



RURAL ACTION CAUCUS

2015 Fall RAC Symposium
Thursday, October 15 - Saturday, October 17

Ouray County Fairgrounds and 4H Event Center
22739 Highway 550, Ridgway, CO 81432
****Pre and Post Symposium Events Included***

Chair: **Hon. Lynn Padgett**, Commission Chair, Ouray County, Colo.
Vice Chair: **Hon. J.D. Clark**, County Judge, Wise County, Texas
Vice Chair: **Hon. Kenneth Dahlstedt**, Commissioner, Skagit County, Wash.
Vice Chair: **Hon. Craig Gregory**, Council Member, St. Martin Parish, La.
Vice Chair: **Hon. Tommie Cline Martin**, Supervisor, Gila County, Ariz.
Vice Chair: **Hon. Mandy Metzger**, Supervisor, Coconino County, Ariz.
Vice Chair: **Hon. Michael Victorino**, Council Member, Maui County, Hawai'i

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

Wednesday, October 14 (Optional Pre-Symposium Events)

9:00AM - 4:00PM **Backcountry Jeep Tour (**Special Pre-Registration Required*)**
Open-air jeeps will tour the two oldest hydro-electric plants in the nation, visit the Ouray Ice Park, historic Atlas Mill, Yankee Boy Basin and Governor Basin. In Governor Basin members will look at a proposed Good Samaritan project site. The tour will also visit the historic town sites of Ironton and Red Mountain Town. This field trip will highlight rural economic development efforts and quality of life enhancement through motorized and other outdoor recreational opportunities, resource extraction, forest health, and discuss the need for full funding of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs.
Cost: \$95 (Includes Lunch)

Thursday, October 15 (Optional Pre-Symposium Events)

10:00AM - 7:00PM **Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad Tour (**Special Pre-Registration Required*)**
Shuttles will pick up attendees at their lodging and drive to Silverton over the Million Dollar Highway, about 30 miles (1 hour) to the south. Members will be given the opportunity to explore the historic mining town of Silverton's business district and have lunch in Silverton. At the Silverton Train Station, members will board a first class rail car departing at 1:45PM. Members will be joined by a representative of the historical society. Due to the off-season timing, members will shuttle back to Ouray after arriving in Durango at 5:15 pm and go straight to the RAC Welcome Reception.

Cost: \$179 (Not including shuttle)

7:30PM - 9:30PM

RAC Welcome Reception

Wright Opera House Ouray/Ouray Brewery

Join RAC leadership, NACo colleagues and Ouray County guests at the Welcome Reception for an evening of networking with hors d'oeuvres, drinks and unique southwestern fare.

Friday, October 16

7:30AM

Telluride Express Shuttle (three 15-person shuttles)

8:00AM - 8:30AM

Networking Breakfast

Ouray County Fairgrounds and 4H Event Center

22739 Highway 550

Ridgway, CO 81432

8:30AM - 10:30AM

2015 RAC Strategy Session

This discussion will examine ways to make NACo's Rural Action Caucus more relevant in the federal legislative and policy arena. Caucus members will take an in-depth look at the annual calendar of events to determine how to efficiently and effectively address key county priorities through RAC engagements.

10:30AM - 12:00PM

Rural Substance Abuse Trends and Drug Trafficking

Rural areas are seeing a surge in heroin use. The rise comes as Mexican heroin production has increased in recent years. Officials seized 1,989 kilograms of heroin at the Southwest border, from Texas to California, in 2012 - up from 487 kilograms in 2008. Administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) under the U.S. Department of Justice, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program provides assistance to federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States. This panel will discuss drug abuse trends in rural America and how counties can utilize the HIDTA program.

Guest Speakers

- **Mr. Michael Gottlieb**, National Director, HIDTA Program, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President
- **Hon. Kenneth Dahlstedt**, Commissioner, Skagit County, Wash.

12:00PM - 1:00PM

Networking Lunch

1:00PM - 2:30PM

Preparing for an Aging Rural Population

The demographic of older adults is growing more rapidly than at any other time in the country's history. By 2030, 1 in every 5 Americans will be 65 or over—and even more in many rural areas. Local governments and community leaders must prepare to capitalize on the opportunities an aging society presents and prepare to meet the unique needs that older adults have. This session will provide an overview of area agencies on aging and the broader national aging network and how rural communities are preparing for the increasingly aging population.

Guest Speakers

- **Mr. Roberto Rey**, Colorado Associate State Director, AARP

- **Ms. Autumn Campbell**, Director of Legislative Affairs, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)

TBD **Combating Rural Childhood Poverty**
 White House Rural Council recently announced renewed efforts to address childhood poverty in rural areas through multi-generational service delivery models. As part of this effort, RAC is working to identify existing programs and services aimed at combating childhood poverty at the county level. Poverty has a significant negative impact on childhood development that can have detrimental economic and social effects across the lifespan. During this session we will examine federal and state resources and partnerships designed to assist county officials with addressing various factors associated with childhood poverty and explore the critical role that rural counties play in early childhood development and their needs in addressing this issue.

Guest Speakers

- **NGA (TBD)**
- **CDHS (TBD)**
- **Hon. Lynn Padgett**, Commissioner, Ouray County, Col.

6:00PM **Adjourn**

6:30PM - 8:00PM **Dinner**
Beaumont Hotel
505 Main St.
Ouray, Colorado, 81427

Saturday, October 17

8:00AM **Telluride Express Shuttle (three 15-person shuttles)**

8:30AM - 9:00PM **Networking Breakfast [Special Guest Speaker]**
Ouray County Fairgrounds and 4H Event Center
 22739 Highway 550
 Ridgway, CO 81432

9:00AM - 12:00PM **Mobile Workshop: Ridgway Historic Business District (Ridgway Creative District)**
 Tour will highlight Marketplace Fairness Act (MFA) benefits for rural small businesses in the new Creative District and examine a Responsible Acceleration of Maintenance and Partnerships (RAMP) project featuring local-state partnership to pave the district and create a more pedestrian-friendly environment. MFA gives states and local governments the ability to enforce existing sales tax laws allowing Main Street retailers to compete on a level playing field against out-of-state Internet retailers.

12:00PM - 1:00PM **Catered Lunch**
[Sherbino Theater/True Grit Café]

1:00PM - 2:00PM **Mobile Workshop: Acme Greenhouse and Wellness Center**
 Members will visit the Acme Greenhouse and Wellness Center for a discussion with representatives from the Department of Revenue, Sheriff’s Department, Public Health Department and County Attorney regarding the nuances of a marijuana grow facility in the county.

2:00PM - 3:30PM

Mobile Workshop: Log Hill Mesa Overlook and County Road 1

The Ouray County school system no longer operates bus routes on County Road 1 - a proposed TIGER Grant Project - due to the high cost of maintaining and repairing busses servicing this route. The tour will discuss the need for a long-term reauthorization of the federal surface transportation bill, MAP-21, and examine impacts the measure has on county infrastructure and services.

3:30PM

Adjourn

Sunday, October 18 (Optional Post-Symposium Events)

9:00AM - 5:00PM

Ridgway Cascade Bike Tour (*Special Pre-Registration Required)

Interested members will meet at Cascade Bikes in Ridgway at 9:00 am for light breakfast fare and hear about the history and benefits of the new Ridgway Area Trail (RAT) system on a combination of Town, BLM, and State Park land. Cascade Bikes will outfit participants with a mountain bike, helmet, and water bottle. RAT members will lead a ride down the River Trail path toward popular trails that are part of the Weaver (Dennis Weaver) system and the newest trail system. This field trip will highlight regional rural economic development efforts and need for full funding of PILT/SRS. Trailside box lunch will be served. Riders can choose to walk or ride up to a scenic overlook. There will be easy-moderate and moderate-advanced options. **There will not be 8 hours of solid riding.**

Cost: \$30 Hard-Tail Bike/\$50 - Full-Suspension Bike (Includes Lunch)

10:00AM - 3:00PM

Ouray Trail Group Tour (*Special Pre-Registration Required)

Hike will be led by members of the Ouray Trail Group which voluntarily maintains and builds (in partnership with USFS) hundreds of miles of public trails in the National Forests within Ouray County. Hike will feature the Ouray Perimeter Trail, which provides outdoor recreational opportunities for locals and visitors and has a very positive economic impact on the City of Ouray and Ouray County. Boxed lunch will be served trailside in Box Canyon Falls Park. Bring hiking gear, water bottle, trail snack, camera, waterproof layers and weather appropriate clothes/hat/gloves.

Cost: \$12 (Includes Lunch)

NACo Committee Staff Liaison: Arthur Scott, Associate Legislative Director, 202.942.4230 or ascott@naco.org