

# County News

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Photo by David Hathcox

Attorney General John Ashcroft (fourth from left) meets with members of NACo's Executive Committee (l to r) President Javier Gonzales, Second Vice President Angelo Kyle, Immediate Past President Jane Hague, President Elect Ken Mayfield and First Vice President Karen Miller, before addressing a packed crowd at the luncheon to honor America's first responders. Full coverage of NACo's Legislative Conference begins on page 6.

## Small Community Air Service Program funds available

By **ROBERT J. FOGEL**  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

In 2000, AIR-21 (Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century) created the Small Community Air Service Development Pilot Program. NACo was very involved in the effort to create this program, aimed at helping smaller communities either attract or keep air service. The FY02 Transportation Appropriations bill made \$20 billion in funding available for the first time.

Regulations were published on March 8 outlining the program, and applications for project funding are due by April 22. While this is a quick turn around, NACo urges interested communities to apply. The program

will assist communities in developing projects to improve air carrier service and help communities overcome factors that might be inhibiting improvements in their current air carrier service.

As many as 40 communities nationwide may be given grants, though no more than four from any one state. Airports designated as small hubs or non-hub are eligible. A local government may be the sponsor of the application or a local nonprofit may serve as the unofficial sponsor with the local government executing the grant agreement as a co-sponsor.

There is no specific limit on types

See **AIR-21** on page 4

## Proposed changes to CDBG raise objections

By **CASSANDRA MATTHEWS**  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Members of the House Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee blasted proposed changes to the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) at a hearing held earlier this month.

HUD Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development Roy Bernardi appeared before the committee to testify on a pro-

posal within the Administration's budget documents that would reduce the annual CDBG allocation to the wealthiest one percent of eligible grantees by 50 percent. This money would be added back into the formula to be redistributed to the nation's poorest communities.

In a bi-partisan attack on the "Wealthiest Communities" pro-

See **CDBG** on page 5

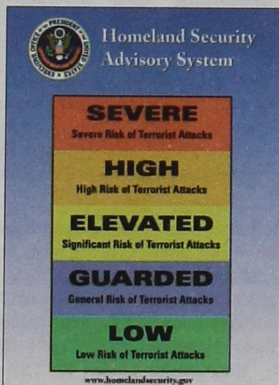
## Homeland Security Alert System gets passing grade

By **BEVERLY SCHLOTTERBECK**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Members of NACo's Homeland Security Task Force give general passing grades to the recent Homeland Security Advisory System issued March 12 by Gov. Tom Ridge at the White House Office of Homeland Security, yet raised several questions about its implementation.

"I think any 'warning system' really is a good thing ... This system should help keep the public informed, informed and more vigilant," Santa Fe County (N.M.) Fire Marshal Hank Blackwell.

The alert system, with its color-coded levels, is an attempt by the Administration to respond to criticisms about ill-defined terrorism threats issued in the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11. The federal government has adopted the system, and the Office of Homeland Security is



asking that counties and other government levels adopt it as well.

Oklahoma County (Okla.) Sheriff John Whetsel has already implemented the alert system in the Sheriff's Office and expects the county to quickly join suit. Yuba

County (Calif.) Supervisor Al Amaro says he also expects his county to adopt the code since it will enhance preparedness. "Knowing the criteria on which the alert conditions are based will put counties in a better position to train and prepare for different scenarios," Amaro said.

Despite a grateful welcome for some sense of direction, several task force members raised important questions about the new system. Not the least of which concerns funding. "Minus the funding, it's going to be difficult to implement the system Ridge wants," commented Javier Gonzales, NACo president and task force chair. Some counties, Gonzales pointed out, are in no position to take the actions called for by the system. "Many counties do not have funds to put plans into place, let alone engage

See **ALERT SYSTEM** on page 5

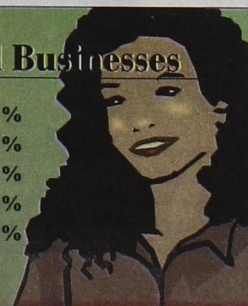
## County News

## Quik Takes

### Counties Leading Their States in Women-Owned Businesses

Honolulu County, Hawaii	69 %
New Castle County, Del.	63 %
Clark County, Nev.	62 %
Maricopa County, Ariz.	61 %
Providence County, R.I.	52 %

(Source: 1997 Economic Census)



## Cable Internet exempt from line competition

By JEFF ARNOLD  
DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Federal regulators decided on March 14 to exempt cable Internet companies from laws that force telecommunications providers to open their lines to competition. They decided cable modem service is, "an interstate information service", not subject to regulation under the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in a 3-1 vote, said the decision was necessary to spark more investment in high-speed Internet services. But critics said the move puts cable companies outside the traditional regulatory framework for telecommunications providers.

The ruling drew loud complaints from public interest groups and cable's competitors, who said it will let a few large media companies dominate the Internet. "It has been a consistent policy for more than 30 years now to increase competition and consumer choice in the area of telecommunications," said David Baker, Earthlink vice president for law and public policy. "This is just a giant step backwards."

The commission also issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) which tentatively concluded the following:

- No new franchise is required for cable modem service.
- Cable modem service fees are not to be included in gross revenues for establishing franchise.

• Having a cable franchise provides all the rights-of-way approvals that are needed to access the rights-of-way.

If adopted, these conclusions would have significant implications for many counties. Counties will have an opportunity to comment to the FCC on these issues. NACo policy states: "Federal and state governments must recognize the authority of local governments to protect the public investment, to balance competing demands on this public resource and to require fair and reasonable compensation from telecommunications providers for use of the public rights-of-way on a nondiscriminatory basis. Rights-of-way disputes between telecommunications companies and local governments should be resolved in local jurisdictions."

Unlike telephone companies, cable firms are only required to share their lines when specifically told to by the government. For example, as a condition of the AOL Time-Warner merger, that firm was required to offer its consumers a choice of Internet service providers on its broadband lines.

The Bell companies have to share their lines if they want to be able to sell their Internet services across legally prescribed boundaries. The FCC's actions assure that cable companies would not have to share their high-speed lines.

## Congress examines homeless assistance funds consolidation

By CASSANDRA MATTHEWS  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation recently convened a hearing on homeless assistance needs. In his FY03 budget proposal, President George W. Bush set forth the goal of ending chronic homelessness within 10 years. In addition, the budget document included proposals designed to enhance federal efforts towards addressing the needs of the homeless.

One proposal would reactivate the Interagency Council on the Homeless. This entity would coordinate homeless assistance efforts through several federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), the Veterans Administration (VA) and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

The Bush Administration proposes to provide \$1 million in operations funds for the council. Its execu-

tive director, Phil Mangano, was sworn in March 15. He is the former director of the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance.

Another proposal included in the President's budget would combine the three largest homeless assistance programs at HUD into one competitive program. Those three programs are the Supportive Housing Program, the Shelter Plus Care Program, and the Single Room Occupancy Program.

At the hearing, HUD Assistant Secretary Roy Bernardi testified that consolidating the three competitive programs would streamline the process of applying for funds through the programs, and reduce the amount of time it takes to assist homeless persons.

Bernardi indicated that it takes HUD up to 18 months to process the projects under the current structure, and that this time frame should be reduced. Projects funded under a new combined competitive process would receive allocations via a formula distribution. Bernardi testified that such

a formula might include incentives for timely, strong performance.

At a recent meeting with top HUD officials in the Office of Special Needs Assistance, NACo and other local government advocates presented the case for the need of a consolidated approach to the distribution of funds for homeless assistance.

HUD staffers said the department is still in the early stages of developing a competitive program proposal. HUD officials indicated the department would be using a "big picture" perspective to determine what is the best method to address chronic homelessness, and would lean towards a performance-oriented process.

NACo supports the consolidation of federal housing assistance programs. Consolidation would reduce the administrative burden on local governments and help county governments reduce homelessness, provide resources for the chronically homeless and create options for those in need of temporary shelter.

## NACo testifies on TEA-21

By ROBERT J. FOGEL  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

NACo First Vice President Karen Miller and NACo Transportation Steering Committee Chair Chris Hart testified before the United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. The subject of the Feb. 28 hearing was the budget and the reauthorization of TEA-21. Miller addressed rural concerns while Hart spoke to the issues confronting urban counties.

Both NACo representatives addressed the proposed \$8.6 billion cut for highways in President George W. Bush's FY03 budget. They voiced their concerns about the negative impact of a budget cut on county roads and bridges. Miller and Hart urged support for the House and Senate bills, H.R. 3694 and S. 1917 respectively, which would restore \$4.4 billion of the President's cut. Both bills have substantial support and NACo passed a resolution at its Legislative Conference asking for full funding of TEA-21 in FY03.

Miller stated that rural counties have benefited from TEA-21 but that 2,000 rural counties find it extremely expensive to maintain their highway and bridge systems, especially in the face of an often dwindling tax base. She testified that NACo would be supporting a new rural road safety program, a bigger bridge program, rural transit and an enhanced rural planning process. "If Congress wants



Local government panelists wait to testify on the reauthorization of TEA-21, the country's major transportation bill: (l-r) Mayor Ken Barr, Ft. Worth, Texas; Commissioner Chris Hart, Hillsborough County, Fla.; Councilwoman Sandy Greyson, Dallas Texas; Commissioner Karen Miller, Boone County, Mo.

to reduce auto fatalities, there is no better investment than on roads in rural counties," Miller said. She also advocated increasing the federal minimum investment in off-system bridges from 15 percent to 25 percent.

Hart echoed support for TEA-21. He stated that reauthorization would have to address environmental streamlining to ensure that projects are completed in a timely and efficient manner so delays in the current system that unnecessarily slowdown projects are eliminated.

He also commented on the planning process and said that NACo

"...will look toward improvements that augment the partnership with officials, and ensures that all officials sit at the table with officials as key decisions are made on highway, bridge, and transit projects."

Hart elaborated that congestion needs to be addressed in the new and while there is no one solution, common sense, close state-local operation and transit need to be part of the solution, along with better management and signalization.

(Copies of both the Miller and Hart testimony can be found at [www.naco.org/leg/advocacy/trans/index](http://www.naco.org/leg/advocacy/trans/index)

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Together, we can make a difference.

## Soliz caps long career with NARC presidency

By STACEY KENNEDY  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Having worked with local and national government for more than three decades, Oscar Soliz has made it his priority to make a difference. Soliz began working with NACo in 1974 as president of the Texas Association of County District Clerks, where he served as a representative to NACo. His first election as district clerk of Nueces County, Texas, in 1970, began a series of re-elections enabling him, 32 years later, to continue serving in this capacity.

As the longest serving NACo board

member, Soliz' participation in local government organizations includes more than 25 years of service with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). Prior to his election in June 2001 as president, he served for five years as vice president of the NARC board.

As president of NARC, an organization which advocates the upkeep of well-maintained regional communities, Soliz feels that stabilizing the infrastructure of counties is essential for proper community maintenance. "County problems do not end at the end of a county, the problems may blend into the next city or county. I see a need for quality road systems and transportation."

With involvement in many professional organizations, Soliz has also served as the president of NACo's Hispanic Caucus, past president of the National Association of Clerks and Recorders, chairman of NACo Credentials Committee, ex-officio board member of the Texas Association of Counties, representative of the Coastal Bend Council of Governments and member of the Democratic National Committee of the Texas Democratic Party.

"All of us at NACo truly appreciate the 25-plus years of service and leadership that Oscar has provided to his state association of counties, to the National Association of Counties and to NARC (as NACo's representative)," said NACo Executive Director Larry Naake. "His dedication and support provide a wonderful example for county officials throughout America."

As the issues of county government now play in the forefront of the nation's attention, Soliz agrees that visibility of county government has grown over the years with the executive directors of NACo playing a vital role. "We have grown in visibility in the past years. All the executive directors have worked towards that. We're lobbying in the right places ... to sell our mission to people in Congress."

### Close family ties

A native of Corpus Christi, Texas, Soliz is the father of four children and is married to Ola Mae Trammell, the executive director of Camp Fire Boys and Girls. Their eldest son, Joseph Guy is an attorney in Houston and a Harvard graduate.

Soliz younger son, Jessie Lee, works for a state comptroller and is a graduate of Texas A&M University. Jacqueline Anne Soliz-Chapa, who works for the Texas Democratic Party, is their eldest daughter and has served as chief of staff for former NACo Board Member and U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor (R-Ariz.). Their youngest daughter, Jennifer remains at home with the family.

Soliz considers his two daughters "NACo brats" as they were introduced at an early age to the inner workings of county government through unofficial internships. Jennifer fell under the tutelage of Past NACo President John Horsely, whom Soliz fondly remembers taking his daughter to board meetings.

Although he desires to remain active in county government, Soliz plans to retire at the close of next year. Having served under 26 presidents as a NACo board member, Soliz feels the key to his longevity has simply been remaining true to himself.

"People who know Oscar Soliz know what they're going to get every day. It is always important to be up-front, honest and mean what you say."



Oscar Soliz  
NACo Board of Directors

## County Government Week plans heat up as event nears

Counties across the country are planning for the annual celebration of National County Government Week (NCGW), April 7-13.

The theme for this year's program is *Homeland Security: Counties Secure America*. More than 1,000 counties each year participate in the celebration. First celebrated in 1990, county government week was begun to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of counties.

Counties have a variety of activities planned for this year. Lake County, (Ill.), home of NACo Second Vice President and County Board Member Angelo Kyle, has a week of events scheduled that will focus on intergovernmental cooperation. There will be meetings and roundtable discussions on key counties issues like homeland security, transportation, affordable housing and community development.

A poster contest and tours of county facilities will involve students in the Lake County program. Activities for the week will end with a recognition program for employees. The county also gets its message out about the services it provides

through the government cable channel, radio programming, and its Web site, as well as through distribution of public service announcements.

Berks County, (Pa.) residents can get an up-close and personal look at their county government as part of a county government expo that will be held at the Fairgrounds Square Mall April 11-13.

Residents can visit displays highlighting the unique services provided by nearly 30 county government agencies and departments. Features of the event include voter registration, the processing of marriage license applications, photographing and fingerprinting children for identification purposes and an interactive computer link with the Pennsylvania Department of Treasury, Bureau of Unclaimed Property.

In addition to the displays, the Berks County Board of Commissioners will conduct its April 11 meeting from a vacant store in the mall.

Throughout the week Whitfield County, (Ga.) will have an open house at its 911 center and fire stations. The county will issue a county government week proclamation at its regular board meeting on April 8.

The county also will launch its online customer survey questionnaire during county government week.

Sharp County, (Ariz.) will open its courthouse for tours all week during NCGW. Programs are planned for students from the county's high schools. Students will work with county officials and employees to learn what they do to serve their citizens.

In Upton County (Texas), the county's two newspapers will publish background information on county officials to give residents a better idea who is providing services to them because, even though it is a small county, many people do not know the employees. The county will issue a proclamation and the county extension service is coordinating tours for students of county facilities and participation in a commissioners' court meeting.

*(If you would like information about National County Government Week, visit the NACo Web site at: [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org). Send information about your county's activities to Tom Goodman, director of public affairs at [tgoodman@naco.org](mailto:tgoodman@naco.org).)*

## NACo recognizes Black History Month

By JACQUELINE BYERS  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

NACo Black History Month, in honor of Haron Battle, a longtime associate legislative director who died in 1999, makes many cultural activities available to NACo staff. This year, the staff was treated to two presentations. Mark Gresham, president and CEO of the Black Patriot's Memorial, spoke on the roles played by African Americans during the Revolutionary War. In honor of the historic achievements made by African Americans during this time, Congress approved the creation of a Black Patriots Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

As Gresham related the history of the black patriots, he also emphasized the importance of fund raising, a necessary element needed to make the memorial a reality.

Washington D.C. Council Member Adrian Fenty, the youngest member, at age 32, ever elected to the City Council, was another featured speaker. Fenty a graduate of Oberlin College and Howard University Law School, spoke on how he became an activist as well as his decision to run against long time incumbent Charlene Drew Jarvis.

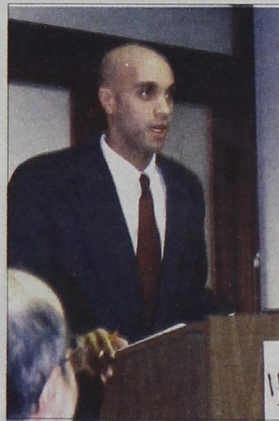


Photo by Stacey Kennedy

**Adrian Fenty, the youngest member elected to the D.C. City Council, talks about his political life with members of the NACo staff.**

As a child of activists, he was involved in local issues and continues to serve as a council member who is involved in many issues confronting Washington D.C.

In addition to the presentations, NACo staff also viewed two movies. The first, *Boycott*, the story of the

bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, was shown recently on HBO. The second movie, *Paul Robeson—Here I Stand* followed the life of the Renaissance man.

The book chosen by staff for the annual black history book discussion was *Yellow* by Frank Wu. Wu is the first Asian American hired as a law professor at Howard University Law School. The lively book discussion compared his views on Asian American race relations with those of other people of color.

NACo staff also participated in a Black History Month Trivia Contest, vying for a gift certificate to the historic Ben's Chili Bowl restaurant. A pot luck luncheon, celebrated on the last Friday of the month, was a treat as always. Many dishes were brought in by staff and great food and camaraderie was enjoyed by everyone to the strings of the Steve Walker Jazz Quartet.

Lastly, as NACo staff prepared for the Legislative Conference, they enjoyed fresh peanuts in the shell part of an exhibit on George Washington Carver, the famous scientist who developed many useful items from peanuts.

# PROFILES

in service...



**Elithia V. Stanfield**

Assistant County Administrator  
Pinellas County, Ind.

NACo Board of Directors

**Number of years active in NACo:** Six years

**Years in Public Office:** 11 years

**Occupation:** Assistant County Administrator, Pinellas County, Fla.

**Education:** B.A., Eckerd College; M.S. National Louis University

**The hardest thing I've ever done:** Cope with the death of my son.

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:** James Stanfield (my father), Paul Robeson and Margaret Mead.

**A dream I have is to:** Play the piano.

**You'd be surprised to learn that I:** Was the first African-American woman elected as president of a Junior League in the southeastern United States.

**The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:** Climb Dunn River Falls in Jamaica. I tend not to be adventurous with my body.

**My favorite sport is:** Football.

**I'm most proud of:** My husband, Terry Huffman.

**Every morning I read:** The St. Petersburg Times.

**My favorite meal is:** Thanksgiving turkey with all the trimmings.

**My pet peeve is:** People who do not stand up to their responsibilities.

**My motto is:** Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**The last book I read was:** *I Wish I Had A Red Dress* by Pearl Cleage.

**My favorite movie is:** *Gone With the Wind*.

**My favorite music is:** I enjoy all music, except hard-core rap.

**My favorite president is:** I don't have one.

*(Profiles in Service is compiled by Stacey Kennedy, editorial assistant.)*

## Notice of correction

The Profiles in Service column of the March 11th edition of *County News* should have read Pottawattamie County, Iowa. We apologize for the error.

# Digital age privacy challenges state and local governments

*Personal Privacy in the Digital Age: The Challenge to State and Local Governments* is May 19-21 at the Hilton Crystal City in Arlington, Va.

Billed as an important gathering

of decision-makers and activists, and the opening round in a national dialogue on digital security and privacy in a post-Sept. 11 world, the conference is sponsored by The National Academy of Public Ad-

ministration and Virginia Tech University. NACo is a co-sponsor.

Workshops will focus on privacy issues such as,

- privacy in federal legislative records
- protecting medical and financial records
- protecting international data flows

- law enforcement, open records and freedom of information
- commercialization of the public information
- new and emerging technologies for building secure state and local infrastructures, and
- building better intergovernmental relationships.

A town meeting will synthesize and process the work of the open-plenary sessions and workshop sessions to formulate the beginning of a substantive national agenda commitment to the future. The town meeting will share important sources and best practices identified throughout the program, generate models of action, and cultivate commitment to an ongoing process.

(For more information and registration, go to [www.conted.vt.edu/privacy](http://www.conted.vt.edu/privacy), or e-mail [spandy@napawash.org](mailto:spandy@napawash.org).)

# NACo Rural Action Caucus hits the Hill

By ERIC CILIBERTI  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

During their all day visit on Capitol Hill prior the NACo Legislative Conference, members of the Rural Action Caucus Steering Committee visited with more than 30 members of Congress to advocate for protecting rural development funding in the farm bill conference committee.

Currently, both the House and the Senate have passed their versions of the farm bill and have assigned conferees to work out the differences between the two bills.

Both bills have provisions in the rural development titles that fund advanced telecommunications grants, increase investment in water

infrastructure and creates a new business development initiative being worked out by the conference committee. These were actually three priorities that several hundred members of the Rural Action Caucus identified in their June 2001 Farm Bill Survey.

Rural Action Caucus Chairwoman Jan Porter from Catron County, N.M. said, "As the leadership of the caucus, it is our duty to help represent the interest of rural counties on Capitol Hill and to ensure that funding for rural development is not cut in the conference committee."

Farm Bill conferees plan to finish a farm bill before the Easter recess begins on March 31.

## AR-21

from page 1

of projects and no one program that will be right for every community.

Examples of projects that could be funded include advertising of air service and other promotional activities; studies of air service deficiencies; revenue guarantees to attract a new carrier; and financial incentives to incumbent carrier for better service.

Priority will be given those communities where

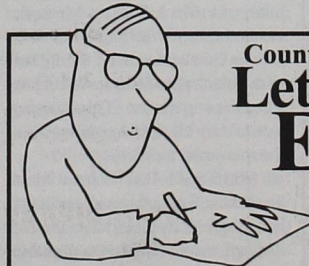
- average airfares are higher than airfares for all communities

- a portion of the cost of the activity contemplated by the community is provided from local, non-airport revenue sources.

- a public-private partnership has been or will be established to facilitate air carrier service to the public, and

- improved air service will bring the material benefits of scheduled air transportation to a broad section of the traveling public.

(For more information, contact Bob Fogel, associate legislative director: (202) 942-4217, or [bfogel@naco.org](mailto:bfogel@naco.org).)



## County News invites Letters to the Editor

If you have a compliment, complaint or different point of view, let us know.

Please include a phone number with your letter. Mail, fax or e-mail to: County News, NACo, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2080; (202)393-2630; [cnews@naco.org](mailto:cnews@naco.org).

# County News

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## CDBG *from page 1*

proposal, both Republican and Democratic members of the subcommittee expressed dismay at the possible reduction of CDBG funds to their districts. Rep. Felix Grucchi (R-N.Y.) stated that the CDBG program represented the "conscience of government," and that without CDBG funds, many people would be without help that the government should provide.

Rep. Sue Kelly (R-N.Y.) demanded an explanation as to why the formula would reduce funding to her district before HUD is in a position to evaluate the formula allocation in light of the 2000 census. In particular, Kelly appeared unhappy that Westchester County, located in her home district, was slated to lose 35 percent of its CDBG money under the "Wealthiest Communities" plan.

Democratic members Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) expressed strong concern towards the concept of reducing funding to CDBG, and suggested that stricter enforcement of the low and moderate income benefit requirement may help alleviate HUD's concerns.

Democrat Carrie Meek (Fla.),

also testified in support of her proposal, the Community Development Block Grant Renewal Act (H.R. 1191). The bill intends to ensure communities receiving community development block grants use such funds to benefit low- and moderate income families.

Among other things, the bill would increase the amount of funding that must benefit low- and moderate-income persons from 70 percent over three years to 80 percent over three years. In addition, 40 percent of that amount must benefit low-income persons with incomes at or below 52 percent of the area median income.

Moreover, the proposed legislation does not permit low- and moderate income benefit credit for activities undertaken in areas not primarily residential in character.

The net effect of these and other provisions in the legislation would diminish the flexibility local governments currently enjoy under the CDBG program.

### NACo's Position

NACo strongly opposes H.R. 1191 because it fundamentally alters the CDBG program by shifting its focus and minimizing its flexibility. The Community and Economic De-

velopment Steering Committee approved a resolution during NACo's 2001 Annual Conference related to this bill. The resolution urges Congress to reject H.R. 1191 as flawed legislation and notes CDBG is a flagship community development program that has provided funding for a vast range of activities for the past 28 years, including activities that benefit low and moderate income persons.

A recently completed HUD study states that grantees' use of CDBG funds well exceeds the 70 percent targeting requirements. In fact, the study indicates that for every CDBG dollar spent on activities qualifying as low- and moderate-income, 84 cents directly benefits low- and moderate income persons.

Furthermore, the HUD data shows that in FY01, 94.9 percent of CDBG entitlement funds were used for activities that principally benefited low- and moderate-income persons.

NACo, The National Association of County Community and Economic Development, a NACo affiliate, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Community Development Association and the Council of State Community Development Agencies testified at this hearing and urged subcommittee members to reject both H.R. 1191 and HUD's "Wealthiest Communities" proposal. NACo will continue with efforts to defeat this legislation and agency efforts to diminish the flexibility and substance of the CDBG program.

## ALERT SYSTEM

*from page 1*

in intergovernmental, cross-agency activity."

Dallas County (Texas) Commissioner and NACo President-elect Ken Mayfield raised the issue of local notification. "The questions I have are many, including how local officials will be notified before and/or in lieu of the public. General concerns about the notification "chain of command" were also expressed by Blackwell, who said: "I hope that state and local agencies will be involved with intelligence prior to a warning change. It would reduce credibility to have local folks find

out about a change in the notification system via a media announcement."

Hennepin County (Minn.) Commissioner Randy Johnson wants more attention paid to orchestrating law enforcement efforts. "Far more important to me is integrating our federal, state and local law enforcement authorities and their operations and databases," Johnson said.

The Office of Homeland Security has set aside a 45-day comment period for local government officials to review and offer their assessment of the system. NACo is collecting comments, which are due to NACo by April 12, via e-mail at [HSASComments@naco.org](mailto:HSASComments@naco.org) or by fax, Attn: Jeff Arnold, at (202) 942-4281.

*More information about the Homeland Security Advisory System is available on NACo's Web site: [www.NACo.org](http://www.NACo.org).*

## Accenture, MIT to present digital government awards

### Call for 2002 nominations announced

Accenture, a NACo premier member, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) School of Architecture and Planning are joining forces to present the third annual Digital Government Awards, which recognize outstanding achievements in delivery of e-Government services. These awards will showcase leaders using the Internet to deliver greater services, including higher education, government-to-citizen, government-to-business, and government-to-government programs and services.

The Accenture and MIT Digital Government Awards will be presented in federal, state and local government categories for existing services delivered via the Web. Awards also will be given in higher education and in recognition of the most innovative pilot or prototype program. This year, a new award called the Agent of Change, will honor an individual in government or higher education who inspires others to push the boundaries of e-Government to deliver greater services and improve operations in government agencies and at institutes of higher learning.

Government organizations, public corporations and higher education institutions in the United States are encouraged to visit [www.digitalgovawards.org](http://www.digitalgovawards.org) through April 19 to submit nominations for existing, Web-enabled programs or services.

Self-nominations are encouraged. Individuals also are encouraged to visit the site to nominate an Agent of Change.

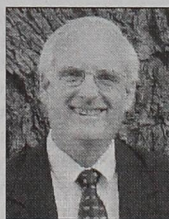
Nominations will be viewed and evaluated online by a panel of leaders in academia, government and other organizations. Awards for each category will be based on the degree of creative thinking in the use of Web-enabled technology to create or enhance service delivery; the extent to which the nomination successfully addresses a significant problem faced by the users or the organization; the level of transformation and demonstrated effectiveness and tangible results achieved in the delivery of the program or service. Award recipients will be recognized in June at the 2002 E-Gov Conference in Washington, D.C.

2002 National County Government Week • April 7-13

## Counties Secure AMERICA

Find out more at... [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)

# Thank You!



**Bill Hansell**  
Candidate,  
NACo 2nd Vice President  
Commissioner,  
Umatilla County, Oregon

*"Thanks to all of you who offered support and encouragement at the NACo Legislative Conference for my campaign for NACo 2nd Vice President. We in NACo have great strength through our diversity. I can think of no greater honor than to be elected to serve you. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts about NACo's future leadership."*

*Bill Hansell*

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*The Right Stuff  
The Right Time*





# 2002 Legislative Conference Report...

All photos by David Hatheox unless otherwise indicated.

## 2002 Interim Policies

Many of the policy resolutions that are adopted by delegates at NACo's Annual Conference are first vetted at the association's Legislative Conference. The following interim resolutions were recommended by NACo's steering committees and adopted by the Board of Directors on March 4 during its meeting at the 2002 Legislative Conference.

### Agriculture and Rural Affairs

**Issue: Protect rural development dollars secured in the farm bill.**

**Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the conferees to the farm bill to protect rural development funding in the House-Senate conference committee.

**Issue: The economic survival of agriculture and rural communities is vitally important to the general health and welfare of citizens.**

**Adopted Policy:** That the Attorney General and Congress of the United States be encouraged to properly consider the value to the Nation of American Agriculture and offer the support that this critical industry deserves.

### Community and Economic Development

**Issue: Support for HUD's FY 2003 appropriations bill, especially additional funding for programs fostering community and economic development and the provision of affordable housing in the United States.**

**Adopted Policy:** NACo urges Congress to fund at least \$5 billion in formula grants under the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). NACo also urges Congress to fund the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) to at least \$4.425 billion, with \$2 billion reserved for new housing production and/or preservation. NACo also supports full funding for federal homeless assistance programs, as well as significant increases in funding that will enable local governments to maintain flexibility to address community development, economic development and affordable housing issues on the local level. NACo opposes the Administration's proposed CDBG "wealthy" communities' initiative that would cut funding for entitlement communities based on a multiple of per capita income.

**Issue: Provide refinements to the tax-exempt Mortgage Revenue Bond Program to improve its utility.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports legislation, H.R. 951 and S. 677, that would repeal the so-called "ten year" rule, and provide an alternative method for calculating purchase price limits under the Mortgage Revenue Bond (MRB) program.

**Issue: Opposition to provisions of trade legislation that would dilute local government statutory and regulatory authority.**

**Adopted Policy:** NACo is a strong supporter of free trade activities that enhance the economic base of local governments and promote county participation in the global economy. However, NACo opposes the adjudication of disputes arising out of trade agreements in a manner that preempts local government authority, circumvents domestic judicial processes, and grants greater rights to foreign investors than those guaranteed to U.S. citizens by federal, state and local law.

### Environment, Energy and Land Use

**Issue: Enhanced pollution standards to combat childhood asthma.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) is firmly committed to energy policy that will help to reduce pollutants related to childhood asthma. NACo supports emission standards that will take into account risks placed on youthful lungs. NACo calls on Congress and the President to study and provide a recommendation on the adequacy of current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and fine particulate matter for protecting childhood health.

**Issue: Safe and secure transport of radioactive waste; assisting local and state governments and tribal nations to assess their needs to effectively respond to any release of radioactive waste into their communities; and providing the financial resources that will allow them to do so.**

**Too often in the past, the transportation of radioactive waste has been uncoordinated and left to the individual sites to resolve. DOE must develop and maintain coherent**



With NACo Legislative Director Edwin Rosado looking on, Patrice Bataglia, Dakota County, Minn. commissioner and committee chair, gives the report for the Human Services and Education Steering Committee at the NACo Board of Directors meeting.

**national policies as soon as possible on issues associated with the routing of the waste, the selection of mode(s) of transport, emergency response and other issues to minimize impact on citizens and communities throughout the nation.**

**Adopted Policy:** NACo urges the Department of Energy to:

- Select routes for the transport of radioactive waste and materials by pre-negotiating with states and local governments, considering radiological and non-radiological hazards, and by utilizing existing models employed for routing large shipments of radioactive waste;

- Work with state and local governments in selecting modes of transport to determine local community impacts, community impacts along transportation corridors, and evaluate other issues such as environmental justice;

- Consider alternative modes of transport, generally highway or rail, based on risk analysis methods;

- Conduct an extensive dialogue, during the preliminary phases of planning, with the public, local governments and tribal nations, and other impacted parties when developing transportation policy initiatives;

- Assist local and state governments and tribal nations with assessing their needs and provide the financial resources needed to prepare an effective emergency management response in the event of a transportation accident with a release of radioactive material;

- Coordinate with the Department of Transportation (DOT) on routing

and mode utilization policies and ensure that carriers adhere to DOT regulations governing the transport of radioactive waste and material, and

- Coordinate with the Office of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding the secure transport of radioactive waste, taking into account the heightened awareness and need to guard against terrorist attacks.

**Issue: Federal assistance to counties for drinking water, sewer and storm water infrastructure, watershed protection, and the security of water resources and facilities.**

**Adopted Policy:** To achieve overall improvement in the environment and public health, the National Association of Counties (NACo) calls on the Congress and Executive agencies to increase the federal investment in water infrastructure, watershed protection, and the protection of water resources and facilities from physical and chemical security threats. NACo believes that Congress should authorize legislation that:

- Makes significant progress toward closing the \$23 billion annual gap in the capital financing of drinking water, sewer and storm water infrastructure;

- Provides loans and grants to local agencies in as flexible and accessible manner as possible, and minimizes federal and state intervention in system operation;

- Helps finance a broad range of local needs, including the construction, repair and replacement of treatment works, collection and

distribution systems; compliance with federal regulatory mandates; investments in decentralized wastewater systems; voluntary non-point source pollution abatement; source water protection; and improvements in the security of water resources and facilities, consistent with local land-use plans; and

- Recognizes the special financial and technical assistance needs of small, rural and disadvantaged communities, and provides assistance accordingly.

### Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs

**Issue: Support for a Homeland Security Tax Credit**

**Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the creation of a targeted federal Homeland Security Tax Credit for businesses and corporations who contribute directly to a "Local Homeland Security Fund" established by a county, or a multi-county consortium, for local homeland security policy objectives based on the existing "all hazards" emergency management planning process.

**Issue: Support the creation of a "Homeland Security Fund"**

**Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the creation of a "Homeland Security Fund" that will be funded by the sale of existing U.S. Treasury Patriot Bonds and an IRS form check off box and help local governments prepare for potential future terrorist strikes.

### Health

**Issue: Support for rebuilding the Public Health System**

**Adopted Policy:** NACo supports rebuilding the Nation's public health system and calls upon the President and Congress to make a long-term commitment to improving the system by providing sufficient federal resources to counties.

**Issue: Restrictions on Medicaid funds states and counties receive under the Medicaid Upper Payment Limit (UPL), and cuts slated for the disproportionate share payment program (DSH).**

**Adopted Policy:** NACo supports continued Medicaid financing mechanisms that assist county health facilities in serving the uninsured. Specifically, NACo opposes the final rule issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to further restrict the Medicaid Upper Payment Limit (UPL).



# 2002 Legislative Conference Report...

All photos by David Hathcox unless otherwise indicated.

**POLICIES** from page 6

ment limit. NACO supports bipartisan legislation (H.R. 854, Rep. Whitfield and S. 572, Sen. Chafee) to freeze the cuts slated in October 2002 for the disproportionate share payment program to hospitals (DSH).

**Issue: Shortages of trained nursing professionals.**

**Adopted Policy:** NACO urges members of the House and Senate to reach an agreement between their respective bills (H.R. 3487 and S. 864) and supports timely enactment of a bill, which addresses the shortage of nurses in the country.

**Issue: Medicaid exclusion for services provided in acute hospital "Institutions for Mental Disease" (IMDs).**

**Adopted Policy:** Congress should either repeal the Medicaid IMD exclusion, which is outdated and discriminatory, or amend it to allow states to apply for exemption of acute hospitals. Access to Medicaid inpatient psychiatric services should be based upon the need for that level of mental health services, rather than on the location in which services are provided.

**Issue: Access to atypical anti-psychotic medications for persons with serious and persistent mental illness.**

**Adopted Policy:** NACO proposes that the federal government review and modify current policy to facilitate the availability of the most effective medications at the lowest cost to persons with serious and persistent mental illness, so they may function successfully in their community.

**Human Services**

**Issue: Enhance childcare funding, flexibility, quality and coordination.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACO) supports the following measures to improve the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF):

- Increase funding for the Child Care and Development Fund to meet the needs of eligible families, while maintaining the funding and flexibility in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.
- Allow states to offer 12 months transitional childcare coverage for families leaving TANF.
- Provide sufficient childcare funds to ensure that quality services are available to families with incomes of up to 225 percent of the

federal poverty level and for families that leave TANF.

- Allow states to obligate childcare funds and spend them over time.
- Encourage the public and private sectors to build and sustain an educated childcare workforce that is well trained, well respected and adequately compensated.
- Support programs that address quality indicators at the state and local level.
- Give states flexibility to use TANF funds to improve childcare quality.
- Improve coordination with the Head Start program.

**Issue: Promote policies to increase child support collections**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACO) supports the following measures to improve the child support enforcement system:

- Provide incentives to states to pass-through a higher percentage of child support collections to families on welfare by reimbursing the state child support enforcement program dollar-for-dollar.
- Any pass-through program must be optional and not carved-out of existing funding.
- Any new child support enforcement mandates must be accompanied by enhanced federal reimbursement.
- Remove the cap on the Child Support Incentive Fund.
- Maintain the 66 percent reimbursement rate for administrative costs and the 90 percent rate for genetic testing.
- Ensure privacy by opposing private sector access to child support data and enforcement tools.

**Issue: Maintain and enhance funding and flexibility in the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF).**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties supports the following measures to enhance TANF funding and flexibility:

- Maintain the TANF block grant structure as a state entitlement to ensure participants have access to the services they need to find and retain employment and get out of poverty.
- Maintain the federal contribution to TANF at the current level of funding of \$16.8 billion per year and add an annual inflation increase.
- Restore the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to at least the level authorized in the 1996 law of

\$2.8 billion per year in FY 2003 and each succeeding fiscal year.

- Preserve the flexible use of TANF funds by opposing carve-outs or set-asides.
- Maintain the 20 percent hardship exemption from the five-year time limit.
- Maintain the family violence exemption from the five-year time limit and add victims of sexual assault to the definition.
- Retain the authority to transfer 10 percent of TANF to SSBG and 30 percent to the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).



Monroe County, Pa. Commissioner James Cadue (l), chair of the Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee, discusses the finer points of one the committee's resolutions while Donald Murray, NACO associate legislative director looks on.

- States, counties and Native American tribes should be permitted to spend carryover funds on any allowable use of TANF. This would include transferring funds to the CCDF and SSBG.
- Strengthen the TANF Contingency Fund by increasing the funding level, aligning the eligibility requirements to the TANF maintenance of effort requirements and revising the unemployment and food stamp participation triggers.
- Reauthorize the supplemental grants for high-growth states.

• Once a state spends its Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for a given fiscal year, it should be able to draw down its full allocation of federal TANF dollars for that year at any time. Unspent funds should not be applied against future allocations. Obligated funds should be treated and reported as spent.

• Clarify "supplantation" provisions so that replacement of state dollars with federal dollars is strictly prohibited, but allow using federal dollars to increase the coverage or availability of a state program above current state spending levels.

supports the following measures to enhance flexibility in work and training activities under TANF and improve coordination with other training programs:

- Employability plan requirements such as substance abuse treatment, mental health and domestic violence services should be allowable work activities.
- States and counties should be allowed to include individuals who are participating in substance abuse treatment, mental health and domestic violence services in compliance with their employability plan as part of their participation rate.
- Work participation rates for two-parent and single parent families should be the same as the current single parent rate of 50 percent.
- The number of hours required of two-parent and single parent families should be the same as the current single parent 30-hour requirement.
- Allow states and counties the option to provide more than twelve months of vocational education to a higher percentage of the caseload in order to help families obtain the skills they need to enhance their ability to increase earnings overtime.
- Give states and counties the option to allow more than 10 hours a week of basic skills and education training for single parents. Individuals in two-parent families should be allowed the same number of hours as single parents. States and counties should be allowed to count all of the hours toward their work participation rates.

• Continue the credit for caseload reduction in the formula for calculating the work participation rates.

• Dislocated workers should be eligible for unemployment insurance regardless of the length of time they have been on the workforce.

• Provide sufficient funding for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs to serve all eligible individuals.

• Remove federal barriers to encourage an integrated workforce development system by giving counties greater flexibility to coordinate programs and blend funds.

• Enhance funding for the Food Stamp Employment and Training program (FSET) to meet the needs of all individuals who are subject to work requirements and improve coordination with WIA and TANF.

**Issue: Expand flexibility under the work and training activities of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF) and improve coordination with other training programs.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACO)



# 2002 Legislative Conference Report...

## POLICIES from page 7

• Examine and refine the Welfare-to-Work grant requirements to improve the use of the grants and better coordinate with TANF and WIA.

### Issue: Promote policies that ensure child well being.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the following measures to promote child well being:

• De-link federal foster care eligibility from the 1996 Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) income eligibility standards and develop a system that responds to a child's imminent risk of abuse or neglect.

• Enhance state flexibility to provide supportive services for children and their families, including preventing unnecessary removal from the home and enhancing outcomes for children.

• Continue to allow flexible use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF) funds for teen pregnancy prevention efforts, without regard to income.

• Maintain current policies requiring teen parents to live with a parent or other approved adult in order to receive benefits.

### Issue: Improve coordination at the county level among federal programs that are aimed at individual and family self-sufficiency.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the following measures to promote at the county level federal programs to provide a continuum of services to achieve individual and family self-sufficiency.

• Preserve and expand the availability of affordable rental housing and homeownership opportunities for working families, especially in proximity to employment opportunities.

• Provide incentives to employers to create jobs for individuals working toward self-sufficiency.

• Ensure the provision of childcare for households working toward self-sufficiency, especially in proximity to employment opportunities.

• Oppose time limits for housing assistance for individuals and families actively involved in training, job search or work programs.

• Enhance Supplemental Security Income outreach so that all those individuals who are eligible for the program are enrolled in it.

• Ensure the availability of supportive social services for families to resolve issues creating instability in their life and inhibiting their effort to be self-sufficient.

• Ensure access to transportation for households working toward self-sufficiency by providing additional funding for welfare-to-work transportation programs, particularly those aimed at rural areas, including Native American reservations.

• Consolidate and adequately fund federal energy programs.

• Examine federal programs to identify provisions that thwart coordination and make recommendations to overcome such barriers.

• Provide enhanced technical assistance to states, counties and Native American reservations to help improve transportation and housing options for clients.

### Issue: Enhance federal programs to help families get out of poverty.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the following measures to enhance state flexibility in administering the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Block Grant (TANF) time limits, improve access to health care, and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):

• Preserve or increase state flexibility in administering the federal time limits.

• Allow states to discount months in which the recipient participates in work and/or specific work activities, including substance abuse treatment, mental health and domestic violence services in compliance with their employability plan.

• Remove housing, transportation and childcare from the definition of assistance.

• Continue transitional Medicaid for at least 12 months.

• Give states additional flexibility to cover those families who lose their Medicaid eligibility.

• Provide technical assistance to states and counties to ensure that there is no disruption in Medicaid coverage when families leave the TANF rolls.

• Restore Medicaid eligibility to legal immigrants.

• Provide a state option for a buy-in program for those who have left the welfare rolls and are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid coverage.

• Strengthen health care coverage programs for families with chil-

dren, such as the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

• Allow states to extend SCHIP coverage to legal immigrants regardless of their date of entry.

• Support changes to the EITC structure that increase the number of families eligible for the credit and provide for higher benefit amounts.

• EITC expansions should be funded through the tax system and should not be offset by TANF funds.

• Enhance the Internal Revenue Service public awareness campaign to ensure that all families that are eligible for the EITC receive the credit.

• Extend EITC eligibility to non-custodial parents who pay their full share of child support.

• Eliminate the EITC marriage penalty.

• Preserve the state flexibility to use Maintenance of Effort funds for state EITC programs.

### Issue: Strengthen families by promoting two-parent families, supporting relative caregivers and enhancing program flexibility.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the following measures to strengthen families through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF) and related programs:

• Work participation rates for two-parent and single parent families should be the same as the current single parent rate of 50 percent.

• The number of hours required of two-parent and single parent families should be the same as the current single parent 30-hour requirement.

• Maintain the ability to provide non-time-limited "child only" cash assistance to relative caregivers, legal guardians or custodians, based on the birth family's income and without regard to the caregiver's income.

• Clarify the law to permit the use of TANF funds to provide support services, including childcare, to kinship caregivers of TANF-eligible children, without regard to income.

• Allow states to provide childcare funds and Medicaid to relative caregivers up to 200 percent of poverty.

• Maintain the existing flexibility within TANF and oppose carve-outs for "marriage promotion" programs.

• Oppose any penalties associated with marriage promotion outcomes.

• Any incentive programs aimed at marriage promotion must be

funded with new money, and should not be carved out of TANF.

• Maintain existing flexibility for states to promote marriage without mandating a 5<sup>th</sup> TANF purpose regarding marriage.

• Fund and disseminate further research on family formation and marriage promotion.

• Maintain state flexibility to use TANF support services for non-custodial parents in coordination with WIA to enhance their ability to increase earnings overtime.

• Allow states to extend the State Child Health Insurance Program and Medicaid to non-custodial parents.

## Justice and Public Safety

### Issue: Support for a Local Anti-Terrorism Block Grant

**Adopted Policy:** Congress should enact a new local anti-terrorism block grant at a minimum of \$3.5 billion to comprehensively fund county and municipal law enforcement and public safety agencies and programs. Funds should flow directly from the federal government to local governments, with funding and priority decisions being made using a county facilitated collaborative effort within the existing "all hazards" emergency management planning process.

## Labor and Employment

**Issue: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant clients should be assured that workforce-related services are available in their local one stop center. Appropriate financial resources to pay for the services should be provided to the one-stop by the state or local agency.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties urges Congress to provide funds for technical assistance and fiscal incentives to states and localities to facilitate the integration of TANF and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program services. Further, the National Association of Counties urges Congress to make changes to the federal laws governing these programs in order to ensure adequate coordination. The Congress should encourage that:

• States coordinate their TANF and WIA plans at the state and local levels to ensure that local workforce services are effectively provided to TANF recipients;

• County welfare agencies and local workforce investment boards review and comment on both state

TANF and workforce plans, not just on TANF plans, as in current law;

• State TANF agencies agree to a memorandum of understanding with local workforce investment boards that describes how TANF clients will be served in one-stop centers and how WIA and TANF funds may be used to cover the cost of those services;

• TANF funds for training and employment services should follow participants in the one stop centers to ensure that clients are served appropriately; and

• A system of privacy waivers should be incorporated into TANF and WIA legislation to ensure that information about clients may be shared among service providers in the one stop center so that clients receive the proper array of services.

### Issue: The Department of Labor has proposed to eliminate the H1B Visa training program and to divert funds from the training program to the Department's alien certification program.

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties urges Congress to preserve and expand the availability of H1B Visa training programs to address the current shortage of workers in high skills jobs that are being filled by foreign workers.

## Telecommunications and Technology

### Issue: Interoperability of Geographic Information System (GIS) for Homeland Security

**Adopted Policy:** NACo supports the effort of the federal government to coordinate the collection and dissemination of GIS data (based on common interoperable data standards) by the federal, state, local and tribal governments through programs such as the Geospatial One Stop Initiative. The common data standards should be designed to: 1) maximize the degree to which unclassified GIS data from various sources can be made electronically available; and 2) promote the use of GIS for better governance due to increased data sources and sharing of geographic data by all levels of government. Congress should provide funding to facilitate this effort.

### Issue: Opposition to pass through cable customers of franchise fees and "non-subscriber" revenue.

**Adopted Policy:** NACo strongly opposes the pass through to cable



# 2002 Legislative Conference Report...

## Bingaman addresses delegates and receives legislator of the year award

By M. MINDY MORETTI  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) addressed the delegates at NACo's Legislative Conference on three issues that, according to Bingaman, are very much on the minds of the members of the Senate.

### Energy

As the author of the Senate energy bill, the "Energy Policy Act of 2002" (S. 517) Bingaman stressed the importance meeting the nation's current and future energy needs through a delicate balance of increasing production and utilizing new technologies.

"We have a good proposal with which to begin our debate," Bingaman said. "It's intended to focus on our future, increase research and new technologies and certainly maintain and increase the supply of energy without adversely affecting the environment."

From the construction of a national gas pipeline to jobs created in renewable energy sources, Bingaman sees his proposal as a way to not only meet the energy needs of the country, but also as a way to create thousands of new jobs and stimulate the economy.

Still, Bingaman is aware of the uphill battle this bill will face.

"We [the Senate and the House] have different bills. There will be a debate and literally hundreds of amendments, but I believe we can find common ground and we can pass a good energy bill and move on."

### Homeland Security

Like others who addressed the delegates, Bingaman reiterated the importance of counties as first responders.

"You are those who will be called on first," Bingaman said. "And all of these issues that could face us, are issues that counties, perhaps more

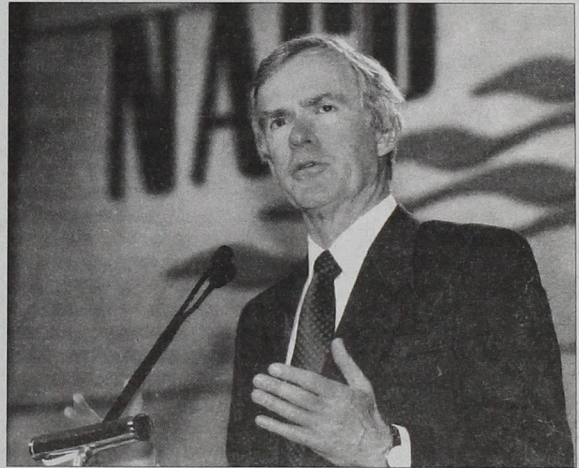


Photo by David Hathcox.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) tells delegates about three important topics facing the Senate this session — the energy bill, homeland security and PILT. After his remarks, Bingaman was presented with a NACo Legislator of the Year Award.

than any other level of government, will be called on to deal with."

He was optimistic about many of the new initiatives, such as the homeland security advisory committee supported by NACo, but he also cautioned those in the audience not to forget about good programs already in place.

"In our zeal to enact new programs, I think its important that we not throw out those programs that work," Bingaman said referring to programs such as the COPS program.

Calling it a "moveable feast," Bingaman also encouraged county governments and agencies to apply for many of the grant programs available such as the fire grant program.

### PILT

Bingaman has long been a supporter of the PILT program and in recognition of that support he received a NACo Legislator of the

Year Award and was given a plaque at the end of his address.

When addressing the delegates about PILT, Bingaman spoke of the troubles with getting the authorized money for the program.

"We authorize this program at a high level every year, but it generally receives substantially less," he noted.

According to Bingaman, the problem with the program as it stands now is that it is forced to go through "political gymnastics" every year. To alleviate this situation, Bingaman is proposing that the program should be funded on an automatic basis at the full level. Although he said he has good bi-partisan support for the proposal, he admits it will be a struggle.

"There will be resistance to this legislation. I don't want to mislead you," Bingaman said. "But I'm hopeful we can pass this through the Senate this year."

In closing, Bingaman once again stressed the importance of counties, not only on the homeland security front, but also in all three of these instances, being actively involved in the process.

"Counties need very much to be at the table on all of these issues," Bingaman said. "And I pledge my assistance."

by providing the full funding to the highway, mass transit and the airport improvement program for FY2003 as embodied in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) and the Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (AIR-21). Because of the proposed cut in highway funding, NACo supports passage of the Highway Funding Restoration Act to restore a minimum of \$4.4 billion.

**Issue: Support for a new Federal Aviation Administration policy that would favor investment in existing airport infrastructure over construction of any new airports.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration to give preference to the funding of infrastructure at existing airports rather than development of new airports.

**Issue: Funding for the National Passenger Rail System.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges the Congress and President Bush to increase funding with appropriate accountability controls for Amtrak to a level that will allow it to maintain the current level of service and to provide necessary capital improvements.

**Issue: Security funding for general aviation airports and the examination of the sufficiency of security funding of public owned commercial airports.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress and the Administration to provide security funding to general aviation airports and ensure that the funding levels for commercial airports is sufficient as to not impose any financial burdens on the local governments or public authorities that operate these facilities.

**Issue: Highway Trust Fund fully reimbursed for ethanol use.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports the transfer to the Highway Trust Fund of the 2.5 cents of the tax on ethanol that currently goes into the general fund and recommends that the general refund reimburse the Highway Trust Fund for the 5.3 cent subsidy that is provided to users and producers of ethanol. This in no way reduces or eliminates the ethanol subsidy.

**POLICIES from page 8**

customers of "non-subscriber" revenue, such as advertising and other commissions, and opposes the imposition of franchise fees stemming from such actions.

**Issue: Promotion of increased implementation of satellite telephony for public safety use.**

**Adopted Policy:** Congress should enact legislation, and provide funding to local governments to promote the use of satellite telephony as part of a comprehensive strategy to improve public safety and emergency management interoperability.

**Issue: Support for H.R. 3397, the HERO Act, releasing spectrum in the 700 MHz band for public safety use by the end of 2006.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties supports H.R. 3397, the HERO Act, which would require release of spectrum in the 700 MHz band by December 2006 for use by public safety agencies for interoperability and other purposes.

**Issue: Reaffirming opposition to exemption of local authorities from public rights-of-way.**

**Adopted Policy:** NACo reaffirms support of Section 253 (c) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which states: "Nothing in this section affects the authority of a State or local government to manage the public rights-of-way or to require fair and reasonable compensation from telecommunications providers, on a competitively neutral and nondiscriminatory basis, for use of public rights-of-way on a nondiscriminatory basis, if compensation required is publicly disclosed by such government."

**Transportation**

**Issue: Enactment of Preservation and Maintenance of Shortline Railroads.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to enact legislation that would preserve and restore shortline railroads in rural and urban Counties.

**Issue: Fully funding TEA-21 and AIR-21 in FY2003.**

**Adopted Policy:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges President Bush and the Congress to commit to improving the transportation infrastructure

### Additions to NACo "First Responders" List

The following counties were also honored during NACo's Legislative Conference as first responders to the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and UAL Flight 93.

- Hamilton County, Ohio
- Los Angeles County, Calif.
- Catawba County, N.C.



# 2002 Legislative Conference Report...

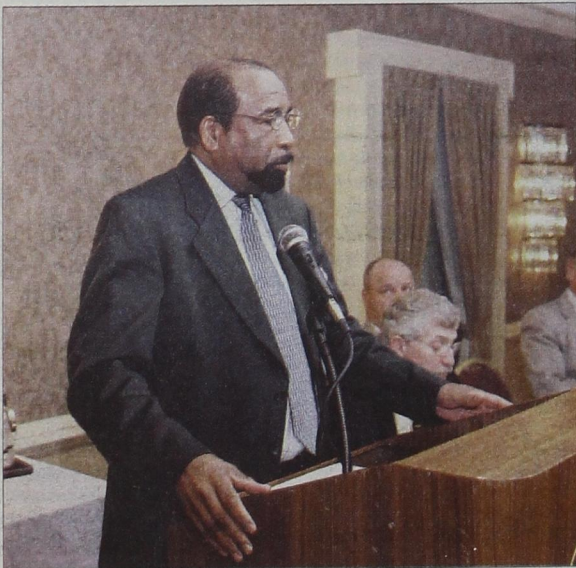
All photos by David Hatheox unless otherwise indicated.



On Monday, NACo presented a video honoring the first responders of Sept. 11. Six of the first responders on the video (l to r) James M. Anderson, technical rescue team, Arlington County (Va.) Fire Department; Captain Rebecca Hackney, 1st district commander, Arlington County (Va.) Police Department; George C. Drees, specialist, Baltimore County (Md.) Fire Department PA-TF1; Aileen Apote, RN, NP, Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, N.Y.; Rick King, assistant fire chief, Shanksville (Pa.) Volunteer Fire Department; and Richard B. Lorh, director, Somerset County (Pa.) Emergency Management Agency, were present at the luncheon. They received a special plaque recognizing their work as well as an extended standing ovation.



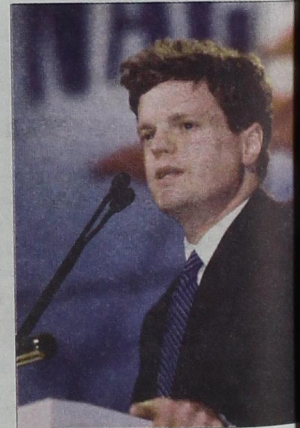
NACo President-elect Ken Mayfield presents a Counties Secure America baseball hat and long-sleeved t-shirt to Attorney General John Ashcroft as other members of the Executive Committee look on.



Bobby Vassar, minority counsel for the House Subcommittee on Crime, addresses the merits of the NACo's proposed block grant at the Forging a Local Anti-Terrorism Block Grant workshop.



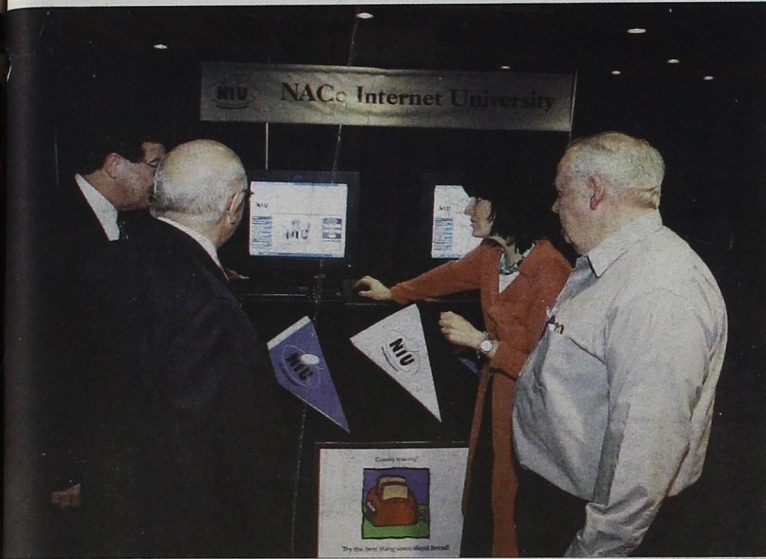
President-elect Ken Mayfield is not shy about the latest male fashion at the Legislative Conference—leis from Hawaii. Mayfield sports the traditional Hawaiian neckware as he presides at the Board of Directors meeting.



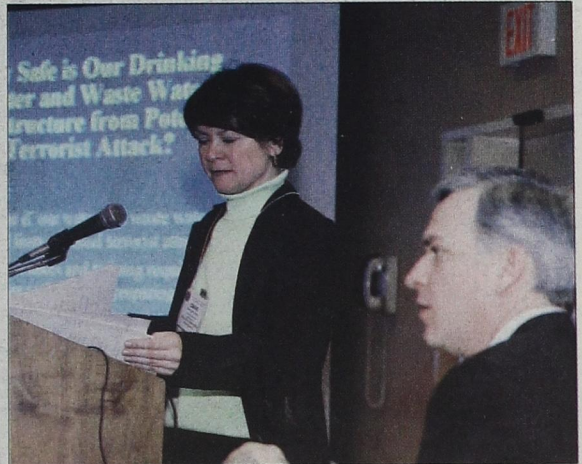
John Bridgeland, director of President George W. Bush's USA Freedom Corps, took the stage Monday afternoon to encourage delegates to embrace the spirit of volunteerism issued by President in State of the Union Speech in January. Bridgeland said he requested 2,000 hours of service could be earned in many ways, including joining the Freedom Corps.



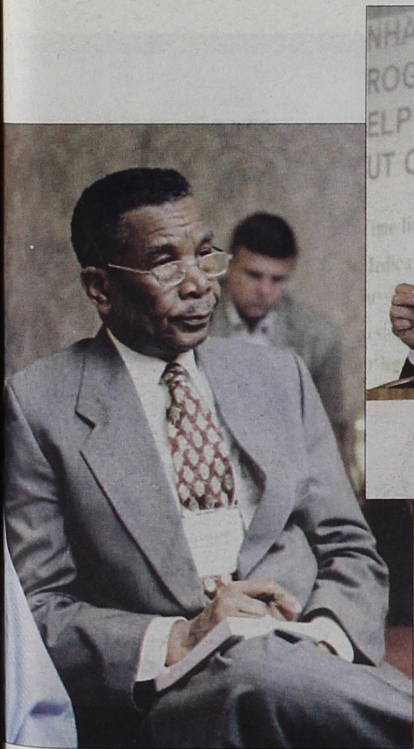
# 2002 Legislative Conference Report...



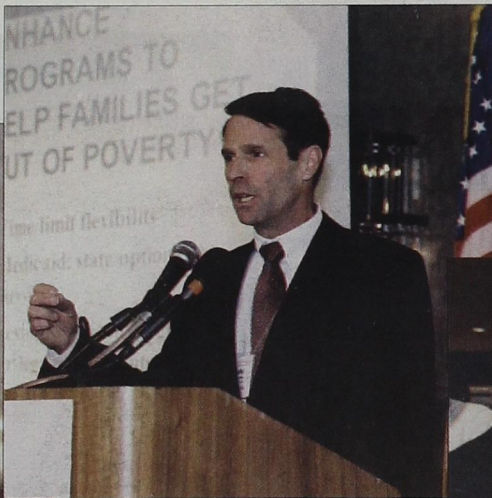
Lois Kampinsky shows off the ins and outs of the NACO Internet University (NIU) to a group of delegates in the exhibit hall.



The safety of America's infrastructure was discussed at many workshops at the 2002 Legislative Conference, including a workshop entitled *How Safe is Our Drinking Water? and Wastewater Infrastructure from Potential Terrorist Attacks*. Here, Diane Van De Hei, executive director of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies in Washington, D.C., discusses the vulnerabilities and solutions as Judge Robert Eckels (Harris County, Texas), chair of the NACO Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee looks on.



Cleveland Farlough of St. John Parish, La. prepares to take notes at the *Preparing County Officials for the IEA-2* workshop.



In a workshop that was carried live by C-SPAN, Commissioner Duncan Bremer of El Paso County, Colo., discusses the possibilities of whether Congress will reauthorize the 1996 Welfare Reform Law.



Candidate for NACO Second Vice President and Plumas County (Calif.) Commissioner Bill Dennison (c) discusses campaign strategy with his wife Pat (l) and Mike Graves of the California Association of Counties.



# 2002 Legislative Conference Report...

All photos by David Hathcox unless otherwise indicated.



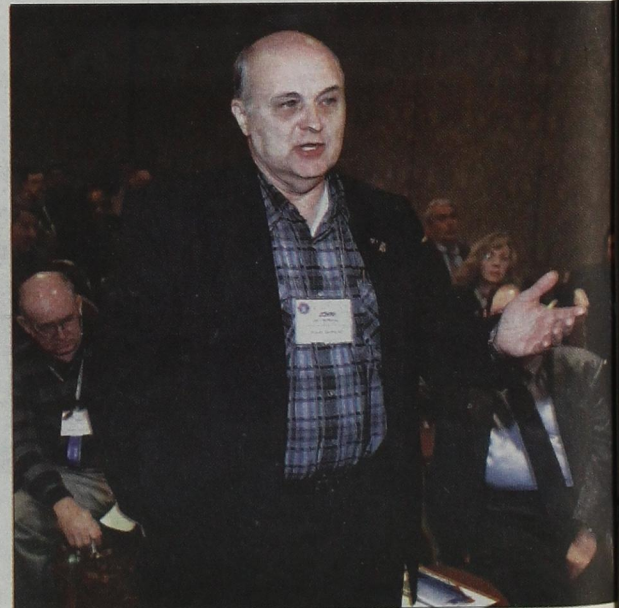
Chris McMahon, U.S. DOT Transportation Security Administration, talks about the new agency's plans for protecting airports during the *Infrastructure Security* workshop.



Candidate for NACo Second Vice President, Umatilla County Commissioner Bill Hansell (c) explains his platform to Orville V. Player, Jr., clerk of the court for Sumter County, S.C. (l) and Commissioner Noah Woods, Robeson County, N.C. (r).



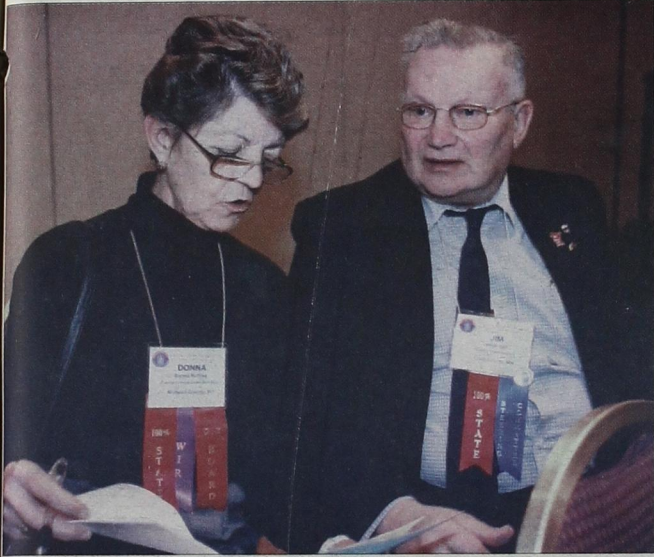
Tony Sebro of Nationwide Retirement Solutions addresses the panelists and delegates assembled at the *Protecting Workers' Long-Term Economic Security: Safe-Guarding Workers' Retirement Benefits in a Time of Great Economic Uncertainty* workshop.



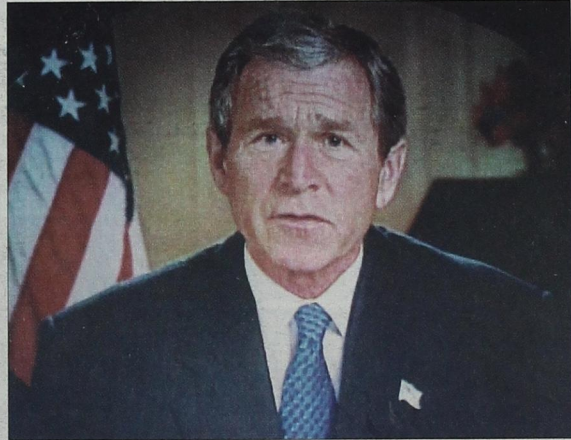
John Murray, communications/911 director, Oconee County, S.C., asks questions after presentations at the *Infrastructure Security* workshop.



# 2002 Legislative Conference Report...



Donna Ruffing (l), commissioner, Niobrara County, Wyo. and Jim Hall, commissioner, Cook County, Minn. consider the agenda as they wait to participate in the Rural Action Caucus Rural Water Working Breakfast.



In a videotaped message shown at the opening general session, President George W. Bush welcomed the delegates to the 2002 NACo Legislative Conference. Bush also thanked the delegates for their continued efforts in fighting terrorism on the homefront.

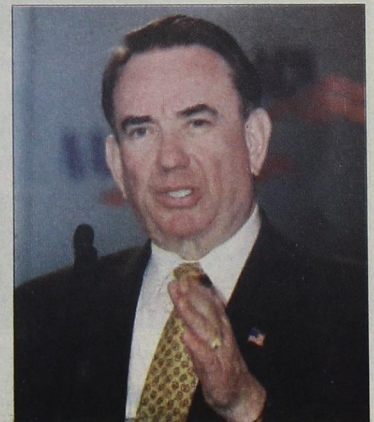


The house was packed with delegates eager to learn at many workshops, including the Will Congress Pass Election Reform Legislation This Year? workshop.



All politics are local for fellow New Jersians, Hudson County Executive Bernard Hartnett and Joseph Hansen, NACo research assistant.

After giving a hearty greeting to the delegates, including many of his fellow Wisconsinites, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson reiterated the Administration's commitment to making sure counties have what they need to combat bioterrorism.





# 2002 Legislative Conference Report...

All photos by David Hatcox unless otherwise indicated.

## Sustainable communities honored by Joint Center

On Sunday, March 3, NACo and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) presented the 2001 Joint Center Sustainable Community Awards to representatives from seven of the most innovative sustainability programs in America during the Opening General Session of the 2002 NACo Legislative Conference.

Each of the projects was a city/county partnership honored for its

innovation and effectiveness in developing economically prosperous, environmentally safe, and socially equitable communities.

The winners are listed below in alphabetical order, by state:

- **Tenth Street Place.** The City of Modesto and Stanislaus County, Calif.
- **Blueprint 2000 and Beyond.** Leon County and the City of Tallahassee, Fla.

- **Community Vision.** The Cities of Kissimmee and Saint Cloud, and Osceola County, Fla.

- **Hennepin Community Works.** Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis, Minn.

- **The Provenance Project.** The

Counties of Marion, Ralls and Pike, and the Cities of Hannibal, Louisiana, and Clarksville, Mo.

- **The Hudson County Urban Revitalization Strategy.** Hudson County and the Cities of Bayonne, Harrison, Guttenburg, North

Bergen, Jersey City, East Newark, Kearney, Weehawken, West New York, Union City, Hoboken, and Secaucus, N.J.

- **The Main Street Revitalization Project.** The City of Houston and Harris County, Texas

At the opening general session, County Supervisor Pat Paul accepted a 2001 Joint Center Sustainable Community Award for the Tenth Street Place, a combined project between the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County, Calif.



(l to r) George Wally, Steve Ayers, Patrick French, Phil Tate and Willie Richmond were on hand at the Sunday general session to accept a 2001 Joint Center Sustainable Community Award for The Provenance Project which brought together the Missouri counties of Marion, Ralls and Pike with the cities of Hannibal, Louisiana and Clarksville.



Hudson County, N.J. Executive Bernard Hartnett (l) accepts a Joint Center Sustainable Community Award from NACo President Javier Gonzales. Hudson County, along with the cities of Bayonne, Harrison, Guttenburg, Kearny, North Bergen, Jersey City, East Newark, Weehawken, West New York, Union City, Hoboken and Secaucus were recognized for their project The Hudson County Urban Revitalization Strategy.



Representatives from Osceola County and the cities of Kissimmee and Saint Cloud were on hand to accept a Joint Center Sustainable Community Award for the Community Vision project. Pictured (l to r) are Thomas Smith, county attorney, Commissioner Mary Jane Arrington, Donna Sines, executive director, Community Vision and Kissimmee Mayor George Gant.



## 2002 Legislative Conference Report...

# Making peace with endangered species: two counties tell all

By M. MINDY MORETTI  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Man's battle with nature is nothing if not epic and nowhere was that more in evidence than at the *Counties and Endangered Species — Everything You Wanted to Know, but Were Afraid to Ask* workshop. Highlighting two successful programs, the workshop focused on how counties can work with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) instead of against.

"One of the most important things you have to do is learn how to take a regulatory act and make it work to your benefit," explained Sharon Bronson, county supervisor, Pima County, Ariz.

Pima County created the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan that "combines short-term actions to protect and enhance the natural environment with long-range planning."

Bronson said the plan was initially created so the county could complete critical public works projects. Without the plan, the county would have been limited in their actions by the ESA.

"We really did this to save ourselves," Bronson said.

One way the county saved itself through the conservation plan was to see the bigger picture of conservation and growth.

"Many communities are going with the bigger picture and including more animals and plants than those that are listed," Bronson explained. "It's like buying a bigger insurance policy for the future."

In addition to seeing the bigger picture in terms of land and habitat, Bronson also stressed the importance of seeing the bigger picture by being willing to work with neighbors and private entities.

When the county began work on the conservation plan, it involved planning for 3,100 acres. By working with federal agencies, other jurisdictions and through public/private partnerships with ranchers, the county reduced its responsibility down to 300 acres.

Bob James, commissioner, Lee County, Fla. echoed Bronson's thoughts about making sure conservation is a group effort. Lee County is home to 30 listed animals and 15 listed plants. James stressed the importance of working with volunteer groups.

"Don't forget the private vol-

unteer sector," James said. "I cannot tell you how important those people are."

James said the key to Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program, which calls for 20 percent of the county to be conserved by 2020, has been the people. The county was even able to get voter approval to use tax dollars to purchase land. Besides dealing with people, James stressed the importance of choosing your battles.

"Sometimes, in some instances, we spent more on fighting them in mitigation than it would have cost to deal with what we were fighting about," James said.

Some of the people James mentioned fighting were represented at the workshop by Gary Frazier, assistant director of endangered species,

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Frazier pointed out USFWS' desire to get as much county input on listings as early as possible.

"We work hard to ensure that county governments are involved," Frazier said. "And in the future, we're going to be counting on county governments more and more, especially in the economic analysis to make sure that we are making the right decision."

He also encouraged participants to apply for a portion of the \$17.8 million available in FY02 to acquire lands.

And while Frazier's prepared comments about the ESA and receiving county input were important, things really got interesting when members of the audience spent most the question

and answer session questioning Frazier and the practices of the USFWS.

Many of the questions in the audience centered on the situation in Klamath County, Ore. Last year the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation prevented farmers in the Klamath River Basin from irrigating their crops with river water because USFWS believed water levels were too low to support the endangered suckers and threatened coho salmon in the river (*County News June 18, 2001*).

"That situation has shaken everyone to the core and made us think about how we avoid problems like this in the future," Frazier said. "We did the best we could with the data we had and it was imperfect data. It's not a situation anyone wanted and not a situation we want to repeat."

As Frazier continued to receive questions about the Klamath situation, he tried to emphasize the importance of good science for USFWS.

"We are a scientific agency. The use of good science is fundamental in what we do," Frazier said. "Certainly there has been some questionable science and we're working on that. Nothing is more important to us than our credibility to you."

Frazier said USFWS would prefer to not ever have to list another animal, but until that time comes, he said he and his agency are committed to building better relationships between field officers and local governments.

"We have dueling needs," Frazier said. "To get things done quickly, but to make sure we have everyone involved that needs to be involved."

## County mental health professionals discuss crisis needs

By M. MINDY MORETTI  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

At the *Crisis Response: Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Your County After a Disaster* workshop, mental health professionals from Montgomery County, Md., Freeborn County, Minn., and Arlington County, Va. discussed how they were prepared for the events of Sept. 11 and how they altered their plans post-Sept. 11.

According to Sharon Friedman, executive director, Mental Health Association of Montgomery County (Md.), any sort of mental health crisis response needs very much to be a public/private response. Private mental health providers and businesses need to be on board with any sort of crisis planning because providing for the mental health needs of citizens in times of crisis is as important as providing for their physical needs.

"We began years ago by preparing for man-made and natural disasters," explained Friedman. "Initially, we focused on natural disasters and then in the last five years, we've moved to man-made disasters."

Friedman stressed that local and national officials need to make mental health professionals part of the emergency management team. They need to be there from the beginning with the training and the drills and not just something "...tacked on at the end."



Panelists (l to r) Dudley Warner, senior administrator Crisis Center, Montgomery County, Md.; John Russotto, division chief, mental health and substance abuse, Dept. of Human Services, Arlington County, Va.; Sharon Friedman, executive director, Mental Health Association of Montgomery County (Md.); and Rose Olmsted, social service supervisor, Crime Victims Crisis Center, Freeborn County, Minn. take questions from the audience at the *Crisis Response: Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Your County After a Disaster* workshop.

Dudley Warner, senior administrator for the Crisis Center in Montgomery County, Md., pointed out that traditional mental health responses don't always work, especially in the case of Sept. 11. Warner said even if there is a crisis response plan in place, professionals need to be able to think quickly and out of the box.

And nowhere was that more the case than in Arlington County, Va. John C. Russotto, division chief of the Arlington County Department of Human Services discussed how his people were in the office and ready to take mental health calls as soon as the events began unfolding on Sept. 11. However, when the calls didn't come, they quickly re-

alized they needed to get out of the office and into the community.

"Services need to be practical and tailored to each community," Russotto said. "No one can offer you a mental health services cookbook."

Russotto said besides knowing there is no one perfect response, it is equally necessary to focus on the community's ability to be resilient. To wit, the Department crafted a mission statement.

"Our community is resilient and capable of recovering from any disaster, whether natural or human-caused because we stand prepared to mobilize trained community helpers to deliver strength-based crisis counseling and outreach services."

The community helpers Russotto referred to can be employees of the health department, clergy, professional mental health providers, basically anyone who has the training, knows the community and can get out into it and offer help.

In the end all the panelists concurred that there can be no fool-proof crisis response plan, but there must be a plan in place and it must be flexible.

"You absolutely need to have a disaster mental health plan," Russotto said. "You can't prevent a disaster and you can't anticipate everything that will happen, but you sure can be prepared."



## 2002 Legislative Conference Report...

All photos by David Hatheox unless otherwise indicated.

# Best Practices workshop takes on human services in a crisis

By BEVERLY SCHLOTTERBECK  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Imagine getting word that local government—you could find 4,100 repatriated American citizens arriving each day at a nearby airfield, and you need to take care of them.

That's what happened after Sept. 11 to the City of Hampton, Va., close by Langley Air Force Base, home of Air Combat Command, the 1st Fighter Wing and the oldest continually active U.S. Air Force base in the world.

Langley is also a second-tier port of entry for American civilians evacuated from overseas. And after Sept. 11, the U.S. State Department, via FEMA, told the state of Virginia to come up with plan to deal with the possible influx of a sudden overseas evacuation.

Under Virginia law, that means the local social services department needs to plan for processing repatriated individuals. Happily, or at least providentially, Hampton, Va. gets plenty of hurricanes and is experienced in setting up temporary shelters. Providing temporary shelter is just one of many tasks facing Hampton in the event of a sudden evacuation, according to Walt Credle. Credle directs Hampton's Social Services Department and was a panelist at Sunday's workshop, *Best Practices in Delivering Human Services in an Emergency*.

Credle said the region's experience dealing with hurricanes stood it in good stead when devising a plan for evacuees. There are already "shelter teams" in place, although a large evacuation would mean six or seven teams, instead of the one or two the area usually needs. That would spread the region's social services resources pretty thin, Credle said, since social service workers from all counties in the region would be needed to staff the shelters.

Nevertheless, Hampton feels ready for the event. Broad-based planning was the key, Credle said. "We brought together tons of folks: staff from the Hampton Coliseum, [where evacuees would be sheltered], police, fire, Red Cross, transit, social services, parks and recreation, finance and public information officers."

Transportation between the base and the Coliseum is a critical piece of the puzzle, made more difficult by increased security on the base. "But we worked it out," Credle said. His biggest concern is having adequate notice of arriving evacuees.

The last time a Virginia locality needed to deal with a similar situation, (the evacuation of Americans from Iran), Credle said the county charged with processing the evacuees had no idea when the plane was

landing, nor the number or condition of those onboard. "Arrivals could have no money, no belongings, be injured, or emotionally upset, at the very least. We hope for a long lead time and info from the airplane about how many onboard—their condition."

Once evacuees are on the ground, local government personnel will need to register them; assess their medical situation; assess emotional state; assess financial situation; provide financial assistance (The State of Virginia, which provides the financial assistance, requires that cash be given, Credle said. No checks or vouchers. The current cash award is \$560. "We need to have lots of cash on hand."); and provide site security, translators if necessary, and mortuary services, Credle explained.

"We used to watch the weather forecasts to see if anything was headed our way. Now, we watch the military and political forecasts."

### Montgomery County, Md.

For the Department of Department of Health and Human Services in Montgomery County, Md., it was a paralyzing ice storm in 1998 that taught valuable lessons about delivering human services in an emergency.

Corinne Stevens, Chief of Crisis Income and Victim's Services for the county, was on hand as the second panelist and shared Montgomery's experience and hard-won lessons.

The county developed a "Shelter Box" as a result of the ice storm, Stevens said. It's well supplied with cell phones, medical supplies, extra

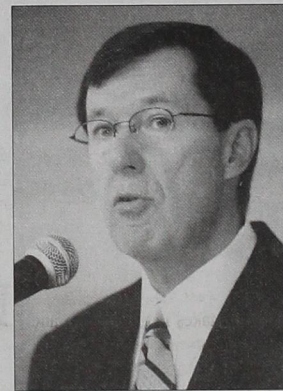
clothing for staff — all inventoried and refreshed on a periodic basis.

The county found that "special populations" (the old, sick, frail, disabled, poor) "come to the door first [for shelter] and in greatest numbers. Most homeowners stay in home," Stevens observed. The county also found it needed to clarify its leave and compensation policies, and provide staff with clear expectations. "We don't close when the weather goes bad."

The county has also made plans to shelter pets in conjunction with animal control. "Our experience in ice storm showed that some people would not leave homes if they had no where to place their pet."

For their emergency planning, the impact of the events of Sept. 11 fell most heavily in the mental health area. The local Mental Health Association has recruited about 100 private mental health practitioners, which the county is training in crisis mental health needs.

The use of volunteers, like the crisis mental health practitioners, is an integral part of their emergency plan, so much so that the county is considering moving its Volunteer Center to its Emergency Operations Center. "Using volunteers is a critical part of our emergency plan."



**At the Best Practices in Delivering Human Services in an Emergency workshop, Walter Credle, director, Hampton (Va.) Department of Social Services, discusses how county human services agencies continue to provide day-to-day services through an emergency situation.**



**Commissioner Noah Woods, Robeson County, N.C., listens intently as panelists on the Best Practices in Delivering Human Services in an Emergency workshop dispense valuable information about maintaining day-to-day human services while simultaneously dealing with an emergency situation such as Sept. 11.**

## Bioterrorism threat grows, Frist warns

By BEVERLY SCHLOTTERBECK  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The risk of a bioterrorist attack keeps growing over time and the nation's public health infrastructure is "under-prepared" to contend with an attack, said Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) during remarks before NACo delegates to the 2002 Legislative Conference. "The risk from a bioterrorist attack is real: real to your community and probably increasing over time. Risk is not getting any better. ... We're not unprepared, but under-prepared."

Frist, a practicing physician and champion of public health, co-sponsored along with Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001. He opened his talk with a slide of anthrax bacteria taken from the body of the first person to die from a bioterrorist at-

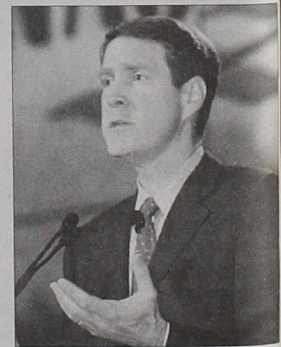
tack in the U.S.

Biological weapons are easier to deliver today and the expertise to build them, easier to come by, thanks to the fall of the Soviet Union and the subsequent unemployment of Soviet scientists, he said.

Set the risk beside the public health infrastructure in the country and the odds keep getting worse.

One of three public health departments serving 25,000 or fewer do not have Internet access and one out of four of public health departments do not have e-mail. "No matter how much vaccine we have stockpiled here in Washington, D.C. we can't respond unless we have good public health infrastructure."

Frist pledged his support in helping county officials secure adequate funding for their public health departments.



**Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) addresses delegates at the general session on Monday of the NACo 2002 Legislative Conference. A physician, Frist discussed the country's lack of preparedness for a bioterrorism attack and what needs to be done to be prepared.**

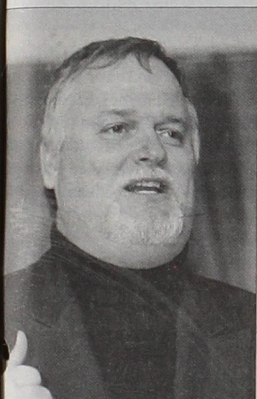


# 2002 Legislative Conference Report...

## Blended threats workshop focuses on being prepared

By M. MINDY MORETTI  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

According to the panelists at the *Blended Threats and Information Warfare* workshop, inadequate preparation and internal sabotage are the two biggest threats facing any government or business's technology.



Jim Gerretson, director of operations information assurance for ACS Defense tells the audience at the *Blended Threats* workshop that the greatest threat comes from within.

- alternate means — accessibility to computer and hard drives at an alternate location
- alternate offices — a secret and secure place to keep copies of all network information and archives and some place to go and work should there be a physical attack
- redundant carriers, and
- other sources of communication.

In addition being prepared for potential threats and having the right people in place, governments also need to know what the threats are out there.

According to Jim Gerretson, director of operations information assurance with ACS Defense, there are three to five million hackers at any time. Hackers range from amateur, all the way up to states and nations.

"If you want to break into something, all it takes is time, effort and desire," Gerretson said.

However, the single biggest threat to a government's system does not come from another government or some random hacker, it comes from within. Citing FBI statistics Gerretson noted that 60 to 80 percent of corporate computer crimes are insider jobs.

And while county governments may not think they would be a target for a hacker, Gerretson said all one has to do is look at the five biggest threats to systems and it's easy to see why county systems are as vulnerable as the largest corporation:

- for the heck of it
- trusted relationships (i.e. feeds into other systems)
- police records
- financial records
- medical records

Gerretson pointed out the importance of having a security policy and procedures for a system. He said like other security measures, the network procedures should be reviewed on a regular basis.

And while the cost of getting the best training and equipment for your IT staff can be prohibitive, Gerretson pointed out that security for a network is not the time to go cost-cutting.

"Instead of saying, 'Why should I spend the money?' you should be saying, 'What's the potential cost of not implementing a security system for your network?'" Gerretson said. "Accept that you will be a target and budget for that reality."

## Importance of cyber-security stressed

By BEVERLY SCHLOTTERBECK  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

As the World Trade Centers collapsed, the nation's attention became focused on the "hard" assets of the country. Securing airports, nuclear plants, bridges, water systems suddenly became a critical mission of governments at all levels. Yet, the world runs on information and securing cyberspace is an equally crucial and pressing issue.

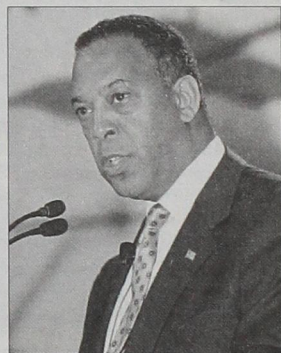
That was the message from John W. Thompson, CEO, Symantec — leading provider of Internet security and publisher of popular Norton Anti-Virus Programs.

Groups who track computer attacks, Thompson said, report that 2001 saw 50,000 cyber attacks and probes — double the amount of the previous year. Talk of security most

often centers on "hard assets," but not information systems. Physical assets, human capital and cyber-security must all be kept together when planning for security, Thompson said. "Failure to secure networks and systems would be negligent."

Well-funded, well-staffed and systematic approaches for cyber-security are called for, he said, because of the dominant role information technology plays in the nation's economy. "Cyber-security is not a one-time fix. It must be adequately addressed... Installing a 'firewall' won't do it."

He recommended each county appoint a person within the county to be responsible for "cyber-security, to make certain that digital assets are protected. "The federal government cannot protect infrastructure alone."



John W. Thompson, chairman and CEO of Symantec, was a keynote speaker at the opening general session of the 2002 NACO Legislative Conference.

## EPA gives brief on brownfields law

Sven-Erik Kaiser, the Environmental Protection Agency's point person on brownfields, encouraged Large Urban County Caucus members, during their meeting at the Legislative Conference, to seize the opportunity and redevelop contaminated sites that were untouchable until President George W. Bush signed an historic brownfields bill on Jan. 11.

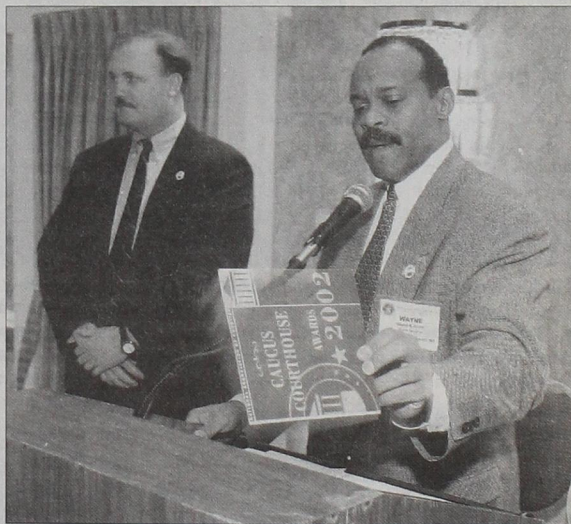
Before Jan. 11, "it was better to just sit on it [contaminated property] and mow the grass," Kaiser told caucus members. "Today, however, the big barrier of liability uncertainty has been lifted. As long as you, in good faith, do due diligence you won't be liable," said Kaiser.

The bill signed into law was strongly supported by NACO and LUCC for several reasons, most importantly, more money, lower liability risk to counties and broader program parameters. Of the \$250 million authorized by Congress, \$50 million can be used to clean up the nearly 200,000 abandoned gas stations peppered throughout America's counties.

"For the first time you can do petroleum cleanup," said Kaiser. "You couldn't touch them before this program."

Another first is that redevelopment authorities are permitted to apply for direct cleanup grants as well.

Kaiser suggested that metropolitan county officials contact their regional EPA office as soon as possible.



Prince George's County Executive Wayne K. Curry, chair of the Large Urban County Caucus, prepares to distribute brochures at the LUCC Membership Meeting.

"Next month [April] EPA moves into policy development," said Kaiser. "In the fall, when the new money comes out, I've got to get it out. We will be ready in September."

In other business, Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County (Fla.) board chair, and Al Ittner, spectrum and regulatory strategy manager for Motorola, highlighted the nation's

first private wireless emergency management wide-band data technology system with a video presentation.

Caucus members will get a close-up look at the system during LUCC's Regional Meeting in Pinellas County May 8-10. For more information on the meeting, contact Shawn Bullard, associate legislative director, at (202)942-4212, or e-mail [sbullard@naco.org](mailto:sbullard@naco.org).



# NACo Legislator of the Year Awards...

All photos by Shawn Bullard



(1 to r) NACo Executive Director Larry Naake, President Javier Gonzales, and NACo Second Vice President Angelo Kyle present a NACo Legislator of the Year Award to Rep. Eva Clayton (D-N.C.) for her work with rural economic development.



For his work on the forest safety net, NACo President Javier Gonzales presented Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) with a Legislator of the Year Award.



Election reform is one of NACo's top legislative priorities and the association received help from many members of Congress, including Rep. Bob Ney (R-Ohio). Pictured here with members of the NACo Executive Committee, Ney received a Legislator of the Year for his work. (1 to r) Larry Naake, NACo executive director, First Vice President Karen Miller, Ney, and President Javier Gonzales.



For his work on brownfields, Rep. Paul Gillmor (R-Ohio) (second from left) was presented with a NACo Legislator of the Year Award by (1 to r) Larry Naake, executive director, President Javier Gonzales and Second Vice President Angelo Kyle.



Rep. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) worked diligently on election reform and was rewarded for his efforts with a NACo Legislator of the Year Award. Pictured (1 to r) NACo First Vice President Karen Miller, Blunt, President Javier Gonzales and Larry Naake, executive director.



Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) worked tirelessly on several NACo priorities this year including workforce development, bioterrorism and education. For his efforts NACo presented Kennedy with a Legislator of the Year Award. Pictured here (1 to r) NACo Executive Director Larry Naake, First Vice President Karen Miller, Kennedy and President Javier Gonzales.



Members of the Executive Committee recently went to Capitol Hill to present NACo Legislator of the Year Awards. Pictured (1 to r) are NACo First Vice President Karen Miller, Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), President Javier Gonzales and Executive Director Larry Naake. Hoyer received the award for his work on election reform.



NACo First Vice President Karen Miller (r) presents a Legislator of the Year Award to Jo Ann Emerson (R), another resident of the "Show Me" state, for her work on rural economic development.



NACo Executive Director Larry Naake (l) and County Services Representative and fellow North Dakotan Karen Braaten present a NACo Legislator of the Year Award to Sen. Bryon Dorgan (D-N.D.) for his work on remote sales tax.

FINANCIAL SERVICES NEWS

# First County Signs Up for Totally Web Government

When NACo joined with the National League of Cities and IBM to create the Totally Web Government program for rural counties and cities, no one knew whether small communities would embrace the program. At the NACo Legislative Conference, more than 50 people attended a briefing on the new program, where NACo and NACo fielded questions from an animated audience. Within minutes of that briefing, the first county signed up to pilot the program.

Jan Porter, chair of the NACo Rural Action Caucus and treasurer of Catron County, N.M., signed up to become the first user of the program. "This is a terrific opportunity for our county to get online and by doing so we're helping to close the digital divide in our small rural community," said Porter. Porter took the lead in her county to push this proposal. In fact, each of the five county departments is contributing \$11 per

month to help fund their presence on the World Wide Web.

Totally Web Government provides participating counties with two program offerings: satellite broadband connectivity via Hughes Network Systems DIRECWAY™, and a Web creation tool and hosting service that allows counties to have a Web presence without the cost of expensive computer equipment and maintenance.

Presently 14 state associations of counties have signed up to test the program with their rural counties.

The state associations are Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Utah, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina and Virginia.

Through the state associations, Totally Web Government will provide access to the services and will also provide training and education. As new services become available,

the associations will assist in transferring information and training to the county users.

Totally Web Government is intended to provide local governments with a one-stop offering to develop a Web site and provide interactive add-on applications, ranging from community events, election information, police and fire services, online payment systems and permit processing. NACo has established a technical advisory committee to assist the program in identifying and selecting new services for the program. This committee is composed of elected and appointed county officials with program expertise across county departments.

*(For more information and to sign up for the pilot, contact Nancy Irish, contract manager, at (202) 661-8824. Financial Services News was written by Eric Ciliberti, associate legislative director.)*

## NACo ON THE MOVE

### NACo OFFICERS / COUNTY OFFICIALS

On March 20 NACo President **Javier Gonzales** addressed the general session of the Supervisors Association of California in Sacramento. On the 21, Gonzales was the keynote speaker at the Iowa Association of Counties conference in Des Moines. And, on March 25 he addressed the general session of the National Association of County Engineers Conference in San Diego County, Calif.

### NACo STAFF

• **Ali Muhammad** joined the staff on March 5 as NACo's new Office Clerk. Muhammad will work in the business center on various tasks as well as help cover phone duty.

• Associate Legislative Director **Paul V. Beddoe** was seated as NACo representative on the Conservation Advisory Council of the Public Lands Foundation at its February meeting. The 15-year old foundation is a national organization whose members are concerned about the management of the public lands under the administration of the BLM. The Conservation Advisory Council is a group of conservation organizations and corporations that are concerned about public lands issues and advise the foundation's board of directors on public policy and organizational matters.



Ali Muhammad

## WEB WATCH

### Digital Government Award sponsors need nominations

In case you missed the story elsewhere in *County News*, Accenture, a NACo premier member, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) School of Architecture and Planning are joining forces to present the third annual Digital Government Awards. The awards recognize outstanding achievements in delivery of eGovernment services and showcase leaders who use the Internet to deliver greater services.

The Accenture and MIT Digital Government Awards will be presented in federal, state and local government categories for existing services delivered via the Web. Awards also will be given in higher education and in recognition of the most innovative pilot or prototype program. This year, a new award, called the Agent of Change, will honor an individual in government or higher education who inspires others to push the boundaries of eGovernment to deliver greater services and improve operations in government agencies and at institutes of higher learning.

For more information and nomination form, visit [www.digitalgovawards.org](http://www.digitalgovawards.org) through April 19.

### Internet traffic at 308.7 million worldwide

In case you were just itching to know: The worldwide Internet population held stable at 308.7 million users in February 2002, according to comScore,

([www.comscore.com](http://www.comscore.com)) an Internet research company. This follows a 1.3 percent increase in January 2002 over December 2001. This increase, comScore says, was driven primarily by growth of almost 2 percent in the non-U.S. audience, which totaled 177.8 million users during January.

The top-five most visited sites: Microsoft, Yahoo, AOL Time Warner, Terra Lycos and the U.S. Government. A ranking of the top 50 sites can be found at [http://cyberatlas.internet.com/big\\_picture/traffic\\_patterns](http://cyberatlas.internet.com/big_picture/traffic_patterns).

### Start planning your New Orleans trip

NACo's 67th Annual Conference, July 12-16, will be in beautiful, exotic New Orleans. You can get a head start on your plans by visiting [www.neworleans.com](http://www.neworleans.com), which bills itself as the site "Where the world comes for information on New Orleans." Want to see what Bourbon Street looks like before you go, there are live Webcam shots of the famous thoroughfare and even traffic cam shots, in case you want to check out the congestion level. And while we're talking about the conference: Register by May 3 and you save \$50 off the regular registration fee. Go to <https://www.signupcenter.com/nacoan/online.html> for more information and registration.

*(Web Watch is written by Bev Schlotterbeck, executive editor. If you have a Web site you would like featured, please e-mail Web Watch at [cnews@naco.org](mailto:cnews@naco.org).)*

# NACo Voting Delegates

Your county will be able to authorize your voting delegates ONLINE!

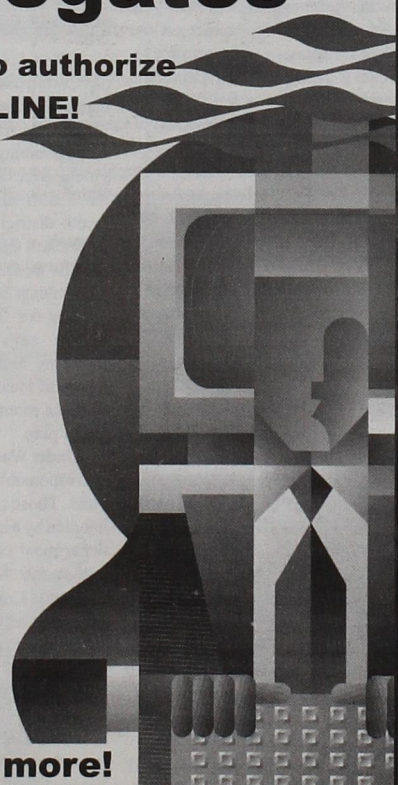
New this year! You may now authorize your county's voting delegate for the 2002 Election of Officers online at the NACo Web site.

When the form is available in April, you will be able to enter the appropriate information into the online form. Then print out the form, which must then be signed by your county's chief elected official and mailed to NACo, in accordance with the bylaws.

This service will be available in early April and will help cut down on the use of paper. We encourage all member counties to take advantage!

For those that do not, paper forms will be mailed out in early May.

Visit [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) after April 1 to find out more!



## NEWS FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES



County employees pose in a Broward County billboard poster.

## FLORIDA

• The **BROWARD COUNTY** Commission recently launched a new employment marketing campaign. The campaign uses county employees as models for a poster now being displayed in the Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, on county bus exteriors and throughout the Governmental Center complex. The poster image is also being used in direct mailings and other media.

Also in Broward County, the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport recently received the 2001 Air Carrier Airport Safety Award from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The airport, which is administered by the county commissioners, competed for the award with other similarly sized air carrier airports throughout the Southeast.

"What really makes Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood stand out is the proactive nature of its programs," said Rusty Chapman, manager, airports division, FAA Southern Region. "From disaster preparedness activities to efforts to reduce runway incursions, the airport has made great strides in creating a safer environment for the flying public."

• Changes to the Florida election system keep happening, county by county and this time it's **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY** that's showing off its new stuff.

The Elections Department kicked off its Voter Education Program at the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition in mid-March. Elections staff presented the brand new touch screen technology to the public and asked visitors to complete a survey of fair attractions using the newly acquired iVotronic Touch Screen voting system.

## INDIANA

After a controversial lakeside tree cutting in the Lake Monroe watershed, the **MONROE COUNTY** Commission will consider a plan to tighten restrictions on land-use activities in the watershed.

The proposal reduces exemptions to "ecozone" regulations the county adopted in 1996. According to *The Herald-Times*, the environmental zoning designation restricts development and land-disturbing activities on steep slopes in the watershed.

However, the ordinance exempted from the regulations, all previously zoned lots. The exemption was included to ensure that property owners could make reasonable use

of their land and avoid an illegal taking of property rights.

Under the proposed change, the exemptions would apply only to activities needed to construct buildings or necessary driveways, roads, parking lots and utilities. No longer exempt would be land-disturbing activities and removal of vegetation on steep slopes.

## MARYLAND

Officials in **FREDERICK COUNTY** and the City of Frederick recently agreed to consider participating in Maryland's brownfields redevelopment program.

The program, coordinated by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), provides tax credits and financial assistance for cleanup of former commercial or industrial properties that are contaminated. Brownfields is an essential part of the state's smart growth program.

DBED can reimburse property owners for up to 70 percent of the cost of performing an environmental assessment of a contaminated site. In order for possible sites in the county or city to qualify for the program, both jurisdictions must pass ordinances granting brownfields property tax credits, or provide a list of priority sites.

Marie Keegin, director of the county's Office of Economic Development urged the county to look into the legislation soon so her office can tout the program's benefits to potential business owners.

"This is an opportunity for our business to help us in the redevelopment of the community," Keegin told *The Frederick News-Post*.

## NORTH CAROLINA

And they are feeling the budget crunch in **MECKLENBURG COUNTY** as well. The county commission is considering cutting some of the county's most popular social service programs to balance the budget.

According to an article in *The Charlotte Observer*, staffers have suggested eliminating funding for programs such as the Shelter for Battered Women and an area AIDS program—or at least reducing funding for the programs over the next few years.

Richard Jacobsen, department of social services director recommended reducing or cutting the \$2.6 million spent for social service programs that are not mandated by state or federal laws. Commissioners and staff are seeking places to cut the county's \$1.1 billion budget after the governor moved to withhold \$6.8 million in payments to the county and a \$5 million drop in sales tax collections so far this fiscal year.

With the outlook for next year even more grim—an expected loss of \$25 million in state reimbursements—a proposed tax rate reduction has been put on hold.

"It's imperative that this community hear what we're going through so everybody knows there aren't the dollars there and there isn't the inclination for another massive increase in property tax dollars to fix the problem," Commissioner Becky Carney told *The Observer*.

## OHIO

The **HAMILTON COUNTY** Falls Task Force is being recognized for its efforts to prevent fall injuries among the elderly. It was named as a recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Aging Awards, sponsored by the Association for Professionals in the Field of Aging.

The Falls Task Force is the first countywide organization to address fall injuries in older adults. It was created by the Hamilton County General Health District in January 2000 and is chaired by County Commissioner John Dowlin. The task force works to prevent falls through community collaboration, education, awareness, intervention and evaluation.

Fall injuries are the leading cause of deaths, hospitalizations and emergency room visits in Hamilton County. Data from the Hamilton County General Health District's Injury Surveillance System show the problem is even more dramatic among older adults; 80 percent of deaths and 85 percent of hospitalizations caused by falls occurred in adults age 65 and over.

Hamilton County Health Commissioner Tim Ingram says the award demonstrates that the task force is making strides toward reducing fall injuries.

The Falls Task Force members represent 23 area agencies from all levels of senior services, including health departments, hospitals, universities, individuals, and aging agencies.

## VIRGINIA

James D. Campbell, executive director of the Virginia Association of Counties was recently presented with an award of excellence from the Virginia Society of Association Executives (VSAE).

The award is given to an outstanding association professional who has been nominated by peers in recognition of his or her leadership and achievement.

According to the awards committee, "Jim is the epitome of what this award is all about and we are pleased to add him to the distinguished list of winners."

## WASHINGTON

• The **CLARK COUNTY** Board of Commissioners recently announced plans to eliminate the Southwest Washington Health District and begin planning for the county to provide services currently provided by the health district. Currently, the health district provides services to both Clark and Skamania counties.

The Board of County Commissioners expressed a need to explore options for the county to deliver health services with greater economy and efficiency, and the Board of Health agreed to spend at least six months developing a transition plan.

Under Washington law, counties are responsible for public health services. Those responsibilities may be handled by a health district, a county department or through contractual agreements. It is not yet known how Skamania County will provide public health services once the district transitions to Clark.

• Although it's only a technical violation of a law that is not enforced, **KITSAP COUNTY** is at the risk of major lawsuits because it does not use licensed medical professionals to dispense medication to prisoners.

Approximately 60 percent of prisoners require some medication and jail staff make rounds three times a day to dispense the medication.

If a staffer makes a mistake, potentially causing injury or death to a prisoner, the county's insurance will not cover it.

"This is a huge liability... we are certainly at risk here for a bad outcome," said Dr. Scott Lindquist, district health physician newly in charge of the program.

One way to rectify the situation is, at an unbudgeted cost of \$161,000 per year, to hire licensed nurses to dispense the medications. The county is also looking into whether off-duty paramedics could perform the same duties at lower costs.

Pierce and Jefferson county jails are each facing civil rights lawsuits over similar practices.

## WEST VIRGINIA

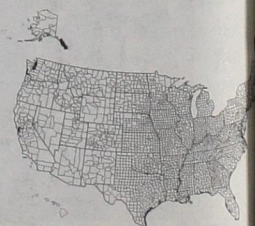
With many of the state's 55 county courthouses and related facilities in need of upgrades and improvements in 2001, the West Virginia Legislature created the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority. The authority was established to study the problems counties are facing maintaining the courthouse facilities, providing storage for public records and meeting the space needs of officeholders.

While many counties are eager to receive help from the authority, a bill to cover the agency's operations died in the House Finance Committee.

"Right now, we have no funding source to improve these courthouses," David Jolliffe, executive director of the authority, told *The Charleston Daily Mail*. "The courthouses have continuing troubles. The longer we wait, the greater they will become."

The agency has been working on a \$250,000 allocation for its operation this fiscal year and Jolliffe expects lawmakers to provide a similar amount in the coming year through money put into the governor's contingency fund.

Jolliffe is currently trying to determine how much it would cost to get someone to conduct a detailed study of the needs of the courthouses.



(News from the Nation's Counties is compiled by M. Mindy Moretti, senior staff writer.)

RESEARCH NEWS

# Emergency Preparedness for All

Recently, the National Organization on Disability (NOD) released a report on how people with disabilities feel about their own safety and security after the events of Sept. 11. Not surprisingly, many of the 54 million people with disabilities in the country do not feel prepared to address a future crisis and have certain anxieties about their safety.

This data is from a NOD/Harris Poll conducted by telephone in mid-November. The poll included more than 1,000 people, 15 percent of whom reported having disabilities. Based on the survey responses:

- Fifty-eight percent of people with disabilities report they have no idea whom to contact about emergency plans for their community in the event of a terrorist attack or other crisis.

- Sixty-one percent say that they have no plans to quickly and safely evacuate their homes.

- Of the responding people with disabilities who are employed full or part time, 50 percent say no plans have been made to safely evacuate their workplaces.

These responses all have higher percentages for individuals with disabilities than for other respondents.

Of those without disabilities who responded, 51 percent report not knowing whom to contact about community emergency plans, 58 percent say plans are not in place for evacuating their homes, and 44 percent report no evacuation plans for their workplaces.

"These statistics show the country as a whole has some catching up to be prepared, but people with disabilities lag behind everyone else. This is a critical discrepancy, because those of us with disabilities must in fact be better prepared so we are not at a disadvantage in an emergency," said NOD President Alan A. Reich.

This poll also reports that people with disabilities are far more anxious about their own personal safety. Only 8 percent of respondents indicated they were extremely or very anxious compared to 18 percent of respondents with disabilities. In addition, the poll reports that 44 percent of people with disabilities are somewhat anxious.

Many counties have already instituted plans to locate people in their communities who may have special needs during an emergency. Linn County (Ind.), developed its Special Needs Registration Program, a 2001 NACo Achievement Award winner, to register the needs and challenges of all people who live in their homes and not in a group home or residential setting.

The program, co-sponsored by the Linn County Emergency Management Agency and the Duane Arnold Energy Center, was designed to gather as much information as possible about the needs of residents prior to an emergency, and to enable the county to provide timely assistance who may be overlooked.

The NOD recently posted on its Web page, ideas and suggestions for including people with disabilities in local emergency preparedness plans. Among the useful ideas that are ways to locate persons with disabilities in your community through contacting:

- local affiliates of disability organizations
- local centers for independent living
- state commission on disability
- the state and local rehabilitation agencies
- the state veteran's administration facilities that serve people with disabilities

- the local Americans with Disability Act Coordinator
- local religious institutions, and
- professionals in the community who work with people with disabilities.

Many county officials recently received a letter from Reich. In this letter, he urged county officials to include people with disabilities in preparedness planning. This includes planning for them as well as using

them as resources in the preparedness planning for the community.

Reich points out that several people with severe disabilities, including wheelchair users and a man who is blind, escaped from the World Trade Center. "We know this was in part thanks to the extensive drills that they and their coworkers took part in following the 1993 bombing there. Preparedness really makes a huge difference."

(To review the Disaster Mobilization Guide from NOD or to read the report from the Task Force on Emergency Preparedness and People with Disabilities go to [www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org). To read the results of the Harris poll go to [www.harrisinteractive.com/harris\\_poll/index.asp?PID=272](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/index.asp?PID=272))

(Research News was written by Jacqueline Byers, director of research.)

## Hats Off to...

### 2001 Achievement Award Winners...

#### Personnel Management, Employee Training & Employee Benefits

#### Pay for Performance Hamilton County, Ohio

In 1996, Hamilton County Department of Human Services (HCDHS) negotiated its first pay-for-performance contract with a public employee union, AFSCME Local 1768, making it the first of Ohio's 88 counties to establish a pay-for-performance contract with a bargaining unit.

The Pay for Performance Program was drafted with the specific intent of creating a work environment where optimal employee performance is encouraged and rewarded. To achieve this end, HCDHS and AFSCME created a structure rooted in cooperation and communication.

As part of the process, representatives from both labor and management formed a labor-management workgroup. This workgroup was charged with the responsibility of developing performance objectives for each labor classification or subclassification. The performance objective was comprised of,

- professional objectives, which apply to all county employees
- classification objectives which apply to all persons within a specified classification or subclassification
- individual objectives which are factors agreed upon by an individual and his/her respective superior, and
- weight, which is the percentage assigned to an evaluation component.

The sum of all components equalled 100 percent. These agreed upon performance objectives serve as the guideline for employee performance expectations.

In preparation for the 1996 negotiations with AFSCME, a review of the compensation structure revealed that 55 percent of agency employees were either at the maximum of their pay range or relatively close to the maximum. The simplest solution would have been to expand the pay bands. This was done as part of the pay for performance plan. However, the changing environment, along with an increasing sense of "fiscal responsibility" demanded something more, such as employee performance connected to organizational goals and incentives for employees to do more.

Merit and bonus increases are now based on increases set by the board of county commissioners for non-union staff. While the actual dollars allocated for merit and bonus might increase or decrease each year, the percentage amount of increase is determined by the availability of funds in the county general fund and reimbursement amounts from federal and state sources.

The costs are actually determined and controlled by the Board of County Commissioners based on available dollars for the fiscal year. This program has allowed the organization to focus on objectives for the entire workforce set by the state and federal funding sources. These objectives have been aligned from the director level down to the line staff to ensure mandates are met. Also, the ability to earn higher levels of pay through merit and bonus programs gave the employees the motivation to consistently improve their work and meet performance objectives.

individuals within their department for the Excellence in Public Service Award. This program, asking co-workers for their personal nomination of someone they work with who best exemplifies and demonstrates the values and qualities that are the hallmark of public service in Henrico County, gives employees who are important to the county's success the recognition they deserve.

Initiated by the county manager, a focus group of county employees developed the program parameters and criteria for nomination along with developing the nomination form. A personal letter to all 3,300 employees from the county manager accompanied this form. This letter was delivered to each employee by their department head explaining the program as well as each individual employee's impact on such a program.

Once a departmental selection was finalized, each agency head submitted a name to the county manager for consideration for a countywide excellence in public service award. A committee was formed to assist the county manager in selecting the countywide recipient. Public recognition of the nominees and the countywide recipient was also part of the program that included a reception with newspaper coverage.

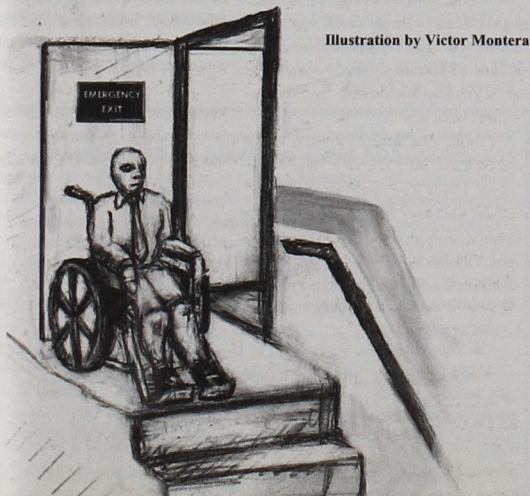
At a cost of less than \$3,000 for recognition awards and refreshments, the program proved to be a great success.

#### Excellence in Public Service Henrico County, Va.

Henrico County employees, in a new recognition program, nominate

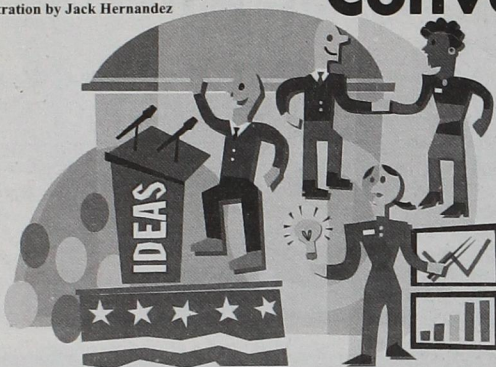
(Hats off to ... was written by Joseph Hansen, research assistant. Hats off to ... features 2001 NACo Achievement Award Winners.)

Illustration by Victor Montero



# THE H.R. DOCTOR IS IN Conventional Wisdom

Illustration by Jack Hernandez



A professional convention or conference, such as NACO's Annual or Legislative conferences, or a local or regional meeting, can be a time and place of wonder, opportunity and perspective building. It can also be a time of battery recharge, learning and enjoyment.

In fact, the best advantage of attending, in the HR Doctor's experience, is to return home with new ideas, with new or renewed contacts, and networks of colleagues from whom much can be learned and shared in the future.

So, why is it that we label such a gathering as a "convention" when, in fact, the whole idea is to learn to think in un-conventional ways? These meetings have many more advantages than disadvantages, especially if attendance by a team of two from the same organization is possible.

First, being asked to attend or receiving permission to attend a convention is a sign of recognition and appreciation by the agency. In recruiting and retaining "superstars," money is not the number one motivator. It is certainly an important consideration, but not the important one.

Interestingly enough, surveys suggest that being recognized for one's work and having the chance to succeed in meaningful projects and challenges have a higher place in the mind of the best and the brightest of employees. It is every manager's professional obligation, and honor, to provide such recognition to great performing staff members, especially those in the relatively early stages of their public service careers. Attending a conference with a senior manager or executive is a great tool for such recognition and mentoring.

The HR Doctor recommends attendance be incorporated into a larger personal, professional development plan for the attendee. "Bring back several new ideas," can be a reasonable expectation. Conduct a briefing on what was learned and what was brought back can also be a logical follow-up.

In today's world of work and education, there is a perceived reduction in the ability of people to communicate

with each other effectively. This is not a genetic weakness in individuals and it is unrelated to race, gender or disability. It is something which can be learned — but not without practice.

The key skill in the professional life of the most successful executive is to be able to serve as a briefing officer — to be able to take a complex issue and communicate it and explain it to others. This takes written and verbal skills obtainable through the experience of doing rather than just taking notes in a classroom. Use convention attendance for such experience. The positive results may prevent a great employee from leaving the organization prematurely.

Spread conference attendance opportunities to diverse members of the staff. Agencies simply can't afford to send hordes of staff members to conventions, so the selection of attendees is important. Let the selection reflect the organization's commitment to diversity and equity.

Deliberately use the event to build a professional network for the benefit of the organization. For example, there is an annual meeting, hosted by the International Personnel Management Association, which always results in follow-up help and contacts for attendees who present each other with issues and questions and get nationwide feedback.

What a wonderful tool for the individual and the organization! Just try doing that without ever having met your colleagues. It will not be anywhere near as successful as building on the contacts and relationships that can be established at professional meetings. In a world of e-mails the possibilities for follow-up are even greater.

If improved retention, staff development, morale and new sources of innovation aren't enough positive reasons for attendance, how about the reality that going to a convention can re-energize the professional who may be feeling frustrated and overwhelmed. Everyone feels that way periodically. Attending a meeting with colleagues helps you realize others share the same dilemmas and perhaps have tried solu-

tions that worked for them and can be exported. This can be a very effective treatment to counter the bureaucratic illness of simmering frustration.

Now to the "dark sides of the force" when it comes to conventions. First, "Houston, we have a problem" when meetings are scheduled in locations that are so expensive in terms of registration, travel complexity, accommodations, food, etc., that a "chilling effect" results. No agency has a budget equal to that of the Department of Defense when it comes to attendance.

There is always local scrutiny of travel by helpful auditors, watchdogs, citizens who need better hobbies, Monday morning quarterbacks, etc. In many agencies, there are meal reimbursement limits, such as \$3 dollars for breakfast, \$6 dollars for lunch, or \$12 dollars for dinner, which made great sense in 1972, but have somehow lingered on.

Organizations have an obligation to take these real world, practical dilemmas into account in planning the most convenient and cost sensitive locations as possible.

The agenda and logistics of the conference must be exciting, fast-paced and enjoyable. If not, the attendees may injure themselves when they fall asleep during a meeting and slip out of their uncomfortable chairs. Great, enthusiastic speakers, who present subjects of compelling interest in a dynamic way, are essential. The attendees need to end their convention experience feeling that their expectations were exceeded and they gained so much that any negative factors, such as time away from the office, travel hassles, and expense can be overcome.

Effective approaches to creating such "exceeds expectations" meetings and learning opportunities, low in cost but high in outcome, may be found in HR Doctor articles entitled *Turning a Retreat Into a Great Step Forward* and *I Never Metaphor I Didn't Like*, which may be read at [www.hdr.net](http://www.hdr.net).

Local governments can also create great learning events in their own neighborhoods with less cost and greater opportunities for more people. Sonoma and Marin counties in California create a learning symposium periodically and invite cities and universities to participate.

The HR Doctor had the pleasure of speaking at the most recent one focusing on security and counter-terrorism. Lucas County, Ohio has a similar approach with the next one focusing on how managers can "...create a compelling place to work." These locally grown efforts can pay off in improved staff and agency relationships, as well as in the more obvious sharing of specific knowledge with attendees.

Finally, some comments on what is often the first response of an elected or appointed official at the slightest hint of budgetary or publicity trouble. Namely, let's cut the training budget! Let's eliminate the travel budget! These responses, often originating in the knee joint, seem like correct ones, but the reality is that they can be very counter-productive.

It is critical that an organization encourage professional growth and support — no, demand — excellence in training and development. To do otherwise is to send the wrong message to staff members or job applicants.

Local government's version of "R & D" rests in the learning, ques-

tioning and searching for better approaches by staff members. These abilities are enabled when staff gets to represent the organization at professional meetings in the manner described in this article. There is a balance to be drawn, of course. However, the agency hurts itself, its employees and those it serves by foolishly ignoring the unconventional positive outcomes of using meetings and conferences to serve the public.

See you "...in conference" and best wishes,

**Phil Rosenberg**

The HR Doctor • [www.hdr.net](http://www.hdr.net)

## NOTICES

### CONFERENCES

■ **The American Society for Training and Development (ASTD)** is holding its *Annual ASTD International Conference and Exposition 2002*, June 2-6 in New Orleans, La. The conference will feature a one-day conference-within-a-conference (CWC) developed by feds for feds and their state and local government counterparts. The theme of the CWC is *Federal HRD: Looking at It Differently!* The conference will provide opportunities for public sector HRD specialists to update their skills, knowledge and insight into innovative HRD practices. Included workshops within the conference are: *The Magic of E-Learning*, *Training: A Business Strategy and Professional Development*; *HRD to the Rescue*. For more information, visit the ASTD Web site at [www.ast.org/astd2002](http://www.ast.org/astd2002) or contact Gary Segers at (208) 378-5142.

■ **The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)** is holding a call for presentations for its *40th Annual Conference of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association* being held Oct. 26-30 in Chicago, Ill. Abstract submissions topics include, e-government, public health, local government and GIS, enterprise operations and enterprise operations. The conference will instruct participants on how to better manage, analyze, plan and implement technology for more effective and efficient government operations. Abstract submissions received by April 1 will be reviewed and considered for this educational program. For more information, contact URISA at (847) 824-6300 or visit the Web site at [www.urisa.org](http://www.urisa.org).

■ **The New Urban News** will sponsor *Shaping the Region with New Urbanism*, a 90-minute interactive audio conference with Peter Calthorpe, principal of Calthorpe Associates, and Victor Dover of Dover, Kohl & Partners. Included in the conference, which will be held April 30 at 3 p.m., will be a discussion on gathering and presenting data, building a consensus among all stakeholders, involving the public, working with multiple jurisdictions and preserving open space. Participants get resource materials, call in to listen, and will have the opportunity to ask questions. For more information, visit the Web site at [www.newurbannews.com](http://www.newurbannews.com).

### PUBLICATIONS

■ **The Police Foundation** published *Policing Anonymity*, the latest in the foundation's *Ideas in American Policing* series. Donald W. Foster, a professor of English at Vassar College and Shakespearean scholar, discusses the problems posed by anonymous writings in criminal investigations and how best to address these problems from the crime scene to the courtroom. Single copies of *Policing Anonymity* are available at no charge by writing or e-mailing the Police Foundation, 1201 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036-2636, [pinfo@policefoundation.org](mailto:pinfo@policefoundation.org). This monograph, like all others in the *Ideas in American Policing* series, is available on the foundation's Web site, [www.policefoundation.org](http://www.policefoundation.org) (Publications/Electronic Library).

■ **The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA)** launched a new quarterly magazine to showcase innovation throughout the aging services continuum. *Best Practices* focuses on how aging services providers can implement working models and practical principles to benefit older Americans. To learn more, visit the Web site at [www.aahsa.org](http://www.aahsa.org).

(Notices is compiled by Stacey Kennedy, editorial assistant.)

## JOB MARKET/CLASSIFIEDS

### ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR—MESA COUNTY, COLO.

**Salary:** \$5,285–\$6,078/month  
Mesa County (pop. 121,630) in Grand Junction, Colo. (pop. 42,000) — gateway to Western Colorado encompasses sandstone canyons, vineyards, fruit orchards, the Grand Mesa and the Colorado River for outdoor recreational opportunities. Position reports to the County Administrator and performs highly responsible administrative work that involves assisting the County Administrator with the overall operations of Mesa County Government as well as representing the county on various subjects including growth and development issues and overseeing goals and objectives directly relating to the county's strategic plan. Salary range \$5,285–\$6,078/month DOQ + benefits.

Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration or related field plus five years public managerial experience with emphasis in budget, administrative analysis and program evaluation. Masters' in Business or Public Administration or related field with two years directly related experience (preferred) or any combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities for the job.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Submit a Mesa County Employment Application including a cover letter, current resume and professional references to: Mesa County Personnel, P.O. Box 20,000-5021, Grand Junction, CO 81502-5021 by Friday, April 5, 2002. A detailed job description and county employment applications are available on our Web site at [www.co.mesa.co.us](http://www.co.mesa.co.us) To apply electronically, please submit required documents to [pmaher@co.mesa.co.us](mailto:pmaher@co.mesa.co.us) Fax transcripts also accepted at (970) 255-7181 EOE/ADA.

### CHIEF OF POLICE — GASTON COUNTY N.C.

**Salary:** \$66,536–\$103,144 annually  
Plans, organizes and directs the activities of multi-disciplined, nationally accredited, County law enforcement agency of 149 employees and has administrative authority over the divisions Animal Control and Public Safety communications with a total 72 employees. Requires Bachelor's Degree in

a field related to law enforcement and a minimum of 10 years of full time progressively responsible and advanced law enforcement work experience. Pay Scale: \$66,536–\$103,144 annually. Closing Date: May 3, 2002. For application/information, contact the Gaston County Department of Human Resources, 212 W. Main (P.O. Box 1578), Gastonia, N.C. 28052. (704) 866-3118. ([www.co.gaston.nc.us](http://www.co.gaston.nc.us)). Proof of education required. Gaston County is an equal opportunity employer.

### CITY MANAGER — CITY OF NEWPORT, R.I.

**Salary: DOQ.**  
Newport, RI (26,475). Internationally known resort community with seasonal population of 100,000. Full service city. 345 FT employees. Budget of \$57.4 million. Requires Masters Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or related field and at least five years experience as manager of a comparable sized community. Responsible for daily operations of municipal government. Strong background preferred in finance, planning/economic development, collective bargaining, and utilities. Resume, salary history, and five professional references by 4/30/02 to City Manager's Office, City Hall, 43 Broadway, Newport, RI 02840. EOE/M/F/V.

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR — JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLO.

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners (the BCC) is accepting applications for County Administrator. Working in conjunction with the Director of Finance and the County Attorney, the County Administrator accomplishes the mission and goals of the BCC. With a population in excess of 500,000, Jefferson County stretches from the western suburbs of Denver to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Jefferson County is known for its majestic open space and its diverse and vital economic base.

Qualified applicants should have a Masters Degree in Public Administration or a related field and at least 10 years of responsible experience in local government. Candidates with an equivalent combination of education and experience may also be considered.

Jefferson County offers a competitive compensation salary and benefits package. Application deadline is Thurs-

day, April 11, 2002, 5:30 p.m. Please mail your resume to:

Jefferson County Government  
800 Jefferson County Parkway  
Suite 140  
Golden, CO. 80401

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR — MUSKEGON COUNTY, MICH.

**Salary:** \$90,000–\$110,000 (pop 170,200). Salary (\$90,000–\$110,000) negotiable, depending upon qualifications and experience. Bachelor's degree required; advanced degree in public administration preferred. Significant executive-level experience in a complex county/city organization is required. Strong financial management and interpersonal skills required with broad understanding of social service delivery highly desirable. High motivation, visionary leadership and a record of innovations are considered very important. Appointed by nine-member Board of Commissioners, elected by district, on a partisan basis for 2-year concurrent terms. Muskegon County is located in West Michigan on Lake Michigan. The City of Muskegon is the County Seat. The County government is comprised of 19 departments with approximately 1,438 employees and a budget of \$172 million. Departments may have either elected or appointed department head. Departments with elected department heads are: Treasurer, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, Drain Commissioner and Surveyor. Other elected officials include Circuit, Probate, and District Court Judges. Apply with complete resume and references to County's Recruitment Consultant: Steve Bernard, The PAR Group, 100 N. Waukegan Road, Suite 211, Lake Bluff, IL 60044-1694. TEL: (847) 234-0005; FAX: (847) 234-8309; e-mail: [resume@pargroupltd.com](mailto:resume@pargroupltd.com). Inquiries should be directed to Steve Bernard at TEL: (616) 453-7767. FAX: 616/791-8812; e-mail: [gsgb@primeaccess.com](mailto:gsgb@primeaccess.com). Muskegon County is an Equal Opportunity Employer—Minorities and Women are encouraged to apply.

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR — RICE COUNTY MINN.

**Salary:** Mid \$80s–mid \$90s.  
(pop 57,000). Southeastern Minnesota county comprised of a rich mixture of a prime agricultural area and interesting urban development influenced by the proximity to the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Salary range mid \$80s to mid \$90s. Two Administrators since 1990. Report to five-member Board elected to four-year terms from districts. Responsible for administration, personnel activities, implementing Board policy, and coordinating the activities of 15 (11 appointed and 4 elected) Department Heads. Require BA (Master's preferred) plus at least seven years experience in a responsible local government position with five years experience in a management position. County experience is highly preferred. Application deadline 4/15/02. The Brimeyer Group Executive Search, 50 South Ninth Ave, #101, Hopkins MN 55343, (952) 945-0246, fax: (952) 945-0102, e-mail: [brimgroup@aol.com](mailto:brimgroup@aol.com), Web: [www.brimgroup.com](http://www.brimgroup.com).

### COUNTY MANAGER — ROBESON COUNTY, N.C.

**Salary:** \$85,000–\$90,000  
(Population 123,339) FY01/02 budget \$109 million. 997 full time employees. Manager is chief administrator appointed by an eight member board of commissioners elected for four year staggered terms. Master's degree in public administration is preferred with 6 to 9 years of progressively responsible experience in governmental policy and procedure, including thorough knowledge of State law governing policy and procedure, including thorough knowledge of State law governing County Administration. County residency required. Salary \$85,000–\$90,000 or commensurate with experience. Please send resume and salary history attention: Mr. Johnny Hunt, Chairman, Robeson County Board of Commissioners, 701 North Elm Street, Lumberton, North Carolina 28358. Position open until filled.

### DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY EXECUTIVE — PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA.

**Salary: Mid \$90s–\$110,000**  
Position #89-0085. Closing date: April 25, 2002.

Prince William County, Va., a nationally recognized dynamic and vision driven organization located southwest of Washington, D.C., (303,477 population, 348 square miles, \$480 million budget, 3,300 employees), has a unique opportunity for seasoned manager with special skills to be an integral part of a senior management team. Essential to the achievement of organizational vision, values and strategic goals, the successful candidate will have demonstrated skills in supervising and managing large agencies and complex projects.

Work is performed under the management direction and at the pleasure of the County Executive. Residency required.

Requires bachelor's degree in public or business administration preferably supplemented by a master's degree in public administration or related field and extensive supervisory experience in local government administration with a minimum of two years at the department director level or above. Requires extensive experience with community groups, planning and development activities in a local government environment.

Salary — Mid \$90s to \$110,000 depending on successful candidate's relevant experience and qualifications for Deputy or Assistant County Executive.

Appointment of successful candidate as Deputy or Assistant County Executive will be dependent upon the level of experience in local government and experience with planning and development activities or other comparable experience.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to: Prince William County Human Resources, 1 County Complex Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192 OR e-mail your resume and cover letter.

### PRESIDENT/CEO — WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE TREASURE COAST

Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast seeks a President/CEO to carry out the Board priorities, supervises implementation of strategic initiatives, and provide community leadership and a vision in addressing regional workforce development issues. Bachelor's Degree, 10 years management experience. Documented experience and strength in the following skills: organizational; communication; & problem solving. 3 to 5 years experience required in administering \$10M+ organizations with multiple sources of funding. Send resumes to: Workforce Dev. Board, 9350 S. US #1, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34952, FAX: (561) 335-0677 or e-mail [staylor@tcjobs.org](mailto:staylor@tcjobs.org). Drug-Free Workplace/EEO

### WATER SUPERINTENDENT — COLUMBUS COUNTY, OHIO

**Salary: \$27,942–\$44,670.**  
County of approximately 54,000 located 45 miles west of Wilmington and 50 miles north of Myrtle Beach is seeking a Water Superintendent who is responsible for overall operations of the systems, preparing budgets, supervise new construction, supervise maintenance, receive and respond to customer inquiries and all functions related to public water systems. Works under the supervision of the County Administrator. County residency is required. Must have a minimum of a high school diploma, five years of experience, a Grade C Well Operator Certification, a Grade C Water Distribution Certification, a Class I Collections Certification, CDL (Class A), Competent Persons Trenching Training, and Cross Connections Training. Desired qualifications are Grade B Certifications. Salary Range: \$27,942–\$44,670. Deadline: Open until filled. Submit resume and cover letter to: Debbie Long, Personnel Director, 111 Washington Street, Whiteville, N.C. 28472. Columbus County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### Job Market - Classified Rate Schedule

- **Line Rates:** \$7 per line, NACo member counties; \$10 per line, others.
- **Display Classified:** \$50 per column inch, NACo member counties; \$70 per column inch, others.
- **Billing:** Invoices will be sent after publication.
- **Mail advertising copy to:** Job Market, County News, 440 First St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.
- **FAX advertising copy to:** Job Market, County News, (202)393-2630.
- **E-mail advertising copy to:** [skennedy@naco.org](mailto:skennedy@naco.org).
- Be sure to include billing information along with copy.
- Estimates given prior to publication are approximations only and do not necessarily reflect final cost.

For more information, contact Stacey Kennedy  
County News Job Market representative: Tel. (202) 942-4256.

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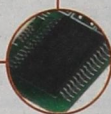
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