

The Iowa County

Iowa Association of Counties


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January 2015

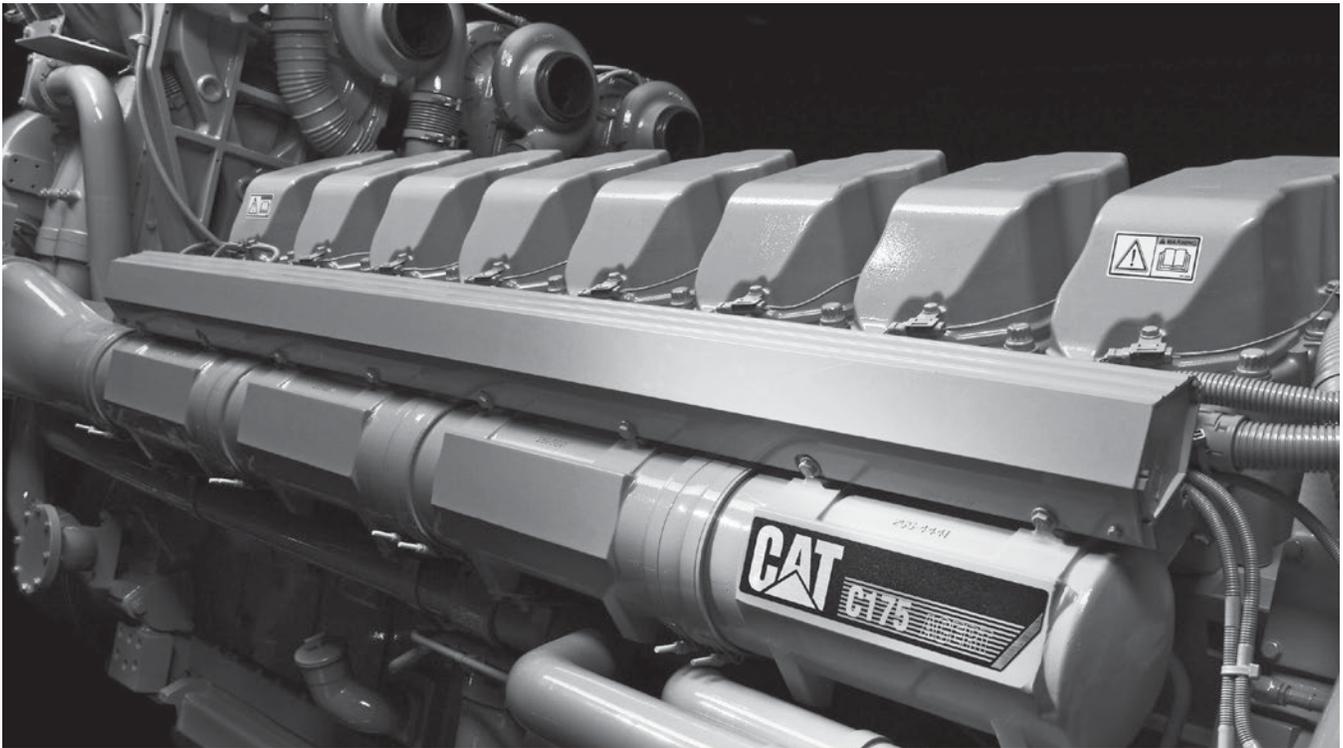
2015 Legislative Priorities Handout

50th Celebration Wrap-up

Recorders Graduates

ISAC History





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The Iowa County

The Iowa County: The official magazine of the Iowa State Association of Counties
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190
West Des Moines, IA 50266
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ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties. *The Iowa County* (ISSN 0892-3795, USPS 0002-150) is published monthly by the Iowa State Association of Counties, 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines, IA 50318. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to rbennett@iowacounties.org. Subscriptions: \$25 per year.

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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.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Thank you for attending!

ISAC would like to thank all attendees of the 2014 ISAC 50th Anniversary Celebration and Fall School of Instruction held on November 12-14. More than 850 county officials traveled to Des Moines for this year's conference that was held at Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center. We would also like to thank the nearly 60 exhibitors and all of our 2014 preferred vendors. Exhibitor attendance enables us to keep registration fees low. Also, a special thank you to the 50th Anniversary Celebration Sponsors. These sponsors enabled us to add a door prize, a membership map and photo, a celebration reception, anniversary cake, and much more! A conference of this scale would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, exhibitors and preferred vendors!

Food and Fund Drive

Thanks to those who participated in this year's community service project. Your generous donations ISAC donated over \$800 in food and cash to the Food Bank of Iowa. Congratulations to the treasurers affiliate who won the donation competition and will receive a free refreshment break at their next affiliate conference.

Membersip Photo

As you can see pictured on the cover, the membership photo was a great success - so much so that we underestimated our space requirements. We apologize to those of you who were cut out of the photo, those who had to unnecessarily walk up the escalator, and those who were forced to get a little too cozy with their neighbors. We hope that you agree that the photo turned out great. Special thank yous go to photo sponsor D.A. Davidson, crowd controller Chuck Rieken, and photographer Steve DeVries. A taggable photo is on our Facebook page - please make sure to "like us" while you are there! A copy of the final photo will be mailed to each corthouse and will be avialable for download on the ISAC website.

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



50th Anniversary Celebration



feature - affiliate highlights

Iowa County Recorders Association

The Iowa County Records Association (ICRA) recognized their second graduating class of the Iowa County Recorders Certification Program at a ceremony held on Friday, November 14, 2014. The graduation event occurred in conjunction with the ISAC Fall School of Instruction in Des Moines. Fourteen Recorders received certificates and pins for completing the program.

The certification program provides Iowa county recorders and deputy recorders with the opportunity to learn how to effectively and professionally fulfill their elected duties and to better serve their communities. It was created by the ICRA with the assistance of personnel from the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach office. Participants in the program must complete 30 credit hours of training including 21 core credits and nine elective credits. The areas covered in the program are leadership and ethics, open meetings and open records, communications, human resources and office management, the Iowa Code and resources, technology applications, and local government and budgets.

County recorders and deputy recorders who become certified must complete continuing education classes to retain their certification. The completion of the program is a testimony to the dedication these graduates have to providing excellence in public service.

Congratulations to the new Certified Iowa County Recorders.

Nancy Booten, Lee County Recorder
Ann Ditsworth, Dickinson County Recorder
Polly Glascock, Warren County Recorder
Julie Haggerty, Polk County Recorder
Melissa Helmond, Cedar County Recorder



Angie Horton, Wayne County Recorder
Laurie Hunter, Lucas County Recorder
Kim Painter, Johnson County Recorder
Sherry Pope, Iowa County Recorder
Veronica Rardin, Boone County Recorder
Pat Skuster, Mitchell County Recorder
Susan Smith, O'Brien County Recorder
Lexa Speidel, Benton County Recorder
Shirley Wandling, Henry County Recorder

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ISAC History: Part IV - The Oddball Files

By: **Grant Veeder**

Black Hawk County Auditor
and ISAC Historian



I hope everyone has had their fill of ISAC's objectives and milestones, because I've had about as much of that as I can stand for now. I'm ready to turn to the entertaining stuff, stories that may have seemed ordinary at the time but that look surprising or quirky to us now. These are not significant events or examples of ISAC fulfilling its mission. They're just nuggets that tickled my funnybone.

Solliday's Holidays. Why doesn't ISAC sponsor member trips to Spain anymore? Trips like that appear to have been all the rage in the early '70s. On June 10, 1971 the ISAC Board heard from Don Solliday of Solliday's Holidays Travel Agency, who proposed a tour of Spain to be sponsored by ISAC. For \$295 each, members would get a round-trip ticket, double accommodations, two meals a day, a cocktail party and baggage handling. Two weeks later, the Board approved the trip, and the September 1971 issue of the *Iowa County Officer* reported that the tour would take place in February of 1972 and be based at Hotel Las Piramides in Fuengirola on Spain's Mediterranean coast. "Already a good number have confirmed their intent to join the tour," states the magazine. "Only 250 seats are available..."

Somewhere there must be a diary or memoir commenting on this trip, but all we know from the record is that it was successful enough that discussion went forward for "the annual ISAC group tour for 1973." But after this the board minutes generate more questions than answers. Did a 1973 trip actually take place? In June of 1972 a committee was formed to "select a location" for a sponsored tour "in early 1973." When a trip to Ireland was suggested at a November 1972 meeting, the board decided to hold off any action "until arrangements on our present tour are finalized." What was our "present" tour? Were its arrangements ever finalized? Or did it spin its wheels until November of 1975, when the board minutes included this terse note: "Received Conway Travel Services' offer in planning ISAC sponsored tour. Rejected. It was decided not to have a sponsored tour." Looks like the killjoys took over.

The Hospitality Room Controversy. ISAC members, by and large, like to work hard and they like to play hard. But there's a time and place for everything, and some traditions have to be scrutinized from the point of view of appearances. Here's an excerpt from the ISAC Board of Directors meeting of June 12, 1972:

"[Wapello County Clerk of Court] C.K. Wise spoke about the extended social hours that are listed as part

of the program at district meetings or workshops. Board members agreed that such practices cause problems in the presentation of a worthwhile program at such meetings. Motion was made by [Pottawattamie County Supervisor] Buck Sorensen and seconded by [Greene County Supervisor] Glen Grow that the Iowa State Association of Counties establish a policy that social hours not be published or publicized as part of the district meetings or workshop programs; and that such activities should be eliminated or held after the official meeting was adjourned. The motion was adopted. The Executive Director was then instructed to write a letter to each of the district presidents informing them of the new policy."

Understanding the common practice of employing tact in writing minutes, I'd love to know the shocking list of transgressions that led the directors to "agree that such practices cause problems." Anyway, one would think that this was the end of the matter, but it seems that the statewide organization had its own practices best not "published or publicized." On May 7, 1975, the Board met via conference call to take action as follows:

"The board discussed the various ways of maintaining or abolishing hospitality rooms for the annual school of instruction. The board voted to take the following action: A. Hospitality rooms would be allowed to be operated by the suppliers during the annual school, but no hospitality room should be open during the official school sessions of the association and its affiliates. Further, hospitality rooms should close during the entertainment portion of the program on Thursday evening. B. The association should notify all suppliers who sign up for hospitality rooms that opening and closing hours should be adhered to during the school. C. There will be no entertainment on Wednesday evening, but there will be on Thursday evening along with a subsidized bar at 50¢ per drink."

First, in case anyone is wondering why there's a fuss about vendors being hospitable, go back and substitute "free booze" wherever it says "hospitality." Second, what is this "should"? "No hospitality room *should* be open...hospitality rooms *should* close...opening and closing hours *should* be adhered to..." The disinclination to use "shall" comes off as a bit timid. The practice of vendors dispensing unlimited "hospitality" may have been so ingrained that the board felt better about establishing

Continues on page 8.

feature - ISAC history

guidelines rather than rules. And maybe the fifty-cent drinks were calculated to keep the membership from rebelling against this intrusion on its relaxation.

How well did the coaxing approach work? Well, in the October 12, 1976 board meeting, Franklin County Treasurer Marjorie Schneider moved “to inform the hospitality room holders to keep their doors closed until after 5:00 or they will be asked not to participate in the annual school.” So apparently not everyone was doing what they “should” do. But the mood was shifting. The minutes of January 25, 1977 note that “feedback from several hospitality room holders” indicated there would be cooperation with the 5:00 rule.

Then – disaster! Board minutes, August 22, 1978: “Don Cleveland notified the board that an opinion by ISAC’s legal counsel, Lee Gaudineer, said that it would be illegal in light of the bribery law for commercial or private interests to provide hospitality rooms or entertainment at ISAC functions.” Imagine the world of woe ISAC endured when there were no hospitality rooms, even *after* 5:00 pm. But the Iowa General Assembly charged to the rescue. Minutes of March 20, 1980: “*Hospitality Room Policy* – John Torbert, ISAC staff, explained the legislative change in the gift statute effective July 1.” We are led to infer that hospitality was again legal. “After much discussion a motion was made by [Marion County Care Facility Administrator] Vernon Orr that we change our policy and that we allow them to open after our meetings. Second by [Scott County Recorder] Dick Hagen. Motion carried.” They say that water will find its level. Apparently, “hospitality” will too.

Every County Auditor’s Dream. The office of county assessor as it exists today didn’t come into being until the late 1940s. Prior to that, there were 1600 township assessors, elected positions that saw such “terrific turnover” that “it was almost useless to try to conduct training schools,” according to John Barnes, then director of the State Tax Commission’s property tax division. There were also over 900 city and town assessors. The Iowa legislature passed Senate File 46 in 1947, which abolished the township assessors and the assessors for municipalities with populations under 10,000. It created the position of county assessor and the board of review, and provided for more consistent assessment of property. The *Carroll Daily Times Herald* reported that Iowa Governor Robert D. Blue called the bill one of the most important pieces of legislation that year, because the new county assessor system “would result in more equitable distribution of taxes and actually more revenue.”

The initial law was a transitional step to the system used today. The first county assessors were, in fact, the sitting county auditors, who were given \$300 in addition to their annual salary, which was set by statute in a range from \$2,400 to \$4,800, based on size of county. But it was understood that the actual assessing would be done by deputy assessors, who would be appointed by the auditors from a pool of individuals in the county who had passed an exam given by the State Tax Commission with a grade of not less than 70%. This is where the fun starts.

SF 46 said that the annual salaries of the deputy assessors would be fixed by the boards of supervisors, but a separate bill passed that year addressing the compensation of county officers instructed the supervisors to pay the deputies the same salary as the county auditor. SF 46 also said the following: “Deputy assessors shall be appointed by the county auditor and may be removed by him only for malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in office.” (Please excuse the “him”. There were about 13 female auditors at the time.) As the *Kossuth County Advance* explained, “This office of [deputy] county assessor is unique in office holding in this country, being comparable only to the U.S. Supreme Court, where justices are named for life.”

The Legislature instructed the Tax Commission to effect examinations for deputy assessor in each county seat “as soon as practical” after the law’s passage. Guess who started signing up for the exam? An Associated Press story run on July 15, 1947 says, “About half of Iowa’s county auditors will try to become county assessors, they indicated at the state tax commission’s school of assessing instruction yesterday.” All they had to do to get the new position was pass the exam and appoint themselves. “A county auditor who resigns to become county assessor would lose only the extra \$300 a year he receives for acting as county assessor ex-officio,” says the story, “and in return he gets unlimited tenure in office, as the assessor can be removed only for cause.” Most elected county officials can identify with the auditors’ sentiments, especially when they realize that back then the terms were two years instead of four.

How many auditors actually pulled the trigger on this scheme? Of the 98 county assessors listed in the 1950-51 *Iowa Official Register* (there was one vacancy), 24 were listed as county auditors in the 1947-48 *Register*. How did it work out for them? Someone else needs to do that research, but the auditors-turned-assessors probably weren’t happy when the legislature changed the rules on them. The 1949 General Assembly amended the 1947 law in a number of respects. Most notably, it decreed

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CM&MHDS Menu of Services

By: *Deb Eckerman Slack*
ISAC CM & MHDS Manager



As I wrote in the October 2014 magazine article, the Case Management and Mental Health Disability Services (CM&MHDS) 28E agreement was revised to address the changing landscape of the mental health and disability services world in Iowa. The changes in the amended 28E were as follows:

- Change the name from County Case Management Services (CCMS) to CM&MHDS. This change allows more flexibility in the services offered and expands the service scope beyond just county case management entities.
- Allows for more options on withdrawal; the original 28E mandated that agencies had to notify the CCMS Board of withdrawal by November 15 preceding the year of withdrawal. The amended 28E allows four other options of withdrawal dates and associated costs.
- The amended 28E continues to be under the direction and control of its Board of Directors, but adds three non-voting, ex-officio advisory members of case management supervisors or directors from member agencies. It was felt that this added value to the process by getting direct input from member agencies.
- Broadens the scope of service to allow for the contracting of services with any public or private agency to provide services.

The CM&MHDS Board of Directors met on November 13, 2014 during the ISAC Fall School. At this meeting the Board approved a fee for service menu that CM&MHDS will offer to any mental health or disability agency that is not a member of CM & MHDS. The list of services include quality assurance activities for Chapter 24 accreditation and Chapter 90 compliance, Medicaid rules/regulations and best practices, Medicaid billing audits and agency specific training to name a few. We will also tailor training to an agency as requested if we have the expertise to provide the training.

While we acknowledge the changing landscape of the mental health and disability arena in the state, we still believe that ongoing training, technical assistance and quality assurance is an important aspect to agencies and the people they serve. If you have any questions regarding the fee for service menu please feel free to contact me at 515.244.7181 or deckerman@iowacounties.org. We are in the process of putting together a brochure to explain further the menu and fees.

feature - ISAC history

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that the deputy assessors appointed under SF 46 “are hereby declared to be the county assessors of their respective counties, and their terms shall expire January 1, 1950...” At least 90 days prior to this expiration, the Conference Board was to decide whether to retain the newly anointed assessor or to hold a new exam. Whoever was chosen, they weren’t going to be like Supreme Court justices anymore. The office would from that time have a term of four years (later increased to six).

The assessor’s job must have still held an attraction for auditors. I noticed in my *Iowa Official Register* “Red Book” research that Russell Muench became Boone County Auditor in 1948. Further scrutiny revealed that he held that position until 1964. I knew him as Boone City Assessor. He was on my paper

route, and he hired my mom, Chris Veeder, as deputy assessor. Apparently he saw moving from auditor to assessor as a good career move. When he retired, my mother was appointed city assessor. Her son had to settle for plain old county auditor.

With these oddments we come to the end of this series of articles on ISAC history. I’d like to thank everyone who lent me assistance or responded helpfully to my requests for information, especially Rachel Bennett, Tammy Norman and Bill Peterson of ISAC, Dallas County Engineer Jim George, and Iowa Capitol Law Librarian Mandy Easter. And thank you to the many readers who offered kind words. You remind me how much a little encouragement can mean to the people we work with.

capitol comments

ISAC Top Priorities

Road and bridge funding is once again one of ISAC's top legislative priorities. The cost of building and maintaining roads and bridges continues to increase while the per gallon user fee on gasoline, the largest source of infrastructure funding, has not been raised since 1989. Safe and properly maintained roads and bridges are crucial to agriculture, education, economic development, tourism, and many other industries, yet our infrastructure continues to decline due to inadequate funding. In addition to general inflation raising the costs of both labor and materials, the road maintenance issues have been exacerbated by harsh winters, flooding, and heavy equipment usage. Because counties are limited in the amount of property tax dollars that can be transferred to be used for secondary roads and bridges, they are largely dependent on state and federal dollars for critical infrastructure maintenance and repair.

ISAC has offered five possible solutions that would begin to address the problem, especially if applied together. Those potential solutions are: 1) an increase in the per gallon user fee for gasoline or putting in place what has become known as the hybrid approach where the per gallon user fee is decreased while an excise tax is applied to the wholesale price of gasoline; 2) authorization for the Iowa Department of Transportation to provide primary highway funds to local governments in lieu of federal funds in order to provide efficiencies for all levels of government; 3) an increase in the permit fees for oversize and overweight vehicles; 4) maintaining the \$225 million cap on the TIME-21 fund and distributing excess revenues via the RUTF formula; and 5) the application of the state excise sales tax on dyed fuel sales and the designation of this revenue to specifically address bridge and culvert repairs on the secondary road system.

Addressing inequities, inconsistencies, and the loss of taxable value in the new multi-residential property classification is a new legislative objective for ISAC, and was approved by the membership to be one of the top priorities. The new classification is made up of property with three or more dwellings, such as apartment complexes, assisted living facilities, mobile home parks, and other similar properties. SF 295, the property tax relief bill in 2013, created this new classification and a legislatively imposed rollback that decreases 3.75% per year until assessment year 2022 when the class will become coupled with the rollback for residential property. The rollback is backfilled for two years while the properties are still considered commercial, but local governments will see what is effectively a 13.75% reduction in taxable value in assessment year 2015 and up to nearly 40% over the next eight years. ISAC supports a standing appropriation to ease the hardship of the substantial loss in future revenue local governments will experience.

By: ISAC Government Relations Team



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Another issue in need of being fixed is the classification and taxation of properties that have multiple uses, such as a building with both commercial and multi-residential components. An administrative rule recently adopted would require a multiple use property to be taxed wholly as multi-residential if the primary use is determined to be multi-residential, but if the primary use is commercial or industrial then each component would be taxed according to its classification. ISAC supports legislation that would address the administrative rule and implement a system of dual classification for multiple use properties so each portion is taxed according to its classification.

Providing continued stability for counties as they move into the regional mental health and disability services system is again a top legislative priority for ISAC. While things appear to be stable now with the \$30 million that was provided in equalization funding for FY 2015, \$10 million of that had to be returned to the state by the Medicaid "clawback" which was brought on by the savings due to services that are now covered by the Iowa Health and Wellness plan. We will also see a change for a number of county mental health levies across the state that will be lowered due to the clawback in FY 2016 because if a county's "clawback" exceeded the amount given to them in equalization, the county is required to lower its levy to make up the difference. ISAC will continue to be opposed to the "clawback" and supports either equalization funding or allowing counties to have consistent levies within their region to meet core and core plus services which was the intent of mental health redesign.

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Our final legislative priority addresses what a number of counties now are facing with records requests. Many companies seek Iowa taxpayer records with the intent of further resale and for the most part, these requests have been easily met by the counties. However we have now seen a recent number of companies wanting data in a format that is not easily accessible by the county or asking for manipulation of the data which would be

a tremendous cost to the county. As result of these requests, we have seen counties threatened and some engaged in legal action if the company data demands are not met. To address this, ISAC is asking for legislation that would allow counties to reject data requests that would not be easily accessible by the county and to allow for payment up front for records that would require significant data manipulation.

Legislative Communications

ISAC employs a number of tools to keep our members informed and involved during the legislative session. Having a membership that is active in the legislative process is imperative for us to be successful on your behalf at the Capitol.

ISAC Update

The ISAC Update is a weekly email newsletter that is sent to all ISAC members (and other interested parties) on Fridays that focuses on timely legislative issues and topics of importance to county officials. Non-legislative announcements regarding conferences, county eligible awards and grants, etc. are also included. The ISAC Update is arguably the most important publication that we create and send to our members. It is sent on a weekly basis in order to keep our membership informed about the legislation that will affect county government. The legislative policy team works hard each week to report these topics to you, so that you are educated when talking to your legislators.

We send out special edition and/or call to action ISAC Updates during the week when it's urgent for our membership to contact their legislators regarding a certain bill or topic. If you receive this type of email from us and the bill will have a direct effect on your office, we ask that you contact your legislators and voice your concerns or support.

Legislative Forums

Included in the ISAC Update are links to the legislative forums held by the legislators around the state. By receiving this email on Friday morning it should enable you to have all of the information and talking points that you need to visit your legislators during their forums and to speak to them about the important issues that would affect county government – both positively and negatively.

Legislative Comment Form

The legislative comment form is included on our website and linked after each topic in the ISAC Update. Any information that you can provide us about how a bill may directly affect your

By: Rachel Bennett

ISAC Marketing/Communication
Coordinator



county is extremely useful information at the Capitol. If you talk to your legislator about a specific bill, you can use this form to update us about your interaction. If you have a question about a bill's contents or question our interpretation of its contents this form can be used. This tool is a quick and easy way for you to get your feedback directly to us.

Tracking Tool

The ISAC Tracking Tool is a great website that allows you to track legislation that will have possible effects on county government. This tool is sortable and searchable by every field, including affiliate. Fields include file and bill number, title, a brief description, ISAC staff member/s assigned to the bill, affiliate, ISAC position, and status of the bills in the legislative process. Find this informative tool on the ISAC website by clicking on tacking tool under the legislative tab.

NEW – ISAC Top Priorities Video

New to this year's ISAC government relations arsenal will be videos highlighting each of our top priorities. A five minutes video will feature all of ISAC's four top priorities, and each priority will then be afforded its own 60 – 90 second videos as well. These five videos will be available on ISAC's YouTube page for you to upload to your websites, to share during your presentations, to share with your local media outlets, to share with your legislators, and to share with your constituents to educate them on the importance of the role of county government and the challenges that you are facing. You will be notified via email when the videos are available.

We strive to send out communications that are as easily readable, concise and as informative as possible. If you have any suggestions that could make our communications better, please don't hesitate to contact me at 515.244.7181 or rbicego@iowacounties.org. An informed membership is crucial for our association to be successful.

ISAC meetings

Spring School Registration Opens January 21

It's a new year, so don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2015 ISAC Spring School of Instruction being held in conjunction with County Day at the Capitol. Online registration for both events will open at 8:30 am on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. Spring School will take place on March 12-13, 2015 at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. County Day at the Capitol will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Please remember that you must pre-register for the Spring School on the ISAC website before making your hotel reservation through the online housing system.

In addition to the Des Moines Marriott Downtown, hotel room blocks will be available at the Renaissance Des Moines Savery Hotel, Holiday Inn Downtown and Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown. A limited number of hotel rooms will be available on Tuesday evening, March 10 prior to County Day at the Capitol, so please note this when making your hotel accommodations.

By: Kelsey Sebern

ISAC Meeting/Event
Administrator



All Spring School activities and affiliate meetings will take place in one location again this year, the Des Moines Marriott Downtown. You can find all of the information that you need to prepare for the spring school on the conference website, <http://www.iowacounties.org/meetings-and-events/spring-school-of-instruction/>. From conference registration information to affiliate agendas to maps of downtown Des Moines, the website is updated on a regular basis with new and important conference details.

Affiliate agendas and miscellaneous affiliate meeting requests are due to ISAC by 4:30 pm on Friday, January 30, 2015. Online housing will close at 4:30 pm on Friday, February 13, 2015. Pre-registration for both events will close on Friday, February 27, 2015.

Please don't hesitate to contact ISAC (515.244.7181 or ksebern@iowacounties.org) if you have any questions about our upcoming events in 2015!

ISAC Conference Q&A Webinar

Tuesday, January 20
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Where is the coffee? Why is the Marriott sold out already? Why is ISAC changing conference dates?

Please join Kelsey Sebern, ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator, and other members of the ISAC staff during this webinar that will offer answers to the most commonly asked questions regarding ISAC conferences and events. Kelsey is looking

forward to introducing herself and to listening to your concerns. She is enthusiastic about making improvements to upcoming conferences based on your feedback.

Specific concerns from the fall school post-conference survey as well as any additional questions will be addressed. Please send any questions/comments in advance of the webinar to rbennett@iowacounties.org. A standard question and answer period will conclude the webinar as well.

Board Meeting Summary - November 12, 2014

ISAC President Harlan Hansen called the meeting to order.

Bill Peterson introduced Kelsey Sebern, ISAC Meeting/Events Administrator. Kelsey gave her background and expressed her pride and excitement over the opportunity.

Wayne Chizek, Nominating Committee member, reported the following 2015 ISAC Executive Committee recommendation on behalf of the nominating committee that was made up of Melvyn Houser, Chair, Joan McCalmant and he:

President Melvyn Houser

1st Vice President Joan McCalmant

2nd Vice President Peggy Rice

3rd Vice President Lonny Pulkrabek

The Board approved the recommendations unanimously.

Melvyn Houser introduced Emilia Istrate, NACo Director of Research and Outreach. Emilia gave a brief background and discussed her projects. She spoke during the General Session and also hosted an Educational Seminar during the conference.

President Hansen adjourned the meeting.

General Session Summary - November 12, 2014

ISAC President Harlan Hansen called the General Session to order. The invocation was given by Stan Watne, Wright County Supervisor, and President Hansen led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. JoAnn Collins, Madison County Treasurer, led the membership in a special musical performance of the National Anthem.

Harlan introduced the ISAC Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Bill Peterson gave conference announcements and thanked the sponsors, exhibitors and ISAC Preferred Vendors.

Bill presented Larry “Buck” Koos with an ISAC Board Resolution honoring him for his heroic act during the Jackson County Board of Supervisors meeting on September 9, 2014.

Bill introduced Emilia Istrate, NACo Director of Research and Outreach, who updated the members on NACo’s research efforts and the importance of becoming NACo members.

Wayne Chizek, CoSTAR Committee Chair and Marshall County GIS Director, presented the 2014 ISAC Excellence in Action Awards to the University of Northern Iowa’s Native Seed Distribution Program, Story County’s Strategically Planning: Building a Solid Foundation, and Melissa Bird, Keokuk County

Recorder. He gave special recognition to the ICIT “Pay-IT-Forward” who won the NACo Achievement Award in the Technology category at this year’s NACo Annual Conference.

Joan McCalmant, ISAC Legislative Policy Committee Chair and Linn County Recorder, presented the 2015 ISAC Legislative Priorities to the membership. The 2015 ISAC legislative policy statements, objectives and top priorities were accepted by the membership.

Bill Peterson gave a background on the ISAC Golden Eagle and introduced Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds. The Lt. Governor honored and introduced Richard Heidloff, Lyon County Treasurer, as the 2014 ISAC Golden Eagle. Richard addressed the General Session.

President Hansen gave his thoughts on his year as president. Vice President Melvyn Houser shared the goals of his upcoming term as ISAC President.

Keynote Speaker Steve Ford presented “Getting to the Top with Character and Leadership.”

President Hansen adjourned the General Session.

Board Meeting Summary - December 3, 2014

ISAC President Harlan Hansen called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were given.

The ISAC Board of Directors meeting minutes from October 16-17, 2014 and the ISAC Board of Directors meeting and General Session minutes from November 12, 2014 were reviewed and approved unanimously. The ETC Board of Directors meeting minutes from October 16 were reviewed for informational purposes.

Dan Rees presented the analytics financial dashboard that was created to give ISAC the ability to create reports on the fly. The software used to create the dashboard was originally purchased for ETC, but it has been leveraged for this project. The dashboard is currently being used to create financial and meetings reports.

Tammy Norman gave a background on her duties related to the election results provided by ISAC. Jeanine Scott gave an overview of the need for and the process that was used to create the ISAC Election Tool, and Dylan Young gave a demo to the Board. Overall, the tool has been an excellent solution that has both saved ISAC a lot of staff time and given ISAC members a user-friendly tool that offers results much more quickly.

Robin Harlow gave a background on the project and Freaky Fresh Marketing. Rachel Bennett explained the need for the video project and gave an overview of the proposals that included three options. Option 1 was to create an "About ISAC" video discussing services that would roll out in late spring/early summer of 2015; option 2 was to create an "ISAC Legislative Top Priorities" video highlighting each priority that would roll out at the start of the 2015 session; and option 3 was no immediate action moving forward. The board unanimously approved options 1 and 2 following ample discussion.

Bill Peterson reported that ISAC currently administers a self-funded health plan for 24 counties and ISAC staff. Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Iowa (Wellmark) acts as the third-party administrator for the plan. Amanda Nelson, Wellmark, gave a presentation reviewing program highlights for 2014 and highlighted proposed changes to the Specialty Pharmacy Program that will allow for more convenience for members at no additional cost. Amy Gould, Wellmark, explained changes to the Condition Support Program that will move from a five to three-condition model. The wellness program has been extremely successful. Counties are engaged and the participation rate had been really good.

Bill gave an overview of the financials of the ISAC Group Health Program and reported an estimated net loss of \$137,666 with an ending fund balance of \$21.7 million at the end of FY 2014. He reviewed the financial projections for FY 2015 and FY 2016 each including the Program paying for ACA fees (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and transitional reinsurance fees) out of program reserves. Bill recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following actions:

1. Approve recommended base rates with income increase of 8.17%.
2. Approve adjustments to specialty prescription drug programs.
3. Adopt discount proposal with loss of discount limited to 5% per year.
4. Adopt proposal to pay PCORI and transitional reinsurance fees through FY 2016.

Jamie Cashman explained that in addition to their previous affiliate assignments that he will now act as the primary staff assigned to the auditors, environmental health, and public health affiliates during the 2015 session and that Lucas will cover the recorders and treasurers. He gave an update on the work that is being done on the legislative priorities and objectives. He reported that leadership meetings are being planned.

Bill reported that registration is open for the 2015 NACo Legislative Conference.

Brad Holtan gave a review of the financial report for October 31, 2014. The raffle and silent auction netted around \$8,000 for the ISAC Education Foundation. The financial report was accepted unanimously by the Board.

Kristi Harshbarger reported that Eric Gookin, law clerk, will be with ISAC through May helping to work on projects. The HIPAA Program is going well and is still accepting members. The veterans affiliate has requested to be added as an additional affiliate and will present to the Board during the January meeting. During that meeting the Board will make a decision as to whether or not to conduct a vote of the full membership during the spring school for their added membership.

Bill Peterson reported that Hanna De Groot has resigned her full-time position but will continue to contract to work no more than 10 hours a week maintaining the tracking tool and helping to keep track of legislation. He discussed the future of her position and/or a possible research position. The FY 2016 budget will include proposed changes to the marketing/communications processes. The second round of county visits has begun.

Continues on page 15.

Rural Action Caucus

NACo's Rural Action Caucus (RAC) met in Yellowstone County, Montana for the 2014 Fall RAC Symposium November 6 - 8. This year's event brought together over 45 county officials from 15 states.

Throughout the three-day program, RAC members examined how rural counties harness local assets and regional partnerships to bolster rural economic development efforts. The caucus also laid the groundwork for strategies to accomplish key federal policy and legislative goals in the years ahead.

Programming focused on pressing federal legislative and policy priorities that have an impact on county governments. The issues ranged from long-term funding and authorization for federal surface transportation programs, to FY 2015 federal appropriations, to local control and taxation of online sales and Internet access, to tax-exempt municipal bonds and environmental regulations.

In addition to in-depth policy discussions and a mobile workshop on energy development, county leaders participated in a workshop entitled "Cultivating a Competitive Advantage: How Rural Counties are Growing Economies with Local Assets and Regional Partners," which engaged RAC members in an overview of asset-based economic development strategies for counties.

NACo also debuted a new report of the same name which highlights 15 rural counties' building on natural resources; existing infrastructure, local institutions; historic and cultural resources; and human capital to sustain economic growth and productivity.

Representatives from three counties showcased in the report served on a panel during the workshop to discuss local-level economic development strategies. Yellowstone County, Montana Commissioner Bill Kennedy talked about his county's partnership on the regional level with the Big Sky Economic Development organization to invest in local infrastructure, train a skilled workforce and attract businesses. Cascade County, Montana Commissioner Joe Briggs highlighted a number of financial incentives counties can pursue to leverage local quality of life to attract new businesses.

Finally, Renville County, Minnesota Commissioner Bob Fox described a five-county partnership to reinvest in a regional short-line railroad to encourage new economic opportunity along the rail line.

Doug McKalip of the White House Domestic Policy Council joined RAC members to discuss rural issues and initiatives being addressed by the Administration.

As senior policy advisor for rural affairs, McKalip provides advice and counsel to the president on issues involving farm, ranch and trade policy as well as coordination of the White House Rural Council. During the keynote address, McKalip examined the recent "Made in Rural America Export and Investment Initiative" in which NACo partnered with the White House Rural Council to develop a series of regional forums, bringing together rural business and community leaders with federal partners to discuss new opportunities to bolster rural exports and strengthen the local economy.

RAC members were also joined by Nathan Ohle, special advisor for external affairs, U.S. Economic Development Administration, and senior advisors to Senator-elect Steve Daines (R-Montana), Senators Jon Tester (D-Montana) and John Walsh (D-Montana), and Governor Steve Bullock (D).

ISAC brief

Continued from page 15.

Kelsey Sebern gave an overview of the 2014 ISAC Fall School of Instruction post-conference survey. She spoke directly on coffee service, the hotel registration process and future educational seminar topics. Overall, the membership gave positive feedback with 79% reporting that they paid the right amount for the conference and 95% reporting that they plan to attend next year's conference.

Kelsey gave an overview of the of the 2015 ISAC New County Officers School that is being held at The Meadows Events and Conference Center on January 14-15, and presented the recommended 2015 ISAC Spring School of Instruction agenda to the board. The only change from the 2014 agenda is a shortened general session. The agenda was unanimously approved by the board.

Following reports and inquiries from board members, President Hansen adjourned the Board.

counties in the spotlight

Linn County Recognized through Let's Move!

The National League of Cities (NLC) recognized Linn County for achieving gold medals in all five Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties (LMCTC) goal areas, which are based on achievements made to improve access to healthy, affordable food and promote physical activity for children and adults. This is the highest distinction a community can receive from the LMCTC initiative. Linn County was recognized at NLC's annual conference in Austin, Texas on November 20, 2014.

"We applaud Linn County for being at the forefront of a growing national movement to improve the health of children and families," said NLC President Chris Coleman, Mayor of Saint Paul, Minnesota. "States and counties across the country have recently reported declines in childhood obesity rates. We are hopeful that these types of dedicated efforts will spread and allow us to make continued progress in reversing America's epidemic of childhood obesity."

LMCTC is a major component of First Lady Michelle Obama's comprehensive Let's Move! initiative to ensure that kids can grow up healthy. LMCTC works closely with local elected officials nationwide to adopt policies that improve access to healthy affordable food and opportunities for physical activity for their constituents across five goal areas.

All LMCTC sites have the opportunity to earn up to five gold medals, one for each actionable goal to which they commit as part of the initiative. Medals are awarded to local elected officials based on their achievements in areas such as promoting healthy habits in early child care settings; increasing participation in meal programs before, during and after the school day and/or over the summer months; and increasing opportunities for physical activity. Since July 2012, NLC has awarded 2,056 bronze, silver, and gold medals to local elected officials across the country to recognize their LMCTC progress.

This year, Linn County joins an elite group of 23 cities and counties that have earned five gold medals as a result of their leadership and dedication to ending childhood obesity and improving the health of their residents. In addition, six city leaders and two cities were honored for their overall efforts to prevent childhood obesity and improve the health of their residents.



"We're beginning to turn the tide on childhood obesity in America's communities, and we can't stop now, especially when it comes to our work at the local level," First Lady Michelle Obama said. "City and county officials have provided essential leadership for these efforts, and their innovative approaches and effective solutions can help ensure that all our children have a healthy start in life."

For more information about the cities, counties and individuals recognized, visit www.citiesspeak.org/2014/11/20/lets-move-achievements.

NLC is working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and with the support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Association of Counties and other nonprofit organizations to assist

local elected officials who join LMCTC in implementing policy and environmental changes to prevent childhood obesity. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded NLC a grant to provide technical assistance to local elected officials working to create healthier communities and prevent childhood obesity, including those participating in LMCTC.

For more information about LMCTC and [Your City]'s accomplishments, visit www.HealthyCommunitiesHealthyFuture.org.

Calhoun/Sac County Engineer

The Calhoun and Sac County Boards of Supervisors are seeking qualified applicants for the position of shared County Engineer with Calhoun and Sac Counties. Position requires registration as Professional Engineer in the state of Iowa.

The County Engineer is responsible and accountable for the over-all planning, direction, coordination, and control of the Secondary Road System. This includes the effective, safe and efficient construction, maintenance and engineering of all county secondary roads, bridges and related services. In addition, the engineer will prepare and let contract documents for projects, present an annual budget and a five-year construction program identifying future road improvement projects, and work with union representatives on employment matters. The ability to establish and maintain an effective working relationship with

department personnel, other government agencies, other county departments, contractors and the public is essential. Previous experience as a county engineer or assistant in Iowa is preferred. Salary based on experience and qualifications. Successful applicant must pass a pre-employment physical and drug test.

For application, job description or further information contact Judy Howrey at 416 4th Street, Suite 1, Rockwell City, Iowa 50579, 712.297.7741, or jhowrey@calhouncountyiowa.com. Email or send application, resume and references to the address above by January 12, 2015 at 4:00 pm.

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2015 calendar

January 2015

- 12 CM&MHDS Training (ISAC Office)
- 13 CM&MHDS Administrators Meeting (Polk County River Place, Des Moines)
- 14-15 New County Officers School (The Meadows Conference and Events Center, Altoona)
- 16 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)

February 2015

- 4 ISAC Executive Board Meeting (ISAC Office)
- 12 Supervisors Statewide Meeting (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 13 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)
- 21-25 NACo Legislative Conference (Washington, D.C.)

March 2015

- 11 County Day at the Capitol (Des Moines)
- 12-13 ISAC Spring School of Instruction (Des Moines Marriott Downtown)

April 2015

- 14 CM&MHDS Administrators Meeting (Polk County River Place, Des Moines)
- 16 ISAC HIPAA Training (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 30 ISAC Technology Summit (Stoney Creek Conference Center, Johnston)

May 2015

- 1 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)
- 7 CM&MHDS Advanced Case Management (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 20-22 NACo WIR Conference (Kauai, Hawaii)

June 2015

- 4 CM&MHDS Supervisors Training (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 10-12 ICIT Midyear Conference (West Des Moines Marriott)
- 24-26 Recorder's Summer School (Decorah)
- 25 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)

July 2015

- 10-13 NACo Annual Conference (Charlotte, NC)
- 14 CM&MHDS Administrators Meeting (Polk County River Place, Des Moines)

August 2015

- 27-28 ISAC Legislative Policy Committee Retreat (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)

September 2015

- 16-18 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat (Pottawattamie County)
- 16-17 CM&MHDS Annual Conference (Sheraton, West Des Moines)

October 2015

- 15-16 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)
- 13 CM&MHDS Administrators Meeting (Polk County River Place, Des Moines)

November 2015

- 5 CM&MHDS Advanced Case Management (Stoney Creek, Johnston)
- 18-20 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Cedar Rapids Convention Complex)

December 2015

- 8-10 ICEA Annual Conference (Ames)
- 16 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)

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

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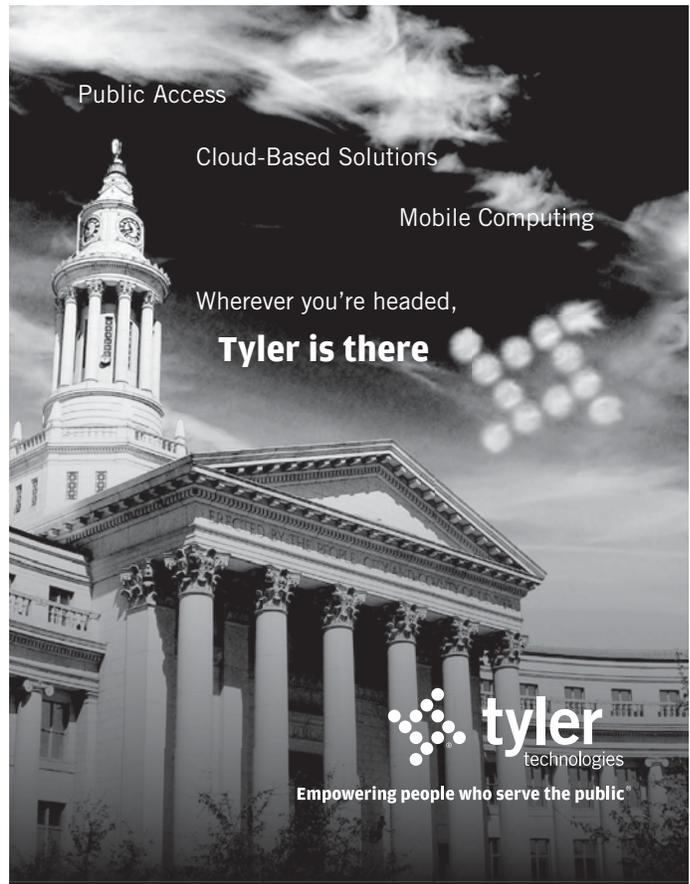
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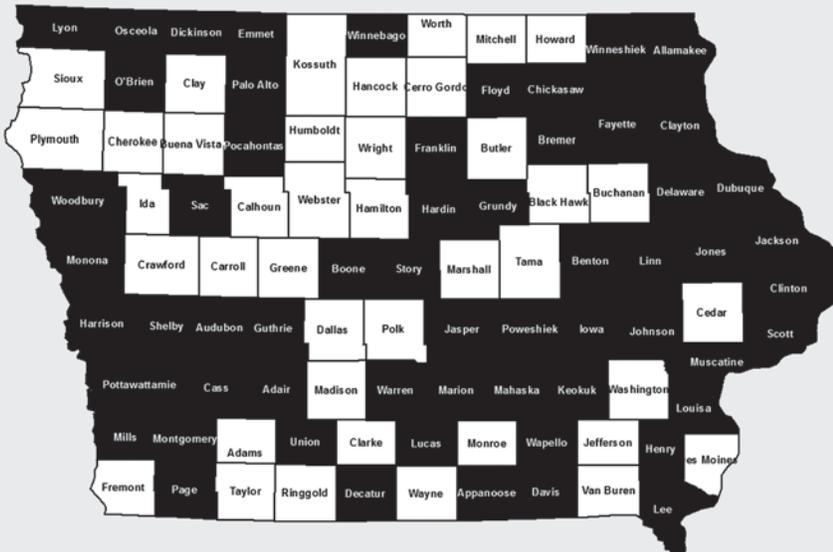
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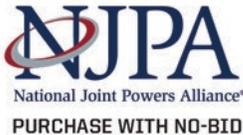
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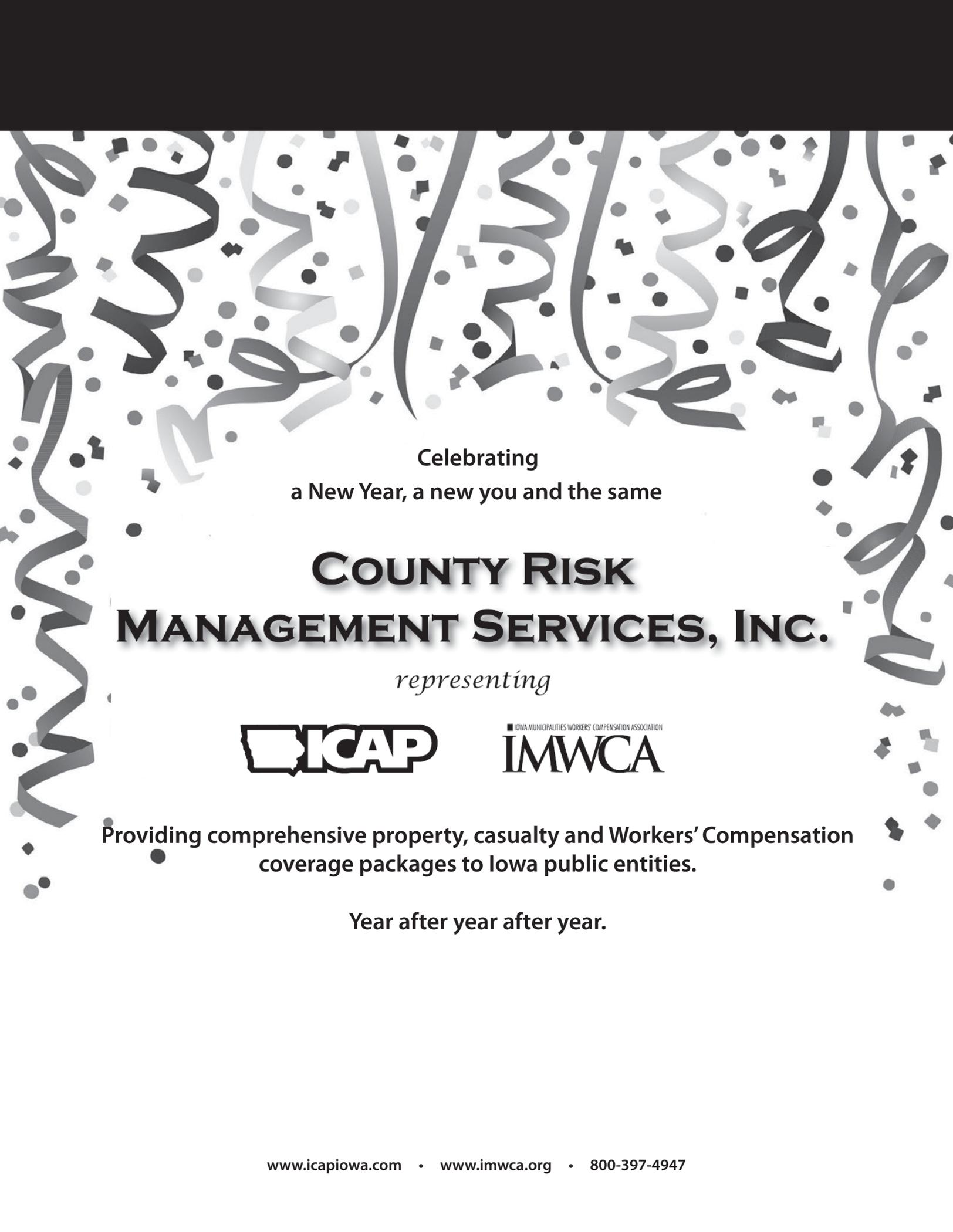
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