



# 2017 RURAL ACTION CAUCUS FALL SYMPOSIUM

**OCTOBER 5-7** | WISE COUNTY, TEXAS



RURAL  
ACTION  
CAUCUS



# 2017 FALL RAC SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, October 5 - Saturday, October 7

Wise County, Texas

chair: **The Hon. J.D. Clark**, County Judge, Wise County, Texas

vice chair: **The Hon. Rebecca Benally**, Commissioner, San Juan County, Utah

vice chair: **The Hon. Kenneth Dahlstedt**, Commissioner, Skagit County, Washington

vice chair: **The Hon. James Ebert**, Commissioner, Weber County, Utah

vice chair: **The Hon. Timothy R. Roussel**, Parish President, St. James Parish, Louisiana

vice chair: **The Hon. Arlanda Williams**, Councilwoman, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, Louisiana

**On-site staff contact:** Arthur Scott, 423.292.9218

[www.NACo.org/RAC](http://www.NACo.org/RAC) • [@NACoTweets](https://twitter.com/NACoTweets) • [#RAC](https://twitter.com/RAC) • [#COUNTIES](https://twitter.com/COUNTIES)



# WELCOME

Dear NACo Rural Action Caucus Members,

Thank you for joining us in Wise County for this year's National Association of Counties (NACo) Rural Action Caucus (RAC) Symposium!

The Rural Action Caucus serves as the voice for America's rural counties at the federal level and works with Congress and the Administration to advance rural priorities and issues. Since nearly two-thirds of the nation's 3,069 counties are considered rural, a combined, united advocacy group of representatives from those counties can have a large presence and a meaningful impact.

Elected officials from rural counties are focused on a wide range of issues, ranging from broadband and infrastructure development to the continuing opioid epidemic. Rural counties must often be creative in addressing these issues and identifying available resources and the best practices shared through RAC can prove invaluable.

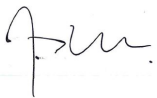
Appropriately, this year's symposium will tackle a varied set of issues, including rural opportunities, the opioid crisis and disaster response and resiliency.

Another crucial aspect of this symposium is our annual strategy session, during which we will identify and define our key federal legislative, policy and program issues for 2018. We will also identify how best to approach these issues and work toward our goals with Congress and the Administration, so it is important that our RAC members speak up and share ideas and opinions.

We appreciate our generous sponsors who have made this symposium possible through their contributions, and these partnerships and collaborations will continue to be valuable as we carry the torch for rural issues.

There is much public discussion right now about rural America, and it is an exciting time to be a member of RAC. We look forward to a productive, engaging and enlightening symposium, and we thank you for being a part of it!

In Service,



**J.D. Clark**

Chair, Rural Action Caucus  
National Association of Counties



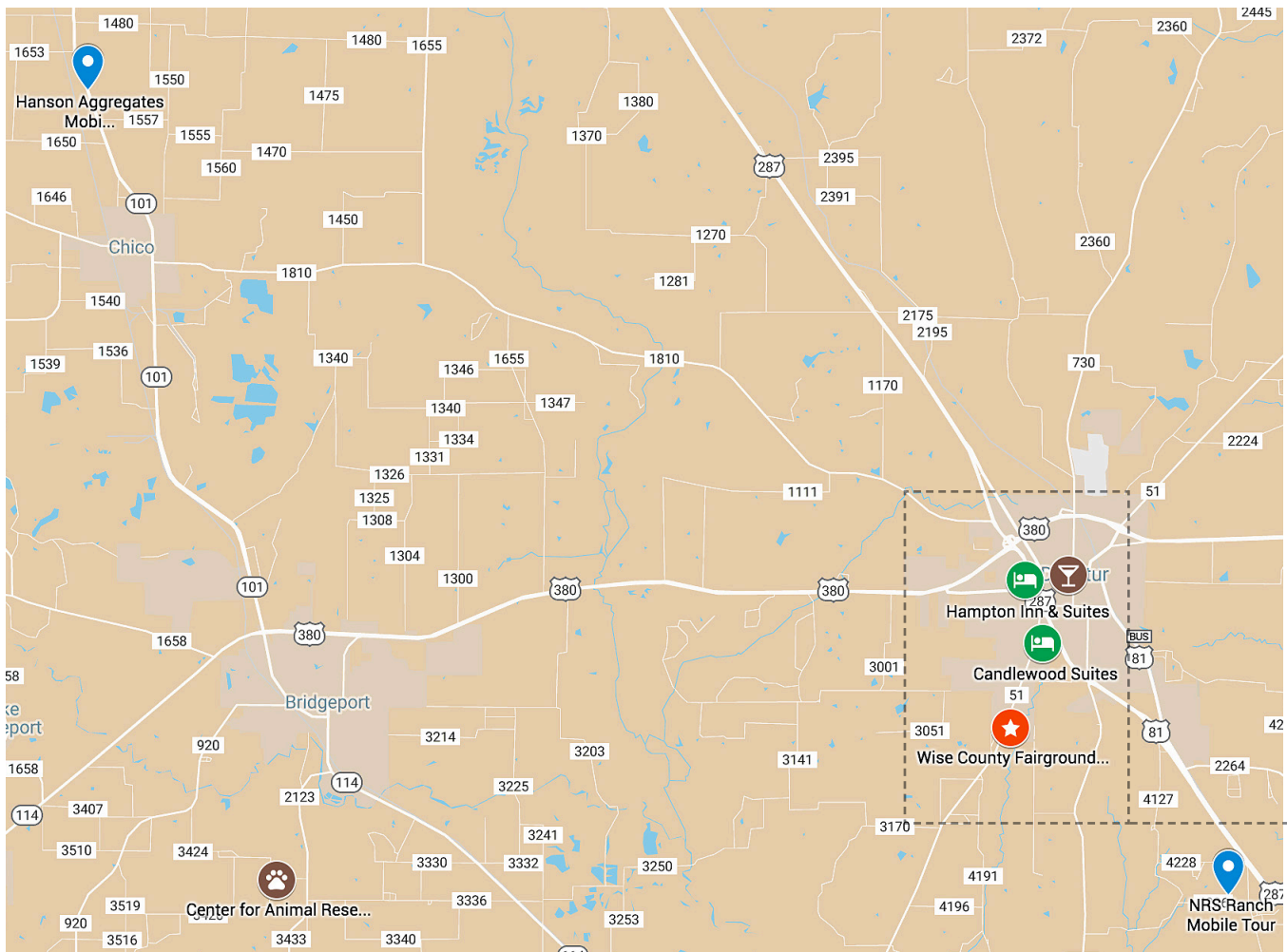
# EVENT LOCATION

**RAC Symposium will take place at:**

**WISE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

**3101 FM 51**

**DECATUR, TX 76234**



*Transportation will be provided to all events.*









# AGENDA

**Transportation for all events will be provided to and from the Candlewood Suites and Hampton Inn.  
Due to rural roads and tight timing, we ask all participants to take the shuttle.  
Dress Code: Texas Business Casual (jeans and dress shirt)**

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

### **6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. RAC WELCOME RECEPTION**

Enjoy a Texas-style “street party” in the historic Decatur Town Square, an excellent example of downtown revitalization. Anchored by the iconic 1895 Richardsonian Romanesque courthouse, featured on the National Register of Historic Places, the downtown square is home to leather workers, custom hat makers, boutiques and restaurants. The reception will feature a tent for attendees, hors d’oeuvres, drinks and live music.

*Charter buses will be provided from the hotel to the Welcome Reception*

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

### **7:15 A.M. SHUTTLE FROM HOTEL TO CONFERENCE CENTER**

### **7:30 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. NETWORKING BREAKFAST**

### **8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. 2017 RAC STRATEGY SESSION**

The group will examine caucus and member activities over the past year during a “2016-2017 Year in Review.” Additionally, RAC members will identify goals and metrics for the coming year as we chart a course to another successful year with the Rural Action Caucus.

**Mr. Arthur Scott**, Associate Legislative Director, National Association of Counties



**9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. IMPROVING HEALTH IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

With funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis is conducting formative research to explore opportunities that will accelerate or fundamentally improve health and equity in rural communities. The NORC Walsh Center team has engaged several partners across sectors and geographic scales to understand how rural capacities can be leveraged to improve health and equity. The project will culminate in a set of specific recommendations for diverse rural stakeholders, including national funders, to overcome barriers to engaging in rural health and community development efforts.

**Ms. Emily Phillips**, MPH, Senior Research Analyst, NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis

**10:10 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. RURAL RESOURCES AT WORK IN THE WAR ON OPIOIDS**

While opioid prescriptions have declined in recent years, fatal overdoses from prescription painkillers and heroin continue to rise. The problem is severely impacting rural America, where the unemployment rate remains high and a disproportionate number of residents are on Medicare or Medicaid.

**Mr. D.C. Campbell**, Director of Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group, Texas Department of Insurance

**Mr. David Lipsetz**, Housing Assistance Council

**12:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. MOBILE WORKSHOPS/LUNCH**

**NRS Ranch**

The NRS Ranch is a sprawling destination retail facility and event center that is one of the main clothing and tack suppliers for the roping, rodeo, and ranching lifestyles. Our tour will allow us a look at the beautiful ranch while learning about how this once-small local Western store grew into a national brand.

**Hanson Aggregates**

Hanson Aggregates, a limestone quarry, is one of the largest quarries in North America. Our tour will give us an up-close look at the operations of this 24/7 facility that provides crushed limestone to the Dallas-Fort Worth, East Texas, and Louisiana markets for construction projects.

**6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. DINNER AT THE CENTER FOR ANIMAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (CARE)**

CARE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to education, research, rescue, and long-term care for exotic animals. Located on 20 acres in Bridgeport, Texas, CARE currently provides a permanent home to over 40 animals, including mountain lions, African lions, tigers, black and spotted leopards, bobcats, ring-tail lemurs, llamas, and a coati.

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7**

**7:15 A.M. SHUTTLE FROM HOTEL TO CONFERENCE CENTER**

**7:30 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. NETWORKING BREAKFAST**



**8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. THE ROAD AHEAD IN THE WAR ON POVERTY**

RAC members will examine the results from an interactive polling session at NACo's Annual Conference and discuss federal programs counties can utilize in the fight against intergenerational poverty.

**Ms. Anne Hazlett**, Assistant to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

**9:00 A.M. – 9:15 A.M. NETWORKING BREAK**

**9:15 A.M. – 11:45 A.M. STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE DISASTER RESILIENCE**

Just three days after Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, more than 50 counties reported flooding and over 30,000 people were placed in shelters. Impacted county leaders from South East Texas will share their mitigation response and early recovery efforts. Additionally, this session will discuss the important Response/Relief and Recovery tasks that occur following a natural disaster. Starting with critical life-saving steps immediately following a disaster to important 'next steps' implementing a robust Long-Term Disaster Recovery Plan. This must-attend session will cover these topics and more to help counties deal with these events.

**[INVITED] Hurricane Harvey Impacted Counties**

**Mr. Chuck Banks**, Director, Capital Projects and Infrastructure,  
PricewaterhouseCoopers

**The Hon. J.D. Clark**, County Judge, Wise County, Texas [MODERATOR]

**11:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS**

**12:00 P.M. ADJOURN**

# Our valued partnership helps provide retirement solutions *for* America's workers

The National Association of Counties (NACo) and Nationwide® are unified in our mission to help county leaders find better retirement solutions for their employees. Throughout our 35-year partnership, we've served more than 1.5 million county employees and retirees in the United States.

## TOGETHER, WE REACH

over  
**350,000**  
PARTICIPANTS

more than  
**\$16 billion**  
IN ACCUMULATED ASSETS

over  
**3,000**  
PARTICIPATING COUNTIES  
AND COUNTY JURISDICTIONS



For more information, contact:

CARLOS GREENE  
DAVID BELNICK

404-263-3656  
410-790-5440

CGREENE@NACO.ORG  
DAVID.BELNICK@NATIONWIDE.COM



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Nationwide Retirement Solutions (Nationwide) partners with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to provide counties and their employees with a competitive deferred compensation program. As part of this partnership, Nationwide pays a fee to NACo in exchange for NACo's exclusive endorsement, marketing support and program oversight of Nationwide products made available under the program. For more information, including fees paid, Nationwide encourages you to visit [NRSforu.com](http://NRSforu.com).

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# SPEAKER & PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**ANNE HAZLETT**, ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



As Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Hazlett will oversee the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Business Service, and the Rural Housing Service within USDA and report directly to the secretary.

An Indiana native, Hazlett has worked on agriculture and rural issues for over fifteen years. Working in both the U.S. House and Senate, Hazlett has most recently served as Republican Chief Counsel for the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry where she was an advisor on many issues impacting rural America from Farm Bill programs to broadband and child nutrition. In addition to her public service in Washington, Hazlett was the Director of Agriculture for her home state where she managed the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and was an advisor to Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels on agriculture and rural issues. Further, she served as Chief of Staff to Indiana Lt. Governor Becky Skillman where she assisted in the creation of the state's first Office of Community and Rural Affairs, an agency devoted to providing financial and technical assistance to rural communities, and supervised management of the state's housing finance, energy, and tourism agencies.

Hazlett is a graduate of Kansas State University, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural communications. In addition, she holds a law degree from Indiana University and a masters degree in agricultural law from the University of Arkansas.

**EMILY PHILLIPS**, MPH, SENIOR RESEARCH ANALYST, NORC WALSH CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH ANALYSIS



Emily Phillips is a Senior Research Analyst at NORC at the University of Chicago and the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis. Prior to joining NORC, Phillips served as a Health Educator in rural Baker County, Florida, where she contributed to community health initiatives geared toward reducing violence, substance use, and tobacco use among youth. Phillips received her MPH and a Social Determinants of Health Certificate from Emory University in 2015 and her BA in Anthropology and History from the University of Delaware in 2011.

**DUNBAR "D.C." CAMPBELL**, RESEARCH DIRECTOR, WORKERS' COMPENSATION RESEARCH AND EVALUATION GROUP, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE



DC Campbell is the Research Director of the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group (REG) at the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). He has almost 20 years of workers' compensation experience, beginning as a medical data analyst with the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission. He has researched and published reports on major aspects of the Texas workers' compensation system such as medical and pharmaceutical utilization trends, patterns of employer participation in the system, and safety and return-to-work best practices. He also has extensive experience collecting, analyzing, and reporting educational, banking, and military data. DC is a Marine Corps veteran. He has studied at the University of Maryland and the University of Hawaii. He has a B.A. in Economics/Political Science and an M.A. in Economics.

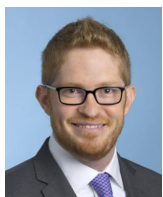
**DAVID LIPSETZ**, SENIOR FELLOW, HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL



David Lipsetz is a Senior Fellow at the Housing Assistance Council and leading expert in affordable housing and sustainable community development. David came to HAC after holding several White House-appointed positions, most recently serving as USDA's Associate Administrator for Rural Housing. His office oversaw policy development and program administration of more than \$100 billion in direct lending, mortgage guarantees, grants and technical assistance for community and economic development in rural America. Prior to USDA, David served as HUD's Deputy Assistant Secretary and Senior Advisor for Public and Indian Housing. Before joining the Obama Administration, David managed policy, large-scale initiatives and organizational development for housing agencies in New York City and Oakland, CA.

David was born and raised in Ohio. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Michigan State University, and Master's degrees in Sociology and City and Regional Planning from the Ohio State University. He currently resides in Washington, DC with his wife and kids.

**ARTHUR SCOTT**, ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, NACo



As Associate Legislative Director, Arthur Scott staffs both NACo's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Policy Steering Committee and Rural Action Caucus, lobbying on a broad range of issues facing rural counties. Additionally, Arthur serves as NACo's Political Outreach Manager and developed NACo's 2016 U.S. Presidential Election initiative "Counties Connect America." Other responsibilities include staffing NACo's Northeast Region Caucus and the National Association of County Intergovernmental Relations Officials (NACIRO).

**MATT CHASE**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NACo



Matthew D. Chase has served as the Executive Director of the National Association of Counties (NACo) since September 2012. As the chief executive officer he is responsible for the daily management of NACo, the only national association representing America's 3,069 county governments.

During his professional career, Matt has focused on promoting America's economic competitiveness, strengthening the intergovernmental system of federal, state and local officials, and engaging local government officials in the federal policymaking process. In addition, he is a regular presenter on the impact of federal budget and policy trends on local governments and communities.



# RAC STEERING COMMITTEE

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Wise County, Texas

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Public Information Officer  
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San Miguel County, Colo.

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Collector Of Revenue  
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Pittsylvania County, Va.

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Evangeline Parish, La.

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**THE HON. GRANT VEEDER**

Auditor/Commissioner of Elections  
Black Hawk County, Iowa

**THE HON. BRYAN VIDRINE**

Police Juror  
Evangeline Parish, La.

**DR. ANTHONY VIEGBESIE**

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## **NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

March 3-7, 2018  
Washington Hilton Hotel  
Washington, D.C.



## **WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION CONFERENCE**

May 23-25, 2018  
Blaine County/Sunvalley, Idaho



## **NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION**

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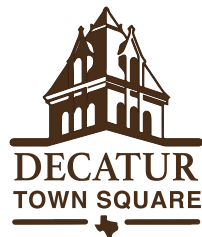
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