

Iowa County



Iowa State Association of Counties

September 2007

General Obligation Bonds
NACo Annual Conference Wrap-up
2007 Fall School Updates

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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.

General Obligation Bonds

By: Jay Syverson

ISAC Fiscal Analyst



In 2007 the Iowa Legislature gave counties the ability to issue bonds for certain road and bridge construction projects without a vote of the people. That might prod some counties, which have traditionally been reluctant to issue debt (compare the \$440 million of current outstanding county debt to \$3.7 billion for cities and \$2.0 billion for schools), to take a closer look at their bonding potential.

The most common types of bonds issued by public entities are general obligation (G.O.) bonds. These are, as the name implies, a “general obligation” of the county. That means they are backed by the full faith and credit of the county, not to mention its full taxing power. G.O. bonds are considered extremely safe and public entities rarely default on G.O. bonds.

A slightly riskier type of bond issued by public entities is called a revenue bond. These bonds are issued for specific projects and are payable only from the revenue generated by that project – not from the general taxing authority of a county. A public entity might issue revenue bonds to build a toll road, for example, with the debt payable only from the revenue generated by the toll road. If the toll revenue isn’t sufficient, the bondholders don’t get paid back. Because revenue bonds are riskier than G.O. bonds, they carry a higher interest rate. Revenue bonds aren’t nearly as common as G.O. bonds, so the rest of this article will focus on the different types of G.O. bonds that Iowa counties can issue.

Iowa counties can issue G.O. bonds for either “general county purposes” or “essential county purposes.” Iowa Code §331.441(2)(b) lists 16 items that qualify as essential county purposes. Among those items are: voting machines; geographic computer database systems (GIS); and the newest essential county purpose, “capital projects for the construction, reconstruction, improvement, repair, or equipping of bridges, roads, and culverts if such capital projects assist in economic development which creates jobs and wealth.” If a county wants to issue bonds to pay for an essential county purpose, it must publish a notice of the proposed action and hold a public hearing. The bond issuance need not be submitted to a vote of the people. The supervisors must adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds, but that’s it.

G.O. bonds issued for general county purposes, on the other hand, must be approved by a vote of the people. A general purpose is basically anything that is not included in the list of essential purposes. Iowa Code §331.441(2)(c) lists 11 specific items that qualify as general purposes, one of which is “[a]ny other purpose which is necessary for the operation of the county or the health and welfare of its citizens.” That’s pretty broad. But a proposed bond issuance for a general purpose must have broad support, because it must be approved at a special election by at least 60% of those voting.

There’s a very small exception to the 60% vote requirement. A county may issue G.O. bonds for a general county purpose without a vote under the following circumstances: 1) the board must

publish notice of its intent to issue the bonds; 2) the board must take action on the bond issuance at a public meeting; 3) the bonds may not exceed \$100,000 in the smallest counties and \$300,000 in the largest counties; and 4) the bond issuance is subject to a reverse referendum. See Iowa Code §331.442(5).

Remember that all county debt, including G.O. bonds for both general and essential county purposes, is subject to the constitutional debt limit of 5% of assessed valuation. Currently that limit ranges from about \$12 million in Adams County to \$1.3 billion in Polk County. Beyond that, however, there is usually no limit on the amount of bonds that can be issued in a particular bond issuance. As long as a county stays within its debt limitation, it can generally issue G.O. bonds in any amount. However, there are exceptions built into the law. For example, equipping and remodeling public buildings is only an essential county purpose when the cost of the project does not exceed \$600,000 in the smallest counties and \$1.5 million in the largest counties. Additionally, when the proposal to issue G.O. bonds for general purposes is submitted to the voters, the ballot language must specify the total cost of the project and the maximum amount of bonds to be issued.

So what if your county has a project that qualifies as an essential county purpose? Or perhaps your voters would approve a bond for a general county purpose – should you go ahead and issue bonds? Well, there are drawbacks. First, let’s be clear that bonds are a debt that must be repaid. The fact that debt-financing is available doesn’t mean it’s wise or appropriate to use. It probably isn’t fiscally responsible, for example, to issue debt to pay for an ongoing operating expense. But for a capital project that will provide long-term benefits to the county, debt-financing may be worth a look. There are also financing costs to consider. The cost of a project will increase because of the interest on the debt and the various transaction costs that go along with issuing bonds. If you have the cash to pay for a project now, that probably makes more sense than issuing debt to fund the project.

But there is also one major benefit to bonding. When counties pay off a bond, they do so by levying a debt service tax. That tax gets spread over the valuation in the entire county, including TIF increment value. The upshot is that counties may be able to charge a lower tax rate to generate the same amount of money than if they were levying in only the general fund or rural fund. Whether that’s true or not depends on the amount of TIF in a particular county and the level of financing and transaction costs involved in the bond issuance.

Issuing bonds is a complicated process that requires careful consideration and consultation with professional bond counsel. But it may also prove beneficial to a county and its citizens in the right situation.

NACo Annual Conference July 13 - 17, 2007

By Grant Veeder

NACo Representative



The 2007 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference occurred from July 13 to 17 in Richmond, Virginia at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. I attended along with fellow NACo board member Jane Halliburton. We had a busy and interesting conference.

This year, the Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs (FIGA) Steering Committee was rearranged so that the Capital Financing Subcommittee was discontinued, and two new subcommittees were formed, for Elections and Native American Affairs. NACo President Colleen Landkamer appointed me as vice-chair of the Elections Subcommittee.

A lot of our focus was directed toward the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 and further proposed legislation that addresses election issues, some of them consequences of HAVA. Unfortunately, the concerns raised across the country about the security of voting systems have led to a lot of unrealistic legislative proposals. Election officials aren't consulted about possible solutions because they are considered too biased. As a result, language is written that ranges from the merely onerous to the practically impossible. The Elections Subcommittee offered resolutions that ask Congress to fully fund the HAVA mandates and to restrain itself from passing additional poorly-conceived legislation.

The subcommittee forwarded its proposed resolutions and platform changes to the full FIGA committee on Saturday, which passed them along to the Board of Directors on Sunday, which sent them to the full body for approval on Tuesday.

The other new subcommittee, Native American Affairs, didn't have as smooth a maiden voyage. Its members had been asked to address the issue of the impact of Indian gaming on local government, but they could not reach a consensus, due largely to the conflicting interests of the parties involved.

Also on Saturday, the Presidential Election Project Committee met. The Iowa delegation was given primary credit for convincing Senator Hillary Clinton to speak at the Tuesday general session, given that so many of us had pestered her about our invitation during her recent visits to the Hawkeye State. Our new charge is getting candidates to attend upcoming state conferences, including the ISAC Fall School November 28 or 29. Remember, *you* can be a part of this effort. Many of you will speak personally to presidential candidates in the coming weeks and months. Be sure you coax and cajole them into taking part in the ISAC candidate forum.

Richmond sold itself as our 2007 conference site by touting the 400th anniversary of the founding in 1607 of nearby Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the New World. The conference-wide event was held in Jamestown, where we were feted with food and music and exposed to some fascinating history. Lying at anchor on the banks of the James River and open for touring were replicas of the three craft that made the first voyage, the *Susan Constant*, the *Godspeed*, and the *Discovery*.

The conference general sessions had a number of interesting speakers, including Senator Clinton, conservative TV journalist Tucker Carlson (who seemed to predict that Clinton will defeat John McCain for president in 2008), National Geographic marine biologist Dr. Sylvia Earle, and Hollywood screenwriter Antwone Fisher. But the big entertainment was this year's election for NACo second vice president.

As expected, Commissioner Eric Coleman of Oakland County, Michigan transitioned from president-elect to president, and Don Stapley (Maricopa County, Arizona) and Valerie Brown (Sonoma County, California) moved up to president-elect and first vice president, respectively. Then came the balloting for second vice president, which is the only real election, since winning that position virtually assures a candidate that he or she will eventually become president.

This year's candidates were Gloucester County, Virginia Supervisor Teresa Altemus and Tarrant County, Texas Judge Glen Whitley. The way the election is held is that states are drawn by lot, like numbers at a bingo game. Votes are based on the size of counties registered for the conference. For instance, Black Hawk County has six votes, Polk has sixteen, Jones has one, etc. It's up to the individual states whether they want to vote in a bloc or let their counties vote independently. (Currently, Iowa counties can vote independently.)

As the states were polled, Altemus started strong and built a comfortable lead. Then California cast all of its 1,000 votes for Whitley, who suddenly held a narrow majority. He cultivated his advantage until it stood at 3,199 to 3,002 with forty-nine states accounted for. (Iowa cast its fifty-four votes for Altemus.) The final state polled was New York, with 218 votes. Drawing out the suspense with an extended preamble, the New York representative finally cast all of his state's votes for Altemus, and it began to sink in to us that Teresa had won in a twenty-one vote squeaker.

The excitement wasn't over. Accusations of underhanded dealings were raised by both sides. It would be imprudent to repeat unsubstantiated allegations. I will simply quote the August 6 issue of NACo's "County News", which states, "[Altemus'] election has been challenged by the New York State Association of Counties, which claims its votes were improperly cast . . . NACo has hired legal counsel to review the New York challenge . . . A final decision on the election will be made by the Board of Directors." There's more to come on this one.

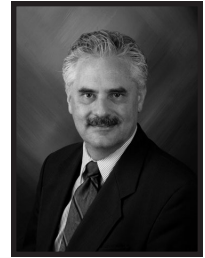
As a final note, Jane Halliburton had been serving on the NACo Board as one of only ten at-large appointments of the president. She was not reappointed for next year. Jane was very active and involved in a variety of Board initiatives and always was an attentive participant in our meetings. I will miss her on the Board, and I know many of the other directors will as well.

capitol comments

What an Exciting Ride!

By: John Easter

ISAC Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs



When I came to work for ISAC in April, 1993, I didn't know what a wonderful experience was ahead. I had never been to Iowa before. The first thing that impressed me when I drove into town was the genuine friendliness of the people here. There was a refreshing, unassuming nature about them. It was like walking into a Norman Rockwell painting.

In the Beginning: My first day at ISAC that year was on Monday, April 19. Everything and everyone was new to me. ISAC Executive Director, Paul Coates, took me up to the capitol and introduced me to as many people as possible. Not realizing the dust on my boots was fresh from Colorado, legislators would talk to me about the latest county happenings back home as though I had been in Iowa my whole life. "Oh my gosh," I wondered, "Where in the heck is Kossuth County? And I better meet all of these county officials I keep hearing about."

I really learned the nuts and bolts of Iowa's legislative process the next year when then-Rep. Hubert Houser (R-Pottawattamie) and I worked for passage of HF 2430. That bill set the stage for major mental health reforms by creating the Central Point of Coordination for people with disabilities. Then in 1995, SF 69 brought the unlikely combination of Rep. Houser and then-Sen. Tom Vilsack (D-Henry) together to create the county mental health fund and forge a state funding partnership with the counties.

Iowa County Officials: Over the years, I learned that Iowa's county officials are tenaciously protective of local home rule. They will typically fight to defeat "one-size-fits-all" approaches to things. With the extreme diversity of Iowa's counties, flexibility is vital in the provision of services to citizens. Just ask anyone who was involved in the battles to fund uniform patrol services out of the rural services fund and you will find out what home rule is all about.

County officials work hard. After years of defeating draconian property tax limitations, ISAC teamed with the Iowa League of Cities to create and lobby for a comprehensive reform to bring equity and simplicity to an overly complicated system. Some lawmakers have viewed this strategy as an attempt to force a political stalemate on the issue to achieve the desired effect of no change. To the contrary! County officials *do* want workable reforms. After all, local officials are accountable to the voters too.

Local officials can also be fiercely independent. Whether elected or appointed, each has his or her own constituency to serve. The collective diversity of our members often produces better services for our citizens. But sometimes diversity breeds conflict among our members. Conflict is perfectly fine as

long as county officials hammer out differences among themselves. The more unified we all are on issues in the capitol, the more respect state lawmakers have for local government.

ISAC: An association like ISAC is only as strong as its members want it to be. An organization that is member driven is far more effective than one that is staff driven. In order to be as effective as possible, members must participate in the programs and services the association offers. ISAC holds a great deal of credibility among state lawmakers, the executive branch, and interest groups. That's because of the dedicated involvement of so many county officials in ISAC programs and services.

But this is no time for complacency. With each passing day, public demands on county officials seem to grow. These pressures tend to limit some member involvement in various ISAC activities. Participation in such things as County Legislative Days, district workshops, and steering committees are vital to continued county success in public policy development.

Looking Forward: I have accepted the position of Midwest Director of State Government Affairs with the American Chemistry Council. This organization is based in Washington, D.C. and is primarily focused on issues affecting the chemical industry at the national level. However my job in the State Affairs Division will involve direction of lobbying strategy in eleven Midwest state capitols. This career advancement is an opportunity I feel compelled to pursue. Since I will operate out of Des Moines, I expect to continue seeing my Iowa friends in state and county government from time to time.

Thank You: I want to thank ISAC Executive Director Bill Peterson, the ISAC Board of Directors, our office staff, and all of Iowa's county officials for providing a superb working experience for me over the last fourteen years. My greatest motivation has been to achieve positive legislative results that help county officials best serve the citizens and taxpayers for whom they work. It has been an honor and a privilege to be the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for this outstanding organization. The professional and personal support I have enjoyed during my employment here has been above and beyond my greatest expectations.

The future of county government will be bright as long as county officials are willing to make it so. I wish the very best of luck to ISAC in all of its endeavors.

What an exciting ride!

Counties Need to Follow the Law Regarding Employing Veterans

By: David Vestal

ISAC General Counsel



Returning Veterans: I don't usually alert you to Oregon federal district court decisions, but this one you should know about. In *Patton v. Target Corp.*, an Oregon jury recently awarded nearly \$1 million to a veteran who was demoted upon returning from two weeks of active duty in the Oregon National Guard. James Patton, who worked in a Target warehouse, was demoted the day he returned to work. He then sent out an email informing co-workers of his demotion and also asked the Oregon National Guard to help him get his job back. He was then fired. Target claimed the firing was because the email was disruptive. Patton, a graduate of West Point, sued for wrongful discharge. The jury ruled that Target officials retaliated against Patton for asking the National Guard to intervene and awarded him \$85,000 in lost wages and \$900,000 in punitive damages.

The obvious lesson is that employers need to be mindful of the employment rights of veterans, reservists and members of the National Guard under Iowa Code § 29A.28 and the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

Veterans in the workforce is obviously an issue all Iowa employers are coping with. In July, 640 Iowans from the First Battalion, 133rd Infantry, returned to Iowa soil after 22 months of active duty, including 16 months in Iraq. It was one of the largest Iowa Guard units to deploy to Iraq and is reportedly the longest an Iowa Guard unit's been deployed overseas since World War II.

We all obviously owe all veterans a huge debt of gratitude for their service. But how would you cope if a key employee in your office was gone for 22 months?

The Iowa law provides that all county officials and employees who are members of the National Guard, organized reserves, or any component part of the military of Iowa or the United States, when ordered to active duty, including military training, are entitled to a leave of absence "without loss of status" and without loss of pay for the first 30 calendar days of such absence. The county may hire a temporary employee to fill a vacancy created by the leave of absence. But upon returning from the leave of absence the employee is entitled to return to the same position that the employee would have been entitled to if the employee's county employment had not been interrupted.

The federal USERRA law prohibits discrimination against persons because of their service in the Armed Forces Reserve, the National Guard, or other uniformed services. USERRA prohibits an employer from denying any benefit of employment on the basis of an individual's membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services. USERRA also pro-

protects the right of veterans, reservists, National Guard members, and certain other members of the uniformed services to reclaim their civilian employment after being absent due to military service or training. It can be found at 38 U.S.C. § 4301, et. seq. For a useful website, go to www.dol.gov/vets/. For an excellent resource on either law, call the Veterans Employment and Training Office in Des Moines at 1-800-562-4692, ext. 19061.

Incredibly Tough Quiz: Sioux County has more than 200 of these, while Fremont County and Mills County each have two. What are we talking about? See the answer below.

County Innovation: According to published reports, supervisors from Linn County and Johnson County are in the early stages of exploring the possibility of building a joint civil litigation center in the business corridor that runs between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. One of the hurdles that would have to be overcome is deciding whether the law even allows such an innovation. For instance, can civil lawsuits filed in Johnson County district court routinely be tried in Linn County, if that is where the litigation center is physically located? Or vice versa. It may require a change in the law. But kudos to the two counties for at least seeing if the idea makes sense for the taxpayers in each county.

Locking the Courthouse: There was an interesting decision recently from the Wisconsin Court of Appeals regarding the right to a public trial. In *State v. Vanness*, the defendant was on trial for drunk driving. At 4:30 p.m. the courthouse doors were routinely locked, but the trial continued for two more hours. When the courthouse doors were locked, the defendant's wife, who had stepped outside, was locked out. She was eventually let back inside. But the defendant successfully motioned for a mistrial, claiming that the locking of the courthouse violated his Sixth Amendment right to a public trial. The appeals court agreed, holding that the locking of the courthouse doors "in effect denied the public access to the trial."

Free Toolkit: At NACo I got a copy of the NACo "Disaster and Terrorism Toolkit," produced under a cooperative agreement with the Department of Homeland Security. It includes a software-based decision-making tool for elected officials dealing with a disaster that is about to occur or is happening. I'll give it away free of charge to the first elected county official that sends me an email at dvestal@iowacounties.org.

Parting Ponderable: Nearly 97 billion e-mails are sent each day. USA Today, May 1, 2007

Incredibly Tough Quiz: Hog operations. See the Iowa DNR map at http://www.iowadnr.com/afo/maps/sm_animalops.pdf

case management

FileReviewMan!

By: **Dan Vonnahme**

ISAC Case Management
Specialist



Look! Up at the desk! It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's...FileReviewMan!!!

As fast as a speeding Honda!

As powerful as a Dell Inspiron 9400!

Able to leap tall bar stools in a single bound (after hours, of course)!

It's FileReviewMan! (aka "FRM")

Let's take a closer look at the story and legend of our Humble Hero: Created in a petrie dish by a bored Data Reduction Clerk at the Analytical Research and Statistics Enterprise, young FileReviewMan's chemical make-up is surprisingly ordinary:

- 1 part Inspiration
- 3 parts Perspiration
- ½ cup Hallertauer Hops
- 3 T Tabasco Sauce

His early days pass uneventfully, until one night at the 3 Mile Island Public Library – he is bitten by a radioactive book-worm! He now finds that he is endowed with the superhuman abilities to:

- Read and interpret IAC Chapters 24 & 90!
- Hoist heavy case files weighing upwards of 20 lbs with the ease and dexterity of an ordinary human lifting a file weighing only 19 lbs!
- Read 8 point type with only the aid of graduated bi-focals!
- Sit for long periods of time in uncomfortable chairs and type reports while suffering only minor chronic pain in the lower back...and upper back...and middle back...and neck...and shoulders...and hands....and...
- Mash out almost 20 words per minute while typing w/ only 2 fingers & 1 thumb for each hand!
- Drive great distances (sometimes up to 70 miles) without requiring a coffee stop!

Upon realizing his unique skill set, FileReviewMan makes a momentous declaration: "I must use these powers to help Case Management Agencies achieve Good (3 year accreditation) over Evil (270 day provisional accreditation)!" But as any good Superhero knows, you must first have a good costume. So it's up, up & away... to Blaine's Farm & Fleet - the only store a real man ever needs!

For trousers, FileReviewMan chooses the Farah Sans-A-Belt line. Comfortable fashion is the key, and these babies come through in spades! Worn just beneath the rib-cage for that scholarly look that defiantly states "I am not a slave to Parisian designers," these pants come in a variety of colors not commonly found in nature (Neon Green, Day-Glo Orange, Mountain Dew Yellow #5). The fabric must be durable, but not flammable

due to static electric discharge (think ScotchGard/Nomex blend) and must stretch accordingly to accommodate the demands of an on-the-road diet that consists primarily of fast food.

Next is the shirt. It must have a button-down collar (this is business, after all), and must also have at least 2 pockets that can hold a minimum volume of 2.1 cubic feet. This storage capacity holds the various tools of the trade that FileReviewMan has at his disposal at all times, including:

- 2 pens (1 back-up in case the first one explodes in a flurry of writing notes)
- 1 Highlighter (to mark points of emphasis regarding all the notes that he writes during his visits)
- 10 assorted scraps of paper (minimum) to function as FRM's brain due to age-related short term memory issues.
- 1 cell phone (in order for FRM to keep apprised of significant current events, such as his wife's dog "Sparky" tearing the electrical wiring out of the air conditioning unit for the second time in less than a month)
- 2 Kashi bars (breakfast is the most important meal of the day, even if you don't get around to it until 2 PM)
- 1 Magic Wand (to wave dramatically in the air while declaring "It is done!" for questions that have no immediate answer or solution)

The material for the shirt consists of Poly/Titanium blend that is both durable and never requires ironing. Its unique molecular structure allows FRM to remove stains from it with a cigarette lighter in the event of an emergency.

Next are the shoes. Practical and durable are again the key words for FileReviewMan. Rockport World Tour Classics are the shoe of choice, although cowboy boots, CROCS, or wooden Dutch shoes can be substituted in an emergency. Regardless what footwear is chosen, it must always be resistant to the elements of nature in Iowa (rain, snow, sleet, ice, hail, sand, mud, sludge, locusts, frogs, pestilence and goose poop).

As far as socks go, it doesn't really matter, as long as they match (and in the mind of FileReviewMan, one blue and one brown is close enough to a match when you're getting dressed in the dark).

So, armed and ready, FileReviewMan is off on another adventure against his arch-rival, Ms. Information and to do battle against the Wrath of Khan-fusion! Godspeed, Good Warrior!

And don't forget to keep your receipts for expenses!

Spyware

By: **Tammy Norman**

ISAC Technology
Services Coordinator



Q: What is Spyware? I have been told that it can cause issues with my computer. Is this true and if so, how can I avoid it?

A: I found this excellent article online regarding spyware. The article was written by William F. Pelgrin, chairperson of the Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center (MS-ISAC).

Spyware is a type of computer program that attaches itself to your operating system, generally without your permission or knowledge. It can be designed to track your Internet use, generate advertising pop-ups, take you to advertising sites, or sometimes even log information that you type into your computer. It can make your computer run extremely slow, bog down your network, or it could run quietly in the background and hardly be noticed at all. Spyware is a prevalent problem, and may even be infecting a majority of systems connected to the Internet. It is a problem that continues to grow for organizations and home users alike.

Recognizing and Avoiding Spyware Because of its popularity, the internet has become an ideal target for advertising. As a result, spyware, or adware, has become increasingly prevalent. When troubleshooting problems with your computer, you may discover that the source of the problem is spyware software that has been installed on your machine without your knowledge.

What is spyware? Despite its name, the term “spyware” doesn’t refer to something used by undercover operatives, but rather by the advertising industry. In fact, spyware is also known as “adware.” It refers to a category of software that, when installed on your computer, may send you pop-up ads, redirect your browser to certain web sites, or monitor the web sites that you visit. Some extreme, invasive versions of spyware may track exactly what keys you type.

Because of the extra processing, spyware may cause your computer to become slow or sluggish. There are also privacy implications:

- What information is being gathered?
- Who is receiving it?
- How is it being used?

How do you know if there is spyware on your computer? The following symptoms may indicate that spyware is installed on your computer:

- You are subject to endless pop-up windows
- You are redirected to web sites other than the one you typed into your browser
- New, unexpected toolbars appear in your web browser
- New, unexpected icons appear in the task tray at the bottom of your screen
- Your browser’s home page suddenly changed

- The search engine your browser opens when you click “search” has been changed

- Certain keys fail to work in your browser (e.g., the tab key doesn’t work when you are moving to the next field within a form)

- Random Windows error messages begin to appear

- Your computer suddenly seems very slow when opening programs or processing tasks (saving files, etc.)

How can you prevent spyware from installing on your computer? To avoid unintentionally installing it yourself, follow these good security practices:

- Don’t click on links within pop-up windows - Because pop-up windows are often a product of spyware, clicking on the window may install spyware software on your computer. To close the pop-up window, click on the “X” icon in the titlebar instead of a “close” link within the window.

- Choose “no” when asked unexpected questions - Be wary of unexpected dialog boxes asking whether you want to run a particular program or perform another type of task. Always select “no” or “cancel,” or close the dialog box by clicking the “X” icon in the titlebar.

- Be wary of free downloadable software - There are many sites that offer customized toolbars or other features that appeal to users. Don’t download programs from sites you don’t trust, and realize that you may be exposing your computer to spyware by downloading some of these programs.

- Don’t follow email links claiming to offer anti-spyware software - Like email viruses, the links may serve the opposite purpose and actually install the spyware it claims to be eliminating.

How do you remove spyware?

- Run a full scan on your computer with your anti-virus software - Some anti-virus software will find and remove spyware, but it may not find the spyware when it is monitoring your computer in real time. Set your anti-virus software to prompt you to run a full scan periodically (see Understanding Anti-Virus Software for more information).

- Run a legitimate product specifically designed to remove spyware - Many vendors offer products that will scan your computer for spyware and remove any spyware software. Popular products include Lavasoft’s Ad-Aware, Webroot’s SpySweeper, PestPatrol, and Spybot Search and Destroy.

Website Note: You are now able to register for the Fall School online. Have a question regarding new technology and would like it addressed in this column? Contact me at 515-244-7181 ext. 315 or via e-mail at tnorman@iowacounties.org. Until next month, keep clicking!

technology center

County Governments Key to Success of 2010 Census

By: Robin Harlow

ISAC Technology
Project Manager



The Census Bureau estimates there will be more than 310 million people living in more than 130 million households across the country by 2010. The partnership of county governments is vital to accomplish the feat of counting every person living in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Factoring in an increasingly diverse population, the rise in immigration and a record number of languages spoken by respondents, the need for a complete and accurate address list to mail or hand-deliver questionnaires will play a critical role in obtaining an accurate population count in the next census.

Although the 2010 Census is still three years away, the U.S. Census Bureau has begun mailing informational booklets to all state, local and tribal governments about a program for them to provide updated addresses for their communities known as the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program.

This joint and voluntary program between the Census Bureau and your county government is the official start of the 2010 Census, which depends on a complete and accurate address list. Your assistance in assuring the residents in your county are counted is crucial to a successful census.

In partnership with the Census Bureau, county governments will use their area knowledge to improve the list of addresses for housing units and group quarters, including growth from new construction or annexation.

After registering for LUCA between July 2007 and January 2008, participating county governments will receive review materials and will have 120 days to review and improve the address list.

The information contained in the address list is confidential by law, and those county governments that choose to par-

ticipate in the LUCA program will be provided an option to review the Census Bureau's address list. Like all census employees, those who review and update a confidential address list are subject to a jail term, a fine or both if they disclose any protected information.

After LUCA but prior to the 2010 Census questionnaire delivery, address listers will perform a field canvass across the country to make sure the latest address list is correct. Using GPS mapping on hand-held computers, workers will be able to update information electronically while out in the field.

"The Census Bureau has moved beyond being a 'pen and paper' census and is now utilizing new technology in order to improve the speed and accuracy of census operations in the field," said Census Bureau Deputy Director Preston Jay Waite. "We are mandated by the Constitution to count the population every 10 years, and with the reengineering of the 2010 Census, we will be well equipped to fulfill this mandate."

Dating back to the nation's first census in 1790, the 2010 Census will have one of the shortest census questionnaires in the history of the United States. Asking just seven questions, including name, sex, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home, the questionnaire will take respondents only about 10 minutes to fill out.

For more information, visit the 2010 Census LUCA Program at www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca.html, or call the Census Bureau Geography Division at 866-511-5822 (LUCA). Tell them, "I would like to participate in LUCA," and they will instruct you regarding what to do next.

Courtesy of the US Census Bureau



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by the numbers

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

By: Jay Syverson

ISAC Fiscal Analyst



Every year the federal government sends checks to hundreds of local governments, mostly counties, to compensate them for foregone tax revenue. These so-called payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) are doled out to local governments that contain tax-exempt federal land and provide government services related to public safety, housing, social services, transportation and the environment. The payments are calculated based on the number of exempt acres in a given county and its population. In 2007, local governments across the country will receive a total of \$232.1 million in PILT revenue. But Iowa counties receive just 0.1% of that money.

This year 26 Iowa counties will share just \$266,000 in federal PILT money, for an average of \$10,250 per county. That's less than the \$400,000 that the Department of the Interior (DOI) spends administering the program. The payments range from \$121 in Jasper County to over \$56,000 in Marion County. Six other counties received more than \$10,000 in federal PILT money this year (Appanoose - \$37,000; Clinton - \$11,000; Jackson - \$12,000; Johnson - \$35,000; Louisa - \$14,000; Polk - \$28,000). Marion County contains almost 40,000 acres of federal entitlement land. Jasper County, in contrast, has just 84 acres of federal entitlement land. Two counties (Iowa - 3 acres; Lee - 16 acres) have acres of entitlement land but get no PILT money, presumably because the acreage is so small. The federal entitlement land acreage count includes lands in the national forest and park systems and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Corps of Engineers, among others. According to the DOI, the federal government collects about \$4 billion annually on that land from various commercial activities, including oil and gas leasing, livestock grazing and timber harvesting. Some of that revenue is shared with the local state or county, but the bulk is deposited in the U.S. Treasury and used to fund PILT and many other government programs.

Nationally, New Mexico is the state that gets the most PILT money - \$23 million (or 10% of the total) in 2007. California and Utah also receive more than \$20 million annually in PILT funding, with Alaska close behind at \$19 million. Fourteen states (including U.S. territories) receive even less PILT money than Iowa, and Rhode Island doesn't get any PILT funding. The 2007 PILT appropriation, which matches the highest funding level ever, is 65% of the authorized amount of \$358 million. For more information visit www.doi.gov.

ISAC meetings

Fall School Update 2007

By: Jerri Noboa

ISAC Meetings Administrator



The Marriott has finally opened the new restaurant and bar on the skywalk level. It is called Rock River. The new restaurant will be able to accommodate 50 more people. Rock River offers menus and buffets for breakfast and lunch and then at dinner will transform into a fine-dining atmosphere. Breakfast will be offered starting at 6:30am and the buffet until 9am. Lunch is from 11am - 2pm and the dinner is 5pm - 10pm.

The Marriott has also moved the lounge from the concierge floor down to the mezzanine and the concierge floor has added amenities of large flat screen TVs. If you want access to the concierge lounge you have to request it at the time you check-in.

The ISAC Board of Directors adopted a new hospitality room policy at their July board meeting. The policy states: 1) All hospitality rooms held in conjunction with an ISAC school must be approved in advance by ISAC. ISAC shall advise conference attendees that accepting food or drinks at non-approved hospitality rooms may potentially violate Iowa's gift law. 2) Hospitality rooms of affiliates, exhibitors and silver and gold level sponsors shall be approved contingent upon room availability. Other requests may be approved at ISAC's discretion upon payment of an amount equal to an exhibit booth rental. 3) Hospitality rooms shall not be open during regularly scheduled ISAC events. 4) Hospitality rooms shall close at designated times, and the rooms shall be vacated. 5) If these policies are not observed, ISAC reserves the right to refuse future requests to host a hospitality room.

Be sure to check the ISAC website for affiliate agendas, on-line-registration and any updates on which presidential candidates have agreed to come speak at the conference.

editor's perspective

Poetry Reading Review

By: Rachel E. Bicego

ISAC Marketing/Communications Coordinator



Setting a scene is simple when it is identical to what was previously expected. A dingy, dark library with no signs of movement; spending a beautiful July lunch hour sitting mindlessly at a never-ending poetry reading covering all 99 counties of Iowa. However, when it is the exact opposite, it is hard to give that lunch hour the credit that it deserves.

On Wednesday, July 18, I attended a poetry reading by John D. Thompson of his book entitled *99 voices, 99 lives, County Poems of Iowa*. I entered the State Library of Iowa and I was more than pleasantly surprised. I walked up the stairs, and the foyer opened into a beautiful, architectural masterpiece. Following the artwork lined walls I entered the library. Neither desolate nor drab, rays of sunlight flooded the working, contemporary space that maintained a flare for the old. Unexpectedly, this non-assuming space brought a spring to my step.

Following an impressive introduction, Thompson began to speak about his book of poems, his project. Visiting each of the 99 counties and the site of most poetic verses, he let his instincts drive him. The on-site research molded many of the poems, and gives them a very believable and wholesome quality. As an intimate crowd slowly grew, Thompson began to read. Instantly, all of his previously apparent nerves disappeared. Truly words of an inspiring teacher, far from monotone, he gently laid out a story of a plow and an oak tree intertwined. The journey across Iowa began in Audubon County.

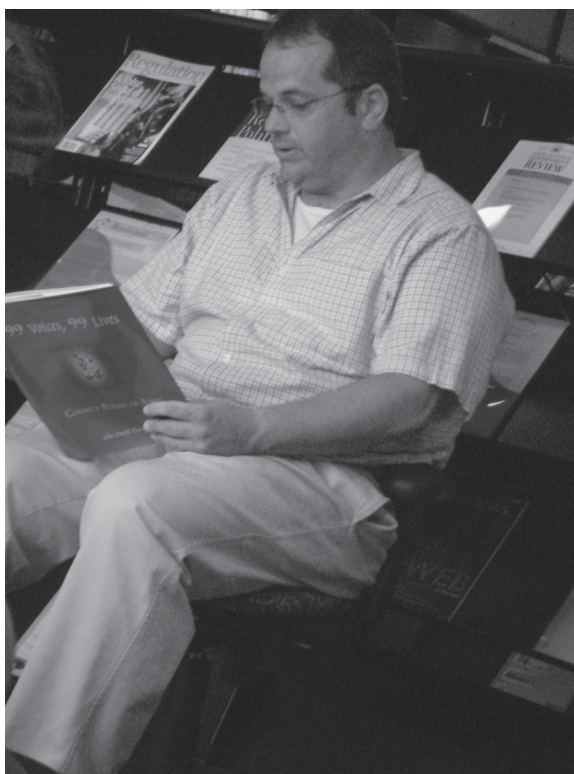
I greatly enjoyed the symbolism, word play, and overall presence of each literary work. Thompson explained that, "symbolism for the state (of Iowa) was more important than the symbolism as a literary technique." This was very clear in many poems, especially *Among the Brome of Autumn, A*

Decatur County Poem. Although not a hunter, Thompson preceded his reading of this piece with a story of pheasant hunting with a friend as research for this poem. His story transferred effortlessly to the page showing the beauty that he felt through this experience and also the connection with Iowa. At

times humorous, and at times somber, the word play brings a very engaging element to his poems. Although I am admittedly too young to connect with *Floppy Dish A Polk County Poem*, my baby boomer counterparts in the audience greatly enjoyed the playfulness of this poem. It undoubtedly received the most applause and laughter. My favorite poem of the day was *Children of a Lesser Sod, A Lyon County Poem*. This poem was both meaningful and compelling. It planted a picture in your mind that juxtaposed being happy and sad, light-hearted and serious, and smile invoking and tear invoking. The combination of these feelings gave this poem an overall presence that is unforgettable.

One-hundred and eighty degrees from my original lack of expectations, the hour zipped by with the sounds of laughing, clapping and overall, Iowa. Originally from Illinois, I have lived in Iowa for six years and have since be-

come a resident. One thing that I have enjoyed immensely is the pride that Iowans have. Through my minimal work with the counties, I have learned that this pride doesn't stop at the state level, but with each county there is a similar and somewhat stronger attitude. This project and the accompanying poetry reading really accentuated this pride. Iowa is lucky to have a poet as talented take on a subject this large and carry this project with the utmost respect and care.



John D. Thompson reading from his book *99 voices, 99 lives, County Poems of Iowa*.

ISAC brief

Alumni Corner

A special meeting has been called for all ISAC Alumni Association members for September 19, 2007 at the ISAC office from 10am – 2pm. A lunch will be provided at a cost of \$5.50. The ISAC office is located at 501 SW 7th Street, Suite Q, just south of downtown Des Moines. The directions to the office are: If you are traveling east or west on I-235 take the Martin Luther King (MLK) Exit South. Travel to the fifth stoplight take MLK East to 7th Street and turn right. We are located at the south end of the building in Suite Q. If you go over the bridge, you have gone too far. If you need to contact us, call 515-244-7181 and we'll be glad to help you.

This meeting is to give the association some guidance on where to go and what to do to get people to attend meetings. Suggestions have been having speakers with topics of interest to you. We know that having the meetings in downtown Des Moines and having to pay parking (if you can find it), have been a big reason the attendance has dropped.

We think you will like meeting at the ISAC office, where parking is free and we have a big conference room. So, please plan on attending and being a part of the process to work on keeping attendance up at your meetings.

Call Jerri Noboa at 515-244-7181 and let her know you plan to attend, so we can count you for lunch.

correction

On page 17 of the August edition of the *Iowa County* magazine a typo occurred. In the article titled "NACo Launches County Climate Protection Program" the paragraph using the example of Story County, Iowa, the savings in the gas emission each year should be "more than 4,200,000 pounds a year," not 4,200 which was originally published.

counties in the spotlight

Langston Completes Program for Senior Executives at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government

Linda Langston, Linn County Supervisor, completed the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government on June 29, 2007. This Executive Education program, offered at the Kennedy School of Government is a three-week course which focuses on the development of conceptual frameworks for addressing policy issues, explores the relationship between citizens and their government, and examines the ethical and professional responsibilities of leadership.

"We are proud of the leaders who attend our Executive Education programs. They are a dedicated group of professionals who are committed to working for the public good across various sectors of society," said Kennedy School Dean David Ellwood. "We are confident that they will help create effective solutions to public challenges and inspire others with their ideas and their talent."

"This class of participants was chosen through a highly competitive application process, said Linda Kaboolian, Program Faculty Chair. "They were a tremendously diverse group who brought a wide range of geographic, political, and cross-sector perspectives to the class. They experienced an intensive and challenging program that encouraged them to stretch beyond the boundaries of their everyday work environments and formed a network of lasting friendships and professional connections."

The John F. Kennedy School of Government is the graduate professional school at Harvard University dedicated to training people for excellence in government and public service. The School has emerged as a forum for passionate debate about the past, present, and future of public service and governance. Executive Education programs at the Kennedy School serve senior public officials, nonprofit executives, and corporate officers whose work directly affects the lives of their fellow citizens. Our mission is to advance the public interest by training skilled, enlightened leaders to solve public problems using best practices, world-class scholarship, and practical management techniques.

County 'Elects' Express Record Pessimism on Nation's Course

By: Charles Taylor

NACo Senior Staff Writer

Fifty-five percent of county elected officials believe the nation is on the "wrong track," the highest percentage in the four-year history of NACo's National County Elected Officials Poll.

While that number is a record, county officials were more optimistic than the public at-large. Seventy-two percent of the general public said America is on the wrong track, according to a separate CBS/*New York Times* survey conducted in May. "The 2007 national survey of county elected officials shows that county officials are concerned about the same issues as the general public: the war in Iraq, health care, immigration, the economy and energy prices," said Richard Clark, Ph.D. of the National Center for the Study of Counties (NCSC).

The survey was conducted by NACo and NCSC, based at the University of Georgia. Results were released at NACo's recent Annual Conference and Exposition in Richmond, Va.

Iraq War affecting counties

Given county officials' concerns about national issues, it is perhaps not surprising that their "wrong track" index is up.

Forty-three percent of county officials cited national security issues, including the war in Iraq and terrorism, as the most important problem facing the United States today; 29 percent specifically said that the war in Iraq is the most important problem facing the country. No other single issue came close to being cited as often.

When asked if the war had affected county services by calling county service providers into military service, 65 percent of county officials said that there had been at least a small effect — with 10 percent saying that the war has had a great effect on county services.

Concern about Iraq has clearly been increasing; as recently as 2005, Iraq was mentioned as the most important problem by only 12 percent of respondents.

Illegal immigration a major concern

Sixty-seven percent of county officials said that illegal immigration is a "very serious" problem for the United States; another 27 percent deemed it "serious."

Of those polled, 66 percent of officials agreed that "illegal immigrants cost the taxpayers too much by using government services." Meanwhile, only 31 percent agreed with the statement that, in the long run, illegal immigrants become productive citizens and pay their fair share of taxes.

Most county officials favored addressing illegal immigration locally by fining businesses that hire illegal immigrants and fining landlords who rent to illegal immigrants: 69 percent favored fining businesses, while 55 percent would penalize landlords.

While officials generally took a hard line on enforcement, they were not without compassion. Sixty-two percent of county officials expressed support for creating a temporary worker program in order to legalize the status of current illegal immigrants.

Lack of health insurance 'disturbing'

County officials were given a list of problems in the United States and asked which they found most disturbing. The most frequently cited problem was the number of Americans who don't have health insurance, which was mentioned by 37 percent of the respondents.

Local economic concerns up

County elected officials were less optimistic about their local economies this year. In 2007, 49 percent of county officials rated economic conditions in their own counties as excellent or good, down from 55 percent in 2006.

Those surveyed also reported having a tougher time with their budgets than in 2006. In 2007, 40 percent of county officials said that balancing the budget was more difficult this year than in other years, compared with 37 percent who answered that way in 2006.

Despite this increase, a majority of county officials (52 percent) were optimistic about their county's economy, a situation Clark said he doesn't find "inconsistent or contradictory." Rating the economy less positively than last year is a reflection of current conditions, he said.

It's no surprise that the overall rating of counties' current fiscal health fell slightly in 2007 from 2006 — given their lower assessment of current conditions. The mean rating in 2007 was 6.63 (on a scale of 1–10), down from 6.86 in 2006.

Fiscal health was strongest in the Northeast, where 81 percent of county officials rated fiscal health at 7 or higher. That compares to 60 percent in the Midwest, 57 percent in the South and 50 percent in the West.

Sixty-four percent of the county officials who rated their county's fiscal health at 5 or lower said their county had raised taxes in response to this fiscal stress — by far the most common response. Twenty-four percent said that their county had cut some services.

Among respondents who rated fiscal health from 6–10, 50 percent said that their county increased the level of county services, while only 17 percent said that their county had reduced taxes or fees.

Despite local pessimism, survey respondents were as bullish on the national economy as in 2006: 52 percent said the national economy is "excellent or good," the same percentage as last year.

-Continued on next page.

Iowa Gets Straight A's in Health Care

By: Brad Anderson

Communications Director, Office of the Governor

Continued from "County 'Elects'"...

Demographic highlights

In 2007, county elected officials were again predominately white (89 percent) and male (83 percent). The mean age was 60 and the median age was 61, with 68 percent of the sample older than 55. Nearly half (49 percent) of county elected officials in the Midwest are older than 65, compared to about 25 percent of Southern officials.

As for political affiliation, a plurality of elected county officials, 42 percent, were Republicans, 40 percent Democrats and 18 percent independents.

Similar to past surveys, the number of county officials who self-identify as political conservatives far exceeded the number of those who consider themselves to be liberals.

In 2007, 58 percent of county elected officials described themselves as conservative; 12 percent labeled themselves as liberal. In all four regions of the country, a majority of county elected officials identified themselves as conservative. Even among Democrats, more identify as conservative (36 percent) than as liberal (26 percent).

The National County Elected Officials Poll was conducted by telephone in May 2007. Data were collected from a random sample of 501 county elected officials. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 points.

In a report issued by the New York-based Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation that studies health care issues, Iowa received straight "A's" across the board on its scorecard. Iowa was the only state in the country to receive straight A's in each of the five categories – Access, Quality, Avoidable Costs, Equity and Healthy Lives.

"Iowans should take pride in knowing that our state offers some of the best health care in the country," said Governor Chet Culver. "After this past session, I am proud of the fact that we are going to continue to expand access to health care – especially when it comes to insuring Iowa's kids. I believe Iowa could become the first state in the country to insure every child, and I will continue to work hard to make that happen."

The report came as a legislative commission on affordable health care in Iowa met for the first time on June 20.

The report, titled "Aiming Higher: Results from a State Scorecard on Health Care Performance," highlighted the fact that better access to health care is associated with better quality.

"Across states, better access to care and higher rates of insurance are closely associated with better quality," the report said. "States with the lowest rates of uninsured residents tend to score highest on measures of preventive and chronic disease care, as well as other quality indicators."

The report also noted that four of the five leading states in the access dimension – Massachusetts, Iowa, Rhode Island, and Maine – also rank among the top five states in terms of quality. The pattern underlines the importance of affordable access as a first step to ensure that patients get essential care and care that is well coordinated and patient centered.

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miscellaneous

What is the U.S Communities Program?



Government Purchasers Saving You Money

U.S. Communities has been helping public agencies achieve the best purchasing power for over 10 years. Below are some frequently asked questions. For more information or for a complete listing of suppliers, visit www.uscommunities.org.

Q. What is U.S. Communities?

A. U.S. Communities is a non-profit instrumentality of government that helps public agencies reduce the cost of purchased goods by combining the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. The U.S. Communities program offers great pricing on high-quality products and services from 21 suppliers. Cities, counties, schools K-12, colleges and universities, special districts, state agencies and non-profits can purchase from these contracts and receive the best discounts possible for public agencies.

Q. What is the history of U.S. Communities?

A. In 1996, the General Service Administration, the federal purchasing agency, closed the door to non-federal agencies participating in purchasing contracts. Alameda and Los Angeles Counties in California worked together to secure competitive pricing on supplies. Contracts were drawn with generic language so that other agencies could easily use them. The trend caught on quickly and agencies across the country began using the contracts.

Q. What supplies are offered through U.S. Communities?

A. U. S. Communities' contracts offer a wide variety of items including office supplies, office and school furniture, technology products and solutions, homeland security and safety solutions, auto parts, carpet and flooring, electrical and data communications, maintenance, repair and operating supplies, parks and playground equipment, janitorial supplies and construction products.

Q. How many agencies use U.S. Communities and how is it funded?

A. U.S. Communities currently has 28,000 participants throughout the United States. To fund the program, the suppliers pay an administration fee based on their quarterly usage.

Q. How can my county become a participant?

A. Becoming a participant is easy and free! Just go to www.uscommunities.org and click Register to Participate. It takes approximately five minutes to complete the registration.

Founding Co-Sponsors of the U.S. Communities Program are:

- National Association of Counties
- National League of Cities
- Association of School Business Officials
- The United States Conference of Mayors
- National Institute of Governmental Purchasing

miscellaneous

Apply for Prestigious Innovations Award

Harvard University invites you to apply for an Innovations in American Government Award.

Administered by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, the Innovations Award is heralded as the premier public-sector award in the nation. It is given annually to programs that serve as examples of creative and effective government at its best.

All units of government—federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial—are eligible to apply. Each of the winners of the 2008 Innovations Award will receive a \$100,000 grant to support replication and dissemination activities.

Applications and additional information are available on our website:

<http://www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu>

Applications are due October 15, 2007.

We are looking for your input

Do you have something to share with the readers of the *Iowa County* magazine? This is your opportunity. We are looking for your help to in turn, help you!

Suggested ideas include:

An editorial section giving you an opportunity to voice your opinion across the state.

A section highlighting or soliciting a special event in your county.

A photography area with your pictures from places around Iowa with an accompanying write up. See example below.

A question and answer section. You send in your question and we answer them for you, and our readers.

A cartoons section. Send us cartoons that you feel other readers will enjoy.

If you have more ideas or would like to submit on any of the preceding, we will be happy to hear from you. This is a great opportunity for you to not only help yourself and your county, but also to get the word out and help many others across the state.

Please contact Rachel E. Bicego at rbicego@iowacounties.org with any ideas or information that you would like to see in the *Iowa County* magazine.



Pictured Left: The North Lee County Courthouse

Pictured Below: The South Lee County Courthouse



"The reason that I took these recent photos was because Chris Fritz, Administrative Assistant to the Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project had contacted Lee County and requested a good color photograph of the South Lee County Courthouse. This year, the Iowa State Bar Association's booth at the Iowa State Fair featured a map of Iowa with a picture of each County's courthouse(s). Even though there are only 99 Counties in Iowa, there were 100 photographs, because Lee County Iowa has two courthouses."

-Susan Maddox, Benefits/Budget Director
Lee County Board of Supervisors

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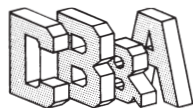
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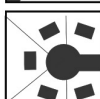
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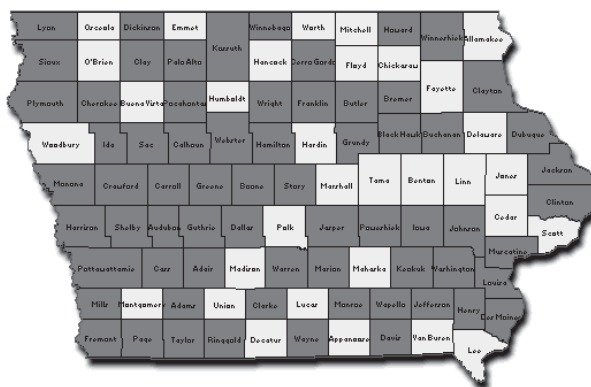
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Its principals (clockwise from lower center: Clarence Hoffman, Fred Dolezal, Russ Sporer, Ken Bilbrey) work with local insurance agents across the state to introduce and represent these programs to Iowa Counties. Currently, sixty-seven counties are represented by CRMS and participate in one or both programs.

IMWCA was formed in 1981 to offer workers compensation and employers liability coverage to Iowa public entities. Current membership stands at 477 members (65 counties). **ICAP’s** inception was 1986. ICAP provides property and casualty coverages to 550 members (65 counties).

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calendar

September

- 19 ISAC Alumni Association Member Meeting (ISAC Office)
- 20-21 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting & Board Retreat (Marriott Conference Center, Coralville)
- 20-21 CCMS Strengths (Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 20-21 CPCs (Ameristar, Council Bluffs)
- 27 CCMS "East Support Group" (Palisades-Kepler State Park)

October

- 2 CCMS Administrators (Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale/Johnston)
- 4 ISAC Steering Committee Meeting (Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 7-10 Assessors Annual Conference (WDM Marriott)
- 17-19 CCMS Fundamentals (Holiday Inn Airport, DM)
- 25-26 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)

November

- 27 Supervisors Executive Board (Downtown Marriott, Des Moines)
- 27 CRIS Board of Directors (Downtown Marriott, Des Moines)
- 28 CCMS Board of Directors (Downtown Marriott, Des Moines)
- 28-30 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Marriott Downtown, Des Moines)

December

- 4-6 Engineers Annual Conference (Scheman Center, Ames)
- 6 District II Supervisors Winter Meeting (Elks Lodge, Charles City)
- 10-13 Sheriff's Annual Conference (Sheraton Hotel, WDM)
- 12 District IV Winter Meeting (Location TBA)
- 14 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled thus far in 2007, 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, please contact Jerri Noboa at (515) 244-7181 or jnoboia@iowacounties.org.



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