

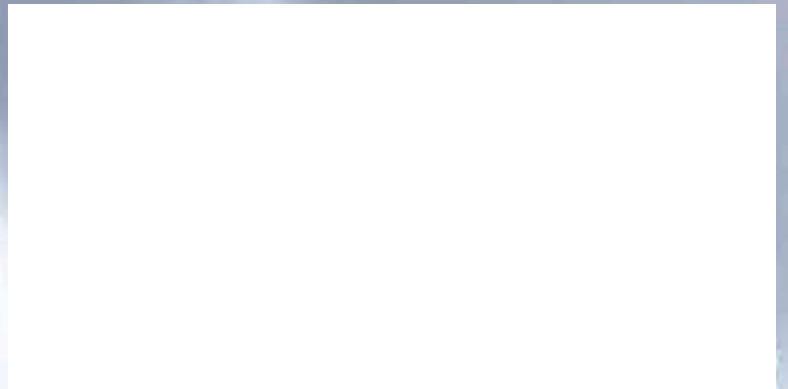


The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties

September 2014

ISAC Education Foundation
2015 Scholarship Application





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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.

capitol comments

Business Property Tax Credit Implementation

By: **Lucas Beenken**

ISAC Public Policy Specialist



It's been nearly 15 months since Governor Branstad signed into law Senate File 295, the property tax relief package of 2013. Many of the components of the bill are already in effect, and several more will be coming on line in the next year or two. Perhaps the greatest impact witnessed right away was the implementation of the Business Property Tax Credit (BPTC). As a refresher, the BPTC is a credit aimed at small businesses (but available to almost all commercial and industrial property) that for property under a certain value would be equal to the difference between the tax on commercial/industrial and that on residential property. The difference in the tax on these classes of property is due to the rollback of the property assessment. The targeting of small businesses is achieved by establishing a credit base, or maximum amount of value eligible for the credit. With a fixed appropriation, the Department of Revenue uses valuation and levy rate information from all of the eligible parcels and units to determine the greatest number of parcels/units that could receive a credit equal to the difference between commercial/industrial and residential as previously discussed.

If you're scratching your head trying to figure out exactly what the last few sentences mean, you're in the right state of mind to imagine the enormous task the state and local governments had to undertake to make this work. In a recent presentation to the county auditors, Julie Roisen from the Department of Revenue stated that her department has had over 170 formal meetings, she's given 23 presentations, and there were countless informal meetings and discussions. I cannot even begin to guess how many hours were spent in courthouse offices preparing and executing. During this time, the ISAC Working Group has met 15 times to work through the process and make sure the implementation would be a success. This working group was made up of three representatives from each of the assessors', auditors', and treasurers' affiliates, as well as staff from several county IT departments, the Department of Revenue, Department of Management, software vendors, the Iowa League of Cities, and of course ISAC. This was a wonderful group to work with as we figured out everything from the application process to the technical aspects of file submission and credit calculation. I am very thankful for the vast knowledge and expertise our county officials, vendors, and staff from state and local government brought to the group.

As IDR, the counties, and the vendors worked together to prepare for the July 1 deadline, it was intriguing to see the great strides being made. At the time of the first test cycle, only a handful of counties were successful in submitting their test files.

As we continued the process of getting 99 counties to do the same thing, the same way, at the same time, pretty soon it was 50 counties, and then 80 counties, 90 counties, and eventually 99 counties that had successfully submitted their files. The Department of Revenue, software vendors, and affiliates did a tremendous job of troubleshooting and helping those counties having a little difficulty. Despite some kinks along the way, all 99 counties met the July 1 deadline and IDR was able to efficiently and effectively run the calculations for the credit and in fact had that information back to the counties a week ahead of schedule.

In total there were 93,075 parcels making up 70,444 property units that qualified for the Business Property Tax Credit. The values of the property units ranged from \$10 to \$157,553,630. The maximum amount of value per unit came out to \$59,507.28, which means all property valued at this amount or below will receive a credit equal to the difference between the commercial/industrial rollback and the residential rollback. The largest credit amount was \$1,220.07 and approximately 400 parcels received \$0 in credit because of low property value and other credits wiping out the taxes due.

To give an example of how exactly this worked with the year one numbers; let's say we have a pharmacy in small town Iowa valued at \$50,000 and a consolidated levy rate of \$35/1,000. Because the value is less than the credit base this property will get the full credit. The residential rollback of 54.4002% is subtracted from the legislatively imposed 95% rollback for commercial property to arrive at 40.5998%. This is multiplied by the \$50,000 assessed value to arrive at \$20,299.90, which is then multiplied by the \$35 levy rate to reach a credit in the amount of \$710.50. For property units consisting of multiple parcels in different taxing districts, the credit is apportioned the same way the original consolidated levy rates are applied.

Overall year one was a whirlwind of activity to make sure the counties, software vendors, and state agencies were all on the same page and prepared to execute the file submission and credit calculation. There is still work to be done and other components of SF295 that will need to be implemented, but what has been achieved thus far and the successful first year is something all counties can be proud of.

Updates and Happenings

By: Kristi Harshbarger

ISAC General Counsel



ISAC HIPAA Program: The ISAC HIPAA Program is officially underway! For more information about the program please check out our website under Member Resources, Legal, HIPAA Information for Counties. You can also find the service contracts for counties and MH/DS regions there. If you are still interested in joining the program this year, please get your service contract signed and returned to ISAC right away so that you don't miss out on valuable information and trainings. If you believe you are already signed up for the ISAC HIPAA Program but have not received e-mails about the program, please give ISAC a call at (515) 244-7181.

Welcome to Eric Gookin: Eric Gookin has started working for ISAC as a law clerk. We are very excited to have Eric and look forward to his assistance and hope to provide a beneficial clerking opportunity for him. I asked Eric to introduce himself, so here is a little about him, in his own words:

I am in my final year at Drake Law School. When I complete my law degree next May, I will also graduate with a Master's in Public Administration through their joint degree program. My research interests revolve around the history of law, constitutional theory, and federalism and administrative divisions. I also enjoy reading about medieval and classical history (and pretty much any other thing that is dropped in front of me). I earned my bachelor's degree in Business Administration /Finance from Grand View University. While at Grand View, I was also a writing tutor and served as the editor of their student literary and art magazine, *Bifrost* – the first non-English major to do so.

Between Grand View and Drake, I worked for several years on the technical side of employee benefits administration. I created HIPAA-compliant files that told insurance companies which employees were covered under which insurance plans. My responsibilities were many, varied, and boring – but never the less critical to the clients and their employees. For the last year or so, I have worked as a law clerk for Iowa Workforce's Division of Labor Services. Among other issues, I worked on back-wage cases, contractor registration problems and with some Iowa OSHA activities.

I grew up in Murray, a small town in southern Iowa. I live with my wife, daughter and two dogs in Ankeny.

Maternity Leave: By the time you receive this article, I will hopefully be on maternity leave (my due date is August 22nd). If you have a legal question, please call our main number at (515) 244-7181 so that we can get your question handled in as timely of a manner as possible. Eric will be in the office part time and I will have some limited office hours during the second half of my maternity leave. This is always important, but especially during this time, please make sure you have discussed your question with your county attorney prior to contacting ISAC so that no unnecessary delays occur in our response. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this important time off for me to recover and bond with my baby.

Legal Briefs topics: We will have guest authors for the next three months of "Legal Briefs" articles, but I still always welcome suggestions for article topics that you might like to see. If you have a question, another county likely has wondered about the same thing.

U.S. Supreme Court Cases of interest to Counties: Check out ISAC's website for an article from Lisa Soronen, with the State and Local Legal Center in Washington, D.C., that provides a summary of U.S. Supreme Court cases from the last term that were of interest to counties. It is always interesting to see how counties can be impacted by so many cases, even those with seemingly unrelated facts. For example, did you know that the *Hobby Lobby* case could impact counties in their enforcement of land use regulations? Check out Lisa's article to find out how. Also, there were numerous Fourth Amendment and qualified immunity cases involving police officers during the U.S. Supreme Court's last term. So many that Lisa did a case summary article on just these cases that sheriffs may be particularly interested in knowing about. Both articles can be found on ISAC's website under the Member Resources, Legal tab.

technology center

The Importance of Quality Data

Data collection is a way of gathering and measuring information based on variables. It is a large part of research and is intended to answer questions, test hypotheses, and study a variety of fields just to name a few. According to The Office of Research Integrity, there are several consequences of improper data collection: incorrect answers to research questions, invalid data, wasted resources, misleading other researchers, compromising decisions for public policy, and more!

It should be no surprise that beginning with accurate data is crucial. To assist with this, data collection methods can be integrated and shared across healthcare entry points to distribute efforts evenly. For example, no one area or entity should be responsible for all data collection if at all possible. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, a 2007 Massachusetts study had three different entry points for data collection:

“...all Massachusetts hospitals were required to begin collecting race and ethnicity data from every patient with an inpatient stay, an observation unit stay, or an emergency department visit. These data are included in the electronic discharge data each hospital submits to the state’s Division of Health Care Finance and Policy. As part of this effort, a standardized set of reporting categories was created and train-the-trainer sessions were held across the state.”

Based on this trial, several data collection tools and matrixes were developed to both improve policy and the quality of data. Here are some avenues or examples of an integrated approach to data collection. Community Health Centers are a front line of data collection and often care for disadvantaged clients which allows for a lot of diversity in the data. Physician and group practices can similarly be a first line of defense for medical or mental health care. These entities too have a lot of direct contact and care with patients so they are great resource for clarifying data collection. Health plans (like Medicaid or employer health plans) have a large amount of patients and resources to find systemic trends or issues. Moreover, because of their large size they can collect a vast amount of data with a nominal amount of effort. Surveys are also an excellent way to estimate wide ranges of health needs or future needs of patients. They can be relatively low cost and can be combined with future and past years to get a complete picture of treatments needs in an area. Please note that there can be more entry points for data collection within the healthcare system (i.e. urgent care clinics) and the above are just a couple examples.

By: Andrea Jansen

ISAC Program Support
Coordinator



And



Madeline Schmitt

ISAC Software Developer

Along with integrated data collection, the data captured should be done so in a structured manner. Organizing this aspect will not only be crucial for the patient’s current treatment plan but for when the client moves on to other medical settings too. Structured data collection is consistently beneficial in streamlining workflows and patient experiences. One of the main issues this alleviates is information being entered repeatedly. Avoiding repetitiveness not only saves time but also aggravation on the patient’s behalf. Another area that can be evaluated is consistency in data. For example, if data is collected in varying points without a designed method, then incompatible information could result in inaccurate data. It is also recommended that an adjudication process be developed if inconsistencies in the data are found.

Training on proper data collection is an equally important aspect of the data collection process. Interviewing and asking demographic related questions, in a non-confrontational and professional manner, does require training in most cases. It is also recommended that this training be invested in all levels of staff; from intake personnel to the administrative staff. Having this training offered and/or required will greatly increase the integrity and reliability of data. The type and intensity of the training will vary from organization to organization and on the specific variables being collected. This could additionally include telephone training as a lot of beginning interactions are taken place over the phone.

CCMS Supervisors' Training held June 5, 2014

By: Molly Steffen

ISAC Case Management
Specialist



CCMS hosted a daylong training for Case Management Supervisors entitled "Building an Effective Team and The Practices of Effective Leaders" held at Polk County River Place in Des Moines. The event was facilitated by Jul Bruns, LMHC, CEAP and Thomas Farley, MPA, RLC of Employee & Family Resources, Inc. in Des Moines, Iowa. Both are Workplace Service Consultants and they provide companies with consultation and training.

The morning was spent focusing on "Building an Effective Team". We learned through the training that while the concept of employee teams is not new, what is new is the deeper analysis of what makes teams work and how effective teams can be developed. They shared that the true meaning of a team is that it accomplishes the results that it sets out to achieve and shared the top 12 characteristics of successful teams which include:

1. Successful teams have shared goals that everyone knows and agrees on.
2. Successful teams have a climate of trust and openness.
3. Members can express a new idea without fear of being embarrassed or criticized.
4. Successful teams promote a sense of belonging; everyone feels valued.
5. On successful teams, differences of opinions, ideas, and experiences are welcome.
6. Team members are encouraged to try doing things in new ways.
7. People discuss their problems openly; there are no hidden agendas.
8. Members realize that they need each other's knowledge, skill, and resources in order to accomplish team goals.
9. Members make decisions together.
10. When someone takes the role of leader, s/he facilitates rather than dominates the group.
11. Members have a "can do" attitude; they have fun working together.
12. Members focus on solutions in the "here and now"; they put the past to rest.

The afternoon was then spent discussing the Practices of Effective Leaders. Although there are all types of leaders, effective leaders share common practices which include:

1. They Model the Way
 - Credibility is the foundation of leadership; do what you say you will do.
 - Set examples by aligning actions with shared values.

2. They Inspire a Shared Vision
 - Envision the future by imagining exciting and ennobling possibilities.
 - Enlist others in a common vision by appealing to shared aspirations.
3. They Challenge the Process
 - Search for opportunities by seeking innovative ways to change, grow and improve.
 - Experiment and take risks by constantly generating small wins and learning from mistakes.
4. They Enable Others to Act
 - Foster collaboration by promoting cooperative goals and building trust.
 - Strengthen others by sharing power and discretion.
5. They Encourage the Heart
 - Recognize contributions by showing appreciation for individual excellence.
 - Celebrate the values and the victories by creating a spirit of community.

We also learned throughout the daylong training that the more a Leader understands their team, the more s/he can support the team, and the more change can occur.

I hope some of these tips provided through the training will be helpful in your day-to-day practice as a Supervisor. Jul and Tom also provided additional resources for further learning on these topics including:

- The Leadership Challenge by James M. Kouzes and Barry Posner
- The Five Dysfunctions of a Team by Patrick Lencioni.
- The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey
- When Teams Work Best by Frank M.J. LaFasto and Carl E. Larson
- Crucial Conversations by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan, Al Switzler

CCMS regularly provides trainings for Case Managers and Case Management Supervisors/Directors. Our next training will be our 22nd Annual CCMS Conference on September 23 & 24, 2014 at the Courtyard by Marriott – Ankeny (2405 Creekview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021). Please view and register for all trainings provided by CCMS on our website at <http://ccms.iowacounties.org>.

meetings

Top 10 Reasons to Attend the 2014 ISAC Fall School of Instruction November 12-14, 2014

There many reasons for county officials to attend the 2014 Iowa State Association of Counties Fall School of Instruction, but here are our Top 10.

1. Come help celebrate ISAC's 50th Anniversary through various special events being held at the conference!
2. Help select ISAC's top priorities for the 2015 legislative session.
3. Participate in your affiliate meetings and in a variety of ISAC Educational Seminars.
4. Visit the exhibit hall to learn how new products and services can assist your county.
5. Find out who will receive the 2014 ISAC Golden Eagle.
6. Make valuable networking connections with ISAC members from all across the state.
7. Participate in The Food Bank of Iowa Food and Fund Drive and help earn your affiliate group a soda break.
8. Find out who the 2014 ISAC Excellence in Action Awards winners are.
9. Attend the first annual ISAC Education Foundation Silent Auction and help raise scholarship funds for our high school graduates.
10. Learn from and socialize with hundreds of your county colleagues and friends in the same place!

Please bookmark the 2014 ISAC Fall School webpage at <http://www.iowacounties.org/meetings-and-events/fall-school-of-instruction/>. It is updated often with all the latest conference information that you will need to prepare for the conference, including: hotel reservation instructions; conference agendas; exhibit hall information and all other conference updates.

By: Stacy Horner

ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator



Registration for the 2014 ISAC Fall School opened on Wednesday, August 27. Please remember that you must register for the conference on the ISAC website before you are able to reserve your hotel room through the online housing system. Advanced conference registration closes at 4:30 pm on Friday, October 31; however, the ISAC hotel room blocks will only be available until 4:30 pm on Friday, October 17. We strongly encourage you to pre-register for the conference. It greatly helps the ISAC staff to plan accordingly for meals and materials. This keeps the conference registration rates as low as possible, which in turn saves money for your county. Please contact shorner@iowacounties.org if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in November!

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Where Are They Now?

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Office Manager



The *Where are they Now?* program began back in May 2014 when we highlighted the very first recipient of the ISAC top scholarship from 1997, Nathan Martin. Another interesting fact is that though Nathan may have been the first to receive an ISAC scholarship award, he was not alone; his sister Sara Martin also received an ISAC scholarship in 2008. Here is an update on Sarah's life since winning ISAC District 2 scholarship.

Before I graduated from Iowa Wesleyan with a Bachelor in Nursing in 2012, I went to Cambodia for two months in the summer before my junior year. My hopes were for this trip to help me decide if living overseas was something I really wanted to do. During this time, I helped teach English and worked at a place called Daughters which helps women who have left the sex trade. This experience confirmed to me that my passion is for the world and helping others discover their worth and value in life. When I came back home, I started my journey in talking with different organizations to send me to Cambodia for a much longer period of time. My passion also led me to meet my husband at an event I was conducting to raise awareness about Human Trafficking. He is the only person my age that I know who has been to more countries than me. This is pretty tough to beat since I have been to ten different countries.

For the last two years, I have been living in Des Moines working at Broadlawns Medical Center as a nurse on a Medical Surgical floor. When I am not working, I help teach English once a week to a few refugees from Burma and volunteer with middle schoolers at Freedom for Youth. I also attend, with my husband, a Khmer church service on Sunday mornings to help prepare us for Cambodia. This time in Des Moines has really showed my husband and I the importance of encouraging others and how blessed we are.

My husband and I recently got married in September, 2013. To prepare for moving to Cambodia, at the end of August 2014 we will be moving to live with a Cambodian family in Long Beach, California. This family and the connections we make will help us obtain an understanding of the culture and language before we head out to Cambodia. Our roles in Cambodia will vary and the details are not in place. However, we will more than likely help with health care and raising awareness with preventive care. Another big part will be creating small groups to help Cambodians recognize their identity and be able to heal from the trauma and hurts they have had to experience in their life.



Sarah Martin's senior photo



Sarah and Robert Radcliff



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NACo news

Annual Conference

“Don’t let ‘em kid you. It’s all rural.”-- Mike Bergan, former Winnishiek county supervisor.

After four days of controlled chaos at NACo’s annual conference in New Orleans and another day one week later at the White House Rural Council’s Rural Investment Opportunity Conference this farmer’s old brain is still swirling trying to make some sense of it all for this column. But I will try to hit some of the highlights.

Friday 0800:

The Ag and Rural Affairs Committee met all morning with several speakers from the area. One was John Dean an ISU graduate in Sustainable Agriculture who is now working for Central Louisiana Economic Development. His job is to coordinate nine counties and develop a regional food system. He so impressed some of the committee members that they want him to speak at the Rural Action Caucus retreat in Billings, Montana this fall! Go Cyclones!

The rest of the meeting was taken up by passage of our platform and resolutions. I threw one in there regarding the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Act. Apparently this has been in place since the late 1920s and as yet no rules have been written. They tried to get something in place with the Farm Bill but it was gutted in Ag Appropriations. This led to some discussion on whether it was more government regulation, but it did pass unanimously.

Friday 1330:

I caught the afternoon session of the Tech Summit. More stuff way over my head so read Robin Harlow’s article elsewhere in this issue. But do note that NACo’s County Innovation Network has about 500 people signed on. Fifty are from Iowa. The NACo folks really like our ICIT affiliate. More on them later. I happened to sit beside a nice lady who worked for Verizon. I asked when I would be able to get 4g out in Grove Township. She said that Verizon wants to make sure that all government officials had good reliable access and she would contact someone to make sure that it would happen for me. I had visions of porcine aviators dropping snowballs into a very hot place and recording their survivability rate.

Friday 1730:

Time to unwind and network with others.

Saturday 0800:

On my way to the convention center I saw this mass of

By: Melvyn Houser

Pottawattamie County Supervisor
NACo ISAC Board Representative



humanity (17,000) trotting down the street dressed mostly in white with red scarves and sashes. It was NOLA’s San Fermin festival and the running of the bulls. Only instead of real bulls they had roller derby girls with plastic bats swatting the runners. I think it was just an excuse to start drinking beer at 8:00 in the morning.

Waiting for the next workshop I decided to just sit in the foyer. It is amazing how many interesting people you can connect with while just staying in one place. You can exchange a lot of pleasantries and information and they do all the walking.

Saturday 1230:

Lunch with Mark Sybsma at the membership meeting. Iowa still has 23 counties who are not NACo members. If you have any questions about NACo membership and the value of becoming a member, don’t hesitate to contact Mark or myself. Anyone that goes to a conference will tell you it is worth it.

Saturday 1430:

Arts and Cultural Affairs Committee. Did you know that the arts industry comprises 4% of the GDP? That’s quite a bit. Imagine your community being devastated as New Orleans was after Katrina. Much of your population is gone, even those who make your community what it is. In their case, musicians and artists. How do you restore a culture? Jordan



Rural Opportunity Investment Conference

Photo – left to right: Melvyn Houser, Supervisor, Pottawattamie County, Iowa; Harrison Moody, Supervisor, Dinwiddie County, Virginia; Claire Collins, Supervisor, Bath County, Virginia; Linda Langston, NACo Immediate Past President, Supervisor, Linn County, Iowa; Bob Fox, Commissioner, Renville County, Minnesota

Hirsch talked of their recovery efforts to return the artists and musicians to the community and restore the culture there. One thing we should do is to inventory our arts and cultural assets the best we can and have a recovery strategy just as we do with our built infrastructure. As he said, "it is only valuable if you count it."

Saturday 1530: The opening general session was highlighted by Chef Jeff Henderson. He related his inspirational story of rise from gang member to prison to celebrity chef. It was a story of discovering your personal attributes and using them in a positive way.

Saturday 1900:

Speaking of food. The board reception that night, featured a buffet of Cajun and Creole fare. It wasn't until I'd about had my fill of gumbo and jambalaya that I spotted the roast pig at the back of the restaurant. I asked half jokingly where he gets his pork and the chef proceeded tell me in great detail about some backwoods farmer that supplies him and how he prepares it. It was really good too. They like their food in Louisiana.

Sunday??????

I can't remember when I sat in on the Waters of the US (WOTUS) discussion, so I will put it in here. Nancy Stoner, Assistant Deputy Director of the EPA was assuring us that the new definition of WOTUS would not be as drastic as everyone was making it out to be. She seemed very reassuring. During Q and A we were instructed to ask concise short questions and to not offer any polite commentary. So much for that. We got long rambling commentary from audience members with a question implied. So I asked a simple three word question. "Define perennial flow." Not really a question, but she didn't answer it anyway. EPA is taking comments until October 20th.

Sunday 1230:

The highlight of the conference. The NACo Achievement Awards luncheon featured our ICIT's Joel Rohne from Worth County and Scott Williams from Marshall County receiving the Best in Class award for Pay IT Forward. Technically the Award went to Worth County because, I presume, Joel submitted the application. But recognition really goes to those IT guys who participate in the program. Congratulations ICIT.

Sunday 1430:

The Board of Directors Meeting and the General Session the following day. Had a few contentious issues. Immigrant children and minimum wage. After an amendment to an amendment it was pointed out that Robert's Rules of Order allow for a third amendment to the first two. Anyway President Langston with the help of Past President Chris

Rodgers got things sorted out and votes were finally taken. Grant Veeder is proposing to leadership that resolutions only be approved by a super majority. This would mean that NACo would speak as one body and not a divided one. But the most interesting thing that happened was when the Credentialing Committee decided to let a county vote that had not picked up its papers on time. That would be akin to dropping in to the Auditors office on Wednesday and being allowed to vote. Linda finally called for a vote as to whether or not to allow this. The committee's decision was mercifully overruled.

Monday 1830:

Those folks in New Orleans really know how to put on an event. The remodeled Super Dome was full of food vendors from all over Louisiana, a great Zydeco band and a mini Mardi Gras parade. NACo conferences are loaded with information and are a lot of work. But they can be a lot of fun too. You should try one sometime.

At a CRIS Board meeting years ago, the late Otto Ewolt from Scott County and I were discussing the differences between urban and rural counties when Mike Bergan piped up and straightened us out. I don't know if he was referring to Iowa counties or to the salvation of Mankind. I prefer to go with the latter being a farmer and all. Regardless of your political affiliation or what you think of the current administration they realize the value of a strong rural economy. The White House Rural Council, Chaired by USDA Secretary Vilsack sponsored the Rural Opportunity Investment Conference on July 24th in Washington DC. Most of the 550 attendees were bankers and investment sorts. The purpose is to get more private investment dollars into rural America. "Opportunities" was the key phrase throughout the conference. The return on investment can be great. For example, the CEO of Stoneyfield's Organic Yogurt is contracting with a dairyman who is getting a 26% return on his small cow herd. Other places are creating capital funds to invest in local and regional food systems. The panelist in the biofuels workshop were equally excited about the opportunities for that industry. Some of the other workshops discussed water resources, infrastructure, transportation, education and entrepreneurship, and other subjects relating to rural America. Vilsack has always talked about this at previous NACo conferences. Now the government is creating a partnership with CoBank to start a fund for private investment. I felt a bit out of place with so many bankers in the room but it was nice to see so much excitement and interest in rural economic development.

Sounds like a great opportunity.



Criteria and Procedures 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 to apply is limited to children of current county officials or employees. This does not include city employees, employees of county extension offices, or candidates who are themselves county employees. Children of county assessors are eligible to apply for this scholarship.
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 scholarship committee shall award all scholarships and the decision of the selection committee shall be final.
10. The scholarship 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. Scholarship winners have two years to use their award. During the two years, they may apply to the scholarship committee for an extension of the time limit. The scholarship committee shall recommend to the ISAC Board of Directors whether to allow the extension of the time limit.
14. **Applications must be postmarked by December 12, 2014.**
15. **Applications should be mailed to:
ISAC, 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266-8202**

Scholarship Application

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home County _____ Home Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Name of High School _____

Mother's Name _____ Father's Name _____

Which parent is a county official or employee? _____

County and Department _____ County Position _____

County Phone # _____

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

Financial Need: In the space provided, explain your financial need for this scholarship:

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 letters from three (3) individuals other than family members (Teachers, employers, advisors, etc.).

Transcript: Please enclose a copy of your high school transcript with your application.

Technology Award: We are also offering the Iowa Counties Information Technology (ICIT) Award Scholarship. This scholarship is available to an applicant who intends to pursue a two (2) or four (4) year degree in a technology related major and/or a degree that leverages/incorporates technology. If this applies to you, on another sheet of paper which should be label "Technology Essay," tell us about your plans in this area.

For you to be considered for a scholarship you must:

1. Return application filled out completely
2. Enclose your typed essay
3. Include three letters of personal reference
4. Enclose your official high school transcript

Return to: Iowa State Association of Counties, 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266-8202. **Applications must be postmarked by December 12, 2014.**

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: _____

Volatility Will Likely Be Back

By: Miles Capital, Investment Advisor to Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust (IPAIT)

One year ago, Treasury rates jumped on concern regarding the potential for Fed tapering. Subsequent actual tapering has instead coincided with falling rates. Much of this downward rate pressure has come from poor economic numbers during the first quarter. Employment reports continue to show improving trends and inflation is gradually moving higher, which has resulted in the Fed remaining steady on its announced pace of tapering.

The final GDP release showed a decline in growth of -2.9 percent, the worst quarter in five years. The majority of this was likely caused by the severe winter weather which suppressed spending and import/export activity. The first estimate of second quarter U.S. GDP has surprised to the upside at an annualized rate of 4%. Consumer spending rebounded from depressed levels in the first quarter as did business and government spending contributions.

Rates displayed some volatility but ended the month nearly unchanged. The yield curve continued to flatten mostly in response to shorter rates moving higher but the curve remains relatively steep. Important contributors to this depressed rate environment are geopolitical unrest and the global level of accommodative monetary policy. The conflicts in the Ukraine and Iraq are encouraging a flight to quality. And, the European Central Bank took another accommodative step by adding liquidity to markets in June.

The Fed has had difficulty communicating its policy intentions and developing an effective exit strategy. Predictability of monetary policy is necessary for market stability, but is especially difficult given the data-dependent nature of their mission. The development of new tools such as the Fixed Term, Full Allotment reverse repo program will be valuable in conveying the Fed's intentions. The Fed remains on its steady course of tapering and market volatility remains subdued. However, we expect volatility to increase over the coming quarters as growth picks up.

IPAIT is here to help provide you options and safety of principal, no matter what the year brings. Keep us in mind for your future investment needs and visit us on the web at www.IPAIT.org. Thank you for your business and support.

Disclosure: The views expressed are those of the author as of the date of the article, are for informational purposes only, not meant as investment advice, and are subject to change. Miles Capital does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any statements contained in this material and is not obligated to provide updates.

counties in the spotlight



The 2014 Supervisors Executive Board recently held their annual retreat in Sidney (Fremont County). After their meeting, they met the 2014 Sidney, IA Rodeo Queen and enjoyed southwest Iowa hospitality at the Sidney, IA Championship Rodeo.

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the history of ISAC

Part I - Origins

This year we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the Iowa State Association of Counties, which means we are observing an event that occurred in 1964. But wait a minute: Was there no organization of county officials in Iowa prior to 1964? Actually, there was. ISAC's direct predecessor was called the Iowa State Association of County Officers. What was the difference between the two groups? It appears there were two differences: ISACO had an "O" in it, and ISAC was incorporated. Otherwise, they were the same organization. So while we celebrate 1964 as the year of the filing of papers that officially made our association a nonprofit corporation under Chapter 504 of the 1962 *Code of Iowa*, our history stretches back many years before that.

Tracking the origins of ISACO isn't as easy as locating a document filed with the Secretary of State. A lot of information not found in our sparse archives is in old newspapers, and an online service called newspapers.com is particularly helpful, but it is not comprehensive, and one doesn't know if one has exhausted all of the "key words" needed to uncover as much of the story as is available. Sometimes, you may be surprised to learn, the details of the facts presented in these old newspapers are demonstrably wrong, so one must be careful in making assertions if one has no corroborative evidence. Here's the best I can do on the origin of the Iowa State Association of County Officers, ISAC's forerunner: The *Mason City Globe-Gazette* ran an article in April of 1935 on the preparations for an ISACO meeting to be held in Mason City in June of that year. There is an interview in that article with T.C. Wooton, "the editor and business manager of the Iowa County Officer, the official organ of the Iowa State Association of County Officers." In the interview Mr. Wooton says, "The county officers association is 34 years old, but it has only become real active in the last two years." So if Mr. Wooton had his facts straight and was quoted accurately, our state association of counties began operations in 1901.

No 1901 newspaper I have been able to uncover proclaims the chartering of ISACO. But there is evidence of organizations of various county officers prior to that. The earliest mention I can find is in an 1894 article in the *Estherville Daily News* which states that the "County Auditors Association met in Des Moines," and lists officers elected. The article goes on to say that county treasurers met at the same time and "effected an organization," so we can at least date the beginning of the treasurers' association. Information is available from other sources. Former Iowa County Supervisor Linda Yoder donated

By: **Grant Veeder**

Black Hawk County Auditor
NACo Board of Directors



to ISAC some old group photos of county supervisors that are inscribed with dates, locations and other information. From these we can deduce that the supervisors held their first annual statewide convention in 1896.

Newspaper articles from that era give us early and somewhat confusing indicators of the ISAC district system. According to the *Humboldt Republican* and the *Postville Graphic*, the "County Supervisors association of southeastern Iowa" was set to meet in December of 1898 in Keokuk, while the "Second Congressional District County Supervisors association" planned a two-day meeting in Davenport in December of 1901, if we are to believe the *Davenport Republican*. Did county officers base their districts on congressional districts? If so, they would have had eleven in 1901. In his 1935 interview, T.C. Wooton stated that ISACO had six districts, as we have now. Iowa had nine congressional districts in 1935. So were there two district systems in play simultaneously for county supervisors at the turn of the twentieth century? Were congressional districts used for a while and then abandoned? Or did the *Davenport Republican* make a mistake? Take your pick.

During that period, in addition to supervisors, who served three-year staggered terms, county voters elected treasurers, recorders, auditors, attorneys, clerks of court, superintendents of schools, surveyors and coroners, all of whom held two-year terms. (In case you're curious, townships elected two constables and two justices of the peace in even-numbered years, and one of each in odd-numbered years.) Most of these officers had statewide groups: The Iowa County Attorneys Association is mentioned in a 1903 story, and the County Clerks, Records, and Sheriffs Associations (as well as the auditors and supervisors) all planned to hold individual meetings in Des Moines during the 1904 session of the Iowa General Assembly. A bewildering note about the 30-county Northwestern Iowa County School Superintendents holding their district convention in Waterloo (which must have been on the far east edge of the Northwestern district) appears in a March, 1903 edition of the *Perry Daily Chief*.

Of course some of those offices no longer exist. The county surveyors were last on the ballot in 1908 (no record found of a district or statewide organization), the county superintendents of schools in 1912. Statewide and district county coroners'

Continues on next page.

organizations are mentioned in a 1930 article, and a 1958 issue of the *Carroll Daily Times Herald* reports a resolution from the annual meeting of the Iowa State Coroners Association that calls for a change in Iowa law so that coroners would be required to be “licensed medical men.” The movement was successful, and appointed medical examiners replaced elected coroners in 1961.

What, then, about affiliates for non-elected county officials? We find that the Iowa County Homes Stewards Association (later the Stewards and Matrons, later the Care Facilities Administrators, later totally defunct) was formed in 1912 “to work in conjunction with the county supervisors for the betterment of the county homes of the state.” I can’t tell you (yet, anyway) when county engineer and city assessor associations were formed, but they both attended the 1930 ISACO meeting in Des Moines and elected officers. (A law effective in 1948 did away with 1,600 township assessors and assessors in cities of less than 10,000 population, and created the modern county assessor system.)

Regarding ISACO statewide meetings with multiple affiliates in attendance, a 1913 article in the *Sioux County Index* tells of an upcoming meeting in Council Bluffs bringing together auditors, treasurers, supervisors and farm home stewards. ISACO met in Sioux City in 1927 with (at least) supervisors, clerks of court, sheriffs, recorders and treasurers. The *Terril Record* reported on the 1930 convention in Des Moines, and notes that member organizations include “county auditors, clerks, treasurers, engineers, recorders, supervisors, stewards and matrons and city assessors.” Missing are the sheriffs, who don’t show up again at the meetings until they become an ISAC affiliate in 1972. Before 1943, the annual ISACO meetings were termed “conventions.” In that year, they became “schools of instruction.” Why the change? Probably so that attendees could get reimbursement of travel expenses from their counties, a law change that ISACO was working on as early as 1931. If you fast forward to 1969, you can find a sour view of the practice expressed by Polk County Supervisors Tom Whitney and Richard Brannon in the *Des Moines Register*. “They call this a ‘school of instruction’ instead of a convention so the counties will pay for it,” said Whitney. “The purpose of this gathering isn’t education. It’s to spend taxpayers’ money and get drunk.” Whitney and Brannon introduced resolutions to improve the annual gatherings at a Saturday meeting of the October, 1969 school. “I don’t think

we’ll get our resolutions passed,” Whitney said, “but I think these problems should be discussed.” Pay your own way *and* meet on a Saturday. Okay.

Why did the group decide to become a legal corporation in 1964? Possibly because a 1959 law change made incorporation in Iowa simpler, so much so that out-of-state businesses were incorporating here. Plus, it was a big step toward being recognized as THE association for Iowa counties, with a secure funding stream that would allow an office and staffing, but that was still some years away.

So let’s get to that historic act fifty years ago. Dated October 8, 1964, the ISAC Articles of Incorporation gave as their purposes the perpetuation and strengthening of county government, the establishment of a medium to exchange ideas, the encouragement of interest in civic affairs for the public betterment and the enactment of laws beneficial to good government. They gave ISAC the authority to acquire and dispose of real property and to publish a magazine, and to do any other legal acts deemed necessary by the members. They listed the counties in the six ISAC districts (which remain unchanged today) and they listed the corporation’s ten affiliated associations: those of the Supervisors, Auditors, Treasurers, Clerks of Court, Records, Engineers, Home Stewards and Matrons, Assessors, Unintegrated County Relief Directors, and Non-voting Social Members.

Affiliate-wise, there have been deletions, additions, denials and name changes. If you go to the 50th Anniversary Celebration link on the ISAC website (iowacounties.org) you can find a list of the Earliest Known Existence of Affiliates and their Association with ISAC (or ISACO). There are also lists of the Known Past Presidents of ISAC (and ISACO) and the ISAC Board Members Since 1970. If you perceive errors in any of these data, please contact me at gveeder@co.black-hawk.ia.us. In next month’s article, we’ll look at other big dates in ISAC’s history, and issues that impacted ISACO and ISAC through the years.

2014 calendar

September 2014

- 4 ISAC Business Property Tax Credit webinar
- 11-12 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Humboldt County)
- 23-24 CCMS Annual Conference
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 25 ISAC LPC Meeting
(ISAC Office)
- 28-30 Assessors Annual Conference
(Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)

October 2014

- 1 ISAC Cybersecurity webinar
- 14 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 14-15 IEHA Fall Conference
(Best Western, Marshalltown)
- 16-17 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

November 2014

- 6 CCMS Advanced Case Management Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 12-14 ISAC Fall School of Instruction
(Veteran's Memorial Community Choice
Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

December 2014

- 3 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)
- 9-11 ICEA Annual Conference
(Ames)
- 10 ISAC Legislative Update webinar

2015 Conferences/Events

- January 14-15 ISAC New County Officers School
(Meadows Events and Conference
Center, Altoona)
- February 21-25 NACo Legislative Conference
(Washington D.C.)
- March 11 County Day at the Capitol
(Des Moines)
- March 12-13 ISAC Spring School of Instruction
(Des Moines Marriott Downtown)
- July 10-13 NACo Solutions and Idea Marketplace
(Charlotte, NC)
- November 18-20 ISAC Fall School of Instruction
(Cedar Rapids Convention Complex)

If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC calendar, please contact Stacy Horner at shorner@iowacounties.org.

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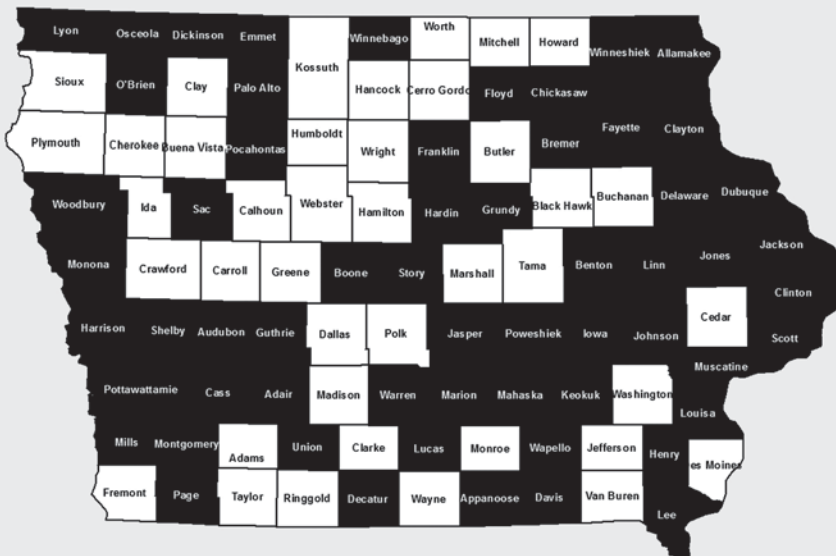
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