

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a silver pen, filling out a survey form. The form has several rows of checkboxes, some of which are already marked with an 'X'. The background is slightly blurred, showing the continuation of the form and the hand.

The Iowa County

July 2016

Solar for Iowa Local Government

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The Iowa County

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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.

Solar for Iowa Local Government

By: Andy Johnson

Director, Winneshiek Energy District

Our April article described a broad spectrum of energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities that can be tackled through development of a “universal local” infrastructure such as Energy Districts. Here we focus specifically on the opportunity and challenges for local governments to “go solar” in Iowa. It’s not easy, and it does take leadership, but this year and next may well be the best opportunity this decade for local governments to invest in solar for the good of their taxpayers.

“It’s not only the right thing to do for the environment, but the right thing for the taxpayers to lower county bills too” according to Janelle Rettig, Johnson County Supervisor. Johnson County is one of a handful of local governments in Iowa learning the ropes and moving forward with significant solar projects. “Not everyone shares our sustainability goals” she admits, “but when we talk about saving the county money, they pretty much all wake up and listen.”

Renewable energy is the future of power production worldwide, and that future is now. This isn’t just our opinion, but a widely accepted truth in both the utility and investment banking industries, on purely economic grounds. This rings true on Main Street: drive Decorah’s main drag and you’ll find solar on college housing, pizza parlor, car dealer, dental clinic, food co-op, knittery, sports bar, bank, eye clinic, vet office, and a rock and quarry company headquarters, along with numerous homes.

If you’re still wondering whether solar is a passing fad, consider this: over half of the 17.5 gigawatts (GW) of new electricity generation capacity added nationwide in 2014 was wind and solar, 56% of that was solar, and 40% of the solar was non-utility owned. Installed solar just five years ago cost \$8-9/watt, and now here in Winneshiek County it is around \$3/watt for residential projects and \$2/watt for larger commercial installations.

And so the question isn’t “are we headed towards renewables,” but “who will build, own, and profit from the renewable energy future?” Because contrary to coal, solar generation is technically and economically feasible for almost any energy user to build and own. Communities and local economies that invest now will build infrastructure and markets that generate wealth for generations to come.

It’s not easy to try something new when you’re struggling to balance the roads/bridges budget and a hundred of other demands. But there are many reasons why local governments can and should be solar leaders rather than followers. The first comes back to economics: local elected officials have a fiduciary

responsibility to taxpayers, and if solar pays for the local pizza parlor, car dealer or vet office, it may be a good investment for taxpayers as well (more on this shortly). Rising electricity rates and falling solar prices are bolstered in Iowa by ownership options and strong incentives (more on this below).

Disaster resilience is another reason for local government to consider solar. Solar can increasingly be used to create local microgrids, charge storage, and function in “island” mode for emergency facilities in case of grid outage. Iowans are good at stewardship too, and accelerating our transition to renewables is an important insurance policy against climate change for future generations in a state that depends more than most on a stable and predictable climate.

A final reason for local government leadership returns yet again to economics. Remember Ross Perot’s “giant sucking sound” of job outsourcing to Mexico? This idea applies to the tens and hundreds of millions spent annually on energy in each Iowa county. Locally built and owned renewable energy replaces this export of energy dollars with a great churning economic engine, and local government investment can kick-start that engine and market development.

If you’re serious about looking into a project, where do you start? We’ve developed a solar resource page for local governments that covers a wide range of topics, including the beginnings of a list of existing projects with contact information, at energydistrict.org/projects/local-government-solar-resources. First, pull together your power usage and cost data by meter, for a year or more if possible. With that in hand you can start talking to solar installers (more than one) about siting, rooftops, and possible interconnection and metering issues, even before developing a request for proposals.

In fact you may not issue an RFP to installers at all, since you will likely be working with a solar developer (in some cases they’re the same, but often not). The bulk of financial incentives are tax-based, making it difficult for non-taxable entities (NTEs) – including local government – to directly take advantage of them. Developers bring tax appetite, access the array of incentives, and pass along some of the value to you.

These situations are called third-party power purchase agreements (3P-PPA, or just PPA for short). The developer is the third-party (besides utility and customer), owns the array, and sells the power to the customer. The PPA contract terms define rates, timeline, and normally, the transfer of the array to the

customer at some point in time (typically six years would be the minimum to utilize incentives and return on investment, and depending on the goals of the parties, it could be much longer). Third-party leases are a variant of the PPA, with the entire array leased to the customer, rather than power sold to the customer.

In recent years, roughly two-thirds of all non-utility solar in the US was installed with third-party, rather than customer, ownership. The model not only allows for at least partial capture of the tax incentives for NTEs, but even more attractively for many, allows a customer to get solar without making the large capital investment. The developer and financial partners make the investment, and the customer buys the solar power at rates similar to or below those of the utility. When the PPA contract terminates and if the array is purchased by or transferred to the customer, they may experience many years of “free” (or very low cost) energy.

Just what are the tax incentives? A farm or business installing a solar array in Iowa would be eligible for a 30% federal investment tax credit (ITC) on virtually the full system cost, an Iowa ITC worth 60% of their federal credit (or about 18% of total system cost), and the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) depreciation over five years. Altogether they can easily cover more than half the cost and result in simple payback periods well under five years. Iowa also has a production tax credit worth more than (and used in lieu of) the ITC on larger projects, and an Alternate Energy Revolving Loan Fund run by the Iowa Energy Center that can provide zero-interest financing on up to half the project.

Though third-party PPAs became legal in Iowa with the Supreme Court’s “Eagle Point” decision in 2014, a number of challenges remain. Alliant and MidAmerican have raised many questions about interconnection, and are denying net metering in PPA situations. These issues are currently under consideration by the Iowa Utilities Board in an open docket on distributed generation (docket NOI-2014-0001). We provide more information on our web page, and encourage all interested parties to submit comments.

“The Eagle Point case made it clear that a third-party PPA is a good route for a local government to improve the return on investment,” says Ms. Rettig of Johnson County “but MidAmerican Energy rejected net metering when we took that route, so we had to downsize the project. They weren’t helpful.” When asked if she would recommend solar to other local government, she replies “Absolutely. Green energy is good for all of us and good for taxpayers. We’re happy to help others, let’s get together and figure out a way to change the rules and regulations so that solar works for all.”

Political support is necessary if federal and state tax incentives are to remain available. The federal ITC is set to drop from 30% down to 10% of project cost at the end of 2016 (and disappear entirely for residential projects): extension and transferability/refundability are important. It is unclear what will happen to the Iowa ITC at that time, and meanwhile both the Iowa ITC and PTC are oversubscribed and the legislature’s caps may be met. We encourage all interested parties to ask their legislator to support raising those caps and reforming the waiting list criteria.

The upshot: solar is a mature technology, with rapidly maturing markets and positive economics for most customers, and an incentive and regulatory structure that takes some time and effort to navigate. There is clearly a window of opportunity now with existing incentive levels good through 2016, and we’ll try and keep our web page current with quality resources and Iowa examples. And as always – remember to invest in efficiency first! Get the energy audits/analyses done on all your government buildings and make cost-effective improvements ... and you’ll save double – by using less, and building a smaller solar system.

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Thank you for reading *The Iowa County magazine*. In an effort to ensure that the magazine is meeting the needs of readers, please take a few moments to complete the following survey and to return it however is most convenient. The survey is also available online through a link on the ISAC website.

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How do you read *The Iowa County magazine*?

- Hard copy mailed to my office
- PDF copy on the ISAC website
- Other – please specify:

How would you rate your interest in the magazine on a monthly basis?

- I look forward to reading it every month.
- When I find time I flip through the pages and read articles that catch my eye.
- I pass it on to employees but don't read it myself.
- No interest in the magazine at all.

How much time do you spend reading the magazine on average each month?

- Over one hour
- Thirty minutes to one hour
- Up to 30 minutes
- I do not regularly read the magazine.

Which of the following sections do you regularly read?

- Feature – human interest/guest articles
- Legal Briefs
- Capitol Comments
- Technology Center
- CM&MHDS
- Meetings
- Lincoln Letters
- ISAC Brief
- NACo News
- Miscellaneous

By: Rachel Bennett

ISAC Communications and
Marketing Manager



Which of the following sections do you seldom read?

- Feature – human interest/guest articles
- Legal Briefs
- Capitol Comments
- Technology Center
- CM&MHDS
- Meetings
- Lincoln Letters
- ISAC Brief
- NACo News
- Miscellaneous

Do you read or refer to the advertising in the magazine?

- Yes
- No

What topics/types of articles would you like to see covered in future issues of the magazine?

Please describe your affiliation with the organization (i.e. affiliate/office, preferred vendor, legislator, etc.).

Do you have any comments or suggestions for the editor?

Thank you for your time!



Conflicts of Interest v. Incompatibility of Offices

By: **Eric Gookin**

ISAC Legal Intern

I am saddened to announce that this article on conflicts of interest and incompatibility of office will be my final as Kristi's legal intern. (Even sadder is the fact that I had to toss out my original draft, which had an amusing passage on how I pretend, under the noses of my fellow ISAC employees, to work while I am actually in mere contemplation of the various heady aspects of conflicts and incompatibility. Now it no longer seems appropriate. You will just have to take my word that it was funny. I promise it was... really.) Luckily, many of you, especially the auditors, will still be able to revel in my occasionally successful attempts at humor as I take on my new position in the Election Division with the Secretary of State. I digress.

Above I joked about my imaginary contemplation of conflicts and incompatibility. Honestly though, these are two concepts that are tricky to separate, let alone understand. This is especially true if you are in the midst of trying to determine whether or not you happen to be in violation of one or the other.

There are two separate issues that are being asked in most scenarios: 1) Is there an incompatibility of offices? and 2) Is there a conflict of interest?

The incompatibility of office doctrine applies to situations when, because of the nature of the offices, a single person is unable to hold both at once. A conflict of interest is a different problem in which a person is viewed as having an inherent inability to be impartial because of the circumstances that exist around that person.

That is, an incompatibility of office arises as an issue of law concerning the jurisdiction of the offices. A conflict arises because of the facts surrounding a person.

Since these are universal concerns at all levels of government, it is not surprising that there is an excellent AG opinion that lays out the entire test (2004 WL 1449412 (Iowa A.G.)). If you happen to find yourself wondering if you have concerns about either problem yourself, it would be worth having your county attorney review the opinion. However, for the purposes of not overwhelming this brief article, the short version of that AG opinion analyzes, under applicable case law, whether a deputy sheriff can also sit as a mayor. In deciding that arrangement was acceptable, the AG held that because they must operate under the guidance of an elected sheriff, "a deputy sheriff does not exercise unsupervised sovereign power - the hallmark of a public office."

One of the questions that inspired this article was from an email asking whether a township clerk may at the same time also be employed as a city clerk. That question is very close to the one in the AG opinion about the mayor-as-deputy. Although the city-county roles are reversed, the city clerk likely would not have sovereign authority of her own, instead operating under a mayor and/or city council. As township clerk, she would have greater authority to act independently. So we can see that the main issue with the incompatibility of office question revolved around the analysis of whether either was a sovereign public officer. Now let's look at an illustration of conflicts of interest.

Conflicts of interest may be more intuitive to understand, but its analysis can be just as tricky. Concern around conflicts frequently show up when one tries to do business with a family member, or self-dealing, or really almost anything that tends to intermix personal interests with one's responsibilities for the county – basically anything that can be viewed as improper. The determination of whether you are in conflict depends on the facts surrounding the situation: who else is involved, what the relationship you have with them, what the nature of the benefits are. All of that said, it is worth pointing out, as does the above AG Opinion, there may be times that both conflicts of interest and an incompatibility of office are present. All of those sorts of things that let us say those sweet and magical words, "Go ask your county attorney."

Now for a skillful non-sequitural (that's almost a real word) transition. I have learned a ton over the last several months. I consider myself to be truly blessed to have had the opportunity that Bill and Kristi gave me. Moreover, my time here at ISAC has left me with an undeniably higher appreciation for the importance of counties within our nation. It is a perspective that I will carry with me for a very long time, and one that will make me a better lawyer and public servant moving forward.

meetings

Protection from Hackers - Cybersecurity Hints for Workplace and Home

ISAC held its Smart Connections Conference in Johnston on April 30, 2015. The keynote speaker was Michael Bazzell, a former government computer crime investigator assigned to the FBI's Cyber Crimes Task Force. He provided a lot of Dos and Don'ts and useful information that is worth sharing with all county employees. Here is a summary of Mr. Bazzell's remarks.

Hackers are adept at compromising various types of cybersecurity. Often, hackers find that the easiest way to get into an organization's files is through tricking employees or cracking their passwords.

Passwords

- Passwords consisting of letters only can be cracked by a hacker in minutes. Adding a number or a symbol requires some more minutes. Adding at least two numbers and two symbols to your password adds hours.
- Never auto-save a password in your browser.
- Change your passwords at least yearly.
- If you use your personal email account to access different programs, don't use the same password with each. Otherwise, once one is compromised, they all are.
- You should use different passwords for different computer uses: email, banking, purchasing, social media etc.
- Don't use your social media password for anything else. Social media presents a hacker with the easiest way to hack your accounts because so much personal information is available there. It is wise to have a separate email account for social media use.

Password Management Programs

- Remembering multiple passwords is a problem. Putting all your passwords in a password management program is a good idea if the right kind of program is used (and if you protect it with a good password).
- A password management program that is computer based is relatively safe. KeePass is a good example.
- A password management program that is web based is NOT very safe. LastPass is an example of this.
- It's better to manually write down your passwords than to save them on the internet. A hacker is much more likely to look for your password online than to break into your home or office.

Password Reset Questions

- Answers to common reset questions provided by internet sites (mother's maiden name, school attended) are often fairly easy for a hacker to find out, especially if the information is posted somewhere on Facebook or other social media.

By: Kim Veeder and Grant Veeder

Black Hawk County IT Director and
Black Hawk County Auditor

- To better protect your password, use the Create Your Own Question option and make it a difficult question to which only you know the answer.
- If that option isn't available, use a question that is provided, but lie about the answer.

Two-factor Authentication

- Bazzell recommends two-factor authentication (or verification) to protect logins. When you log in to an account, a code is sent to you via text message that will allow you to access your account.
- If someone is trying to hack into that account, you will receive a text message with a code that you didn't request.
- There is a Google app for this. You can find other providers through your browser.

How to Find Out if your Email has been Compromised

- Go to haveibeenpwned.com. You can enter your email addresses there, and it will check for you.

Use of Hotel Business Centers

- The computers at hotel business centers store the information of their users, and are common targets of hackers. The information is easily copied, not encrypted, and quickly hacked.
- Most business center computers have malicious software on them.
- They're all right to check websites, scores, stocks or to print a boarding pass.
- But DON'T log in, and never use a password. ESPECIALLY in an upscale hotel – the hackers go where the money is.

Email Phishing

- This is the number one way of stealing information from businesses and organizations. Security on servers and firewalls etc. has improved to the point that it's much easier to hack this way.
- You are the weakest link. Phishers prey on our ingrained email habits, our trusting nature and our lack of alertness.
- Often, these emails are laughably transparent because of their poor spelling and grammar or their obvious ploys, but the fact that they're used shows that they're still successful.
- Don't rely on bad grammar as your only tipoff. Russian hackers are hiring American editors to clean up their emails.
- If you realize you've been hacked because you clicked on a bad link or PDF or PowerPoint or whatever, don't delete it out of embarrassment. Contact IT. There will be a better and quicker opportunity to repair the damage if it is addressed immediately.

Zero-day Attack

- A zero-day attack is an attack that exploits a previously unknown vulnerability in a computer application or operating system, one that developers have not had time to address and patch.
- This is the number one way to get hacked.
- Always allow your computer to install updates (with caveat below). The reason the update is being provided is because a new hack was detected.
- The way to distinguish real updates from hacks: If they show up when you log on or log off they're real. If they show up in the middle of a session, assume that they're hacks.

Social Engineering Attacks

- This is psychologically manipulating people into performing actions that lead to divulging confidential information.
- A hacker can change a caller ID to that of someone you know and trust (Bazzell did this with audience participants.), and get you to give private information over the phone.
- Fake invoice scams are big. Example: The hacker calls, posing as a vendor wanting to know your current photocopier info; you give them the model number, they send you a service agreement invoice, it looks legit, you pay it. Then they send it every year.
- Lots of survey phone calls are scams to get attack information. Don't participate in survey phone calls at work.
- A common hacking practice is injecting malware into a PDF or a PowerPoint file, and when the receiver clicks on it the hacker has gained entry into the receiver's system.
- The malware can't be detected by antivirus software, because the hacker got in through employee email.
- The entire Target debacle started with one employee.
- The Anthem Health Insurance hack was immediately followed up by the hackers sending a very authentic-looking email impersonating Anthem and saying, "Sorry, you were hacked, we want to fix it, give us this information." With the people who didn't respond, they followed up with phone calls impersonating Anthem, telling people to answer the email. Be suspicious of anyone you don't know asking you for confidential information.

Do's and Don'ts

- Never click unsolicited links in emails!
- Watch attachments – PDFs, PowerPoints, etc. If you don't know the source, don't open it.
- Delete suspicious emails immediately.
- Hackers can monitor who's on Facebook in a building. Bazzell showed us in real time. Typically there are employees signed on to Facebook all day. They can receive a link on Facebook that will allow a hacker to put malware in the company's system. Don't click on Facebook links, especially at work.

Pretty Amazing Story

Here's a cautionary tale: Bazzell's sister evaluates security systems, and tells potential customers that they don't have to pay her if she can't break in. She was unable to hack into a company once, so she called her brother for help. Bazzell made a series of phone calls, putting them all on tape, which he played for us. He called HR posing as someone from IT. He asked how to contact the company's newest employees so that he could set them up IT-wise. HR provided him with the information. He called the newest employees, posing as IT again, and asked, "Do you have your own logon yet or are you using someone else's?" Someone else's. "Oh, okay, what is it?" They told him. He gave the information to his sister. With the logons freely given over the phone, she hacked into the company's system.

Be careful with anyone that initiates a call for support. Except under unusual circumstances that you should know in advance, they should not be asking for your user id or password over the phone.

Other Vulnerabilities.

Hotel Door Locks: Most use the same manufacturer. There's a hole in the bottom of the lock mechanism that management uses to unlock the door, and burglars are able to steal the code for it. They stick a disguised reader in the hole and unlock the door. To counteract this, Bazzell shoves some paper in the hole when he checks into a hotel. A burglar could stop to take it out, but they're more likely to move on to the next door. (This is a greater risk in larger cities.)

Remote Automation Systems: When you activate a remote home automation system, you need to put your user name and password in or anyone can break into it. Bazzell found several home systems online, and switched their lights on and off as we watched. One of them was trying to counteract him by working their switches while he was doing it. It was funny, yet unsettling. Bazzell: "If you can access something from your phone and you don't use a password, I can access it."

Wireless Systems: Protect your home wifi with a password that isn't obvious. Otherwise it is vulnerable to use by neighbors or nearby strangers. If you're using an available wireless at a hotel or a meeting, be sure you're using the legit system - look out for false wireless systems. Bazzell created one while at our workshop called "Don't use this network." He checked it while we watched. Three people were using it. If you use the fake wireless system, the hacker can get into your computer.

For more valuable information from Michael Bazzell, go to computercrimeinfo.com. Click on "Links" to find links to a variety of free sites, some informational and others very useful in protecting your online data, cleaning up your computer, and investigating potential threats.

where are they now?

Sara Gerlach - 2000

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Office Manager

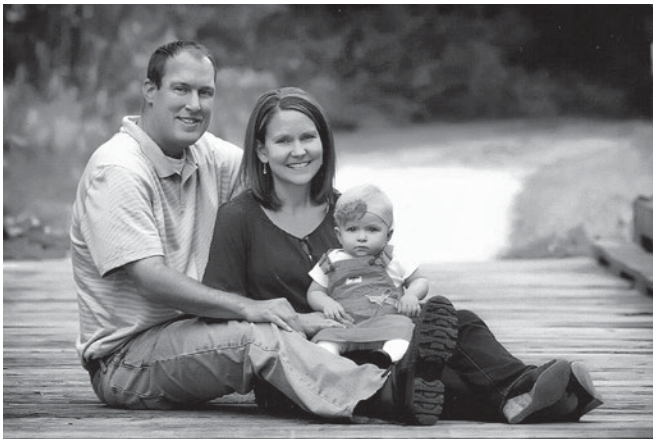


This month the Where are they now? program is featuring the ISAC \$2,500 Top Scholarship winner from 2000, Sara Gerlach. Sara is the daughter of Carol Lucke and the late Cletus Gerlach and the step daughter of Steve Lucke. Carol is a deputy in the Jackson County treasurer's office. Sara gives us an update on her life and career since winning the ISAC scholarship:

My name is Sara (Gerlach) May, and I was the 2000 ISAC Scholarship Award recipient. Since receiving this award, I have moved into my teaching career. I graduated in 2004 with a BA in Elementary Education, as well as with a Reading Endorsement. I was a substitute teacher for one year before moving into a full-time teaching position as a 1st grade teacher at Marshall Elementary School in Dubuque. Ten years later, I am still a 1st grade teacher at Marshall Elementary School in Dubuque! During this time, I completed my master's degree. I received my Master's Degree in Reading and Literacy from Walden University. Beyond my master's degree, I have obtained 18 more graduate credits in the area of education. While working in the Dubuque Community Schools, I have taken on many

leadership roles which include: Science Content Leader, Resident Mentor, and Building Leadership Team. I have also served on our school and district Site Councils, as well as participated in Japanese Lesson Studies for CGI (Cognitively Guided Instruction). Over the course of the next year, I plan to continue furthering my education by taking more classes.

I live in Dubuque with my husband, Dave, and our daughter, Bailey (will be two years old in September 2015). We enjoy the busy life of toddlerhood, especially the trips to the library, pool, and zoo. We enjoy spending time with our families. We also like to keep active with our weekly bowling, softball, and volleyball leagues.





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ISAC/CM&MHDS 23rd Annual Conference Paving the Road to Success September 23 and 24, 2015

Wednesday, September 23, 2015	
7:30 – 9:00	Registration/Morning Refreshments
9:00 – 10:30	Opening Keynote: Framework for Person -Centered Planning Carol Blessing
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00	Person Centered Planning Continued Carol Blessing
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:15	Neurological Impairments that Affect Cognitive Functioning Dr. Richard Newkirk
2:15 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 4:30	Closing Keynote: Determination to Help Compensate for Disabilities Dr. Richard Newkirk

Thursday, September 24, 2015	
8:00 – 9:00	Morning Refreshments
8:00 – 12:15	Mandatory Reporter Certification, Dependent Adult and Child Dianna Nicholls-Blomme
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00	Mandatory Reporter Certification-Continued
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:15	Ethics Bruce Buchanan
2:15 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 4:00	Ethics Continued Bruce Buchanan
	Emergency Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities Jane Gaye
	Transition Planning Susan Gill
	Assistive Technologies Gary Johnson
	Lunch
	Read All About It: Autism in the Media Kerry Magro
	Break
	Overcoming Obstacles: From Non-Verbal to National Speaker Kerry Magro

Lincoln letters

Lincoln the Lawyer #5: Does Every Client Deserve a Good Lawyer?

Some people are dismayed when they see Lincoln portrayed without a halo. But just as you can't appreciate happiness unless you've been sad, if we don't see Lincoln with human frailties and shortcomings, the significance of what he accomplished is diminished. However, in this particular case, I give you fair warning: if you don't want to be disillusioned about Lincoln, don't read this Lincoln Letter.

The story involves a slave named Jane Bryant and her owner, Robert Matson. Matson was a Kentuckian who owned farms both in Kentucky and in Coles County, Illinois. He periodically took some of his slaves to his Illinois property to work there temporarily and to then return to Kentucky. In 1847, his slave Jane Bryant and her four children, with the assistance of her free husband and two local abolitionists, left the Coles County farm and claimed they were free.

They had pretty good standing for their claim. It was accepted by courts in both the slave South and the free North that while a slave who escaped to a free state was to be returned to his or her owner, if a slave was domiciled by the owner in a free state for an indeterminate amount of time, the slave became free. Matson swore out an affidavit that he took his slaves to his Illinois property for a "temporary sojourn" and that he intended to return them to Kentucky, a position supported by a number of precedents about slaves in transit. But Jane Bryant and her children had spent two years in Illinois.

As one of two lawyers retained by Matson, Abraham Lincoln argued at the trial that the status of the Bryants was governed by Matson's annual public declaration, upon alternating to his Illinois farm, that the slaves he brought with him were not to live there permanently, but were to return to his Kentucky home. This cut no ice with the judge, who said, "Neither the place of residence, nor the declared intentions of [Matson], countervail the fact that he voluntarily domiciled his servants here for two years or upwards." He ordered that Jane and her children be discharged from Matson's service.

What? Abraham Lincoln trying to legally enslave a human being? That is the indisputable fact. What are we to make of it? How can we reconcile Lincoln the slaveowner's advocate with Lincoln the Great Emancipator? Were there mitigating circumstances? Is his reputation undeserved? Is it even necessary that we reconcile the two?

By: Grant Veeder

Black Hawk County Auditor
and ISAC Historian



Let's start with what we know about people in general. People are not perfect morally or ethically. People are not totally consistent; they are not utterly predictable. And there is usually much more complexity to well-known individuals than is reposed in the historical shorthand that we remember them by. Lincoln, even if he ranks up with the biggest hitters of all time, still couldn't bat a thousand.

Then let's look at what we know about the Lincoln of 1847. Once penniless and bizarre looking, he had risen in life, even if he was still bizarre looking. He was a veteran of four terms in the Illinois legislature. He was married to a socially prominent and highly intelligent woman (from a slaveholding family, incidentally), who bore their second child a year earlier. After the 1846 election, he was preparing to take a seat in the Congress of the United States, his goal since at least 1842. His love was politics, but his living was the law. After stints as junior partner for two of the state's most highly regarded attorneys, he was now senior partner in a firm for which he had appeared before the Illinois Supreme Court more than 80 times. At age 23 he had said that he had no ambition so great "as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow men," and as a successful attorney he was desirous (and quite capable) of participating on one side or the other in high-profile cases.

Where did Lincoln stand on the slavery issue? Aside from anecdotal accounts, many of them related after his death and thus open to question, he is on the record in a telling document. While Lincoln was serving in the Illinois House of Representatives, Southern states bombarded Northern states with "memorials," calling on them to repudiate the small but growing number of abolitionists, in fear that their agitations would result in slave revolts like Nat Turner's bloody uprising in 1831. Early in 1837 the Illinois legislature overwhelmingly obliged, passing resolutions that highly disapproved of abolition societies and their doctrines, and affirming that "the right of property in slaves, is sacred to the slave-holding States by the Federal Constitution." Lincoln was one of only six legislators in both houses to vote against the resolutions, and shortly thereafter he and just one fellow legislator presented a protest to the House stating their belief that "the institution of slavery is founded on both injustice and bad policy..." This sounds like the Lincoln we know and love, but the sentence goes on:

Continues on next page.

“...but that the promulgation of abolition doctrines tends rather to increase than to abate its evils.”

Even with that qualification, Lincoln stood well on the freedom side of the slavery divide as it then stood in the country. Most of the original Northern states freed their slaves gradually: Pennsylvania, for instance, completely abolished slavery in 1847, the year of Lincoln’s Matson trial. And although slavery supposedly ended in New York in 1827, children born to slave women between 1799 and 1827 were, until age 25 for females and 28 for males, indentured servants, or in other words, slaves. Immediate abolition was considered by most in the North as too extreme, and professing its tenets was so inflammatory that it appeared to be retarding rather than enhancing progress toward emancipation. Believing that the evils of slavery would be increased rather than abated by abolitionism was not, then, inconsistent with the position that slavery was founded on injustice. As a lawyer, Lincoln already had experience on the antislavery side of a trial. In fact, he had set an important precedent in 1841 with his successful argument in the Illinois Supreme Court that a promissory note to purchase a woman was void because slavery was illegal in Illinois, and he had also won a case in 1845 where he defended a man accused of harboring a runaway slave.

A picture emerges of an upwardly mobile attorney/politician, a self-made man whose ambition to succeed and desire for recognition may have occasionally weakened his principles. Lincoln could have rationalized that he was not out of step with fairly mainstream views, and that besides, all parties to a lawsuit, even murderers and slaveowners, deserved representation. Some historians say that he rendered a half-hearted performance, that he essentially “threw” the case. But opposing counsel Orlando Ficklin recalled Lincoln’s “trenchant blows and cold logic” in bringing out the technical aspect of the case, the only one with a chance of success.

Did his decision give him any discomfort or regrets? Maybe. One of the abolitionists involved in the case, Dr. Hiram Rutherford, wrote years later that he asked Lincoln, whom he knew to be antislavery in sentiment, to represent him, only to find that Abe felt he was already obligated to Matson. “This was a grievous disappointment,” said Rutherford, “and irritated me into expressions more or less bitter in tone.” His chastisement apparently led Lincoln to reconsider, and a short time later Rutherford said he was contacted by Lincoln with the news that he would be able to disengage himself from Matson. Rutherford, because his “pride was up,” turned him down.

When next we see Lincoln on the record on the subject of slavery, he is in Congress, trying to get support for a bill to free the slaves in the District of Columbia, where, unlike in the states, there is a constitutional argument that Congress has that authority. Even though the bill calls for gradual, compensated emancipation, and would require approval by the voters in the District, Lincoln can’t get enough support to have the bill considered. Lincoln had voted against earlier, more radical proposals.

Lincoln was an antislavery individual who moved easily in a society that accepted slavery. He was realistic and hence conservative in his approach to emancipation, and he was susceptible to occasional deviations from his ideals. In other words, Lincoln was human. It’s fair to criticize him for trying to re-enslave Jane Bryant and her children, and there is substantial evidence for claiming that Lincoln was not, as some would have it, the single-minded scourge of American slavery. Lincoln’s approach to emancipation was intensely legalistic all the way to the end (see March-June issues of the *Iowa County*), but when the end came he was fully committed to ending slavery, and his views on African Americans had evolved substantially. Lincoln was perhaps more imperfect than we would like him to have been, but in light of what he accomplished, maybe we should all be so imperfect.



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NACo Western Interstate Region Conference and Board Meeting

People will generally accept facts as truth only if the facts agree with what they already believe.

- Andy Rooney

NACo's May board meeting was held in conjunction with the Western Interstate Region Conference in Kauai County, Hawaii. Kauai is also known as the Tropical Island because it is one of the wettest places on the planet. Most of the rain falls in the upper elevations and flows down the majestic and picturesque waterfalls. It looks much like some of the forested areas of Iowa, only a lot steeper. Kauai is the oldest of the islands and since it the wettest, the signs of erosion are most dramatic. I did get to the beach once. But like Maui, there was some sand and a lot of water.

Although the sightseeing was nice, most of my time there was taken up by committee meetings. The first of which was the Ag and Rural Affairs Steering Committee. Our first speaker was Kirby Kestner. Kirby is a Nebraska farm boy who got his Masters in agronomy from Iowa State. He is the president of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association which is a consortium of various seed corn and chemical companies. The county of Kauai has a local bill introduced that would ban GMO crops. Of course that would be devastating to that major industry there. Many of the locals are concerned about pesticide drift and pollen drift. An organic papaya grower said that his crop was adulterated by some pollen drift from a GMO papaya. I asked Kirby about this. He said that papaya had been almost wiped out by a ring spot virus until a variety had been developed through genetic engineering that is immune to the virus and saved the fruit from extinction.

Of course Kauai is not the only place where folks are dealing with this issue. Jackson County, Oregon Commissioner Doug Briedenthal also spoke to us. His county also banned GMOs, which could be as much as a \$100 million loss to their economy. It particularly infuriated some farmers who had planted alfalfa that would have produced for six or eight years. They are suing. But here is the odd piece to all of this. The Oregon legislature passed a bill later that would allow GMOs in the state except for Jackson County because they were grandfathered in. The legislature then legalized marijuana. Even GMO marijuana. But that crop was not grandfathered in. So the only legal GMO crop allowed in Jackson County is marijuana. I didn't think anything could get crazier, but that was just the first day of the conference.

By: Melvyn Houser

ISAC President
NACo Representative and
Pottawattamie County Supervisor



Our final speaker was Doug McKalip, senior advisor to Secretary Vilsack. He also spoke at the general session the following day. He said that we have been altering genes since the early 1900s. We have altered around 2,500 crops since then. It is nothing new. Mutagenesis was the process whereby genetic material was bombarded by radiation. Good results would just be happenstance. Now the technology is more fine tuned to get a desired result.

Our final speaker was Sam Brown a former EPA attorney, giving us an update on the Waters of the U.S. ruling. It was much the same as we've heard for the past year. Confusion over the definitions of tributaries, ephemeral streams, adjacent bodies, and significant nexus. The House has passed a bill asking the EPA to readdress the ruling. The Senate is expected to soon pass a bill, but a veto is expected. By the time you read this the EPA will have given final approval. At the Board of Directors meeting, Mr. Brown talked about the months long comment period on WOTUS. There were over one million responses to the ruling. According to the New York Times, the EPA used social media to get their message out and, according to a series of legal opinions by the Justice Department, federal agencies are not to engage in grass roots lobbying. The EPA insists that it broke no rules and 87% of the comments were in favor of the ruling. Now this is where it gets crazy again. Other groups would send out polls via social media and if one clicked a box "for" it counted as one vote for the ruling. Twelve states' Attorney Generals all signed one letter opposing the ruling. That counted as one vote against, because it was just one letter. It sounds to me like Calvinball from the comic strip "Calvin and Hobbes" where rules are made up as you go.

Mr. Brown also touched on the lawsuit in Iowa, between the Des Moines Water Works and three counties in the Racon River watershed. This lawsuit and WOTUS are closely linked and will have significant impact not just statewide but across the country. But Iowa is not the only place where this issue is being dealt with, the Chesapeake Bay Area and other highly populated areas are having the same issues and lawsuits may be pending. You know what the city of New York does? They help fund conservation projects in the Hudson River watershed. They want cleaner water so they go upstream and help make it so. They don't seem to need the courts to solve their problem for them.

At the board meeting it was announced (needlessly so because everyone already knew) that the lone 2nd Vice Presidential candidate, Lee May from Dekalb County, Georgia, had dropped out of the “race.” He took an administrative job with the county and is no longer an elected official. So, that vacuum has been quickly filled by four candidates. Three of which are my good NACo friends. It will be an interesting election in Charlotte at the Annual Conference. Aside from the regular committee reports there were a few items to note. NACo will be moving to new office space. We will be colocating with the National League of Cities. It is hoped that this will allow NACo and NLC to be more politically relevant and be conveners of local government. Director Chase also reported that NACo has been testifying before Congress several times a week on priority issues. NACo has been making a good dent in that “federal wall.” But there are things we can do at the local level too. NACo staffer Arthur Scott presented the Counties Connect America initiative. You’ve already received information from ISAC about this. It is similar to the “Restore the Partnership” campaign from four and eight years ago. As presidential candidates come to our counties’ coffee shops and Pizza Ranches we need to engage them on issues relevant to local government and invite them to speak at the Fall School in Cedar Rapids. It was very successful eight years ago and with good participation by county officials it can be again this year. The meeting was then brought to a close by one of Grant Veeder’s clever limericks. Probably one of his best ever.

The next conference will be held in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The steering committees will again be working on legislative policies and resolutions, and solutions. If you have a federal issue that you think is relevant, let ISAC or any of Iowa’s steering committee members know and we can introduce it to NACo’s platform. Or, better yet, come to NACo and become a member of a steering committee. People will generally accept facts as truth only if the facts agree with what they already believe.

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Lifesaving Award



All across America, there are countless public employees who work every day to help keep us safe. Among them is Elizabeth Cleveland, an emergency communications operator in Pottawattamie County.

Cleveland was only a month past completion of her extensive training as an overnight 911 operator, when she received an emergency call in the early morning hours of October 16, 2014. The caller said her father was not breathing. It was

her first-ever CPR call, but Cleveland walked the victim's daughter and wife through the steps of administering CPR.

"Emotion just went to the side," Cleveland said. "I had to focus on the decisions I had to make to help the person." Emergency services arrived nine minutes into the call and rushed the patient to the hospital. The patient lived and went home after a few days.

Cleveland recently was recognized with a Lifesaving Award for her work that night. While she said she was honored by the award, she noted, "it wasn't just me; the victim's daughter and mother were incredible. The whole communications team did a great job that night. Also, the deputy and fire department personnel who responded had an excellent response time, which made a huge difference in saving the person's life."

The job requires an ability to stay calm and multitask. An operator might have to collect information from a caller, give the person medical advice, and dispatch emergency medical, police, and/or fire services all at once. It also requires a strong grasp of local geography: "Give me a hundred block and I can tell you where that is," remarked Cleveland.

miscellaneous

NEW Travel Services and Solutions Contract: HotelPlanner

By: U.S. Communities

Travel Services and Solutions is the newest cooperative contract available through U.S. Communities. The contract was awarded to HotelPlanner through a competitive solicitation process conducted by lead public agency, City of Kansas City, Missouri. The contract term is for three years with a start date of April 1, 2015, with the option to extend the contract for two additional periods of one year each. To learn more about this new contract and the solutions available, please contact the Iowa U.S. Communities representative, Chris Oltmanns, directly at 402.672.8219 or coltmanns@uscommunities.org

Through this contract, you'll have access to HotelPlanner's world-class technology that will provide multiple benefits to your agency:

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Iowa's Roses

By: Gerald F. Schnepf

Keep Iowa Beautiful Executive Director

It is the season for flowers and the rainbow of colors they provide on the green landscape. The rosa pratincola (wild prairie rose) became Iowa's Flower 118 years ago. The Extra Session of the 26th General Assembly of the State of Iowa adopted the wild rose as the official state flower of Iowa on May 7, 1897.

WHEREAS, the Executive Council has authorized the wild rose of Iowa as one of the decorations on the silver service presented to the battle ship "Iowa;" therefore be it

Resolved, by the Senate the House concurring, That the wild rose shall be officially designated as the flower of the state.

In addition to the wild prairie rose, there are a wide variety of hybrid roses that we see in gardens and flower centers. We take great pride in their beauty and their aroma. They brighten our lives.

Particular attention to the rose was provided by Shakespeare in "Romeo and Juliet." Juliet comments: "What's in a name?that which we call a rose - by any other name would smell as sweet." The rose - regardless of variety, tends to be a thing of beauty enjoyed by everyone.

There is one other variety of roses around us every day. These roses often go unnoticed. It is the army of volunteers that provide their time and talents for every kind of project that can be imagined. Like nature's roses they also have an inherent beauty - service to mankind! They brighten our lives!

These "roses":

- Take care of elderly and help those in need;
- Guide and mentor youngsters;
- Care for the natural resources;
- Manage the libraries and museums;
- Coach youth in recreational activities;
- Deliver meals;
- Assist in hospitals and hospices;
- Entertain those needing an emotional lift;
- Support a wide range of religious entities;
- Serve on governmental committees, boards and commissions;
- Guide hundreds of charitable entities;
- Assist in making Iowa and its communities clean and attractive; and
- Many other activities that improve our state and communities' quality of life.

These legions of volunteers provide hundreds of hours of service at no cost. If we had to pay for those services the bill would be staggering. In many ways these volunteers provide "color" and a sense of community spirit and hometown pride to our lives. They are truly the "Iowa Rose" - not quite, but almost, the official flower of Iowa.

Each Iowa community has it's bouquet of roses that are serving and helping make our lives better each and every day! Take time to "smell the roses" - thank and honor them for their work. If you aren't volunteering consider becoming a rose and show everyone your colors.

employment

Dubuque County County Engineer

Dubuque County is seeking qualified candidates for the position of County Engineer. This position is responsible for the overall operation and management of the secondary roads department which includes an \$11 million budget and the direction of 41 employees. Must be licensed as a Professional Civil Engineer in the state of Iowa. Valid Iowa Driver's License is required. Qualified candidates must possess knowledge and experience in the area of administrative work overseeing road and bridge construction and maintenance, storm drainage, snow and ice control, equipment maintenance and engineering operation.

Registration as a Land Surveyor is preferred. Salary Range is \$97,000 to \$150,000 commensurate with experience, plus excellent benefit package. Applications must be received from and returned to Iowa Works Regional 1, 680 Main St, Dubuque IA; 563.556.5800 or 866.227.9874, or email susan.peil@iwd.iowa.gov and put "Application for Dubuque County Engineer" in the subject line and ask for Dubuque County, IA Application for Employment. Application deadline is July 17, 2015 at 3:00 pm. Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer.

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2015 calendar

July 2015

- 10-13 NACo Annual Conference
(Charlotte, NC)
- 14 CM&MHDS Administrators Meeting
(Polk County River Place, Des Moines)
- 15-17 Auditor's Annual School
(The Meadows Event & Conference Center,
Altoona)
- 30-31 Supervisors Executive Board Retreat
(Clay County)

August 2015

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

September 2015

- 2 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)
- 16-18 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Pottawattamie County)
- 17-19 IACCB Annual Fall Conference
(Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Cedar
Rapids)
- 22 ISAC Legislative Policy Committee Meeting
(ISAC Office)
- 23-24 CM&MHDS Annual Conference
(Sheraton, West Des Moines)
- 27-30 Assessors Annual Conference
(Des Moines Holiday Inn Airport)

October 2015

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

November 2015

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

December 2015

- 7-9 ISSDA Winter School
(Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)
- 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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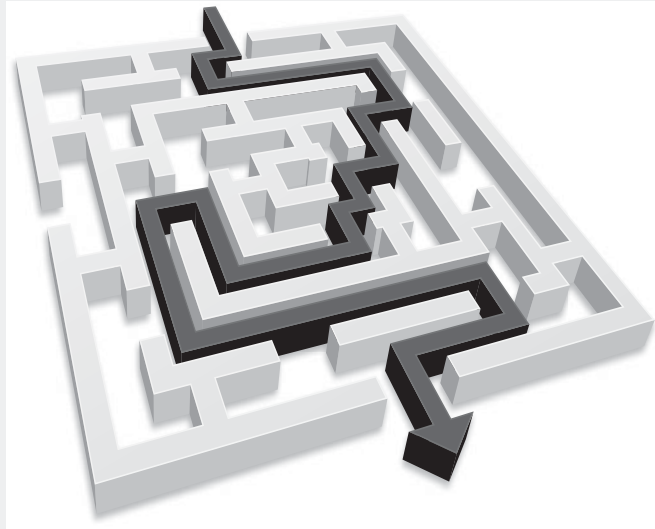
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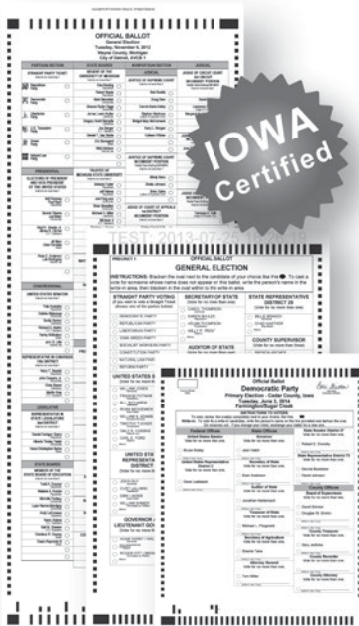
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