tickets, which

includes one ticket for the \$500 grand prize drawing. The quilt was made by Linda Jacobsen's (Shelby County Recorder) mother-in-law. Linda's daughter Bonnie won an ISAC scholarship in 2000 and having her grandma donate this quilt is a way of contributing back to the scholarship fund.



This quilt will be raffled off at the ISAC Fall Conference to raise funds for the ISAC Scholarship program.

Cookbooks will also be on sale at the ISAC Fall Conference for \$15 a piece. Visit the ISAC Information Booth at the fall conference or approach an ISAC board member or county recorder for raffle tickets or cookbooks.

The lowa County

October 2001



NACo news

Letter From NACo Leadership

Dear County Leader,



Today is a sad day in America. On behalf of the National Association of Counties, we

want to express our grief and anger over the terrorist events of yesterday, and make a request of counties nationwide.

NACo requests that your county board consider **passing a resolution** condemning the cowardly and deadly actions of these terrorists; and supporting the President of the United States, as he works with his national security team to defend against additional attacks, and find the perpetrators to bring them to justice.

As your citizens ask you what they can do to assist in the aftermath of this tragedy, the White House has recommended that **giving blood** could be the single most useful action Americans can take. Blood supplies are always in need of replenishment, and large quantities will be needed to help victims of these senseless acts. Please urge everyone to make this important contribution.

These horrific events have affected all Americans, but it is important that we carry on with the regular activities of our lives. Terrorism cannot be allowed to break the spirit of the American people, and the best way to show these cowards that they have truly failed is for the people of the United States and their counties to stand tall and proud.

NACo salutes your leadership in this time of uncertainty, and thanks you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Javier Gonzales President NACo Larry E. Naake Executive Director NACo

Suggested Resolution Condemning Terrorists Acts of Sept. 11, 2001

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, America was suddenly and brutally attacked by foreign terrorists, and;

Whereas, these terrorists hijacked and destroyed four civilian aircraft, crashing two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third into the Pentagon outside Washington, DC, and the fourth into a field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and;

Whereas, thousands of innocent Americans were killed and injured as a result of these attacks, including the passengers and crew of the four aircraft, workers in the World Trade Center and in the Pentagon, rescue workers, and bystanders, and; Whereas, these cowardly acts were by far the deadliest terrorist attacks ever launched against the United States, and, by targeting symbols of American strength and success, clearly were intended to intimidate our nation and weaken its resolve, and; Whereas, these horrific events have affected all Americans. It is important that we carry on with the regular activities of our lives. Terrorism cannot be allowed to break the spirit of the American people, and the best way to show these cowards that they have truly failed is for the people of the United States and their counties to stand tall and proud,

Therefore be it resolved, that the governing board of ______ County condemns the cowardly and deadly actions of these terrorists, and;

Be it further resolved, that the governing board of ______ County supports the President of the United States, as he works with his national security team to defend against additional attacks, and find the perpetrators to bring them to justice, and;

Be it still further resolved, that the governing board of ______ County recommends to its citizens to support relief efforts by giving blood at the nearest available blood donation center.

Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust

The Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust is a jointly-sponsored program for members of the Iowa State Association of Counties, the League of Iowa Municipalities, and the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

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school agendas

Public Health Nurses

Wingate & Holiday Inn

Tuesday, November 13

5pm-7pm Early Bird Registration (*Holiday Inn*)

Wednesday, November 14

ISAC Registration (Holiday Inn)	
(Meetings at Windgate)	
Workshop – Part I	
"Surviving the Home Care Adventure"	
- Janice Jensen, RN, BSN	
OPEN LUNCH	
Workshop – Part II	
"Surviving the Home Care Adventure"	
- Janice Jensen, RN, BSN	
President's Reception (Holiday Inn)	
ISAC Dance (Holiday Inn)	

Thursday, November 15

7:30am-4pm	ISAC Registration (Holiday Inn)	
7:15am-8:15am	COFFEE & ROLLS W/EXHIBITORS	
	(Holiday Inn)	
8:15am-10:45am	ISAC General Session/Vote of ISAC	
	Priorities (Holiday Inn)	
	- Innovation Awards	
	- Keynote Speaker: Wilson W. Orr	
	- Vote on ISAC Priorities	
10:45am-11am	BREAK	
11am-12:15pm	ISAC Seminars (Holiday Inn)	
12:15pm-1:30pm	OPEN LUNCH	
1:30 pm-4pm	PHN Affiliate Business Meeting	
	(Holiday Inn)	
4pm-5pm	ICE CREAM SOCIAL W/EXHIBITORS	
5pm	Raffle Drawing (Holiday Inn Courtyard)	

Emergency Management Directors

Four Points Sheraton & STARC Armory

Tuesday, November 13

5pm-7pm	Early Bird Registration	(Holiday Inn)
Jpm-/pm	Early Driu Registration	(11011000 mm)

Wednesday, November 14

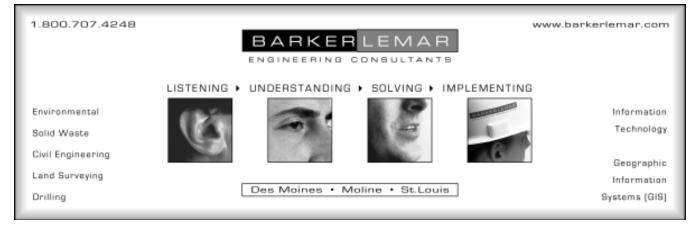
8am-4:30pm	ISAC Registration (Holiday Inn)
8am-2pm	ISAC Registration (Four Points Sheraton)
	(Meeting at STARC Armory, Johnston)
8:30am-Noon	Resource Management Class
Noon-1pm	LUNCH @ STARC Armory
1pm-4:30pm	Resource Management Class (continued)
8pm-9pm	President's Reception (Holiday Inn)
9pm-Midnight	ISAC Dance (Holiday Inn)

Thursday, November 15

7:30am-4pm	ISAC Registration (Holiday Inn)	
7:15am-8:15am	COFFEE & ROLLS W/EXHIBITORS	
	(Holiday Inn)	
8:15am-10:45am	ISAC General Session/Vote of ISAC	
	Priorities (Holiday Inn)	
	- Innovation Awards, Keynote Speaker:	
	Wilson W. Orr, Vote on ISAC Priorities	
10:45am-11am	BREAK	
11am-12:15pm	ISAC Seminars (Holiday Inn)	
12:15pm-1:30pm	OPEN LUNCH	
	(Meeting at the Four Points Sheraton)	
1:30pm-4pm	IEMA Business Meeting	
4pm-5pm	ICE CREAM SOCIAL W/EXHIBITORS	
5pm	Raffle Drawings (Holiday Inn Courtyard)	
7pm	Affiliate dinner – Crimmins Cattle Co.	

Friday, November 168am-11amISAC Registration (Holiday Inn)

ouiii i i uiii	isite Registration (notically nut)
	(Meetings at Four Points Sheraton)
9am-10am	Iowa Disaster Human Resources Council
	& Lori Morrisey
10am-11am	Iowa Emergency Management Division
	& Ellen Gordon



The Iowa County

October 2001

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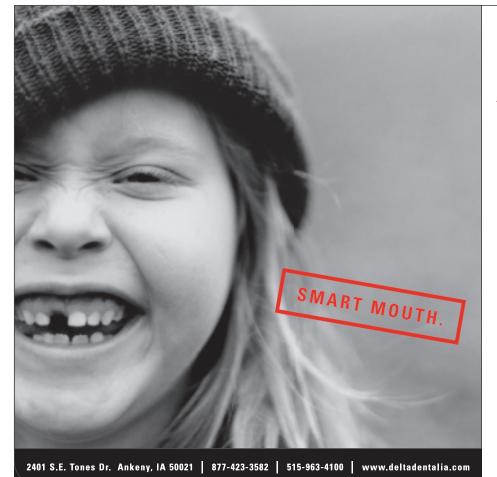
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calendar



OCTOBER

4 Steering Committee Meetings (Track A) - Holiday Inn Airport, DM (Environment & Public Health, Public Safety, Tax & Finance, Transportation)

5 Steering Committee Meetings (Track B) - Holiday Inn Airport, DM (County Administration & Organization, Human Services, Land Use & Rural Affairs)

- 8-10 Assessors' Annual Conference -Marriott, West Des Moines
- 9 CCMS Training Committee ISAC Office
- 10 CCMS Northwest Support Group -
- Season's Center for MH, Spencer
- 16 CCMS Administrators Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 17-18 CCMS Fundamentals Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 25-26 ISAC Board of Directors Glen Oaks Club, West DM
 26 CCMS West Support -Ice House Restaurant & Lounge, Clarinda

NOVEMBER

- 1
 CCMS Support Staff -Story County Conservation Center, Ames

 11-14
 County Attorney's Fall Training Conference
- Iowa City 14-16 ISAC Fall School - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 29 District V Winter Meeting Greenbrier, Ottumwa

DECEMBER

2-5 Sheriffs & Deputies Winter School -Embassy Suites, DM

- 5 District I Winter Meeting Location TBA
- 6 District II Winter Meeting Elks Lodge, Charles City
- 7 ISAC Annual Drainage Seminar -
- Best Western Starlite Village, Fort Dodge
- 11-13 Engineers Annual Conference Scheman Center, Ames
- 14 ISAC Board of Directors Location TBA

JANUARY 2002

- 22 Statewide Supervisors' Meeting -Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 23-24 ISAC University Hotel Fort Des Moines, DM

MARCH 2002

- 1-5 NACo Legislative Conference Washington, DC
- 20-22 ISAC Spring School Holiday Inn Airport, DM

JULY 2002

12-16 NACo Annual Conference - New Orleans

If you have any questions about the meetings listed above, please contact Jerri at (515) 244-7181 or by email at jnoboa@iowacounties.org.

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