

The Iowa County

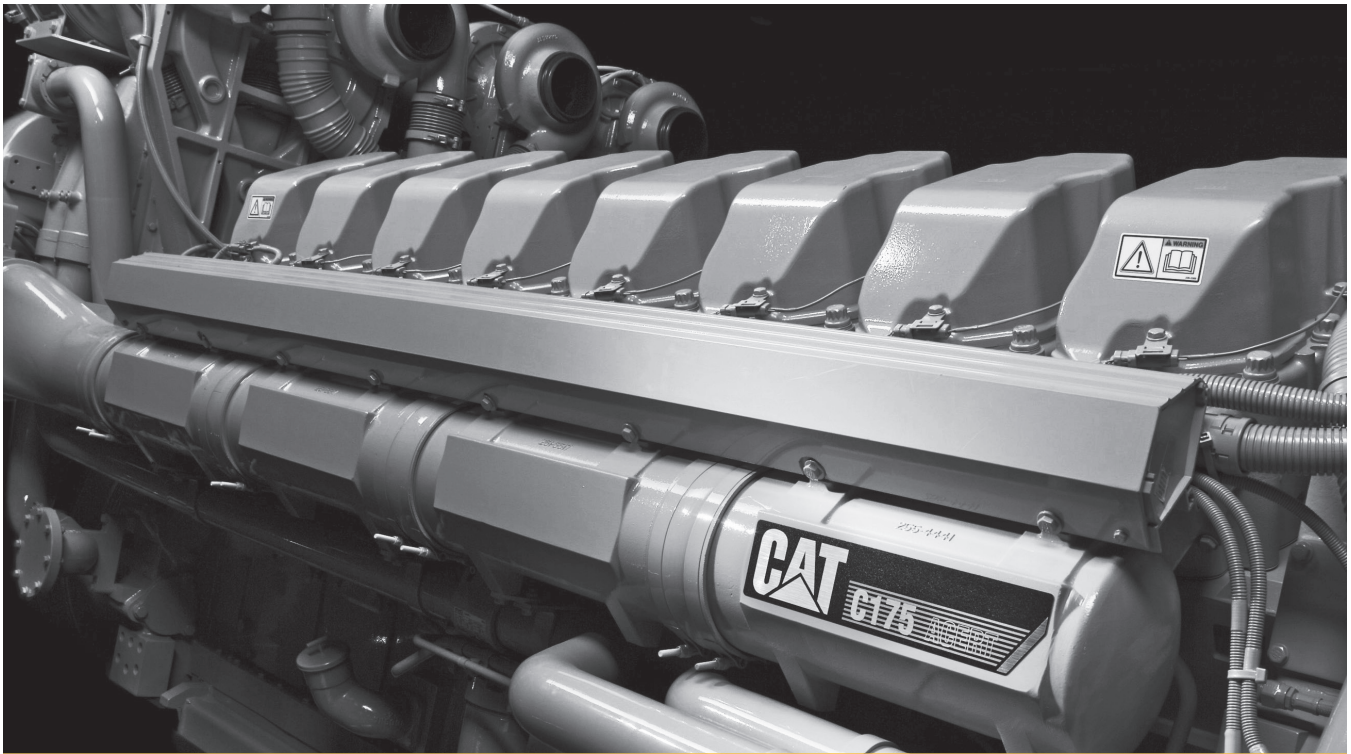


August 2017

The Women's Issue
Iowa Women Leaders

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The Iowa County

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Iowa State Association of Counties

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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.

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Feature - U.S. Senator

Growing up on a farm in rural southwest Iowa, my mother always told me and my siblings that the sky was the limit when it came to the difference we could make in our community, and even around the world. Mom taught us that with hard work, service, and sacrifice, anything was possible.

So, I kept my head down worked hard in school and in my community. As a young girl, I plowed the fields of our family farm. I worked construction with my dad. To save for college, I worked the morning biscuit line at Hardees.

While in college, in between my freshman and sophomore year, I was fortunate to be able to attend an agricultural exchange in Ukraine when it was still part of the former Soviet Union. The Iowa students and I lived on a collective farm for a number of weeks. In the evening, when the community members came together, we did not talk about agricultural practices like I anticipated. What we talked about was what it was like to be free. The Ukrainians wanted to hear what it was like to be an American.

On the flight back home, I thought a lot about those discussions and how fortunate Americans are to enjoy these freedoms. It was then that I realized I needed to do my part to defend and preserve our freedom.

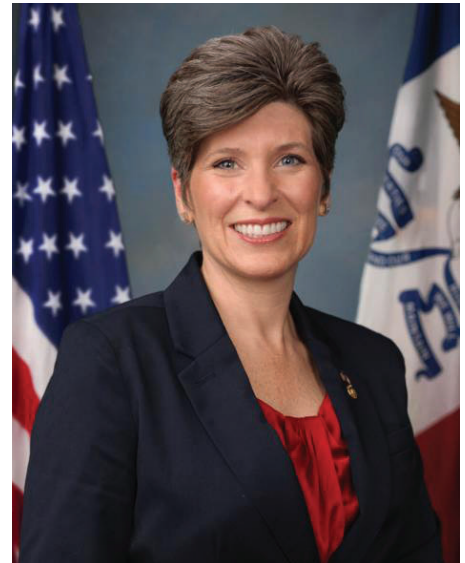
It was that realization that led me to the decision to serve in the military as a way to give back to our great nation. For more than 23 years, I had the great honor of serving alongside some of our most courageous men and women in uniform at home and abroad.

As a company commander in Iraq, I often spoke with my young soldiers about the four pillars or guiding principles I strived for, and encouraged them to strive for as well: Assuming risk. Leadership. Service to your community and country. An attitude of gratefulness.

These pillars ultimately helped guide me to my decision to become involved in another form of public service: local government. I began in my hometown as Montgomery County Auditor, and later was encouraged by a dear friend, Kim Reynolds, to run for the State Senate seat she was vacating. It was because of her faith in me, and that of my friends, family, and neighbors, that I ran and was elected to serve in the Iowa State Senate. Today, I am fortunate to call that same encouraging friend our governor.

Having the opportunity to serve our great state in the U.S. Senate for more than two years now, I have worked with many of my female colleagues on both sides of the aisle, from Republican Senator Deb Fischer of Nebraska to Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. While no one will agree with each other on 100 percent of the issues, I have found that often, women are able to put politics aside, have an open and frank conversation, and work together to find the best path forward on the important matters facing our country.

Whether it's at the local, state, or national level, we must encourage and support future generations to be part of the process. I look forward to seeing all that is in store for our great state, nation, and world under the leadership of generations to come.



Joni Ernst
United States Senator
www.ernst.senate.gov

Feature - Governor

As Governor of Iowa, I commend The Iowa County Magazine on publishing this important August issue. Sharing stories of successful female public servants is critical for encouraging young girls and women to consider a career in public service. Thank you for recognizing this fact. I also truly appreciate having the opportunity to share my personal story with your readers.

100 percent Iowan

I'm a 5th generation Iowan, born and raised in St. Charles. It's a small town, but it had a big impact on my life. Growing up in St. Charles, I learned the importance of community, love of country, discipline, fiscal responsibility, and penny pinching. These are things that I apply every day as Governor.

My parents (Charles and Audrey) also taught me that with hard work, high expectations and a passion for what you do, anything is possible.

A Passion to Serve

I love this state, and I have a passion to serve. What an amazing opportunity I've been given to do just that. My 23-year journey in public service has led me from the Courthouse to the Statehouse. I like a challenge. I also want to make government work better for those I serve. It's that strong desire to make a difference for Iowans that drives me every single day.

However, I didn't set out to become a politician or elected official. But, when the Clarke County Treasurer decided to retire in 1994, I saw an opportunity to take my ideas and turn them into action.

In making the decision to run for public office, if I'd waited until I thought I was ready – I probably wouldn't have run. Instead I saw a need for improvement, and I knew it was one thing to talk about it, but instead, I wanted to do something about it.

Serving as a County Treasurer was one of the most fulfilling times in my life. I saw first-hand the instrumental role that county government plays in bringing people together. My county experience has been invaluable throughout my public service career. After 19 years in the Treasurer's Office, I was elected to the State Senate. Then, in the summer of 2010, I received a call that would forever change my life. It led to a whole new level of public service. The call was from Terry Branstad asking me to be his Lieutenant Governor.

As Lieutenant Governor, I traveled the world representing Iowa. I worked to expand our markets, while bringing investment and jobs to our state. I also focused on pro-growth policies that attract, retain and expand companies, while fostering growth across Iowa. Now, I am incredibly honored and humbled to serve as Iowa's 43rd governor.

I wake up every day and think about what we can do to build a better Iowa for the future. I'm never satisfied with the status quo. I believe we have so much capacity as Iowans and as a state. Working together, we can make Iowa become more competitive and bring quality jobs to our families, neighbors, and communities.

As Governor, I won't stop working until every Iowan, no matter where they live, has the same opportunity to succeed. I believe Iowa's best days are ahead.

One of my top four priorities is training Iowans to meet the needs required by the jobs of today and tomorrow. We must ensure that Iowans, young and old alike, are educated and aware of the many tremendous opportunities that exist for them within our borders.

That's why we launched the Future Ready Iowa initiative. This effort is about developing talent for our state's high-demand business sectors that drive Iowa's economy, like advanced manufacturing, healthcare, agricultural science, information technology, finance, and other fields.



Kim Reynolds
Iowa Governor
<https://governor.iowa.gov>

Feature - Governor

Our Future Ready Iowa goal is to have 70% of Iowa's workforce receive education or training beyond high school by 2025. In order to meet that goal, our state needs an additional 127,700 Iowans to earn degrees, certificates and other postsecondary credentials. It's exciting to see how the public and private sectors are joining forces to make that happen!

Another key priority is creating a competitive business environment. Iowa competes for jobs and investment on a global level. That's why we can never become complacent about the importance of building an attractive business climate. That includes everything from a competitive tax structure to a fair regulatory system.

Building a better Iowa also means connecting Iowa to the world by expanding high speed internet access, regardless of the size and location of the town.

We also have the opportunity to build and sustain an innovation economy. Whether on our farms, in our traditional manufacturing facilities and warehouses, or in our startup companies, innovation must be our central focus.



Iowa enjoys a diverse economy. One major contributing factor to our success has been innovation. It's one of our core values. It's in our DNA. It drives our mindset and fuels our dreams.

We must continue to encourage Iowans, business and community leaders, entrepreneurs and others to keep asking "what's next" and not settle for the status quo. It is that kind of drive to seek a better solution that will help Iowa remain competitive in this global economy.

Importance of Women Leaders

Throughout my public service career, I have continually encouraged women to run for elected office. Overall, women tend to wait to be asked to run, and we have to change that mindset.

According to The New York Times, "women are less likely than men to be encouraged by parents, teachers or party leaders to run — yet they are also less likely to run without being prodded. They underestimate their abilities and assume they need to be much more qualified than men to run for the same office."

Past studies also have shown only 40% of women feel they are "qualified" to serve as an elected official. While at the same time, more than 60% of men see themselves "somewhat qualified" to "very qualified" to serve in office.

What's interesting is: women who run for political office are just as likely as men to be elected. So we must carry that message and reach out to women of all ages and all levels.

Last year, I spoke at a national conference for women-owned businesses. One question that they asked was "why it was so important for women to enter public service?" I replied that women bring several major strengths to the table. We bring diversity of thought. We have different leadership styles and approaches. Women are problem-solvers and strive to find consensus.

I also pointed out that women need to serve as visible role models. Young girls, especially, need to see women succeeding in careers that historically have been male-dominated. They have to know it's possible for women to make a difference.

That's what public service is all about — you assess the present, envision the future, and then move forward into the unknown by putting your ideas into action. (Just like I did serving as Clarke County Treasurer.)

That's why, we must work together to encourage women to seek elected offices at the local, state and federal levels. Or, they should seek opportunities to serve on school boards, advise public servants, or work on campaigns.

Feature - Governor

In Iowa -- we're definitely making progress. We must continue bringing talented, smart, and courageous women along on this journey. Our state and nation needs more women at the table and in public service. Together, we need to continually encourage women to run.

Words of Advice

I'm a lifelong learner and encourage diversity of thought. But, no one does it alone.

You have to be willing to work with others who have different viewpoints or opinions and continue to have dialogues or conversations. It's that collaborative approach that helps us reach consensus.

Also, as a leader, you create a vision. Then, you surround yourself with talented people, empower them and provide them with the flexibility to execute that vision.

I lead by example in expecting openness, transparency, cooperation and an attitude of service on behalf of Iowans.

Our state's democratic process is centered on leaders cooperating, communicating, and acting on what is best for the people of Iowa. That's how we will build a better Iowa now and in the future by meeting and exceeding the expectations of Iowans. As I wrote earlier, I truly love this state. Your thoughts, ideas, and concerns matter. You are at the center of my decisions for Iowa every day. I am committed to doing the right thing for our state now and in the future. You can always reach out to me or my staff at 515.281.5211 or visit with me at our events in your county.

It's not too late!

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Pre-registration for the 2017 ISAC Annual Conference ended on August 4, but it's not too late to attend. We accept at-the-door registrations!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Feature - State Auditor

I am Mary Mosiman, and I am honored to serve you as Iowa's Auditor of State.

I am a lifelong Iowan. I grew up on a family farm in Hubbard, Iowa and am very proud of my large and loving family; most live and farm in the central Iowa area. My husband Dan and I have been married 35 years. We met in Ames while attending Iowa State University, and Ames is still our home. We are the proud parents of four daughters.

I became interested in public service in a circuitous way. When our daughters were young I owned and operated a home daycare center. One of the parents was involved in county government and encouraged me to run for Story County Auditor. I had recently graduated from ISU with a degree in Accounting and was actively working on the CPA exam. I had a sincere interest in governmental finance and jumped at the opportunity to serve the taxpayers of Iowa. I petitioned to have my name placed on the ballot for Story County Auditor and campaigned throughout the county stressing the benefits of having an accountant in the position. The voters agreed, and in 2000 I was elected Story County Auditor. Not only was the work validating, but I was doing something I truly loved while having a positive impact on family, friends and the community through governmental accounting.

Years later, I was notified the Governor was looking to appoint a licensed CPA to the fill the vacancy when the State Auditor resigned. I put my name and credentials forth for consideration and was appointed Auditor of State in May of 2013. After a successful campaign I won my first statewide election during the General Election of 2014.



Mary Mosiman

Iowa State Auditor

mary.mosiman@auditor.state.ia.us

In Iowa, a growing number of women are graduating from college, entering the work force and starting their own businesses. Iowa can achieve the same success in government by encouraging women to work towards leadership roles at local, state and federal levels.

All of us are connected to government through the taxes we pay, the services we receive and the laws and policies that impact our daily lives. The benefit of having a woman's voice at the table when it comes to governmental decisions is absolutely paramount. This should be obvious since women make up half the population. As with families, women are equal partners in societies, and it is imperative they take their place in the decision-making process.

Glass ceiling? It's breakable – especially in government. In recent years, Iowa has seen its first female Governor, U.S. Senator, Speaker of the House, House Majority Leader, Senate Majority Leader, Senate President and – yes – State Auditor take office. In reading a report by the Iowa Women's Leadership Project entitled "She Matters," I came across a passage I really appreciated. It read, "Women's progress is society's progress. A society that invests in women is a smart society. It's smart economics. Women provide a multiplier effect when it comes to economic growth. Women share their personal earnings with their families and communities...specifically when it comes to food, homes, schools, health."

My advice to women considering a future in public service is this: If you are qualified and have a true desire to serve, put your name on the ballot or apply for the job. Government needs you!

I would like to especially recognize all government officials who handle government finances, and all officials who provide oversight of those finances. Your role is as essential as it is complicated and ever-changing. Thank you for what you do.

Finally I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Iowa's Auditor of State. I look forward to continuing to lead this office of accounting professionals in our mission of being the "Taxpayers' Watchdog."

Feature - Assistant Majority Leader

Officially, I am Senator Amy Sinclair, Iowa State Senate District 14. I represent the 60,000 residents of Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Wayne, Marion, and Jasper Counties that comprise the district. In my five years in the Iowa Legislature, I have served in both the minority and the majority, and I understand the necessity of diversity of thought and background.

Currently, I serve as Assistant Majority Leader for the Senate Republicans, elected to the position by my colleagues. I serve as the chair of the Senate Education Committee, where I oversee what one education group representative tagged “the biggest year for public schools I’ve seen in my career.” I’ve also managed to experience excruciating failure during my five years of service. Importantly, I’ve learned much from both types of experiences.

Additionally, I vice-chaired the Senate Oversight Committee and serve as a member of the Commerce, Judiciary, Rules and Administration, and Legislative Council Committees as well. My role in the Senate has included floor-managing bills that changed the face of our state, being the public voice for bills that brought hundreds of Iowans to the Capitol, both in favor and opposed to passage.

But the real story is a bit more complicated than that clinical analysis of the work with which I am tasked. I’m given many opportunities these days to share my voice, and I often talk about the American Dream and what that means. I could share my resume, but I’d rather share myself so that you can understand what brought me to the place where I’ve been honored to serve as state senator. I want to share my story with you because it affects every decision I make as a legislator, and perhaps it will inspire you to continue to pursue your own American Dream.

I was born in 1975 in northern Missouri in December, the youngest of six. My mom had told my sister that when it snowed they would bring home their new baby. Imagine her surprise at an early November storm and my sister’s disappointment when no baby came with it. You see, my sister was an accident; I was the planned sibling who was to keep her company. So from early on, I really assumed I was a puppy.

My parents were in their 40s when I was born, which meant I was largely raised by older siblings. We were not well-off, in fact we were quite poor. I grew up in the middle of the farm crisis - on a farm. My dad was an electrical and mechanical genius, but there wasn’t a lot of work when your primary clientele were going bankrupt left and right. I began working at a restaurant washing dishes when I was 13.

I was an excellent student, not that you have to be particularly bright to be a success. But I was a hard worker, and that made all the difference. I graduated high school as valedictorian and was awarded full-ride scholarships to the two colleges to which I’d applied. I accepted one, and I failed. I dropped out during my first semester because I was failing my public speaking class. I began working at a newspaper and got married during the next year. Over the next several years, I began raising a family and working and paying taxes and being a part of my community and church.

Politics in Missouri are different, not as engaged or participatory as in Iowa, where if you’ve never met a presidential candidate, it’s because you were avoiding them. By this time, my family was established, and I was beginning to see how everything I did was affected by government. I wanted to become engaged so that at least I’d know I’d done my part to shape my own destiny in electing good people to serve.

The 2004 caucus was fairly uneventful, but it changed the direction of my life. When I walked in that night, my precinct chair introduced himself to me. What he didn’t remember is that we’d met before. He’d run for Senate, and had been rather unkind to me when placing some advertising at the newspaper where I worked. He lost. And so to poke at him for his rudeness, I introduced myself as “his next Senator.” He asked me if I’d perhaps like to start smaller than Senator. I laughed a little because I wasn’t really interested in “starting” at all.



Amy Sinclair
Iowa Senator
Assistant Majority Leader
amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov

Feature - Assistant Majority Leader

He went on to tell me of the man running for reelection to the county board of supervisors. He wasn't a bad supervisor, Claude said, but elections were about accountability. He told me if I chose to run that I'd lose, but no one should be on the ballot unopposed. I agreed to be his loser. Funny thing was, I didn't lose, even when I should have. I went on to serve six years on the Wayne County Board of Supervisors and fell in love with self-governance, with defending individual liberty.

In 2012 Claude called me again. He said, "Senator McKinley just announced his retirement. It's time for you to be my senator like you told me eight years ago. And you won't lose." As a little girl, I didn't set out to be a politician, to be a public leader. I just set out to be the author of my own destiny.

I was first elected to public office when I was 28 years old but looked much younger than that. I was definitely afraid of not being taken seriously, of my voice not being heard. I've learned some things along the way:

- Know why you do what you do.
- Don't take everything personally.
- Don't be afraid to be the first follower.
- Remember who you are and where you came from.
- Be kind, be generous, be helpful.
- Be willing - to work hard, do the dirty jobs, admit you're wrong.
- Be humble, enough.
- Always have a plan.

When you do these things, and people know they matter to you, they will be willing to listen to you, to advance YOUR ideas and YOUR goals as their own. I have never felt disrespected or ignored or disregarded when I made the effort to build the relationships BEFORE I needed my voice to be heard.

I have been blessed in life. A good friend says God smiles on me. I have lived my American Dream. That doesn't mean nothing bad ever happens; it means I've chosen to use every experience as an opportunity to grow. I know I am where I am because I've always chosen to take the challenge and live as if every single day is the day for which I was made.

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Feature - Supervisor

On June 4 through 8, I was privileged to attend the 2017 Annual NACo County Leadership Institute, also known as CLI, held in Washington, D.C. The class consisted of 25 county officials selected from across the country. The four-day class was designed to enhance the ability of county officials to identify and implement innovative solutions to complex challenges that face county government. All attendees were able to bring leadership challenges that were past or present issues in their counties.

The issue I chose to present was the MH/DS Levy inequity issue and the lack of appropriate beds and service providers across the state and especially the situation and dynamics of the Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region of which I have been Chair for the last six months. We were allowed to present a brief of the situation at which time the group would dissect the problem and determine the stake holders, pros and cons along with possible solutions. After making my presentation, there was a very long pause after which one of my peers at the conference said, "Wow, you have a real problem. I got nothin'." Everyone laughed nervously but me. I agreed with him.

After we got down to work digesting all the facts, issues, and stakeholders, all of which I gave in the presentation. The solution they presented me with was to get together with all the stake holders within our region and really try to determine what the issues really were and on what things we could all agree. We would focus on those first and then move on to the more difficult issues by trying to find compromise. This amounts to being a better listener to all sides of the issue, not just the one that lines up closest to your position. Showing more empathy is a huge part of this. We can learn a lot from empathy. When you walk a day in someone else's shoes it's a lot easier to figure out what pinches and hurts. Sometimes the shoes need to be stretched, changed in style or size, or maybe you even choose to go barefoot. I know this is a simple metaphor. It is amazing how we can adapt this to daily problem solving in our government.

The formal process to the exercise previously presented was to start by determining if the problem was a technical or adaptive challenge while using peer consulting to determine and analyze what the leadership challenge is and do we have the leadership and authority to bring change.

The most valuable things I was able to take away were the fact that we need to look at the problems that face our counties and state from all sides and points of view. To also be a better listener. We all like to talk or we wouldn't be in our positions. Listening is a true art that is seldom demonstrated. One aspect of leadership also stressed was managing your own issues before managing others effectively. We as public servants are born problem solvers and don't often enough implement this philosophy ourselves. When implementing change in the words of Babak Armajani, "Take actions that lead you toward your vision of the future. Test the efficacy of those actions. Learn from your successes and from your failures. Be relentless."



Dawn Smith
Cedar County Supervisor
dawnsmith66@gmail.com

Dawn Smith, center, accepts CLI certificate from NACo Executive Director Matt Chase and NACo Director of Strategic Relations Linda Langston



This was an extremely enlightening conference in a city where our Nation's greatest problems are either created or solved all depending on your point of view. The class was as diverse as our country. I was privileged to get to know and work with everyone in the class. The network you make across the nation is incredible. You find that everyone in attendance comes from very different backgrounds and yet all are very similar as are the issues we all face in county government.

Thank you to NACo, ISAC, and Cedar County for presenting me with this incredible leadership experience.

Feature - 50-50 in 2020

Want Better Government? Elect More Women!

Experts are saying now what 50-50 in 2020 has been saying for years: Women's "ordinary" experiences and aptitudes make them highly qualified for law-making. And that's especially true for women who are already holding local elected or appointed office.

Working on issues at the local level is the best experience there is for doing the job of state representative or senator. That's why 50-50 in 2020 is hosting a series of programs around the state later this year targeting women active in local government who should be encouraged to think about a "Step Up!"

"Step Up!" is a five-hour session being offered in multiple locations to encourage women currently serving in local elected positions to run for higher office. This program, developed in cooperation with the Carrie Chapman Catt Center at Iowa State University, will be held September 8 in Red Oak and September 15 in Charles City. In October, there will also be "Step Up!" programs in Sioux City and SE Iowa. A nominal fee will be charged for lunch. Further details are available at www.50-50in2020.org.

50-50 in 2020 is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, issue-neutral organization established in 2010 with the goal of helping women reach political equity in Iowa by the year 2020, the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Its goal is to have 25 women serving in the Iowa Senate, 50 women in the Iowa House of Representatives, one woman as governor (achieved), two women in the U.S. House of Representatives, and one woman in the U.S. Senate (achieved).

"Step Up!" is the latest in a variety of programs 50-50 in 2020 has developed to recruit and train Iowa women to run for state and federal office. The other programs are:

Iowa has a long history of strong women leaders, beginning with the pioneers and homesteaders, continuing with women suffragists, and more recently with women elected to the offices of Attorney General, State Auditor, Secretary of State, and Lieutenant Governor. Here are just a few women who became Iowa's first:

- Carolyn Pendray, Jackson County, was the first woman elected to the Iowa Legislature.
- Arabella Mansfield passed the bar exam to become the first female attorney in the nation.
- Elmira Wilson became the first woman to teach engineering at ISU
- Jesse Field Shambaugh founded 4-H, allowing young women to compete on the basis of skills
- Carrie Lane Chapman Catt led the fight for the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote
- Viola Babcock Miller became the first woman in the Iowa State Highway Patrol office and went on to become the first woman to serve as Iowa's Secretary of State.



Maggie Tinsman

50-50 in 2020 Co-Founder
maggie.tinsman@mchsi.com

NUDGE

(No Use Delaying Gender Equality) informal social events for women of all ages, held in homes or other venues throughout the year. These events introduce the ideas behind 50-50 in 2020 and encourage women to consider volunteering for local boards and commissions, running for elective office, or supporting women aspiring to those offices.

See Yourself Here

is a behind-the-scenes look at the governmental process, held each spring during the legislative session for women who think they might want to run for state level offices. Registrants meet with legislative leaders, nonpartisan staff, capitol press, lobbyists, and women legislators in a two-day "demystification" tour.

Blueprint for Winning Academy

is an intensive three-day campaign school offered in January of even-number years for women who are running for state legislative, statewide, or national office. Candidates learn how to organize a campaign, design communication plans, polish speaking skills, raise money, and effectively utilize media. Participants pay part of the cost and corporate and individual sponsors cover the rest.

Feature - 50-50 in 2020

Currently, women hold less than 23% of the 150 seats in the Iowa Legislature, while being 53 percent of the state's voters. 50-50 in 2020 believes that if their interests are to be included in the policy making process, women need to be at the table where the decisions are being made.

Leadership for the future is what 50-50 in 2020 is seeking. We are looking for county elected female officials who have a great deal of expertise already in local government, which is so important to the state. Women bring different perspectives, experiences and talents to the table. They are more concerned about solving problems than getting the credit.

When the percentage of women reaches "critical mass," the discussion becomes more civil, more diverse points of view are considered, and the results are more pragmatic. Women have the potential to alter the political landscape and to make a positive impact that can reach far beyond our borders. Indeed, politics should be renamed "Women's Business."

50-50 in 2020's goal is not to replace men in politics but to bring balance and inclusiveness to the legislative process. Local governments are providing the best training there can be for citizens who want to contribute to their communities, women as well as men. 50-50 in 2020 hopes to ensure no one is left out because of gender.

To find out more about 50-50 in 2020 please visit our website at www.50-50in2020.org where you can sign up for 2017 "Step Up!" program or for the Blueprint for Winning Academy in January 2018. We would like to help you run and win.

Also plan to attend the 50-50 in 2020 Luncheon being held on August 23 at the ISAC Annual Conference. Contact ISAC to RSVP for this free lunch and learn. More information will also be available throughout the conference on the meeting room level at the 50-50 in 2020 exhibit table.



About the Cover - Molly Wood

I am a photographer who creates digital color images of toxic and medicinal botanicals. I use only natural light and style the photographs to resemble Dutch still life paintings. The photos are printed as large-scale images, much larger than life, so that the viewer can closely examine every detail of the complex structures of these plants.

I seek out plants that have traditionally been found in women's medicinal gardens or were referred to in historical texts. When possible, I cultivate and grow these plants at home so that I can watch the changes they go through during their life cycles. I also forage for botanicals in Iowa and frequent Pepper-Harrow Farm, a flower farm in Winterset, Iowa. My website is mollywoodphoto.com and instagram is [mollywoodphoto2](https://www.instagram.com/mollywoodphoto2).

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Feature - Catt Center

The Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics was established on September 23, 1992, by the Iowa Board of Regents at the request of Iowa State University. Now nearing its 25th anniversary, the Catt Center is the second oldest university-based center for women and politics in the United States. The center honors Carrie Chapman Catt, a distinguished alumna of Iowa State, leader of the woman's suffrage movement, crusader for international peace and an advocate for the expansion of women's rights throughout the world. The center is located in historic Carrie Chapman Catt Hall.



Over the past 25 years, the overall mission of the Catt Center has remained the same – to interest, educate and engage citizens – especially women and youth – in the political process through programs that blend the resources and scholarship of the academic environment with the experiences of practitioners in relevant fields. To meet its mission, the center has offered a variety of academic, research and outreach programs to promote civic engagement and participation in community leadership, politics and public service. The center's programs have evolved over the years to meet the needs and interests of the communities served.



Dr. Dianne Bystrom

Director, Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics
dbystrom@iastate.edu

The Catt Center's current programs focus on leadership development and recognition, civic engagement, and research. Since 1996, through the support of donors, the Catt Center has awarded more than 500 Legacy of Heroines scholarships and internships to students who seek involvement in and knowledge about the political process and public service. The center also coordinates Iowa State's interdisciplinary Leadership Studies Program, which offers a 21-credit-hour certificate and 15-credit-hour minor. Since 2009, 211 students have graduated with the leadership certificate and 16 have earned a leadership minor. Currently, 180 students are enrolled in the program from all undergraduate-degree granting colleges.

With the support of donors, the Catt Center added two new programs in 2015 focused on global leadership. The Vermeer International Leadership Program, which is funded by the Vermeer Corp. of Pella, Iowa, supports a cohort of 20 students each year who are selected through a competitive process to participate in an in-depth leadership experience focused on the fields of engineering, business and agriculture. Students take two courses together – "Leadership Styles and Strategies in a Diverse Society" and "Global Leadership" – and travel to study leadership in multi-national companies.

Since 2015, the Catt Center has sponsored a Global Leadership Study Abroad Program to provide students with an opportunity to examine leadership theories and practices in an international setting in which women and men have different societal roles than in the United States. For the past three summers, students and two

faculty have traveled to Sweden, which has high percentages of women in leadership positions. Students take two classes, "Women and Leadership" and "Global Leadership"; learn about the country's politics, history and culture; and volunteer in a service learning project. Since 2015, 48 students have participated in this program, which is supported by the Stanley Global Leaders scholarship fund established by Mary Jo and Richard Stanley of Muscatine, Iowa.

The Catt Center also recognizes women's leadership through its annual Women Impacting ISU calendar and the Plaza of Heroines. Initiated in 2007, the calendar honors students, faculty and staff who have distinguished themselves through their accom-

Feature - Catt Center

plishments at Iowa State. Selected through a competitive nomination process, 132 women – 12 each year – have been honored on the poster-sized calendars that are distributed for free. More than 3,830 women and organizations are honored in the Plaza of Heroines, which is a mosaic of bricks and granite pavers that forms the entryway to Carrie Chapman Catt Hall. The plaza was established in 1995 as part of the Catt Hall renovation.

In the area of civic engagement, the Catt Center sponsors an annual lecture series – the Mary Louise Smith Chair in Women and Politics – and the bi-annual Ready to Run Iowa: Campaign Training for Women. Since 1996, the center has hosted 29 prominent women leaders who visit Iowa State through the Mary Louise Smith Chair to enrich the experiences of students and educate citizens about women in politics and their leadership roles in society. Speakers hosted through this lecture series include women who have run for president – Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Dole, Carol Moseley-Braun and Carly Fiorina – as well as noted journalists Gwen Ifill, Candy Crowley, Mara Liasson and Kathleen Parker. U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota will visit Iowa State on August 31 as the 30th Mary Louise Smith Chair.



Since 2007, the Catt Center has offered Ready to Run Iowa every other year as part of a national network to encourage women to seek elected or appointed office, work on a campaign, or become more involved as leaders in their communities. Overall, 432 women and men have attended the six non-partisan Ready to Run Iowa programs offered since 2007, including a record 172 participants in the 2017 workshops.

The Catt Center also supports research on women and politics. Since 1994, the center has awarded \$89,500 to support 96 projects selected through an annual international competition for the Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics. In 2006, the center established the Archives of Women's Political Communication. This online resource currently houses 1,888 text speeches, 712 speech videos, 1,569 political ads, and the bios of 421 women political leaders, present and past. This archive – which will continue to grow – is the largest web-based collection of women's political speech in the world. It averages more than 25,000 visits and 100,000 page views per month from users in nearly 200 countries around the world. The collection is available at <https://awpc.cattcenter.iastate.edu>.

On its website, the Catt Center publishes information it collects on the status of Iowa women in elected and appointed office. Since 2011, the center has published 53 reports on women elected to local, county, state and federal office through its Women

in Iowa Politics Database. Since 2012, the center has collected and published statistics on the gender composition of county and municipal boards and commissions through its Gender Balance Project. Iowa is the only state in the nation with gender balance legislation for state (since 1987), county and municipal (since 2012) boards and commissions.

As it enters its 25th year, the Catt Center remains dedicated to promoting women's engagement and participation in community leadership, politics and public service. Information about the center can be found at <https://catt-center.iastate.edu>.



Feature - IWLC

Iowa Women Lead Change

What do the following career paths have in common: web developer, sustainability engineer, social media manager? These roles didn't exist 10 years ago.

The United States' workforce is now evolving at break-neck speed. Today's tactical skills are tomorrow's ticket to unemployment. Iowa Women Lead Change (IWLC) believes it holds the keys to navigating indeterminate trends by helping individuals and organizations harness a skill that is as relevant today as it will be tomorrow. What is that skill? Leadership.

"Organizations that recognize and develop internal leaders at all levels are already reaping the rewards," stated Tiffany O'Donnell, CEO of Iowa Women Lead Change. "The skills needed to grow companies will be forever changing. Technology will change; needs will change and the available workforce will change. Companies that develop leaders to navigate through these changes, will not only survive, they will thrive."

IWLC

The 10-year old leadership organization, is a 501(C) (3) non-profit dedicated to the development, advancement and promotion of women, their organizations and to impacting the regional economy. It is a non-partisan, volunteer-driven organization that relies on teams in Sioux City, Des Moines, Dubuque and the Quad Cities to produce relevant programming for each region. The organization has its headquarters in Cedar Rapids.

Known for its sold-out, statewide leadership conferences which bring in world renown speakers such as Maya Angelou, Gloria Steinem, Carly Fiorina and Arianna Huffington, to name a few, IWLC has expanded its footprint beyond helping *individuals* with tactical skills. While that remains the hallmark of its work, IWLC is now helping *organizations* strategically create the structure and culture in which women can be successful.

Women Connect

This annual conference promises that attendees will be educated, challenged and inspired. But what about the rest of the year? It was that question by IWLC conference attendees that prompted IWLC's leadership to create *Women Connect*. This chamber-model organization is under the IWLC umbrella that provides development opportunities for member companies throughout the year. Currently there are three groups: *Corridor Women Connect* (Corridor), *Metro Women Connect* (Central Iowa) and *Siouxland Women Connect*. *Quad Cities Women Connect* will launch in 2019.

EPIC Corporate Challenge

The public/private partnership EPIC Corporate Challenge is another great example of IWLC's work extending beyond individuals to provide strategic support inside Iowa companies. The Governor's office, Iowa Workforce Development and Iowa Economic Development Authority joined forces with IWLC and private sponsors Delta Dental of Iowa and Hy-Vee to measure key indicators of women's leadership.



Tiffany O'Donnell

CEO, Iowa Women Lead Change
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Feature - IWLC

Sixty companies have, so far, taken the Challenge that requires them to choose one or more of five key metrics in their organization: Recruitment of women; retention of women; number of women in senior leadership; number of women on their board of directors; and pay equity.

Iowa is one of only three states administering the Challenge (Massachusetts and Utah are the others) and the ONLY state to actually measure results. IWLC would like to see 100 companies join by 2018.

The future of IWLC

While Iowa has made strides in growing the number of women in leadership, there is much room for improvement. For example, at the current rate, it will be 2055 before Iowa has gender parity on boards of directors. Today, women make \$0.77 on the dollar compared to their male counterparts. In 2017, Iowa celebrates having our first female Governor and the first female U.S. Senator. Yes, we have work to do.

The reasons for these gaps are complex. IWLC believes cultural and structural barriers are among the biggest challenges. Culturally, IWLC will continue to expose women to outstanding leaders from around the world and fund research to track progress. Strategically, we will expand our work inside organizations to help create the structure in which women leaders can be successful. This means live conferences as well as virtual opportunities for development.

And, finally, Iowa Women Lead Change will focus its efforts in 2018 on ensuring MEN are part of the conversation. More than 17,000 women have attended our conferences. IWLC believes organizations will be most successful when the men in their work force join the conversation. We look forward to what's possible when *all* the best talent, men and women, alike, are at the table.



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The Iowa County
August 2017

ISAC Brief

Summary of Minutes – June 15, 2017

ISAC President Peggy Rice called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting minutes of the April 7, 2017 ISAC Board of Directors were reviewed and unanimously accepted.

The meeting was recessed and reconvened following the Iowa Counties Technology Services Board of Directors Meetings.

Rachel Bennett distributed meeting minutes of ISAC Golden Eagle Committee. The Committee recommended that Wayne Clinton, former Story County Supervisor, be named the 2017 ISAC Golden Eagle. The recommendation was unanimously accepted.

Nicole Loux and Sara Rolffs, McGowen Hurst, Clark & Smith, P.C., discussed issues related to the FY 2017 audit. Staff was dismissed so that any issues of concern could be raised with the auditors. The Board discussed investment policies upon return of staff.

Brad Holtan reviewed the financial report as of May 31, 2017. He reviewed revenue and expenditure line items that are expected to be over budget for FY 2017. The financial report was unanimously approved.

Bill Peterson and Jeanine Scott gave an update on the Iowa Precinct Atlas Consortium (IPAC) contract. There will be a transition period during which ISAC staff will work closely with Cerro Gordo County. Details of staffing, future developments, and security were discussed. Also, the Board discussed future significant increases in technology related to IPAC. The IPAC contract was unanimously approved as presented.

Jamie Cashman and Lucas Beenken gave a final review of the 2017 legislative session and an outlook of the 2018 session. They gave the timeline for the legislative process including the Legislative Policy Committee meetings and online voting.

Brad gave an update on golfers and sponsors for the ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser being held on August 2 at Toad Valley Golf Course in Pleasant Hill.

Kelsey Sebern gave an update on registration and hotel numbers for the 2017 ISAC Annual Conference. She also reviewed the board scenario for the event.

Bill Peterson gave an update on issues that members experienced during conference and hotel registration on June 14. Although there were many issues, a record number of registrations and hotel reservations were made within the first couple of hours after registration opened. There was slowness experienced in the system for the first 10 to 15 minutes. The system did not crash and returned to regular speed following the initial rush. Invoices arrived at the cost of \$600 instead of \$200 for many members. This was due to a system bug related to non-member registrations. Only one session of seven was available in the system. This was due to a system bug related to over 100,000 vendor registrations being created. Lastly, the 10-digit hotel registration code was missing from many invoices and the link on invoices was hard to read. This issue has not yet been diagnosed. ISAC staff will be making personal phone calls to all registered individuals to discuss the issues and to manually get them registered for the conference sessions. The Board discussed the registration system at length.

Rachel Bennett reviewed information related to the 2017 NACo Annual Conference being held in Columbus, Ohio in July.

The Board was recessed and reconvened at the Iowa League of Cities office.

President Rice and Iowa League of Cities (League) President Jim Erb, Charles City Mayor, welcomed the boards and all attendees gave introductions.

Lucas Beenken and Mickey Shields, League Assistant Director of Membership Services, gave presentations on county and city finances. The Boards amply discussed maintaining the property tax backfill, local control and preemption, and rural Iowa sustainability.

The meeting was adjourned.

2017 Calendar

August 2017

- 2 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)
- 22 ISAC LPC Retreat
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)
- 23-25 ISAC Annual Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

September 2017

- 14 ISAC LPC Meeting
(ISAC Office)
- 17-20 ISSDA Jail School
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 27-29 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Humboldt County)

October 2017

- 8-11 Assessors Annual Conference
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 17-19 Veterans Affairs Fall Conference
(Embassy Suites Downtown, Des Moines)
- 24 Iowa Stepping Up Summit
(HyVee Hall, Des Moines)

November 2017

- 16-17 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

December 2017

- 3-6 ISSDA Winter School
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

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.

2018 Conferences

- March 3-7 NACo Legislative Conference (Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.)
- March 15-16 ISAC Legislative Conference (Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center)
- July 13-18 NACo Annual Conference (Gaylord Opryland, Nashville, TN)
- August 22-24 ISAC Annual Conference (Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center)

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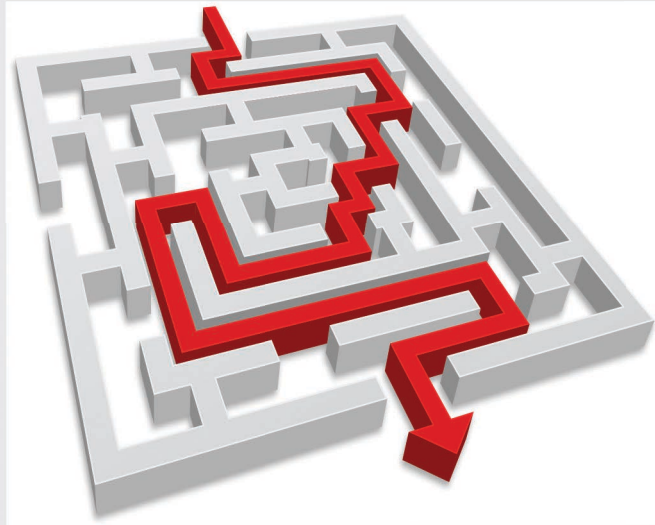




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