

The Iowa County



Nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 ISAC Excellence in Action Awards!



March 2015

- Excellence in Action Nomination Form
- Powers of the Local Board of Health
- Cell Tower Citing



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The Iowa County

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ISAC's Mission:

To promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

ISAC's Vision:

To be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

Powers of the Local Boards of Health

In 1967, Chapter 137 of the Code of Iowa marked the beginning of a new era for public health in Iowa. Each county was required to establish a five member local board of health, with one member being a licensed physician in the state of Iowa. The county board of supervisor members would appoint members to the local board. The law provided cities with population greater than 25,000 with the option to establish a city board of health. Counties and cities could form district boards of health. There are 99 local boards of health, two city boards (Ottumwa and Council Bluffs), and a district board of health (Siouxland).

The legal responsibilities and duties of the local board of health are established in Iowa Code and are implemented through Iowa Administrative Code. Duties are directed by Iowa Code Chapter 137 and Iowa Administrative Code 641.77, but these are not the only areas of code and administrative code that describe responsibilities and duties of the local board of health. Boards also have to abide by Iowa Code Chapter 80 and 22 and open records guidelines. Local boards of health are also responsible for requirements of Iowa Code §351 “Dogs and Other Animals,” Iowa Administrative Code §21.61 “Dead Animal Disposal” and Iowa Administrative Code §567.68 “Commercial Septic Tank Cleaners.”

The local board of health is held responsible for public health in its jurisdiction. It supports local public health vision, mission, and advocacy and encourages community involvement in setting public health priorities. The board of health oversees utilization of the Local Public Health Services Contract. The board also enforces state health laws and rules and lawful orders of the state department. Local boards also designate an agency to assure compliance with Iowa Public Health Standards in the jurisdiction or county. The Iowa Department of Public Health contracts with local boards of health to assure the delivery of the core public health functions of policy, assurance and assessment are being carried out.

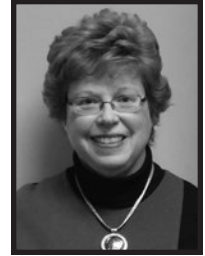
A primary duty of the board is to create reasonable rules and regulations that are not inconsistent with state or federal laws, the rules of the state board, or state health standards. The first priority of the board is the protection and prevention, as well as overall improvement of public health practices.

Additional powers of the local boards of health include:

- May provide population based and personal health services as may be deemed necessary for the promo-

By: Kathy Babcock, BSN

Chickasaw County Public Health,
ISAC Board of Directors



tion and protection of the health of the public.

- Provide environmental health services as may be deemed necessary for the protection and improvement of the public health.
- May engage in joint operations and contract with colleges and universities, the state department, other public, private and nonprofit agencies, and individuals.
- The board of health is in charge of setting fees for personal and public health services. No person shall be denied necessary services within the limits of available resources because of inability to pay the cost of such services.
- The board also enforces appropriate public health ordinances by agreement with board of supervisors or councils. Some local health boards issue licenses and permits and charge reasonable fees in relation to the construction or operation of nonpublic water supplies or private sewage disposal systems.

Finally, local boards of health commonly have oversight for programming, including, but not limited to, the grants funding to counties program, lead poisoning prevention, public health nuisances, food establishment inspections, swimming pool, tanning bed and spa inspections, and time of transfer (real estate) inspections for on-site waste water systems.

The Iowa Department of Public Health provides general supervisions of the state’s public health. The department and local boards of health have both a contractual and statutory relationship. Iowa law authorizes local boards of health and defines their responsibilities. The department provides funding to local boards of health through a variety of contractual agreements; these agreements often stipulate reporting requirements. Local boards of health are autonomous in some areas, as Iowa is a home rule state. There are times, though, when the local board will seek state approval for some activities. Ultimately, local boards of health are responsible to their constituents in matters of public health.

Serving on the local board of health is an honorable and noteworthy task. The success of public health in meeting the challenges of the new era depends on capable and dedicated leadership by the local boards of health. This is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly as the local board is ultimately responsible for the citizens in its local jurisdiction.

Cell Tower Applications

By: Gary Taylor

Iowa State University



U.S. Supreme Court decision impacts local administration of cell tower applications

The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (FTA) injected federal law into local control over the siting of wireless facilities (cell towers). The FTA requires, among other things, that a local board or commission's denial of an application for a wireless facility "shall be in writing and supported by substantial evidence contained in a written record." This has come to be known as the "in writing" requirement. Since 1996 federal courts have come to different conclusions about what local boards and commissions must do to satisfy this requirement. Last year the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to take the case of *T-Mobile South v. City of Roswell* to clear up some of the confusion caused by the disagreements among the lower courts. T-Mobile South applied to build a 108-foot cell tower in a residential neighborhood in Roswell, Georgia. The tower was to look like a pine tree, branches and all, though it would have stood at least 20 feet taller than surrounding trees. The city's zoning department recommended approval subject to several conditions. At the city council's public hearing four council members expressed concerns about the tower, and a motion to deny the application passed unanimously. Two days later, the city sent T-Mobile a denial letter. The letter did not provide reasons, but did explain how to obtain the minutes from the hearing. At that time, only "brief minutes" were available; the city council did not formally approve detailed minutes recounting the council members' statements until its next meeting, 26 days later. T-Mobile filed suit, won in District Court, lost in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court issued its decision on January 14. The following three points important to local governments result from the Supreme Court decision:

1. *Local government must provide written reasons for denying a cell tower application.* The Court determined that "supported by substantial evidence contained in a written record" imposes upon local governments a requirement to provide written reasons when they deny cell tower applications. The Court explained that it would be extremely difficult for courts to review local decisions on cell towers if localities did not state their reasoning in writing. The Court went on to stress, however, that "these reasons need not be elaborate or even sophisticated, but rather... simply clear enough to enable judicial review." Although not stated by the Court, it remains important that local boards and commissions base their decisions on the criteria found in the local ordinance when approving/denying cell tower applications.

2. *The denial and written reasons do not need to be in the same document; i.e., separate detailed minutes satisfy this requirement.* Local governments are not required to provide their reasons in the denial notice itself, but may state those reasons in some other written record. The practice in many communities is to let detailed minutes (or even a verbatim transcript) of hearings stand as the "written record" of board and commission decisions. The Court held that this practice satisfies the "in writing" requirement of the FTA. At the same time the Court gave advice to local governments that "if the locality writes a short statement providing its reasons, the locality can likely avoid prolonging the litigation – and adding expense to the taxpayer, the companies, and the legal system – while the parties argue about exactly what the sometimes voluminous record means."

3. *If the decision and written reasons are in separate documents they must be issued "essentially contemporaneously."* The Court further determined, however, that because the FTA requires a wireless company challenging a denial to commence its lawsuit within 30 days of the denial, the denial and written reasons, if separate documents, must be issued "essentially contemporaneously." "Because an entity may not be able to make a considered decision whether to seek judicial review without knowing the reasons for the denial... the locality must provide or make available its written reasons at essentially the same time as it communicates its denial." The Court suggested that "if a locality is not in a position to provide its reasons promptly, the locality can delay the issuance of its denial... and instead release it along with its reasons once those reasons are ready to be provided."

The Court concluded that because Roswell did not issue its denial and written reasoning (in the form of minutes) "essentially contemporaneously" it had violated the "in writing" requirement of the FTA. The case was a loss for Roswell, but for local governments generally it is a mixed result. It affirms the practice of many local governments that do not issue formal denials containing the rationale for the decision. On the other hand, the "essentially contemporaneously" requirement speeds up the clock for making cell tower decisions for many communities. Recent Federal Communications Commission rulings allow localities only 90 days to act on applications to place new antennas on existing towers and 150 days to act on

Continues on page 7.

Enterprise Software vs. Software as a Service

Often times when choosing software to buy, there is a choice between enterprise software and software-as-a-service (SaaS) options. According to Cloud Taxonomy, SaaS is a “cloud based delivery of complete software applications that run on infrastructure the SaaS vendor manages. SaaS applications are accessed over the Internet and typically charged on a subscription basis.”

For an example of this, Adobe has moved to its Creative Cloud methodology for the majority of its products. You can still purchase the older versions through enterprise software licensing, but to get the latest version, a SaaS subscription option is required.

Enterprise options are the more traditional approach where you buy software and then install it on your computer or server. Some software companies are requiring SaaS contracts for new version upgrades.

Now that I have defined the two software options and given an example of software that has moved to this structure, I will now highlight some of the differences between these two options.

One major difference is in the pricing configuration. Traditionally, when you buy enterprise software packages the bulk of the fees are paid up front. SaaS packages on the other hand, are usually contract based and are paid for on a month-to-month basis. For the most part, the costs are about the same in the long run but equal payments spread-out can be particularly of advantage to smaller companies or individuals who may not have the lump sum readily available at the time of purchase. When it comes to contracts, there can be a wide variety of terms for the contract including: payment options, warranty issues,

By: Andrea Jansen

ISAC Program Support
Coordinator

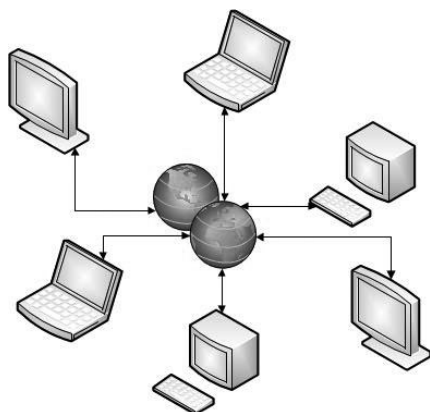


limits of liability, and more. The specific aspects will not be discussed in this article but information on the difference between SaaS and enterprise software contracts can be found here: <http://www.contentmanagement.com/differences-between-standard-and-saas-software-contracts/>.

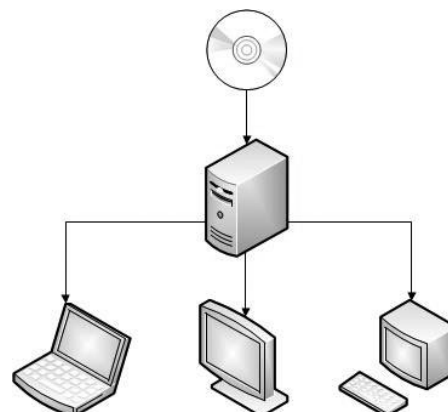
Customization is greatly reduced when you move towards a SaaS software package because you actually don't own the software. Customizations are limited to whatever the software company provides, and sometimes these are not available at all. This especially holds true for specific reporting requests, because the design was made with all customers' needs in mind. Essentially, this means that any specific reporting needs that your organization may require may not coincide with what other organizations need and might not be readily available.

Implementations are also different between the two options. For example, when moving between software packages, data conversions are more likely to be more streamlined and not as advanced for SaaS software packages. Upgrades are mostly done automatically, and organizations usually have little or no control on when these are done. Training is often offered online for SaaS packages and most offer onsite training on an as needed basis. Enterprise software packages are the exact opposite and often have on-site training procedures and supplement with online training.

Ultimately, the decision to choose a SaaS software package or traditional enterprise package will depend on your organization and the software being purchased. All options should be evaluated carefully, and the pros and cons of each should be considered before making this big decision.



SaaS Software Diagram



Enterprise Software Diagram

What's Your Genius/Motivation?

CM&MHDS recently hosted The Advanced Case Management Training for Case Managers and Case Management Directors entitled "What's Your Genius/Motivation." This day-long event was held at the Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center in Johnston. The course content was relevant for case managers and case management supervisors/directors as the training was intended for each to learn how to communicate better with team members, consumers and family members. We were able to delve into our own individual motivators and learn how to better connect with people in order to help provide better solutions for our consumers and team members.

Bryan Arzani, Results Group, LLC, led the event. Bryan is a nationally recognized speaker, facilitator and trainer specializing in talent alignment. His energetic personality provided for an entertaining day of learning. Prior to the training each participant was asked to complete an Advanced Insights profile. This profile combines the best of three world-class profiles: the Attribute Index measures how you think and make decisions; the DISC Index measures your preferred behavioral style; and the Values Index measures your motivational style and drivers. Together they create what, why and how (i.e. What natural talents do you have? Why are you motivated to use them? How do you prefer to use them?)

Through individual and group participation, each participant analyzed their own personal profile. Brian then shared how

By: Molly Steffen

ISAC CM& MHDS Specialist



to obtain the best results by utilizing our own natural talents. The key learning objectives included:

- how to understand our profile;
- how to apply this self-awareness to working situations with consumers and team members;
- how to better communicate with consumers and team members;
- how to better connect with consumers and team members by structuring language so it is more motivating; and
- how to understand the communication style of ourselves and others to enable us to better support the needs of our consumers and their families.

At the conclusion of the training, Brian encouraged us to take the time to analyze how we think, make decisions, and understand what motivates and drives us. By doing so it will enable us to connect, support and communicate to provide clear direction and solutions to our consumers, families and team members.

CM&MHDS regularly provides trainings for Case Managers and Case Management Supervisors/Directors. Please view and register for all trainings provided by CM&MHDS at www.iowacounties.org.

legal briefs

Continued from page 5.

other siting applications. This means that a local government must review the application, hold one or more hearings, make a decision *and* prepare the written record (which may involve transcribing a lengthy recording) within the FCC's timeframe. Considering that neither Congress nor the Court are likely to revisit this provision of the FTA, *T-Mobile South* will be part

of the law of the land on cell tower applications from this point forward.

For more information on federal law and local cell tower regulation visit <http://blogs.extension.iastate.edu/tag/cell-towers>.

ISAC meetings



You | Your Organization | Your Information

APRIL 30, 2015
STONEY CREEK HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER,
JOHNSTON

- ONE-DAY CONFERENCE
- \$50 REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES LUNCH
- KEYNOTE SPEAKER MICHAEL BAZZELL
- MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.IOWACOUNTIES.ORG.

**ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!**

The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC), the Iowa League of Cities, and County Strategic Technology Advisory Resource (CoSTAR) in cooperation with the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) wish to announce the 2015 Smart Connections Conference being held on April 30, 2015 at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Johnston. This one-day conference is meant for all local government officials who wish to learn more about protecting you, your organization, and your information. Attendees will learn about the vulnerability of your work and personal email, cellphones, computers and more. These cyber-security threats are becoming very common – are you prepared???

The conference programming is meant for all local government officials. No prior technical ability or knowledge is required. All presentations for local officials will be applicable to beginners and those who are slightly more tech savvy. You truly don't want to miss this great event!

The conference will begin with Keynote Speaker Michael Bazzell, a renowned computer crime specialist assigned to the FBI's Cyber Crime Task Force. Mr. Bazzell is known worldwide for his interactive presentations. This session will focus on recent trends of online fraud, computer intrusion, and ways that suspects steal valuable data from your organization. Details of how hackers commit their crimes and what any employee can

do to protect company assets will be discussed. The audience will learn immediately how password hacking, email phishing, wireless access, telephone scams, social engineering, and portable devices are an emerging threat against every business. Live examples of 'hacking' into information will shock the audience, while detailed solutions will be displayed on how to stop the threat. A Q&A portion will conclude the session.

Attendees will split into two groups during the afternoon sessions. The local government officials will continue to learn just how vulnerable their organization is. The scope of the cyber security problem and your accountability as local government officials will be discussed during this session. Policies, training, and compliance to minimize the threat will also be discussed. Lastly, attendees will focus on the resources that are available to local governments to help you be prepared for and to prevent a cyber-attack. Technology professionals will spend their afternoon learning about addressing cyber security issues with technology through high-level presentations from Mr. Bazzell.

Due to limited seating, pre-registration is required for a minimal \$50 fee that includes all materials, lunch and morning refreshments. Please visit the ISAC website, www.iowacounties.org, for all conference information and instructions on getting registered for this very important conference.

2015 smart connections

You | Your Organization | Your Information

April 30, 2015

Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, Johnston

Agenda

- 8:30 am - 9:00 am Registration (Northwood Conference Center Foyer)
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am Welcome (Northwood Conference Center)
- 9:15 am - 10:45 am **You and Cyber Security – Keynote Speaker, Michael Bazzell**
This session will focus on recent trends of online fraud, computer intrusion, and ways that suspects steal valuable data from your company. Michael Bazzell will include the details of how hackers commit their crimes and what any employee can do to protect company assets. The audience will learn immediately how password hacking, email phishing, wireless access, telephone scams, social engineering, and portable devices are an emerging threat against every business. Live examples of 'hacking' into information will shock the audience, while detailed solutions will be displayed on how to stop the threat. The session will conclude with a Q&A session.
- 10:45 am - 11:00 am Break
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm **You and Cyber Security (Session Continued)**
- 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm Lunch
- Northwood Conference Center – Local Government Officials
- 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm **The Vulnerability of Your Organization and Your Information**
The scope of the cyber security problem and your accountability as local government officials will be discussed during this session. Policies, training, and compliance to minimize the threat will also be discussed.
- Prairie Room – Technology Professionals
- 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm **Addressing Cyber Security Issues with Technology – Michael Bazzell**
- 2:00 pm - 2:15 pm Break
- Northwood Conference Center – Local Government Officials
- 2:15 - 3:15 **Available Technology Resources to Minimize Your Risk**
This session will focus on the resources that are available to local governments to help you be prepared for and to prevent a cyber-attack.
- Prairie Room – Technology Professionals
- 2:15 - 3:15 **Addressing Cyber Security Issues with Technology (Continued)**
- 3:15 - 3:30 Closing Remarks (Northwood Conference Center)

ISAC meetings

Spring School Education Seminars

Here are some last-minute reminders when preparing to attend the upcoming 2015 ISAC Spring School of Instruction in Des Moines on March 12-13. We look forward to seeing you there! County Day at the Capitol will be held in conjunction with the spring school on Wednesday, March 11 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

All conference activities and affiliate meetings will be held at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. ISAC will be hosting three educational seminars from 9:00 am - 10:15 am on Thursday, March 12 in the Iowa Ballroom. They are as follows:

Courthouse Security: Options for Consideration

This class will cover specific example areas reviewed during a courthouse physical security assessment, courthouse security issues and improving site safety and security for employees and visitors. After the recent eastern Iowa courthouse shooting this topic is a frequent concern of courthouse employees, judges and elected officials. Speaker: Rick Busch, Director of Operations, Eagle Ridge Tactical Consulting LLC.

Workers Compensation: Your Questions Answered

This panel presentation will focus on the most commonly asked questions regarding workers' compensation, workplace safety, loss control, and much more. The panelists will discuss their experiences and will answer your questions to real life problems in the workplace. Two, \$50 Visa gift cards will be given out as door prizes during this seminar - all conference attendees are eligible to win these prizes that will be drawn at random. Panelists: Ron Sinnwell, Panelist, IMWCA Loss Control Coordinator, Scott Smith, Panelist, IMWCA Loss Control Representative, Dean Schade, Panelist, Senior Loss Control Representative, Ed Morrison, Panelist, Loss Control Representative, Russ Sporer, Panelist, CRMS Principle and Independent Insurance Agent, Dennis Simon, Panelist, Jasper County Human Resource Director, Todd Kinney, Panelist, Clinton County Engineer and Safety Committee Chairperson, Kasi Koehler, Moderator, CRMS Representative and ICAP Marketing.

Media and Politics

This panel presentation will focus on lessons learned from the 2014 races, the campaign/debate process - past, present, and where we go from here, and inside stories and insights about the campaign process and races. A Q&A will conclude the session. Confirmed panelist: Kathie Obradovich, Des Moines Register

By: Kelsey Sebern

ISAC Meeting/Event
Administrator



The ISAC General Session will be held from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm on Thursday in the Iowa Ballroom. The recommended ISAC budget will be presented to the membership for approval, and the ISAC scholarship award winners will be recognized. Lunch is on your own on Thursday, but make sure to stop by the exhibit hall for a sweet treat with the exhibitors during the Exhibitor Ice Cream Social from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm. After the affiliate meetings on Thursday afternoon, the Exhibitor Reception and Vendor Drawing will be held in the Des Moines Exhibit Hall from 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm. This will be your last opportunity to meet with the conference exhibitors. You must be present to win. The ISAC Dance will be held from 8:30 pm - 11:00 pm on Thursday evening in the Iowa Ballroom at the Marriott. Beverages and light snacks will be available during this social event. Affiliates have the opportunity to plan their own affiliate meetings on the afternoon of Thursday, March 12 and all day on Friday, March 13. These agendas are posted on the ISAC website when we receive them. The ISAC Networking Lunch will be held in the Des Moines Exhibit Hall from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm on Friday. It is a great opportunity to meet and network with other affiliate members and county peers. Please remember that your name badge is required for all conference events. Conference attire on Thursday is business dress, but please feel free to dress casually for Friday's events. Also, remember that meeting room temperatures do not feel the same to everyone, so you may want to bring a sweater or jacket should the meeting room temperature be too cool for you.

Please travel safely to Des Moines, and we look forward to your conference participation!



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2015 New County Officers School Wrap-up

Eighty-four of the 113 newly elected/appointed county officers from across Iowa attended the ISAC New County Officers School on January 14-15 at the Meadows Event and Conference Center in Altoona. The school is held every other year to coincide with county elections and to assist in providing training for officers who are beginning their new term in office. While designed for new officers, it is also a refresher course for those who already hold public office and would like to receive updated information.

At the first morning session, all attendees were grouped together for an orientation on "Open Meetings/Public Record," taught by the Deputy Director of the Iowa Public Information Board.

The Executive Director and Legal Counsel of the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board then presented "Ethics." The afternoon followed with six breakout sessions encompassing a variety of issues facing all county officers: basic budgeting; legislative basics; FMLA/FLSA; teamwork in the Courthouse; researching Iowa law; and advanced budgeting.

Kudos to our Clay County Auditor, Marge Pitts, as she conducted the breakout session entitled Basic Budgeting. With standing room only, her hour and a half session captured people's attention on a very important topic for all levels of county officers.

Later in the afternoon those attending also heard from our NACo immediate past president, Linda Langston, Linn County Supervisor. Then, Lucas Beenken, ISAC Public Policy Specialist, spoke on the "Iowa Property Tax System."

By: Burlin Matthews

President - Iowa State Association of County Supervisors,
Clay County Supervisor



The evening concluded with dinner and a keynote speaker whose topic was "Life in the Espresso Lane—7 Ways to Thrive in a Fast-Pace World."

The second day of the school was broken out into three different all-day sessions—one for recorders, treasurers, and supervisors. As President of the Iowa State Association of County Supervisors (ISACS), I confiscated the first 30 minutes with the supervisors and explained the difference in the structure between ISAC and ISACS.

The remainder of the supervisors' meeting was spent listening to 12 different individuals representing 12 different county departments. Carl Mattes, Humboldt County and ISACS 1st Vice President, and Dennis Wright, Sioux County and ISACS 2nd Vice President, assisted in the introduction of the speakers. At the conclusion of each presentation, supervisors were encouraged to ask questions. Presenters were very pleased with the level of enthusiasm of the supervisors' questions.

Worth attending? Barry Anderson, our newly elected Clay County Supervisor, commented that the information presented was very beneficial but came so fast that he may need to return in two years!

In January 2016 ISAC will sponsor ISAC University which provides valuable information but with a different emphasis. Instead of breaking out by disciplines, all county officers meet as a whole. Topics presented are more all-encompassing and many are leadership-based. Consider planning for this now!

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ISAC brief

Welcome, Gina!

My journey to ISAC has been somewhat unconventional. I grew up in Carroll County and earned BS and MA degrees in Anthropology from Iowa State University. Since graduating, I have worked in academia teaching at Iowa State University and the American Institute of Business; in knowledge management for several museums; and in the domestic arts as a stay-at-home mom to Teddy (age 5) and Josie (age 3).

I also have dual citizenship with Canada via my husband, Dave, who earned Canadian citizenship as a child when he moved from the United Kingdom. Dave and I met at Iowa State and moved to his hometown of Calgary, Canada in 2005 and then moved back to the U.S. in 2010. Our family goal is for us to all have dual citizenship. Dave is the last hold-out and will

By: Gina Wernimont

ISAC Administrative Analyst



be able to apply for American citizenship at the end of this year. When we lived in Calgary I worked as a technician at the Glenbow Museum, which is the largest museum in western Canada. This was a really special experience for me. The position allowed me to be a part of some really exciting exhibits and publications and the development of on-line resources.

At ISAC I plan to enhance CSN user experience, and create and manage correspondence, meeting minutes, and specification documents. I look forward to working with data analytics and development projects as my technical skills increase.

NACo news

National County Government Month

Since 1991, NACo has encouraged counties across the country to actively promote county government programs and services. National County Government Month (NCGM) is celebrated each April by the nation's counties to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of county government. This year's theme is: Counties Moving America Forward: The Keys are Transportation and Infrastructure.

County resources are the core building blocks for healthy, vibrant and safe communities. Nationwide, we invest more than \$100 billion each year in transportation, broadband services, water systems and public facilities. Counties run most of our nation's local jails and courthouses, own the largest share of America's road miles and operate more than 900 public hospitals and countless parks, libraries, firehouses and 911 call centers. County transportation and infrastructure are vital to boosting economic competitiveness, moving our food efficiently, and maintaining a strong national defense.

NCGM presents an opportunity to highlight key transportation projects like new bridges, roads, resurfacing projects or other infrastructure work.

You can also use other examples to show how your county plays a central role in your community and helps "move America forward." Counties participate in NCGM by hosting a variety of community outreach events and activities, including tours of county facilities, recognition ceremonies for volunteers and county employees, outreach on county services and programs, sponsoring student essay or art contests and adopting resolutions.

One activity that you should pursue during NCGM is to meet with your members of Congress. When you meet stress to them that federal policy matters to counties and counties matter to America's local communities. They should know that county governments are responsible for the fundamental building blocks for healthy, safe and vibrant communities and that federal policy decisions have a major, cascading impact on county government.

Share your county's plans and engage your community by posting your activities on social media using the hashtag #NCGM. You can send messages on Twitter to @NACoTweets or tag NACo on Facebook.

National County Government Month is a chance for you to show your community and county residents exactly Why Counties Matter.

**Please send your NCGM plans to rbennett@iowacounties.org.*

The Excellence in Action Award program is a competitive awards program that seeks to identify and recognize innovative county government employees, programs, and ISAC affiliates. Please encourage all county departments to apply.

CRITERIA

- Programs nominated must do one or more of the following:
 - Offer a new service to county residents, fill gaps in the availability of existing services, or tap new revenue sources.
 - Improve the administration or enhance the cost effectiveness of an existing county government program.
 - Upgrade the working conditions or level of training for county employees.
 - Enhance the level of citizen participation in, or the understanding of, government programs.
 - Provide information that facilitates effective public policy making.
 - Promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing shared problems.
 - Provide a model from which other counties or affiliates may learn.
- Nominated individual must demonstrate exemplary service to citizens or staff or stakeholders.

JUDGING

CoSTAR will rate each application based on the following seven attributes: creativity, innovation, cost savings, replication, leadership, increased efficiency, cooperation with others, and perseverance.

GUIDELINES

- Nominated programs must have become operational after January 1, 2014.
- Individual nominations should reflect the individual actions of the last 24 months.
- Nomination should be made using the application form below.
- A narrative of the county program or individual's action must be included; please limit to three pages.

AWARD PRESENTATION

Awards will be presented at the 2015 ISAC Fall School of Instruction held on November 18-20, 2015, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The winners will receive a special ribbon to be worn on their nametags. Winners will be recognized on the ISAC website and in a news release sent to statewide media. ISAC staff members will also attend the board of supervisors meeting to present the award.

QUESTIONS

Contact Robin Harlow, ISAC's Innovation and Research Manager at 515.539.7006 or rharlow@iowacounties.org.

NOMINATION FORM

- Attach a narrative of the county improvement/project/program/individual (three-page limit).
- Return all nominations by **May 1, 2015 (postmarked date)** to:
Iowa State Association of Counties
Attn: Robin Harlow
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190
West Des Moines, IA 50266.
- OR email your application form (containing all the information on the form below) to Robin Harlow.

Please fill out each field completely.

Please indicate nomination type: Individual ___ Program ___

Name of individual/program: _____ County or affiliate: _____

Name of nominator: _____ Title: _____

Nominator's phone: _____ Nominator's email: _____

Lincoln letters

Lincoln the Lawyer #1: Introduction

We've taken a long look at how Abraham Lincoln interpreted the Constitution in the extraordinary circumstances of the Civil War. Although Lincoln had no claims to being a Constitutional expert, he was 24 years a lawyer before assuming the presidency. His experience might have had some influence on his notion of the pliability of the law. In any case, his career as an attorney was an interesting one, at least in the light of his later greatness. Let us then spend some time looking at Lincoln's law career, to get some deeper insight into this interesting man, and to maybe draw some conclusions about him.

First we ought to address the two extreme schools of thought about Lincoln the Lawyer. The mythological status conferred on him by his assassination produced the popular view of Lincoln as a saint. This was applied to his legal vocation by painting him as a sort of Currier and Ives idealization, lawyering across the frontier prairie, a self-taught attorney who championed the poor and who would quit midtrial if he realized his client was wrong. This inevitably led to a backlash. Not everything in the record jibes with this picture, and eventually a revisionist view came along that maintained that Lincoln was a corporation lawyer riding around in a private car on a free railroad pass, completely alienated from his humble upbringing. Neither view is completely accurate. Both judgments have elements of truth. Lincoln was definitely self-taught, and for many years he spent months at a time riding the muddy roads of the judicial circuit. He also in time represented powerful corporations, usually railroad companies, one of which certainly did give him a free pass. Lincoln's legal career was for the most part unexceptional. His income was rather modest, and he didn't have the luxury of taking on only those clients whose causes harmonized with his political or moral beliefs. He represented clients who needed representation. If you know of a case where Lincoln advocated for one side of a cause, you can probably find another case where he advocated for the other side.

No one disputes that Lincoln had few advantages of birth. His family was frontier-chasing farmers, and he was used to, if not resigned to, strenuous manual labor. He hoped to earn his way with his mind rather than his hands, so he studied for the bar for four years. During that time he worked a succession of jobs that "kept body and soul together," as he characterized his position as assistant surveyor of Sangamon County. Lincoln didn't go to law school. In the 1830s, there were all of seven law schools in the whole United States, only two of them west of the Appalachian Mountains. Still, most lawyers at least received training in a mentor's law office, a

By: Grant Veeder

Black Hawk County Auditor
and ISAC Historian



practice that Lincoln later afforded others but never experienced himself. The picture of a shabbily clad Lincoln reading a law book on a woodpile in tiny New Salem is an accurate one. And maybe this is another true story: Neighbor Russell Godbey supposedly asked Lincoln what he was studying when he found him in such a pose. When Lincoln told him he was studying law, Godbey was so astonished that all he could answer was, "Great God Almighty!"

Lincoln left his family in Coles County, Illinois at age 22 in 1831 and moved to New Salem. He meant to pull himself up by his bootstraps, figuratively speaking – the young Lincoln was typically remembered as wearing cheap shoes (and cheap, too-short trousers). This didn't prove to be a quick or easy task, but he showed early promise. His personal popularity was demonstrated by his election as company captain during 1832's brief Black Hawk War, and although he lost an election for the legislature that fall, he won in 1834. Since he didn't get his law license until 1836, Lincoln's political career, while junior in total years, was begun before his legal career.

One of Lincoln's comrades-in-arms in the Black Hawk War was John Stuart, another lawyer/politician (and a cousin of Lincoln's future spouse, Mary Todd). Stuart didn't tutor Lincoln to the law, but he encouraged him and loaned him law books. A little while after Lincoln passed the bar, Stuart was ending his partnership with another attorney, and he felt comfortable enough with Lincoln, maybe due somewhat to the political prowess Lincoln showed in the statehouse, to take him on as partner. Politics was important to Stuart, to the extent that he expected whatever partner he had to attend to the mundane duties of the practice while he focused on his tenure, first in the Illinois legislature and later in Congress.

Lincoln spent four years with Stuart, and almost four more with Judge Stephen Logan before establishing his own practice. He had made an impression by the end of his partnership with Stuart. The highly respected Logan stepped down from the bench so he could earn more money, and he didn't have to settle for a second-rate attorney for a partner. He later said he chose Lincoln, who had appeared before Logan the judge and with and against Logan the attorney, because of his persuasive powers: Lincoln was "exceedingly useful to me in getting the goodwill of juries," Logan wrote. Still, he had a lot to learn. Logan claimed that Lincoln's knowledge of law "was very small

Continues on page 15.

when I took him in,” although “he would work hard and learn all there was in a case he had in hand.” Under Logan, Lincoln expanded his horizons beyond county courthouses, trying cases in the Illinois Supreme Court and in U.S. district court.

When Logan decided he wanted to take in his son as partner, Logan & Lincoln dissolved amicably. Lincoln established himself as senior partner in his own firm in 1844, taking on young William Herndon as the second name on the shingle. Lincoln was 35, Herndon 26. Herndon is well-known for his shortcomings, like his tendency to exaggerate and his occasional drunken binges, but the alliance proved durable, with Billy (as Abe called Herndon) staying in the office doing the research and Mr. Lincoln (as Billy called Abe) representing their clients in the courtroom. Herndon is also responsible for the largest body of reminiscences about Lincoln. He gathered letters and interviews from hundreds of Lincoln’s early friends and

acquaintances in his quest to write the definitive biography of the real Lincoln, not the Christ-like hero created after his death. (Herndon is remembered more for his research than for his Lincoln biography.)

Lincoln & Herndon lasted until Lincoln went to Washington as president, and then some. Herndon says that upon taking his leave, Abe told him to keep their signboard unchanged, that “if I live I’m coming back some time, and then we’ll go right on practicing law as if nothing ever happened.” What a field for speculation. Would he really have done it? Would he have stayed involved in politics? Would he have continued working for railroads, or done pro bono work for the poor, or both, or neither? We don’t know. But we do know something about his real law career from 1836 to 1860. In future installments we’ll look at the broad outlines of that career and at some interesting individual cases.

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miscellaneous

Strong Data Likely Still Leads to Rate Hikes

The Fed is anxious to step back from its overly accommodative monetary policy, and strong domestic activity has set the table for rate hikes. But global growth has slowed, and the collapse of oil prices has sent shock waves across the markets.

An increase in U.S. shale production and decline in global growth and consumption has led to a global oil supply glut which has pressured prices lower. Although the decline in oil prices will result in lower inflation, the Fed believes the impact will be temporary. Ongoing concerns about economic weakness in Europe have also increased volatility and delayed discussions about interest rate increases. The positive impact of the ECB's new quantitative easing program has been blunted by agitation from the new anti-austerity Greek government, leading to a flight to quality across the globe.

The first read on fourth quarter GDP showed slower activity at 2.6% after the strong growth of the prior two quarters. In contrast to lower business and government spending, plunging energy prices and declining unemployment led to the biggest gain in consumer spending in almost nine years.

The Fed expects to raise rates in 2015, and the average Fed Funds rate expected by FOMC board members at year end is

By: Miles Capital

Investment Advisor to Iowa Public Agency
Investment Trust (IPAIT)

1.125%, a full percentage point higher than today. We expect the Fed to raise rates this year, but less aggressively given the likelihood of continued slow global growth. Nevertheless, this will be good news for public entities' operating funds as overnight rates impact a significant portion of invested assets.

Event risk has increased and inflation measures have fallen, pushing both the 10yr and 2yr Treasury lower. Broadly, higher quality outperformed lower quality, and shorter maturities outperformed longer maturities. This will likely continue if global volatility remains high and longer rates will lag the uptick in shorter rates. This could negatively impact many entities' non-operating investments.

IPAIT is here to help provide you both short and long-term options and safety of principal, no matter what the year brings. Visit us on the web at www.IPAIT.org. Thank you for your business and support.

Disclosure: The views expressed are those of the author as of the date of the article, are for informational purposes only, not meant as investment advice, and are subject to change. Miles Capital does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any statements contained in this material and is not obligated to provide updates.



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2015 calendar

March 2015

- 11 County Day at the Capitol
(Des Moines)
12-13 ISAC Spring School of Instruction
(Des Moines Marriott Downtown)

April 2015

- 14 CM&MHDS Administrators Meeting
(Polk County River Place, Des Moines)
16 ISAC HIPAA Training
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
30 Smart Connections Conference
(Stoney Creek Conference Center, Johnston)

May 2015

- 1 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)
7 CM&MHDS Advanced Case Management
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
20-22 NACo WIR Conference
(Kauai, Hawaii)

June 2015

- 4 CM&MHDS Supervisors Training
(Polk County River Place, Des Moines)
10-12 ICIT Midyear Conference
(West Des Moines Marriott)
24-26 Recorder's Summer School
(Decorah)
25 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

July 2015

- 10-13 NACo Annual Conference
(Charlotte, NC)

- 14 CM&MHDS Administrators Meeting
(Polk County River Place, Des Moines)
30-31 Supervisors Executive Board Retreat
(Clay County)

August 2015

- 27-28 ISAC Legislative Policy Committee Retreat
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)

September 2015

- 16-18 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Pottawattamie County)
23-24 CM&MHDS Annual Conference
(Sheraton, West Des Moines)

October 2015

- 15-16 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)
13 CM&MHDS Administrators Meeting
(Polk County River Place, Des Moines)

November 2015

- 5 CM&MHDS Advanced Case Management
(Stoney Creek, Johnston)
18-20 ISAC Fall School of Instruction
(Cedar Rapids Convention Complex)

December 2015

- 8-10 ICEA Annual Conference
(Ames)
16 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC calendar, please contact Kelsey Sebern at ksebern@iowacounties.org.

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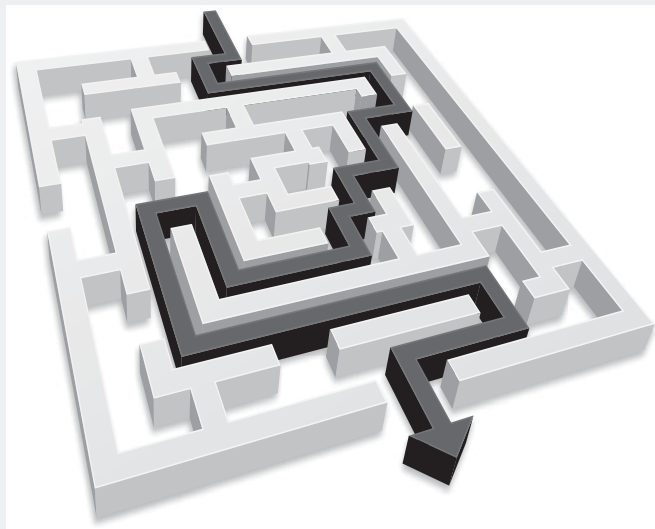
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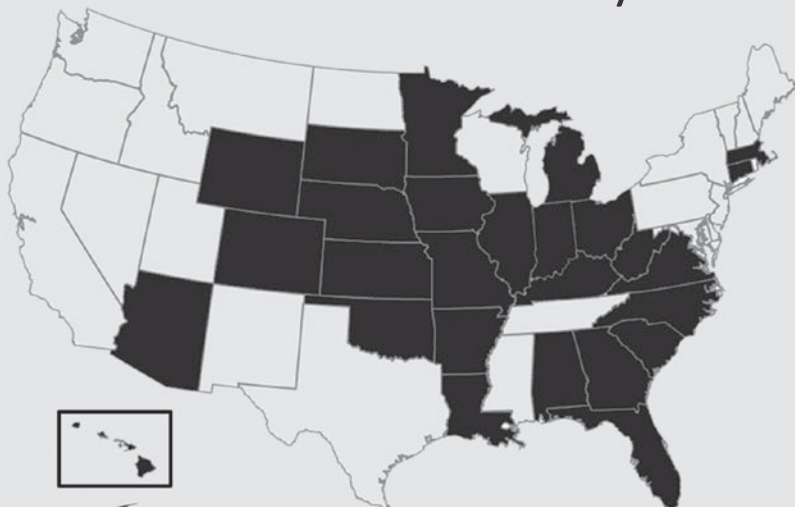
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