

The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties



December 2012

President's Year in Review

Scott County's 175th Anniversary



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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.

President's Year in Review

This has truly been an exciting and interesting year to serve as President of our Association and there are plenty of highlights to take note of. First though, any review of the year at ISAC must begin with a special note of thanks to the ISAC staff. This is a wonderful group to work with, from the Executive Director on through the entire staff. I cannot overstate how well this staff functions, and I appreciate how much work they do for our members. A staff that works this well together speaks well of each staff member as an individual and is a compliment to the leadership provided by the Executive Director.

2012 began with a busy month of January that included attending the NACo Conference in Washington D.C. for State Association Presidents and Executive Directors. I enjoyed the opportunity to share concerns for local government and learn how counties were adapting to change. Directors and state association presidents from all across the United States were able to share their experiences and discuss successes and challenges they have faced. ISAC University was held the next week, January 18 and 19. For those who were fortunate to attend, you know what an opportunity we had to hear the inspirational presentations from Big Ten Network Analyst Coach Zvosec, international explorer Charlie Witmack, social media expert Nathan Wright, Portico HR Owner Katie Roth, etiquette speaker Collista Gould, and Fareway CEO Fred Greiner. If you think that lineup of speakers sounds impressive, it was. But consider that our Keynote Speaker was Aaron Thomas, Aplington-Parkersburg High School Athletic Director and Coach. Aaron spoke of the life and death of his father, Ed Thomas, and the courage his family found to deal with the tragedy of his death and how they found the strength to offer forgiveness and support for the family of the assailant. This was an outstanding agenda by the ISAC staff.

January continued with meetings at the Iowa Capitol to present the ISAC Legislative Objectives to Senate and House leaders of both parties and to Governor Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Reynolds. We had an opportunity to discuss issues such as Road Use Tax funding, commercial property tax and mental health and disability services redesign. As you know, these issues consumed a great deal of time during the 2012 legislative session. Since neither the commercial property tax issue or the Road Use Tax funding issues were resolved in 2012, we fully expect they will be major topics in the 2013 session.

By: Wayne Walter

Winneshiek County Treasurer
and ISAC President



The Mental Health and Disability Services Redesign Bill, SF 2315, was passed and signed into law. As we know, that does not mean the issue is solved.

The MH/DS Interim Study Committee is currently working on unresolved issues such as whether or not the per capita levy will work and what impact that levy will have on each county. Since no property taxes will be increased, and 33 counties will have to reduce property taxes, the 2013 session will need to address some of these funding issues early in the legislative session. County officials need to stay in contact with their legislators through this process.

March continued with another successful ISAC Spring School of Instruction in Des Moines that was attended by more than 700 county officials from throughout Iowa. Of course, each year at our March meeting we introduce our scholarship winners and this year we had another wonderful group of high school seniors. These students are all sons and daughters of county employees throughout Iowa. It is truly an honor to include them in our meeting agenda. Our meeting included a variety of educational opportunities as well as some valuable social time that gives our members the opportunity to share thoughts, problems and solutions with each other.

In June our legislative district meetings included a discussion of each district's bylaws and the structure each of them chose to adopt for future district meetings. This item was included as a topic for this year's district meetings because there has been concern from some members about the status of officers from some districts and business (or lack thereof) that some districts are involved in. Districts IV and V voted to elect officers and adopt some version of bylaws for their districts to use for future business while our other districts voted to no longer have bylaws or district officers. Of course, these decisions are subject to change in the future when or if the members of a respective district decide a different approach is in order.

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Scott County's Demisemiseptcentennial

I'm told the term Demisemiseptcentennial is defined as a 175th anniversary. As the sheer length of the term implies, this is an impressive feat. This year Scott County is celebrating its 175th anniversary and has been involved in many activities to commemorate the occasion.

Mary Thee, Scott County Assistant County Administrator/Human Resources Director, notified me of the anniversary earlier this year. Her excitement over the county's birthday was the inspiration for this article, and as you will read, this excitement is shared by many and is a big factor in Scott County's long-standing and continued success.

Mary and Supervisor Larry Minard were both kind enough to take a few hours out of their busy schedules, mind you on a gorgeous Friday afternoon in late September, to indulge my questions about the county, the celebration, and much more. We had an extremely enthusiastic conversation at the Scott County Administration Building in downtown Davenport. I only hope that I can do it some justice with what follows.

Scott County was established in 1837 by the Wisconsin Legislature. Yes, if you go back and do the math, this was before Iowa became a state (December 28, 1846 for the history buffs). The area that is now Scott County had previously been part of the Michigan and Wisconsin territories, and as with many counties, there was a contentious battle for the county seat. Davenport won after three elections.

The history of the area is very rich, and fortunately it continues to be celebrated and remembered through the history lessons



Photograph by Bruce Leedham.

By: **Rachel E. Bicego**

ISAC Marketing/
Communication Coordinator



that Supervisor Minard has written for each board meeting. On September 27, 2012, Supervisor Minard presented "Part 16 – Introducing Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson." Other titles include "The Murder of Col. George Davenport, July 4, 1845," "Six Flags Over Scott County that's Missing Two Townships," and "Scott County Rocks: Ice and Water: Or Why does the Mississippi Flow East/West?" County staff and the public have greatly enjoyed these histories.

The Scott County Board of Supervisors designated a modest fund for a year-long education celebration of the county. In addition to the history lessons, the county has partnered with the Putnam Museum in Davenport to teach the county's history to the public through the use of an online game. Through historical clues, "The Scott County Coronet Caper" leads users to physical locations within the county. The Putnam is also working with schools in the creation of a faux Native American hide that will tell the entire history and predicted future of Scott County.

It's all about serving the citizens and making Iowa a great place to live!
- Supervisor Larry Minard

Scott County held a photo contest to further engage the public. Photographers were asked to submit entries, around 12 of which were to be used in a poster to commemorate the anniversary. Photos were to be taken within and to represent the county. The county received over 200 photos by the time the deadline hit. Our cover photo and those that accompany this article were all chosen to be part of the poster.

The county's activities had their desired effect. From the great participation in the photo contest to the large increase in Facebook users, it's clear that the county's hard work has paid off to not only educate, but to get the public involved and enthusiastic about Scott County. This couldn't have been done without the Scott County employees.

Continues on page 6.

Scott County

Continued from page 5.

After visiting the Courthouse and meeting with Mary and Supervisor Minard, I learned that the excitement that I first experienced from Mary's initial email isn't reserved solely for special events, celebrations or anniversaries, it's a theme carried out by Scott County every day, and is known as Scott County PRIDE (Professionalism, Responsiveness, Involvement, Dedication and Excellence).

I arrived at the courthouse and was greeted by a number of jovial employees wearing jerseys of their favorite sports teams (Da Bears!) for a United Way cookout. A summer picnic as well as a November pizza party to recognize and appreciate employees and retirees are other events held to affirm Scott County PRIDE. Although the events are appreciated, this motto seems to shine through as a core belief of the employees.

Mary Thee stated, "It's a philosophy that everyone here believes in, and Scott County Pride helps to create cooperation among not only the different internal offices, but also different forms of government – city, state, etc."

Supervisor Minard stressed the importance in the Board's common goals and values that are affirmed through bi-annual goal setting sessions and strategic planning discussions. He continued to discuss a number of items that were achieved due to this cooperation: the construction of a new jail, the utilization



Photograph by Dani Luchner. Cover photo taken by Tyler Moss.

of a county administrator, bi-annual meetings between the board of supervisors and every city in Scott County, and moving forward, mental health redesign. Overall, these regular sessions lead to the achievement of goals.

Congratulations to Scott County for 175 years as a county. There are many things that we can learn from them and from each other. Visiting Scott County was a great pleasure and it was a great example of why I enjoy working for all of you, ISAC members.

perspective of term

Continued from page 4.

After dealing with difficult weather conditions at our scholarship fundraiser for the last two years, it was good to have mother nature cooperate for this year's event. You may recall that in 2010 our scholarship fundraiser was held in July on one of those hot, humid summer days. In 2011, we held the event in September, only to pick one of those cold, windy fall days that turned out to be a "not so good" day for golf. We were pleased to have our event this year on August 23, one of those really nice late summer Iowa days! This was the eighth annual fundraiser and this year's event was cohosted by the Iowa State County Treasurer's Association.

There are people who believe the future of County Government is threatened. Certainly it is not as easy as it used to be, but the challenges before us are opportunities for positive change. If we believe local government is important, we must act to make it sustainable. We may not need to completely redefine our role, but we need to consider ideas that will make county government better. Most of us have heard the old line "if it

is not broke, don't fix it." That line has given way to the new rule, "if it is not broke-break it, or at least bend it." Challenge the system, but remember that any reform will not happen unless our ideas are acted upon and become policy. Stay tuned for more information as we complete a plan for involving Iowa counties in a long term goal setting process.

In conclusion, I must express my appreciation to the staff at the Winneshiek County Treasurer's Office and the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors for their support. The staff at my office has been wonderful and without their support I could not have committed the time necessary to serve on the ISAC Board of Directors. I also sincerely appreciate the encouragement and support given to me by my wife Margaret who, as some of you know, is largely responsible for many of the successes I have achieved in my life! Lastly, I wish the best to Darin Raymond, incoming President, and the rest of the 2013 ISAC Board.

An End of the Year Quiz on County Government

By: *Kristi Harshbarger*
ISAC Legal Counsel



Did you know the county recorder has 40 “general duties” listed in Iowa Code §331.602? And that’s not really all the duties of the county recorder, as there are several other sections of the Iowa Code that also contain requirements of the county recorder and there always those “extra” duties that any county official or employee wind up taking on. I was asked by the auditors’ affiliate to present at fall school on the various roles and duties of county officials. I know one of things that really amazed me when I first started at ISAC was learning about how great a breadth of things that counties do. I’m constantly discovering even more things that are under the management of a county, and certainly conducting research for my presentation to the auditors unearthed even more. So, I decided to share some of the things I discovered here, which I hope our newly-elected county officials will find helpful and maybe even a more seasoned county official will learn something new. Because I know many of you have been working with county government much longer than I, I decided to try to make this more challenging and entertaining by putting it in a quiz format. Good luck!

1. Which county official has the following listed as a statutory general duty? “Carry out duties relating to the hospitalization and support of persons with mental illness.”
2. Which two elected county positions are the only elected county positions that are statutorily-required to be registered voters?
3. Which elected county official has the greatest number of duties listed in the Iowa Code Section on “general duties” for that official?
4. Which county officers “shall not appear as an agent, attorney, or solicitor for another person in a matter pending before the board?”
5. Which county officials shall “[a]dopt rules relating to the labor of prisoners in the county jail?”
6. Which county departments have statutory references to uniforms for staff?
7. Which county official is required to “[s]erve on a nomination appeals commission to hear nomination objections filed with the county commissioner of elections?”
8. Which type of deputy must be on an eligibility list prepared by the Director of Revenue in order to qualify for appointment?
9. Who, in addition to the board of supervisors, must approve the plats of rural subdivisions? And for a bonus point, does this county employee have to be a registered land surveyor in order to approve such plats?
10. Iowa Code §331.321 lists various boards, commissions and positions for which the board of supervisors must make appointments – assuming a county has all the boards, commissions and positions listed, makes the minimum number of appointments allowed for each board, commission or position, and not counting the reference to “other officers and agencies as required by state law,” how many positions does this statute require the board of supervisors to fill?

Want to learn even more about the basics of county operations? All county officials, from the newly elected to the most experienced, can discover something new at ISAC’s New County Officer School on January 23-24, 2013 at The Meadows Events and Conference Center in Altoona. Check out our website to register, and I hope you all have a joyful holiday season! See you next year! Anything you’d like to see covered in the 2013 Legal Briefs? Just send an email or phone call my way at 515.244.7181 or kharshbarger@iowacounties.org.

See answers on page 9.

The Election Results

After a relatively early night as it related to the race for the presidency and a total nail-biter for control of the Iowa Senate, the dust has begun to settle on this long election cycle.

Iowa's pivotal role in national politics would seem to remain intact. Iowa was important not only in the choosing of the Republican challenger, but remained a focus of the campaign from beginning to end. Both major candidates visited Iowa during the final weekend push to get out their voters. In addition, the Obama organization in Iowa may serve as a model for future presidential candidates. More local offices may have been a crucial factor in delivering Iowa more comfortably for President Obama.

Iowa continues to be one of two states, along with Mississippi, with no woman ever elected to Congress. The state reelected incumbents in every Congressional district, choosing Representative Tom Latham over Representative Leonard Boswell in the one race that pitted incumbents against each other.

The effort on the part of the Democrats to maintain control of the Iowa Senate was a battle. The Democrats had a 26-24 edge going into the election, and appear to have maintained that edge, with the count standing at 26-23 after election night. The final tally will not be known until after the special election on December 11. The untimely passing of Senator Pat Ward (R-Polk) just prior to the election necessitates a special election. The Republican Party nominated West Des Moines City Council member and lawyer, Charles Schneider as their candidate to face Democratic challenger Desmond Adams. The Iowa Senate has been a firewall preventing legislation on the property tax reform efforts that would endanger local governments' ability to provide necessary services.

There were several close races, Senate District 42 with new candidates Larry Kruse, Lee County Supervisor versus, Rich Taylor, was not called until Thursday for the Democrat. Other close races included Senate District 28 where Michael Breitbart beat incumbent John Beard by 43 votes; Senate District 26 where incumbent Senator Mary Jo Wilhelm, former Howard County Supervisor, defeated incumbent Senator Merlin Bartz by 200 votes; and Senate District 30, where incumbent Jeff Danielson defeated Mike Reissetter by 600 votes, a vast improvement over 2008 when he won by 22 votes over Walt Rogers, who is now in the House. Senate District 48 saw Dan Zumbach, Ryan farmer, defeat Representative Nate Willems by 400 votes. Incumbent Republican Senator Shawn Hamerlinck

By: Linda Hinton

ISAC Government Relations
Manager



was defeated by Chris Brase, a Muscatine firefighter.

The Republicans held a comfortable 60-40 margin in the Iowa House going into the election. This margin has allowed the Republicans to manage the House with little regard to the desires of the minority. On election night the House Democrats gained seven seats for a 53-47 split favoring the Republicans. The narrowing of the margin will require more bi-partisanship in the lower chamber.

Two seats that the Democrats won are of particular interest to ISAC members. Representative Renee Schulte (R-Linn), one of the architects of mental health and disability services redesign, was defeated by 1,682 votes by Art Staed, the incumbent she defeated in 2008. The Democrats hold a voter registration edge in House District 66, but the impact of redesign on Linn County may have been the tipping point. Linn County has significant financial problems in this year of transition from a county managed to a regionally managed service system. The problems have required cuts in services that are impacting persons with disabilities and their families.

A second seat that switched parties and was a surprise is House District 68, also in Linn County. Representative Nick Wagner (R-Linn) was defeated by challenger Daniel Lundby by 100 votes. Daniel is the son of Mary Lundby (R-Linn) who served as the Republican minority leader in the Senate. Representative Wagner was the chair of the House Local Government committee and was reportedly slated to take over as chair of the House Appropriations Committee due to Representative Scott Raecker's (R-Polk) retirement.

The close races in the House were House District 7 where Republican Ted Gassman upset incumbent Democrat John Wittneben by 57 votes, and House District 43 where Republican incumbent Chris Hagenow held on to defeat challenger Susan Judkins by 22 votes. Other races that were decided by more than 100 votes but less than a 1,000 include: House District 47 where incumbent Chip Baltimore defeated former Representative Donovan Olson; House District 55 where challenger Michael Klimish lost to incumbent Democrat Roger Thomas; House District 56 saw incumbent Republican Bob Hager lose to Patti Ruff; House District 58 where Brian Moore beat incumbent Tom Schueller; and in House District 60 Walt Rogers beat Bob Greenwood. Lastly, House District 63 Sandy Salmon beat

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legal briefs - answers

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1. Auditor (331.502(13))
2. Supervisor (331.201(2)) and County Attorney (331.751(2))
3. This is a little tricky – the County Attorney has 85 duties listed in Iowa Code §331.756, but for some reason this Code Section just calls it “Duties of the county attorney,” not “General duties.” All of the other elected officials have a Code Section called “General duties.” So if you are getting technical, the Sheriff has the most with 71 “General duties” listed in Code §331.653.
4. All county officers – Iowa Code §331.901 lists general duties applicable to all county officers, including this one, which is found in subsection three.
5. Board of Supervisors (331.303(6))
6. Sheriffs (331.322(9) requires uniforms) and County Conservation (350.4(10) allows uniforms)
7. Treasurer (331.552(8))
8. Deputy Assessor (441.10)
9. County Engineer (306.21) and “No” (see 1982 Iowa Op. Atty. Gen. 443, 1982 WL 524835)

10. My math says 109. But this is a hard one. Two reasons why you might have come up with something different? Iowa Code §331.321(m) related to the airport zoning commission allows the county to appoint two people and then an additional person is appointed to be chairman by a majority vote of all the participating municipalities. I’m not positive you should count the chairman as a board of supervisor appointee, but I did. Also, Iowa Code §331.321(r) requires appointment of the county zoning commission, but the statute does not have a specific number of persons that must be on the commission. I did a quick internet search and the smallest number of persons on a zoning commission that I could find was 5, in Cass and Scott counties. So that’s the number I used, even though it’s a completely unscientific selection. No matter what number you ultimately came up with, the key take away is it’s a lot! And this doesn’t even include appointments that the board of supervisors may be required to make under other Iowa Code sections or any appointments to voluntary or county-specific boards and commissions. No wonder you all wind up with extra roles and responsibilities!

capitol comments

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incumbent Bill Heckroth, House District 72 Dean Fisher beat Nathan Wrage, House District 80 Larry Sheets beat Joseph Judge, House District 92 Ross Paustian lost to former Senator Frank Wood, and House District 95 Quentin Stanerson beat Kristin Keast.

There were four county supervisors elected to the legislature. New senators are Mark Segebart (R-Crawford), Amy Sinclair (R-Wayne), and Ken Rozenboom (R-Mahaska). Newly elected to the House is Sally Stutsman (D-Johnson). Two new legislators with strong county connections are David Dawson

(D-Woodbury), who has worked in the Woodbury County Attorney’s office and Scott Ourth (D-Warren), who worked with counties during his tenure in the Secretary of State’s office and served as Warren County Public Affairs Director from 2007-2011.

Remember to contact your Senators and Representatives, especially those who are new to the Capitol, to brief them on issues of importance to ISAC.

CSN Staff SMART Goals

The Community Service Network (CSN) staff at ISAC has started to utilize a tool to help prioritize and track progress for the work we do to enhance the CSN system. This tool is referred to as SMART goals. SMART goals are defined to help improve achievement and success. A SMART goal clarifies exactly what is expected and the measures used to determine if the goal is achieved and successfully completed. Each CSN staff member is assigned to two smart goals which can have smaller sub goals within each. Every month we meet to discuss progress of each goal and/or sub goals in order to gain a clear idea of what might be needed to help achieve those goals. CSN staff needed a better way of keeping track of what they achieved and a realistic time period in which we can achieve it. Through this process one of my goals is increased communication with our members on what we are working on and what we have achieved in the last month. Using the *The Iowa County* magazine seemed like a perfect platform. Each month CSN staff will send a report on what they have achieved in the last month and what they will be working on for next month. This article will include that report.

Andrea Jansen – Program Support Coordinator

The biggest amount of my time went to user support. I continue to be the entry person for the Support Suite by reviewing and assigning tickets to appropriate team members. This, many times, takes up the majority of my day due to research and problem resolution. I also continued to work on my SMART goals this month. My first goal is dealing with structured rates which involved visiting with Eide Bailly and developing the business practices and the common obstacles that occur with the cost report process. My second goal is enhancing the change management procedures. This involves not only tracking changes, but moreover, streamlining the overall change progression in CSN. In addition to these larger projects, I have also been involved with other items. Some of these include planning/coordinating the Users Group and the other tasks associated with it. I have been assisting with redesign data gathering and discussions brought on by these changes. I am helping with case management by testing and attending meetings. Lastly, meetings that I have attended include: the data integration work group and the Case Management Steering Committee.

By: Gina Fontanini

ISAC Program Support
Coordinator



Ashley Moore – Program Support Analyst

For the past several months my focus has been on assisting counties with their reporting needs. During this time, two new reports have been added in CSN. The first report was developed to assist counties in completing the “Application for Redesign Transition Funds.” The second report was created to assist counties with their transition from county of legal settlement to county of residence. This report will also include data from Polk, Linn, Scott, and Johnson counties. Finally, a third report is currently under development that will assist case management entities in determining the impact of the transition from county of legal settlement to residence. In addition to these two new reports, I have been preparing to assist counties with the generation and submission of their annual reports to the state. This year there are 37 counties that will submit annual reports from CSN, and 35 will have data merged from their old system and CSN. Another important piece of reporting is making sure that counties have all data from their prior system moved into the CSN database.

Gina Fontanini – Program Support Coordinator

In the last month the majority of my time has been dedicated to the CSN Case Management Module billing implementation, training and support. At the beginning of the month I held six, one and a half hour webinar trainings on the billing portion of the case management module. In addition to billing training I worked on various bug fixes and enhancements assigned to ISAC by the Case Management Development Group. I have been testing coding changes for the Program Analysts. I attended the CCMS Case Management Administrators meeting with Ashley where she presented the case management transition report I helped develop. I spent time developing a strategy for the Medicaid funding requests in CSN to end those active funding requests as of June 30, 2012, since the counties are no longer paying the county portion for those services. Andrea and I continue to collect redesign data and will move forward to compile the data for Linda Hinton. The CSN User Group met this month and I planned and attended this meeting. Andrea and I compiled the meeting notes and sent them out. I am currently developing a plan for ongoing training in CSN and plan to start that next month. I continue to work on my SMART goals which include case management and quality improvement in CSN.

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Holiday Gift Ideas

It is that time of year again to begin thinking about purchasing gifts for those on your holiday list, and there is nothing better than buying someone a fun, “techie” gift. Okay, maybe techie gifts aren’t for everyone, but I am sure there is at least one person on your list that may like something “techie.” Below you will find just a few fun, “techie” gifts to consider. If nothing else, it is fun to check them out just for the cool factor.

Nexus 7 or the iPad Mini - Both of these tablets offer similar specs and features and will make the gift recipient very happy. They are similar in size. 7.81 x 5.3 x 0.28 for the iPad Mini, and the Nexus 7 is 7.81 x 4.82 x 0.41. The Nexus 7 is slightly heavier weighing 12 oz. while the iPad Mini weighs in at 10.9 oz. The Nexus 7 screen measures seven inches, while the iPad Mini measures 7.9 inches. The true difference on display is the resolution, the Nexus 7 is better with a 1,280 x 800 pixels for a pixels-per-inch density of 216, while the iPad Mini offers 1,024 x 768 pixels for a pixels per-inch density of 163. Both models offer Wi-Fi; however, only the iPad Mini offers the end user the ability to surf the web via a network provider service. The iPad Mini is available in a 16 GB, 32 GB or 64 GB models ranging in price from \$329.00 to \$529.00. The Nexus 7 is available in 8 GB or 16 GB ranging in price from \$199.00 to \$299.00. Each has access to a large array of apps and ultimately, both have received excellent reviews. One cautionary note, if you decide to purchase the Nexus 7, you will be better served if purchased directly from Google for any possible warranty issues.

Kindle Fire HD or the Nook HD - Both e-readers are excellent and offer similar features. The Kindle Fire HD measures 7.6 x 5.4 x 0.4 and weighs 13.9 oz., while the Nook HD is 7.65 x 5 x 0.43 and weighs in at 11.1 oz. Both readers offer the Android 4.0 operating system. The screen resolution on the Kindle Fire HD is 1,280 x 800 with 216 pixels per inch, while the Nook HD has a resolution of 1,440 x 900 with 243 pixels per inch. The screen size is seven inches on both readers. They both offer Wi-Fi capability and you are able to surf the Internet. The battery life is 7 hours for video on the Kindle Fire HD and nine hours for the Nook HD. The Kindle Fire HD does offer a front facing camera while the Nook does not. They both are comparable in price, with the Kindle Fire HD 16GB at \$199 and the Nook HD 16GB priced at \$229. Just a quick reminder, the Kindle Fire HD is associated with Amazon, and the Nook HD is with Barnes and Noble. They are both excellent readers and will make your recipient very happy this holiday season—it will simply come down to personal preference.

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Office Manager



Microsoft’s Surface Tablet - It wasn’t Oprah’s influence (who has placed this gadget on her “Favorite Things” list) that caused me to add this onto my list, it is the fact that just a few years ago I wrote an article about the surface technology that created a coffee table on which users could place their electronic devices to sync and share photos, music, and other data with other devices placed on the coffee table. Now, surface has a new much more affordable option for us, while the Surface coffee table was priced at thousands of dollars, the Microsoft Surface tablet is priced beginning at \$499. It uses the Surface technology to make a tablet that definitely competes with the iPad. The current model offers Windows RT operating system, Microsoft Office Home and Student 2013, Windows Mail and Messaging, Internet Explorer 10, and Xbox music, video and games. It has a battery life of up to eight hours and weighs around 1.5 lbs. It offers storage options of 32 GB and 64 GB and a 10.6” screen with resolution of 1366 x 768. You are also able to purchase a touch cover that you can actually type on. Just a quick note, if this is a gift for yourself and you want more than just a tablet, you may wish to wait until early 2013 for the release of the Microsoft Surface Pro with the Windows 8 Professional operating system and the ability to run the Microsoft Office software.

Logitech Harmony 1100 Universal Remote - Remember the futuristic movies where everyone is able to control their electronics, appliances and security system with a really cool looking remote? Well, that “cool looking” remote is here, but is limited to controlling your electronic devices. The Logitech Harmony 1100 Universal Remote offers a 3.5 inch full-color touch screen and it is able to replace up to 15 individual remotes. It supports 225,000 devices and 5,000 different brands. It will require a computer to setup and program, but the setup is relatively painless and once setup, it is very easy to use. This remote is the perfect gift for the home theater enthusiast that has everything, and it comes with a price tag of around \$240.00.

Website Note: Remember the online registration for the 2013 ISAC New County Officers School opens December 4, 2012. This exciting training opportunity will be held on January 23-24, 2013 at The Meadows Events and Conference Center in Altoona. If you have a question regarding new technology and would like it addressed in this column, please contact me at 515.244.7181 or tnorman@iowacounties.org. Until next month, keep clicking!

meetings

ISAC Board Approves Future Conference Plans

The ISAC Board of Directors discussed and approved dates and locations for future ISAC conferences at its October 2012 meeting (see a summary of minutes starting on the following pages of this magazine). Please mark your calendars with these important dates and help your affiliate plan for these future ISAC events.

2015 ISAC Fall School of Instruction

Wednesday, November 18 - Friday, November 20, 2015
Cedar Rapids Convention Complex and DoubleTree by Hilton

2016 ISAC Fall School of Instruction

Wednesday, November 30 - Friday, December 2, 2016
Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines

2017 and Beyond

ISAC staff has experienced an ongoing struggle to bring a consistent November date for the ISAC Fall School of Instruction to the ISAC Board for approval due to many conflicts (Election Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, etc). The Board's goal was to find an ISAC conference date that was the same year after year. In addition to these date conflicts, the ISAC staff must work with a facility large enough to cater the needs of our growing membership, as well as the great attendance numbers that we have during our fall conference.

To accommodate our future conference growth, Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center in Des Moines seemed to be the best fit for our annual fall

By: *Stacy Horner*

ISAC Meeting/Event
Administrator



conference. It is also centrally located, which has been the desire of the majority of the membership based on feedback. The only glitch was trying to secure dates within the Wednesday-Friday conference pattern that wouldn't conflict with a holiday or another association's conference dates. The Board requested the ISAC staff to find a conference date pattern that ISAC could claim even if it meant moving the conference out of the month of November. It would be great to find our own "ISAC" conference week. In working with the Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center and Des Moines Marriott Downtown, the following dates were presented to the board for review.

- August 22 - 25, 2017
- August 21 - 24, 2018
- August 20 - 23, 2019
- August 25 - 28, 2020
- August 24 - 27, 2021

After much discussion, the Board approved to move the annual fall conference to late August beginning in 2017. The Board and staff are very excited about this new conference date as it will bring other new opportunities for ISAC. As we prepare for this new date change, we will be available to assist any of the affiliates with any of their changes in accommodating this new ISAC timeline, particularly legislatively.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact ISAC if you have any questions at shorner@iowacounties.org or 515.244.7181. Thanks and Happy New Year!



ISAC New County Officers School

January 23-24, 2013

The Meadows Events and Conference Center, Altoona

All county officials are invited to join us for the ISAC New County Officers (NCO) School. This is an educational conference that can help you sharpen up on important county related topics.

Register beginning Wednesday, December 4, 2012!

More information at www.iowacounties.org.

Board Minutes Summary - October 25-26, 2012

ISAC President Wayne Walter called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The ISAC Board of Directors meeting minutes from September 13 and 14, 2012 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Joni Tonnemacher, McGowen, Hurst, Clark and Smith P.C., reported that the FY 2012 audit had only a couple minor adjustments and that an unqualified opinion was given. The financial statements were correct in all respects. A few minor material weaknesses were identified in internal controls, both of which have been addressed by staff. The Board unanimously approved the FY 2012 audit report.

President Walter recessed for the ETC Board of Directors meeting and reconvened the ISAC Board at its conclusion.

Harlan Hansen, Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) chair, reported that the LPC met in August and September to create the recommended 2013 Legislative Priorities, which were included in the board materials and were sent out in advance of the meeting for review. There was very good participation and attendance at both committee meetings. Linda Hinton reviewed the policy statements that were omitted, added and/or modified. She also reviewed the legislative objectives. The LPC proposed Property Tax Reform, Mental Health Funding and Road Funding as the 2013 Top Priorities.

Brad Holtan reported on the control deficiencies that were found in the FY 2012 audit and what has been done to correct them.

Brad presented a memo to the Board regarding the designated funds accounts and recommended zeroing out the building development fund and the CSN fund. Funds from the building fund will be transferring into the general fund. A resolution will be brought to the board allowing for the CSN fund to be zeroed out. This will then require action from the ETC Board as well. The Board unanimously approved zeroing out the building development fund.

Brad reviewed the financial statement for three months ending September 30, 2012, including the receivables and expenditures of note. The reissuance of old statements has been helping in the recovery of outstanding balances over 60 days. The financial report was unanimously accepted.

Kristi Harshbarger gave a progress report on ISAC vs. IDR.

Brad gave a detailed presentation on the ISAC internal controls process to provide the Board with a greater understanding of the processes involved and to insure accurate financial reporting.

Kristi reported that the County Rate Information System (CRIS) Board has recommended that all functions of CRIS will be taken over by ETC/CSN. The termination process was reviewed, which begins with the adoption of a termination resolution by the Board. The Board unanimously adopted the termination resolution as recommended.

Bill Peterson updated the board on the planned restructuring of the government relations functions. As a result of that restructuring plan, Mary Beth Mellick's position with ISAC was being eliminated. Bill requested that he be authorized to provide two month's salary and benefits as severance pay to Mary Beth upon the elimination of her position on October 31, 2012. The request was unanimously approved by the Board.

President Walter recessed the Board for the evening and reconvened it the next morning.

Grant Veeder, Articles/Bylaws/Membership Committee chair, reported that the Iowa Association of County Commissioners and Veterans Service Officers (IACCVSO) has submitted a letter requesting to become an ISAC affiliate. The committee recommends inviting representatives from IACCVSO to come to the December meeting to respond to questions that will be sent to them in advance. Ultimately, this could be a decision of the full membership at the spring school in March 2013. The board discussed the addition of IACCVSO as an affiliate at length. The minutes of the committee were unanimously approved. Bill Peterson, ISAC executive director, was directed to invite representatives of IACCVSO to attend the December 13, 2012 meeting of the Board to discuss IACCVSO's interest in becoming an affiliate member of ISAC. Bill was asked to advise IACCVSO that in order for the application to be considered it may be necessary revise the organization's articles to include county employees only as members of ISAC.

President Walter reported that the Scholarship Committee met on October 25, 2012 and recommended awarding a total of \$23,500 in scholarships broken down into six districts scholarships of \$2,500, six district runner-up scholarships of \$1,000, and a past president scholarship of \$2,500. The committee also recommended having ISAC reimburse the

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two-way mileage of all interviewees. The fundraiser netted around \$24,400 this year, so the recommendation was to give out only what was taken in. The Board unanimously accepted the recommendation and approved the scholarship committee minutes.

Linda Hinton reported that the legislative top priorities, objectives and policy statements need to be recommended by the Board to the membership. The recommended package will be brought to the full membership for approval at the 2012 ISAC Fall School of Instruction General Session on Wednesday, November 28. Changes were recommended to the REAP Funding legislative objective because of concerns that the original language misrepresented what REAP does. The Legislative top priorities, objectives and policy statements as amended with the recommended REAP language were unanimously accepted.

A concern was raised about how ISAC will be viewed by the legislature due to the number of instances where ISAC is asking the state to provide more money. It was recommended that in the future the LPC focus on ways to approach the problems more as partners and less as an entity simply looking for more money. The board discussed the addition of a preamble to address these concerns.

Rachel Bicego reported that 2012 ISAC Fall School of Instruction exhibit booth sales are in line with last year and that sponsorship and advertising sales are ahead. Stacy Horner reviewed the fall school board scenario.

Stacy reviewed proposals from Coralville and Cedar Rapids to host the 2015 ISAC Fall School of Instruction. The board discussed both proposals amply including parking, hotels, logistics and other benefits and drawbacks of each location. The Board unanimously approved holding the 2015 ISAC Fall School of Instruction on November 18-20 at the Cedar Rapids Convention Complex and DoubleTree by Hilton.

Stacy reviewed the 2013 New County Officers School agenda to be held at The Meadows Events and Conference Center on January 23-24 and reported that registration opens on December 4.

Stacy presented two options for dates in Des Moines for the 2017-2021 fall schools as requested at the September board meeting. Option one was the week after the Iowa State Fair in August, and option two was the third week in September.

The September dates may conflict with the Iowa League of Cities which would be an issue due to the number of exhibitors that exhibit at both conferences. Both options would be for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday dates. The rental rates are good, and the Des Moines Greater Convention and Visitors Bureau is offering to provide \$3,000 each year toward the conference. There were no dates available in October or November.

The Board discussed that the legislative process would need to be altered, but that it could work for the better. ISAC will have plenty of time to work with the affiliates to figure out their best options. The board also had ample discussion in regards to which dates would work better for each affiliate and the membership as a whole, including agriculturally. Stacy was asked to explore support from Polk County, and the Board unanimously committed to option one as proposed. Option 1: August 22 - 25, 2017; August 21 - 24, 2018; August 20 - 23, 2019; August 25 - 28, 2020; August 24 - 27, 2021

Brad Holtan reported that the 2013 Scholarship Golf Fundraiser has been scheduled for August 22, 2013 at the Otter Creek Golf Course in Ankeny. In hopes of raising more funds for future scholarships, he proposed changes to the fundraiser committee structure to increase participation by all affiliates in the fundraiser. The assembly of a Scholarship Fundraising Committee with a member from each affiliate and multiple supervisors was unanimously approved by the board. It was also approved that committee members shall be chosen by the affiliate and shall be appointed to two-year, rotating terms between elected and non-elected officials.

Stacy noted that the Board's breakfast was provided by the Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Bill reported that ISAC has been discussing the possibility of hosting a future NACo Annual Conference. This would require local fundraising both on the part of ISAC and the community.

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Bill presented a proposal to the board from the University of Iowa Institute of Public Affairs for goal-setting facilitation services as requested. Based on the fees included in the proposal, the match of funds for around five to six counties to participate in strategic planning would require the board to approve the allocation of \$7,500 to \$10,000. Information and an application will be prepared for distribution at the fall school. The Board unanimously approved allocating up to \$10,000 to create the matching funds for the strategic planning project for the remainder of FY 2013.

Board members shared issues, concerns, ideas and achievements.

President Walter presented Jon McNamee with a gift and thanked him for his service on the board. Jon addressed the Board and in closing, commended the Board by comparing its work to a quote by Harry S. Truman, "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

Grant Veeder gave the following limerick:
It's farewell to Jon McIntee
The Health guy from Black Hawk Countee.
He views his consumers
With kindness and humor
A rare food inspector is he.

ISAC staff participated in a staff retreat in late September and adopted core values: member focus, strive for personal and business excellence; respect others, those we work with and work for; engage in teamwork as a staff; and operate with integrity. The structure of the staff and succession plans for each staff member were also discussed.

President Walter adjourned the meeting.

technology center

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Josh DeGroot – Program Support Analyst

The past four months my work has been divided into four main areas in order of time allotted to each. First, as the case management module has been rolled out and implemented for beta counties, there have been bugs, fixes, enhancements, and support opportunities that I've worked on. Second, I have relieved Ashley of her heavy responsibility of support for at least a couple months while she is working with counties on their year-end data and warehouse reports. This includes various tickets that require data fixes, research, and helping users with functions in CSN. Third, I've worked on general CSN fixes and enhancements. Fixes mean that a ticket has come in requiring research, and then, once the problem is identified, the fix is made and implemented. Enhancements are functions/processes that have been identified in CSN which could be improved for better, more efficient processes. Finally, I have been working on re-creating and scrubbing the data for a Demo CSN site. This is so that our program coordinators can Demo CSN for outside folks with "dummy" data and no possibility of real, live data showing.

Sam Watson – Information Technology Specialist

I created a new rebilling process for CSN Case Management. After submitting an invoice to IME/Magellan, specific invoice line items may be rejected for one reason or another. The rebill process will allow CSN users the capability to "re-bill"

whichever invoice line items were rejected. The contacts associated with the specific line item will return back to billing review status so the reason for rejection can be resolved. Then, the contacts can be re-billed and would be placed on another invoice under a different invoice line item. Rebill can be re-done on a given invoice line item as much as is needed until resolution. I modified CSN to allow CSN Case Management contacts to include the digital signature filename and username/position title currently in effect for the user who signed the contact. In the case of a future username/position title change or digital signature change, the original digital signature and username/title will still be available when the contact is viewed and/or printed. Work is ongoing to import legacy client document files for Woodbury County. Around 200,000 documents have been slated for import, although related documents will be merged into larger PDFs. To accommodate the need for enhanced security of these documents, CSN has been modified to allow a client document to be accessed only by a specific entity within CSN or even a group of users who have been given "Confidential Access" to documents. The battery for the RAID controller, a device that manages the hard drives on the server, in the CSN database server failed. The part was ordered and installed. The battery is needed to make sure any data that might be cached would not be lost in the event of power loss.

affiliate highlights

Houser recognized as 2012 Nourish Iowa Honoree

On October 12, the Food Access & Health Work Group of the Iowa Food Systems Council (IFSC) honored individuals and groups across the state that are advancing a food system that eliminates hunger, increasing access to nutritious food and improving the health of individuals and communities across Iowa. Award recipients and special honorees were recognized during the Food Access & Health Work Group Fall Gathering at the Jessie Parker Building, Grant Room on the Capitol Complex in Des Moines.

The 2012 Nourish Iowa Awards were established to recognize those who have made a significant impact on the advancement of food security, food access and health at the community, regional or state levels. According to IFSC Past President Linda Gobberdiel, this inaugural award will honor those who are making outstanding contributions in the areas of food access and health through public service, teaching, research, extension or public policy and who have implemented creative and resourceful solutions to boosting food security, nutrition and health.

Melvyn Houser, Pottawattamie County Supervisor, was recognized as a special honoree. ISAC with help from Linda Langston, Linn County Supervisor, and Bahia Nightengale, Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Southwest Iowa Food and Farm Initiative, nominated Melvyn for the award because of the work he has done to advance food systems across the state. He uses his leadership role as county supervisor to advance the issues related to food access and health not just for his constituents, but for citizens across the state of Iowa. He has been instrumental in the formation of county based local food policy councils in Pottawattamie, Cass, Fremont, Shelby, Linn, Johnson and other counties. Melvyn was instrumental in securing county funds in support of Iowa's first regional local food coordinator; a system that has since been duplicated dozens of times across the state and the nation. He has helped build successful collaborations between organizations such as Promise Partners (Pottawattamie Counties Alliance for Youth) and community gardening groups, food banks, the RC&D's and many others working to build sustainable, community based food systems. Melvyn partners with dozens of organizations across the state; many with disparate modes of thinking, and uses this as an opportunity to build bridges. He reminds us that "food unites us all."

Melvyn has, for years, been quietly working to effect change at a grassroots level in the public sector of food system policy. In his own subtle way he challenges conventional paradigms, encourages innovation, and requires his fellow public servants to explore concepts of food systems that can often be unpleasant and unrewarding for the elected official to embrace. Melvyn has dogmatically refused to back away from the simple truth that our communities deserve better and that change can be effected in simple, pragmatic solutions. He spends far more time than he really has in order to support the idea that better food systems, better food and unfettered access to food will make a resounding difference for every community in Iowa.

The 2012 Nourish Iowa Award recipients are Emily Kregel, Food Service Director at Cass County Memorial Hospital in Atlantic and the Des Moines Izaak Walton League/North Polk Pheasants Forever.

The following individuals and organizations were also honored for their commitment to improving food security, food access and health across Iowa. Special Honorees include Diana Sickles of Des Moines, Hannah Lewis of Des Moines, Kimberly Greder of Ames, Melvyn Houser of Council Bluffs, Ray Meylor of Ankeny, Feed Iowa First in Cedar Rapids, Food at First in Ames, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship-Farm to School Program in Des Moines, Iowa Food Bank Association in Waterloo, Iowa Department of Human Services –Wireless EBT Project in Des Moines, Local Foods Connection, in Iowa City, Northeast Iowa Food & Fitness Initiative in Decorah, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in West Des Moines, Story County Plant-A-Row for the Hungry in Ames, Sustainability and Farm to ISU at ISU Dining in Ames, Table to Table Food Distribution Network in Iowa City, and The Wellmark Foundation in Des Moines.

The Iowa Food Systems Council is an emerging member-based non-profit organization whose charge is to monitor Iowa's food and health landscape, to encourage and coordinate connections between food system leaders and decision makers, and to identify policies, programs and research that cultivate a resilient and sustainable food system – a food system which builds a healthier food economy, a healthier environment and healthier Iowans. For further information, visit www.IowaFoodSystemsCouncil.org.

Cyber Security and Your County

By: William Pelgrin

MS-ISAC Chair and Centers for Internet Security
President and CEO

Why should you care and what should you do about cyber security in your county?

Many of our critical government services rely on the Internet and technology to function. While this inter-connectivity has many benefits—such as convenience and efficiency—there are risks associated with this digital environment. The cyber challenges facing us continue to escalate. We only need to look at the headlines to understand that the risks are real and that local governments are vulnerable: hacktivist groups targeting local police departments across the nation, disgruntled employees hacking into municipal networks, and public health records being stolen by cyber criminals are just a few recent cases targeting local governments.

Some specific examples of how your county's computer system could be affected by a cyber security incident—whether because of improper cyber security controls, manmade or natural disasters, or malicious users wreaking havoc—include the following:

- Your websites could be disabled and unavailable to your citizens.
- Criminals could break into your systems and steal personal and sensitive information about your employees or citizens.
- A virus could shut down your network.
- A laptop or mobile device could be inadvertently lost, putting any data on that machine at risk for compromise.
- A malicious user could use your systems to attack other systems.

These and other information security incidents would certainly have a negative impact on your ability to provide services to citizens, may be costly to recover from and could potentially result in a loss of public confidence.

Local governments have a responsibility to citizens and business partners to safeguard the information with which they are entrusted and to keep mission critical operations functioning.

Don't Get Overwhelmed...Get Started!

Addressing these challenges can seem daunting. Especially for those with a lack of experience or resources to address the constant evolving and increasing threats from cyberspace, it is difficult to know what to do or how to get started. But, there are many proactive steps that can strengthen your county's cyber security posture, and many of them can be implemented with a relatively small amount of fiscal and staff resources.

In fact, a recent report found that 96% of data breaches could have been avoided if simple controls were in place. (*2011 Data Breach Investigations Report -- Verizon, U.S. Secret Service, Dutch High Tech Crime Unit*)

Steps Every County Official Should Take

- Designate a principal individual responsible for cyber security. This may be a part-time or full-time assignment depending on the scope and complexity of your organization's operations. It may be your county's Information Technology director, a third-party consultant or other designee. Make sure this individual can provide you with answers to these questions:
 - How are we protecting our cyber infrastructure and residents' data?
 - What policies and procedures are in place for physically protecting our equipment from authorized access, loss or theft?
 - What is our plan for responding to a cyber security incident?
 - What cyber security policies are in place? Is staff trained on those policies?
- Make sure that cyber security is factored into business decisions and that the individual(s) responsible for cyber security in your county are involved in the discussions whenever a new program or service is being considered.
- Serve as the champion for cyber security in your county. Make sure you adhere to best practices, such as using a strong password, never opening unknown attachments in emails, and only visiting trusted websites.

Engage the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center for Help

For assistance with any of the above tips, and to learn more about keeping your county protected, contact the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). MS-ISAC is a division of the not-for-profit Center for Internet Security, and is designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as a key resource for cyber threat prevention, protection, response and recovery for the nation's state, local, territorial and tribal governments.

MS-ISAC provides a number of resources at no cost to its members, including incident response; cyber alerts and advisories; monthly webcast meetings; annual in-person

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NACo Rural Action Caucus Sets 2013 Priorities

By: Erik Johnston

NACo Associate Legislative Director



Reauthorization of the farm bill, relief from unfunded mandates, and a renewed focus on rural healthcare and substance abuse are among NACo's Rural Action Caucus (RAC) 2013 Legislative Priorities. These priorities are designed to help improve the lives of Americans living in rural communities.

RAC members adopted the priorities during the group's annual meeting held November 8-10, 2012 in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. The purpose of the annual meeting is for leaders in county, parish and borough government to discuss the needs and concerns of the rural Americans they represent and decide how best to influence federal legislation, regulations and funding affecting rural people, businesses and communities. This year's meeting was led by RAC Chair Doris Karloff, supervisor chair, Saunders County, Nebraska, and hosted by the Police Jury Association of Louisiana and the Parishes of Evangeline, St. Landry and Rapides.

NACo's 2013 Rural Action Caucus priorities include:

- relief from unfunded mandates;
- reauthorization of the farm bill with a focus on rural development;
- renewed focus on improving rural healthcare and substance abuse programs with a focus on rural veterans and youth;
- implementation of the key rural provisions of the Surface Transportation Law (MAP-21), and
- reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools & Self Determination Act and PILT, which are critical to communities with Public Lands.

Participants also provided input on NACo's strategic planning process and discussed best practices, solutions and innovations that can be replicated by other rural communities, such as "smart justice" system reforms and food system improvements. Other issues discussed include the potential effects of sequestration – looming automatic, across-the-board federal spending reductions – and election results.

Participants toured a Cajun food processing plant and the Cameron International Facility, which is a global leader in the production of oil and gas drilling equipment, in Evangeline Parish and learned about the partnership between the Parish and these local businesses on job creation efforts. RAC members also toured the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Biogas Facility. Key staff from the offices of Congressional members from Louisiana participated in the tour of the county solid waste facility and sat down with RAC members for a roundtable discussion on related issues.

NACo's RAC is the voice for America's rural counties in Washington. It is a bipartisan coalition of rural elected officials, who strive to enhance the quality of life in rural counties through effective federal legislation. The caucus is not only an advocacy arm of the organization, but also serves as the conduit for technical and programmatic assistance through the NACo County Solutions & Innovations Department. More information is available at www.naco.org.

miscellaneous

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meeting; trainings and exercises; annual Cyber Security Awareness Month materials; and a community of practice for information sharing between and among states and local governments.

There is no cost to join the MS-ISAC and membership is open to all state, local, territorial and tribal governments. To learn more about how your county government can become a member and to take advantage of this resource, contact the MS-ISAC:

Center for Internet Security

Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center
518.266.3460, info@msisac.org (put "New Member" in the subject line), or visit <http://msisac.cisecurity.org/>.

The Start of a Quarter

By: Ryan Berry

Public Fund Sales Associate

With the start of the 4th quarter and the end of the year quickly approaching, we turn our attention to what lies ahead...steadily falling temperatures. While traveling to meet with our clients, the changing of the seasons has made for nothing short of spectacular driver seat views of Iowa's foliage, albeit with a sturdier coat accompanying each trip. Weather aside it has been a busy start as the high school football playoffs are nearing completion; the college football regular season is drawing to an end, the baseball season with the Giants using their Halloween brooms early for the four game sweep of the Tigers have made for a busy and enjoyable 4th quarter beginning. Throw in the economy and that pretty much rounds out the quarter providing for ups and downs as associated with all the extracurricular activities that have been completed and are yet to come.

Domestic economic indicators were weaker during September led by slower-than-expected job growth. The market seems less concerned with Europe thanks to a number of steps taken by the European Central Bank and various governments.

The Federal Reserve took an unprecedented step by launching an open-ended plan to purchase mortgage-backed securities in what is being called Quantitative Easing 3 (QE3). Interest rates were volatile, but ended slightly higher with the 10-year rising nine basis points to 1.63%.

After declining nearly 3% in the 3rd quarter, the S&P 500 Index rose more than 6% in the third, leaving the Index up 16.4% so far this year. The strong performance during the 3rd quarter was driven primarily by the introduction of massive liquidity programs by the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank.

Short rates remained flat as the Federal Reserve announcement of more quantitative easing had little impact on money markets. The Federal Reserve reiterated their commitment to keeping rates exceptionally low, and extended their time frame to mid-2015 rather than the end of 2014.

The year is drawing to a close and judging from conversations I have had with many of the counties, this is a time of year when projects are at or near completion. New projects are being bid out and sizable bond fund sales are beginning to come in. IPAIT continues to accept your funds, working in conjunction with your local banks, to help ease the burden of collateralization concerns for deposits. IPAIT provides for a safe investment haven for your funds allowing for full liquidity as yields continue to remain flat. IPAIT also benefits the counties by allowing for unlimited accounts at no additional cost once your primary account is opened. The ability to title your funds for projects as well as offer the ease of customized reporting on our website are just a few of the other benefits to being an IPAIT member.

The 4th quarter began our time change as we set our clocks back allowing for early sunrises and early sunsets. We look forward to the major holidays, spending time with our families and shopping for the perfect gift. With IPAIT we can provide counties with the gift of a fund designed to provide safety and liquidity—the perfect gift for your funds. You can reach us by phone at 800.872.4024. We look forward to speaking with you soon. Also, please visit the website at www.ipait.org.

Kind Regards,
Ryan
800.872.4024
rberry@miles-capital.com

preferred vendor highlights

Matt Parrott/ Storey Kenworthy

Those county officials involved in elections, or any printed goods and apparel, have known the Matt Parrott & Sons company for quite a long time. 140 years to be exact! Matt Parrott salespeople have been calling on the county offices of Iowa, and only Iowa, for over 100 years.

But that isn't the extent of what has been happening at Matt Parrott recently. In the last year we have merged with Storey Kenworthy, Iowa's largest Iowa-owned office supply and furniture dealer. Now with 10 locations statewide, this greatly improves our buying power, the scope of products we offer, and our network of delivery and service.

Why use Matt Parrott/Storey Kenworthy?

As Iowa's largest family run office supply and furnishings company, Storey Kenworthy brings you opportunities every day to **Get MORE**. Whether you're looking for office supplies, office furniture, interior design services, printing, or promotional items; Storey Kenworthy is your one stop solution for all your business needs.

Furniture

Did you know that Storey Kenworthy Office Interiors has several special pricing contracts in place that government entities can utilize? The benefits from using these contracts are numerous—most notably, saving money while aligning you with the right products that fit your needs.

Storey Kenworthy is the only furniture dealer that has a published contract with the state of Iowa. This contract is on the state of Iowa web site under "Existing Contracts with the state of Iowa" (contract #CT2876) and is available to all state, county and local municipalities.

Office Products

Our Government Partner program for office supplies has many benefits for the counties of Iowa:

- Large GPO nationally bid customer pricing
- Sophisticated online ordering system
- Free delivery statewide
- High volume leveraged purchasing
- No matter how you place your orders - most are delivered next day
- Local Iowa representation

Storey Kenworthy is your single source provider for all your office supply needs. Our wide variety of products, services and programs allow you to minimize the time you spend shopping for office supplies and give our customers **MORE** than the competition.

Printing

The addition of Matt Parrott to the Storey Kenworthy family of companies allows us to expand the **Get MORE** experience by adding print manufacturing to our current product offering which will reduce the hard costs you pay for printed goods, and reduce the soft cost hassles by improving internal process through single sourcing!

In short, you Get MORE!

Business Forms, Letterhead, Invoices, Mailing Services, Continuous Forms, Full Color Printing, Convey Your High Standards, Annual Reports, Brochures, Marketing Pieces, Wide Formats

Election Supplies and Equipment

We are excited about our new partnership with ElectionSource and Dominion Voting Systems (Premier). This partnership will now allow us to not only print your ballots as usual, but once again we can provide coding, service and maintenance. It is a seamless transfer from the coding process to printing ballots, with hardware repair and maintenance happening locally in Iowa.

Dominion Voting Systems new family of Democracy Suite products:

- ImageCast Precinct
- ImageCast Evolution
- ImageCast Central
- Democracy Suite EMS

Support for:

- Legacy AccuVote & AutoMark Systems
- Coding/Programming
- Ballot Layout & Printing
- Preventive Maintenance
- Accuracy & Logic Testing
- Gems/Assure Training

For all counties in Iowa we are now the only Iowa-based election services company that can take the process from coding to printing.

Contact Us

For more information about any of our product offerings, please contact Ed Minnick, Vice president of Sales, Matt Parrott/Storey Kenworthy:

Ed Minnick
eminnick@storeykenworthy.com
515.558.6063

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2012/2013 calendar

December 2012

- 4-6 Engineers Statewide Annual Conference (Scheman Center, Ames)
- 13 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

January 2013

- 8 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 23-24 New County Officers School (The Meadows Events and Conference Center, Altoona)
- 25 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

February 2013

- 6 Statewide Supervisors Meeting (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 21 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 27-28 CCMS Fundamentals Training (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

March 2013

- 2-6 NACo Legislative Conference (Washington, D.C.)
- 13 County Day at the Capitol (State Capitol, Des Moines)
- 14-15 ISAC Spring School of Instruction (Des Moines Marriott Downtown)

April 2013

- 9 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 21-25 NACE Annual Conference (Des Moines)

May 2013

- 2 CCMS Advanced Case Management Meeting (Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 9 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

June 2013

- 6 CCMS Supervisors Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 12-14 ICIT Mid-Year Conference (West Des Moines Marriott)
- 19-20 CCMS Fundamentals Training (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

July 2013

- 9 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 19-23 NACo Annual Conference (Fort Worth, TX)
- 31-2 CCMS Annual Conference (Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)

August 2013

- 15-16 ISAC LPC Retreat (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 22 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser (Otter Creek Golf Course, Ankeny)

September 2013

- 11-12 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat (Plymouth County)
- 26 ISAC LPC Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

October 2013

- 8 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 16-17 CCMS Fundamentals Training (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 17-18 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

November 2013

- 7 CCMS Advanced Case Management Meeting (Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 13-15 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Veteran's Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

December 2013

- 4 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled for 2012-2013, agendas and meeting notices can be found on ISAC's website. A majority of ISAC's meetings offer online registration. If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC Calendar, please contact Stacy Horner at 515.244.7181 or shorner@iowacounties.org.

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