Towa State Association of Counties



January 2011
2011 Legislative Priorities
Thoughts on the Upcoming Year



Nationwide/NACo 2011 College Scholarship

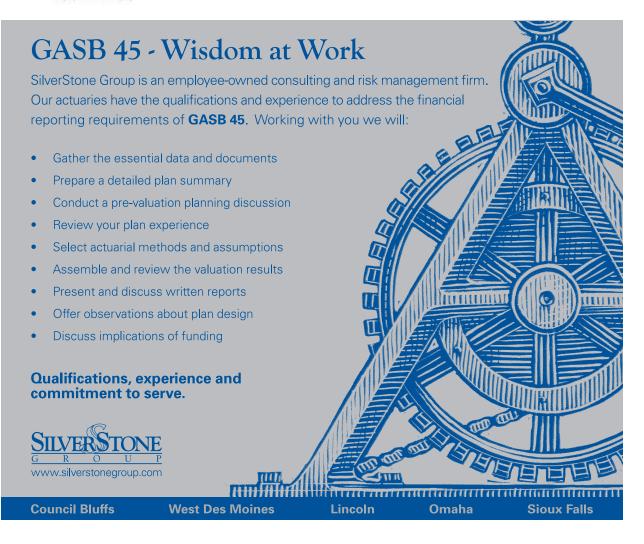
For more information go to www.naco.org/retirementscholarship or www.nrsforu.com/scholarship Submission deadline: January 31, 2011





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501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 244-7181 FAX (515) 244-6397
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Rachel E. Bicego, EDITOR

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ISAC's Mission:

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

Sam Watson - Information Technology Specialist

ISAC's Vision:

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

feature

Thoughts on the Upcoming Year

The beginning of any new year prompts us to reflect on our accomplishments and encourages us to set realistic goals. Our goals in county government must promote our commitment to provide necessary services to our constituents. With the 2010 election cycle behind us, new opportunities lay in wait to educate legislators, both new and seasoned, on the objectives and priorities that are important to county government. It will be a goal of mine as your president to advance the legislative agenda that will focus on funding for disability services; funding of TIME-21; guidelines for classification of agricultural property; valuing agricultural buildings at new replacement cost less depreciation; and funding county programs to meet the ever increasing state mandates so counties will not be forced to either cut services or increase property taxes.

ISAC welcomes the newly elected supervisors, recorders, treasurers and county attorneys that have taken office this month. For those new to your positions, I encourage you to participate in the New County Officers School sponsored by ISAC that is scheduled for January 26-27, 2011. The two-day training session will consist of general session topics that cover open meetings law, public records and ethics, while breakout sessions range from large and small county budgeting, personnel law, county home rule, our property tax system, working with the press and resolving courthouse conflicts. The second day will be specific to those elective offices that were on the 2010 ballot. The information you obtain will undoubtedly provide you with a better understanding of county government and how ISAC can be a valuable resource.

Whether new to your position or privileged with multiple years

By: Marge Pitts Clay County Auditor ISAC President

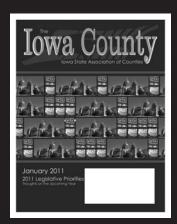
of service, we all will need to meet the challenges of our new year with a spirit of cooperation and persistence in finding innovative ways to make a positive impact



on the quality of life for all the people that we serve. Since our level of government is the most accessible to our citizenry it is imperative that we continually reevaluate our ways of doing business and embrace concepts that can produce constructive change in a positive way. I realize that we cross the threshold of 2011 with cautious feet, but it is my hope that together we can build on our past accomplishments and work to develop a vision of what county government may possibly look like in our near future.

I am honored to be this year's president of the Iowa State Association of Counties. I am grateful for being given the opportunity to serve with so many individuals representing all facets of county government. My career began in 1973 as a motor vehicle and tax clerk for the Clay County Treasurer, and I have now served as the Clay County Auditor since 1999. I have appreciated the support of my ISAC affiliate for allowing my involvement on the ISAC Board of Directors since 2007 and could not devote the energies that will be necessary in this coming year without the hard work and support of my very competent office staff, who manages to hold it all together while I am gone. I am looking forward to serving as your president in 2011 and will do my very best to work with the ISAC Board, the excellent staff of ISAC, and you, our membership to enable our level of government to remain viable and equipped to face the rapidly changing environment in our state, our nation and the world around us.

About the Cover



The cover picture is based off of the design for the 2011 ISAC Legislative Priorities. You can find the full list of top priorities and legislative objectives on pages 7 - 24 of this magazine. A full list of legislative policy statements can be found at www.iowacounties.org.

I'm always looking for interesting photos for the cover of the magazine. For consideration, please send your photos to rbicego@iowacounties.org.

meetings

ISAC's 2011 Spring School of Instruction

By: Stacy Horner

ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator



It is already time again for the 2011 ISAC Spring School of Instruction to be held at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown and Renaissance Savery Hotels from March 23-24, 2011. Conference registration and the housing bureau will open at 8:30 am on Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

Like for the 2010 ISAC Fall School of Instruction, you must register online at www.iowacounties.org for the conference prior to making your hotel reservation through the Iowa Housing Bureau. The housing bureau will close at 4:30 pm on Friday, February 25, so please make sure that you reserve your hotel room before the deadline. The advanced conference registration fee is \$130. The last day to pre-register will be Tuesday, March 8 (4:30 pm). After that date, all registrations must take place on-site in Des Moines, and you will be charged the at-the-door registration fee of \$150. Please pre-register for the conference. It enables the ISAC staff to plan accordingly for conference meals and materials. This helps us to save you money by keeping our registrations as low as possible.

After registering for the conference on the ISAC website, you are able to reserve your hotel accommodations online as well

through the Iowa Housing Bureau. Conference hotels rooms will be available at the following hotels: Des Moines Marriott Downtown, Renaissance Savery Hotel, Holiday Inn Downtown and Embassy Suites on the River. Please take advantage of the complimentary shuttle service to/from the Des Moines Marriott and Renaissance Savery Hotel from the Holiday Inn Downtown and Embassy Suites on the River. Please inquire at your hotel's front desk upon check-in for shuttle information.

All conference details are posted on the conference website at http://www.iowacounties.org/SpringSchool.htm. Please continue to check the site for the latest updates. If you have any conference questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 515.244.7181 or shorner@iowacounties.org.

Wednesday, March 23		Thursday, March 24	
7:30am-6:00pm	ISAC Registration and Information Desk and Exhibit Hall Hours	7:30am-3:00pm	ISAC Registration and Information Desk Hours
7:30am-6:00pm	ISAC Registration (Marriott Exhibit Hall)	7:30am-3:00pm	ISAC Registration (Marriott 2nd Floor)
7:30am-9:00am	Exhibitor Morning Refreshments (Marriott Exhibit Hall)	7:30am-8:00am	Morning Refreshments (Marriott 2nd Floor and Savery
9:00am-10:30am	ISAC Educational Seminars (Marriott Ballroom)	8:00am-12:00pm	Pre-Function Area) Affiliate Time
10:45am-12:00pm	ISAC Business Meeting and Awards		(Marriott and Savery)
12:00pm-1:30pm	Ceremony (Marriott Ballroom) Open Lunch/Exhibitor Ice Cream	12:00pm-1:00pm	ISAC Networking Lunch (Marriott Exhibit Hall)
1:30pm-4:30pm	Social (Marriott Exhibit Hall) Affiliate Time	1:00pm-5:00pm	Affiliate Time (Marriott and Savery)
4:30pm-6:00pm	(Marriott and Savery) Exhibitor Reception and Vendor Drawing (Marriott Exhibit Hall)		
6:00pm-8:30pm	Hospitality Rooms (Marriott and Savery)		
8:30pm-11:00pm	ISAC Dance (Savery)		

CCMS

Retreating on the Way to Moving Forward

In late September the CCMS staff and members of the CCMS Board of Directors engaged in a process known as Strategic Planning. Jeff Schott from the University of Iowa was hired to lead the event. Prior to the day of the gathering he sent out a questionnaire that asked participants to: explain the key purposes of our organization; identify our core values to maintain or promote; describe our vision for CCMS in the next five years; list our major accomplishments, list our issues, concerns, trends and opportunities that will affect us in the future; and to list any initiatives, programs, activities, or policies that should be considered in the next several years.

Instead of focusing on all of the changes in case management, or in all of the requirements and struggles with the decisions coming from the state, etc., it was a stop and think moment. It was an opportunity to get grounded, to get back to basics, to get back to a beginning point in order to move forward once again.

My purpose in discussing this process this month is to simply present an idea for consideration to address some of the morale issues I've been hearing about from agencies, as well as suggest a way to set agency goals going forward. If the basics of strategic planning could be introduced through the annual staff retreat format, perhaps a serious discussion combined with serious fun would lead to a positive outcome.

To begin I looked for ideas on effective retreats. Google to the rescue! I came across an article called "How to Host a Fun and Productive Staff Retreat" by Lisa Simmons. "The benefits of a well planned retreat include team members who feel appreciated, a sense of team unity and commitment to the common goal, opportunity to resolve complicated issues away from the usual daily distractions, and more effective long range planning." Sounds perfect.

Three keys to make a retreat work according to Simmons include comfort, interactiveness and relevance.

Comfort:

- **1. Make it comfortable**. Create a learning environment that is positive and relaxed. In order to gain a new perspective on each other, the team needs to see each other in a new place doing new things.
- 2. Encourage staff to dress comfortably.
- **3. Start the day with comfort foods**. Solicit from staff some reasonable snack suggestions for grazing during the day, too.
- **4. Don't forget some social time**. Casual conversation to reconnect is important to set a tone of comfort with co-workers.

By: Linda Kemp

ISAC Case Management Specialist

I found some ice-breaker ideas on another website with excellent questions to get things started.



Interactive:

- 1. Just moving your [staff meeting] to a new location won't do it! The key to a productive retreat is to use it as a time to really draw out all the creativity and problem solving skills of the staff.
- **2. Fun IS important**. Adults learn better when they are engaged and having a good time. Make it fun and interesting. Consider a theme for the retreat. I know of an agency that had the theme patterned after the show "Survivor."
- **3. Get them involved**. Keep them moving by having activities that get people up, that get them brainstorming ideas, anything to remain involved and alert. Team building activities are readily available but also include physical movement options when tackling the big objectives of the day.

Relevant:

- 1. Plan ahead. Don't expect to throw together an agenda and activity material the day before. Research ideas, involve a committee made up of individuals representative of all staff members to have input, provide ideas for fun, food, activities, and expectations for outcomes. Anticipate all materials for food and for activities.
- **2. Make an agenda**. You should have a clear idea of exactly how you want the day to flow. This is also a good time to identify exactly what objectives you have for the retreat. Include the times anticipated for each item on the agenda so the day doesn't get bogged down.
- **3. Be prepared to get things rolling**. Part of initial planning is to know how you will kick things off.

Following her ideas (with some of my own interjected) I can envision a very refreshing yet productive retreat. Combining the retreat with strategic planning, I would also encourage having all staff members complete a questionnaire as we had done. What are key purposes, core values, and vision for the agency as they see it? What are some issues as well as what are some initiatives to consider? It will get staff members thinking ahead of time about basic issues around what they do, will be a precursor for the work of the retreat, and will help establish the agenda. Being grounded once again in purpose and having some fun along the way would be a good thing for all involved.

Continues on page 26.



2011 Legislative Priorities

84th General Assembly, 1st Session







Iowa State Association of Counties

2011 Legislative Priorities

84th General Assembly, 1st Session









501 SW 7th Street, Suite Q, Des Moines, IA 50309 Phone: 515.244.7181, Fax: 515.244.6397



Linda Hinton
Government Relations
Manager
Ihinton@iowacounties.org
515.491.7155



Hanna DeGroot

Public Policy
Specialist

hdegroot@iowacounties.org
515.491.2072



Mary Beth Mellick
Fiscal/Public Policy
Specialist
mbmellick@iowacounties.org
515.724.9709

Iowa State Association of Counties

2011 Legislative Policy Committee

The 2011 ISAC Legislative Priorities were developed by the ISAC Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). This committee is composed of two representatives from each affiliate and is chaired by Wayne Walter, Winneshiek County Treasurer and ISAC 2nd Vice-President. The committee was designed to replace the seven ISAC steering committees that developed the policies in the past. The committee has worked together to create a short and cohesive set of legislative objectives for ISAC to pursue in 2011.

The committee was formed in the spring of 2010 and met for the first time on May 26, 2010. During the meeting the committee became familiar with the new process for creating ISAC's legislative objectives and discussed the legislative policy request forms, the official preferred method for bringing proposals to the full committee.

At the end of August the committee convened to hear legislative policy proposals from each affiliate. The committee worked hard for two days discussing implications of any changes. Between the August and September meeting in which the legislative objectives were adopted by the committee, staff and committee members performed research on any questions that needed to be answered or clarifications that needed to be made.

The 2011 Legislative Objectives, Policy Statements and ISAC Top Priorities recommendations were presented to the ISAC Board of Directors and recommended to the membership on October 29, 2010. The full membership approved the legislative package during the General Session at the ISAC Fall School of Instruction on November 17, 2010. Legislative Policy Statements can be found at www.iowacounties.org.



During the legislative session the committee will meet regularly via webinar to receive updates and to give input and direction to the ISAC Policy Team. A face-to-face meeting of the full committee will also take place in Des Moines in conjunction with the ISAC Spring School of Instruction on March 23-24, 2011.

2011 ISAC LPC Committee Members

Committee Chair: Wayne Walter, Winneshiek County Treasurer and ISAC 2nd Vice-President Committee Co-Vice Chairs: Dianne Kiefer, Wapello County Treasurer, and Sally Stutsman, Johnson County Supervisor

Assessors

Deb McWhirter, Butler County Dale McCrea, Muscatine County

Auditors

Ken Kline, Cerro Gordo County Dennis Parrott, Jasper County

Community Services

Teresa Kanning, Cass County Lynn Ferrell, Polk County

Conservation

Dan Cohen, Buchanan County Matt Cosgrove, Webster County

County Attorneys

Darin Raymond, Plymouth County Carl Peterson, Lyon County

Emergency Management

Gary Brown, Woodbury County Mike Goldberg, Linn County

Engineers

Jim George, Dallas County
Lyle Brehm, Tama/Poweshiek County

Environmental Health

Jon McNamee, Black Hawk County Eric Bradley, Scott County

Information Technology

Jeff Rodda, Polk County Wayne Chizek, Marshall County

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Treasurers

Amy Picray, Jones County Dianne Kiefer, Wapello County

Zoning

Joe Buffington, Henry County RJ Moore, Johnson County

2011 Legislative Priorities 84th General Assembly, 1st Session

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ISAC Top Priorities

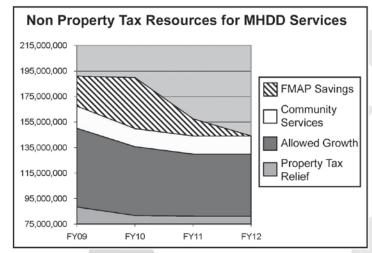
- Funding for Disability Services
- Agricultural Building Value
- Funding of TIME-21

- Guidelines for Classification of Agricultural Property
- Funding of County Programs

Funding for Disability Services (MH/DS)

The current allowable growth appropriation for county MH/DS Services, \$49.8 million, is less than the amount appropriated to counties in FY 2008. For the first time since 1996, property tax relief and community services funds were reduced in FY 2010 and FY 2011. The federal enhanced Medicaid match has allowed counties to maintain services, but that funding will be phased out starting in the middle of FY 2011. So in addition to not having any real growth from the state for four years, the federal stimulus money disappears in FY 2012. Counties continue to need significant additional state funding to meet state mandates, let alone provide necessary, discretionary community-based services.

The state must appropriate at least \$69.9 million for MH/MR/DD allowed growth, maintain the community services fund at \$17.2 million, and restore the \$8.8 million cut in property tax



relief. ISAC also supports legislation to allow counties to address MH/DD underfunding by adjusting their MH/DD levies as necessary to adequately serve individuals with disabilities.

Agricultural Building Value

Agricultural buildings account for about \$2.3 billion, or 9.6%, of taxable value in the unincorporated areas. The value generated from agricultural buildings is automatically subtracted from the value generated for agricultural land by the productivity formula. The result is that the construction of any new agricultural building adds zero net value to lowa's property tax base. Because of this, large-scale livestock operations and grain facilities impose significant additional infrastructure costs on counties without expanding the tax base to help pay for those costs.

Beginning January 1, 2012, assessors should value agricultural buildings at their replacement cost new less depreciation, and then apply the appropriate agricultural factor. The value of agricultural buildings would not change from its current level; but the value would be in addition to the value generated by the productivity formula for agricultural land.

ISAC Top Priorities

Funding of TIME-21

Maintaining and improving lowa's roads and bridges are vital in continuing to grow the state's economy, and every road jurisdiction is struggling to fund their portion of the road system. These funding problems have been exacerbated by recent harsh winters and floods. TIME-21 seeks to focus \$225 million on the priorities set by the TIME-21 study. The policy for funding TIME-21 was set by legislation during the 2007 session and partial funding passed during the 2008 session.

ISAC supports the immediate funding of TIME-21 at the recommended \$225 million level through an increase in the fuel tax and a combination of other road-related revenues including consideration of a 1% increase in the fee for new vehicle registration.

Guidelines for Classification of Agricultural Property

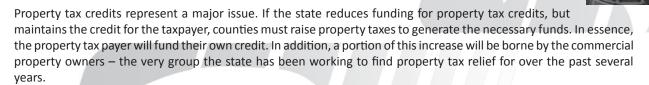
The only guideline county and city assessors in lowa have for determining classification of property is "primary use." In particular, issues arise in deciding the primary use of small tracts of property that have been agricultural in previous use, and now may be residential or multi-use. Assessors need more specific guidelines in determining whether to classify a property as residential or agricultural.

ISAC supports a state definition of agricultural property. An example of such a definition could be property that contains 10 or more row-crop acres of working farmland or property that annually produces at least \$2,000 of net farm income.

Funding of County Programs

increased property taxes.

Counties provide necessary services and meet ever-increasing state mandates through property tax revenues. State funding for roads and mental health services falls far short of the needs. Annually, adequate state support for local public health, the Environment First Fund, the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program, and emergency management are areas of concern for counties. In addition, the courts, local law enforcement, and county jails are enterprises that are funded with both state and local dollars. As the state determines how to manage its budget, funding cuts to local government will result either in significant cuts in services or in



The Legislature must understand the impact and cost of underfunding local government, especially in the area of mandates. Adequate funding for the programs that counties provide is critical. Property tax credits in particular need to be funded at a level similar to FY 2011 and counties must be given the ability to adjust their levies if mental health property tax relief continues to be cut.





Legislative Objectives . Funding

Funding of County Programs

PROBLEM: Counties provide necessary services and meet ever-increasing state mandates through property tax revenues. State funding for roads and mental health services falls far short of the needs. Annually, adequate state support for local public health, the Environment First Fund, the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program, and emergency management are areas of concern for counties. In addition, the courts, local law enforcement, and county jails are enterprises that are funded with both state and local dollars. As the state determines how to manage the current fiscal crisis, funding taken from local government will result either in significant cuts in services or in increased property taxes. Property tax credits represent a major issue. If the state reduces funding for property tax credits, but maintains the credit for the taxpayer, counties must raise property taxes to generate the necessary funds. In essence, the property tax payer will fund their own credit. In addition, a portion of this increase will be borne by the commercial property owners – the very group the state has been working to find property tax relief for over the past several years.

SOLUTION: The Legislature must understand the impact and costs of making significant funding cuts to local government, especially in the area of mandates. Adequate funding for the programs that counties provide is critical. Property tax credits in particular need to be funded at a level similar to FY 2011 and counties must be given the ability to adjust their levies if mental health property tax relief continues to be cut.

E-Commerce Fee

PROBLEM: The county recorders are required by law to redact personally identifiable information (Social Security, bank account, and credit and debit card numbers) on all recorded documents prior to publication on lowa Land Records. The two-year temporary increase in the e-commerce fee to \$3.00 per document will decrease to \$1.00 per document beginning July 1, 2011. Due to the downturn in the economy, the number of documents recorded has decreased significantly and the \$1.00 per document fee will not be sufficient to support the website and ongoing redaction.

SOLUTION: Amend the lowa Code to reduce the fee as of July 1, 2011 to \$2.00 per document.

Funding Status and Models for Support of Boards of Health in Iowa

PROBLEM: Despite recent efforts to establish voluntary minimum standards for local Boards of Health and remove barriers to the formation of district Boards of Health, the public health system of lowa is not well-defined and delivery of public health services across counties varies greatly. There is inconsistent state policy regarding what local Boards of Health are responsible for and how state funds for those areas of responsibility are directed to the local level. Before meaningful changes can begin to drive public health towards a more standardized and seamless system, we must understand the current array more fully and examine successful models of structure around the nation.

SOLUTION: Establish a legislative study committee to examine and compare the current funding patterns for local Boards of Health in Iowa, including revenue streams to local agencies for public health purposes which currently bypass the local Board of Health, and examine potential models of funding for consideration.

Funding for Disability Services (MH/DS)

PROBLEM: County disability services funding issues are compounded by several circumstances. The current allowable growth appropriation for county MH/DS Services, \$49.8 million, is less than the amount appropriated to counties in FY 2008. For the first time since 1996, property tax relief and community services funds have been reduced. Iowa Code chapter 426B states that each county's maximum levy is calculated by subtracting property tax relief from the base year levy. However, the Department of Management does not use the actual appropriation for property tax relief in calculating counties' levies which reduces the total amount available to fund disability services. The federal enhanced Medicaid match has allowed counties to maintain services, but that funding will be phased out starting in the middle of FY 2011. So in addition to not having any real growth from the state for four years, the federal money from the stimulus package disappears in FY 2012. Counties continue to need significant additional state funding to meet state mandates, let alone provide necessary, discretionary community-based services.

Legislative Objectives . Funding

SOLUTION: The state must appropriate at least \$69.9 million for MH/MR/DD allowed growth, maintain the community services fund at \$17.2 million, and restore the \$8.8 million cut in property tax relief. ISAC also supports legislation to allow counties to address MH/DD underfunding by adjusting their MH/DD levies necessary to adequately serve individuals with disabilities. If the state is going to continue to underfund county managed services and continue the institutional mandates, ISAC supports shifting the responsibility for managing court commitments, including those to Oakdale, and all of the nonfederal share of institutional services, including Toledo, to the state. This would free up approximately \$36 million for counties to maintain community based services and to eliminate the need for increased allowable growth funding this year. In addition, the state should fully fund the cost of DHS offices in the counties since recent reorganizations have burdened counties with office closure costs and have shifted more costs to fewer counties. The reasons for shifting state institutional and court commitment costs to the state are several:

- This shift would leave the counties with a logical system to manage community based services for adults with mental retardation and mental illness (i.e., local management of local services);
- If the state under-funds institutional services and shifts costs to counties, individuals would be shifted from institutional to more desirable, and generally less costly community based services;
- It would be the first step towards moving away from legal settlement. Institutional services and commitment services could be provided based on state residency, with no need for the courts, hospitals, or institutions to research legal settlement in order to bill for services;
- The commitment process would be a system where the state works with the state (DHS and the Judiciary) to resolve the issues rather than 99 counties trying to work with each judicial district. In addition, hospital capacity issues could be better addressed as a statewide issue; and
- Employment and funding of mental health advocates would be aligned with the state. Currently, lowa law requires mental health advocates to be assigned to any committed person. The advocates are hired and supervised by the judiciary but paid by the counties. This shift would correct this misalignment by having the state pay for its own employees.

Funding of TIME-21

PROBLEM: Maintaining and improving lowa's roads and bridges are vital in continuing to grow the state's economy, and every road jurisdiction is struggling to fund their portion of the road system. These funding problems have been exacerbated by recent harsh winters and floods. TIME-21 seeks to focus \$225 million on the priorities set by the TIME-21 study. The policy for funding TIME-21 was set by legislation during the 2007 session and partial funding passed during the 2008 session.

SOLUTION: ISAC supports the immediate funding of TIME-21 at the recommended \$225 million level through an increase in the fuel tax and a combination of other road-related revenues including consideration of a 1% increase in the fee for new vehicle registration.



Legislative Objectives . Government Efficiency

Election Deadlines

Saturday Voting

PROBLEM: Under current law, the deadline for registering to vote for primary and general elections is 10 days before the election in order for a voter to be listed on the election register. It is 11 days prior for all other types of elections. This mandates county auditor offices to be open on the Saturday 10 days prior to each primary and general election. Voter turnout on this Saturday is minimal due to an increase in absentee voting during regular courthouse hours or by mail and the availability of Election Day registration. Offices are being unnecessarily opened and staffed at a high cost to taxpayers.

SOLUTION: Change the registration deadline to 11 days prior to the primary and general election.

Absentee Voting

PROBLEM: Current law requires county auditors to provide absentee voting at their offices until the close of business on the Monday before Election Day, and until 11:00 am on Election Day when the polls open at 12:00 pm. This causes difficulties in completing critical, last-minute administrative functions (generating and distributing election materials to Precinct Election Officials, delivering and testing voting equipment, assisting the Special Precinct Board, and handling voter questions).

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code §53.10(1) to end absentee voting at the auditor's office at noon on the Monday prior to Election Day. Amend Iowa Code §53.2(1) to eliminate absentee voting at the auditor's office between 8:00 am and 11:00 am on Election Day when the polls open at 12:00 pm.

Posting Notices

PROBLEM: It is a costly requirement for counties to post all notices in newspapers. Counties currently spend in excess of \$3 million per year to publish various notices and other required documents in the newspaper. There are other options that would be much less costly and just as accessible to local citizens.

SOLUTION: Allow local governments to publish abbreviated notices in the newspaper with a reference to how the entire document may be accessed, including having the document mailed to the constituent upon request.

Iowa Communications Network Access

PROBLEM: While the fiber optics network of the ICN may technically be in place in all 99 counties, Iowa law prohibits counties from using the network. Iowa Code §8D.2(5)(a) prohibits counties from receiving communications services from the state by excluding counties from the definition of a "public agency." This statute prevents counties from using the fiber optics network to reduce the cost of county government to property taxpayers. Reduced costs would be reflected by the increased collaboration between counties to share systems, positions, and information. Examples of potential uses could include: holding long distance hearings for prisoners and providing telemedicine services to jails, thus reducing the need for transporting prisoners around the state; disaster recovery services shared among counties; and the secure transmission of personally identifiable information.

SOLUTION: Modify Iowa Code §8D.2(5)(a) to include "a county" as part of the definition of "public agency."

Legislative Objectives . Quality of Life

Bottle Bill Expansion

PROBLEM: lowa's Beverage Containers Deposit Law, known as the "Bottle Bill," has reduced the litter removal costs to highway and park departments, resulting in tax savings to the citizens of lowa. This highly successful law was passed in 1979 and changes in packaging of beverages over the years have left many types of beverages uncovered by the deposit law. Easy access to recyclers is essential for this success to continue in rural areas. Of the \$0.05 deposit, redemption centers collect a \$0.01 handling fee for each recyclable container. The \$0.01 fee can no longer cover operating costs, including labor, energy, and increasing costs in materials.

SOLUTION: Expand Iowa's Beverage Containers Deposit Law to include all beverage containers, require acceptance of empties by retail outlets, and increase the deposit or handling fees. Any increase in handling fees should be used to support and encourage the establishment of bottle and can recycling centers.

Food Establishment Licensing Fees

PROBLEM: Current food establishment licensing fees do not cover the costs associated with conducting the inspections, re-inspections due to violations, plan reviews, and educational requirements of the Iowa Code. State appropriations (for state-funded inspections) and local tax dollars (for inspections contracted to local agencies) subsidize food protection program activities designed to ensure continued public safety. The Iowa Code requires food establishments be inspected twice a year. Even with local money supporting the food program, many counties are unable to inspect all food facilities once, much less inspect some of them twice. The state faces the same difficulty in jurisdictions where it retains responsibility for inspections.

SOLUTION: 1) Authorize an increase in food licensing fees to fully fund state and local food safety inspection activities as required by the Iowa Code and minimize the need to use local tax dollars to provide inspection services. These fees should fully fund the food protection program, including administration, inspections and educational activities. 2) Adopt fees for plan reviews of new food establishments, re-inspections, and recurring temporary events. These fees should be established at levels adequate to compensate for the cost of providing these services. 3) Link the food licensing fees to the Consumer Price Index so fees increase annually (rounded up to a whole number) in order to keep pace with the rising cost of inspections.

Smokefree Air Act Casino Loophole

PROBLEM: Data on heart attacks and other health problems in non-smokers related to exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke has clearly demonstrated the benefits of Iowa's Smokefree Air Act. Heart attacks among non-smokers in particular have shown a marked decline in conjunction with enactment of the Act. However, workers in casinos continue to be denied the protections of this landmark public health effort. Iowa should not relegate the employees of any industry to second class status by not extending the same health protections of all other Iowans.

SOLUTION: Amend the Iowa Smokefree Air Act to remove exemptions for gaming floors of casinos.

Legislative Objectives . Quality of Life

Serving People in Their Communities

PROBLEM: Comparably, Iowa relies more heavily on institutionalization of people with disabilities and mental illness than most states. Data supporting this conclusion include the following:

- 70.4% of the Iowa Medicaid program's long-term care expenses are for nursing homes and other institutional placements, and only 29.6% goes towards community based services;
- lowa spends almost \$300,000 per person served per year to serve people in State Resource Centers, compared to a maximum of \$115,000 for a comparable level of care in the community;
- lowa spends \$4,600 per person served per month to house an elderly person in a nursing home, but only \$1,117 per month for community based alternatives under the elderly waiver;
- in 2008, Iowa retained its rank as second in the United States in its rate of reliance upon large (16+ bed) residential facilities and ICFs/MR (Intermediate Care Facilities for People with Mental Retardation) to serve people with disabilities;
- due to a lack of community capacity to serve individuals with complex needs or challenging behavior, lowa currently serves 255 adults and children in out-of-state facility placements, at an annual cost of \$28 million. The per diem costs for individuals served out-of-state are significantly higher than those allowed for in-state providers, and the state has the added cost of paying for parents traveling to out-of-state staffings. Transitioning children back to the state when they reach the age of majority is often left to counties to manage, even though the Department of Human Services made the initial payment. Developing capacity to serve these individuals in-state would save the state money and generate jobs for lowans:
- Although the utilization rate of lowa's state institutions for individuals with mental illness was half that of the United States
 as a whole, utilization of psychiatric hospitals was higher than the average state in 2006, and four and a half times that of
 Minnesota; and
- The Acute Care Task Force has found that people experiencing mental health crises too often seek treatment in, or are taken by first responders to, hospital emergency rooms due to the lack of more appropriate community services.

SOLUTION: ISAC supports legislation to require the state of Iowa to implement its own Olmstead Plan to serve individuals with disabilities and mental illness in communities, in non-institutional settings. Such efforts include:

- adequately funding the community based service system;
- revising the lowa Code to remove the institutional biases (mandated services and preferential client co-pays for state institutions vs. community settings);
- addressing critical workforce shortages through recruitment and retention of skilled professionals (especially in mental health);
- offering appropriate pay scales and other incentives;
- developing a competency-based curricula and credentialing pathways for direct support professionals;
- creating affordable housing to serve persons outside of institutional settings; and
- reviewing licensing regulations to ensure needed flexibility for serving persons with challenging needs in the community.

Agricultural Exemption from Zoning, Building Codes

PROBLEM: The exemption from county building codes and zoning regulations for farm houses needs to be clarified. Legislative amendments (1963) and an opinion from the Attorney General's Office (#97-1-1) have made it virtually impossible for counties to apply objective standards in order to uniformly and consistently administer the exemption. Because of the changing nature of agriculture, this state mandated exemption will only become more difficult for counties to administer. When counties adopt building and zoning regulations, the public health, safety and welfare benefits of those regulations should be applied to all households regardless of the owner's occupation.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code §§331.304(3)(b) and 335.2 to eliminate the farm house exemption. The building exemption would still apply to "farm barns or farm outbuildings" and the zoning exemption would still apply to "land, farm barns, farm outbuildings or other buildings or structures" used for agriculture.

Legislative Objectives . Quality of Life

Alternative Septic Systems

PROBLEM: Current laws and regulations are inadequate when counties want to use sustainable subdivision development design, such as cluster subdivisions, which allow single or multi-family residential homes to be built on small lots that cannot support conventional septic systems. The lowa DNR regulations for private systems are inadequate, and public systems are expensive, difficult to regulate, and too time consuming for the developer to choose to build this type of sustainable development.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code chapter 455B to allow alternative, low-cost public septic/sewage systems or innovative waste water treatment systems that can meet the water quality and environmental health standards, are easy and inexpensive to maintain, and cover a minimal amount of area to operate efficiently. In addition, allow counties that have the desire, expertise, and staff to make development decisions on a local level by allowing local control over installation and maintenance of those sewage treatment facilities.

Mobile Home Parks

PROBLEM: When a mobile home park is poorly run there is little county government can do to help the residents who live there. The lowa Code regulating mobile home parks is slanted toward the owners of mobile home parks and there are limited options for local governments or residents to seek assistance under the current law.

SOLUTION: ISAC supports a general revision of the Iowa Code as it relates to mobile home parks (Iowa Code chapters 555B, 555C, et al.) Some of the revisions should include allowing tenants to have longer than a three day eviction notice, requiring mobile home park owners to give just cause for eviction, requiring longer notice than two months when a mobile home park is to be shut down, allowing local government to take over DNR regulations of parks if they so desire, having state licensure of mobile home parks, and shortening the process for obtaining clear title to mobile homes that are abandoned or owe back taxes.

Government Purchase of Flood-Damaged Structures

PROBLEM: Structures that are located in a 100-year flood plain are eligible for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The application for funds can take up to two years for approval, causing serious anxiety for affected occupants. Following the 2008 federally-declared disaster, several requests were made to the lowa Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Management Division (DHS/EMD) to immediately approve the purchase of structures that sustained damage of more than 50% of the replacement cost. DHS/EMD chose not to allow for immediate purchase. Many individuals whose structures were eligible for purchase chose to rebuild rather than wait the estimated two years for purchase approval.

SOLUTION: Require the Department of Homeland Security to immediately approve the purchase of structures with damages of more than 50% of the replacement cost due to flooding.



Legislative Objectives . Tax Reform

Agricultural Building Value

PROBLEM: Agricultural buildings account for about \$2.3 billion, or 9.6% of taxable value in the unincorporated areas. However, the value generated from agricultural buildings is automatically subtracted from the value generated for agricultural land by the productivity formula. The result is that the construction of any new agricultural building adds zero net value to lowa's property tax base. This situation serves as a disincentive to agricultural economic development because large-scale livestock operations and grain facilities impose significant additional costs on counties, such as road maintenance, without expanding the tax base to help pay for those costs.

SOLUTION: Assessors should value agricultural buildings at their replacement cost new less depreciation, and then apply the appropriate agricultural factor per Department of Revenue rule. The value of agricultural buildings would not change from its current level; but the value would be in addition to the value generated by the productivity formula for agricultural land. This could be accomplished by adding the following new language at the end of lowa Code §441.21(6): "Beginning with valuations established as of January 1, 2012, a structure located on agricultural land, excluding agricultural dwellings, shall be valued at its replacement cost new less depreciation and then be adjusted by the appropriate agricultural factor. Such structures shall be valued as agricultural structures and the valuation determined under this subsection shall be in addition to the valuation determined for agricultural land under subsection 1."

Buildings on Leased Lands

Buildings on Leased Land I

PROBLEM: Taxes on buildings on leased land are to be collected by the treasurer through Iowa Code §§445.3 and 445.4 by filing a claim with the clerk of court. However, this does no good unless the property is sold, and the possibility of collecting in District Court is remote unless there is an outstanding tax of at least \$1,000. This would be resolved by making the owner of the parcel, where the building or home is located, responsible in the collection of these taxes, by assessing them with the land.

SOLUTION: All buildings, homes or improvements, except cell towers and wind towers, on any parcel shall be assessed and taxed with the land upon which it is located. In the case of buildings or homes on land owned by government agencies, or other exempt agencies, the taxes on the buildings or homes are and remain a lien on the building or home from the date of levy until paid. If the taxes on the building or home become delinquent, as provided in lowa Code §445.37, the county treasurer shall collect the tax as provided in lowa Code §5445.3 and 445.4. This section would not apply to special assessments, rates or charges, or cell towers and wind towers.

Buildings on Leased Land II

PROBLEM: Taxes on buildings on leased land and manufactured homes in manufactured home parks are to be collected by the treasurer through lowa Code §§445.3 and 445.4, by filing a claim with the clerk of court. However, this does no good unless the property is sold, and the possibility of collecting in District Court is remote unless there is an outstanding tax of at least \$1,000.

SOLUTION: Add to the current remedies the ability to place a stop on the motor vehicle registrations of the owner of a building on leased land or manufactured home in a manufactured home park with delinquent taxes.

Sales Tax Referendum

PROBLEM: Under current law, the question of imposition of a local option sales tax can be submitted to voters in two different ways, upon receipt of a petition signed by eligible electors of the county equal in number to 5% of the persons in the whole county who voted at the last preceding state general election or upon motion adopted by the governing bodies of the cities located in the county or of the county, for the unincorporated area, representing at least half of the population of the county. The tax is only effective in those areas where the public adopts the referendum. This results in a variety of sales tax rates throughout a county.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code chapter 423B to allow a county to submit the question of imposition of a local option sales tax on a countywide basis, to be used for specified public purposes. This would eliminate discrepancies in the sales tax rate among cities and the county and spread the tax burden evenly throughout the county.

Legislative Objectives . Tax Reform

Guidelines for Classification of Agricultural Property

PROBLEM: The only guideline county and city assessors in lowa have for determining classification of property is "primary use." In particular, issues arise in deciding the primary use of small tracts of property that have been agricultural in previous use, and now may be residential or multi-use. Assessors need more specific guidelines in determining whether to classify a property as residential or agricultural.

SOLUTION: Add a new subsection to lowa Code §441.21. When determining the primary use of properties that contain both a residential dwelling and an agricultural presence, the assessor shall consider the property to be agricultural only if it contains 10 or more row-crop acres of working farmland or if the specified property annually produces \$2,000 of net farm income and is certified to the assessor on forms prescribed by the lowa Department of Revenue. The assessor shall take into consideration any initial startup costs and short term commodity instability before classifying a property as residential due to the inability to produce \$2,000 of net farm income. Row-crop acres, as used in this section shall not include acres used for hay production unless those are part of a crop rotation that includes traditional row crops. Lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program or other government programs shall qualify as row-crop acres. This section shall only apply to classification determinations between residential and agricultural properties. Contiguous acres on separate tax parcels that are owned by the same entity shall be considered in the calculation of acres and income above.

Tax Increment Financing

Urban Renewal Use

PROBLEM: Urban renewal will lose its effectiveness as a targeted economic development tool if it is used extensively or for a prolonged period of time. Excessive or inappropriate use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to fund urban renewal projects prevents local governments from realizing the benefits of expanding tax bases and places the burden for funding expanded services on existing taxpayers.

SOLUTION: All TIF districts, particularly those designated for eliminating urban slum or blight and those created prior to January 1, 1995, and designated for economic development, should be limited to a duration of 20 years from inception or the term of the bonded indebtedness as of January 1, 2011, whichever is greater. In the establishment and operation of TIF districts, local governments should not be allowed to act independently of other taxing jurisdictions that share the property tax base. If a TIF project cannot gain the support of all taxing jurisdictions, then dissenting entities should be allowed to capture only their portion of property tax increment. Anytime a TIF district issues new debt, the base year should be re-established as the year immediately preceding the debt issuance. Finally, tax abatement should be prohibited in TIF districts.

Rollback Applied to TIF Districts

PROBLEM: lowa Code §403.20 requires the entire reduction in assessed value due to the rollback to be applied to the base value in a TIF district, and none to the increment value, until the base value is reduced to zero. (Base value is taxable by all taxing authorities and is the taxable portion that remains after taking out the increment valuation reserved for TIF projects.) This erosion of the base often results in non-TIF entities having a smaller tax base than before the TIF was created. This obviously is contrary to the intent of TIF law.

SOLUTION: Strike Iowa Code §403.20 and amend the urban renewal law in Iowa Code §403.19 to require rollbacks to be applied proportionately to base and incremental valuations to determine the taxable values of each. This may jeopardize current bonded indebtedness repayment, and in those cases the current incremental value should be exempt from the rollback provision until current bonded TIF debt is retired. New bonded TIF debt should have the rollback factor applied to the incremental value as well as the base value.

Legislative Objectives . Tax Reform

Removal of Negative Increment Parcels in TIF Districts

PROBLEM: Nothing prevents a TIF entity from removing from a TIF district a parcel that is losing value. Therefore, parcels can be added and subtracted to manipulate the highest possible increment value for the district. While this may serve the purposes of the TIF entity, it is unfair to the remaining local taxing jurisdictions, which are denied the benefits of increased taxable valuation. It is also an administrative burden for counties, that must adjust records that are already complicated to maintain.

SOLUTION: Amend the urban renewal law in Iowa Code §403.19 to prohibit removing parcels from an active TIF district.

Local Option Sales Tax TIF

PROBLEM: In 2008, the Legislature adopted a provision that allows cities to create a tax increment financing (TIF) district with local option sales tax (LOST) revenue. The LOST-TIF has the potential to freeze the amount of revenue counties receive from LOST for up to 20 years. Currently, 91 counties impose a LOST and receive over \$69 million annually in LOST revenue. Many important local projects, including road and bridge construction, new jails, county parks and other conservation efforts, and property tax relief, depend significantly on LOST revenue. Freezing the amount of LOST revenue counties receive will delay or eliminate those projects and will cause counties to increase property taxes to make up for the lost funding. ISAC supports expanding the range of economic development options for lowa's local governments. However, the LOST-TIF carries with it all the problems of the existing property-tax TIF scheme that counties have tried to fix for years. For example, under the LOST-TIF city councils have the unilateral authority to capture LOST proceeds that are currently distributed under an allocation formula to all jurisdictions in the county. The LOST-TIF also allows cities to change the use of their LOST revenues without asking for voter approval. City councils could redirect the LOST revenue to be used for TIF projects, even if the citizens voted to tax themselves to pay for roads, for example. Finally, the LOST-TIF allows increased funding for TIF projects, with no increase in accountability. The absence of effective oversight of TIF usage has led to public funds being used for questionable projects. Past legislative sessions have expanded TIF reporting requirements to increase the oversight of TIF. The LOST-TIF went the opposite direction. Allowing cities to divert additional revenue to TIF projects will expand the use of TIF and the duration of TIF projects, both of which will enhance the potential for further misuse of TIF dollars.

SOLUTION: Repeal the LOST-TIF enacted in 2008. This would require repealing Iowa Code §423B.10, as well as some corresponding language in Iowa Code chapter 423B. In the alternative, amend the Code to address the flaws in the law.



Legislative Objectives . Customer Service

Treasurers' Omnibus/Delinquent Taxes

PROBLEM: There are a number of changes that can be made to the lowa Code to improve the service provided to lowa's property tax payers by county treasurers, particularly in the area of delinquent tax payments.

SOLUTION:

- 1. Amend lowa Code §358.20 to treat sanitary districts similar to special assessments when dealing with delinquent fees so that the delinquent sewer rental fees do not attach to the property if there has been a change in ownership prior to the certification of the delinquency to the county treasurer.
- 2. Amend Iowa Code §445.36(3) to change the required delinquency notice date from February 1 to November 1 in order to notify taxpayers earlier and decrease the accumulation of penalties.
- 3. Amend Iowa Code §468.57(2) to make drainage assessment payment dates consistent with the semiannual payment of ordinary taxes when the deadline date falls on a Saturday or Sunday.
- 4. In order to ensure consistency across the counties, amend Iowa Code §445.5(6) to require the county treasurer to issue a receipt for payments only if they are made in cash or if the taxpayer requests a receipt.

Surviving Spouse Vehicle Registration

PROBLEM: Most vehicle registration fees were increased beginning January 1, 2009. In general, a vehicle registered and titled prior to this date is grandfathered under the old fees. However, if an owner of the vehicle that was registered prior to this date dies and the title is transferred to the surviving spouse, the surviving spouse is not grandfathered under the old fees.

SOLUTION: Amend the lowa Code to allow a vehicle that was purchased prior to January 1, 2009, and whose title is transferred to the spouse upon the owner's death, to be grandfathered under the old vehicle registration fees.



Legislative Objectives . Good Government

<u>City Vacancies - Next Pending Election</u>

PROBLEM: Auditors across the state interpret the "next pending election" for vacancies in city offices differently. This recently came to light due to a court ruling in Scott County that directed the county auditor not to place a vacant city office on the upcoming November general election ballot. A conflicting advisory letter from the Iowa Attorney General to the Secretary of State interprets "next pending election" for a vacant city office to mean the general election.

SOLUTION: Change the language from "next pending election" to "next pending city election."

Tax List Certification

PROBLEM: The auditor is required to certify the tax list to the treasurer by July 1 of each year. This deadline is an issue because city and/or county assessors may not have supplied all of their inputs for address changes that are used for the tax list, and the treasurer takes several days to close their books after year end. It is best to certify after this occurs.

SOLUTION: Change the tax certification deadline to July 1 or soon after.

85% Salary for Elections Deputies

PROBLEM: Iowa Code does not provide for adequate compensation to appropriately reflect the enormous responsibilities of the auditor's staff who work with elections. Iowa Code currently allows the treasurer to have up to four deputies earning 85% of the elected official's salary, while the auditor may have only two. Iowa Code appropriately provides an 85% compensation rate specifically for the motor vehicle deputy, and more recently for the driver's license deputy. Iowa Code should be amended to provide for increased compensation for the auditor's elections deputy as well.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code §331.904 to give counties the option to add a deputy in charge of voter registration and elections to the list of deputies whose salaries shall not exceed 85% of the annual salary of the deputy's principal officer.

Shooting Ranges

PROBLEM: Iowa Code §657.9 requires persons to obtain approval of the county zoning commission for the establishment, use and maintenance of shooting ranges. This conflicts with Iowa Code §§335.8 and 414.6, which specifies that city and county zoning commissions are recommending bodies only.

SOLUTION: Amend Iowa Code §657.9 to strike the language that refers to obtaining approval of the county zoning commission for the establishment, use and maintenance of shooting ranges.

E911

PROBLEM: ISAC recognizes the need for improvements in the E911 system to enable the delivery of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), telematics, texting, video and data to 911 centers. This modernization must include the use of other technology related to the receipt and disposition of emergency calls and/or notification to the public such as "emergency notification systems."

SOLUTION: Attain these improvements through changes in the wireless and wireline surcharges distributed to the local E911 Service Boards, which ultimately bear the cost of maintaining and upgrading these technological improvements. In addition, ISAC supports legislation allowing local boards to fund these types of improvements.







501 SW 7th Street, Suite Q, Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: 515.244.7181, Fax: 515.244.6397

www.iowacounties.org

The lowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) is a private, nonprofit corporation that was incorporated on October 8, 1964. Senate File 37, which was adopted on June 30, 1971, allowed counties to pay member dues to the organization. ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties. Counties pay voluntary dues to belong to ISAC in return for a number of services, such as education and training, benefit programs, technical assistance and government relations. ISAC members participate in one of 15 different statewide affiliated associations corresponding to each county office. For example, the county supervisors in the state participate in the lowa State Association of County Supervisors affiliate.

ISAC's mission is to promote effective and responsible county government for the people of lowa. To that end, ISAC's stated purpose is to secure and maintain cooperation among the counties and county officials, promote comprehensive study of local problems and find ways of solving them, provide methods of interchange of ideas among various county officials, and promote and work for the enactment of legislation that is most beneficial to the citizens of lowa. These endeavors support our vision of being the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in lowa.

ISAC brief

ISAC Board of Directors Meeting Summary - December 9, 2010

President Chuck Rieken called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

The ISAC Board of Directors meeting minutes from October 28-29 and November 17, 2010, ISAC Scholarship Committee meeting minutes from October 29, 2010, and ISAC General Session minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

The ISAC board recessed, and the ETC board was convened.

The ETC Board of Directors meeting minutes from the October 28, 2010 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Robin Harlow gave a timeline and summary of the ETC/CSN project. Bill Peterson expressed his concerns with the currently proposed ETC budget from the Community Association of Support Services (CASS) Committee, because more information is needed for future personnel and support needs and the resources to meet these needs. The CASS committee recommended that the ETC board direct staff to send an informational letter to the member counties about why the budget hasn't been approved and that it will be approved at the January board meeting was approved unanimously.

President Chuck Rieken adjourned the ETC board and reconvened the ISAC board.

Bill Peterson reported that there are currently 25 counties that participate in the ISAC Group Health program. The program suffered a loss of about \$760,000 in FY 2010 leaving a reserve balance of about \$15 million (63%). Using total income vs. total expense by county in determining future increases to the insurance rates was also discussed. The board approved base rates with an average increase of 4.24% for FY 2012 unanimously. The board also approved the following option unanimously: Apply only discount increases and waive loss of any discount and apply only approved base rate increase to individual county rates. ISAC hosted a webinar for all of the program members to discuss the board's action and the new wellness program benefits.

President Chuck Rieken honored the outgoing board members Tim McGee, Lucas County Assessor, and Past President Gary Anderson, Appanoose County Sheriff. Marge Pitts honored Chuck Rieken for his year as ISAC President.

Stacy Horner and Rachel Bicego gave a report on the 2010 fall school and the conference evaluations. Overall attendance was a bit down as were hotel rooms reserved in the ISAC room blocks. There is still some confusion about the online hotel reservation process. The educational seminars went over well. The exhibit hall was full, and the exhibitors were happy with the conference.

The 2011 ISAC New County Officers School will be held at the West Des Moines Marriott on January 26 and 27, 2011. David Bush will be the keynote speaker.

The 2011 ISAC Spring School of Instruction will be held at the Downtown Des Moines Marriott and Renaissance Savery on March 23 and 24, 2011. The exhibitors will be in the exhibit hall on Wednesday, and lunch will be served to all attendees on Thursday.

Bill Peterson introduced Ken Bilbrey and Kasi Koehler from County Risk Management Services (CRMS), Inc. to give a report on the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP). Ken gave an update on the ICAP program. There are currently 68 counties that participate. Kasi updated the board on the benefits that the program offers and the services that CRMS, Inc. provides.

Tammy Norman reviewed the scholarship committee's recommendation of awarding \$30,000 in 2011 scholarships to be as follows: six - \$3,000 district scholarships; six - \$1,500 district scholarships; and one - \$3,000 past president scholarship. The committee's recommendation was approved unanimously.

Brad Holtan reviewed the financial report from October 31, 2010. He explained the miscellaneous income from the DATA LLC Program. A new tax ID number and savings account were created for the ISAC Unemployment Fund. A full list of investments was included in the board materials. The report was accepted unanimously by the board.

Bill Peterson reported that financial information gathered through an RFP sent to ISAC office prospective property owners will be brought to the board in January.

Harlan Hansen was appointed unanimously by the board as the ISAC representative on the SEAT board.

Bill Peterson was given unanimous approval to enter into a \$312,000 contract with Spindustry for the Case Management Module for CSN as recommended by the CCMS Board.

Grant Veeder reported on the NACo Board meeting that Lu Barron, Judy Miller and he attended in Texas from December 2 - 4, 2010.

The board adjourned at 2:40 pm.

CCMS

Continued from page 6.

Most important of all, when that day is finished don't let the fruit from all that work die. Follow up. Put ideas and goals into a working plan with clear objectives and a plan to achieve. Determine who will be responsible, resources that may be needed, and set some deadlines. It can make a positive difference for your agency and for every staff member who participated.

You will not need to hire someone like Jeff to lead the day if you prepare and incorporate some of these ideas. Actively follow up with actions based on the results of the day. Rewards will come.

employment

Assistant to Engineer

Page County Secondary Road Department is accepting applications for an Assistant to Engineer. Excellent benefits and salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Position requires two year degree in a related field with a minimum of two years of experience, or a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and passing the Engineering Intern Exam. Reports directly to the County Engineer assisting him in planning, overseeing and managing the design, construction and maintenance of secondary road transportation system. Submit resume to: Page County Engineer, 123 W. Washington St, Clarinda, IA 51632. Applications will be accepted until January 14, 2011. Page County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

2010/2011 calendar

January 2011

10 CCMS Training Committing Meeting (ISAC Office, Des Moines)

11 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)

9-12 Basic Training for County Attorneys (West Des Moines Marriott)

26-27 ISAC New County Officers School (West Des Moines Marriott)

28 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, Des Moines)

February 2011

10 Supervisors Statewide Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)

11 ISAC Executive Board Meeting (ISAC Office, Des Moines)

16-17 CCMS Fundamentals Training (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

24-25 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office, Des Moines)

March 2011

3 County Day at the Capitol

(Des Moines)

5-9 NACo Legislative Conference

(Washington D.C.)

23-24 ISAC Spring School of Instruction (Marriott and Renaissance Savery,

Des Moines)

April 2011

12 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)

May 2011

5 CCMS Advanced Case Management (Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)

6 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting

(ISAC Office, Des Moines)

18-20 County Zoning Officials Spring Conference (Dubuque)

June 2011

2 CCMS Supervisors Training

(Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)

15-16 CCMS Fundamentals Training

(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

15-17 ICIT Conference

(West Des Moines Marriott)

July 2011

8 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, Des Moines)

12 CCMS Administrators Meeting

(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)

15-19 NACo Annual Conference

(Portland, OR)

27-29 Iowa State Association of County Auditors

Conference

(Isle of Capri, Waterloo)

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 2011, 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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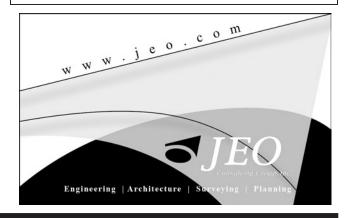


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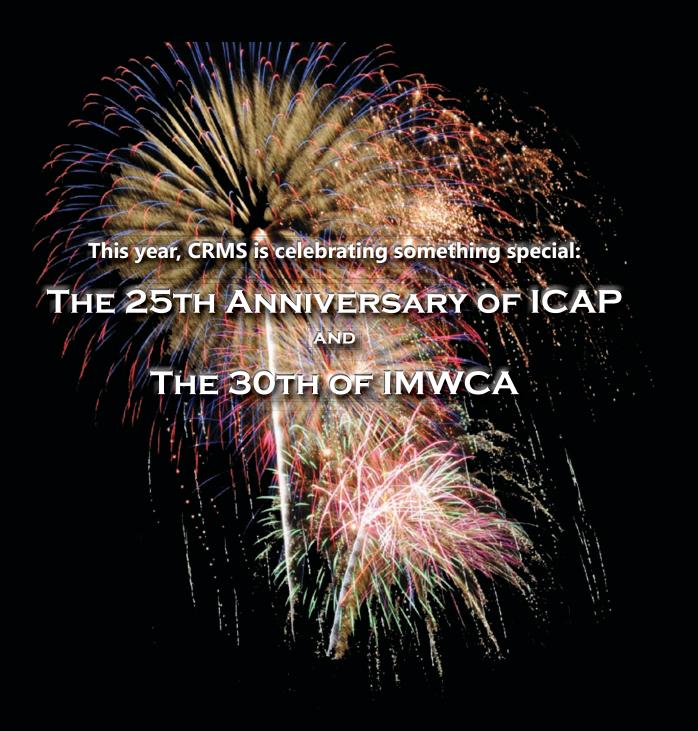
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