

The Iowa County Magazine



April 2025
ISAC
Scholarship
Award Winners

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The Iowa County

April 2025 * Volume 54, Number 4

The Iowa County: The official magazine of the
Iowa State Association of Counties
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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.

ISAC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Linda Zuercher, Clayton County Treasurer
1ST VICE PRESIDENT Mary Ward, Cass County Recorder
2ND VICE PRESIDENT David Muhlbauer, Crawford County Supervisor

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Mike Miner, Mitchell County Conservation
AJ Mumm, Polk County Emergency Management
Wade Weiss, Greene County Engineer
Sandy Bubke, Monona County Environmental Health
Micah Van Maanen, Sioux County Information Technology
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Kevin Grieme, Woodbury County Public Health
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Barry Anderson, Clay County Supervisor (Past President)
Brian Gardner, Linn County Sheriff (Past President)
Carla Becker, Delaware County Auditor (Past President)
Richard Crouch, Mills County Supervisor
(NACo Board Representative and Past President)

ISAC STAFF

Andrea N. J. Woodard - Executive Director
Lucas Beenken - Public Policy Specialist
Rachel Bennett - Member Relations Manager
Courtney Biere - Office Support Coordinator
Jake Brunkhorst - Software Developer
Jamie Cashman - Government Relations Manager
Ashley Clark - IT Project Coordinator
Katie Cook - Member Support Coordinator
Andrew De Haan - IT Director
Molly Hill - Staff Accountant
Brad Holtan - Finance and Program Services Manager
Nick Johnson - ICACMP Program Support Specialist
Brandi Kanselaar - CSN Project Coordinator
Beth Manley - General Counsel
Tammy Norman - IPAC Program Manager
Brock Ridders - Software Support Specialist
Jacy Ripberger - Marketing Coordinator
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Kelsey Sebern - Event Coordinator
Molly Steffen - Program Support Coordinator
Jessica Trobaugh - ICACMP Project Manager/Trainer
Dylan Young - Senior Software Developer

**** The views and opinions expressed in articles authored by
anyone other than ISAC staff are those of the authors and do
not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of ISAC.**

ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials
from all 99 counties. The Iowa County (ISSN 0892-3795, USPS
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Honoring the Life and Legacy of John C. Werden Jr.

ISAC Members:

It is with heavy hearts and sadness that we share of the unexpected passing of John Werden, ISAC President and Carroll County Attorney. President Werden was first elected as Carroll County Attorney in 1998 and was reelected ever since, most recently in 2022. He served on the ISAC Board of Directors beginning in 2019 before being chosen by his fellow Board members to become the eventual president of the Association. John was sworn in as ISAC President on January 14, 2025.

John will be deeply missed by the ISAC family for his leadership, wit, and thoughtful consideration of issues affecting the Association and county government. He was a devoted public servant for decades, and for that, we are forever grateful.

Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with John's family and friends.



2025 ISAC Scholarship Awards

ISAC received yet another round of outstanding scholarship applications for the 2025 program year. A total of 13 scholarships and \$21,000 were awarded during the 2025 ISAC Spring Conference General Session.

We would like to thank the volunteers on the 2025 ISAC Scholarship Selection Committee for their time and effort reviewing the applications and interviewing the finalists.

District 1 – Constance Toresdahl, Story County Sheriff's Office
District 2 – Karla Weiss, Winnebago County Auditor
District 3 – Kevin Grieme, Woodbury County Public Health
District 4 – Charla Schmid, Montgomery County Supervisor
District 5 – Dawn Goldman, Keokuk County Recorder
District 6 – Mike Kindschi, Black Hawk County Engineer's Office
ISAC Board of Directors Representative – Mary Ward, Cass County Recorder



Katie Cook
ISAC Member Support Coordinator
kcook@iowacounties.org

The recipients of the 2025 ISAC Scholarship Awards are highlighted below. Top winners are awarded \$2,000, runner-ups are awarded \$1,000, and the Past Presidents Award is \$3,000. We know the future is in good hands with these hardworking and talented young adults. We wish them the best in furthering their education and all their future endeavors. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients and their families!

District 1 – Evan Marshall

Parents: Brian Marhsall (Jasper County Sheriff's Office) and Alisa Marshall. Evan will be attending the University of Northern Iowa to study business administration and/or financial management.

District 2 – Jaxson Rew

Parents: Travis Rew (Franklin County Treasurers Office) and Karen Rew. Jaxson plans to attend the University of Iowa to study nursing.

2025 ISAC Scholarship Awards

District 3 – Isaiah Van Maanen

Parents: Micah Van Maanen (Sioux County IT Director) and Kristin Van Maanen. Isaiah will attend Dordt University to study mechanical engineering.

District 4 – Brea Nickle

Parents: Nathan Nickle (Ringgold County Sheriff's Office) and Stasia Nickle. Brea plans to attend the University of Iowa to study biology on the pre-med track.

District 5 – Ashlyn Lasley

Parents: Jerilyn Lasley (Appanoose County Public Health) and Richard Lasley. Ashlyn will attend Indian Hills Community College to pursue a nursing degree.

District 6 – Tessa Sylvester

Parent: Emily Christianson (Clayton County Recorder's Office). Tessa plans to attend Northeast Iowa Community College to study radiology.

Past Presidents Award: Jaylyn Gorvin

Parent: Amber Gorvin (Johnson County Public Health). Jaylyn will be attending Kirkwood Community College and will study elementary education.

District 1 Runner-up: Nattalee Brinkman

Parents: Adam Heise (Grundy County Sheriff's Office) and Megan Heise. Nattalee will attend the University of Iowa to study biochemistry and molecular biology on the pre-med track.

District 2 Runner-up: Brooke Ludwig

Parents: Constance Ludwig (Kossuth County Treasurer's Office) and Jeffrey Ludwig. Brooke will be attending North Carolina State University to study criminology and psychology.

District 3 Runner-up: Emma Wilkinson

Parents: Angie Wilkinson (Buena Vista County Conservation) and Bret Wilkinson (Buena Vista County Engineer). Emma plans to attend Iowa State University or Buena Vista University to study psychology.

District 4 Runner-up: Addyson Schreck

Parents: Joel Schreck (Decatur County Secondary Roads) and Kiley Schreck. Addyson will attend Southwestern Community College to study nursing.

District 5 Runner-up: Sabrina Jennings

Guardian/Grandmother: Tammy Wilson (Lee County Health Department). Sabrina will attend Iowa State University to study human relations.

District 6 Runner-up: Natalie Kuhle

Parents: Edie Kuhle (Dubuque County Sheriff's Office) and Tom Kuhle. Natalie will attend the University of Iowa to study biology and neuroscience.



◆◆◆ THE 20TH ANNUAL ◆◆◆

ISAC SCHOLARSHIP GOLF FUNDRAISER

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JUNE 18, 2025
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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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LUNCH SPONSOR - \$2,000: EXCLUSIVE; PREMIUM SIGNAGE DISPLAYED AT REGISTRATION; FOUR GOLF REGISTRATIONS; LISTED IN PROGRAM, WEBSITE, AND MAGAZINE.

RECEPTION SPONSOR - \$2,000: EXCLUSIVE; PREMIUM SIGNAGE DISPLAYED DURING POST-GOLF RECEPTION AT CLUBHOUSE; FOUR GOLF REGISTRATIONS; LISTED IN PROGRAM, WEBSITE, AND MAGAZINE.

DINNER SPONSOR - \$2,000: EXCLUSIVE; PREMIUM SIGNAGE DISPLAYED DURING DINNER; FOUR GOLF REGISTRATIONS; LISTED IN PROGRAM, WEBSITE, AND MAGAZINE.

BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR - \$2,000: PREMIUM SIGNAGE DISPLAYED ON BEVERAGE CART; COMPANY NAME LISTED ON BEVERAGE TICKETS; FOUR GOLF REGISTRATIONS; LISTED IN PROGRAM, WEBSITE, AND MAGAZINE.

HOLE SPONSOR - \$750: EXCLUSIVE HOLE SPONSORSHIP; SIGNAGE AT TEE BOX; OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY COMPANY MATERIAL AT TEE BOX; OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SNACKS, OR SMALL ITEMS TO GOLFERS; LISTED IN PROGRAM, WEBSITE, AND MAGAZINE. ***ADD TEAM OF FOUR FOR \$250***

AFFILIATE HOLE SPONSOR - \$500: SIGNAGE AT TEE BOX; OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY ASSOCIATION MATERIAL AT TEE BOX; OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SNACKS, OR SMALL ITEMS TO GOLFERS; LISTED IN PROGRAM, WEBSITE, AND MAGAZINE.

DRIVING RANGE SPONSOR - \$500: SIGNAGE AT THE DRIVING RANGE; LISTED IN PROGRAM, WEBSITE, AND MAGAZINE.

MULLIGAN SPONSOR - \$500: LOGO ON MULLIGAN TICKET; LISTED IN PROGRAM, WEBSITE, AND MAGAZINE.

EAGLE LEVEL - \$300, BIRDIE LEVEL - \$200, PAR LEVEL - \$100: LISTED IN PROGRAM, WEBSITE, AND MAGAZINE.

**A REMINDER TO SPONSORS THAT IOWA LAW PROHIBITS COUNTY OFFICIALS FROM ACCEPTING GIFTS (INCLUDING FOOD, DRINK, REGISTRATION FEES, AND ANYTHING OF VALUE IN RETURN FOR WHICH LEGAL CONSIDERATION OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE IS NOT GIVEN AND RECEIVED) FROM RESTRICTED DONORS UNLESS AN EXCEPTION APPLIES. EXCEPTIONS THAT MAY APPLY AT ISAC CONFERENCES LIKELY DO NOT APPLY TO THIS EVENT AND GENERALLY SPEAKING THE ONLY EXEMPTION LIKELY AVAILABLE IS A GIFT THAT IS VALUED AT \$3 OR LESS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR COMPLIANCE WITH THE GIFT LAW, PLEASE CONSULT WITH YOUR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE.

Financial Peace of Mind - Brought to You By IPAIT

Safety is Our Top Priority

Over the past few months, we have received questions regarding safety and permitted investments as it relates to Iowa's public funds and specifically IPAIT. As a steward of public funds, we believe it is of the utmost importance to understand the parameters of investing those funds. The following article will highlight some of those parameters, as well as how IPAIT fits into the mix.



Caleb Walter
Vice President, Investment Services
PMA Financial Network, LLC
cwalter@pmanetwork.com

What is the Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust (IPAIT)?

The Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust ("IPAIT" or "Trust") is a professionally managed common law trust created with the objective of providing Iowa counties, cities, and other related organizations (the "Participants") a convenient method for investing their funds in a manner that will maximize current income consistent with safety of principal and the required degree of liquidity for operating funds.

Permitted Investments

IPAIT offers the Diversified Portfolio with the primary objectives of:

- ✓ Safety of principal
- ✓ Daily liquidity
- ✓ Maximized investment yield within the requirements of the Iowa Investment Statute

As safety is IPAIT's top priority, the Fund maintains a AAAM rating from Standard & Poor's.*

Subject to the specific investment restrictions of the portfolios described below, assets of IPAIT will only be invested in securities specifically permitted for Participants under Iowa law, as it is now or in the future, including the following types of securities and instruments ("Permitted Investments"):

- Direct obligations of the United States Government (e.g., Treasury Bills, Notes, and Bonds)
- Obligations issued or guaranteed by agencies of the United States Government (e.g., Agency Bonds)
- Collateralized repurchase agreements
- Deposits, including:
 - Bank deposits: Each deposit placed with an Iowa bank is FDIC insured up to \$250,000. Amounts exceeding \$250,000 are protected through collateralization and the State Sinking Fund provisions in Iowa Code. Accepting public funds requires a bank to pledge collateral.
 - Credit union deposits: Each deposit placed with an Iowa credit union is NCUA insured up to \$250,000. Amounts exceeding \$250,000 must be secured with an alternative form of collateral or a letter of credit from the Federal Home Loan Bank, in compliance with Iowa Code §§ 12C.16-12C.19, 12C.23, and 12C.24.
 - Insured deposits: Deposits or Certificates of Deposit (CDs) invested per Iowa Code § 12B.10(7), above any federally insured portion.

Collateral Pledge Securities for Deposits Over \$250,000

Since FDIC coverage is limited to \$250,000 per institution per client, public funds exceeding this limit must be collateralized in accordance with Iowa and federal law. Acceptable forms of collateral (per Iowa Code § 12C.22(6)) include:

1. Investment securities and shares in which a bank is permitted to invest under Iowa Code section 524.901.
2. Investment securities, as defined in Iowa Code § 524.901(1)(a), representing general obligations of a state or a political subdivision of a state that is geographically contiguous with the state, provided that such investment securities are rated within the four highest grades according to a reputable rating service, or represent unrated issues of equivalent value.

Financial Peace of Mind - Brought to You By IPAiT

3. Investment securities, as defined in Iowa Code § 524.901(1)(a), representing general obligations of a state or a political subdivision of a state that is not contiguous with the state, provided that such investment securities are rated within the two highest grades according to a reputable rating service.
4. Nontransferable letters of credit upon which the payment of principal and interest is fully secured or guaranteed by the United States or an agency or instrumentality, including government-sponsored enterprises of the United States.
5. Private insurance policies or bonds written by companies approved by the Superintendent of Banking.
6. Certificates of deposit issued by an FDIC-insured bank; the payment of which is fully insured by the FDIC both as to principal and accrued interest, that have been assigned a CUSIP number and deposited for the account of the public funds' depository bank at the Depository Trust Company.

Iowa State Sinking Fund

To further protect Iowa's public funds, a State Sinking Fund has been created. If the loss of public funds is not covered by federal deposit insurance and the proceeds of the closed bank's assets that are liquidated within 30 days of the closing of the bank are not sufficient to cover the loss, then any further payments to cover the loss will come from the State Sinking Fund for public deposits in banks. If the balance in that Sinking Fund is inadequate to pay the entire loss, then the treasurer shall obtain the additional amount needed by making an assessment against other banks whose public funds deposits exceed federal deposit insurance coverage.

**The rating is based on Standard & Poor's analysis of the Fund's credit quality, market price exposure, and management. The rating signifies excellent safety of invested principal and a superior capacity to maintain a \$1.00 per share net asset value. However, it should be understood that the rating is neither a "market" rating nor a recommendation to buy, hold, or sell securities.*

To learn more and contact an IPAiT representative, scan or click the below:



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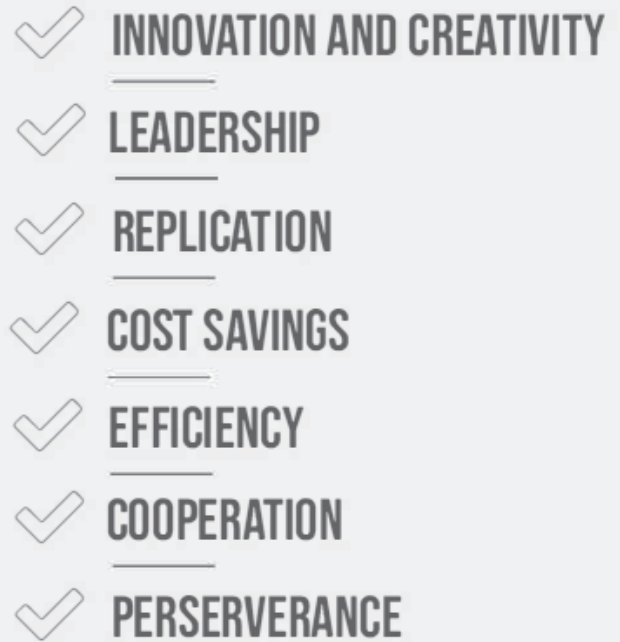
Caleb Walter is a Vice President of Investment Services at PMA Financial Network, LLC. He is a native of SE Iowa and has a B.S. from the University of Northern Iowa. Caleb holds Series 6, 50, 63, 65, and 7 securities licenses and has worked in the financial industry for over 12 years.



ISAC EXCELLENCE IN ACTION PROGRAM

A competitive awards program that seeks to identify and recognize innovative county government employees, programs, and ISAC affiliates.

The ISAC Excellence in Action Award Committee will rate each nomination based on the following seven attributes: innovation and creativity; leadership; replication; cost savings; increased efficiency; cooperation with others; and perseverance. Awards will be presented at the 2025 ISAC Annual Conference General Session on August 20 in Des Moines. Winners will also be recognized on the ISAC website and in a news release.



- Attach a narrative of the program or individual (three-page limit). Criteria and guidelines are included on the next page.
- Return all nominations by June 2, 2025, (postmarked date) to:

Iowa State Association of Counties
Attn: Jacy Ripperger
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190
West Des Moines, IA 50266

- OR email your application form (containing all the information on the form below) to jripperger@iowacounties.org.

Please fill out each field completely:

Please indicate nomination type: Program: _____ Individual: _____

Name of program/individual: _____ County or affiliate: _____

Name of nominator: _____ Title: _____

Nominator's phone: _____ Nominator's email: _____

CRITERIA

Nominated programs must demonstrate innovative thinking and do one or more of the following:

- Offer a new service to county residents, fill gaps in the availability of existing services, or tap new revenue sources.
- Improve the administration or enhance the cost effectiveness of an existing county government program.
- Upgrade the working conditions or level of training for county employees.
- Enhance the level of citizen participation in, or the understanding of, government programs.
- Provide information that facilitates effective public policy making.
- Promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing shared problems.
- Provide a model from which other counties or affiliates may learn.

JUDGING

The Excellence in Action Award Committee will rate each application based on the following seven attributes: creativity; innovation; cost savings; replication; leadership; increased efficiency; cooperation with others; and perseverance.

GUIDELINES

- Nominated programs must have become operational after January 1, 2024.
- Individual nominations should reflect the individual actions of the last 24 months.
- Nominations must be made using included application form.
- A detailed narrative of the county program or individual's actions must be included.
 - One-page minimum; three-page maximum.
- Please include two pictures to accompany your narrative.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Awards will be presented during the 2025 ISAC Annual Conference General Session on August 20 in Des Moines. Winners will also be recognized on the ISAC website and in a news release sent to local or statewide media. When appropriate, an ISAC staff member will also attend the board of supervisors meeting to present the award.

CONTACT

Jacy Ripperger
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515.244.7181

Lucas Beenken
lbeenken@iowacounties.org
515.244.7181

Economic Opportunity from Renewables Relies on Balanced Zoning Standards

Iowa has a long history with renewable energy. According to American Clean Power, the state had 13,278 megawatts of installed clean energy capacity in 2023, enough to power about four million homes. In particular, Iowa has consistently been one of the top producers for wind energy, frequently ranking second in the nation for power produced from wind. In 2023, approximately 59% of the state's net electric generation came from wind energy. Not to be outdone, Iowa's solar industry has seen steady growth over the last five years, especially in utility-scale solar development.

While wind and solar development has helped cement Iowa as an energy leader, it has also provided direct benefits to rural communities. One of the benefits has been the creation of jobs related to the manufacturing, construction, and operation of projects. In 2022, the wind and solar industries supported more than 4,800 jobs in Iowa. Long-term operation jobs in particular offer an opportunity to incentivize young people to stay in or return to rural places. Several community colleges in Iowa offer programs to train on-site technicians, providing students from rural areas with the ability to get well-paying jobs that can help them return to or remain in small communities.

In addition to new jobs created by renewable development, counties where projects are located have received new tax revenue generated from projects. Combined, wind and solar projects paid \$61.5 million in tax payments across Iowa in 2023, including in rural areas where projects are most often located. These new revenue sources serve an important role in funding community necessities such as schools, road repairs or improvements, and emergency services. Notably, the additional funding often means the tax burden on local residents is reduced or levies can be kept steady while still supporting services in the county.

Landowners also directly benefit from the development of wind and solar projects. Project hosts typically receive annual land-lease payments, which offer a new steady source of income to many farm families, adding a degree of security despite turbulent agricultural markets. As of 2023, wind and solar industries paid about \$73 million annually in land-lease payments in Iowa.

To fully capture the benefits of renewable energy development, counties should enact zoning standards that allow for projects to be sited in a way that works for local communities. County officials are often tasked with determining specific siting and zoning standards and must work to achieve a delicate balance between protecting the interests of local residents while creating realistic standards that allow for projects to be built. Significant pressure from a small number of residents can tip the scales in favor of overly restrictive zoning, which can effectively lead to a ban on renewable development within a county's borders and the loss of the corresponding benefits.

The Center for Rural Affairs has worked to provide assistance to rural counties contending with wind and solar zoning issues. We have collaborated with local officials in several states to identify the information and resources that are most needed when counties are working through the process of developing or amending their ordinances. Based on direct feedback from county officials, we developed a [Clean Energy Siting Library](#) that offers officials a centralized location to access numerous resources that address a variety of concerns encountered by local decision makers.



Lu Nelsen
Policy Manager
Center for Rural Affairs
lu@cfra.org

Economic Opportunity from Renewables Relies on Balanced Zoning Standards

County board of supervisors and planning professionals also expressed their desire to see example language for zoning ordinances that provides more insight or a blueprint of sorts on how standards can be written. To that end, we created a [Model Clean Energy Ordinances webpage](#) that offers language from real ordinances in several states. Ultimately, the goal of these resources and the model language is ensuring that officials have access to the resources they need to make informed decisions for their communities.

Creating functional ordinances for renewable energy development is a difficult balancing act. Maximizing the benefits of renewable energy requires crafting zoning standards that consider the concerns and needs of community members while maintaining opportunities for landowners and developers to responsibly site projects. For projects to be successful, all stakeholders must come to the table and work to implement ordinances that protect residents while allowing the community to reap the economic benefits offered by renewable energy projects.

*** The views and opinions expressed in articles authored by anyone other than ISAC staff are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of ISAC.*

ISAC NACo Representative Reminder

NOTICE: Pursuant to the ISAC bylaws, notice is hereby given that ISAC is accepting applications for the position of ISAC NACo (National Association of Counties) Representative. The ISAC NACo Representative is selected by the ISAC Board of Directors.

The duties of the ISAC NACo Representative include attending four NACo Board of Directors meetings a year around the country and representing Iowa on the NACo Board of Directors.

The ISAC NACo Representative is automatically a member of the ISAC Board of Directors as well. The ISAC NACo Representative will be required to attend nine ISAC Board meetings annually and report to the ISAC Board regarding NACo.

Applicants must be either county officials or county professionals. Applicants must be from a county that is a member of NACo. The term of the ISAC NACo Representative is three years and commences in July 2025 at the conclusion of the NACo Annual Conference. A person may serve a maximum of three terms.

This is an unpaid position. ISAC will reimburse the ISAC NACo Representative for all reasonable travel expenses to attend the NACo Board of Directors meetings and ISAC Board of Directors meetings.

Applications are available at <http://www.iowacounties.org> or by calling 515.244.7181. Applications must be received no later than 4:00 pm on May 2, 2025, at the following address:

awoodard@iowacounties.org and rbennett@iowacounties.org

or

Iowa State Association of Counties
Attn: Andrea Woodard, Executive Director
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

ISAC January Board Minutes Summary

January 14, 2025

ISAC President John Werden called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill Peterson swore in President Werden, the ISAC Executive Committee, and the remainder of the ISAC Board.

Andrea Woodard began the Board orientation with a presentation of ISAC's fundamental elements, including: the missions and vision; the operational process and structure; the role of boards and committees; the programs, services, and staff; and the overall organization structure.

Kristi Harshbarger gave an overview of ISAC's Articles, bylaws, and board policies while giving an outline and how each of the documents work together but serve different purposes. She also described the additional agreements, non-profit, and 28E's that ISAC maintains and manages.

The ISAC teams gave reports on their duties, functions, the services that they provide, and the staff members involved. Team overviews included: Member Relations; Finance and Program Services; Legal Services; and Information Technology.

The meeting minutes of the November 13-14, 2024, ISAC Board of Directors meeting were approved. The ICTS and IGBP Board of Directors meeting minutes from the same dates were reviewed for informational purposes.

Kelsey reported that the ISAC New County Officers School had a good turnout with nearly 250 pre-registrants. Brad and she gave an overview of the ISAC Leadership Seminar that will be held at the Renaissance Des Moines Savery Hotel on February 25.

Kelsey, Jacy Ripperger, and Rachel Bennett updated the Board on the 2025 ISAC Spring Conference and Legislative Reception.

Rachel provided materials related to the 2025 NACo Legislative Conference including a tentative Iowa attendee schedule.

Brad gave an overview of the financial statements dated November 30, 2024. ISAC is working to move investments from Wells Fargo to Community State Bank. The financial report was approved unanimously.

Brad presented and reviewed the ISAC 990 and asked that each Board member sign a conflict-of-interest statement. The ISAC 990 was approved unanimously.

Andrea Woodard provided an update related to the SWOT analysis sessions that were held with both the ISAC Board and staff separately. She explained in detail the tentative proposed priorities:

1. Expanding member engagement
2. Organizational clarity - compensation study, fundamentals, organizational structure/chart
3. Assessing programs - ROI, discontinuing some activities while possibly adding others
4. Long-term projections - three-to-five-year budget projections

Kristi Harshbarger reported that ISAC worked with Ahlers & Cooney, PC to file a Friend of the Court brief involving a case with DMACC related to the retainage and release of funds through a contractor. All of the substantive issues went in favor of counties.

Kristi also gave a brief history and updates related to the ongoing IRS tax status dispute.

ISAC January Board Minutes Summary

Beth Manley gave an overview and recommended ratification of changes to the ISAC HIPAA Policy that are required by law. The changes were ratified unanimously.

Andrea and Kristi led a lengthy discussion about creating a Letter of Support Policy for ISAC that would give guidance on when ISAC should or shouldn't provide a requested letter of support. The Board came to the consensus to wait to agree to providing letters of support until an official policy is approved by the Board.

Dylan Young, Brandi Kanselaar, and Beth gave an update on a data request that has been made by Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) to ISAC/ICTS for a transfer of CSN data related to the behavioral health system transition. The Board asked questions related to the data, the overall request, and security. A lot was unknown at the time of the meeting and further updates will be provided in the future.

Jamie Cashman and Lucas Beenken gave an outlook for the legislative session and provided an overview of ISAC's Top Priorities and Objectives and their current status based on meetings prior to and continuing during the session. Property tax will be the biggest issue for everyone.

Andrea gave her Executive Director's Report that included updates on the following: Roadmap to the Future; goals; compensation study; legal team hire; government relations team; Local Government Efficiencies Working Group; and NACo/NCCAE meeting takeaways.

President Werden ajourned the meeting.

ISAC February Board Minutes Summary

February 19, 2025

President John Werden called the meeting to order, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance, and made opening remarks. John swore in Board members who were absent from the January board meeting. The meeting minutes of the January 14, 2025, ISAC Board of Directors, and the January 31, 2025, ISAC Executive Committee were approved unanimously.

Brad Holtan highlighted the January 2025 ISAC Financial Report which was approved unanimously. He discussed increased interest by counties in the ISAC Group Health Plan, the reserves for the Unemployment Fund, and the IPAC general balance sheet.

Brad gave an overview of the need for new Association Management Software (AMS). The same software has been used since 2010, and the accounting software will no longer be supported in 2028. Staff demoed 30 different systems and narrowed them down to seven. One stood out above all others – Rhythm. The contract was included in the Board materials, and Brad reviewed the system specs and the improvements that it would provide for ISAC and its members. The annual cost is \$33,000 with an increase of 5% each year and implementation is a one-time fee of \$36,800. There is \$50,000 in the Board Designated Fund that was not spent on the remodel, and we are recommending two actions. One is to approve purchasing the software, and the second would be to move \$50,000 from the Board Designated Fund. The software recommendation and the transfer of funds were approved unanimously.

Kristi Harshbarger reported that the changes have been made as requested to the IRS Private Letter Ruling and sent back to Nyemaster to have officially filed. Since that time, the fee has increased by \$5,700. The Board unanimously approved the payment as presented.

Kristi continued that ISAC is keeping a close eye on cases regarding open meetings and public records for which a Friend of the Court brief may be needed in the future.

Andrea Woodard and Kristi gave an overview of a basic Letters of Support Policy. After ample discussion, the Board requested that language be added, “regardless of decision the Committee will report back to the Board.” The policy was approved as amended.

Dylan Young, Brandi Kanselaar, and Beth Manley gave an update on the Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) request for CSN data. The Board and staff discussed the data and overall transition at length.

Katie Cook reviewed the 2025 ISAC Scholarship Award winners.

Rachel Bennett reported that ISAC is now accepting nominations for the 2025 ISAC Golden Eagle. Information is in the Board packet, on the website, and in the magazine.

Andrea Woodard gave an update on the compensation study.

Andrea continued by giving an overview of a document provided that includes tentative strategies, timelines, and staff who will be engaged in each of the priority areas that ISAC set in relation to the Roadmap to the Future study performed by the Board and staff. This is a tentative plan, and we hope to have more details on the 99-county tour soon.

Kelsey Sebern and Brad gave an update on the February 25, ISAC Leadership Seminar. Jacy Ripperger, Kelsey, and Rachel reviewed plans for the 2025 ISAC Legislative Reception and Spring Conference. Lastly, Rachel gave an update on the 2025 NACo Legislative Conference.

ISAC February Board Minutes Summary

Brad Holtan gave a presentation during which he recommended and the Board approved the FY 2026 ISAC budget to the board for approval and recommendation to the full membership to be considered during the 2025 ISAC Spring Conference General Session. He began with FY 2025 budget projects and then covered many of the unknowns going into FY 2026.

The Board considered the recommended FY 2026 budget decision points: No increase in dues; \$10 increase in conference registration rates (Fall Conference-\$260, Spring Conference-\$220); dropping deductible to \$500/\$1,000 for employees (from \$750/\$1,500); Increasing the maximum limit for short-term disability from \$1,500/week to \$2,000/week; Increasing the maximum limit for long-term disability from \$8,000/month to \$10,000/month; 3% salary line-item increase, subject to compensation study; no changes to the executive director's salary; and purchase and implement Microsoft Dynamics BC.

Jamie Cashman and Lucas Beenken gave a report and answered questions related to legislation of interest to counties and an overall update on the happenings at the Capitol.

President Werden reviewed the 2025 ISAC Committee assignments.

Andrea gave her Executive Director's Report that included the following and more: The 99-county tour; assessment of ISAC programs and services; Andrea's 2025 goals; Board member visits and affiliate meetings; focus on government relations; the Efficiency Task Force and Local Government working group; and legal team update related to filling Kristi Harshbarger's vacancy.

President Werden adjourned the meeting.

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2025 Calendar

April 2025

- 1-2 Public Health Conference of Iowa
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
13-16 ISSDA Spring Civil School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

May 2025

- 7 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(Virtual)
14-16 Iowa Treasurer's May School
(Gateway Hotel & Conference Center, Ames)
21-23 Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference
(Pennington County, South Dakota)

June 2025

- 4-6 ICIT Conference
(The Meadows Event and Conference Center)
18 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)
18-20 ICRA Summer School
(West Des Moines, Iowa)
19 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)
25-27 ISACA Summer Conference
(Hilton Garden Inn West Des Moines)

July 2025

- 11-14 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

August 2025

- 20-22 ISAC Annual Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

September 2025

- 16-19 ISSDA Fall Jail School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

October 2025

- 5-8 Assessors Fall School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

November 2025

- 19-20 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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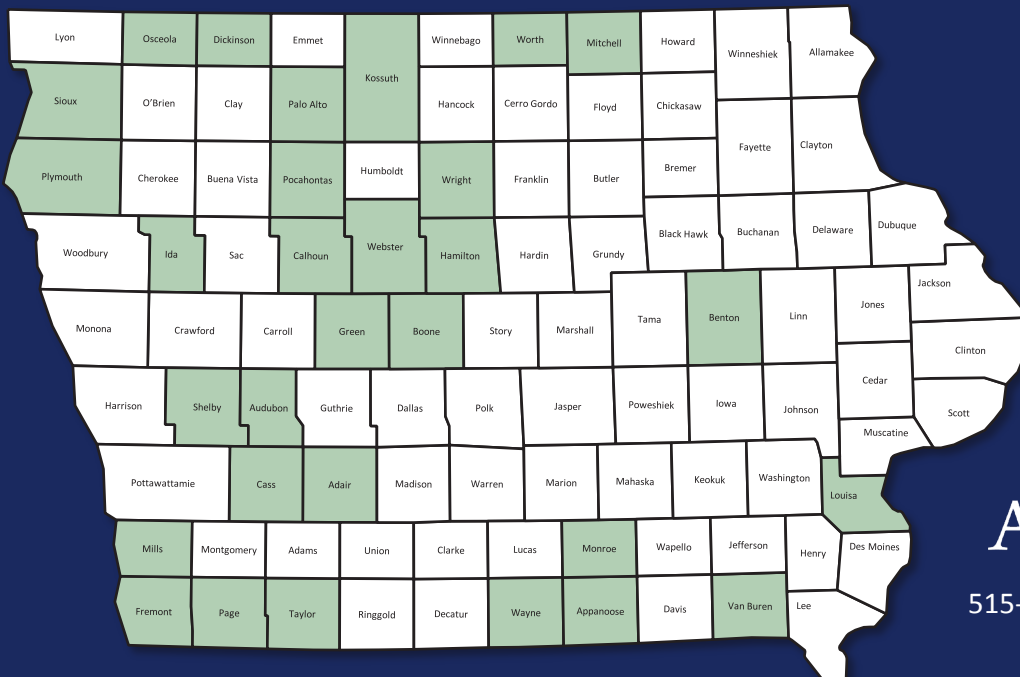
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