The Many Roles of Environmental Health Directors

Fall School Registration
ISAC Scholarship Raffle List
GASB-34 & Secondary Roads

September 2002
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Correction In August Magazine:
2002-2003 District Officers

District I
President - Kenneth Slothouber, Jasper County Auditor
VP - Al Sorensen, Boone County Supervisor
S/T - Marilyn Dopheide, Carroll County Recorder
Environmental Health, What’s That?

Environmental health. It’s a term that’s not well known to people outside the public health arena. You’re probably more familiar with sanitarian, environmental specialist or perhaps health inspector. There is even ongoing discussion within our field about what we should call ourselves. Environmental health specialist, although a mouth full, is the chosen name amongst professionals in our business. After all, we are the Iowa Environmental Health Association. Just what do these environmental health people do? As an affiliate of ISAC, I have been given this opportunity to talk about what we do and why it is important.

Environmental health is defined as the science of protecting against environmental factors that may adversely impact human health. The environmental factors that pose a potential threat to human health are bacteria and viruses, hazardous waste, toxins, radiation and physical hazards. To manage these risks your environmental health department will regulate food service operations, septic systems, private water wells, swimming pools, tanning salons, tattoo parlors and the catch-all, public health nuisances. Your county may have all of these programs, some of them or in rare cases none at all. Rest assured, if your county is not doing some of these things it’s likely that an adjoining county or the state is doing it for you. Let’s talk a little bit more about these programs.

Food Service Inspection

A food service inspection program protects us from bacteria and the toxins that they produce, as well as viruses and the occasional physical hazard (a piece of wire on my pizza). We’ve all heard of Salmonella, E-Coli, and Norwalk viruses. Restaurants, bars and convenience stores are the predominant types of facilities inspected. Through education and inspection, food service workers are taught to minimize hazards related to serving food to the public. This is likely the most well known activity of environmental health specialists. Foodborne illnesses make headlines, unfortunately our prevention efforts don’t. It’s hard to point to the things that didn’t happen because of the efforts of your environmental health staff.

Water Supplies/Septic Systems

Water supplies and septic systems are essentially the same program. Water pollution can come from bacteria, viruses or chemical toxins. We regulate septic systems because illegal septic systems pollute water supplies with massive amounts of bacteria and the chemical nitrate. Nitrate is known to cause blue-baby syndrome, an illness that starves an infant of oxygen. Bacteria from human waste are responsible for cholera, typhoid and dysentery to name but a few. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Grants to Counties program provides money for water sampling, abandoned well plugging and rehabilitation of old pit wells. These activities, along with septic system regulations, allow your environmental health personnel to lessen the risk of waterborne diseases. Approximately 25% of water samples taken statewide show bacterial contamination. We’ve still got a lot of work to do.

Swimming Pool Program

The swimming pool program is largely designed to minimize the threat of bacterial disease and accidents. Inspections focus on water chemistry to ensure that bacteria from swimmers will be killed and not transmitted to others. The other main component of a swimming pool inspection is to identify physical hazards and to prevent drowning. Once again the environmental health specialists efforts are hard to quantify. How many accidents, illnesses or drownings were prevented because of the inspection program? It’s hard to say.

Tanning Program

The tanning program strives to reduce the number of tanning related “sunburns.” Through education and inspection your environmental health department attempts to get people to tan wisely. Limiting exposure will limit future skin cancer incidence. Tattoo regulations are relatively new. The obvious risk here is bloodborne disease such as HIV and Hepatitis B&C. Education always plays a key role in any program. Given the appropriate information people will often make the right choice.

Public Health Nuisances

That leaves us with public health nuisances. These usually involve piles of garbage, rats or cockroaches. Sounds like fun doesn’t it! Dilapidated housing and poor living conditions present a biological hazard. Rats and roaches can carry disease. Garbage attracts these critters and they thrive in poor sanitary conditions. Environmental health specialists are often called into these situations and armed with the right ordinances, they can solve these problems.

These are the things your environmental health department deals with on a regular basis. Because so much of it is prevention there are few accolades for these people. I’ve left out air quality, hazardous waste, solid waste and probably a few others. The job requires a wide range of knowledge and experience. I think you would agree about the importance of these programs. So when you see someone from environmental health, thank them for what they do and when budget time rolls around give them what they need to do their job.

By: Dan Olson, Iowa Environmental Health Association
President & Jackson County Health Department

For further information on the Iowa Environmental Health Association visit their website at www.ieha.net.
A dedication ceremony was held for the new Story County Justice Center in Nevada. The Justice Center has been operational since March of 2002 and is comprised of approximately 90,000 square feet on a 12-acre parcel of land. The primary intent of the new facility was to relieve overcrowding of prisoners. The building is separated into three secure zones: jail housing, jail support/sheriff’s office, and courts. It also houses the county attorney’s office and clerk of court’s office. The facilities long-term economies include its energy conservation strategies (heating and cooling through geothermal heat pump, highly insulated building components, day lighting, high efficiency light fixtures, and recycled building materials), which will reduce operating costs by 40%. The total cost of the building was $13.9 million.  

(Taken from Enterprise-Record, July 4)

Boone County and Boone are working together to clean up junk and abandoned vehicles. Kary Woolson, Boone County sanitarian, proposed that Boone use a similar nuisance abatement code that the county now employs to remove unwanted vehicles. This is in an effort to increase cooperation between the county and city and to remove junk vehicles from posing environmental, health and image problems for all citizens of the county.  

(Taken from Boone News-Republican, July 3)

Royce Fichtner, Marshall County Engineer, has been named president elect of the National Association of County Engineers (NACE). Royce has worked in Iowa counties for over 33 years, serving in his current position since 1978. Prior to this, he was the assistant in Hardin County and then the county engineer in Grundy County. He has been a member of NACE since 1972, serving on the Board of Directors, as NACE’s South Central Vice-President and most recently Secretary-Treasurer. Royce has served in all offices of the Iowa County Engineers Association and held the position of President for two years.

Thirty-four Iowa county officials attended the National Association of County officials conference in New Orleans July 12-16. There were more than 4,000 conference attendees from all over the United States. “Prepare to Serve” was the theme, with workshops and national leaders speaking on government service, partnerships between levels of government, economic development, disposal of nuclear waste, technology, election reform, urban growth, welfare reform and security from the level of the individual to the national government. “A national conference gives a unique opportunity to be exposed on a personal level to issues, ideas and solutions to problems we all face. Development of a peer network is invaluable for each participant. This year’s conference was outstanding in breadth and scope,” stated Hamilton County treasurer Deb Leksell. The National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers had their annual conference during NACo. Iowa’s delegation was thrilled to accept the Victor E. Martinelli award naming Sharon Winchell, Cass County Treasurer, as NACTFO Treasurer of the Year. Unfortunately Sharon was not in attendance to receive the award but soon after a surprise awards ceremony was held for her in Atlantic. Winchell said, “I was so surprised to learn that I had received this award. I am truly honored. It is a real privilege to serve with such dedicated county officials and staffs who believe so strongly in local government service.” Winchell has served as the Cass County Treasurer for 23 years. She has been an active member of NACTFO, the Iowa State County Treasurers’ Association, the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) and the Atlantic Municipal Utilities. The Victor E. Martinelli award is NACTFO’s highest award. The award’s name sake was a county treasurer in Ohio who was instrumental to NACTFO during its infancy. The award was presented this year by the daughter of Victor Martinelli.
As most everyone who reads a newspaper or listens to the radio news on a regular basis in Iowa knows, the regular session of our legislature ended in April with an exclamation point. The dramatic punctuation mark was SF 2293, a.k.a. THE livestock bill. A part of this written piece of legislation was the provision which calls for the use of a measurement tool to be used by county supervisors to determine whether they would recommend or not recommend a permit application for a livestock confinement facility to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This measurement tool, referred to in SF 2293 as “the matrix,” is to be a type of score card containing factors which, if enough of them are assured to be part of the proposed livestock operation by the applicant, would be awarded points. A certain total number of points could achieve a recommendation by the county where the proposed facility would be built or added to. It would be gold stars on your report card.

**The Matrix Committee**

The “matrix” device is to be devised by a special committee composed of 10 representatives of a variety of pertinent interest groups. ISAC has a seat at this table. The other groups named in the legislation to be represented include the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, DNR, University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Farmers Union, Iowa Pork Producers, Iowa Poultry Association, and Iowa Environmental Council. Since the DNR has a designated place on the committee, the state retained the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to moderate and, if need be, to referee.

While, at this writing, the work of this special group is not finished, the meetings held in June and July have shown how time consuming this effort can be. The meetings have been in two full day back-to-back blocs. Thus, the committee met on June 26-27, July 10-11, July 24-25, August 8-9, and August 14-15. In order to familiarize committee members with the many issues which could be a part of such a scoring system, the established pattern has been to allow for oral and written presentations by relevant parties the morning of the first day of the two day meetings. There have been presentations on livestock numbers and trends, antibiotic resistant bacteria studies, on how the DNR designates water quality, current technologies for odor control, and the soils, geology and watersheds of Iowa. Questions and answers by committee members follow each presentation. This segment has been followed by discussion and agreement as to how to proceed in construction of the matrix.

**Factors Included In The Matrix**

By the fourth meeting, the committee began to come to tentative agreement on what factors would be included in the matrix. The factors are Site Separation Distances, Structures, Nutrient Management, Operations, and Social/Health/Economic Impact. Under “site separation distances,” committee members have suggested such issues as residences, public use areas, water sources, businesses, thoroughfares, resident owners signing waivers, private wells, public water wells, agricultural drainage wells, and ground water aquifers (vertical separation). Under “structures” there have been suggested topics as covers on manure storage, secondary containment structures, aeration of manure storage structure, and landscaping with windbreaks. Under “nutrient management” appeared scoring possibilities which include manure application by injection, feed additives, non application on legume crops, composting, and distance between confinement facility and fields where manure is applied. Under “operations” there have been suggested topics of monitoring air around the facility, a posted emergency spill response plan, and monitoring water. The division entitled “social/health/economic impact” might be the most important to county supervisors. This contains a variety of local issues which, thus far, include such matters as size of facility, demonstrated neighborhood support within a certain radius, environmental violation history related to animal feeding operations, quality job development, non participation in pollution control property tax exemption, site qualification for homestead tax exemption, implemented worker health and safety protection program, facility provided disclosure to the community/neighbors, owner of livestock listed on manure management plan, and defined added economic community value.

Keep in mind that this score card, this tool for evaluation, is to give points for actions promised by the proposed operator, actions above and beyond the minimum legal responsibilities which they would have. But questions linger about whether county supervisors would be required to use this system on each application for a facility in their county, or upon who rests the burden to compile supporting evidence — the applicant or the county?

This is all tricky. Such a device has never been tried before...at least relative to siting agricultural facilities. People in other states are watching this process. It’s not ideal and it’s difficult. But these are the cards we’ve been dealt.

*For agendas and minutes on the matrix committee meetings visit ISAC’s website (www.iowacounties.org) under “Hot Topics.” The matrix meetings are open to the public and take place in Urbandale at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Bureau office (79th & Hickman).*

**“Our present economy...does not account for affection at all, which is to say that it does not account for value. It is simply a description of the career of money as it prey upon both nature and human society.”**

- Wendell Berry, American essayist

**“They don’t know whether to pitch me high or pitch me low. They don’t know what to do.”**

- Ted Williams, American baseball player

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**By: Robert Mulqueen**

ISAC Public Policy Analyst

**The Iowa County**

September 2002
Access to Personnel Records

A county supervisor recently asked me whether members of the board of supervisors have a legal right to view the personnel files of civil service deputies. He said that the sheriff has denied the supervisors access to those files on the grounds that they are confidential.

In-house documents relating to the job performance of specific county employees held by elected county officials, such as the sheriff, are “confidential” under Iowa Code §22.7(11), Iowa’s public records law, which protects “personal information in confidential personnel records of public bodies…”

But the analysis does not end there. Even if a certain county employee’s personnel record, held by an elected county official, is “confidential,” that just means that the file is not subject to disclosure to the general public. It does not answer the question of which county officials have a legal right to see the file.

Even if the public records law makes a certain record “confidential,” and thus not subject to disclosure to the general public, the custodian of that record may still have to disclose it to certain specific individuals who have a legitimate, legally-sanctioned need to see the document.

For instance, in Gabrilson v. Flynn, 554 N.W.2d 267 (Iowa 1996), the Iowa Supreme Court faced this issue. A school board member was seeking a copy of a test used by the school district. It was a “confidential” document under the public records law. But she claimed that as a school board member she had a right to see the otherwise-confidential document.

The Iowa Supreme Court agreed. The Court said that since school board members are charged with regulating the affairs of the school district, “…they generally should be allowed access to both public and private records that are necessary for the proper discharge of their duties.” Id. at 275.

The Court said that school board members are under a duty to inquire into school district matters, and that this duty necessarily implies that school board members should have access to all confidential and non-confidential records of the school board.

The Iowa Supreme Court addressed this issue two years later in Rathmann v. Davenport Community School District, 580 N.W.2d 773 (Iowa 1998). In that case, the Court reaffirmed that school board members “generally should be allowed access to both public and private school district records that are necessary for the proper discharge of their duties.”

There is no reason to think that the Iowa Supreme Court would decide the issue differently if we were talking about members of the board of supervisors instead of school board members. Although elected county officials have autonomy that makes their situation different from a school setting, the underlying analysis is the same. If a board of supervisors need access to an employee’s personnel records to properly discharge it duties, for instance in order to consider a grievance from that employee, then the board has the legal right to see those files.

But boards of supervisors do not have a blanket right to access personnel records of all county employees. Far from it. Especially since, as to employees of other elected officials, the board generally has no role in decisions regarding discipline or termination.

So the board has no right to access personnel files of these employees unless the board needs access in order to properly discharge it duties, such as situations where 1) the elected official has delegated those personnel responsibilities to the board; or 2) the board is asked to review a grievance from an employee of an elected official.

Also, even if a board does have the right to access an employee’s personnel file, the board’s access to the personnel file should be limited to those documents pertinent to the issue at hand.

Attorney General’s Opinions

You may not know Bruce Kempkes by name, but if you are an Iowa county official he has probably affected the way you do your job. Bruce is an assistant attorney general. Over the last eight years, Bruce has written almost 100 attorney general opinions regarding county government. I’ve agreed with most of them, and even when I think his opinions have been wrong, they have reflected a high level of intellect and scholarship. I’ve also appreciated the fact that Bruce has recognized that these opinions matter to counties, and for that reason has often asked for my input prior to drafting his opinions.

Faced with tough budget decisions, the Attorney General has now decided to eliminate Bruce’s position and reassigned Bruce to another job. So there will be no one person handling requests for Attorney General opinions on “county” questions. Some of those requests will go to other assistant attorney generals that have less experience with county issues than Bruce. Other opinion requests will now just be denied. Either way, the decision to eliminate Bruce’s position is bad news for all county officials.

Parting Ponderable:

A husband and wife were golfing when suddenly the woman asked, “Honey, if I died would you get married again?”

The man said, “No dear.”

The woman said, “I’m sure you would.”

So the man said, “Okay, I would.”

Then the woman asked, “Would you let her sleep in our bed?”

And the man replied, “Yeah, I guess so.”

Then the woman asked, “Would you let her use my golf clubs?”

And the man answered, “No, she’s left-handed.”
Preventative Maintenance

We think nothing of getting maintenance work done on our cars. We regularly get the oil changed and when the tires begin to show wear we get them replaced. If we see any signs of disrepair, we are sure to get it checked out so we don’t have unexpected breakdowns.

I would suggest that this behavior is even more important when it comes to our health! Let’s look at some of the things we can do to help maintain our bodies.

Immunizations. This is probably the one type of preventative maintenance that more people are aware of than any other. Children should visit the doctor on a regular basis to receive periodic immunizations. This is important to prevent such diseases as polio, diphtheria, measles, mumps, chickenpox and others. Adults can get preventative flu and pneumonia shots.

Periodic Medical Exam. You and your doctor can determine how often you have regular exams. A physical exam usually includes such things as blood pressure, blood screening, and urinalysis. At your appointment you will probably discuss any risk factors you might have in your family history or lifestyle. This exam is helpful in finding such things as diabetes, hypertension, kidney/liver disease or high cholesterol. Women’s physicals should also include a pelvic exam and pap test.

Self-Exams. Periodic self-exams are also very important. You should be aware of moles that are on your body (especially the face, neck and arms) and to watch for any changes.

Cholesterol. This test is easy, quick and inexpensive. Cholesterol in the blood can build up inside your arteries and cause them to narrow. This is a starting point for most heart and circulation problems. If you have a history of heart attacks, are a cigarette smoker, or have high blood pressure or diabetes, your risk is greater and you would want your cholesterol checked more frequently.

ColoRectal and Colonoscopy Exam. The test for blood in the stool (fecal occult blood test) is a useful screening tool for colorectal cancer. Other conditions may also be detected by this test, such as hemorrhoids, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, or a stomach ulcer. A yearly FOBT increases the chances that bleeding will be detected. Another exam that is often recommended around the age of 50 is the colonoscopy. This is the inspection of the entire large intestine (colon) using a flexible, lighted viewing scope. This test is better able to detect cancer.

Remember, these tests save lives! For more information look at www.healthwise.com or www.webmd.com.

Handy Computer Tips

By: Sandy Longfellow
IsAC Administrative Assistant

Although most changes in moles are harmless, one type (malignant melanoma) is very dangerous. Visit the American Cancer Society website at www.cancer.org for further information.

Tip #1: Placement of a shortcut on your desktop. If you wish to create a shortcut to a document or program, you will need to open Windows Explorer, highlight the folder or the title of the document, right click and select “send to”, “Desktop (create shortcut).” This will now place a shortcut on your desktop that will allow you to access that file or document directly from there. Another method to do this for a document, is when you select “Open” to open a document, highlight and right click on the document name, select “send to”, “Desktop (create shortcut).”

Tip #2: How to send out an email message to multiple people or use a distribution list that will enable the message to be viewed and printed without all the email messages being revealed. The simple answer is “Bcc” or “Blind Carbon Copy.” You will need to start with a new message, insert your email addresses, distribution list or group into the “Bcc” line and type your information in the main body of your message. Once you have completed this, click on “Send.” Your email message will now be delivered to everyone, however, they will only see spaces, paragraphs, page breaks, etc. This is extremely helpful when you are formatting lengthy documents.

Website Note: The affiliate website program is continuing to grow, CCMS has been added and the sheriffs are in the final stages of the process. The affiliate website is a nice Intranet tool which is available for our members. If you have questions regarding this program, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to hearing from you. Until next month, keep clicking!
Tuesday, November 19, 2002
5pm - 7pm Early Bird Registration (Holiday Inn)

Wednesday, November 20, 2002
8am - 4:30pm ISAC Registration (Holiday Inn)
8am - 2pm ISAC Registration (Four Points Sheraton)
9am - Noon Optional Affiliate
1pm - 4:30pm Affiliate Time
8pm - 9pm President’s Reception (Holiday Inn)
9pm - Midnight ISAC Dance “The Blue Band” (Holiday Inn)

Thursday, November 21, 2002
7:30am - 4pm ISAC Registration (Holiday Inn)
7:15am - 8:15am Coffee & Rolls with Exhibitors
8:15am - 10:45am ISAC General Session & Vote of ISAC Priorities
Keynote Speaker: Bob Feller “Heater From Van Meter”
10:45am - 11am BREAK
11am - 12:15pm ISAC Seminars
12:15pm - 1:30pm OPEN LUNCH
1:30pm - 4pm Affiliate Time
4pm - 5pm Ice Cream Social with Exhibitors
-Scholarship Raffle Drawings

Friday, November 22, 2002
8am - 11am ISAC Registration (Holiday Inn)
9am - Noon Affiliate Time

Area Lodging Please ask for block of rooms under the Iowa State Association of Counties
Holiday Inn Airport 6111 Fleur Dr. Phone: 800-248-4013/515-287-2400 $67 single/$77 double
Comfort Inn 5231 Fleur Dr. Phone: 515-287-3434 $45 flat rate (cut-off date November 5)
Hampton Inn 5001 Fleur Dr. Phone: 515-287-7300 $79 single or double, $10 per person after two
Heartland Inn Airport 1901 Hackley Ave. Phone: 515-256-0603 $67 flat rate
Motel 6 4817 Fleur Dr. Phone: 515-287-6364 $39.99 single/$45.99 double, $3 per person after two
Radisson (formerly Wingate) 6800 Fleur Dr. Phone: 515-285-7777 $84 flat rate
Four Points Sheraton 1810 Army Post Rd. Phone: 800-383-6462/515-287-6464 $72 flat rate/$79 king executive
(formerly Best Western Des Moines International)
Treasurers and assessors will be meeting at the Four Points Sheraton. The hotel has agreed to bill the county for hotel rooms, provided you supply them with a purchase order number.

• The Radisson, Heartland Inn Airport, and Hampton Inn offer continental breakfast.
ISAC’s registration policies are aimed at encouraging several people from one county office, particularly deputies and clerks, to attend the School by offering reduced fees for additional registrations. It also offers those who preregister the chance to save money. (At the door registration fee is $80 per person.) Here’s how it works. If four people in the auditor’s office from County X want to attend the School, the first person on the preregistration form pays $70. The other three pay $60 each. That means the total fee for the County X auditor’s office would be $250.

There are some restrictions on this policy, however. They are:

1. Only those who pre-register can qualify for the reduced rate. If you work in the auditor’s office in County X, but didn’t decide you wanted to attend the School until the day before and did not pre-register before the deadline, you will have to pay the full $80 at-the-door registration fee. In the example, given for County X, if the auditor’s office had waited until the School for four people to register, it would have cost the $320.

2. All pre-registrations must include payment and a registration form. To pre-register, the auditor’s office would have to include the $250 with the registration form. If the correct payment is not enclosed, ISAC will return the registration form to the county. ISAC will not bill a county for pre-registration.

3. Certain county officials are not eligible for the $60 fee. All supervisors and administrative assistants must pay $70 if they pre-register and $80 if they register at the School. Administrative personnel not employed by the office of an affiliate are not eligible for the reduced fee.

4. Anyone who is not a member of ISAC is required to pay $240 (or three times the at-the-door fee) to attend an ISAC School.

5. NO CASH will be handled at the registration desk. We also do not accept credit cards. Please be prepared to write a check.

6. Refunds are restricted to those who request them from the ISAC office in writing within 14 days of the close of the School and are due to an illness, death, or adverse weather. A note of explanation must accompany the written request for a refund. (A non-refundable $10 administrative fee will be charged on all refunds.)

7. ISAC will make reasonable accommodations for the disabled with 24 hours advance notice.

If you require the assistance of auxiliary aids or services to participate in this meeting because of a disability, call Jerri Noboa at (515)244-7181.

Fall School 2002

County ____________________________

Office ____________________________

Name 1 ____________________________ ($70)

Name 2 ____________________________ ($60)

Name 3 ____________________________ ($60)

Please indicate which seminar you plan to attend:

☐ NACo Deferred Compensation Plans and Post Employment Health Plans  ☐ Integrated Service Pathway Project  ☐ Planning and Zoning

☐ What is the future of Iowa’s Clerk of Court?  ☐ Land Protection Options  ☐ County Data: Do you sell or give it away?

Deadline: Postmark by November 8, 2002

Send form, along with payment to: Iowa State Assn. of Counties
501 SW 7th St., Ste Q
Des Moines, IA 50309-4540

Pre-registration forms will not be accepted without payment.
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

What: Thousands of dollars in scholarships to be applied to college tuition ($12,000 awarded in 2002)

Who: High school seniors who are children of county employees

When: Application deadline is Dec. 18, 2002 (scholarships awarded at the Spring School)

Where: Application and criteria/procedures are attached and also available on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Hot Topics'

Based on: Scholastic achievement, financial need, participation in extracurricular and community activities and overall character

Additional Questions? Contact David Vestal at dvestal@iowacounties.org or 515-244-7181
Criteria and Procedures for ISAC Scholarships

The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) is a private, nonprofit corporation whose members are county officials and employees from the 99 counties in Iowa. ISAC has established the following criteria and procedures for granting scholarships:

1. Eligibility is limited to children of county officials or county employees. This does not include city employees, employees of county extension offices, or candidates who are themselves county employees.

2. At least one (1) $1,000 scholarship shall be awarded annually.

3. The candidates must be seniors in high school.

4. This is a one (1) year scholarship, and can be received only once by an individual.

5. The scholarship can be awarded to anyone who will be a full-time student of any college requiring at least a minimum of two (2) years for a degree.

6. The scholarship monies will be paid directly to the college; one-half upon acceptance, one-half upon completion of the first semester.

7. The candidates must provide personal reference statements from three (3) individuals other than family members, complete an application, and submit to an interview.

8. The criteria used in awarding the scholarship will be scholastic achievement, financial need, participation in extracurricular/community activities and overall character.

9. The selection committee shall award all scholarships and the decision of the selection committee shall be final.

10. The selection committee shall consist of seven (7) members, to be appointed by the ISAC President. The selection committee shall consist of one (1) representative from each ISAC district, plus one (1) member of the ISAC Board of Directors.

11. ISAC reserves the right to verify any information provided on any application.

12. Scholarships will be awarded at the ISAC Spring School in March.

13. Applications must be received at the ISAC office by December 18, 2002.

14. Applications should be mailed to:
    ISAC, 501 SW 7th St., Suite Q, Des Moines, IA 50309-4540
Name of Applicant

Address

City ___________________________ Zip ___________________________

County ___________________________

Home Phone ___________________________ Email Address ___________________________

Date of Graduation ___________________________ Name of High School ___________________________

Proposed college ___________________________

Have you taken the SAT/ACT ___________________________ If so, your score ___________________________

Total Class Size _______ Rank in Class _______ Grade Point _______ on a 4.0 scale

Which parent of yours is a county official or employee?

Parent’s Name ___________________________

County Department ___________________________ County Position ___________________________

County Phone # ___________________________

FINANCIAL NEED: In the space provided, explain your financial need for this scholarship:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________

OVER
ESSAY: On another sheet of paper type an essay of no more than 250 words explaining your career plans and future goals. MAKE US SEE THE REAL YOU.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: In the space provided, please identify your most significant extra curricular activities, school activities, work experience, etc. that might be helpful to the committee in judging your application.

REFERENCES: We need personal reference statements from three (3) individuals other than family members. (Such as teachers, employers, advisors)

For you to be considered for a scholarship you must:
1. Return application filled out completely
2. Enclose your typed Essay
3. Include three personal references

Return to: Iowa State Association of Counties, 501 SW 7th St., Suite Q, Des Moines, IA 50309-4540. Applications must be received by December 18, 2002.

I hereby certify that this application contains no misrepresentation or falsifications and that the information given by me is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant ____________________________
President’s Reception
Come join President Grant Veeder for dessert at a reception in his honor. It will be held Wednesday, November 20 at the Holiday Inn Airport ballrooms in Des Moines. The reception will start at 8pm and end at 9pm. Immediately following the reception stay and enjoy the music of Bob Dorr & The Blue Band.

ISAC Dance - Bob Dorr & The Blue Band
The Blue Band will get you dancing in no time Wednesday, November 20 in the ballrooms at the Holiday Inn Airport from 9pm - Midnight. The Blue Band has been called “The best...rockin’ soul dance band in the heartland...” and is a 6-7 piece group performing original and cover blues, soul, and r&b grooves. The Blue Band has been around for 20 years and has become one of Iowa’s most revered and requested bands.

Room Lottery
These counties will each be allotted three sleeping rooms at the Holiday Inn Airport for Fall School 2002 and will be contacted by the hotel directly: Adams, Allamakee, Appanoose, Benton, Bremer, Butler, Clayton, Crawford, Des Moines, Dickinson, Floyd, Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Henry, Howard, Humboldt, Jasper, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lee, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Mitchell, Monona, Montgomery, Sac, Tama, Wapello, Warren, and Winnebago. On Thursday, November 21, at the Holiday Inn Airport, following the ice cream social, the lottery drawing for Fall School 2003 will take place. Since all counties have been drawn over the past three years, we will start the process over and all counties will be eligible once again. Counties are responsible for paying for their own rooms.

Exhibit Space Available
If you would like to exhibit at our ISAC Fall Conference, November 20-21, 2002, you can call the office and talk to Jerri Noboa 515-244-7181 or look on the ISAC website at www.iowacounties.org.

Seminar Topics
NACo Deferred Compensation Plans and Post Employment Health Plans
Rebecca Fleser and Joyce Hall, representatives from Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS) and administrators of the ISAC endorsed NACo deferred compensation plan, will present a two part seminar. The first segment of the workshop will provide instruction on the use of the NRS web site. This session will instruct the workshop participants on establishing secure access on-line to their NACo deferred compensation plan or Post Employment Health Plan (PEHP). The second portion of the workshop will explain the NACo sponsored Post Employment Health Plan (PEHP). PEHP is a unique employee benefit (IRC Sec 501 (c)(9) VEBA) designed to allow the employer to set aside money for eligible employees for payment of qualified post employment medical expenses.

What is the future of Iowa’s Clerk of Court?
A proposal to replace the existing clerk of court system with “court service areas” received a lot of attention last year. Although that proposal was withdrawn, with more budget cuts expected in the future, the issue of how clerk of court services are delivered is sure to be debated again. A panel of individuals representing the Iowa Supreme Court, the clerks of court, county attorneys and other stakeholders will discuss possible options and what the future may hold for the clerks of court.

Integrated Service Pathway Project
Presenters will discuss the origins and current status of this program designed to identify and intervene with county jail inmates with substance abuse and mental health disorders. The project has developed a special network to improve access to services for these individuals. The participating agencies include: Seasons Center for Community Mental Health, Northwest Iowa Drug and Alcohol Treatment Unit, Public Health, and County Case Management, along with other county service groups. Panel includes: Chuck Eddy, Buena Vista County Sheriff; Karla Manternach, Seasons Center for Community Mental Health, and Dawn Mentzer, Buena Vista County Case Management.

Land Protection Options - Conservation Easements
County, city and state agencies are constantly trying to balance tight budgets with the need to protect land for wildlife habitat, water quality, and scenic or open space resources. The traditional land conservation model involves the purchase and management of land by the public agency. One alternative protection method available to public agencies is a conservation easement. The public agency can benefit because important lands can be protected without the management expense and complete loss of property tax revenue. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation staff will share their experience working with landowners and public agencies to establish conservation easements throughout Iowa.

Continued on page 12
County Data: Do you sell it or give it away?
Your county has made or is considering making a substantial investment (research time & money) in digital parcel maps, digital aerial orthophotography, as well as document imaging and/or GIS infrastructure. However, has your county considered how you will handle the distribution of all that new data? Do you sell it or give it away? During the first part of this seminar, a few counties will provide a short explanation of their pricing policies and the reasons behind them. The remainder of this seminar will be a panel discussion with audience participation to include but not limited to customer/user determination, product identification, channels of distribution, web publishing, pricing concepts, varying degrees of liability and communicating with customers/users.

Planning and Zoning: What it is, what it is not, how it helps
A seminar on county planning and zoning should explain how a planning and zoning ordinance and a county comprehensive land use plan helps county officials plan for the future and helps them design their community economic development. This seminar will also dispell many of the myths about planning and zoning. It will provide examples of how counties which have had planning and zoning ordinances on the books for a number of years have used them. It will also demonstrate that planning and zoning protects prime agricultural land.

Property Tax: County and County Officers; State Officers and Departments
Pollution-control property. Iowa Code §§421.17, 427.1 (2001). A county assessor does not have authority under county home rule to deny exemptions to taxpayers for pollution-control property when the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has certified their property as pollution-control property. (Kempkes to Bonnett, Taylor County Attorney, 5-1-02) #02-5-1

Public Employees; Group Insurance
Continuance of group insurance for retirees under the age of 65. Iowa §§509A.13, 509B.3(5), 509B.4(3) (2001). Retired public employees under the age of sixty-five who continue group insurance under Iowa Code section 509A.13 must be placed in the same risk pool as all other participants in the group plan for purposes of determining premiums. (Johnson to McCoy, State Senator, 5-14-02) #02-5-2

New Benefits For Voluntary Accident Plan
ISAC and J.A. Reno Associates are pleased to announce that we have made arrangements with the underwriting carrier Zurich North American to add several new benefits to the Voluntary Accident Insurance Plan. These include:
• Day Care Benefit for Family Plan insureds where loss of life occurs
• Monthly Coma Benefit – 1% of Principal Sum
• Seat Belt Benefit – 10% in addition to Principal Sum up to $10,000
• Spouse Training for Family Plan insureds where loss of life occurs
This program will provide protection for both occupational and nonoccupational accidents. Now in its 20th year, the program has grown with employees in over 40 counties around the state of Iowa electing to participate in this payroll deduction plan. An open enrollment of the program will take place from September 1 through November 1, and this is a great time for non-participating counties to add a value added employee benefit or for participating counties to reenroll their workforce. Please contact your administrator, Mark Reno at J.A. Reno Associates for details.

Outstanding Planning Award Applications
The Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association would like to announce the call for award nominations in a variety of planning categories, such as Outstanding Planning Awards for a plan, a project, a community initiative, public education, a citizen planner, an elected official, and journalism, just to name a few. Judging for Iowa Planning Awards will take place in September 2002. Award categories and submission criteria can be found on the Iowa APA website http://www.iowaapa.org. Presentations will be made at Upper Midwest Planning Conference in Des Moines, IA, November 6-8, 2002. Iowa APA Award winners receive a personalized sculpture, plaque or certificate, depending on the award category, are featured in a presentation at the conference and in the Winter or Spring edition of the Iowa APA Newsletter. Iowa APA must receive completed Planning Award entries, by Friday, September 6, 2002. For additional information contact A.J. Mumm at 515-281-3231 or aj.mumm@emd.state.ia.us.
2002 ISAC Scholarship Raffle List

To raise money for the ISAC Scholarship Fund, county auditors and ISAC board members will be selling raffle tickets, for $10 each, starting around August 24. Winners will be drawn during the ISAC Fall School, November 20-22. You need not be present to win.

Below are the prizes to be awarded, categorized by type of item:

TRAVEL
♦ *Carnival Cruise*. A four-day Carnival Cruise for two. Includes air fare from Des Moines. Taxes paid. Pick from several vacations - departing from Tampa, Port Canaveral, Miami, Galveston, or Los Angeles. Oceanview cabin. Make your selection by March of 2003 for a cruise to take place between Labor Day and mid-December, 2003 (Not all dates during this time period may be available. Subject to availability at time of booking. Thanksgiving excluded).

♦ *Harrah’s Council Bluffs Casino & Hotel*. Overnight stay for two. Sunday through Thursday, subject to availability. Includes $50 gift certificate at Beverlee’s Restaurant, top floor of Harrah’s. Donated by owners through Pottawattamie County Auditor Marilyn Jo Drake.


♦ *Blessings on Main Bed and Breakfast, GeJo’s By the Lake Restaurant*. Overnight stay for two at this Clear Lake B&B, along with a $35 gift certificate to the popular GeJo’s. Donated by the owners through Cerro Gordo Deputy County Auditor Sandy Shonka.

♦ *Briggs Woods Golf Course and Cabin*. Green fees for two, and one night in newly-erected nearby camping cabin, used on a weekday and weeknight. Cart rental required. Donated by Hamilton County Conservation Department, golf course and campground operator, through Hamilton County Auditor Kim Schaa.

CASH
♦ $300 Cash. Partially donated by Bremer County Auditor Marilyn Schnell.

ART
♦ *Print by P. Buckley Moss (1)*. Framed train print by the celebrated Midwestern artist. Donated by Henry County Auditor Carol McCulley.

♦ *Print by P. Buckley Moss (2)*. Titled “Glory” - offset lithograph, #563 of 1,000. Donated by Wayne County Auditor Sue Ruble.

♦ *Print by P. Buckley Moss (3)*. Titled “American Pride” - offset lithograph, #606 of 1,000. Donated by Wayne County Auditor Sue Ruble.

♦ *Sculpture by Isabel Bloom*. For more information on this popular sculptor, go to www.ibloom.com. Donated by Clinton County Auditor Charlie Sheridan.

♦ *Woodcarving made and donated by Linn County Auditor Linda Langenberg*. This celebrated sculptor/auditor is donating a carved realistic moose, about ten inches long and twelve inches high.

♦ *Print by Lennis Moore, Midwest Old Threshers Association Director*. Donated by Henry County Auditor Carol McCulley.

BLANKETS
♦ *Queen-sized Navy Blue and White Star Quilt*. Made and donated by Kim Veeder, wife of ISAC President Grant Veeder.

♦ *Patriotic Blanket*. Made by Amana Woolen Mills and donated by Iowa County Auditor Linda Griggs.

♦ *Patriotic Fleece Blanket*. Made and donated by Woodbury County Deputy Auditor Vicki Ritz.

♦ *Dallas County Throw*. Donated by Dallas County Auditor Carole Bayeur-Dawson.

♦ *Tama County Historical Afghan*. Riddle and Cockrell historic pattern of 19th Century buildings. Donated by Tama County Auditor John Adams.

DECORATIVE
♦ *Patriotic Grapevine Wreath*. Donated by Humboldt County Auditor Peggy Rice.

♦ *Patriotic Wreath*. Donated by Grundy County Auditor Mary Schmidt.

♦ *Holiday Candle and Bath Salts Basket*. Donated by Mills County Auditor Carol Robertson.

♦ *Bird Feeder and Wind Chimes*. Made of recycled materials. Donated by Des Moines County Auditor Carol Copeland.

OTHER
♦ *$75 Wal-Mart Gift Card*. Donated by Wal-Mart through Cedar County Auditor Betty Ellerhoff.

♦ *$50 in Wendy’s Gift Certificates*. Donated by Wendy’s through Story County Auditor Mary Mosiman.

♦ *Bunn 10-cup Coffee Maker*. Donated by Bunn through Union County Auditor Sandy Hysell.
ISAC brief continued

Veeder Names Committee Chairs

ISAC President Grant Veeder recently named four county officials to chair ISAC steering committees. Denise Dolan, Dubuque County Auditor, was named to chair the Public Safety steering committee. Sharon Hudepohl, Iowa County Assessor, will chair the Taxation and Finance steering committee. Ron Osterholm, Cerro Gordo Environmental Health Director, has been appointed to the Environment and Public Health steering committee. And finally, Royce Fichtner, Marshall County Engineer, will lead the Transportation steering committee.

The chairmanship terms are for two years. Dolan, Fichtner, and Ron have served in these positions before. While Hudepohl has represented the Assessor’s affiliate on the Taxation and Finance Committee for several years, this is her first time to chair it. “After serving as a member on the Taxation and Finance Committee for several years, I have found the issues very interesting and very important to the counties and taxpayers of the state of Iowa,” Hudepohl said.

The product of these meetings is at the core of the ISAC policy process. After committee reports are approved by the ISAC Board in October, and ratified by the full membership at the annual meeting in November, the legislative objectives and policy statements produced by the seven steering committees will serve as the county legislative platform for 2003. The first of two policy setting meetings for all of the ISAC steering committees will be held on September 5, 2002 at the Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines.

For further information about ISAC’s steering committees visit ISAC’s website (www.iowacounties.org) under Legislative Information.

COURN

Curt Mineart

Curt Mineart served as Washington County Deputy Auditor for five years and Washington County Auditor for over 22 years. Curt enjoyed being a county employee because of his firm interest in county government and the alliance with officials of both county and state governments. “The fulfillment of tasks to be performed was most satisfying to me.” Curt is currently retired and lives in Washington, IA with his wife Melva. His family also includes four sons (Stephen - physician in Oskaloosa; Gary - information technology consultant in Burke, VA; Kevin - design engineer in Burlington; Douglas - landscape design/construction in Rogers, AR), one daughter (Carrie - attorney in Fort Collins, CO) and seven grandchildren. Curt is currently a member of the St. James Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, Marine Corps League, Washington Area Habitat for Humanity (board of director and chair of Site Selection Committee), and Washington Optimist Club (board of director and chair of Respect Law Committee). In his spare time he enjoys woodworking. Curt can be reached at cmineart@lisco.com.

ALUMNI

Caye Chelesvig

Caye Chelesvig has served as Wright County Supervisor for nearly 10 years. Her past employment includes free-lance writer, newspaper reporter, and real estate salesperson. Caye thinks it would be great if every county could participate in the CCMS program. “The program is definitely a cost saver as well as a terrific resource for case management information.” Caye enjoys serving on the CCMS board and watching the program develop successfully. Caye is a member of the Wright-Hamilton Board of Realtors, United Methodist Church, Prairie Ridge Alumni, and State County Management Committee. In her spare time Caye likes to golf, read and play with her two grandsons. Her family includes husband Jim, real estate appraiser and broker; daughter Shelly, student; and son Brooks, restaurant management in Chicago.

Quote of the Month:

My second favorite household chore is ironing. My first being hitting my head on the top bunk bed until I faint. - Erma Bombeck

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Meet The CCMS Board Members

Caye Chelesvig
CCMS Board Member

Caye Chelesvig has served as Wright County Supervisor for nearly 10 years. Her past employment includes free-lance writer, newspaper reporter, and real estate salesperson. Caye thinks it would be great if every county could participate in the CCMS program. “The program is definitely a cost saver as well as a terrific resource for case management information.” Caye enjoys serving on the CCMS board and watching the program develop successfully. Caye is a member of the Wright-Hamilton Board of Realtors, United Methodist Church, Prairie Ridge Alumni, and State County Management Committee. In her spare time Caye likes to golf, read and play with her two grandsons. Her family includes husband Jim, real estate appraiser and broker; daughter Shelly, student; and son Brooks, restaurant management in Chicago.
GASB-34 and Secondary Roads

As most county officials know, new accounting and financial reporting requirements became effective starting with FY03. Statement No. 34 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB-34) sets forth guidelines for “Basic Financial Statements and Management’s Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments.” Issued in June 1999, the 403 page document states that, from FY03 on, governmental financial statements should include; a) a Management’s Discussion & Analysis section, b) government-wide consolidated financial reports, c) reports on key funds, and d) a statement of capital assets, including “infrastructure” items like roads, streets, bridges, dams, recreational facilities, parks, and airports.

Units of government may elect to report their capital assets via either of two methods. The first, named the “Standard approach,” calls for reporting assets minus accumulated depreciation. The second method, called the “Modified approach,” waives the need for calculating depreciation if a unit of government sets up and maintains an asset management system. All governments are required to commence reporting capital asset expenditures in FY03, and those with budgets exceeding $10 million per year are additionally asked to report all such investments made over the last 20 years.

County Engineers Set Up Special Website

Iowa’s county engineers became aware of GASB-34 in early 2000 and launched a study process to determine how best to comply with the new requirements, specifically with regard to county roads. Although asset management systems for pavement and bridges are being developed for Iowa’s road network, the engineers decided against the Modified approach because those systems are still too immature to use as the basis of a permanent accounting method and because it would have required a considerable amount of administrative overhead to set up and keep going. Instead, using the criteria of a) keep it simple, b) minimize staff time requirements, c) try to integrate any new methods into existing work procedures, d) comply with the GASB requirement to break systems down into “Classes” and “Sub-systems,” and e) encourage statewide uniformity, they concluded that using the Standard, depreciation based, method would be best.

By: Steve De Vries, P.E.  ICEA Service Bureau Dir.

After exploring a number of options, the engineers’ study group and the ICEA Service Bureau developed a concept for an Internet based infrastructure reporting and depreciation system. It works as follows. The Service Bureau set up a special web site that county engineers can access to enter and update infrastructure project data. At the start of a new project, they connect to enter the project’s ID and attributes. Then, as construction progresses, they add progress payment data to build a “construction-in-progress” balance. Upon completion, a simple procedure is used to “place” the new asset “into service” and set up a depreciation schedule. In-service projects can be reviewed and/or updated via several special functions. Summary, reconciliation, and full-detail reports can be generated at any time, providing both the engineer and county auditor with the data they will need to prepare the infrastructure reporting part of their financial statements. There are three asset “Classes” for secondary roads: Roadways, Bridges, and ROW, and four sub-systems: Paved, Hard-surface, Gravel, and Earth. Items are reported if a) they will have a lifetime of at least 10 years, b) are budgeted as construction, and c) cost more than $50,000. Smaller projects will be expensed. Administrative time to enter projects and get reports back out of the system should average no more than half an hour per project per year.

Prior to being placed into operation the system was presented to, reviewed, and approved by the State Treasurer’s Office, the County Finance Board, and the County Engineer’s Association. Software and database development was done in the fall of 2001 and the system became operational in March 2002. So far, eight counties have entered 223 projects and report that “ease-of-use” is good. Total cost to develop and set up the application was about $15,000, or $151 per county.

The ICEA GASB-34 Infrastructure reporting system should enable Iowa’s county road departments to comply with the new reporting requirements at minimal cost and only a little extra staff time. Several Iowa city governments have also signed up to use the system for a fee, and counties from four other states have inquired about purchasing the technology. The system has been designed in a flexible manner and could be set up for use by other county departments by identifying asset classes and sub-systems appropriate to their domains.
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</tr>
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<td>19</td>
<td>District I Winter Meeting</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Airport, DM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## JANUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>CCMS Administrators</td>
<td>Best Inns &amp; Suites, DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>CCMS Board Meeting</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Airport, DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Statewide Supervisors Winter School</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Airport, DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>New County Officers School</td>
<td>Holiday Inn Airport, DM</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Sheriffs &amp; Deputies Patrol School</td>
<td>Four Points Sheraton, DM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For agendas or additional information on any of the above listed meetings please visit our website at www.iowacounties.org and click on Upcoming Events! If you have any questions about the meetings listed above, please contact Jerri at (515) 244-7181 or by email at jnoboa@iowacounties.org.
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