

County News

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"The wisdom to know and the courage to defend the public interest"

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Photo by David Hathcock

The new Executive Committee, featuring (l-r) NACo President Karen Miller, President-elect Angelo Kyle, First Vice President Bill Hansell, Second Vice President Colleen Landkamer, and Immediate Past President Ken Mayfield, takes the stage. Check out the Conference Review insert in this issue of *County News*.

Miller takes reins as NACo president, Landkamer wins second VP race

By BEVERLY SCHLOTTERBECK
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Boone County, Mo. Commissioner Karen Miller took over as NACo's president July 15 at the association's Annual Business Meeting in Milwaukee. In her inaugural address, Miller pledged to bring rural county concerns to all discussions of issues at the federal level and to maintain a special focus on developing partnerships with other organizations representing rural issues. Miller also named her policy leadership team (see sidebar, "2003-2004 Steering Committee Chairs"), the earliest announcement of steering committee appointments in recent memory.

In the race for second vice president, Commissioner Colleen

Landkamer of Blue Earth County, Minn. was the unanimous choice of NACo delegates after her opponent, Commissioner David Plyler, Forsyth County, N.C., withdrew from the race. Delegates also elected Angelo Kyle, board member, Lake County, Ill., as president-elect; Bill Hansell, commissioner, Umatilla County, Ore., as first vice president; and Ken Mayfield, Dallas County, immediate past president. They join Miller and Landkamer as NACo's new Executive Committee.

At the Annual Business Meeting, which wrapped up NACo's three-day 2003 Annual Conference and Exposition in Milwaukee, delegates also adopted 38 new policy positions, which ranged from support for legislation

banning assault weapons to federal trade adjustment assistance for local governments.

Winners

There are two presidential scholarships awarded each year at NACo's Annual Conference to students selected by the outgoing NACo president.

The older of the two scholarships — the Presidential Scholarship — was begun by David Davenport 20 years ago. The four-year scholarship program awards \$2,500 per year to a student selected by the outgoing NACo president. This year's winner, from Dallas County, was Autumn

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Second Section ...



Senate bill mirrors House homeland security funding

By DALEN A. HARRIS
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The Senate-passed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) appropriations bill (H.R. 2555) is nearly identical to the House version of the bill adopted in June.

The bill provides priority funding for the nation's first responders and other public safety initiatives. It would also provide additional funding and legislative enhancements to various other proposals important to counties, ranging from funding state and local counter-terrorism activities

to modernization of the nation's antiquated flood maps. The legislation will now go to a conference committee between key House and Senate lawmakers. The \$28.5 billion bill is \$1 billion more than President George W. Bush's budget request, but \$900 million below the House version of the legislation.

The spending bill is nearly identical to NACo's legislative priorities on funding for first responders and other public safety needs and includes

■ See **HOMELAND** on page 2

Appropriations bills moving

By NACo's LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Congress has been making good progress in passing FY04 appropriations bills before their August recess, but the results have been mixed for programs upon which counties rely. There is still much work to be done, and the Senate, particularly, will have a great deal of work to finish when they return in September. The lobbying effort to restore funding for a number of programs continues. Here is a synopsis of some of the appropriations bills.

Agriculture

The House passed the FY04 Agriculture Appropriations bill (H.R. 2673) on July 14. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version (S. 1427) July 17. Both

versions include \$17 billion in new discretionary authority. The Rural Community Advancement Program (RCAP) — which is the umbrella program for rural utilities, business and community facilities programs — is funded at \$706 million in the House and \$769 million in the Senate. Both figures represent a significant decrease in funding from the FY03 appropriation of \$902 million. It is uncertain whether the Senate will consider their bill before adjourning for the August recess.

Commerce, Justice and State

On July 23, the House passed the

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County News

Quick Takes

Counties with the Highest Average Income	
Teton County, Wyo.	\$113,739
Fairfield County, Conn.	\$104,447
Marin County, Calif.	\$101,613
Pitkin County, Colo.	\$98,743
Douglas County, Colo.	\$96,691

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Congress to discuss homeland security funding after August recess

■ HOMELAND from page 1

a key NACo priority — \$3.5 billion for first responders for the next fiscal year. The Senate bill, passed July 25, includes more than \$3.8 billion for first responders — a level that is \$303 million above the president's request but \$434 million less than what Congress appropriated for first responders in the current year. The House version of the bill provides roughly \$4.4 billion for first responders for 2004.

Congressional sources say House and Senate conferees will begin deliberation on the two bills when they return from their August recess. The president's Bioshield Initiative, which is not funded in the Senate version, may be a key issue of contention during the conference committees' deliberations. (The Bioshield Initiative, first announced during the State of the Union address, would entail a comprehensive effort to develop and make available modern, effective drugs and vaccines to protect against attack by biological and chemical weapons or other dangerous pathogens.)

Below are detailed descriptions of the various program allocations that are important to counties.

Office of Domestic Preparedness

- \$1.75 billion for the Office for Domestic Preparedness' (ODP) basic formula grant program or State Homeland Security Grant Program. Eighty percent of these funds must be obligated to local governments within

45 days after a state's receipt of funds from DHS. Furthermore, the Senate conference report states that "ODP state and local grants are to be used for purposes consistent with each state's homeland security strategy, including training and exercises; equipment, including interoperable communications equipment; and technical assistance, and may not be used for construction activities."

- \$500 million of the \$1.75 billion for the State Homeland Grant Program is to be used for state and local law enforcement terrorism prevention grants.

- \$750 million for high-threat, high-density urban areas or the Urban Area Initiative Grant Program. Eighty percent of these funds must be obligated to local governments within 45 days after a state's receipt of funds from DHS. Furthermore, the Senate conference report encourages DHS, when making grants to state and local governments, to take into consideration credible threat, vulnerability, population, cooperation of multiple jurisdictions in preparing domestic preparedness plans, and identified needs of public agencies. Grants may be made to single or multiple jurisdictions in the same urban area, the report said.

- \$750 million for Firefighter Assistance Grants.

- \$358 million for national programs. Included in this amount is: \$60 million for the Center for Domestic Preparedness, \$80 million for the existing members of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, \$28 million for the continuation of

core training programs, \$60 million for competitive grants for emerging training, \$50 million for exercises, \$40 million for equipment support, \$10 million for technical assistance, and \$30 million for management and administration.

- \$45 million for Citizen Corps (House legislation does not fund this program).

DHS Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate

- \$200 million for the Flood Map Modernization Fund.

- \$165 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG), which are currently administered within the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate (EP&R).

The Administration has proposed transferring the grant program to ODP. In its conference report on the appropriations measure, the Senate opposes the Administration's plan: "The Committee does not accept the Administration's proposal to transfer the Emergency Management Performance Grants [EMPG] to the Office for Domestic Preparedness and continues funding for this program within the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate [EP&R]. EP&R is the more appropriate administering directorate for grants to state and local entities for all-hazards planning and response. The Committee directs the department to continue the practice of funding personnel costs." The Office of Management

and Budget suggested that personnel costs no longer be covered by the grants.

- \$1.95 billion for disaster relief.

- \$150 million for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund.

- \$153 million for FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

- \$110 million for the National Flood Insurance Fund.

- \$434 million for public health programs, including the Disaster Medical Assistance Teams and the Strategic National Stockpile, which were transferred from the Department of Health and Human Services with the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

- \$64.6 million for the 28 existing Urban Search and Rescue Teams.

- No funding for Emergency Operation Centers (House legislation funds this program at \$25 million).

Final highlights of the bill

- \$10 million for a national alert system to notify the general public in the event of a terrorist attack, with the expectation that DHS will consult with the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission on the development of a national alert system that uses and integrates the full range of communications devices. The provision calls for incorporating, to the extent possible, existing federal, state, and local alert systems, including the emergency alert system. The provision also calls for consultation with state and local public safety and emergency preparedness agencies.

- \$55 million for the establishment of a university-based system to enhance the nation's homeland security efforts.

Standards and guidelines for first responders

The Senate conference report states that "pursuant to the President's National Strategy for Homeland Security, the [DHS] secretary is to provide to the [Senate Appropriations] Committee, no later than April 30, 2004, a report that updates the progress made to: clearly define standards and guidelines for federal, state, and local government emergency preparedness and response in such areas as training, interoperable communications systems, response equipment; an estimate of the cost of the unmet needs of state and local governments for the years 2004-2008 in meeting the standards and guidelines; and views of appropriate state and local government organizations."

The Senate conference report "encourages the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response to conduct a study of the manning requirements of departments, including appropriate firefighter crew sizes and equipment for typical incidents that departments are asked to respond to. In addition, the report encourages the department to consider ways to accommodate the training needs of rural fire departments.

The bill also requires the department to report to Congress in 90 days on its color-coded alert system.

Homeland Security Funding for the Current Fiscal Year and Proposed or Enacted Levels for 2004

	2003 Omnibus Appropriation	2004 Senate Appropriation	2004 House Appropriation	2003 Omnibus Appropriation	2004 Administration Request
Office for Domestic Preparedness	\$3.23 billion	\$3.63 billion	\$3.5 billion	\$3.23 billion	\$3.55 billion
State Homeland Security Grant Program	\$566 million (an additional \$1.5 billion was provided in the FY03 supplemental)	\$1.75 billion	\$1.9 billion	\$566 million (an additional \$1.5 billion was provided in the FY03 supplemental)	Not included as a separate line item in president's budget request
Urban Area Initiative	\$100 million (an additional \$700 million was provided in the FY03 supplemental)	\$750 million	\$500 million	\$100 million (an additional \$700 million was provided in the FY03 supplemental)	Not included as a separate line item in president's budget request
Disaster Relief Fund	\$776 million	\$1.95 billion	\$1.8 billion	\$776 million	\$1.95 billion
Competitive National Pre-disaster Mitigation Fund	\$168.89 million	\$150 million	\$180 million	\$168.89 million	\$300 million
Emergency Management Performance Grants	\$165 million	\$165 million	\$168 million	\$165 million	Not included in president's budget request
Public Health Programs	\$497.74 million	\$434 million	\$484 million	\$497.74 million	\$434 million
Emergency Food and Shelter	\$152 million	\$153 million	\$153 million	\$152 million	\$153 million
Firefighter Assistance Grants	\$745.12 million	\$750 million (as separate account through Office of Domestic Preparedness)	\$750 million (as separate program through Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate)	\$745.12 million	Not included as a separate line item in president's budget request
Flood Map Modernization Fund	\$149 million	\$200 million	\$200 million	\$149 million	\$200 million

Controversial Head Start bill squeaks by House

By MARILINA SANZ
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The House late last week approved the School Readiness Act (H.R. 2210), which reauthorizes Head Start, by a vote of 217-216. Floor consideration was delayed several times because of controversial provisions. The first controversial item was the option to allow up to eight states to take over the program and consolidate it with their own pre-kindergarten programs. A second controversial item was a provision that would allow faith-based Head Start providers to hire teachers on the basis of their religion.

NACo neither supports, nor opposes the faith-based item. However, NACo policy calls for strict state accountability for the consolidation provision. NACo lobbying efforts have been directed toward increased funding for Head Start.

The leadership made several changes to the eight-state consolidation option to make it more palatable to moderate Republicans. The state must have implemented school readiness standards as of FY03. The bill that passed the Education and the Workforce Committee did not have a deadline for implementing standards.

Existing grantees would continue to receive funds for five years instead of three years. However, in order to qualify for this hold-harmless provision, they must comply with the state plan and must not have a determination of substantial uncorrected deficiencies in an HHS monitoring report for the most recent five years.

The state must also agree to maintain or increase its FY03 funding level for early childhood education. The previous bill also included a maintenance-of-effort provision, but it only referred to a base year, defined as the year prior to the application for the option.

Additionally, a new section was added that requires the state to sign a participation agreement whereby it agrees to provide all comprehensive services provided to Head Start children, including health and nutrition and parental involvement and education, as well as the hold harmless provision, maintenance of effort and matching requirements.

The funding levels in the bill also changed. Originally, the bill had \$6.87 billion for FY04 and such sums as may be necessary in subsequent years. The latter was changed to specific authorized amounts as follows: \$6.98 billion in

FY05, \$7.1 billion in FY06, \$7.24 billion in FY07 and \$7.42 billion in FY08.

The Senate is unlikely to include the consolidation option. Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) has repeatedly said that he will not mark up a bill that does not have bipartisan support. Another key member of the committee, Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.), said at a recent hearing he is not convinced this is the way to go. Senate Democrats are adamantly opposed to the option. The HELP Committee is not expected to mark up a bill until after the August recess.

NACo Annual Conference features awards, guest speakers and much more

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awright. The \$5,000 CH2M Hill Scholarship was presented to Willie Houston" DeBerry, also of Dallas County.

In conjunction with the announcement of the presidential scholarships, Newport was honored for his special contributions to NACo and his leadership in establishing a lasting legacy for NACo presidents through his scholarship fund. Davenport founded the Public Employee Benefits Company (PEBCO), which is now known as Nationwide Retirement Services, or NRS, to provide retirement benefits to local government employees.

Also on the conference awards' circuit was the presentation of the Lucas Courthouse awards, sponsored by SIEMENS Corp. These awards go to rural and urban county leaders who have, in the opinion of award judges, improved the lives of their citizens through outstanding governance and strong leadership. Winners receive a \$5,000 scholarship present to a high school senior of their choosing.

McKinley County (N.M.) Commissioner Harry Mendoza was this year's rural county Caucus Courthouse Award winner. Mendoza has spearheaded many successful initiatives, including establishing an alcohol crisis center to replace the area's infamous drunk tank, obtaining federal funding to preserve rural school-bus routes, and, most recently, leading efforts to renovate the county's historic courthouse in Gallup.

On the urban side, Judge Robert Eckels, of Harris County, Texas, is well-known for his commitment to public safety and public health in his community. In the aftermath of Sept. 11, Eckels led the efforts to secure the county \$3.6 million to use against potential terrorists attacks.

Two county leaders were honored for their leadership in the arts at a

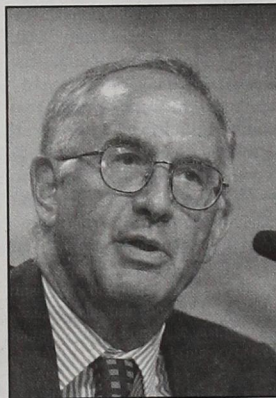
special luncheon on Monday, July 14. Montgomery County (Md.) Executive Doug Duncan was presented with NACo's Leadership in the Arts Award and Karen Spahn, Milwaukee County Museum's senior director for development, was recognized with NACo's Arts Advocacy Award. NACo's Arts and Culture Commission, in partnership with the Americans for the Arts, sponsors the award program.

Conference speakers

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and Presidential Historian Michael Beschloss highlighted the Opening General Session, the official start of NACo's 68th Annual Conference in Milwaukee. Thompson, who got his start in politics as a Wisconsin county commissioner, promised "to do a better job at getting resources to [counties]" and suggested that a special committee of county leaders be established to work with him on making sure bioterrorism funding reaches local governments directly.

Beschloss told county officials they need to be willing to make tough decisions — even ones that may ruin their political careers — just like the tough decisions made by former presidents such as Lyndon Johnson, John Kennedy and Richard Nixon. "That's what really makes great presidents and public leaders."

If "you could have heard a pin drop" is any indicator of a speaker's hold on an audience, then Frank Abagnale had delegates firmly in his grip. Abagnale, whose life was featured in the 2002 movie, *Catch Me If You Can*, told his side of the story during an address at the final general session. Abagnale, who spent time in prisons around the world for his check forgeries and impersonations, is now one of the foremost authorities in the world on forgery, embezzlement and secure documents.



Polster Peter Hart discusses e-government issues at a general session.

Other speakers

Deputy Secretary Jim Mosely, second-in-command at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), underscored the strong relation between NACo and his department in building a strong rural America before delegates at Monday's general session. Mosely also reported on the changes the George W. Bush Administration has instituted at the department to make it more accountable to the taxpayer. The implementation of performance-based budgeting has required a thorough review of USDA's 350+ programs, and cost-benefit analyses for all of them. "The days of issuing loans like they were grants are over," he said. These changes, Mosely continued, resulted in the first clean audit in the department's 140-year history.

Polster Peter Hart and Carl Vinson School of Government Researcher James Ledbetter also spoke at general sessions. Hart, CEO of Peter D. Hart Research Associates, briefed delegates during the Monday morning general session on the results of a recent study on e-government. The study showed near-universal optimism about e-government on the part

of elected officials, and praise for its convenience, but skepticism about its security on the part of the general public. "As you move forward, it is important to talk to citizens about the way you are protecting them," Hart said. "There's a revolution taking place in American government. The public believes they can get help from the Internet and e-government."

Ledbetter, along with Rich Clark of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia, provided some preliminary results from a recent county survey on aging. According to the results, the aging Baby Boomer population is expected to have a major impact on county governments. Just one example: 23 percent of county

employees today are 55 years of age or older, creating a host of potential human resource issues for county governments, Clark said.

Ledbetter noted that the results were preliminary because there had only been a 19 percent response rate from counties. He encouraged everyone to respond to the upcoming survey about homeland security.

(Mindy Moretti, senior staff writer, and Paul Mackie, staff writer, contributed to this article.)

(For a complete report on the conference, please see the special second section, 2003 Annual Conference and Exposition Report, included with this issue.)

NACo 2003-2004 Steering Committee Chairs

Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Keith Langenhahn
Marathon County, Wis.

Justice and Public Safety
Darrell Decker
Greene County, Mo.

Community and Economic Development
Grady Prestage
Fort Bend County, Texas

Labor and Employment
Harry Van Sickle
Union County, Pa.

Environment, Energy and Land Use
Ram Ramchandran
St. Charles Parish, La.

Public Lands
Sherry Krulitz
Shoshone County, Idaho

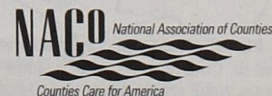
Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs
Ray Valdes
Seminole County, Fla.

Telecommunications and Technology
Marilyn Praisner
Montgomery County, Md.

Health
Muriel Johnson
Sacramento County, Calif.

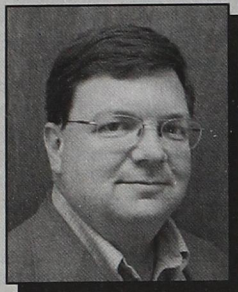
Transportation
Glen Whately
Tarrant County, Texas

Human Services and Education
Teresa Altemus
Gloucester County, Va.



PROFILES

in service...



Bill Kennedy

**Chairman,
Yellowstone County, Montana
Commissioners**

**NACo Health Steering
Committee Vice Chair**

Number of years active in NACo: 5

Years in Public Office: 10

Occupation: Educator

Education: B.S. in secondary education and M.A. in personnel and guidance with an education administration endorsement.

The hardest thing I've ever done: Convince state legislators to support county government.

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Robert Kennedy, Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King.

A dream I have is to: Fund mental health services in over 50 states.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: Bartended for many years.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Fly in a hot air balloon.

My favorite way to relax is: Turn off the phone.

I'm most proud of: My daughters Annie and Erin.

Every morning I read: The Billings Gazette newspaper.

My favorite meal is: Rib steak and baked potato.

My pet peeve is: People who complain but do not vote in elections.

My motto is: Treat each other as you want to be treated.

The last book I read was: The King of Torts, by John Grisham.

My favorite movie is: Animal House.

My favorite music is: Jim Croce.

My favorite president is: Jimmy Carter.



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.

Juvenile justice appropriation disappointing

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FY04 Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations bill (H.R. 2799). Overall, the bill provides \$3.49 billion for state and local crime fighting initiatives or \$1.16 billion above President George W. Bush's request. This includes \$500 million for the Byrne formula program, \$400 million for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program, \$462 million for juvenile delinquency prevention and accountability programs, \$368 million for violence-against-women prevention and prosecution, \$174 million to eliminate DNA analysis backlogs, and \$400 million to reimburse states and counties for criminal alien detention costs (SCAAP).

One disappointment was the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG), which received only \$100 million. The Administration has called for the elimination of the program based on a widely criticized report by the Office of Management and Budget. In the Senate, Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) has circulated a "dear colleague" letter with Sen. Herbert Kohl (D-Wis.) requesting \$350 million. The program is currently funded at \$190 million. NACo and a coalition of juvenile justice organizations are supporting the Sessions/Kohl request.

Energy and Water Development

The Energy and Water Appropriations bill includes funding for civil works projects of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), most of the Department of Energy (DOE), and a number of independent agencies, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

The Administration's request was \$26.94 billion for these programs for FY04, compared with \$26.14 billion appropriated for FY03. The House Appropriations Committee recommended \$27.08 billion for FY04 (H.R. 2754), and the bill passed the House with that amount July 18. The Senate bill, S. 1424, reported out by the Senate Appropriations Committee July 17, contains funding of \$27.31 billion, \$4.43 billion of which is earmarked for corps water infrastructure projects. S. 1424 also included a provision of \$425 million for nuclear waste disposal at Yucca Mountain, Nev., as compared to the \$765 million proposal passed in the House.

Homeland Security

On July 25, the Senate passed H.R. 2555, the FY04 Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Appropriations Bill. The \$28.5 billion bill is \$1 billion more than the president's budget request, but \$900 million below the House version of the legislation. NACo, along with a coalition of state and local organizations and emergency managers, will urge conferees to support many of the provisions in the House version of the bill.

Interior

The House passed the FY04 Interior & Related Agencies Appropriation (H.R. 2691) July 17 without significant amendment. PILT was funded at \$225 million, but the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Rep. Charles Taylor (R-N.C.), has promised to seek a higher amount in conference with the Senate.

Labor, HHS and Education

Many programs received the same level of funding by both committees. Additionally, many of the increases represent a restoration of the across-the-board cut that was implemented as part of the FY03 Omnibus Appropriations bill. See the July 14 *County News* for a detailed synopsis of this legislation.

Transportation and Treasury

After receiving substantial cuts in the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, the full Appropriations Committee increased the level of funding for the Essential Air Service program (EAS) and Amtrak. The subcommittee had cut EAS from \$113 million to \$41.5 million and eliminated all EAS service for communities within 210 miles of a hub airport. This would have eliminated about 60 of the 100 airports that get EAS service, excluding Alaska and Hawaii. The full Appropriations Committee restored the \$113 million level and eliminated the mileage limit.

Amtrak had been funded at \$580 million by the subcommittee, substantially less than the \$1.8 billion Amtrak had requested. The full Appropriation Committee increased funding to \$900 million, the level requested by the Administration. Highway funding was set at \$33.3 billion, a substantial increase, and transit at \$7.2 billion, the current level. It is likely the bill will be voted on after the summer recess in September.

The FY04 appropriations bill for Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies contains just \$495 million, less than half of the funds that states are counting on, to implement the new mandates of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). HAVA, which was signed into law last October, requires states to implement a series of new mandates to improve

election administration. To fulfill a mandate, it authorized \$3 billion in "requirements payments." The proposed \$495 million would be funding, so far, to a little more than \$1.4 billion. Many states are moving forward with election improvements — often in excess of those required by the federal legislation — and requiring counties to pay a significant share of the costs.

Veterans, Housing, NASA and EPA

On July 25, the House passed the FY04 Housing and Urban Development Appropriations (H.R. 2861). Overall, the bill for the department at \$37 billion, up \$1 million above FY03 and \$98 million above the president's budget request. The Community Development Block Grant Program received a \$200 million increase to \$4.54 billion, up \$4.34 billion in FY03. The Home Investment Partnerships Program received \$2.06 billion, which includes an additional \$25 million in formula grants and \$125 million in the president's Down Payment Assistance Initiative.

Homeless assistance programs were funded at \$1.24 billion, up \$12.1 billion for Section 8 vouchers and renewals, which is \$810 million above FY03. The committee allocated

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County News

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County takes small steps to secure families

By GINA D'ANDREA
COMMUNITY SERVICES INTERN

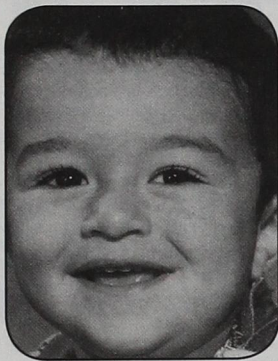
How can a county help the at-risk children of single mothers? By helping the mothers. That's what Olmsted County's (Minn.) Board of Commissioners decided in 1995 when it created the program that came to be called "Baby Steps."

The Olmsted County Public Health and Social Services Department joined with the County Board of Commissioners to create the program. It continues to be supported and monitored through these agencies and four separate boards. These boards, initiated by the county, are the Public Health Board, the Community Social Service Advisory Board (CSSA), the Family Service Collaborative and the Children's Mental Health Collaborative. They bring together public and private agencies, consumers, advocates, and other interested community members to plan and monitor program performance.

CSSA is in charge of formal assessments, and the Family Service Collaborative is in charge of the development and implementation of the Baby Steps program, as well as other early intervention programs. These agencies have identified early intervention as their priority in promoting the welfare of Olmsted County families.

The philosophy behind Baby Steps is that the development of a close relationship between the

mother and service worker will increase the possibility of successful parenting, strengthen the mother-infant attachment, and improve the child's well-being. The service worker, either a social worker or a public health nurse, acts as a caregiver. The service worker also links the mother to necessary resources to



Baby Steps works because of the relationship the mothers develop with their service workers.

overcome any risk factors, such as a low income, history of abuse, lack of a high school diploma, mental illness or addiction.

These service workers are members of the Baby Steps staff, a team of four social workers and public health

nurses. TANF workers collaborate closely with the service workers to promote the use of social services.

Participating mothers must be at least 18 years old, having their first child, and exposed to three or more risk factors. A Baby Steps service worker visits with the mothers, in their homes, for up to two years. These visits encourage prenatal care and help the mother to achieve her educational, career and housing goals. Between 1995 and 2001, nearly half of the mothers successfully graduated from the program (nearly one-fifth had moved out of the county or chose not to parent).

Of the graduates, 89 percent earned a high school diploma, 92 percent had no second birth in 18 months, 92.3 percent were at low-risk for child maltreatment, and all of the children had up-to-date health care and normal development.

Longer-term results include the mother's increased social skills, independent use of necessary social services, and, of course, the continued well-being of the child. Ultimately, these children gain the opportunity to grow up in stable, self-sufficient homes.

Baby Steps works because of the relationship the mothers develop with their service workers. The partnership builds safe environments for the child, by helping the mother empower herself and by providing both mother and child with necessary supports, such as health care, welfare resources, and education. Rob Sawyer, director of the Child and Family Services Division at Olmsted County Community Services, said, "Parents tell us the support they receive from their social worker or public health nurse makes a tremendous difference in their relationship with their child, their parenting skills and their self-confidence."

Multi-agency and county-level supports are vital to this program.

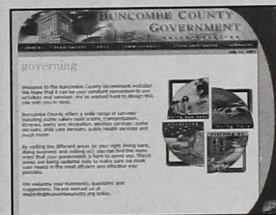
The Olmsted County Board of Commissioners has made a long-term commitment to this program, and supports the implementation and maintenance of all early intervention programs. It is this long-term county commitment that makes Baby Steps a unique program, and allows the Baby Steps staff to give single, first-time mothers the help and care they need to ensure self-sufficiency.

Collaboration with various community agencies and individuals strengthens the program, ensuring that many more mothers will be able to take the "Baby Steps" necessary toward building a stable and safe family.

(This program profile features one of NACo's 2003 Counties Care for Kids award winners.)

web watch

It's citizens first in Buncombe County, N.C.



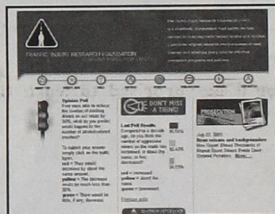
Buncombe County, home to the city of Asheville, has just revised its Web presence at www.buncombecounty.org into a slick, clearly organized site rich with easy-to-follow pull-down menus. The site "takes a citizen's approach to government, realizing that citizens don't know the structure of government, they just want to know about services," said Kathy Hughes, clerk to the county board.

There are four areas of interest. Under "Doing Business," one can job seek, register as a vendor, find county property for sale, file taxes and find restaurant inspection grades. Opportunities to join sports leagues, learn environmental protection methods, and contact first responders are under the "Living Here" heading. All the county's ordinances and much more are under "Governing."

And "Visiting Us" supplies links to local media, and cultural events and facilities, as well as everything a new resident needs to know. One of those things, for instance, is that Buncombe County was once part of Burke and Rutherford counties. Located in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains, the county has gone through at least 10 distinct boundary permutations. It's dissected by the French Broad, which the Buncombe County Web site claims is the third oldest river in the world and one of the few that flows from south to north.

Driving drunk staggers probation officers too

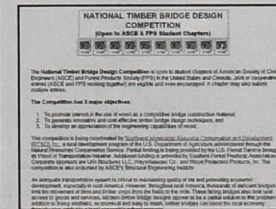
Hardcore drunk drivers know how to beat the system. That's one of the major findings of a new study, available by clicking "HotNews" at www.trafficinjuryresearch.com.



Nearly 50 percent of drunk drivers are returned to court for failing to comply with the terms of their sentences. In turn, probation and parole officers are being forced to manage massive caseloads, with some officers being responsible for supervising more than 1,000 offenders. Researchers at the Ottawa-based Traffic Injury Research Foundation surveyed 890 probation and parole officers from 41 states and found that, on average, an officer is responsible for more than 100 offenders.

The findings were presented at the recent annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Shiver my timbers



So while drunk drivers seem to be continuously running into and knocking down trees — talented young engineers at the nation's universities are picking up trees and using them in the nifty National Timber Bridge Design Competition. Student chapters of the American Society of Civil Engineers and Forest Products Society at the U.S. Military Academy, Oregon State University, Washington University, Virginia Tech and The Ohio State University won various awards in this year's contest.

Along with a wealth of impressive technical data, there are photos of each university's mini-bridge constructions at www.msrdc.org/bridge.htm. Following the competition, most of the bridges were placed into use as trail bridges.

(Paul Mackie, staff writer, compiles Web Watch. If you have a site you would like featured, please e-mail pmackie@naco.org.)

Labor/HHS bill moves fast

BILLS from page 4

\$50 million for the HOPE VI public housing revitalization program, down from the FY03 level of \$570 million. The legislation also provides \$25 million for the brownfields redevelopment and rural housing programs, both of which were zeroed out in the administration's budget request.

Labor, Health and Human Services

The House passed the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (Labor/HHS) FY04 spending bill on July 10. The Labor/HHS appropriations bill is the largest domestic spending bill and is usually not this far along in the process. The Senate is holding off floor consideration of the bill until they have completed work on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) authorization.

One of the most significant changes for counties is that both committees rejected the president's request to cut nearly \$50 million from the dislocated

workers' assistance program. They approved \$1.4 billion for this program, the same as the FY03 funding level. Community Health Centers received \$1.6 billion, an increase of more than \$100 million over current funding, and the same amount requested by the president. The House rejected the president's request to eliminate the Community Access Program (CAP) and provided \$104 million in funds. Additionally, the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) received level funding at \$1.7 billion.

The House provided \$494 million for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), a \$150 million cut as requested by the president. The grants to states under the Administration on Aging received an overall funding level of \$1.29 billion, an increase of \$20 million. The House also approved \$1 billion for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, a program that NACo strongly supports. The major elementary and secondary education programs received increased funding, but it was less than what was allocated in the FY04 budget resolution.



Our Flag

The National Flag Foundation is a nonprofit, educational organization that answers questions worldwide concerning flag etiquette and protocol and encourages frequent and proper display of the United States Flag.

The Foundation's mission is to promote pride and respect for the United States Flag and responsible citizenship to the youth of America.

NACo has procured copies for the Official National Flag Foundation's guide to the United States Flag.

The guide is distributed to more than a quarter-million Americans annually. For your copy, please call Andrew Goldschmidt in the NACo membership department at (202) 393-NACo (6226).



AFFILIATE NEWS

NACBHD holds 8th annual conference

The National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors (NACBHD) held its 8th annual conference at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, July 10-12. Keynote speaker Melanie Nathanson, senior policy analyst with the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C., set the stage for two days of dialogue and interaction around Medicaid reform and survival in the face of state and local budget shortages. NACBHD times its annual conferences to precede the NACo conference to allow attendees to participate in the NACo business meetings and conference workshops.

NACBHD's video package, *Listen To the Children*, was introduced. The video summarizes and visualizes the Surgeon General's Report on Children's Mental Health in a clear, concise and poignant format. Also showcased was *Psychiatric Medications: The Technology of Recovery*. This booklet states NACBHD's recommended strategy for ensuring that all consumers receive the benefits of the newest and best atypical medications available in the most cost-effective manner.

The National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors works to promote excellence in the delivery of county behavioral health services.

County surveyors open membership

The National Association of

County Surveyors (NACS) was founded on the following principles and objectives:

- raising the level of service, efficiency and character to both the general public and county governments
- involvement in the legislative process when it becomes necessary
- fostering the professional growth of its members, and
- participation in national committees dealing with issues such as GPS, GIS, GCDC and public lands.

NACS is an affiliate organization of NACo with representation on NACo's Board of Directors. NACS is a voice for county surveyors at the national level. This past year, Past-President Chuck Pearson has been actively involved with NACo activities, including the Homeland Security Task Force, support for funding the Nationwide Differential GPS (NDGPS) network, the FGDC Cadastral subcommittee and legislative issues.

The National Association of County Surveyors would like to continue the promotion of the county surveyor. We need vibrant and active members. Annual dues are \$50 for voting members who are elected or appointed county surveyors. Associate membership is available to any person interested in the programs relating to the National Association

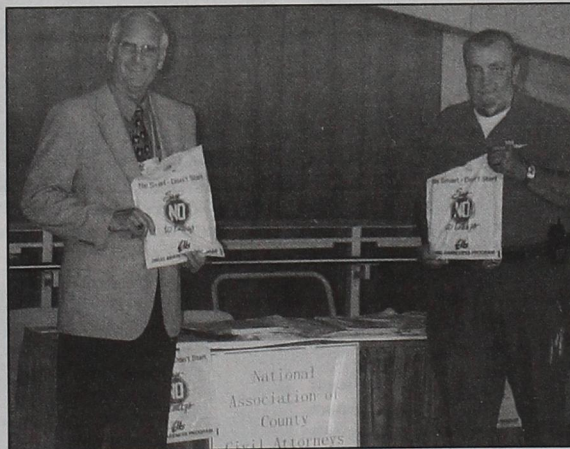


Photo by Dubbie Melton

The National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Officers (NACTFO) installed new officers during NACo's Annual Conference in Milwaukee. Pictured are: (l-r) Michael R. Long, secretary, Klamath County, Ore.; Barbara Ford-Coates, second vice president, Sarasota County, Fla.; Robert Hagey, first vice president, Sioux County, Iowa; Ray Valdes, president, Seminole County, Fla.; Mark Altom, immediate past president, Davis County, Utah; Nancy Weeks, president-elect, Haskell County, Kan.; and Ken Parrish, treasurer, Kent County, Mich.

of County Surveyors. Annual dues for associate members are \$25.

(Please visit NACS's Web site for more information, including the current membership roster, past meeting minutes and by-laws: www.naco.org (select the affiliates link).



NACCA Distributes Drug Awareness Literature

The National Association of County Civil Attorneys (NACCA) distributed several hundred drug awareness packets at NACo's Annual Conference in Milwaukee. Showing off the materials are (l) Bill Hansell, NACo second vice president, and Tom Finley, NACCA past president.

The packets were provided free of charge by the Elks fraternal organization. They include pamphlets on parenting and a "Tips for Teens" series, which has information on alcohol, methamphetamines, steroids, cocaine, tobacco, inhalants, "club drugs," marijuana, hallucinogens and heroin abuse, as well as HIV/AIDS.

For more information on obtaining this free material for your drug awareness/prevention program, contact the Elks Lodge in your community, or Tom Finley, Marathon County, Wis. corporation counsel, at (715) 261-1140.

NACo ON THE MOVE

NACo OFFICERS & COUNTY OFFICIALS

• **Harvey Ruvin**, county clerk, Miami-Dade County, and past NACo president, has been appointed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a two-year term to the 18-member Governmental Advisory Committee of the U.S. Representative to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. The committee offers recommendations relating to trade and the environment as supplements to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

• NACo President **Karen Miller** spoke at the 36th South Carolina Association of Counties Annual Conference in Beaufort County (Hilton Head Island) July 31-Aug. 3.

NACo STAFF

• **Duwanda Mimms** recently joined NACo as payroll specialist. She previously worked at ACDI/VOCA (Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance) as the recruitment assistant, and at CompuCell Services as operations administrator. Mimms has over 12 years experience in accounting and human resources and studied business administration at Prince George's Community College in Maryland.



Duwanda Mimms

• **Alysoun McLaughlin**, associate legislative director, discussed how counties are managing implementation of the Help America Vote Act to the Redistricting and Elections Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures at NCSL's Annual Meeting in San Francisco City/County July 23.

UP & COMING

• **Kaye Braaten**, county services representative, is attending the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Annual Conference in Philadelphia County Aug. 3-6.

• **Emily Landsman**, membership coordinator, will be attending the Association of Arkansas Counties Annual Conference in Washington County (Springdale) Aug. 13-15.

• **Andrew Goldschmidt**, membership marketing director, heads to the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference in Worcester County (Ocean City) Aug. 13-16.

(On the Move is compiled by Paul Mackie, staff writer.)

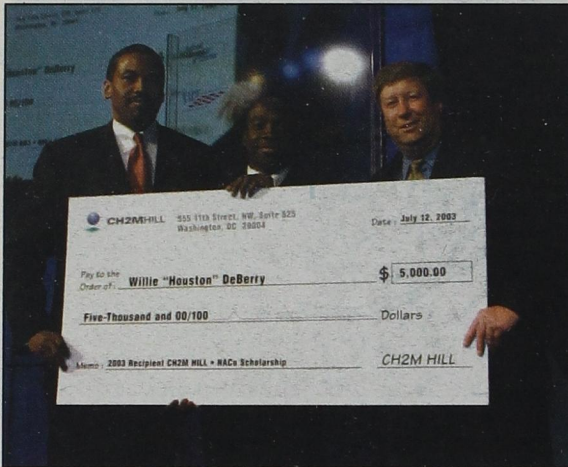
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2003 Conference and Exposition Winners Circle



(Left) Howlie Miller, CH2M vice president (l), and NACo President Ken Mayfield (r) pose with CM2M scholarship winner, Willie "Houston" DeBerry.



(Right) NACo President Ken Mayfield presents a Presidential Scholarship plaque to Autumn Boatwright, this year's winner of the \$10,000 award, initiated by David Davenport (r).



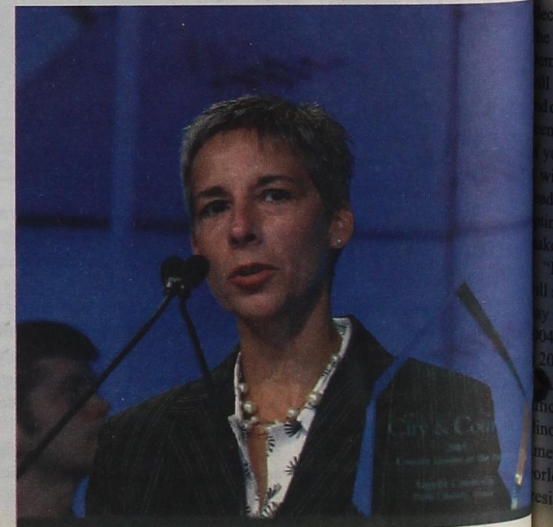
Caucus Courthouse award winners and sponsors take a moment for the camera. Pictured are: (l-r) Judge Robert Eckels, Harris County, Texas, winner of the Large Urban County Caucus Award; NACo President Ken Mayfield; Ken Cornelius, CEO, SIEMENS ONE, award sponsor; Chuck Hall, also of SIEMENS; Commissioner Harry Mendoza, McKinley County, N.M., Rural County Caucus Award winner; and NACo Executive Director Larry Naake.



Immediate Past President Betty Lou Ward presents NACo's Leadership in the Arts Award to County Executive Doug Duncan, Montgomery County, Md.



(Left) Immediate Past President Betty Lou Ward (r) does the honors again as she presents NACo's Arts Advocacy Award to Karen Spahn, Milwaukee County Museum.



(Right) Polk County (Iowa) Supervisor Angela Connolly addresses delegates after being introduced as *American City & County* magazine's County Leader of the Year.

2003 Annual Conference Report

Election workshop provides some answers; tough questions remain

By M. MINDY MORETTI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

the size of the crowd at the workshop was any indication, there was a lot of people with a lot of questions about the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).
After the election debacle in 2000, Congress passed HAVA in October. The act provides funds to states to purchase punch card voting systems, purchase the Election Assistance Commission, and establishes mini-election administration standards for states and counties with a goal of making federal elections easier for voters.
A lot of people thought HAVA would be the end of it, but I hate to say that we've only reached the beginning of the election process," Doug Chapin, executive director of Electionline.org, told the audience. "Federal legislation passage was the easy part and now we're in the muddled middle."

"This is a very perilous time," Czarnick said. "We're going to have to make sure the next election is run very, very well."

Despite the ominous tone, Czarnick said there is some good news. She noted that, in addition to her organization and Electionline.org, there is a wealth of valuable information out there to assist with upcoming elections.

Czarnick said some of the important things counties can do for 2004 is create a voter's bill of rights and post them throughout polling places and make sure to enlist good poll workers.

"No matter how much money you spend on equipment and education, the problem is that people don't always remember what to do," Czarnick said. "So that's why the poll worker is so important."

While many questions remained unanswered and there was still much speculation about what will happen in 2004, Chapin said that some good has come out of the 2000 election and HAVA so far. Chapin said one of the most exciting things is a growing interest in establishing academic credentials for election officials. There is also increased media attention and public awareness about elections.

"There is uncertainty about where we are and where the money is, but there is definitely an increased public interest in voting," Chapin said. "And that's always good."

(For more information about HAVA, visit these Web sites: www.electionline.org, www.PeoplefortheAmericanWay.org, or www.fec.gov.)



Photo by David Hathcox

Jan Czarnick of People for the American Way holds up a voters' bill of rights t-shirt.

2003 Annual Conference Report

Community colleges supply workforce for counties

By PAUL MACKIE
STAFF WRITER

County officials can often find great workforce development benefits and resources for their constituents at their local community colleges.

For instance, community colleges can often respond in no time to requests to begin training or a particular class, while four-year universities are typically bound to a strict semester schedule, according to Charles Roche, assistant vice president, Vincennes University, a community college in Indiana.

He joined Gerard Fiala, senior counselor for economic development, American Association of Community Colleges, as speakers during a July 13 NACo workshop entitled *Delivering Workforce Development Services: The Community College and You*.

In front of about 35 attendees, many of whom graduated from community colleges, Roche discussed his administration of the university's employment training and regional assessment centers, which job seekers pay to use. There are 50 full-time employees running the employment training center, not including those at the 16 regional one-stop career centers.

"One of the key benefits for us is that Vincennes University is able to maintain a higher visibility by marketing these services. It's called a community college because it is there to service the needs of the community. How do we keep our kids from going [elsewhere] to get jobs?" Roche said.

His program helps attract

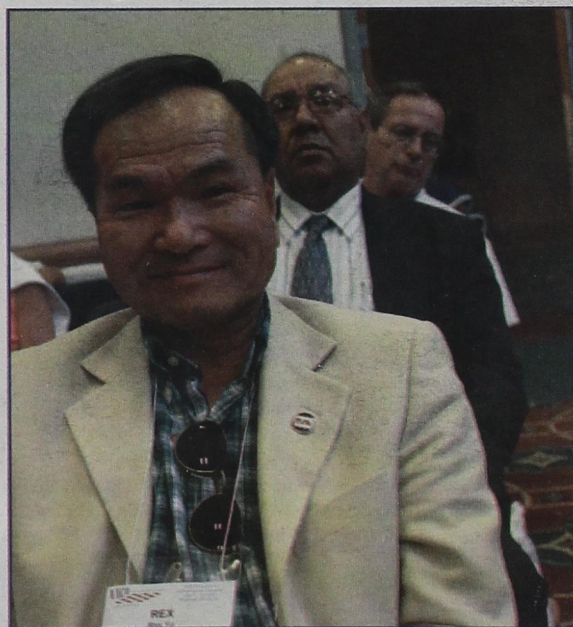


Photo by David Hathcox

Listening in are workshop attendees (l-r): Rex Yu, Los Angeles County; Rudy Sanchez, Cook County, Ill.; and Donn Wolf, Washtenaw County, Mich.

businesses to the community, and focuses on occupations that are expected to be in demand. It also provides extensive customized training in response to industry needs, and in a timely manner. For example, Roche said Toyota opened a nearby factory and asked the school to hold welding classes. The workers began their studies the very next day.

Famous alumni include singer John Mellencamp, entertainer Red Skelton and basketball great Bob

McAdoo, and Vincennes University was recently named "the most wired campus in the United States" by *Wired* magazine. The school, which began as Jefferson Academy in 1801, has a \$64 million annual budget and about 6,000 students.

Fiala also discussed a few numbers during the workshop. She said there are 1,200 regionally-associated community colleges in the country and more than 10 million community college students (45 percent of all

undergraduates). She said only about 21 percent of jobs require bachelor's or higher degrees. But Fiala added that many community college students already have bachelor's, and even master's, degrees.

"They're becoming a graduate school of sorts for adults who are looking for something other than degrees. And we can't all go to Harvard or MIT," Fiala said.

She agreed with Roche about the importance of workforce development for county populations through community college programs. In Florida, she said Brevard Community College and the Brevard County Workforce Board created a network of one-stop job centers with one location on campus.

Central Piedmont Community College in Mecklenburg County, N.C. is well known for addressing regional business needs, and provides educational opportunities to underemployed and unemployed people who need workforce training.

And Meridian Community College in Lauderdale County, Miss. creates jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, mostly for African-Americans, in which participants are supported after college by computer hardware and software loans. Seventy-five percent of the businesses started through the program are still in operation, Fiala said.

(For more information on how county officials can form better relationships with their local community colleges, please visit the Web site of the American Association of Community Colleges at www.aacc.nche.edu.)



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NEWS FROM THE NATION'S COUNTIES



ARIZONA

Jury duty no-shows are apparently more common than one might think and **MARICOPA COUNTY** Superior Court Judge Colin Campbell signed an order to begin fining those who don't respond to their summons. A jury service reform law was passed at the state level in May, making Arizona the first state to pass such a law. The Maricopa County ruling is the first to really put teeth into the law at a local level. From now on, those who ignore their jury duty summons could be taken into "scofflaw" court, held in contempt and fined.

According to *The Arizona Republic*, Campbell said the decision to back down wasn't easy because judges and attorneys prefer volunteer jurors, but he added that only about 25 percent of 100 people summoned ever showed up at the courthouse as prospective jurors. Many postpone their service, others simply ignore their duty. County residents failed to respond to 10 percent of the 350,000 summonses sent out in FY02. That amounts to about \$15 million no-shows each day court in session. Starting Oct. 1, the court will serve a letter to citizens who don't respond to a first and second summons. They'll be fined if they don't have a good reason.

CALIFORNIA

Based on a previous announcement by the secretary of state, California's 58 counties had assumed they would have until late August to complete the arduous task of verifying the more than 1.6 million signatures involved in the recall election of Gov. Gray Davis. But they got a shock late last month when they were told that the task of counting signatures submitted by proponents of the recall election, verifying them through a random-sampling process, and reporting totals would have to be completed nearly a month earlier than expected — in late July.

"It's an awful lot of work," Scott Monopasek, **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY** registrar of voters, told the Associated Press.

The extra duties, along with the expected costs of holding special elections, are making county budget-deficit matters even worse. Faced with the work of sorting through stacks of petitions, some counties have canceled vacations, diverted employees

from other divisions, hired temporary workers and asked employees to work overtime.

In San Bernardino County, the planned rollout of touch-screen voting this fall looks in doubt because of the extra time devoted to counting signatures. **SAN FRANCISCO** and **ORANGE** counties have also fallen behind in switching to new voting systems.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY Registrar-Recorder Conny McCormack was forced to double her signature-verifying staff from 30 to 60 workers by bringing in staff from other county departments. Los Angeles County had some 320,000 signatures to count.

Counties are switching to electronic debit cards as California will become the 47th state to stop using traditional food stamps. All the state's counties should have the switch — mandated by the 1996 federal welfare reform — completed by the end of next year.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY plans to phase out food stamps this month. A total of 19 California counties have already made the switch.

The main goal of the card system is to help remove the stigma of using food stamps. In addition, the new system is designed to save the federal government time and money by reducing the need for printing and distributing the paper coupons. The \$20 billion federal food stamp program is intended to feed 19 million people in 8.2 million American households, according to the *NapaNet Daily News*.

COLORADO

DOUGLAS COUNTY, a perennial rapid-growth county, is at it again. The U.S. Census Bureau's latest estimates claim that new housing went up at a faster rate there between 2000 and 2002 than any other county in the country. The rankings reflect the rate at which new residences were built, not the overall number.

As reported by a Denver TV station, Colorado placed several other counties high in the rankings, including: **WELD** (18th in the nation), **ARCHULETA** (30th), **ADAMS** (40th) and **BROOMFIELD** (44th).

Overall, housing growth in Colorado was rated second highest in the country. It increased by 6.7 percent between 2000 and 2002, trailing only Nevada, which had a 9 percent increase.

IOWA

News from state funding sources still isn't getting any better. Back in May it was reported that **MONROE COUNTY** was facing a cut of about \$253,000 for the upcoming budget

year (see *County News*, 5/19/03, page 12). But after gathering more information, the Iowa State Association of Counties has changed the projected loss for the county to \$366,000.

The cuts are part of the state Senate File 453, also known as the Reinventing Government bill. In it, the total amount of state cuts to cities and counties is about \$60 million, with counties being forced to absorb about \$17.5 million of that in reduced state funding of property-tax replacement dollars. The cuts were made even worse by the fact they came after local governments had certified their budgets.

LOUISIANA

County budgets aren't the only ones taking major hits these days. New statistics from the state's health department show an alarming decrease in dairy farms in what are known as the Florida Parishes. Nearly 30 years ago, **ST. TAMMANY**, **WASHINGTON** and **TANGIPAHOA** parishes had 1,000 dairy farms; now, officials count fewer than 300. Despite the decrease, it's oversupply that has sent prices plummeting and forced many small operations to shut down.

In **LIVINGSTON PARISH**, where there were once dairy farms, there are now rows and rows of new homes in subdivisions. The parish had six dairies in 1997 and currently has two left. And, according to the *Baton Rouge Advocate*, those two are losing money or just barely managing to get by.

In 1980, the state's dairy farms produced 2.6 million pounds of milk a day. They now produce 1.3 million pounds of milk each day and more than 40 dairy farms closed just last year. The major problem seems to be that dairy farmers receive roughly the same price for milk today that they got 30 years ago, despite the rising prices of equipment, fuel and feed.

MISSOURI

CLAY COUNTY Parks Director Pat Thomas is fighting a war against bomb-dropping Canada geese. And he hopes that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will follow through with its considerations to make it easier for communities to kill — without a federal permit — some of the millions of geese that no longer migrate to Canada anymore.

"One goose goes to the bathroom an average of six times an hour," Thomas told the *Kansas City Star*. Multiply that by the 10,000 resident Canada geese in the region around Smithville Lake, and he adds, "It's absolutely unbelievable up here."

Public beaches have closed when e-coli levels have climbed in the water. Planes departing Clay County Region-

al Airport have been forced to dodge Canada geese, known as a hazard to aircraft engines. County-paid crews have tried sprinkling birth-control feed and released dogs. They've fired propane canons in a futile bid to scare off the birds for good.

Missouri is among several states that the federal government already allows to directly issue permits for rounding up and killing Canada geese when too many threaten a community. That arrangement, however, has not significantly reduced the population in places like Clay County. Thomas said, "Just this year we got a permit to kill geese — a whole 25 of them." The June kill, drastic as it may seem to animal lovers, underscored how drastic the problem has become in the Kansas City area, where at least 60,000 resident Canada geese remain on the Missouri side alone.

NEVADA

Several area clubs are doing a swinging business in **CLARK COUNTY**, and the county is out to stop it.

No, the county is not anti-business, but it does oppose the establishments the county calls sex clubs or swingers joints. The club owners call them social clubs or spas. And county zoning officials simply call them illegal.

Last year, the county established a zoning variance prohibiting such clubs and now county officials are vowing to shut them down within a year, but it's difficult because many got their licenses as health clubs.

According to a local television station, there are several so-called sex clubs in the county, but county officials admit they are difficult to shut down because laws pertaining to sexually oriented businesses are difficult to enforce due to first amendment rights.

So far, clubs have beaten the law by holding "private parties" that don't need permits.

NEW JERSEY

The Board of Freeholders in **WARREN COUNTY** recently voted unanimously to post the national motto, "In God We Trust," in every county-owned building.

The resolution calls for a wood-framed poster with the motto to hang in 30 public buildings throughout the county.

"Clearly the founding fathers had a belief in God," Freeholder Mike Doherty told the *Newark Star-Ledger*. "We have a unique form of government where we recognize our rights do not come from a king or a ruler, but from God."

As expected, several groups, including Americans United for Separation of Church and State, are protesting the decision. But the freeholders are standing their ground.

"'In God We Trust' is generic by nature, and even our currency has 'In God We Trust.' I don't think anyone should have a problem with this," Freeholder Richard Gardner told the paper.

Congress declared "In God We Trust" the official national motto in 1956.

WISCONSIN

DANE COUNTY Parks Director Ken LePine doesn't wear a cool fedora and have a bullwhip strapped to his side, but he is an Indiana Jones of sorts. That's because, as parks director, LePine has jurisdiction over the Skare Site, a site that's been called the most important archaeological site in Wisconsin.

The site sits on a 125-acre undeveloped piece of county land and was first excavated two years ago, and a team of students from the University of Wisconsin's anthropology department is about to resume digging thanks to a memorandum of understanding between the county and the university.

The site is rich in artifacts, from spear points and bits of pottery to evidence of house foundations and the remains of fires. And, according to *The Capital Times*, the site itself could have been history if it weren't for the intervention of the county.

In 1996, the county bought the land for \$490,000 after getting a state stewardship grant of \$237,500 to help in the purchase. If the land hadn't been acquired by the county, it almost certainly would have been developed.

While it's uncertain what the future holds for the site and any discoveries made, LePine envisions a future where the site is a destination for tourism and education.

Maybe sometimes smaller is better. Or at least that's the thought behind a recent law change in Wisconsin.

Gov. Jim Doyle recently signed into law legislation that allows the **MILWAUKEE COUNTY** Board to decrease its size before the next census. The bill, endorsed by the Board, authorizes the board in a county with a population of at least 500,000 to cut the size of the board once between each federal census by a majority vote. Milwaukee County is the only county in the state that qualifies under the new legislation.

A special redistricting committee established by the Board has begun work on a new legislative map that will decrease the Board size from 25 to 19.

(News From the Nation's Counties is written by Paul Mackie, staff writer, and M. Mindy Moretti, senior staff writer. If you have news, please e-mail them at pmackie@naco.org or mmorette@naco.org.)

RESEARCH NEWS

Gaming: A Sure Bet for Controversy

A recently completed study traces the origins of gambling in America to the first Americans. History shows that early Native Americans gambled and wagered their belongings and, in some cases, their freedom. When the first settlers arrived, they attempted to put a stop to these native practices. Nothing much has changed since then. Gambling remains as contentious as ever, with just as many attempts to prevent or limit access. Nonetheless, many governmental representatives have recognized that it is impossible to stop people from gambling, and they have also recognized the opportunity for generating revenue by allowing gambling in very restricted outlets.

Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, Tennessee and Iowa are a few of the states that had ballot initiatives concerning gambling in the 2002 elections. In Iowa and Tennessee, initiatives to preserve or expand gambling were passed. The initiative passed in Tennessee ended a constitutional prohibition on lotteries and may pave the way for a state-run lottery. The proposal to use funds generated from gaming for college scholarships and school construction has already been laid out by the Legislature.

Racetrack casinos are the newest form of gaming. Racetrack betting has been around for years, but the introduction of slot machines at racetracks is new. Several 2002 gubernatorial races, including those in Pennsylvania and New York, revolved around this issue. Since racetrack casinos have been successful in Delaware, Iowa, Louisiana, New Mexico, Rhode Island and West Virginia, many neighboring states want to follow suit, especially after seeing estimates of \$2 billion in revenue from slot machines at racetracks for FY01.

A revenue breakdown of a sampling of states where casinos are allowed is shown below (see Table).

But experts worry that the increased availability of racetrack casinos in Pennsylvania may have a domino effect on nearby states. New Jersey and Maryland have already been experiencing decreasing revenue

from racetracks for the last 10 years, and the introduction of racetrack casinos in Pennsylvania could end their realization of significant revenue.

Supporters of racetrack casinos point out that many states are desperate for new revenue sources, and that renovating existing facilities into "racinos" would require only limited capital investment. Racetracks are typically found in good locations and have abundant parking. These supporters also advocate using profits from slot machines to augment race purses and make racing more attractive in states where they have racetrack casinos.



Opponents believe that permitting exclusive or semi-exclusive casino rights to racetracks limits competition and constricts the market for gaming. They also think legislatures should try to capture the economic value themselves through an established process and not grant a windfall to racetracks.

As many states consider approving gambling as a way to increase revenue, jobs and tourism and to curb illegal gambling, public safety experts warn that the existence of gaming establishments, such as casinos, also increases crime and often hurts local businesses. As the conversation about gaming continues, the climate in many states will be based on whether they try to suppress it, regulate it, or give it free rein.

For addition information on gambling, visit the American Gaming Association at www.americangaming.org or the National Coalition Against Legalized Gaming at www.ncalg.org.

(Research News was written by Christina Crayton, research associate. Jackie Byers, research director, also contributed.)

Table: Casino Revenue Breakdown in Five States

State	Jobs	Distribution to State/ Local Governments	Revenue
Delaware	1,782	\$185.6 million	\$526.6 million
Iowa	2,606	\$93.9 million	\$307.4 million
New Mexico	350	\$21.9 million	\$87.9 million (net)
Rhode Island	745	\$109.7 million	\$771 million (gross)
West Virginia	1,745	\$166.8 million	\$433.8 million (net FY01)

Hats Off to...

2003 "Best of Category" Achievement Awards Winners ... Parks and Recreation

Carrollton Nike Skate Park Isle of Wight County, Va.

In 1999, the seriousness of the void in recreational options for Isle of Wight County youth was displayed by the outcry of approximately 20 families, known as the "Ramp of Dreams." This group was started by concerned citizens and parents, recognizing the lack of a safe, supervised venue for many youth who participate in the extreme sports of skateboarding and inline skating. The problem was simple: adolescents interested in the sport of skateboarding and inline skating had no designated or legitimate location to participate in these forms of extreme sports. Most practiced their sport on sidewalks, hand rails and parking lots within the county.

In 2001, the county opened the Carrollton Nike Skate Park. This facility serves as the first multilevel skate park developed within the Hampton Roads area of Virginia, to accommodate beginner- to advanced-level skaters. On the forefront of what is now a national movement, this group and Isle of Wight County created an exemplary and ultimately successful public/private partnership to construct such a park.

The park serves as an example to neighboring localities for its multilevel elements, as well as an emphasis on safety and a family-friendly environment. It enhances community values and provides a recreational opportunity to encourage the productive endeavors of people in their adolescent years.

The county provided the necessary critical funding (\$100,000) and supportive measures. Attendance has exceeded expectation, and the facility has achieved its goal to remain self-sufficient regarding operating and maintenance costs.

FitLinxx: A Virtual Training Partner Fairfax County, Va.

With 80 percent of Americans carrying extra fat, Fairfax County wanted to provide its citizens with the best options for building and maintaining healthier bodies and communities. The county

surveyed a sample of consumers to ensure that the services and facilities met their needs. These surveys showed that patrons wanted more in the way of fitness services and identified this program area as having high growth potential.

Five years ago, the county identified a series of facilities equipment and staffing changes to make fitness rooms and equipment more effective, appealing, customer-friendly, reliable and safe.

FitLinxx is a multi-site computerized fitness network system, started in January 2001. Offered at no additional charge, members have access to seven Fairfax County Park Authority RECenters with fitness facilities. FitLinxx is an interactive network that creates a virtual training partner, empowering users to succeed in achieving better fitness and a healthier lifestyle.

Studies show that only one in four people stick with an exercise program due to a lack of clear goals or the expertise to get over the inevitable plateaus where their progress stalls. FitLinxx was designed to overcome these problems and help customers achieve their fitness objectives.

Customers begin with an appointment with a fitness instructor who helps them develop a customized exercise program determined by their current fitness level and their fitness goals. The instructor programs the customer's weight information into FitLinxx.

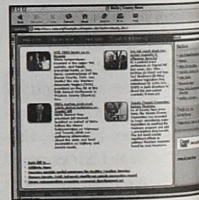
On their next visit to the RECenter for a workout, customers simply log in with their personal identification number at the user-friendly screen of the FitLinxx kiosk. After check-in then sets up the machine for their workout that day. Enter PIN number into the FitLinxx screen at each weight machine will provide user what to do in terms of repetitions, sets, and range of motion. In addition, the system will dispense record of efforts put fourth on machine.

Remodeling of fitness rooms and equipment upgrades costs the county just over \$1 million. There were additional charges to reorganize, train, and reassign fitness directors.

(Hats off to ... was compiled by Christina Crayton, research associate, and features 2003 Achievement Award Winners.)

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THE H.R. DOCTOR IS IN

A Sad "State" of Affairs

This season for the state budget battles to take place around the country. The states have increasing difficulties in creating balanced budgets without rancor and without inflicting pain and suffering on local governments. It was always a matter of public administration that the states and local agencies, unlike the federal government, could not solve budget problems by increasing the speed of the money printing presses. These budgets had to be balanced with a sign of responsible government administration. Yet a combination of factors seem to be merging to make this process more difficult than ever before, just when it needs to be more able than ever before, in order to provide the services required by law and public demand.

Paul McIntosh, chief administrative officer of Butte County in California has identified the three components of what he describes as "the perfect storm" going on in the state's budget follies. The three ingredients are coming together in a way which creates destructive forces that hurt the credibility of the state, and harms schools and community college districts as well as counties and cities, which depend on the state for their own abilities to deliver services.

The first of the perfect storm components is term limits, which serve to remove from the legislature the wealth of experience and process knowledge that help make creative compromises possible on disruptive issues. Compromise was the method of solving interpersonal disputes, which made the United States possible in the first place. It has kept our country nimble in being able to enact public laws capable of meeting social changes. Our ability to compromise needs to be enhanced, not restricted.

It is America's historic ability to destructively engage in debate, but to come away at the end with a basic consensus that separates the United States from many of the places in the world where narrower loyalties and unwillingness to see a situation from the viewpoint of others leads to paralysis, violence, and tribal or religious wars.

Part of the unintended consequence of term limits is the fact that the candidates for legislative office are in a constant state of running for re-election. This includes not only re-election to their last term in office before the limit sets in, but also running for whatever future they

may seek outside of the legislative service when they are no longer able to serve another term.

This constant focus on running for something includes a constant search for cash to finance campaigns. It also includes full employment opportunities for lobbyists to work even harder than they may otherwise have done to seek legislative favor.



PHIL ROSENBERG
THE HR DOCTOR

The role and contribution of state governments in the federal system deserves to be looked at with increasing scrutiny.

The second element of the perfect storm is legislative re-apportionment, that leads to battles to create districts that are safe for those who would represent a particular constituency or a particular political philosophy. The search for a safe haven for a Democrat, a Republican, a conservative, a liberal, or an ethnic group member combines with term limits to create districts, which tend to be more focused and more zealous in support of one philosophy over another. The result, over time, is a polarizing of attitudes and a further reduction of our ability to compromise with one another.

In this situation, it becomes more difficult to adopt a budget or adopt a broad view of the public interest on any subject. Even the exalted power of the speaker or president of one of the houses of the legislature to "stop the clock" during a debate fails to inject compromise when positions are frozen by ideology. The common good suffers and the tens of millions of people figuratively listening in outside the doorway of the state legislature don't see progress.

The third element in McIntosh's analysis is, at first glance, more specific to California's current trauma — the recall effort against the incumbent governor. However, in

reality, the "rule by voter initiative" movement, which received a strong boost in California with the passage of Proposition 13 two decades ago, is another sign of state governments' increasing problems.

I recall, if you will pardon the expression, that during my service as a county chief administrative officer in a California county hit hard by Proposition 13, I was visited by executives from a "start up" company that guaranteed, for a large fee — of course — that they could qualify any measure imaginable for a general election ballot.

Now with experience in Florida and its recently adopted constitutional amendment mandating protection for pregnant pigs, I can see that these marketers of "designer" politics were correct. While the HR Doctor, not to mention the HR Dog Kamala, abhors animal abuse, Constitution abuse may be even more dangerous in the long run for the society.

This combination of factors is not good for any program that depends on the state government for its survival. It's not good for the human beings who are behind each of those programs to receive health service, social services, and education, nor is it good for the local government or state employees who make the programs come to life. In the long run, the viability of state governments in America will be harmed, the HR Doctor predicts.

What I mean is that the role and contribution of state governments in the federal system deserves to be looked at with increasing scrutiny. The states haven't quite figured out what they want to be when they grow up.

Tell us Your Story!



County News is on the prowl for good stories from our member counties.

We want to know what programs have worked for you.

Mail, fax or e-mail your submissions to:

County News, NACO
440 First St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20001-2080

(202) 393-2630
cnews@naco.org

In the past, the states served critical roles in setting and regulating public policy. But, as technology, mobility, and a worldwide scope of doing business kick in (i.e., central features of the modern world), states find themselves too small to manage the large issues in the world, and too big to effectively deal with the problems of an individual in a particular neighborhood.

They are becoming, in effect, "middle-men" between local governments whose service is direct and close to people, and federal and worldwide forces, which increasingly occupy our attention in matters of public safety and security, such as counterterrorism, public health (SARS being only the most recent example) and worldwide forces involving the Internet,

global markets, or the mass media. Certainly, the appearance of inept, shortsighted budget follies each year cannot help but hasten the debate over a diminished future role for states, and a necessarily increased role for local government and private corporations.

This could portend a future in which local governments impose unfunded mandates on the states! That would be a most interesting turnaround!

(The HR Doctor hopes you and your budgets stay in balance!)

Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor
www.hrdr.net

NOTICES

PUBLICATIONS

■ **The International City/County Management Association (ICMA)** has published *Evaluating Financial Condition: A Handbook for Local Government*. The publication is a revised 4th edition of ICMA's book on building fiscal sustainability. Developed with the Government Finance Officers Association and management practitioners, it reflects changes brought to public finance by GASB Statements 34 and 27, as well as the experience of local governments over the past two decades. *Evaluating Financial Condition* is 222 pages and its list price is \$65.

The IndiKit, an online Municipal Financial Indicators Evaluation Kit, is available as a supplement, allowing users to obtain a snapshot of the local municipal financial status. It provides a format for gathering multi-year data and instantly calculates a number of ratios that can be used to analyze where the local government is headed based on the practices of the last five years.

The IndiKit is \$40. A package of the two products is \$85. Copies may be ordered from the ICMA distribution center at (800) 745-8780 or at the ICMA online bookstore at bookstore.icma.org.

■ **Elsevier/Butterworth-Heinemann** has published *Introduction to Emergency Management* by George Haddow and Jane Bullock. The publication provides insight into the current strategies of disaster response planning and disaster mitigation. Emergency management, industrial health and safety, and security students and professionals will be able to utilize this resource. The book outlines the world's leading emergency management agency — the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) — covering its history, organization, programs and operations as well as the Federal Response Plan.

The publication also offers a list of disaster management organizations' Web sites, a glossary of terms and acronyms, and a reference compendium of domestic and international disaster statistics. For information, visit www.bh.com/security.

OTHER RESOURCES

■ **The Southwest Leadership Program for Local and State Government** provides public policy, management and leadership development designed especially for elected officials, managers and department heads of local, state and tribal governments. The six-day program consists of Module I and II and is limited to 50 participants. Each module lasts three days and may be taken in either order. Completion of both modules leads to the Certificate in Public Policy and Management from The University of Arizona.

The program addresses the complexities, challenges and rewards of governance for urban, suburban and rural communities. Specific aspects of governing are examined through lectures, group discussions, case studies and structured exercises. Participants will return to their governments with new skills and insights on a broad range of topics, enabling them to govern more effectively.

Module I — Sept. 16–18, Tucson, Ariz.

Module II — Oct. 21–23, Tempe (Phoenix), Ariz.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.eller.arizona.edu/~ilg.

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

JOB MARKET/CLASSIFIEDS

ASSISTANT HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR — ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICH.

St. Clair County currently has a full-time vacancy for an Assistant Human Resources Director. The incumbent assists the Human Resources Director with directing, supervising, maintaining, coordinating, researching, analyzing, evaluating, recommending, and/or implementing a comprehensive human resources program, such as but not limited to the County's various classification and compensation plans (including pay-for-performance); compliance with federal and state employee recruitment, pre-employment, employment and post-employment laws, rules and regulations; the County's occupational safety and worker's compensation programs; continuity of organizational human resource assistance and service; enforcement and administration of the County's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual; the St. Clair County Retirement Plan and liaison with the Retiree Association; and a vast array of employee relations support services among both organized and exempt employee segments.

An employee in this classification, upon appointment, must have the equivalent of the following training and experience:

Possession of a Bachelor's degree in Personnel or Human Resources Administration, Public Administration, Business Administration or closely related field of study is required. Some postgraduate study toward a Master's degree in the previously stated academic fields is preferred.

Three years experience in human resources administration or approved

related field with at least one year in a supervisory or management level position is required. Five years experience in a human resources administration or approved related field with at least two years in a supervisory or management level position is preferred.

Eight years of progressively responsible experience in a Personnel or Human Resources Department supervising at least three subordinate staff with an employer of two hundred or more employees, with at least three years as the Director or principle department supervisor will substitute for education.

Prior to applying, all applicants must review the complete job description (available in the job posting notice online at www.stclaircounty.org or in the Human Resources office) for a list of the required training, experience and desirable qualifications in order to demonstrate possession of all prerequisites for employment in this position. Please refer to requisition number 03-054 on any application or resume submitted to insure the application is properly designated and processed.

Apply with resume and portfolio by September 3, 2003 to:

St. Clair County Human Resources
200 Grand River Avenue; Suite 206
Port Huron, MI 48060

PH: (810) 989-6910

FAX: (810) 985-3493

E-mail:

Hrrecruitment@stclaircounty.org

Web site: www.stclaircounty.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR — GREENVILLE COUNTY, S.C.
Starting salary: \$115K-\$135K

Greenville County, South Carolina (population 380,000) is located midway between Charlotte and Atlanta, and is the State's most populous county. Set in the scenic backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the region offers a unique mix of urban, suburban, and rural lifestyles. The County has a strong economic base, which has attracted major corporations, including GE, Lockheed Martin, Ford Motor Credit, BMW and Michelin. Greenville County and the surrounding metro area are home to the largest work force in the state.

The County Administrator reports to a 12-member County Council and is the Chief Administrative Officer of the County. He/She directly supervises the departments of Finance and Administrative Services, Public Services and Facilities, Community Services, and Human Resources. The County Attorney, Clerk to the Council, and Internal Auditor are appointed by and report to the Council. Elected officials include the Sheriff, Treasurer, Auditor, Circuit Solicitor, Register of Mense Conveyance, Clerk of the Court, Probate Judge, and Coroner. Greenville County has approximately 1,600 employees and a total budget for FY03 of \$149,119,637. The County operates on a biennium budget basis. Property taxes are the single largest source of revenue for the County; total AV in FY03 is approximately \$1.38 billion. The County has a bond rating of AAA.

Candidates for this position should be exceptional leaders, capable of planning and directing the services and strategies of a large, public sector organization. Candidates should have direct responsibility for implementing the policy decisions of elected officials and directing the operations of a line organization. This includes a stable history of seven to 10 years in progressively responsible positions within

complex organizations and may include other than public sector assignments. Education must include the attainment of a bachelor's degree or equivalent in public administration or additional training in management. An advanced degree is considered a valuable asset.

Submit resume, references, salary history to: Jan Cooper prior to **August 28.**

Jensen & Cooper

411 108th Ave NE, STE. 250

Bellevue, WA 98004

E-mail: jcooper@jensencooper.com

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR — SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VA.

County of Spotsylvania, Virginia (100,000) County Administrator. Competitive salary and benefits. Three administrators since 1982. Seven-member Board of Supervisors elected for four-year concurrent terms with \$329 million budget; 600 full-time employees. Full-service, high-growth community known for its diversity, high quality of life and historic resources located along I-95 corridor equidistant between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA. Requires Bachelor's degree in business or public administration, planning or finance (MPA or MBA highly desirable).

At least 10 years of prior experience as corporate executive or as an administrator/manager in a comparably sized community located in a high growth area required. Progressive record of strong professional, administrative leadership. Prior experience in dealing with growth management and economic development issues in a historic community plus. Experience in building consensus, personnel and public relations and a history of stable tenure strongly desired.

Must be committed to high quality service delivery. Administrator responsible for day-to-day oversight of a wide range of functions, including community and economic development, finance, fire and rescue, personnel, code enforcement, public works, utilities, inspections and recreation.

Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history, and work-related references to: John A. Anzivino, Vice President, or Roger M. Scott, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1206 Laskin Road, Suite 210, Virginia Beach, VA 23451; Fax (757) 422-6617 or e-mail Janzivino@springsted.com by August 31, 2003.

For a complete community/position profile, visit www.springsted.com. EOE.

DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR — SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VA.

County of Spotsylvania, Virginia (100,000) Deputy County Administrator. Competitive salary and benefits. \$329 million budget; 600 full-time employees. Full-service, high-growth community known for its high quality of life and historic resources located along I-95 corridor equidistant between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA. Requires Bachelor's degree in business or public administration, finance or planning (MPA or MBA preferred); Five years, or more, of prior planning and development experience in a historic community located in a high-growth area strongly encouraged. Experience in planning, community,

sustainable economic development, inspection programs a plus. Report to County Administrator and Board of Supervisors and serves as acting County Administrator in Administrator's absence. Primarily responsible for coordination of planning, economic development inspections and other related services. Must be committed to high-quality, proactive service delivery. Submit resume of application, detailed resume with salary history, and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Vice President, Roger M. Scott, Senior Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 1206 Laskin Road, Suite 210, Virginia Beach, VA 23451; Fax (757) 422-6617 or e-mail Janzivino@springsted.com by August 31, 2003. For further information concerning the community and position profiles visit www.springsted.com. EOE.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE — HOWARD COUNTY, MD.

Starting salary: \$70,138-\$103,542

Deputy Director of Finance

Howard County, Maryland, is seeking a dynamic leader who is skilled in financial change, project management and systems implementation. Experience in strategic planning, policy development, implementation, customer service, governmental accounting and financial reporting desired.

The deputy reports to the director and supervises three bureau/division offices. The department has a staff of 51 and over 90,000 annual property tax billings, 65,000 water/sewer bills quarterly. County has triple A ratings from all major rating agencies.

Candidates must have a graduate degree (business or government) or Certified Public Accountant or a Certified Public Finance Officer and have 8 years related experience. Effective written verbal communication skills are essential. This is an appointed position. Send resume by August 29, 2003 to: Office of Human Resources, Howard County, Maryland, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Fax (410) 313-3470 or (410) 313-2033, www.co.ho.md.us. Opportunities."

DIRECTOR OF HOUSING — CITY OF WICHITA, KAN.

Salary: \$71,678 to \$107,519; beginning salary negotiable DOQ.

Wichita is the largest city in Kansas (population: 344,284). Residents enjoy a central location, a diverse population, stable economy and four distinct seasons. Quality of life amenities are excellent. The cost of living is very reasonable.

Wichita has a full-service, Council/Manager government. The current City Manager has been in his position for 18 years. The Director of Housing is responsible to the City Manager to direct and coordinate the City's housing programs, including management of approximately 65 employees and a budget of about \$14 million. The Department is responsible for housing development, provides repair and management services for low/moderate income housing, disabled persons and the elderly. Responsibilities include initiation

National Survey on Aging Issues

In late May, the National Center for the Study of Counties at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia, mailed a survey to each county in the country.

This survey, conducted in partnership with NACo, was designed to collect information on the potential impact of an aging workforce and the greater demand aging services will have on counties. As of June 25, nearly 800 counties have responded.

Survey responses will be accepted until August 30, 2003.

Information from this survey will be compiled into a report that will be available on the NACo Web site.

If you have any questions, please contact Jacqueline Byers, NACo director of research, at jbyers@naco.org; Richard Clark, manager of survey research, UGA, at clark@cviog.uga.edu; or Jason Seligman, economist, UGA, at seligman@cviog.edu.

■ See JOB MARKET on page 15

JOB MARKET/CLASSIFIEDS

JOB MARKET from page 14

management of entrepreneurial activities such as acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, sale, rental and ongoing management activities. Specific responsibilities include housing development, HOME-funded programs for rehabilitation and home ownership.

This position reports directly to the County Administrator. Essential functions include, but are not limited to, staff supervision, acquisition and development coordination, park planning, and design, budget and project management, and public relations.

Individuals with a Bachelor's Degree in Parks and Recreation, Planning, Environmental Science, Landscape Architecture, or related field and ten years of progressively responsible experience in park/land/recreation management with a minimum of five years supervisory experience are encouraged to apply. The minimum salary for this position is \$41,205. Actual starting salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Send resume to Bonnie Ashworth, Personnel Specialist, County of Lancaster, 50 N. Duke St., Lancaster, PA 17603 or Fax: (717) 293-7269. Deadline for applications is August 25, 2003.

DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION — LANCASTER COUNTY, PA.

The County of Lancaster, Pennsylvania is accepting applications for Director, Parks and Recreation. This is a responsible, professional position, overseeing the management of a park system of over 2,000 acres, with a staff of 36 full-time and 80 part-time seasonal employees. The park system includes six regional parks with active passive facilities, natural areas, and

two recreational trails. Active facilities include a double-Olympic-sized pool, a 17,000 square-foot skate park, lighted ballfields, and hard-surface courts. Passive facilities include a Garden of Five Senses, environmental center and environmental library, and primitive campground. The annual payroll, operating and capital budget is over \$3 million.

This position reports directly to the County Administrator. Essential functions include, but are not limited to, staff supervision, acquisition and development coordination, park planning, and design, budget and project management, and public relations.

Individuals with a Bachelor's Degree in Parks and Recreation, Planning, Environmental Science, Landscape Architecture, or related field and ten years of progressively responsible experience in park/land/recreation management with a minimum of five years supervisory experience are encouraged to apply. The minimum salary for this position is \$41,205. Actual starting salary is commensurate with education and experience.

Send resume to Bonnie Ashworth, Personnel Specialist, County of Lancaster, 50 N. Duke St., Lancaster, PA 17603 or Fax: (717) 293-7269. Deadline for applications is August 25, 2003.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS — McPHERSON COUNTY, KAN.

McPherson County, Kansas, is seeking a professional to direct the Public Works department staff of forty-two with a \$6 million budget. Position reports to County Administrator and a Board of three Commissioners.

Position requires graduation from an ECPD accredited four-year college

or university with major course work in Civil Engineering. Experience as a licensed Professional Engineer required and experience in supervision of personnel engaged in Public Works activities preferred. Position open until filled. For application and job description, contact the Personnel Coordinator, McPherson County Courthouse, P.O. Box 646, McPherson, KS 67460; (620) 241-8160. Equal Opportunity Employer.

FACILITIES DIRECTOR — OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLA.

Salary: \$47,837-\$69,635 plus benefits. Beginning salary is negotiable. DOQS.

Agri-Civic Center. Under general direction from the County Administrator, the Facilities Director has full management responsibility over the County's Agri-Civic Center. The first phase of this \$30M facility is currently under construction (110K sq. ft. building area and all facility infrastructure) and scheduled for completion in 01/04. Responsibilities include developing operational policies and procedures, determining staffing needs, hiring staff, and fully managing the facility's operations, maintenance and marketing including the development of a year-round events calendar to include variety of community, cultural, or other special events. Requires training and experience equivalent to a bachelor's degree in business or public administration, marketing, park and recreation or related field combined with directly related work experience which clearly demonstrates one's ability to succeed in this position.

The position will be open until filled. Send resume, with current salary, immediately to:

Robert E. Slavin, President
Slavin Management Consultants
3040 Holcomb Bridge Road
Suite B-1
Norcross, Georgia 30071
Phone: (770) 416-0848
e-mail: slavin@bellsouth.net
Note: Under Florida law, resumes are "public documents" and must be provided to the media upon request. If confidentiality is an issue, please call prior to submitting your resume.

Okeechobee County is an EOE/Drug Free Workplace.

OPERATIONS DIVISION MANAGER — METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT OF GREATER CINCINNATI (MSD)

Salary: \$68,992-\$93,140 plus excellent benefits.

Cincinnati, Ohio, known as the Queen City, is nestled on the banks of the Ohio River in the heart of America. Cincinnati offers big city advantages with small town charm. Its distinct and diverse neighborhoods are a source of great community pride and make Cincinnati one of the most livable cities anywhere. MSD serves 33 municipalities and 800K residents living in a 414 square mi. area. It is owned by Hamilton County and administered by the City of Cincinnati as a department under the City Manager. There are seven major treatment plants, 23 package plants, 124 lift stations and eight major pumping stations. MSD has 705 employees and a current budget of \$130 million. MSD is

responsible for stormwater service within the City of Cincinnati.

The Operations Division Manager reports to the Deputy Director. The position is unclassified and is assigned to head the Wastewater Treatment Division with responsibility for the effective and efficient operation of MSD's seven major treatment plants, 12 package plants and 132 lift/pump stations. The Division employs 322 supervisory, technical, administrative and support personnel. Most employees are represented by unions.

Requires the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in engineering or other science-based field combined with significant and progressive experience in wastewater treatment, including process control and management/supervisory responsibilities. We invite candidates who have experience at the director level in a smaller utility or at the assistant director or operations manager level in a larger utility. Some stormwater experience would be helpful. Excellent oral and written communication, multi-level management/supervision, budgeting, capital financing and construction knowledge and skills are required. Must be willing to apply for an Ohio EPA Class IV Waste Water Treatment Operators License within one year.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER — LENAWEE COUNTY, MICH.

Under the direction of the Board of Health, the Health Officer is responsible for the development, implementation, and direction of the programs and policies to meet the public health needs of Lenawee County. The Health Officer supervises and directs all Health Department employees; administers and enforces local, state, and federal health laws; directs the department's administrative functions; and assists in the preparation of County and State budgets.

Candidates must possess a comprehensive knowledge of the principles, practices, and objectives of public health administration.

The candidate must possess one of the following:

- A M.P.H. or M.S.P.H. degree and three (3) years of full-time public health administrative experience.
- A related graduate degree and five (5) years of full-time public health administrative experience.
- A Bachelor's degree and eight (8) years of full-time public health administrative experience, five (5) of which shall have been in the administration of a broad range of public health programs.

Interested applicants should forward a letter of introduction, resume, and professional references to Teresa Bacon, Lenawee County Health Department,

1040 S. Winter St., Suite 2328, Adrian, MI 49221. Apply by August 25, 2003, visit our Web site (www.lenawee.mi.us) or call (517) 264-5203.

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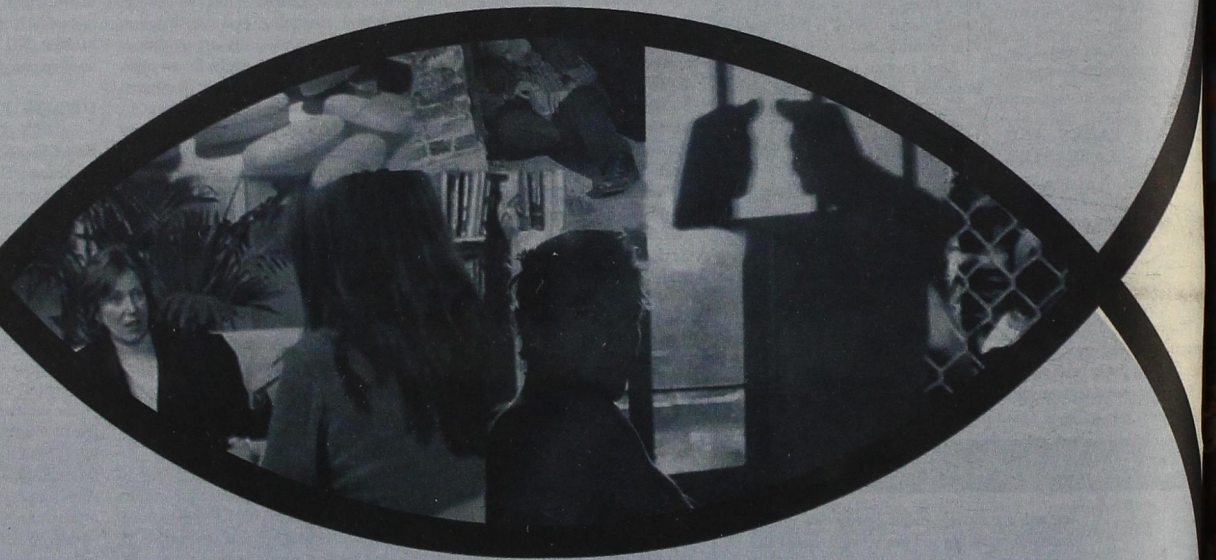
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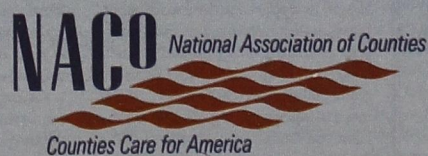
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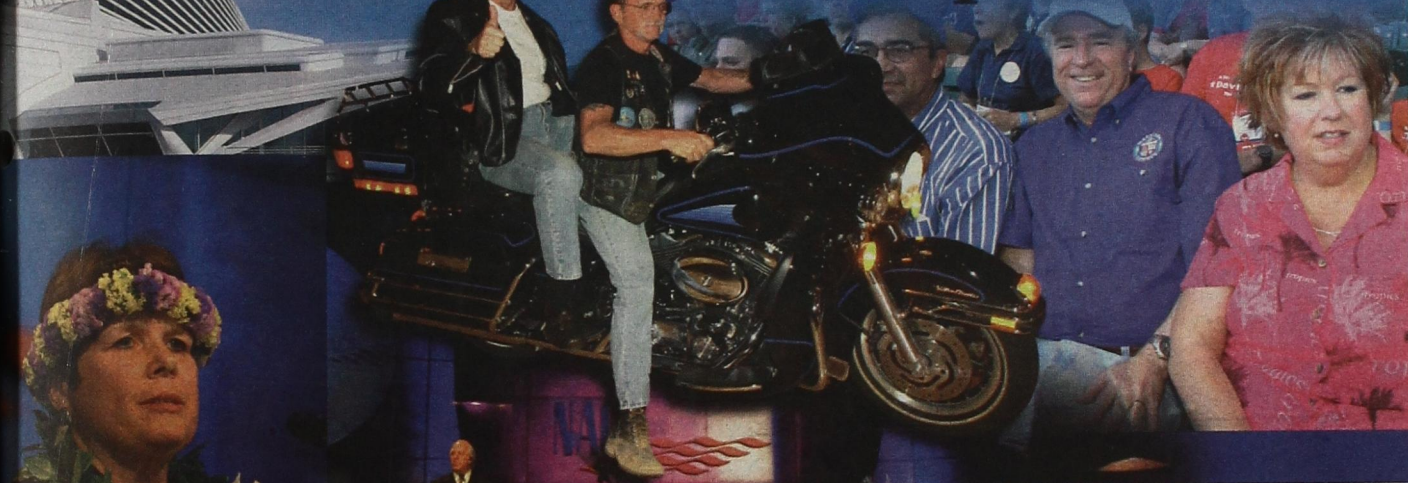


Leslie Buchan: (202)942-4261

e-mail: lbuchan@naco.org

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All-American 2003 Annual Conference and Exposition



All photos in this report, unless noted, are by David Hathcox

In Review ...

HHS secretary urges counties to prepare for bioterrorism

By M. MINDY MORETTI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson knows that when – not if, but when – a bioterrorism event occurs in the United States, it will be counties that are first on the scene.

Addressing a packed audience at the Opening General Session of NACo's Annual Conference and Exposition, Thompson pledged to do what he could to ensure that county first responders have the tools necessary to deal with a terrorist event.

"I would like to suggest that if you're not satisfied with the money getting to you from the state, I want to know about it," Thompson said. "And I would like to have you set up a committee because I'm not adverse to going around the states and getting the money directly to the counties and cities."

According to Thompson, the purpose of the committee would be to

act as a clearinghouse for localities to determine which counties believe they are not receiving the proper funding from states. The committee would report directly to Thompson.

Thompson admitted that when he became HHS Secretary in 2001, he never expected to be confronted with the types of issues he's been confronted with since Sept. 11. In addition to terrorist threats that include smallpox and anthrax, Thompson said the non-terror threats of West Nile Virus, monkeypox and SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) have added new and demanding dimensions to his role and the role of public health officials throughout the country.

"It is so important for us to get the proper resources to the counties," Thompson said.

In addition to discussing the ongoing battle against terrorism and new infectious diseases, Thompson addressed several other public health topics.

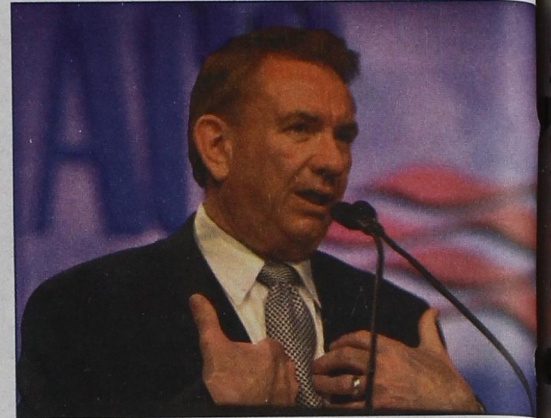
Prevention

Waving a pedometer he keeps clipped to his belt and noting that he recently lost 15 pounds, Thompson stressed the importance of preventative health care and getting in shape. Obesity, diabetes and smoking-related illnesses account for \$400 billion in direct and indirect healthcare costs each year, Thompson said.

"Chunky is good, but slim is better, ladies and gentleman," Thompson said, urging county officials to be the messengers for good health by losing a bit of weight and cutting back on smoking. By walking 30 minutes a day and losing 5 percent to 7 percent of your body fat, Thompson said Americans can go a long way to creating a healthier nation.

Medicare and Medicaid

The topics of Medicare and Medicaid are always hot button issues, and Thompson made his opinion on both very clear to those in attendance. Thompson believes that



HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson urged delegates to get up and active to help create a healthier nation.

new Medicare legislation needs to be passed and passed quickly. He noted that he would like to set up a program in which doctors perform thorough check-ups on patients before they become Medicare eligible.

Thompson said there are plans to give seniors more choices for prescription drugs under the Medicare legislation. The plan would divide the country into 10 regions and health companies would then bid to be the providers in those regions.

When discussing Medicaid, Thompson questioned NACo's current policy. "I think you're making a big mistake

on Medicaid," Thompson said. "It's not working and it affects your people. However, NACo has not yet adopted policy on Medicaid reform, according to Jennifer Myers, associate legislative director. Myers suggested the secret could be referring to ongoing discussions between HHS and NACo on the direction of Medicaid reform."

Again Thompson urged NACo to set up a committee to negotiate with his department to come to terms on Medicaid legislation.

"It behooves you to come in and work with me to get this settled," Thompson said.

Abagnale lived the life, Hollywood made the movie

By M. MINDY MORETTI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

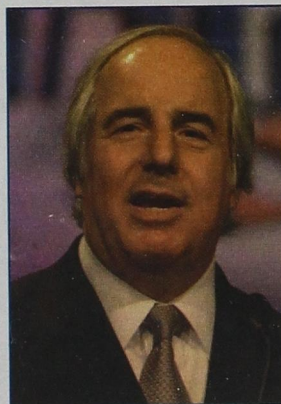
Frank W. Abagnale wants to tell his side of the story. Not the story told through the late-1970s book about his life and not the story told by the 2002 film *Catch Me If You Can*. Instead, Abagnale told the delegates at the final general session of NACo's 2003 Annual Conference the story of his life from his point of view.

At the age of 16, Abagnale had an IQ of 140 and an almost photographic memory. It was also at the age of 16 that his much-loved parents decided to get a divorce. When a New York judge asked Abagnale to decide which parent he wanted to live with, he fled the courtroom and didn't see his parents again for 17 years.

When Abagnale fled the courtroom that day, he embarked on a five-year journey that had him flying all over the world, impersonating a variety of different professionals and writing about \$2.5 million in bad checks worldwide. He did so by becoming a master of forgery and assimilation.

"I always looked at what I did as immoral, illegal and unethical," Abagnale said.

Abagnale was eventually caught and served time in prison in France, Sweden and the United States. He noted that the time he spent in prison, both abroad and in this country, was very harsh, and probably much longer than what someone would spend in



Frank Abagnale recounts his life experiences.

prison today for the same crimes.

"I always knew I would get caught," Abagnale said. "The law sometimes sleeps, but it never dies."

Today, Abagnale is one of the foremost authorities on forgery, embezzlement and secure documents. He has consulted with the FBI for more than 25 years and in 1976 began a consulting firm for private companies, which has worked with 65 percent of the Fortune 500 companies and most of the major banks throughout the country.

Currently, he lives in Tulsa, Okla. with his wife, whom he met on an undercover assignment for the FBI,

and three sons. In addition to his consulting work, he does 12 speaking engagements a year in which he gets to tell his story from his perspective.

"Hollywood made a very glamorous movie, but I found no glamour in that lifestyle," Abagnale said, noting that he spent holidays and birthdays alone and was never able to see his father again because he died while Abagnale was serving time in a foreign prison.

And while Abagnale regaled the audience with his tales of impersonating a PanAm pilot and a pediatrician, it was his message about the importance of family that brought the audience to its feet.

"I was a gifted child because I got to grow up in a household with two loving parents," Abagnale said.

Divorce, Abagnale said, is a terrible thing for a child and that no child should ever be asked to make the decision he was asked to make in that New York courtroom.

While both the harsh prison sentence and the opportunity to repay his country changed him, Abagnale noted that it was one person that made all the difference in who he is today.

"Truth is, God gave me a wife," Abagnale said, his voice catching. "The man I am today is because of a woman. There is absolutely nothing I would ever do to bring my family hurt or embarrassment."

Great county leaders make tough decisions

By PAUL MACKIE
STAFF WRITER

County officials need to be willing to make tough decisions – even ones that may ruin their political careers – just like the tough decisions made by former presidents such as Lyndon Johnson, John Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

This was the message delivered by esteemed presidential historian Michael Beschloss during the July 12 Opening General Session at this year's NACo Annual Conference and Exposition in Milwaukee County.

Beschloss said that one of the many county leaders in attendance may well be president of the country someday, adding that Harry Truman gained much public-policy experience as a county official prior to becoming president.

"We need a president who's willing at times to say, 'I may have to do something that's going to ruin my political career.' That's what really makes great presidents and public



Michael Beschloss speaks at Opening General Session.

leaders," Beschloss said. "Sometimes you do have to make a call and leave this profession and do something else. That's the best you can find in a public official."

■ See BECHLOSS on page 3

2003 NACo policies



Delegates at NACo's 2003 Annual Meeting, July 15, approved a number of new policies. * Below is a list of the new positions.

Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Resolution in Support of the Citrus Tariff

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to support the current U.S. Tariff on imported citrus products.

Resolution in Support of Food Safety Education Funding

Adopted Policy: NACo supports directing federal resources from the Department of Homeland Security to the Cooperative Extension Service and land grant colleges for the

opportunities in the colonias. The \$16 million from CGI can be used to support sustainable economic development and housing investments in the colonias. NACo supports efforts to provide economic development assistance to colonias, but not at the expense of existing HUD programs. Colonias are rural communities and neighborhoods located within 150 miles of the U.S.-Mexican border that lack adequate infrastructure and frequently also lack other basic services.

Resolution Supporting Reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties supports reauthorization of the Economic De-

velopment Administration and replacement of severely distressed public housing, includes changes to the selection criteria to address the problem of displacement of public housing residents, and sets aside 5 percent of the funds for rural areas.

Resolution Urging Congress and the Administration to Ensure that Future Tax Legislation Preserves Tax-Exempt Bonds and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits

Adopted Policy: NACo is very concerned that any future proposal to eliminate the double taxation of corporate dividends through an "excludable dividend amount" (EDA) would have an adverse impact on tax-exempt bonds and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. NACo urges the Administration to modify any future proposal to eliminate any potential jeopardy to these important affordable housing programs.

Resolution Supporting H.R. 1686, The New Homestead Economic Opportunity Act

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties supports H.R. 1686/S.602, which will help alleviate the effects of out-migration in rural counties.

Resolution Supporting the Public Safety Ex-Offender Self-Sufficiency Act Of 2003

Adopted Policy: NACo supports legislation to provide additional federal resources to develop housing with supportive services, including mental health services, to help the reintegration of "public safety" ex-offenders into the community and the housing market. These additional federal resources must not be at the expense of existing HUD programs, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, or any other federally funded domestic program.

Resolution Offering Support for Authorization of the American Dream Down Payment Assistance Act with New Funding

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties supports authorization of the "American Dream Down Payment Assistance Act," S. 811 and H.R. 1276, within HOME as long as it authorizes additional funding beyond basic formula grants and it preserves HOME's existing targeting.

Resolution Supporting Trade Adjustment Assistance

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties supports the concept of trade adjustment as-



Ken Mayfield, NACo immediate past president, addresses policy issues.

sistance for local governments. Many communities may experience a negative change in the local economy as the U.S. marketplace becomes more global. NACo believes that federal resources should be allocated to help alleviate the negative impacts of expanded trade practices, and help communities devise strategies for future economic viability.

Resolution Supporting the Administration's 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Adopted Policy: NACo endorses the Bush Administration's national goal of ending chronic homelessness in 10 years. NACo supports the 10-year planning process of the Inter-agency Council on Homelessness, which recognizes that the abolition of chronic homelessness requires collaboration and coordination of resources in performance-based strategies at all levels of government, together with community institutions, businesses and faith-based organizations. NACo encourages counties to develop 10-Year Plans incorporating the latest research on effective engagement, housing and services strategies to prevent and end chronic homelessness.

Environment, Energy and Land Use

Resolution to Encourage Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties endorses federal government environmentally preferable purchasing legislation, which takes into account environmental impacts and are cost effective, flexible, and environmentally friendly.

Resolution in Support of Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Adopted Policy: NACo supports the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and its mission to strengthen America's energy security, environmental quality, and economic vitality through public partnerships.

Resolution in Support of New Source Review Changes

Adopted Policy: NACo supports improvements to the New Source Review (NSR) program that enhance air quality, encourage fuel diversity and efficiency, and implement requirements to reduce emissions from new or modified sources of air pollution. NACo urges the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work with state and local governments to develop these improvements.

Resolution on County Responsibility for Solid Waste Management

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to enact legislation to empower local governments to assure environmentally and fiscally sound solid waste management, consistent with recognition in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Resolution on Proposal for Geothermal Energy Development Legislation

Adopted Policy: NACo adopts policy guidance to reflect opposition to geothermal statutory or regulatory changes that would stop, or impede, geothermal development on military land(s) and eliminate or reduce the revenue to local government.

Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs

Resolution on Federal Regions

Adopted Policy: NACo insists that since Circular A-105 creating federal regions has been rescinded, managers at OMB should direct federal agencies to more effectively coordinate their efforts across federal regional boundaries to reduce the burdens on local government.

Resolution Urging Congress to Approve Full Funding for the American Community Survey

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to support full funding of the American Community Survey at the levels that will allow for nationwide implementation. NACo calls on Congress to: (1) Support Presi-



Keith Langenhahn, chair, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee, discusses policy with NACo Associate Legislative Director Joe Dunn in the background.

purpose of educating the public on the dangers of a potential agro-terrorism event.

Resolution in Support of Country-of-Origin-Labeling Provision

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to allow the implementation of the country-of-origin-labeling provision that was included in the 2002 farm bill.

Community and Economic Development

Resolution Supporting the Colonias Gateway Initiative

Adopted Policy: The Colonias Gateway Initiative (CGI) is a regional initiative to enhance the capacity of organizations working in the United States-Mexico border region to develop affordable housing and infrastructure and to foster economic

development Administration through FY08. NACo is a strong supporter of EDA, which provides planning and infrastructure grants critical to counties in addressing economic development needs. NACo supports the legislative intent of the program, which is to promote economic development and encourage public/private partnerships in distressed communities. Additional appropriations for existing EDA programs are crucial to maintaining the positive impact of EDA.

Resolution Supporting Reauthorization of the HOPE VI Public Housing Program

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties supports legislation H.R. 1614, the "HOPE VI Program Reauthorization and Small Community Mainstream Rejuvenation and Housing Act." The legislation reauthorizes the HOPE

2003 NACo policies

■ POLICY from page 3

dent Bush's budget proposal for the American Community Survey and (2) make a long term commitment to the Census 2010 Re-engineering effort.

■ Health

Resolution on Medicaid Reform

Adopted Policy: NACo supports Medicaid reform that continues to maintain the federal government's primary responsibility for the provision of health care to the country's most vulnerable citizens and that is based on certain underlying principles which guide reform efforts.

Resolution on Nursing Shortages

Adopted policy: NACo urges Congress to enact legislation that addresses the shortage of nurses in the country.

Resolution on Mental Health Parity

Adopted Policy: NACo supports legislation that would expand the provisions of mental health and substance abuse insurance parity with other health coverage insurance.

Resolution on Protection of the DSH Program (Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital)

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties urges Congress to:

- Keep disproportionate share hospital (DSH) funds separate from other Medicaid funds and strengthen and protect the DSH program in any Medicaid reform proposal,

- Eliminate scheduled payment cuts to disproportionate share hospitals, and

- Increase allotments for low DSH states in future legislation, but not at the expense of other states.

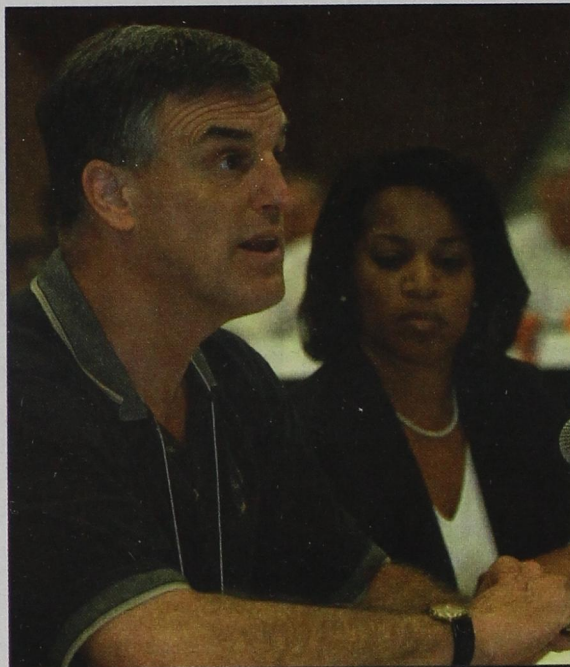
Resolution on Preserving and Strengthening SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program)

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties urges Congress to:

- Allow 1998 and 1999 unspent funds to remain available for three years after enactment of such legislation extending the use of the funds,

- Allow redistribution of 50 percent of unspent 2000 funds to states that spent all their 2000 allotment while allowing the other unspent funds to be retained by states three years after enactment of such legislation extending use of the funds,

- Allow 50 percent of unspent 2001 funds to be redistributed to states that



Peter McLaughlin, commissioner, Hennepin County, Minn., and chair of the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee, offers resolutions with NACo's Cassandra Matthews.

spent all of their 2001 allotment while allowing the other unspent funds to be retained by states three years after enactment of such legislation extending use of the funds,

- Eliminate scheduled reductions over the next three years to the SCHIP program,

- Extend the life of expiring funds, and

- Fund efforts to reach qualified but not-enrolled children, and expand SCHIP to cover the parents of SCHIP-qualified children.

■ Human Services & Education

Resolution on Child Well-Being

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties 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.

- Oppose block grants and/or funding caps in the Federal Foster Care program.

- 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.

- Recognize the housing needs of grandparents raising children by enacting legislation that provides them greater access to safe and affordable housing.

If a state option to receive capped allocation rather than continue to operate under an open-ended entitlement is adopted, NACo recommends the following basic principles:

1. There must be adequate funding available through the duration of the grant,

2. Training and welfare information systems must remain separate from the flexibility proposal,

3. States should be required to maintain their current level of effort in child welfare,

4. Emergency funds should be flexible and broad enough to allow access by sub-state regions with sudden caseload increases,

5. Foster care children must remain categorically eligible for Medicaid,

6. States that opt to receive the capped allocation must be allowed to opt back into the open-ended entitlement at any time, and

7. State associations of counties in states where counties operate child welfare systems must be consulted and state legislatures must have the right to approve a state's request to opt into the capped-allocation system.

Resolution on Head Start Reauthorization

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to ensure that the comprehensive nature of the Head Start Program is preserved as it proceeds with reauthorizing the program. NACo supports retaining the administration of the Early Head Start and Head Start programs within the Department of Health and Human Services. Furthermore, NACo strongly supports providing greater funding to the Early Head Start program. NACo supports the categorical funding structure of the Head Start program. Federal proposals to allow states to merge early education funding with federal Head Start must contain strict accountability provisions.

■ Justice and Public Safety

Resolution in Support of Continuing Assault Weapons Ban

Adopted Policy: NACo supports the provisions of S. 1034, the Assault Weapons Ban Reauthorization Act of 2003, reauthorizing the assault weapons ban indefinitely, and banning the importation and domestic manufacture of ammunition magazines that can accept more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

Resolution on DNA Initiative

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties supports and encourages the implementation and funding of the Administration's DNA initiative as part of the funding for state and local forensic sciences under the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act.

Resolution Seeking Exemption from False Claims Act

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to enact an exemption for counties from the False Claims Act, including its treble damages provision.

Resolution on Hazard Mitigation Funding

Adopted Policy: NACo strongly opposes federal efforts to eliminate the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and urges the federal government to restore the current program formula for HMGP back to 15 percent from the current 7.5 percent of disaster costs as changed in the fiscal year 2003 omnibus appropriations bill.

Resolution on Enhancing Homeland Security Grant Programs

Adopted Policy: NACo supports federal legislation or requirements that would improve homeland security grant programs by streamlining application and planning requirements, promote flexibility and provide first responders and county government with additional resources in an expedited fashion. Priority funding decisions should be based on a regional and/or a multi-jurisdictional planning and collaborative effort between state and all levels of local government.

Resolution on Pre-disaster Mitigation Funding

Adopted Policy: NACo supports the reauthorization of the Pre-disaster Mitigation Program, and urges Congress to maintain both the Pre-disaster Mitigation Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

■ Labor and Employment

Resolution on Personal Re-Employment Accounts

Adopted policy: NACo urges Congress to establish a national demonstration program to assist those unemployed workers who are likely to exhaust their first 26 weeks of unemployment insurance. The program should be designed that individuals obtain the kinds of services and assistance they need to obtain gainful employment.

NACo also urges Congress to use the legislative vehicle for establishing Personal Re-Employment Accounts as a mechanism by which to supplant the Workforce Investment Act and the Wagner-Peyser legislation establishing the Employment Service and the unemployment insurance system.

Resolution on Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to modify the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to ensure continued effectiveness in addressing the needs of all of America's workers. NACo believes that modifications WIA should be minimal and effective to reform the Act should be limited to those issues likely to enhance and maintain the program both for employers and workers.

Resolution on Workforce Development Funding

Adopted Policy: In the event of an international crisis, acknowledging that such a crisis would impact the domestic agenda and spending

■ See POLICY on page 5

2003 NACo policies

■ **POLICY** from page 4

NACo believes that full funding for workforce development programs will be critical to ensure economic viability through the duration of the crisis and beyond.

■ Public Lands

Resolution on Off-Highway Vehicle Management on Public Lands

Adopted Policy: NACo requests that the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and the Chief of the Forest Service and the Director of Bureau of Land Management expedite the development of new travel policies and plans, in conjunction with local governments and community based partnerships, that require Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) to stay on designated roads, trails or in limited off-road use areas. Sufficient resources should be available to local district offices to publish maps, place signs



Judge Robert Eckels, Harris County, Texas, discusses the Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee resolutions while NACo's Julie Ufner looks on.

on routes, and to effectively monitor and manage off-highway vehicles in the areas that they are allowed.

Resolution Calling for Relief from Lost Property Tax Revenue

■ Due to Federal Land Acquisition

Adopted Policy: NACo urges Congress to enact legislation providing that when the natural resources land management agencies (BLM, FS, NPS and FWS) acquire private

lands and businesses from private entities that, utilizing a part of the overall acquisition dollars, they deposit an amount with local government which will offset the loss of tax base. As an alternative to the one-time payment, a local government may opt to add the acquisition to its PILT entitlement acres.

■ Telecommunications and Technology

Resolution on Line Number Portability

Adopted Policy: NACo opposes any effort in Congress, or at the Federal Communications Commission, to delay implementation of the Line Number Portability rule (LNP) requiring wireless phone carriers to allow consumers to keep their phone numbers when switching wireless carriers.

■ Transportation

Resolution in Support of

Funding for Essential Air Service

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties urges Congress for FY04 to fully fund the Essential Air Service (EAS) program that subsidizes air carriers providing passenger service to approximately 133 small and rural communities.

(*Four proposed policies did not make the final cut. Two of them dealt with tribal/county relations. A third proposal dealt with the Clean Water Act and rulemaking definitions. The proposal fell under the jurisdiction of two steering committees, which, when differences surfaced, were unable to agree on a compromise resolution and the policy was dropped. The final proposal focused on the "wildland-urban interface" would have required federal land agencies to undertake nearly all thinning near communities. The proposal was tabled.)

(Beverly A. Schlotterbeck, executive editor, compiled this report.)

Decisions may ruin political careers but must be made despite risks

■ **BECHLOSS** from page 2

I know that quality is in abundance in this room."

Beschloss said, despite Lyndon Johnson's frequently raunchy language, archival tapes of many of Johnson's closed-door meetings detail the often controversial methods he used to get good things accomplished. For instance, he allowed students attending University of Texas football games to use the restrooms and water fountains in the neighboring LBJ Library in order to achieve the claim that the facility was "the best-attended presidential library in the history of the United States."

On the night John F. Kennedy was shot and Johnson was to assume the presidency, his aides advised him not to pass the civil rights bill, but LBJ plowed ahead, listening to nobody else and bellowing, "What the hell is the presidency for if it can't be for civil rights!"

One research problem for Beschloss, who grew up in Cook County (Ill.), was understanding LBJ and his thick Texas accent. The historian formed a circle of friends from Texas just to help him understand such colloquialisms as "faster than a dose of salt through a widow woman," which refers to the fact that

ladies used Epsom salts as laxatives in the region where Johnson came of age.

Beschloss said his first dose of politics was when his mother held him in the air as former president Richard Nixon's Cadillac passed in a Cook County parade during the 1960 presidential campaign, which Nixon eventually lost to Kennedy. Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley has long been suspected of voter fraud, allegedly handing JFK the state of Illinois during the late and closely contested stages of the election.

When Beschloss finally got the opportunity to interview Nixon, several years later, "I forgot my own rule, which was to keep quiet." Not only did Beschloss not keep quiet, he related to Nixon the story of being held in the air that day back in 1960. According to Beschloss, Nixon hated three things: ancient history, the 1960 campaign and Cook County.

Newsweek has called Beschloss "the nation's leading presidential historian" and he is a regular on *The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer*. He recently published *The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman and the Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1941-1945*, which details the amazing transformation of Germany into a peaceful, democratic ally of the United States.

Program offers no-cost terrorism preparedness training to counties

By **M. MINDY MORETTI**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Long before the events of Sept. 11, the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC) was teaching counties throughout the country to prepare for and respond to chemical, biological and other terrorist acts.

As NACo conference attendees learned at a workshop July 13,

NERRTC is a part of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), which is a partnership of public and private organizations, funded by the federal government to bring training, education, testing and exercise programs directly to counties and localities.

NERRTC designs, develops, delivers and distributes WMD/terrorism incident training, exercises

and technical assistance for local, state and federal firstresponders. Today, the program has trained 56,372 people in 3,561 communities throughout the country.

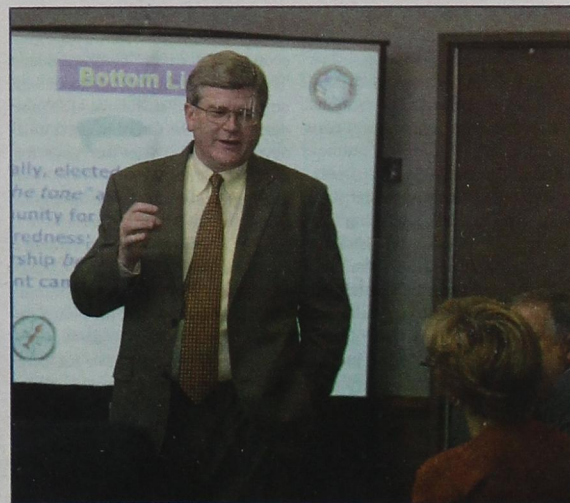
And the greatest part about the programs offered by NERRTC and other members of the consortium, is that they are free to qualifying localities.

"If we deliver to you, it's funded by ODP [Office of Domestic Preparedness]," explained Jim Thyne, director, NERRTC Operations & Training. "Everything is paid for. About all you have to provide is the space for the training and employee time for the training."

Many of the courses provided by NERRTC are available over the Internet and only take a few hours to complete, while others require NERRTC trainers to visit the locality and last for up to four days. Courses are offered in all disciplines, from public works to emergency responders to public health and public administration staff.

Thyne noted that more counties are talking to cities and municipalities, and coming together to request the training offered by NERRTC and other members of the consortium.

"This is great. We seem to be finding more and more counties that are



Jim Thyne, director, NERRTC Operations and Training, encourages people to take advantage of free training.

■ See NERRTC on page 6

Transportation officials talk sense in securing funding

By PAUL MACKIE
STAFF WRITER

Transportation officials from various levels of governance — federal, state, county and the Association of Oregon Counties — discussed the importance of being involved with regional planning for large and small road projects during the July 13 workshop on *How To Benefit from the New Rural Transportation Planning Regulations* at the 2003 NACo Annual Conference in Milwaukee.

Royce Fichtner, county engineer, Marshall County, Iowa, said there's nothing more important for county officials than to be involved and to know what they're talking about when communicating with other transportation officials.

"All the federal government does is, they've got the money and they say to the states, you write the plans. The state and the federal government are friends. It behooves you [as local officials] to understand what that federal law says, and read exactly how that money is to be divided. Know exactly what it says so you can know what to do when you meet with the state and so you can speak intelligently," Fichtner said.

He discussed how diligent work by local Iowa officials eventually secured more money for local road projects. Prior to the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, about 22 percent of the total federal highway funds that went to Iowa were sent on to local governments based on a strict funding formula.

But with ISTEA, Fichtner said, "I think the counties were kind of caught



Rose White, supervisor, Sauk County, Wis., listens to speakers at the rural transportation workshop.

by surprise. They were not ready to give good input."

To acquire knowledge of the new regulations, input was gathered at meetings held throughout Iowa. In 1993, the Iowa State Association of Counties, along with a few other entities, reached consensus on forming 18 Regional Planning Affiliations, which would each make decisions on localized transportation needs. Funding would be based upon factors such as farm-to-market needs, non-metropolitan urban population and non-metropolitan regional population.

When TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century) came along in 1998, Fichtner said it represented "a 44 percent increase in funding at the state level, but counties

only received 12 percent more. The state, in all its explanations to us, never mentioned minimum guaranteed dollars. We found that language and [told them about it]."

He said the working relationship between the regions, and state and federal funders is now "very good." And, although there are a lot more roads in Iowa than ever before, funding has gone up significantly. Compared to pre-ISTEA dollars, total highway funds to the Regional Planning Affiliations have increased by 164 percent over that received in the old days by local governments.

"Most regions have returned to a modified allocation approach functioning similar to pre-ISTEA only with individual allocations spread out over the life of the highway bill," Fichtner added.

Also speaking at the well-attended workshop was Kent Van Landuyt,

liaison, Missouri Department of Transportation. He discussed the different needs of transportation planning between metro and rural areas.

"How do you get started if you feel [DOT] is not active in your state? In Missouri, we started with the basic things and moved forward from that point. We keep it very simple," he said. "Before the early 1990s, they were used to grant programs, but now the Regional Planning Commissions for non-metro areas pay up front for projects, and we reimburse them up to 80 percent."

"The way it works in Oregon is very similar to Missouri," said Bill Penhollow, assistant executive director, Association of Oregon Counties. "Things work well in Oregon, but it ain't perfect. In the 1970s, county governments were more or less a nuisance to the [state highway] department."

Such a situation called for the

development of Area Commissions of Transportation (ACTs) to give Oregon localities a voice. Penhollow said ACTs are especially important in the rural parts of the state east of Portland where some needed road projects may be more easily overlooked. He said ACTs have worked well at identifying crucial projects through consensus and that some funding for planning has been available.

Rob Ritter from the Federal Highway Administration was also hand to remind attendees that state requirements for state consultation with local officials is new to TEA-21 and that non-metropolitan local official consultation processes must be documented and implemented by February 24, 2004. He said specific questions can be answered by contacting local administrators for highway programs at www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep10/state/localoff.html.

Tribal leaders press for county relationships

By PAUL MACKIE
STAFF WRITER

Representatives of Wisconsin tribal governments related stories of how they became economically successful by using gaming and smoke shops to reach self-sufficiency at a July 14 workshop attended by more than 40 people at NACo's Annual Conference.

Kathy Hughes, vice chairwoman of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, and Jo Deen Lowe, deputy attorney general, Forest County Potawatomi Community, were the featured speakers on *How Tribal and County Governments Work Together for Successful Economic Development*.

Of the 182 gaming tribes throughout the country, the speakers said about a third can be called an economic "success." Hughes added, "We view gaming as our means of becoming self-sufficient. It's not our goal for the future of economic development. It was our goal for getting there."

Hughes started a bingo operation when she came into office in 1982 for the Oneida tribe, which numbers about 50,000 members over 65,000 acres in the Green Bay area. Revenue from bingo was used for a nursing home, which got the Oneidas in touch with a bank, which in turn got them talking about constructing a hotel by the local airport. All this solidified the beginnings of an economic base for the Oneida tribe, as well as a relationship with Brown County officials.

"We do have different goals sometimes and different priorities. The tribes need something and the

counties need something," Hughes said. "We decided we needed a good working relationship with municipalities, and it wasn't very good up to that point [1982]."

Around this time, unemployment in the tribe was 49 percent. Service agreements were signed, and soon the Oneidas were acquiring jobs building water and sewer systems, and streets into the reservation. The tribe also began its own police and fire departments.

Now, with about 3,000 employees, the Oneida tribal government is the second largest employer in Brown County. Among its recent economic development endeavors are Urban Hope grants that have sent about 50

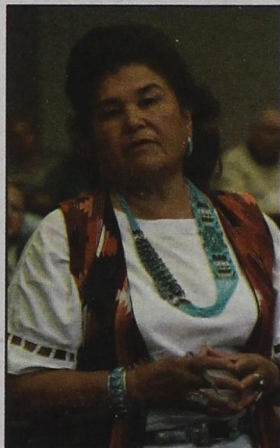
people through entrepreneurial programs, a program in conjunction with the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Wisconsin to get tourists to visit tribal grounds, and an encouragement for non-Indian elderly people to participate in tribal elder programs that build community through activities.

For Lowe, times were even worse in northern Wisconsin's rural Forest County, where unemployment among the Potawatomi reached above 20 percent 20 years ago. There were many job opportunities beyond timber and logging industries, and tribal leaders recognized the serious need for young people to take financial care of the community's elderly.

A number of economic development processes were tried, but nothing really worked until the introduction of smoke shops and bingo. This led to relationship building with county officials in the area, and the tribal and county governments were able to work together on providing education, training, day care, health care and several other services.

"You have to look and explore these options with your tribal leaders," Lowe told the county delegates in attendance. "Keep the lines of communication open and you share jurisdictions with a tribal community — that is so important."

She said the main future goal for the Potawatomi community in Forest County is to continue to diversify economically. There are plans for opening of a local venison ranch and to develop a hotel property in Washington, D.C.



Louise Yellowman, supervisor, Coconino County, Ariz., asks a question during a workshop about tribal government.

Free training available for all

■ NERTC from page 5

hosting the training and inviting the stakeholders from the local cities and municipalities," Thyne said.

Thyne said that the only way a county may be turned down for training is if there are not enough participants, which is why he encouraged smaller counties to work together, not only with affected cities and towns, but also with each other.

"This kind of training makes your community better for any sort of event, not just a possible terrorist event," Thyne said.

One of the newest offerings from NERTC is a Senior Official Workshop, which provides a forum for senior officials to discuss strategies and executive-level issues. Some of the discussion topics in the workshop include:

- homeland security strategic planning

- incident management
- leveraging resources/mutual aid
- integrating state and federal resources
- public information/media relations, and
- recovery and restoration process.

Thyne said that it is normally the elected or senior officials that "set the tone," and direction in the community for WMD/terror incident preparedness and having a well-trained elected or senior official leadership before, during and after an incident can make a major difference in how the incident is handled.

(For more information about NERTC and the programs it offers, call toll free (877) 438-8877 or visit their Web site at <http://texasweb.tamu.edu/division.cfm?div=NERTC>.)

Smart cards may provide counties with security path

By PAUL MACKIE
STAFF WRITER

The days of having a personal computer in your pocket are here, and speakers at the July 14 workshop, *Smart Card Technology: Its Uses Within County Government*, predicted the days of writing your signature and having to remember dozens of personal passwords are becoming quickly numbered.

"I can't picture that you're going to still be using a [written] signature in the near future," said John Phillips, president, Creative Socio-Medics in Islip, N.Y. "[Smart cards] are going to bring automation closer to the citizen."

Already in heavy use in many Asian and European countries for about 10 years, smart cards are gaining momentum in the United States, and delegates at the workshop learned they need to be prepared to introduce the cards into their counties.

"They're essentially a credit card-sized piece of plastic that has multiple capabilities. What makes it a 'smart card' is that it has a secure microcomputer on the card itself," said Chris Campbell, managing director, SchlumbergerSema, an Internet technology company based in Dallas County.



Chris Campbell, managing director, SchlumbergerSema, discusses the reality that he sees around the corner for county use of smartcards.

The powerful microcomputer is different from the strips on credit cards. Phillips said it would be analogous to a personal computer versus a diskette.

Campbell added, "The true value of the smart card is it can provide physical access. It's your corporate identity, provides network access and can be used for e-payment loyalty programs."

Although few county governments are using the cards, Campbell detailed the considerations that need to be made in county smart-card initiatives, including:

- make sure security is enhanced and privacy is protected
- determine what information to include in smart cards
- formally document a security policy
- approach the technology in phases, and
- determine roles in managing cards.

Campbell said obstacles could include a county's existing infrastructure and being able to change the long-standing methods and habits of personnel. Also, staff will need to be ensured that the encryption technology of the cards protects their personal information.

Smart cards provide increased security and reduce help-desk calls

because "30 to 60 percent are password related," Campbell added.

Phillips said, "This is really a workflow systems discussion that happens to make use of the smart card platform. Suppose everybody in the county had the same kind of computer and it was capable of doing the same things?"

Until now, the technology has been limited to a few government and commercial uses in the United States, but Campbell and Phillips said they expect more widespread use of the cards for things such as voter registration, tax payments and national identification cards. In fact, Reps. Jim Moran (D-Va.) and Tom Davis (R-Va.) have submitted legislation to standardize state-issued driver's licenses across the country that would carry a computer chip with personal identifying characteristics such as a fingerprint.

Other related legislative developments include:

- in Illinois, the governor signed a bill digitally for the first time about a year ago
- in California, electric power grids for smart-card technology are being secured, and
- in Dallas County, a feasibility study is being performed for physical and logical access of smart-card use.

Disaster preparedness should include volunteers, regionalism

By PAUL MACKIE
STAFF WRITER

Disasters can create great confusion within local governments, but attendees at a recent workshop learned there are typically an amazing amount of untapped resources and options available in such situations.

"On the local level, you could have up to 200 organizations working in volunteer disaster relief," said April EagleBoy, Disaster Services, American Red Cross, Milwaukee chapter.

EagleBoy told county officials they need to maximize their use of volunteer organizations in local and regional disaster planning and response. Often, the resources to keep communities safer before and after disasters are available but not sought, she and other speakers said during the *Regional Disaster Preparedness Resources* workshop July 15 at the 2003 NACo Annual Conference.

"Get to know us before you need us," EagleBoy added. "And I'm sure you will, at some point, rely on volunteer agencies."

Red Cross is perhaps the most well known of the disaster-relief organizations, and its many local chapters are supported by consistent disaster



Kevin Comerford of Central Police Services in Erie County, N.Y., tells about his county's successful alliances during the *Regional Disaster Preparedness Resources* workshop.

preparedness training through its national infrastructure. Red Cross also offers training to community partners and works with "spontaneous volunteers who just feel compelled to do something," and past victims are often helped for several years after disasters.

Representing Erie County, N.Y., Kevin Comerford of Central Police

Services said financial aid most often goes to other parts of the state, such as Albany and New York City, so Erie County officials developed a lobbying agenda with 10 nearby counties to ensure their more rural areas wouldn't be left out of the funding processes.

As a result of the collaboration, eight health departments in the region got enough money to build a laboratory to test biohazards. Prior to Sept. 11, Erie County had plans to construct a public-safety facility, and now the planning process has accelerated and construction is beginning this month.

"Internally, we're probably as comfortable as you can get these days ... being able to say we've done these things," said Comerford, adding that the county also has volunteer programs for community policing, homeland security training, and neighborhood association crime-prevention groups.

Michael Selves, director, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Department, Johnson County, Kan., stressed

■ See PREPAREDNESS on page 8

Workshop explores benefits of community health centers

By LESLEY BUCHAN
PROJECT MANAGER

One of the workshop topics discussed at NACo's 2003 Annual Conference in Milwaukee focused on the role of community health centers in providing cost-effective and quality health care services to the uninsured. Workshop participants learned the basics of community health centers and their importance to counties, and then heard from counties with first-hand experience in applying for federal funding and operating a community health center as part of their health department services.

Sarah Lewis, executive director of the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, explained the role and purpose of community health centers, how they operate and how to apply for the federal funding called Section 330. Every state has a Primary Care Association, which is a state membership association for health centers focused on providing care for the medically underserved and uninsured. Community health centers provide primary care services, including medical, dental, and mental health

in medically underserved areas.

A medically underserved area (MUA) exists when there are enough people who are not receiving medical services and there are not enough health providers to serve those individuals. (To find out if your county is a designated MUA or serves a medically underserved population (MUP), contact your state primary care association to learn about how to apply for that designation.)

Lewis said there are also different funding categories that focus on having health centers meet a target population. A community can apply for funding to have a health center for migrant, homeless, public housing and school-based communities. Once a health center becomes federally qualified by receiving the Section 330 funding, it must meet certain requirements:

- operate on a sliding fee scale for patients whose incomes are up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL)
- accept all types of insurance

■ See HEALTH on page 8

Workshop simulates local disaster scenarios

By BEVERLY A. SCHLOTTERBECK
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

What would you do, as the local county commissioner, if a derailed and now smoldering freight train in your sparsely populated county had forced an evacuation of 50 residents who — five days later and still in a shelter at the local high school — want to go home to collect their valuables.

The derailed cars contained toxic chemicals, which do not now pose a threat, but your fire chief says a shift in wind or an explosion could occur at any time, endangering the lives of those in the evacuated area. Add to your dilemma media stories on the hardships and complaints of the evacuees.

Tough call, right? Made tougher yet if you don't know whether you have the authority to even make the call.

For nearly two hours, attendees at the *County Commissioners and Disasters: a Simulation* workshop grappled with scenarios just like the one above, and in the end, came out with a lot of homework to do.

Sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers, the workshop challenged participants to come to grips with a basic principle: "Just like politics, all disasters are local."

Michael Selves, Johnson County, Kan. emergency management director, orchestrated the simulation. Before he began, however, he outlined three essential roles for elected officials and passed along some tips to get participants thinking.

The essential roles of officials include:

- exercising special powers to impose restrictions and control actions of the public

- establishing public policy and exercising political leadership, and

- communicating with the public either directly or through the media.

The tips he gave were:

- Disaster Declarations get resources flowing to a community and give local officials "special powers."

- Disaster Declarations from governors don't generally mean new funds. They mean the state's resources become available.

- All elected leaders in a county need to decide ahead of time who's in charge.

This tip especially resonated with participants who talked about clashes with local sheriffs, whom in disaster or near-disaster situations, believed they were in charge. The discussion prompted Selves to suggest, "They may be in charge, but you're responsible." The interface with FEMA officials also came into question. They, too, are likely to claim ultimate authority, but since all disasters are local, they bear no ultimate responsibility.

- To deal with the many questions such as the authority issue, it's best to have someone who is an expert on your state's emergency management law.

- Dealing with the media: Along with deciding who's in charge, county officials should also decide who is the spokesperson, and stick with him or her.



Commissioner Cindy Akins, Davidson County, N.C., raises questions about the role of county leaders during the one of the workshop's simulations.

Community health centers help uninsured

■ HEALTH from page 7

- be located in a MUA or serve a MUP, and

- have a board of directors with a majority of health center consumers. "That's where the 'community' in community health center comes," Lewis said.

In 2002, more than 11 million people in the United States were seen in health centers, 57 percent of whom had incomes below the FPL and 39 percent had no insurance.

In 1999, the state of Wisconsin, for the first time, provided direct general-purpose revenue in the amount of \$3 million a year to support health centers.

This financial support continues and has survived very difficult budget years. The number of patients in Wisconsin community health centers increased 46 percent from 1998 to 2002.

"Many of Wisconsin's health centers are in very rural areas where the health center is the only doctor in town and, in many cases, is the first doctor that those communities have seen in 50 or 60 years," Lewis said.

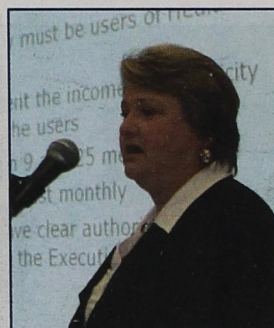
Lake County, Ill. has been operating a public-entity community health center since 1995. The Lake County Health Department underwent major changes in 1995 by integrating a community health center model into the existing health department services. In 1997, Lake County joined with the community to create a governing council structure and received the Section 330 federal community health center funding.

"Our journey was two years to become an FQHC [Federally Qualified Health Center]. It is not simple, but once you get there it is worth it," said Dale Galassie, executive director of the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center. There are now four CHC sites located throughout the county.

"We are in the middle of a health care crisis in this country, no question about it," said Galassie. According to Galassie, the public health community health center model is one of the most cost-effective health care delivery systems in this country. With a population of approximately 600,000, Lake County is one of the 10 richest counties in the country, yet more than 75,000 residents are uninsured and another 75,000 are underinsured.

NACO First Vice President and Lake County Board Member Angelo Kyle is also on the Governing Health Council Board of Director for Lake County's FQHC program. Kyle spoke at the workshop emphasizing the importance of CHCs to counties and the success of the Lake County model.

Why did Lake County make these significant changes in their



Sarah Lewis, executive director of the Wisconsin Primary Healthcare Association.

health care delivery? According to Irene Pierce, Primary Care Services director, many people could not find health care, they were uninsured and few providers would take Medicaid. The County Health Department and the County Board offered strong support for pursuing the medically-underserved designation and FQHC funding because many elected officials were hearing from their residents who had no care.

When Lake County began as an FQHC in 1997, 42 percent of a \$4 million dollar budget was tax-dependent. Today, 28 percent of a \$16 million dollar budget for primary care services is tax-dependent. Lake County has leveraged millions in additional federal resources. "You do not have to spend additional local tax dollars to become a CHC if you are already providing some primary care program. You can leverage funds you're currently spending, and you will need to continue spending that amount. Lake County spent \$4 million 10 years ago and is still spending \$4 million today; however, there is an additional \$12 million in federal and state dollars coming in and that is the draw of this program," said Galassie.

Will County, Ill. also operates a FQHC, similar to Lake County's

FQHC. The health center was established in 2001 — through the Will County Health Department and is a community health center governmental public entity model. Will County has only one grant-funded health center that serves as the primary source of accessible medical care for 43 percent of the target population. The center is located in the City of John in an area with a high percentage of the medically underserved target population. The City Council voted to donate \$566,000 to the CHC project demonstrating the important partnerships between cities and counties that can strengthen health center efforts. "We are taking care of our own in Will County," said Dr. Alice Sartore, chief executive officer of the Will County Community Health Center.

In 1995, the Will County Health Department saw 5,000 individuals for 6,000 visits using \$1.5 million of county tax dollars. In 2002, the Will County Community Health Center saw 42,000 patients using \$1.3 million of the county tax dollars, Sartore said.

Will County Commissioner Frank Stewart sits on Will County's CHC Governing Council and represents the district where the CHC is located.

There is a commitment from both the president and Congress to expand the number of health centers across the country. The Administration's initiative would create access points in 1,200 communities and double the number of patients served over the course of the five-year program. The Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Primary Health Care administers the program, which is now funded at more than \$1 billion a year.

(For more information on community health centers and NACO's Access to Health Care project, please contact Lesley Buchan at (202) 942-4261 or lbuchan@naco.org.)

Disaster partnering urged

■ PREPAREDNESS from page 7

the importance of local governments' getting organized into regional responders, and using the resources available within the local and state systems.

"All this volunteer activity needs to be developed by local governments," Selves said. "The bottom line is: We as local governments do not have all the resources we need, even with all the money coming from Washington. If you have emergency management in your county, if they're not focusing on this aspect of homeland security,

I would urge you to encourage them to focus on it."

Selves said good programs for counties to begin with include the Administration's Citizen Corps initiative, regional shelter plans, use of medical reserves, and disaster management, which is handled by the Salvation Army in his Kansas City-area county.

Joe Fuller, police juror, Rapides Parish, La., moderated the workshop and wrapped it up by concluding, "From today's panel, I think we can see that it's very important that we get in position to get our partners together



NACo President Karen Miller

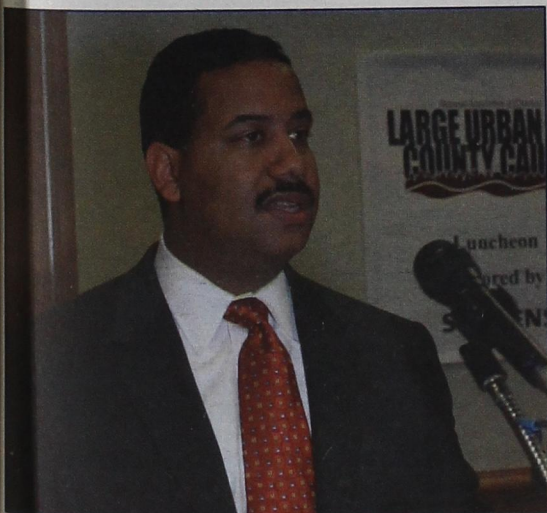


National Association of Counties
Luncheon
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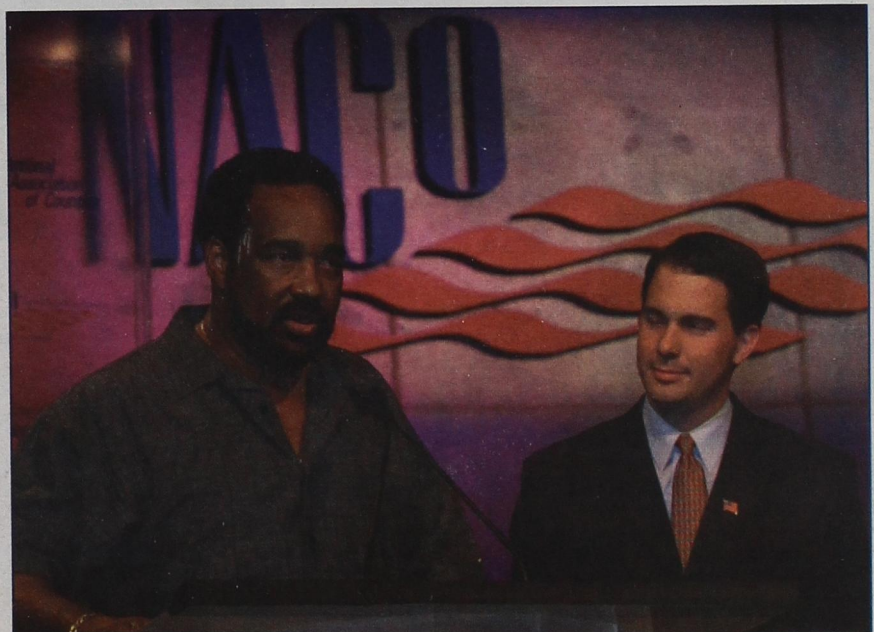
(Above) Jane Halliburton, supervisor, Story County, Iowa, and chair of the Rural Action Caucus, welcomes the steering committee to its annual luncheon.



(Left) Marina Woolcock, senior executive assistant, Erie County, N.Y., discusses regional collaboration at a Pre-Conference ALT (Advanced Leadership Training) seminar.



Scott Syphax, president of the Nehemiah Corporation of California, the nation's largest privately assisted down payment program, tells Large Urban County Caucus leaders about his organization's wide range of affordable housing initiatives across the county.

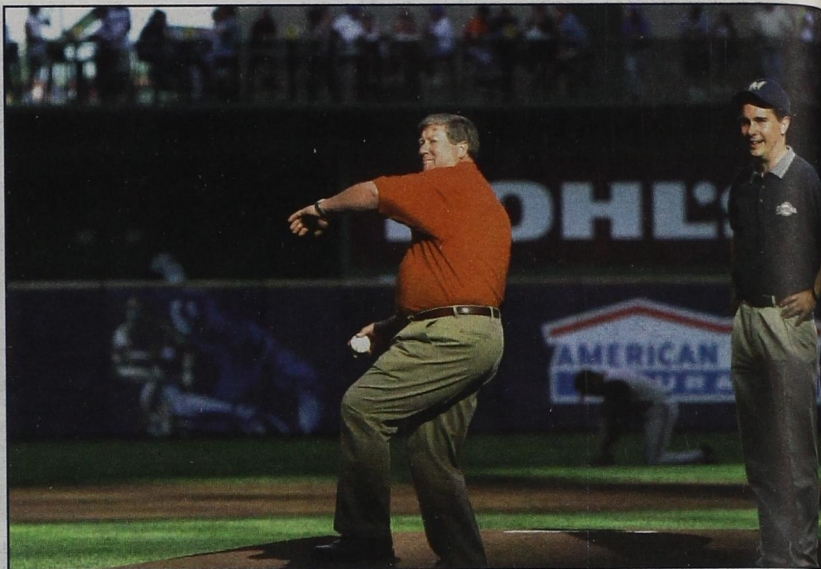


Milwaukee County Board Chair Lee Holloway (l) and Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker welcome delegates to the All-American City at the Opening General Session.

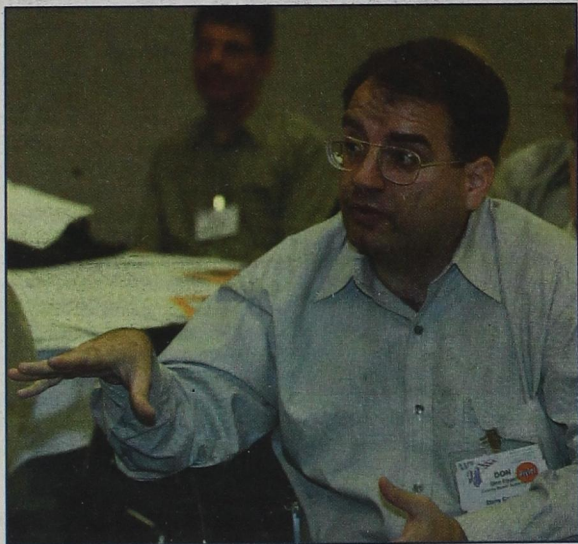
All-American 2003 Conference and Exposition Review



Miller Park made sure to make special note of the more than 1,000 NACo delegates and their families who attended the Brewers vs. Reds Saturday evening game.



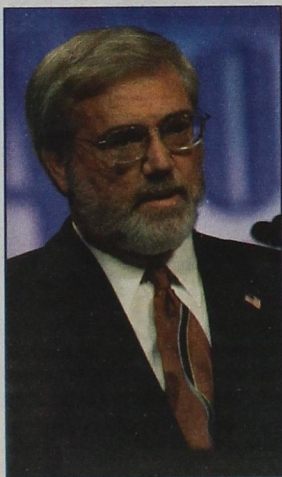
The Brewers got off to a great start with opening pitcher NACo President Ken Mayfield. They should have kept him on the mound, though. The home team lost to the Reds, 5-1.



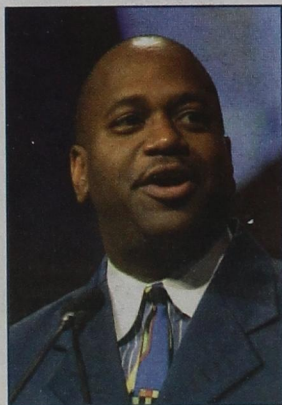
The member orientation gave new NACo members, like Dane County, Wis. Supervisor Don Eggert, lots of opportunities to learn more about NACo and its benefits.



Who says popcorn is only for the movies? (l-r) Mary Quintana, Otero County, N.M. clerk, and sidekicks Kim Chavez, deputy clerk, and Gonzales, chief deputy treasurer, prove that popcorn can hold its own with peanuts and Cracker Jacks at any ball game.

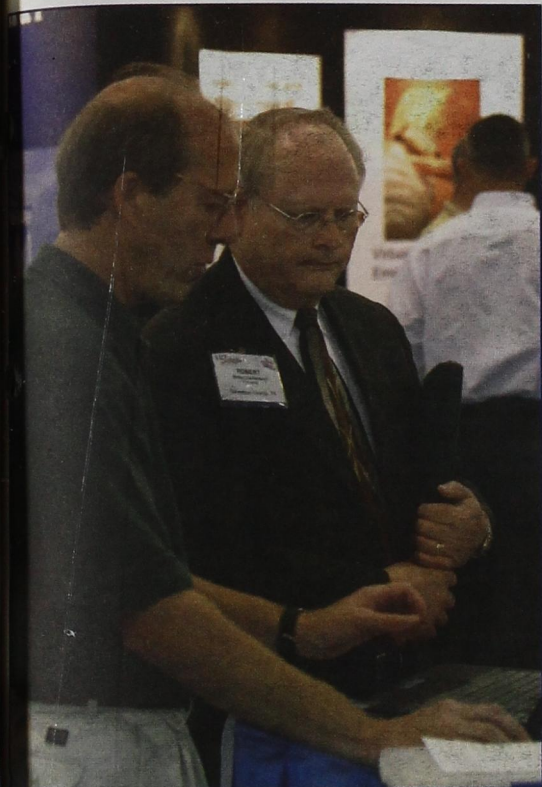


(Left) Deputy Secretary of Agriculture James Mosely said "USDA is rural America's venture capitalist," during his address to delegates at Monday's general session.

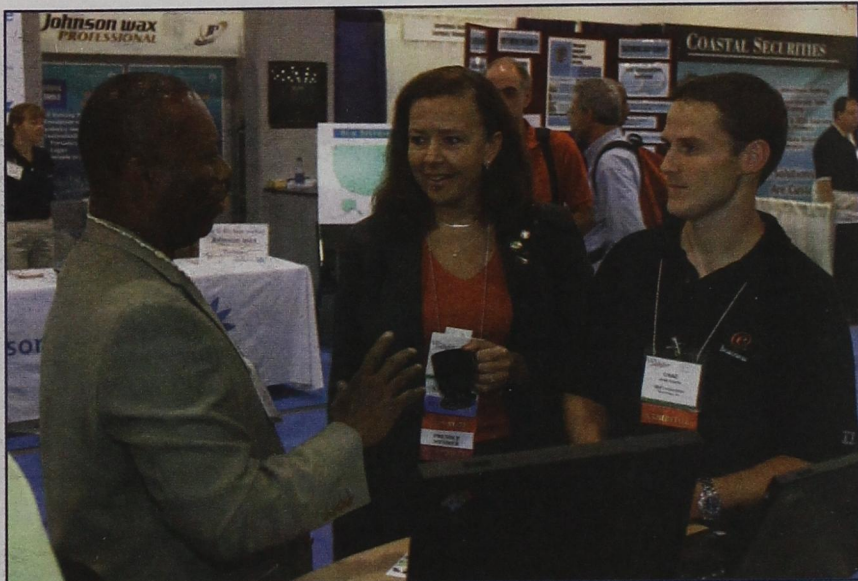


During the general session on Monday, NACo First Vice President Angelo Kyle, commissioner, Lake County, Ill., introduces the new NACo member counties.

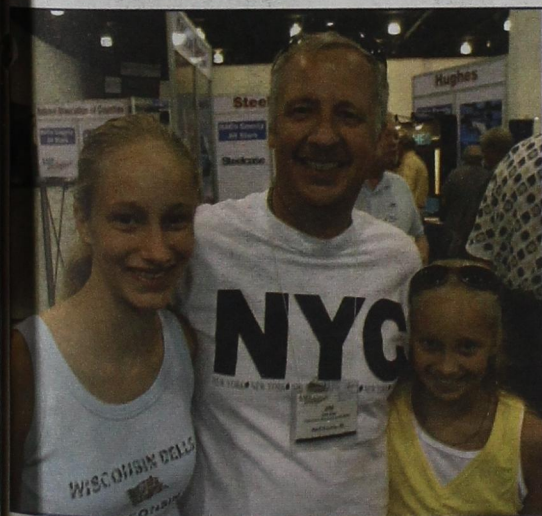
2003 Conference and Exposition Review **All-American**



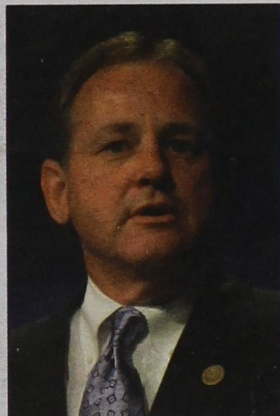
Robert Canterbury, IT director, Galveston County, Texas (r), reviews aerial imaging software with Scott Sherwood, Pictometry International Corp., Rochester, N.Y.



Lonnie Thomas, Fulton County, Ga. (l), chats with Syd Dorsey and Chad Roach, both with IBM in Richmond, Va.



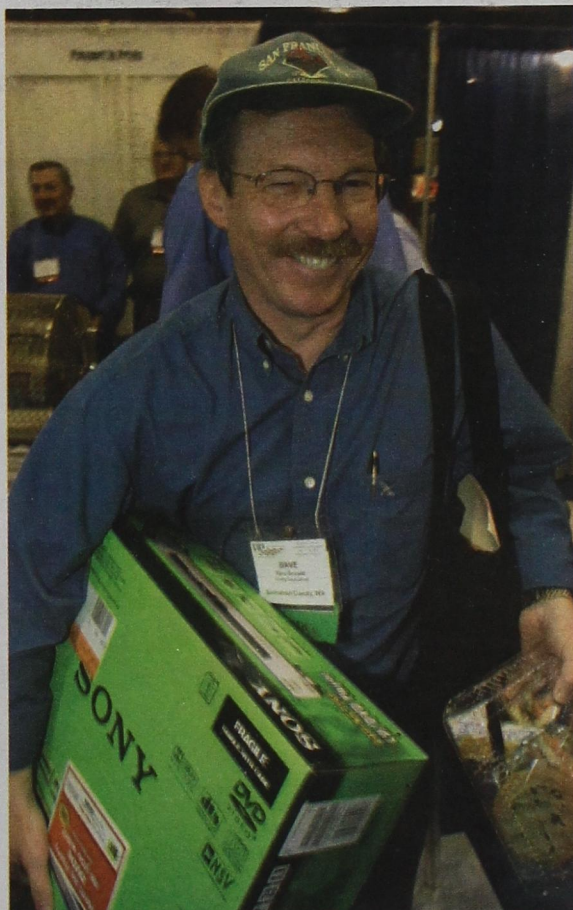
Jim Day, executive assistant to the Kent County, Mich. Board, and his daughters Leanne (l) and Kellan take a break from their Exhibit Hall tour.



C. Kent Conine, president of the National Association of Home Builders, discussed his association's drive to support the American dream of home ownership.



Colleen Landkamer, county commissioner, Blue Earth County, Minn., accepts her nomination as NACo Second Vice President.

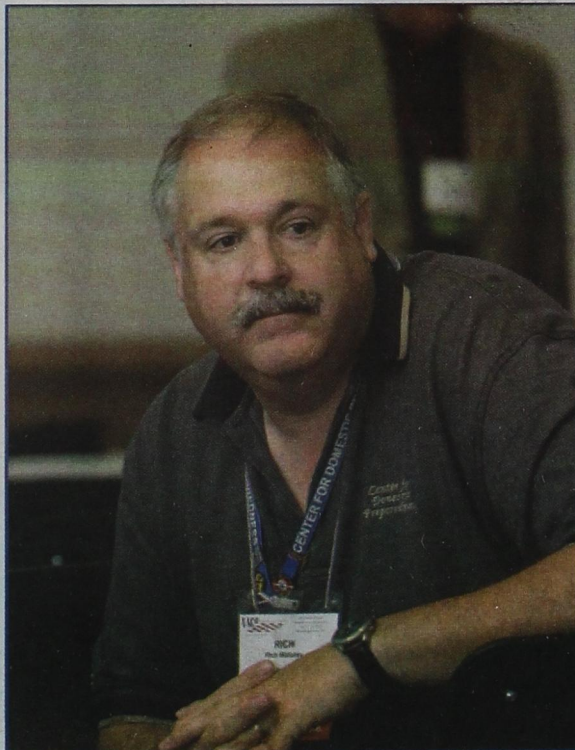


Dave Gossett, Snohomish County, Wash. commissioner, is the happy winner of a DVD player, one of many prizes raffled off at the Exhibit Hall.

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Shannon Chambers, Collectors Office clerk, Stone County, Mo., and son Matthew Flood "on display" in the Exhibit Hall.

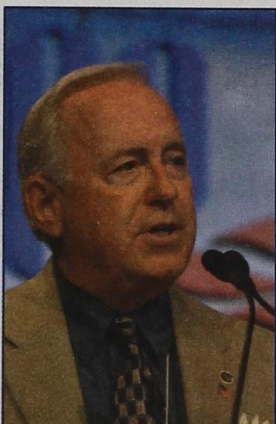
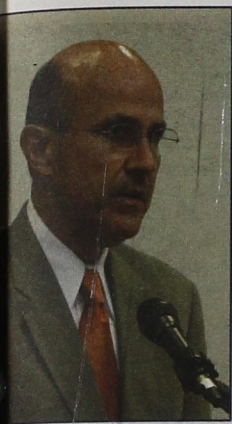


A terror training workshop participant listens intently.



The NACo FSC All Stars pose for a team portrait in front of their Exhibit Hall booth — Mayfield. Pictured are: (front, l-r) Renata Lipscomb, marketing director; Lisa Cole, NACo Enterprise Services director; Nancy Irish, FSC contract manager; and Sydney Vranna, FSC intern; (back, l-r) Steve Swendiman, FSC manager, director and CEO; Tom Sweet, corporate relations director; and Bryce Williford, FSC intern.

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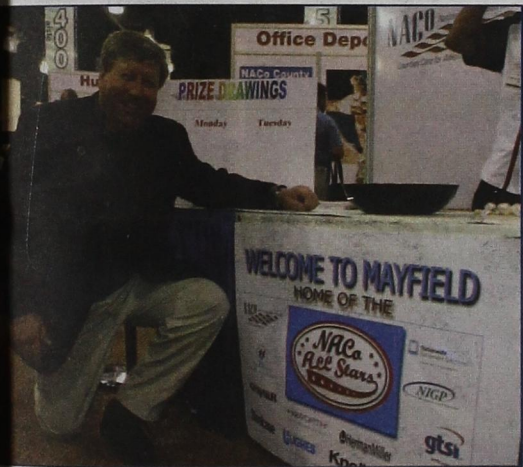


Monday afternoon workshop, Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy Baca discusses the important roles sheriffs and county commissioners must play in the ongoing dilemma of diverting the mentally ill from

David Plyler, vice chairman, Forsyth County (N.C.) Board of Commissioners, tells delegates that he is withdrawing from the election for NACo Second Vice President.



Frank Abagnale signs copies of the book based on his life, *Catch Me If You Can*, at NACo's Bookstore.



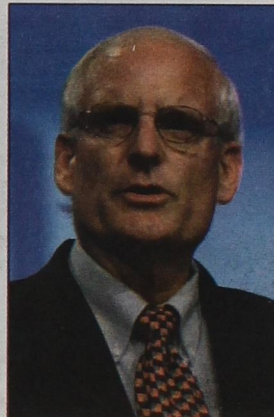
(Left) NACo President Ken Mayfield checks out his namesake – "MayField" – at the entrance to NACo's Financial Services Center ball park in the Exhibit Hall.



(Right) Mark Wisniewski (l) and Richard Kessler, Kenosha County, Wis., check out the day's schedule.



(Left) Ruth Forney, supervisor, Solano County, Calif., and Connie Thomson Carter (on right), Lake County, Ill. Board member, scan a vendor in the Exhibit Hall.

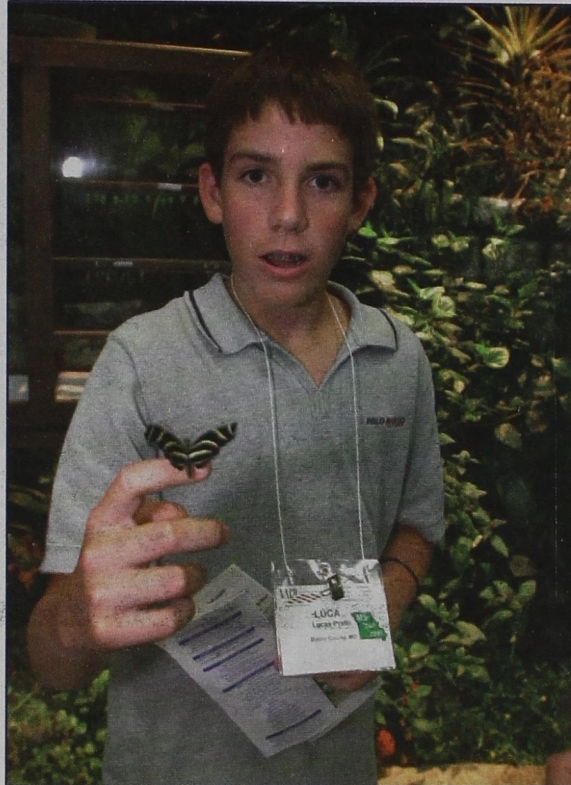


(Right) NACo Second Vice President Bill Hansell, commissioner, Umatilla County, Ore., introduces C. Kent Conine, president of the National Association of Home Builders, to the delegates at the general session on Monday, July 14.

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Kids of all ages, including Reed Madden, commissioner, Greene County, Ohio, took advantage of free rides on the merry-go-round at the conference-wide event at the Milwaukee County Zoo.



Butterflies are free ... well at least they were free-ranging at a special exhibit at the Milwaukee County Zoo, where Lucas Prater got to see some of the butterflies, including this zebra butterfly, first hand during the conference-wide event.



Linda Langston, supervisor of Greene County, Iowa, gets up close and personal with a postman butterfly exhibit during the conference event at the Milwaukee County Zoo on July 14.



Well, it wasn't Royal Asa, but Mary Ann Lumpkins, supervisor of Greene County, N.C., took full advantage of the situation to create a new chapeau with an owl butterfly as a special exhibit at the Milwaukee County Zoo during the conference-wide event.



Nothing can upstage a conference like a circus parade. The annual Great Circus Parade through the heart of downtown Milwaukee Sunday afternoon may have caused a lot of conference schedule reshuffling, but it also proved to be one of the highlights of the delegates' visit to the city.



How can anyone not like popcorn when even the geese at the Milwaukee County Zoo like it, as Sandra Arsenault, supervisor of Marquette County, N.C., found out when she offered some to a wandering Canada goose at the conference-wide event.

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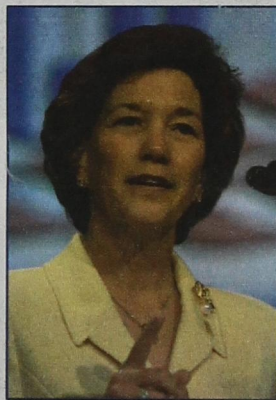


Photo by Tom Goodman

Pretty much takes the whole village — it seems — to help build a home for Milwaukee resident Shenika Jackson, and her three children. The NACo crew, pictured here, joined Habitat for Humanity, Freddie Mac and the National Association for County Community and Economic Development to help construct the Habitat for Humanity house on July 10.



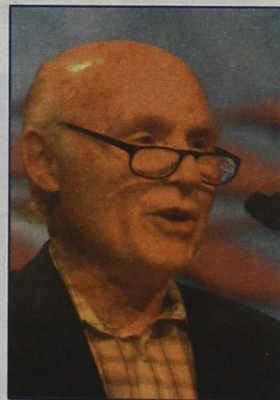
Karen Miller prepares to be sworn in as NACo president by former Missouri Gov. Roger B. Wilson.



Catherine Whatley, president of the National Association of Realtors (NAR), addresses the delegates about the program NAR and NACo are working on to provide affordable housing.



Ken Mayfield (second from left) passes the presidential badge to Karen Miller. Also present are (l-r) NACo Immediate Past President Betty Lou Ward, First Vice President Angelo Kyle, Second Vice President Bill Hansell, and newly elected committee member Colleen Landkamer.



Sen. Herb Kohl (D-Wis.) also stopped by the Opening General Session to welcome delegates to his home state.

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Karen Miller threw a '50s-style Sock Hop to celebrate her inauguration as NACo's new president. Helping her celebrate — in costume — are Ray Brown, Caddo Parish, La. commissioner, and his wife, Kay.



President Miller "hogs" the spotlight as she arrives at her inaugural event.



Four-year-old Lauren Ernest, granddaughter of Betty Knight, Platte County, Mo. commissioner, does the Twist, poodle skirt and all.



Remember those crinoline skirts? Ann Fink, wife of Dennis Fink, St. Louis County, Minn. Commissioner; Amy Wilde, Meeker County, Minn. commissioner; and Bev Wangerin, McLeod County, Minn. commissioner show off their '50s attire, complete with crinolines.