

2024 ISAC Annual Conference
Wednesday, August 21
ISAC Educational Seminars

All educational seminars can be attended by any conference attendee at any time.

Meeting Room 307-310

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – County Governance Unveiled: Navigating Parliamentary Procedures and Open Records

This session aims to empower county officials with essential knowledge, fostering transparency, accountability, and effective decision-making. Sara Shonrock, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, will lead this discussion.

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm – The Ethics and Effective Use of AI

Led by Scott Samuelson from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and a philosopher in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, this presentation will explore the promises and perils of artificial intelligence (AI). It will unpack the nature of AI, address common questions and fears, explore possible modes of use or non-use, and lay out fundamental ethical concepts relevant to how we move forward with it in an effective way.

Retirement Considerations for County Employees Track

12:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Meeting Room 312 – 314

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm – Wellmark Retiree Solutions

Tyler Elliott, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, will present “A Guide to Getting Started with Medicare.”

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Managing the Taxes on your Retirement Income

When you move into retirement, your income no longer comes in the form of wages from a job. But as far as the IRS is concerned, the retirement funds you begin living on may be considered as income, and you will probably have to pay some kind of income tax. This presentation will explain how retirement income is taxed and how planning for those taxes can help you make the most of your money. Bryan Jimmerson from Nationwide will discuss the different types of taxes and when they apply. They will also discuss cover the kinds of retirement savings and which taxes apply to each.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm – Ready, Set, Retire!

A general overview of what IPERS is and how it works will be presented by Danielle Mosqueda, IPERS. This presentation will provide information on eligibility for retirement, how benefits are calculated, and the different benefit payment options available. Requirements for returning to work after retirement will also be discussed.

Water in Iowa Track
12:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Meeting Room 302-304

12:00 pm – 1:15 pm – Iowa State University Soil Compaction Study

Drs. Mehari Tekeste and Mark Hanna will discuss research they have been leading related to soil impacts and cropland recovery from heavy equipment, such as during pipeline construction. Currently, with support from ISAC, they are studying the potential for excessive soil compaction during different soil moisture conditions to inform development of guidelines that can be used to improve the potential for cropland recovery after construction activities. The impacts on soil they are researching have implications for water infiltration, erosion, and water quality. Dr. Mehari Tekeste is the Associate Professor and Director, Soil Machine Dynamics Laboratory, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, Iowa State University, and Dr. Mark Hanna is a retired Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Specialist, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

1:30 pm – 2:45 pm – Water Management Authorities and Drainage Districts

This session will focus on WMAs, DDs, the interplay between the two, and allow time for questions and answers. Speakers Erin Erickson the Watershed Coordinator for the Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority, and John Kurtz, Buchanan County Supervisor, will discuss their success story, the importance of collaboration between the supervisors and regional WMAs, and more. John Torbert, Iowa Drainage District Executive Director, will give an overview of DDs in Iowa.

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm – Serving Iowans: From Flood to Drought

Seemingly overnight, prolonged drought conditions that plagued the state in recent years drastically changed to record-breaking flooding that has left communities in northwest Iowa devastated. The Iowa Flood Center and Iowa Geological Survey will discuss these recent water extremes and the tools and resources they provide to help Iowans understand and reduce their risks to the impacts of floods and droughts. Initiatives include: expanding the statewide network of weather stations to improve flood and drought monitoring and forecasting; developing a state groundwater plan to ensure future water sustainability; and developing online tools to communicate flood and drought risks and improve Iowa's resilience to these challenges. Speakers are Larry Weber, IIHR – Hydrosience and Engineering Director and Iowa Flood Center Co-Founder, and Keith Schilling, State Geologist and Iowa Geological Survey Director.