

# The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties



January 2013

2013 ISAC Legislative Priorities

Good Government

ISAC Goal Setting Facilitation Pilot Program

Fall School Wrap-up



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**It's a winning program! It's a winner for residents and for counties. Sign up today!**

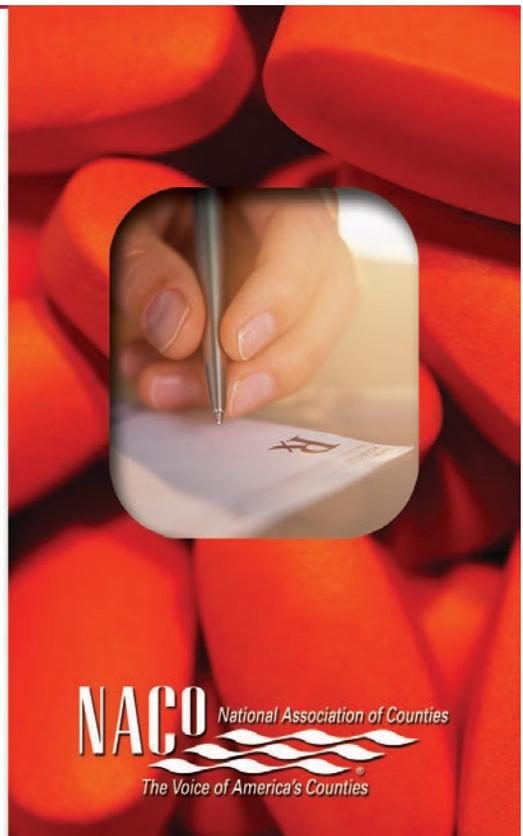


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This is NOT insurance. Discounts are only available at participating pharmacies.

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*Providing Direction Producing Results*



Jeff Heil

[jheil@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:jheil@northlandsecurities.com)

641-750-5720



Dan Zomermaand

[dzomermaand@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:dzomermaand@northlandsecurities.com)

712-251-0383



Michael Hart

[mhart@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:mhart@northlandsecurities.com)

515-657-4683



Paul Donna

[pdonna@northlandsecurities.com](mailto:pdonna@northlandsecurities.com)

612-851-5905



6600 Westown Parkway, Suite 255  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
515-657-4675 | [www.northlandsecurities.com](http://www.northlandsecurities.com)  
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 West Des Moines, IA 50266  
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 Rachel E. Bicego, EDITOR

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## ISAC OFFICERS

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*David Morlan - Boone County Emergency Mgmt.*

*Jim George - Dallas County Engineer*

*Deb Riley - Linn County Environmental Health*

*Wayne Chizek - Marshall County IT/GIS*

*Kathryn Babcock - Chickasaw County Public Health*

*Lonny Pulkrabek - Johnson County Sheriff*

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*Jeff Garrett - Washington County Treasurer*

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*Grant Veeder - Black Hawk County Auditor (NACo Rep.)*

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*Linda Langston - Linn County Supervisor (NACo Board)*

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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.

## Good Government

Happy New Year! – I hope. While I write this for you, as ISAC President for 2013, it is mid-December, 2012, and I don't know if this will ever be published. The Mayan calendar after 5125 years is about to expire, and some people suggest the end of the world is near. Even if the Mayan calendar is wrong, and December 21, 2012, turns out only to be another Winter solstice and not the end of civilization, our nation, I'm told every time I turn on the news, is racing headlong toward the edge of the "Fiscal Cliff." The media, political pundits, and even late night comedians are offering predictions about the fiscal cliff that seem no less ominous than the predictions regarding the end of the Mayan calendar. Hopefully, you all celebrated December 22, 2012, and the continuation of civilization, and hopefully we can all celebrate whatever outcome is in store for us January 2, 2013, the day after the fiscal cliff.

Both of these doomsday predictions gave me pause to wonder: What is good governance? Is there something to be taken from the effort the Mayans placed on developing the most accurate calendar any civilization has seen? Is the posturing, politicking, grandstanding and gambling our national leaders seem to be undertaking to decrease the national debt and bolster our economy good governance?

Good government is government that is responsive to its citizens. Good government is also government that is effective in serving its citizens. Good government provides those things its citizens need efficiently and is responsible for both its successes and failures. The most responsive, most effective, most efficient, and most responsible manner of governing is the government that is closest to the people. County government, and all of you, represents exactly that. In Iowa, county

**By: Darin Raymond**

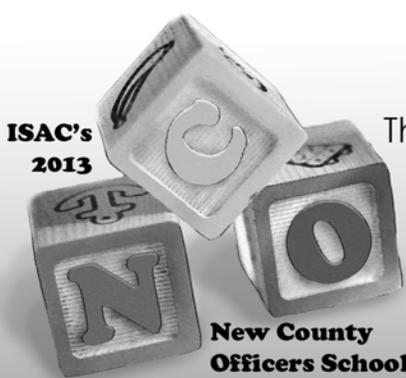
Plymouth County Attorney  
and ISAC President



government has existed since 1834, 12 years longer than our statehood. As county employees and elected officials you live, work, raise your families, and go to church in the communities you govern. You know what challenges your friends, neighbors, and communities face first hand. You also know who the people are and what needs to be done to meet those challenges.

As I look at your legislative priorities: property tax reform, mental health redesign, sustainable road funding; as well as, the dozens of other legislative objectives, there is no doubt you all know what the challenges are in your communities and the genesis of each legislative proposal. Whether the proposals succeed or fail, you will be there to respond to your friends and neighbors, you will continue to provide the most efficient and cost effective services you can, and you will continue to be responsible in the governance of your communities.

My philosophy for governance as ISAC President is no different. ISAC, the Board of Directors, and its President should similarly be responsive, effective, efficient, and responsible to your concerns, suggestions, issues and other needs. Thank you for allowing me to serve as ISAC President in 2013 and allowing me to represent you and share the values and successes of county government in the various meetings and ceremonies I will attend this year on your behalf. If at any time ISAC or I could better assist you or your county, I invite you to contact your executive director, Bill Peterson at [bpeterson@iowacounties.org](mailto:bpeterson@iowacounties.org) or 515.244.7181, or contact me directly at 712.546.5019 or [draymond@co.plymouth.ia.us](mailto:draymond@co.plymouth.ia.us). Lastly, I really do wish all of you a happy and prosperous New Year!



**ISAC's  
2013  
New County  
Officers School**

### **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](http://www.iowacounties.org).

## ISAC Goal Setting Facilitation Pilot Program

### Introduction

The ISAC Board of Directors has approved funding for a pilot program to assist counties that are interested in conducting a goal-setting session. The ISAC Board, during their own recent goal-setting session, established the goal of assisting counties to plan and prepare for the future. The goal setting process will assist county leaders in developing a future focus, setting strategic directions, and determining priorities for their county. It will provide an opportunity for elected officials and key staff to work together in an informal setting to discuss issues and opportunities facing their county and to develop consensus on strategies that deal with these issues.

### Program Details

ISAC has worked with the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) at the University of Iowa to establish a goal-setting facilitation program that will be available to counties. The one day (four to five hours in length) goal-setting process involves the following:

1. Providing pre-session questionnaires to the session participants to help identify issues and themes and to organize discussion at the sessions.
2. Discussing and identifying longer-range (five- to 10-year) vision statements for the county.
3. Reviewing recent county accomplishments.
4. Identifying issues/concerns/trends/opportunities that may affect future county programs, policies, finances or operations.
5. Identifying the county's on-going commitments/obligations.
6. Reviewing potential new initiatives/programs/projects for consideration for the upcoming period.
7. Providing a method for selection of priorities to be implemented within the planning period.
8. Discussing strategies for implementation of the selected priorities.
9. Identifying initiatives for enhancing organizational effectiveness, performance, and teamwork.
10. IPA will provide the county a final written report summarizing the results of the session.

### Program Application and Funding

IPA has proposed a cost structure for their services. ISAC will pay 50% of the total cost (base fee plus expenses) for these services for counties selected by the ISAC Board to participate in the pilot program. The Board has allocated a maximum of \$10,000 for these expenses during Fiscal Year 2013. The goal setting facilitations for the first round of selections must be completed by September 30, 2013. Counties interested

in applying will be asked to complete a simple application expressing their interest and to adopt a resolution agreeing to expend their share of the cost. The application period for the pilot round will be from December 7, 2012 to January 16, 2013. The ISAC Board will select grantees at the Board meeting on January 25, 2013.

### IPA Facilitation Cost

The base fee for the goal setting session as described would be based on the population of the county per below, plus reimbursement of direct costs (such as mileage, meals, and lodging if required) related to this project.

#### County Population Size:

Under 10,000:	\$1,000
Between 10,000 – 20,000	\$1,250
Between 20,001 – 40,000	\$1,500
Between 40,001 – 60,000	\$1,700
Between 60,001 – 80,000	\$2,000
Between 80,001 – 100,000	\$2,200
Between 100,001 – 300,000	\$2,400
Over 300,000	\$2,750

If additional sessions are requested, the fee for such session(s) will be 50% of the base fee, plus reimbursement of direct costs. ISAC will not fund any portion of the cost of additional sessions.

### How to Apply – Required Information

A county may apply to be considered by submitting a letter signed by all members of the board of supervisors expressing interest accompanied by the following items:

1. County name
2. Primary contact person – phone number and email address
3. Description of interest – 100 words or less
4. Letter of support and participation interest by auditor, treasurer, recorder, sheriff and attorney
5. Listing of other key department heads that you will invite and encourage to attend
6. Agreement to share the written report with ISAC

The letter and additional information should be submitted no later than Wednesday, January 16, 2013 to:

William R. Peterson  
Executive Director  
Iowa State Association of Counties  
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190  
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

Electronic submissions may be sent to [bpeterson@iowacounties.org](mailto:bpeterson@iowacounties.org).

## Legislative Tracking Tool Gets New Look

The 2013 legislative session is upon us, and staff will be using the legislative tracking tool to keep members informed on the status of legislation that is important to counties. The tracking tool has had some changes made during the interim to make it compatible with newer software. Now is a good time for ISAC members to familiarize themselves with these changes.

To find the tool, go to the ISAC website, [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org). On the right hand side of the page, under “Inside ISAC Government Relations” there is a link entitled “ISAC Legislative Tracking Tool.” Click on that link, and it will take you to a page entitled “Interactive Web-Based Tool.” If you click on “ISAC Legislative Tracking Tool” again, the tool will open. ISAC staff uses this tool very often, so we have it bookmarked. This way time can be saved by skipping these initial steps and going straight to the tool. You can also type in the direct address of <http://affiliatesiowacounties.org/bills/>.

The tool defaults to display all of the bills introduced during this session. At any point in your review of the tracking tool, if you click on the bill number, the tool will take you to a copy of the bill on the General Assembly’s website.

The filtering features make this tool truly unique and useful. From left to right across the top of the tool, you can first search by type of bill: House File (HF), House Study Bill (HSB), Senate File (SF), or Senate Study Bill (SSB). Staff generally does not input the various types of resolutions unless they are relevant to ISAC members. The next search that is available is by number. If you know the number of the bill that you want to bring up, type it in. If you add the type of bill to your search, only one bill will come up, if you just use the number, you may get as many as four bills (HF, HSB, SF, SSB).

Next you can sort by title. This is not fool proof since it depends on what title staff inputs, but it can be very helpful. For example, if you want to see what legislation has been introduced that relates to “Property Tax,” type that in and click on “Search.” All of the bills that have that word in the title will appear for your review.

The next column is the description column that allows staff to add key comments that might help explaining what a bill does if the title is not self-explanatory. Staff will also input successor and companion bills into this column which allows you to know if a bill is a successor to one previously filed or if there is a companion bill in the other chamber. With all of the number changing that goes on, this can help you make sure

**By: Hanna De Groot**

ISAC Public Policy Specialist



you are looking at the most recent iteration of a bill. Companion bills are important since they offer an additional opportunity for a bill to remain “alive” after the second funnel. If companion bills have made it out of committee in their house of origin, they do not have to be passed and out of committee in the other chamber in order to remain viable.

The next two columns allow you to sort by staff assigned to the bill or affiliate. Most likely, you will be using the affiliate sort. If you click on the “Affiliates” header, the bills will be placed in alphabetical order by affiliate. You can also search by affiliate by clicking on the search icon and typing in the affiliate name. There are still changes being made and we hope to have a drop-down box that allows you to select from the different affiliates.

The next column documents ISAC’s position on a bill. If ISAC is registered on a bill, it will be documented as either F (for), A (against), or U (undecided). If we have not registered, but want to keep track of a bill, it is designated as Tr (track). Many bills are NA (not applicable to ISAC) and many are sent FYI to various staff and affiliates. These are bills that staff are seeking input on as to whether we should have a position or track. We always appreciate members letting us know if a bill that is designated “NA” or “FYI” needs to have a different position. We do not always catch the nuances of a particular bill, and it helps to have as many eyes as possible on the mass of bills that are introduced.

The next three columns track the status of bills in the process. If you search for “passed” in the House Status and Senate Status columns and “signed” in the Governor’s Status column, you will get a list of all bills that have made it through the process. During session, bills that are on the Governor’s desk, but not signed are designated as “pending.”

The last column, “Comments,” can be very useful. Bills that die in one of the funnels, are withdrawn, or that are substituted by a subsequent bill are so noted.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with this tool before the session starts. Your input during the process is invaluable to ISAC staff. If you have any questions regarding the legislative tracking tool, please contact Tammy Norman at [tnorman@iowacounties.org](mailto:tnorman@iowacounties.org) or 515.244.7181.

## Effects of Domestic Violence and Parental Substance Abuse on Children

By: *Linda Kemp*

ISAC Case  
Management Specialist



The Integrated Services Project (ISP) is a research-in-actions team whose mission is to enhance the safety and sobriety of substance abusing battered women by ending discrimination in service provision here in Iowa. For more information about ISP check out <http://www.ispia.org>. A recent newsletter from them sighted studies regarding children and adverse childhood experiences. In reading the information my thinking went straight to discussions I have had with case managers regarding the importance of knowing about a client's early childhood information.

A document with which case managers are very familiar is the social history, a biography of the individual on the caseload with significant mental and physical health issues. We are all influenced and shaped by our childhood. Relationships and events during those crucial formative years have a lasting influence on us as adults. The ISP newsletter provided a couple of articles discussing childhood experience and the physical and mental health issues as adults. With their permission I share the following.

From the Family Violence Prevention Fund, a study of low-income preschoolers in Michigan who have been exposed to family violence suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), such as bed-wetting or nightmares, and are at greater risk than their peers of having allergies, asthma, gastrointestinal problems, headaches and flu. Children of mothers who experience prenatal physical domestic violence are at an increased risk of exhibiting aggressive, anxious, depressed or hyperactive behavior. Females who are exposed to their parents' domestic violence as adolescents are significantly more likely to become victims of dating violence than daughters of nonviolent parents. Children who experience childhood trauma, including witnessing incidents of domestic violence, are at a greater risk of having serious adult health problems including tobacco use, substance abuse, obesity, cancer, heart disease, depression and a higher risk for unintended pregnancy. Physical abuse during childhood increases the risk of future victimization among women and the risk of future perpetration of abuse by men more than two-fold.

From the Center of Addiction on the Family regarding the effects of a substance abusing parent in the household on children finds the following: Children of a substance abusing parent are often victims of abuse, incest or witness violence in the home, therefore experiencing symptoms of Acute Stress Disorder or PTSD such as sleep disturbances, flashbacks,

anxiety and depression. Children often have a limited social life; they avoid bringing home friends or going out in public with their parents should their family "secret" be found out. Some families may also be alienated as parents of other children may not want their kids associating with "troubled families."

Parental substance abuse interrupts a child's normal development, which places these youngsters at higher risk for emotional, physical, and mental health problems. Because parents who abuse alcohol or other drugs are more likely to be involved with domestic violence, divorce, unemployment, mental illness and legal problems, their ability to parent effectively is severely compromised. There is a higher prevalence of depression, anxiety, eating disorders and suicide attempts among children of alcoholics than among their peers. In addition, children of alcoholics are three to four times more likely than others to become addicted to alcohol or other drugs themselves. As a result of these stressors, children of alcoholics and children of substance abusers often have difficulty in school. They may be unable to focus on their school work due to the conflicts and tensions at home. They are also more likely than their peers to have learning disabilities, be truant, repeat more grades, transfer schools and be expelled. A child's health might also be compromised by a parent's drinking or drug problem. The child might develop stress-related health problems like gastrointestinal disorders, headaches, migraines, or asthma, causing them to miss school. And a child whose parent's substance abuse causes neglect might become injured because of failure to adequately child-proof the house or because of inadequate supervision, or even lack immunization and other routine well-child care.

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study done by Anda and Felitti examines the relationship between experiencing difficulties in childhood and adult risk behavior, health status and disease. Within the study examples from the survey used include the following questions: Have you ever experienced any of the following in childhood: emotional abuse; physical abuse; sexual abuse; neglect; parents divorced or separated; mother treated violently; household member who abused substances; household member who was mentally ill or attempted suicide; or household member go to prison?

Continued on page 20.

# ISAC meetings

## Fall School Wrap-up

ISAC would like to thank all of you who attended the 2012 ISAC Fall School of Instruction held on November 28-30. More than 800 county officials traveled to Des Moines for this year's fall school held at Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center. We would also like to thank the nearly 60 exhibitors that attended. Their attendance enables us to keep registration fees low. A conference of this scale would not be possible without the support of our exhibitors. Lastly, we want to thank ISAC's conference sponsors: Platinum Sponsors – County Risk Management Services representing ICAP and IMWCA, Election Systems & Software, and The Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau; Gold

**By: Stacy Horner**

ISAC Meeting/Event  
Administrator



Sponsors – Cott Systems, Inc., DEVNET, Inc. and The Caterpillar Dealers of Iowa - Altorfer, Inc. and Ziegler CAT; and Silver Sponsors – Cost Advisory Services, Inc. and the SilverStone Group.

As always, we greatly appreciate any feedback about our conferences and events. All feedback is taken into consideration when planning and making alterations to future conferences. Please contact us at [shorner@iowacounties.org](mailto:shorner@iowacounties.org) if you ever have any comments or suggestions.

## ISAC Steps to Wellness

The ISAC Steps to Wellness program was a huge success! Participants walked the equivalent of the distance between Augusta, Maine to Los Angeles, California nearly three times. Please see the amazing statistics to the right from the attendees who returned their log forms at the conference.

Although we did have some problems with the pedometers, the feedback that we received and the participation was outstanding for the first year of a program of this magnitude. If you have ideas on how to improve or expand on this program, please contact [shorner@iowacounties.org](mailto:shorner@iowacounties.org). Let's see how far we can walk next year!

Total number of participants: 131

Total number of steps walked: 1,874,184

Total number of miles walked: 9,371

Average number of steps per participant: 14,307

Average number of miles walked per participant: 7.2 miles

The top three walkers who will receive a free 2013 Spring School of Instruction registration are:

Jay Langenbau – Worth County Sherriff (40,014 steps)

Karen Ruppert – Van Buren County CPC (38,383 steps)

Nancy Auen – Sac County Recorder (35,561 steps)

### Thank you to the 2012 ISAC Steps to Wellness Participants:

Elaine Armstrong, Page County Supervisor  
Nancy Auen, Sac County Recorder  
Jacki Backnaus, Worth County Auditor  
Bonny Baker, Taylor County Auditor  
Phyllis Baker, Lucas County Treasurer  
Carla Becker, Delaware County Auditor  
Becky Belt, Pottawattamie County Finance Officer  
Scott Belt, Pottawattamie County Supervisor  
Kathy Bennett, Calhoun County Recorder  
Jack Bensley, Sac County Supervisor  
Gwen Blass, Guthrie County Deputy Auditor  
Al Bloemendaal, Sioux County Supervisor  
Carolyn Blum, Shelby County Treasurer  
Teresa Bockman, Winneshiek County Recorder  
Jana Bratland, Humboldt County Treasurer  
Sue Breitbach, Chickasaw County Treasurer  
Carleen Bruning, Montgomery County Recorder

Sandy Bubke, Monona County Zoning/Environmental Health  
Tony Buman, Shelby County Assessor  
Deb Campbell, Audubon County Treasurer  
Gloria Carr, Floyd County Auditor  
Chalsea Carroll, Howard County CPC/GA  
Jerri Christman, Guthrie County Auditor  
Megan Clyman, Davis County Recorder  
Dan Cohen, Buchanan County Conservation  
G. JoAnn Collins, Madison County Treasurer  
Diane Collins, Clayton County Deputy Treasurer  
Orene Cressler, Pocahontas County GA/VA  
Julie Davison, Buchanan County Community Services  
Lynelle Diers, Wapello County Public Health  
Steve Dolezal, Johnson County Chief Deputy  
Marilyn Dopheide, Carroll County Recorder  
Kathryn Egbert, Lucas County CPC  
Deb Engstler, Hancock County Treasurer  
Michelle Fields, Greene County IT

# ISAC meetings

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Jolynn Goodchild, Plymouth County Recorder  
Cindy Gosse, Buchanan County Auditor  
Shirley Goyette, Clay County Recorder  
Kevin Grieme, Woodbury County Public Health  
Jan Heidemann, Bremer County CSA  
Randy Hickey, Fremont County Supervisor  
Melvyn Houser, Pottawattamie County Supervisor  
Sandy Hysell, Union County Auditor  
Vickie Jurrens, Emmet County Treasurer  
Steve Kafaurie, Washington County Planning and Zoning Administrator  
Teresa Kanning, Cass County CPC  
Liz Kenison, Worth County Recorder  
Carolyn Kenne, Fayette County Community Services  
Joan Kirk, Fremont County Auditor  
Christine Kleinmeyer, Keokuk County Treasurer  
Arlyn Kleinwolterink, Sioux County Supervisor  
Sheila Kobliska, Cherokee County CPC  
Eldon Kruse, Lyon County Recorder  
Charles Kruse, Grundy County Recorder  
Marie Krutzfield, Jones County Recorder  
Ana Lair, Henry County Treasurer  
Catherine Lambert, Dubuque County Executive Director of Health  
Jay Langenbau, Worth County Sheriff  
Lisa Langlitz, Cherokee County CPC  
Stephanie Lathrop, Louisa County Deputy Auditor  
Carissa Lehman, Wright County Deputy Assessor  
Paula Lemke, Cerro Gordo County GIS Coordinator  
William Lenpold, Dickinson County Supervisor  
Sue Lloyd, Buena Vista County Auditor  
Sara Lucas, Cherokee County Assistant Auditor  
Tracey Marshall, Cass County Treasurer  
Tammy McKeever, Clay County Zoning  
Deb McWhirter, Butler County Assessor  
Eugene Meiners, Carroll County Supervisor  
Cindy Messersmith, Chickasaw County Recorder  
Cara Morgan, Fremont County Supervisor  
Carmen Moser, Palo Alto County Auditor  
Mark Nabra, Woodbury County Engineer  
Lois Naig, Palo Alto County Assessor  
Todd Nelsen, Audubon County Supervisor  
Karla Niederkofler, Winnebago County Auditor  
Sharon Nieman, Plymouth County CPC  
Paul Overton, Boone County Assessor  
Colleen Pearce, Cerro Gordo County Recorder  
Rusty Pearson, Guthrie County Assessor  
Peggy Pelton, Delaware County CPC/Director of Community Services  
Julie Phillips, Ida County Recorder  
Marge Pitts, Clay County Auditor

Shari Plague, Wright County Assessor  
Jim Priebe, Warren County Conservation  
Lonny Pulkrabek, Johnson County Sheriff  
Veronica Rardin, Boone County Recorder  
Cynthia Reid, Sioux County Treasurer's Office  
Peggy Rice, Humboldt County Auditor  
Tristen Richard, Guthrie County Deputy Recorder  
John Riherd, Butler County Engineer  
Carol Robertson, Mills County Auditor  
Lisa Rockhill, Lyon/Osceola County CPC  
Kris Rowley, Dickinson County Treasurer  
Karen Ruppert, Van Buren County CPC  
Kim Schaa, Hamilton County Auditor  
Mindy Schaefer, Adair County Auditor  
Arlene Schauf, Jackson County Recorder  
Gaylord Schelling, Cass County Supervisor  
Peggy Schluttenhofer, Wright County Treasurer  
Janelle Schneider, Adair County Recorder  
Karen Schwanebeck, Marion County Recorder  
Sue Shonka, Bremer County Treasurer  
Donna Siebersm, Klein Sioux County Deputy Treasurer  
Kelly Spees, Jefferson County Recorder  
Eric Stierman, Dubuque County Treasurer  
Wade Stierwalt, Scott County MR/DD Coordinator/Case Aide Supervisor  
Sherry Strub, Allamakee County Supervisor  
Julie Swenson, Winnebago County Treasurer  
Gail Thomas, Clinton County Zoning - Floodplain Admin  
Renee Twedt, Story County Treasurer  
John A. Twombly, Adair County Supervisor  
Walter Utman, Harrison County Supervisor  
Sue Vande Kamp, Story County Recorder  
Peggy Vandenberg, Monroe County Treasurer  
Eric VanLancker, Clinton County Auditor  
Grant Veeder, Black Hawk County Auditor  
Jeri Vogt, Crawford County Treasurer  
Brenda Wallace, Adair County Treasurer  
Suzanne Watson, Pottawattamie County Community Services Director  
Melissa Wellhausen, Page County Auditor  
Bonnie Whitney, Palo Alto County Recorder  
Dan Widmer, Washington County Auditor  
Bret Wilkinson, Dubuque County Engineer  
Toni Wilkinson, Franklin County Recorder  
Deb Winke, Allamakee County Recorder  
Shelly Wolf, Bremer County Auditor  
Dennis Wright, Sioux County Supervisor  
Pat Wright, Cerro Gordo County Treasurer

# ISAC meetings

## Books for Blank

A HUGE thank you goes out to all Books for Blank donors - see below. The ISAC community service project was a huge success collecting over 200 new children's books and over \$300 in cash donations made at the conference. ISAC staff dropped off the books and a check to Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines, and they were very thankful for the extremely generous donation. We hope to continue a similar tradition in the future. We apologize in advance if we missed any names.

Linn Adams, Hardin County Community Services Director  
Anonymous donors from Page and Fremont Counties  
Marilyn Austin, Iowa County CPC  
Kathy Babcock, Chickasaw County Public Health  
Scott Belt, Pottawattamie County Supervisor  
Kathy Bennett, Calhoun County Recorder  
Darcy Bosch, Boone County Treasurer  
Tony Buman, Shelby County Assessor/Zoning  
Stephanie Burke, Montgomery County Deputy Auditor  
Kay Clark, Worth County Auditor  
Carol Copeland, Des Moines County Auditor  
Judy Cosgrove, Webster County Recorder  
Jill Eaton, Marshall County CPC  
Holly Fokkena, Butler County Auditor  
Jolynn Goodchild, Plymouth County Recorder  
John Grush, Boone/Madison Director of Community Services  
Bev Hultquist, Plymouth County Treasurer's Office  
Ken Hyndmen, Des Moines County CPC  
ISAC staff members  
Vicki Jurens, Emmet County Treasurer  
Sarah Kaufman, Henry County CPC  
Ron Kohn, Mills County Supervisor  
Ralph Kremer, Buchanan County Supervisor  
Linda Langston, Linn County Supervisor  
Joan McCalmant, Linn County Recorder  
Jan Messerly, Webster County Treasurer  
Montgomery County elected officials  
Sharon Nieman, Plymouth County CPC  
Anna O'Shea, Dubuque County Zoning  
Colleen Pearce, Cerro Gordo County Recorder  
Marge Pitts, Clay County Auditor  
Deb Roberts, Floyd County Recorder  
Kris Rowley, Dickinson County Treasurer  
Karen Schaefer, Ringgold County Recorder  
Janelle Schneider, Adair County Recorder  
Cliff Sheriff, Adair County Supervisor  
Sue Shonka, Bremer County Treasurer  
Kelly Spees, Jefferson County Recorder  
Priscilla Strathman, Plymouth County Deputy Treasurer  
Grant Veeder, Black Hawk County Auditor  
Beth Weeks, Linn County Assessor  
Denny Wright, Sioux County Supervisor  
Pat Wright, Cerro Gordo County Treasurer





Contact us:

Linda Hinton, ISAC Government Relations Manager, [lhinton@iowacounties.org](mailto:lhinton@iowacounties.org) or 515.491.7155  
Hanna De Groot, ISAC Public Policy Specialist, [hdegrot@iowacounties.org](mailto:hdegrot@iowacounties.org) or 515.491.2072  
Kristi Harshbarger, ISAC Legal Counsel, [kharshbarger@iowacounties.org](mailto:kharshbarger@iowacounties.org) or 515.689.9056  
Bill Peterson, ISAC Executive Director, [bpeterson@iowacounties.org](mailto:bpeterson@iowacounties.org) or 515.240.1562

Iowa State Association of Counties  
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Phone: 515.244.7181 Fax: 515.244.6397

[www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org)

# ISAC Top Priorities

## • Property Tax Reform

## • Mental Health Funding

## • Road Funding

### Property Tax Reform

Iowa's schools, cities and counties provide many critical services to local citizens. In 2004, ISAC and the League of Cities developed a comprehensive proposal to reform Iowa's property tax system. This proposal continues to have merit in resolving some of the problems identified, while protecting funding for Iowa's local governments. Unfortunately, the Legislature has not moved forward with this proposal. Since 2004, ISAC has focused on several specific proposals to improve Iowa's property tax system, including allowing local government to capture the value of new agricultural buildings and developing standard guidelines for the classification of agricultural property. In 2011 and 2012, the Governor and the Legislature made proposals for reform. There are several principles that ISAC will use to review any of the proposals brought forward in 2013. They are:

- The proposal must be generally revenue neutral;
- There must be enough local flexibility to accommodate additional service needs due to federal/state cuts;
- The inherent stability of the property tax funding stream must be maintained;
- Any limitation must allow growing counties to capture growth;
- Any limitation must apply only to general basic and rural basic funds;
- The general and rural supplemental funds must be maintained, and counties must be allowed to levy additional dollars outside of the basic fund limitations for those specified supplemental purposes;
- Local governments must be able to exceed any limitation through a process less cumbersome than a special election;
- Any commercial property tax relief must focus on small, main street businesses;
- If there is a property tax credit, it must be funded or prorated;
- Any comprehensive proposal must take the opportunity to uncouple agricultural and residential properties and allow market forces to determine the value of residential property (or in lieu of this there must be a floor placed on the residential rollback);
- Any limitations on reserves must be reasonable and allow local governments to save for a "rainy day";
- The plan must be phased in over enough years to cushion the impact on local governments;
- Issues related to Tax Increment Financing must be addressed; and
- The plan should allow for capturing the property taxes associated with the increase in new agricultural values.

### Mental Health Funding

Many counties are facing a major funding crisis regarding county mental health and disability services (MH/DS). There are certain services that counties are mandated to provide and just as the state has concerns about the federal government passing unfunded mandates down to it, the counties are concerned about the state doing the same to them. Unfortunately, counties are prohibited from generating any additional funding for MH/DS services through property taxes. This problem will persist when the system moves to a region-based mental health system. The chronic underfunding of the county-managed system is what led to the current redesign and the promise of state funding to stabilize and enhance the current service delivery system.

The Legislature needs to appropriate sufficient funds in January prior to counties developing their FY 2014 budgets to ensure that counties have the resources to provide mandated core services. In addition, the Legislature needs to:

1. Implement the shift from legal settlement as the basis for funding services to residency, prior to making any additional changes in the system. The financial impacts of this shift need to be addressed prior to adding any additional requirements to the system.
2. Adopt a state-wide plan for core services that replaces current mandates (Iowa Code §§222.60 and 230.1, and Chapter 229).
3. Develop a state-wide response to access on in-patient hospital beds as a first step in addressing the ongoing critical issues in commitment processes.
4. Vest all responsibilities, including payment, for the judicial mental health advocates either with the state or the regions.

### Road Funding

Maintaining and improving Iowa's roads and bridges are vital in continuing to grow the state's economy, and every road jurisdiction is struggling to fund its portion of the road system. These funding problems have been exacerbated over the years by Iowa's harsh winters, floods and heavy equipment usage. 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 an immediate increase in the motor fuel tax and a combination of other road-related revenue increases. The \$225 million cap to the TIME-21 fund must be maintained, and increased revenues in excess of this cap should be distributed like other Road Use Tax Fund disbursements.

# ISAC Legislative Objectives

## **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 uniformly and consistently administering 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.

## **Annexation and De-annexation**

PROBLEM: Under Iowa Code, counties have limited ability to provide input in the voluntary annexation and de-annexation processes. Most voluntary annexation requests only go before a city council. In the case of de-annexations, any territory may be severed upon unanimous consent of the owners of the territory and approval of the city council. Neither the county nor the City Development Board has any input in the process. The severance may be the result of a dispute between the residents of the area and the city and may have no basis in smart planning principles. Counties have a particular concern if they will become financially responsible for infrastructure associated with the severed land. The appropriate land use plan category and zoning designation must be determined, any existing nonconformities must be identified and documented, and residents in the severed area must be informed of the county's rules and regulations.

SOLUTION: For a voluntary annexation request that the county board expresses opposition to, amend Iowa Code §§368.7(2) and 368.7(3) to require the request to go before the City Development Board. For proposed severances, amend Iowa Code §368.8 to either 1) require a county to approve or reject a proposed severance; or 2) require the City Development Board to approve or reject any proposed severance after considering the city's and county's adopted comprehensive plans, zoning, reasons for the proposed severance, and other relevant factors.

## **Bottle Bill Expansion**

PROBLEM: Iowa'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 Iowa. 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.

## **Courthouse Bonding Authority**

Problem: Iowa law requires counties to provide and maintain space for the state-run court system. Under current law, bonds issued for public buildings are authorized as "essential county purpose" bonds if the cost of the building project does not exceed dollar amounts specified in the Iowa Code. The limits are indexed to county populations and increase incrementally from \$600,000 to \$1.5 million. Essential county purpose bonds issued within these parameters require a 10-day notice to the public and are not subject to reverse referendum. Bonds that exceed the limit are considered general county purpose bonds and must be approved by referendum with 60% of the voters approving. This is keeping some counties from providing and maintaining adequate space for the courts.

Solution: The legislature should amend the Iowa Code to set higher essential county purpose bond limitations for courthouse facilities but restrict the total amount of outstanding courthouse debt principal; permit a 30-day reverse referendum for courthouse facilities; and base bond amount limitations for public building on the amount of the bonds issued rather than on the total cost of the project.

## **Elections**

### *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. Turnout on this Saturday is minimal due to the availability of Election Day registration and an increase in absentee voting during regular courthouse hours, at satellite voting locations, and by mail. 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.

# ISAC Legislative Objectives

## *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 noon. This causes difficulties in completing critical, last-minute administrative functions, such as generating and distributing election materials, including lists of absentee voters, 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 12:00 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 noon.

## *Absentee Ballot Postmark*

**PROBLEM:** Ballots from voters that are received through the mail after Election Day cannot be counted if their return envelopes have no postmark or have an illegible postmark. Due to no fault of the voter, the ballot is rejected. The practice of postmarks being placed on return envelopes is very inconsistent throughout the state of Iowa.

**SOLUTION:** Amend Iowa Code §53.17(2) to state that all absentee ballots received by the auditor before the polls close on Election Day will be counted and no ballots received later will be counted, regardless of the postmark date.

## 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. One example is the requirement that the description of all parcels being sold at the annual tax sale must be published along with the time, date and place of the sale. 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. Allow treasurers to reference where the description of the parcels to be sold at the annual tax sale can be accessed. This could be on the state website, on the county website and in the treasurer's office.

## REAP Funding

**Problem:** The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program has never been fully funded. Lack of funding translates into fewer investments that are important to quality of life and economic activity in Iowa communities. For example, current funding levels only allow one of every five competitive REAP grant applications from county conservation boards to be funded.

REAP is a nationally recognized state funding program that helps counties make improvements to parks and facilities, protect important outdoor recreation areas, build and improve trails, protect water quality and conserve soil, conduct education programs, manage roadsides, and preserve and enhance historic sites and tourism attractions. REAP investments are known to enhance Iowans' quality of life, and are economically important to Iowa communities.

**Solution:** ISAC supports full funding for REAP.

The Iowa 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 attorneys in the state participate in the Iowa County Attorney's Association, Inc. affiliate.

ISAC's mission is to promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa. 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 Iowa. These endeavors support our vision of being the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

## User Fees

**PROBLEM:** There is a number of services that counties provide to the public that are subsidized by property taxes because the fees charged to the customers are not adequate to pay for the service. Many fees have not been raised in years and the increased expenses are funded by the property tax payer. Included in this category are: the e-commerce fee charged for the recording of documents, which funds the cost of redacting these documents before they are published online, and food code license fees.

**SOLUTION:** Raise the following fees:

- E-commerce - Increase the fee from \$1 to \$2 to cover the costs of redacting personally identifiable information contained on recorded documents, providing technical support for document transfer to the website, and delivering electronically submitted documents to the counties for recording.
- Food code license fees - The fees generated from the licensing of food establishments are not adequate to cover the costs of the inspection program. Develop an appropriate licensing structure for reinspections, mobile licenses, temporary event licenses and plan review. In addition, revise the current food license fee schedule by rounding all fees up to the nearest dollar.

## Board Minutes Summary - November 28, 2012

ISAC President Wayne Walter called the meeting to order at 11:40 am.

Bill Peterson reported that work is being done to establish and make appointments for an ETC/CSN Governance, Funding and Operations Study Committee to establish a mechanism to replace the current ETC 28E to more adequately meet future needs after the MH/DS redesign.

Bill distributed and explained a handout for the ISAC Goal Setting Facilitation Pilot Program that was approved by the Board during their October meeting. The application period for the pilot round is December 7, 2012 to January 16, 2013. See page 5 for more information.

Bill Peterson and Linda Hinton described a proposed additional legislative objective entitled Courthouse Bonding Authority. The objective was originally proposed as a policy statement and included in the book. However, the language has been further solidified, and Polk County is asking that it be an additional legislative objective. The Board unanimously approved the additional objective as a recommendation to the full membership.

Bill Menner, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development State Director for Iowa, addressed the Board.

Marge Pitts, Nominating Committee Chair, reported the following 2013 ISAC Executive Committee recommendation on behalf of the nominating committee that was made up of Harlan Hansen, Wayne Chizek and she:

- President Darin Raymond, Plymouth County Attorney
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Harlan Hansen, Humboldt County Supervisor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Melvyn Houser, Pottawattamie County Supervisor
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Joan McCalmant, Linn County Recorder

The recommendation was approved unanimously, and President Walter adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.

## General Session Summary - November 28, 2012

President Wayne Walter called the General Session to order at 3:00 pm. The invocation was given by Deane Adams, Marshall County Supervisor, and President Walter led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Walter then introduced the ISAC Executive Committee and Board of Directors, ISAC Executive Director Bill Peterson recognized the conference sponsors, preferred vendors and exhibitors. He announced upcoming conference dates and locations, including the conference moving to August beginning in 2017.

Angela Connolly, Polk County Supervisor, welcomed the membership to Polk County and to the new facility.

Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds congratulated the Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA) on their 50 year anniversary and read a proclamation. AJ Mumm, Polk County Emergency Management Director and IEMA President, addressed the crowd.

Linda Langston, Linn County Supervisor and NACo 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, urged all counties in Iowa to join NACo.

Wayne Clinton, Story County Supervisor, presented the 2012 ISAC Excellence in Action Awards to the Buchanan County Sustainable Living Cabins, the Community Services Network, and the Johnson County Small Wind Energy Zones.

Harlan Hansen, Humboldt County Supervisor and ISAC Legislative Policy Committee Chair, presented the 2013 ISAC Legislative Priorities to the membership. The 2013 legislative policy statements, objectives and top priorities were accepted unanimously by the membership.

Darin Raymond, Plymouth County Attorney and ISAC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and Corwin Ritchie, Iowa County Attorney's Association, Inc. Executive Director, honored J. Patrick White, Retired Johnson County Attorney and ISAC Past President, as the 2012 ISAC Golden Eagle.

President Walter spoke regarding his year as ISAC President, and Darin Raymond addressed the membership about his upcoming term. Darin presented Wayne with a plaque for his year of service as ISAC President.

Keynote Speaker Jamie Pollard, Iowa State University Director of Athletics, presented "Challenges of Public Leadership."

President Wayne Walter adjourned the general session at 5:15 pm.

## As Rockets Flew

I was privileged to be asked as a NACo officer to join Project Interchange on a trip to Israel along with other state, city and county officials. There were 10 people on the trip. We traveled to Tel Aviv, the Golan Heights, Ramallah, and Jerusalem, over the course of the week before Thanksgiving. Due to the conflicts at the time, we did not travel to Gaza as planned. I was able to learn so much about the situation in the Middle East. I also learned a good deal about local government in Israel, and I think based on what we saw and the people we met that solutions to problems of this magnitude are often found at the local level. What follows is a column that I submitted to the Cedar Rapids Gazette about my trip. Thank you again to all ISAC members for the opportunity to represent Iowa on your behalf.

Israel was surprisingly small, smaller than Iowa by a good deal, driving from the West Bank to Tel Aviv, is like driving up to Waterloo.

I came home from my recent visit with a new appreciation of the challenges faced by Israel and Palestine. I was an invited guest of Project Interchange, a non-partisan, not for profit that has been bringing people to the Middle East for 10 years in an effort to educate Americans. Our group consisted of five state electeds, four county electeds and one city official from Chicago. A diverse group with many perspectives, we all agreed it was one of the most amazing journeys any of us have been on.

We flew into Tel Aviv, knowing that tensions were high. However, we saw a vibrant city with incredible business development going on, including Microsoft and cutting edge cybersecurity firms.

**By: Linda Langston**

Linn County Supervisor and  
NACo 1st Vice President



We visited the Golan Heights with a retired general while overlooking tank exercises within sight of Damascus. As the general left to go to Jerusalem it was clear that something was in the works. Our drive from the north was a study in contrasts, towns of both Israeli and Palestinians, dotted by Bedouin encampments, on excellent roads divided by fences to separate the populations from one another.

We drove to Ramallah to meet with Prime Minister Fayyad, who is clearly an aspirational man. His work to gain recognition of Palestine by the UN is top of mind, but the divide between Fatah and Hamas is deep and a path forward between Gaza and the West Bank is not clear.

The effort getting through checkpoints underscored the animosity felt by Palestinians who traverse every day to go to work in and around Jerusalem. Ramallah was bustling with new hotels and businesses going up. The no man's land between Ramallah and Jerusalem gives a significant appreciation for the benefits of government. The streets are littered with tons of garbage, discarded tires and shells of old cars. There is no traffic control except that provided by civic minded young men intent on helping people move around. We also saw the eruption of violence between Israeli guards at the checkpoint and angry young men throwing rocks. Shots were fired into the air and tear gas was used to disperse the crowd. It was a scary moment as the young men looked into our vehicle, we chose to leave the area and try for another checkpoint.

Returning to Jerusalem, we had to give up our trip to Gaza, as rocket fire was escalating and it became clear that it was not



Group outside of the Church of the Annunciation, Nazareth



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem

safe. We instead met with psychologists at NATAL an Israeli trauma center for victims of terror and war. With the escalation of the rocket fire, their efforts were needed more than ever. The work they are doing is groundbreaking and the US could clearly take a page out of their book as we prepare for the influx of veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

A return to our hotel for a moment of down time changed as the sirens went off. I stopped for a moment realizing what this meant, but with no earthly idea of what to do or where to go. Luckily no rockets fell directly in Jerusalem, but rather just outside of town. The moment of fear I felt gave me insight into the lives of Israeli citizens who know that when the sirens sound they have but 15-30 seconds to get to bomb shelters.

Our final day was spent viewing holy sites, including the tunnels under the Western Wall and shopping in the Arab market. I met amazing people from entrepreneurs, to Rabbis working on reconciliation throughout the world, to Netanyahu's press secretary, varied Knesset members, and an Arab Muslim journalist living in Jerusalem. Most impressive was the Mayor of Efrat, a suburb of Jerusalem whose pragmatic problem solving could offer solutions to intractable problems. Each shared a perspective that left me with an increased awareness of the challenges faced by a part of the world that has known strife for thousands of years. I do not know if the ceasefire will hold, but there are good people there whose lives depend on it.



*Group in the Western Wall tunnels, Jerusalem*



*County officials outside of the Western Wall, Jerusalem*



*On the Golan.*

## miscellaneous

### Goodbye to Mike Wentzien

By: *Mike Wentzien*

Iowa State Association of  
County Supervisors Lobbyist



Then Supervisor Kim Wilson, Tama County, stopped at my normal Saturday coffee meeting in Gladbrook in 1998 and told me I should apply for a lobbyist position representing Boards of Supervisors. I did and on Christmas Eve day, got a phone call from Miles Butler that I had been selected. It's been a good ride since. I appreciate the search committee of Miles Butler, Polly Granzow, Jill Davisson and Del Hanson for my selection. I had been out of the office for 10 years, so I had some catching up to do. I had remained active in the political arena so I did know a few of the faces of legislators. My first day on the job, John Easter caught then Speaker of the House, Corbett and he said, Mike, what are you doing here, I stated "I'm the new lobbyist for the Board of Supervisors" in which he replied an expletive and entered the House Chamber. I guess that is when I realized what the life of a lobbyist would be. What a change from being given two pages of paper as to our objectives/positions were to what we have now for policy for the Supervisors Association.

I was armed with my newly acquired cell phone the size of a wall phone with antenna. A big change going to a compact cell and a wireless lap top. The creation of the supervisor's website along with the email addresses of members was great, and I enjoyed sending out weekly reports. ISAC was very important in upgrading all aspects of our association and bring us up to date with the ability to communicate with all members.

I have made many acquaintances along the way with supervisors, legislators and other lobbyists. Many of these will last my life time. There are a special few from ISAC, John Easter, Bill Peterson, Linda Hinton, Hanna De Groot, Jay Severson, David Vestal, Tammy Norman and others too many to note. I have always appreciated the many Executive Boards of Supervisors and District Chairpersons who have always given me support and respect representing the best interests of local government and Boards of Supervisors.

I will retain my membership as a supervisors alumnus and may even attend county events. I will have the same cell phone number and email address. I live in Gladbrook, Iowa and am available to any who would wish to use me as a resource. My passion and belief in local government and the good it does will always be in my heart.

I thank all who have assisted me and hope you all do the same for your new lobbyist.

Don't miss it!

ISAC's

# 2013 Spring School of Instruction

March 14-15, 2013

Des Moines Marriott Downtown

Visit [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org) for more information.

Registration and hotel room blocks open at 8:30 am on Wednesday, January 16, 2013.  
You must register for the conference before you can secure a hotel room.

## Floodplain and Stormwater Training Modules

**By: Julie Tallman, CFM, CPESC**

IFSMA Chair and City of Iowa City Regulations Specialist

Far from fading into the background of history, flood events continue to hold the attention of Iowans, and Iowa Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association (IFSMA) is busy identifying programs and services that will benefit its members and the state of Iowa.

IFSMA is the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and was awarded its charter in May 2011. Since incorporating in 2010, our membership has grown to nearly 100 professionals from disciplines that include engineering, planning, conservation, and public health. Our Board of Directors includes myself, Brian Schoon (Director of Development and Transit for INRCOG), Leanne Harter (Director of Story County Planning and Zoning), Luis Leon (CEO, LT Leon Associates), Rodd Baxter (Zoning Inspector for Linn County), Jeff Sherman (Director of Floyd County Board of Health and Zoning Administrator), and Wayne Wille (Planner II, City of Davenport). Our Board members – like our membership – represent cities, counties, and regions.

### Professional Certification

IFSMA spent the first two years focusing on improving the education of floodplain administrators across the state and we've worked to build the number of Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM®s) in Iowa to 43. The increase in the number of CFM®s is a result of our efforts to prepare individuals for the exam, and provide accommodations to take the exam.

The CFM® certification is awarded to professionals who not only pass the exam, but who meet annual requirements for continuing education. ASFPM administers the CFM® program and provides IFSMA with exam materials. ASFPM also provides its members with opportunities to attain continuing education, and reviews IFSMA's training programs for their eligibility to provide continuing education credits. This March, at the Iowa Water Conference, the floodplain management track will provide CFM®s with training that is eligible for continuing education credit.

### Training for Floodplain Administrators

In 2012, IDNR contracted with IFSMA for training modules that will be used to educate floodplain administrators in four specific areas. IFSMA sub-contracted with Dewberry to develop the training modules in consultation with IFSMA. These training modules, as they are completed, will be introduced during the Iowa Water Conference in Ames, in 2013 and 2014.

### How to use the Floodplain Management Desk Reference

This reference manual was most recently published in 2008. IFSMA members have combed through the 2008 version and submitted recommended updates to IDNR. The manual is composed of 29 chapters and includes information on flood insurance; preservation of floodplains and floodways; and construction/development standards. It also describes the structure of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): a system administered on several levels, including federal, state, county, and municipal governments.

### How to Become a Delegated Community

IDNR administers floodplain regulations for many communities in Iowa, particularly those without detailed flood studies. Some communities with detailed flood studies don't always have staff that are able to use the maps or flood profiles, so IDNR staff becomes responsible for administering their floodplain regulations as well. The second training module will identify the skills and abilities that are necessary for a floodplain administrator in a Delegated Community. This module will also formalize the process by which IDNR will appoint a Delegated Community. An individual who takes this training will become more sophisticated in applying what s/he learned from the Desk Reference training in Module 1, and this will allow IDNR to handover floodplain administration to a competent local official.

### How to Join the Community Rating System (CRS®)

FEMA provides incentives for communities that go above and beyond the minimum requirements of NFIP. The CRS® program rewards participating communities with automatic discounts on flood insurance premiums on policies that are issued in the community. These premium discounts range from 5% to 40% and are awarded based on a menu of specific activities. Currently there are four Iowa communities participating in the CRS®: Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Des Moines, and Iowa City. Counties may also participate in CRS® by pulling together unincorporated areas into one unified CRS® program. Linn County is in the process of establishing a county-wide CRS® program. This training module will assist communities with the application process, as well as outline ways to document ongoing activities and to prepare for audits by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO), the entity that administers the CRS® program for FEMA. Before a county or municipality can

Continued on page 20.

# miscellaneous

Continued from page 19.

participate in CRS®, there must be a floodplain administrator with more than a basic understanding of the NFIP, and the first two training modules will prepare an administrator for the CRS® training.

## **Flood Response and Recovery**

I experienced the Iowa River flood of 2008 as Iowa City's floodplain administrator and as a volunteer. I know from personal experience how exhausting it is to fill sandbags and pile them into temporary fortifications, and how disgusting those same sandbags are after the flood when they're hauled up and thrown away. I know the fear, uncertainty, and disruption that result when entire neighborhoods are displaced by a flood; even now, four years later, flood recovery continues in Iowa City. This module will provide a readily accessible and adaptable kit that a community can use when preparing for an impending flood, assessing property damage, cleaning up after the flood, and restoring buildings and land. It will be applicable to cities and unincorporated areas, with information on everything from replacing moldy drywall to assessing the damage to gardens

and farm fields. It will also provide much-needed information to those who are responsible for soliciting hazard mitigation grant funds and other financial resources that are so critical following a disaster. This module will not be targeted to an assumed level of education or ability regarding flooding and floodplains. It will be designed to be used by anyone who is in a position to be part of a team that leads a city, county, or a neighborhood through a flood response and recovery effort.

In March 2013, Iowa State University hosts the Iowa Water Conference (IWC) and gathers together a wide variety of organizations and individuals in the Scheman Building at the Iowa State Center for two days of presentations and training. It has been an ideal setting for IFSMA to hold its annual membership meeting and offer certification exams as well as training. I hope you notice when advertising material for the 2013 IWC comes your way, and that you register for the event. IFSMA is proud to be a part of the conference planning team, and we look forward to presenting one (or more) of the new IDNR training modules at this year's conference.

# CCMS

Continued from page 7.

The researchers found a graded relationship between the number of "yes" answers given to questions addressing these issues and adult health risk behaviors and diseases. "Persons who had experienced four or more categories of childhood exposure, compared to those who had experienced none, had a four- to 12-fold increased health risks for alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, and suicide attempt; a two- to four- fold increase in smoking, poor self-rated health,  $\geq 50$  sexual intercourse partners, and sexually transmitted disease; and a 1.4- to 1.6-fold increase in physical inactivity and severe obesity. The number of categories of adverse childhood exposures showed a graded relationship to the presence of adult diseases including ischemic heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease, skeletal fractures,

and liver disease." (Felitti, Anda, Nordenberg, Williamson, Spitz, Edwards, Koss and Marks, 1998). To read more about the ACE study, the CDC has a link to the information at <http://www.cdc.gov/ace/index.htm>.

The recognition of co-occurring mental and physical health problems is coming into better focus here in Iowa. The possible connection to adverse childhood experiences is worth paying attention to. Through the development of the Social History, some of this background information will come to light and perhaps bring greater understanding. And wouldn't it be nice, through better understanding, to break the cycle of abuse for a child yet to be born.

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## employment

### Public Health Administrator

Washington County is hiring a Public Health Administrator. This is a full time salaried position with county benefits. A Bachelor's Degree or higher in medical, nursing or health-related field is preferred with three years experience in Public Health. Salary range \$65,000 to \$79,000, depending upon qualifications. Applicant should possess excellent communication, public relations, finance, supervisory, grant writing, leadership, and collaborative skills. Submit cover letter, resume, salary history, and four references by January 24, 2013 to Patrick Callahan, Snyder & Associates, 5005 Bowling Street SW, Suite A, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 or to [pcallahan@snyder-associates.com](mailto:pcallahan@snyder-associates.com). For a position profile and a job description please visit [www.washph.com](http://www.washph.com).

# 2013 calendar

## 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](http://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](mailto:shorner@iowacounties.org).

# SAVE DATE!

## 2013 IOWA Employment Law, Training, Benefits & Wellness Conference

Wednesday, April 24 & Thursday, April 25  
Altoona • Prairie Meadows Conference Center

**STARTS AT 1:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY THE 24TH!**

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