

Capturing Columbus



John O'Grady, Franklin County, Ohio Board president, welcomes attendees to NACo's Annual Conference at the Opening General Session. Franklin County hosted the conference, held in Columbus.



NACo President Bryan Desloge prepares to put one over home plate July 21 in the ceremonial first pitch at NACo Night at the Ballpark at Huntington Park.

Nancy Jackson, Arapahoe County, Colo. questions presenters at the Stepping Up Summit Part One: Identifying People with Mental Illness in Your Jails.



NACo's Alana Hurley helps Lew Gaiter III of Larimer County, Colo., at the Annual Conference registration desk.



Images by David Hathcox unless noted

Franklin County rolled out the carpet for NACo



Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio) talks about the importance of partnerships with members of the Community, Economic and Workforce Development Policy Steering Committee.



NACo volunteers show off their work stuffing bags for patients at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Photo By Leon Lawrence III



Roy Charles Brooks presents a commemorative paddle to outgoing NACo President Bryan Desloge, an avid kayaker.



Mark Owens of Harney County, Ore. and Mike McArthur, Oregon Association of Counties executive director, listen to a presentation by Ted Boling, Council on Environmental Quality, at the Western Interstate Region Board of Directors meeting.



Derek Young, Pierce County, Wash., speaks at a meeting July 22 about improving water quality as Martha Shrader, Clackamas County, Ore. (left) and Carol Contrada, Lucas County, Ohio, look on. The three took part in the Resilient Counties meeting at the Annual Conference. Photo By Leon Lawrence III



Maui County Councilmember Riki Hokama, former NACo president, greets golf legend Jack Nicklaus July 21 at a VIP reception on the first night of NACo's annual conference.



'Orange Is the New Black' author Piper Kerman signs a book for Diana Crabtree, Portsmouth, Ohio, as Cynthia Moses-Nedd, Bureau of Land Management liaison to NACo, readies for her turn.



Michael Daniels, justice policy coordinator, Franklin County, Ohio discusses LGBT issues along with fellow panelist, Penny Perry, chief deputy, Franklin County Corrections Division.



Sarah Lowman, DHS-U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, offers her perspective during the Q&A session at a workshop on serving immigrant populations. Photo By Leon Lawrence III



Chip LaMarca, chair, Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee, adjusts the mic before presenting policy resolutions to the membership for approval.



What state did you say you guys are from again? Hawai'i's Ikaika Anderson, Honolulu County; Dru Mamo Kanuha, Hawi'i County and Mel Rapozo, Kaua'i County.



NACo Past President Chris Rodgers comments during the Board Forum discussion on strategic planning for NACo. Photo by Hugh Clarke



Gay Gilbert, administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance at the Labor Department, speaks July 21 to the Community, Economic and Workforce Development Policy Steering Committee. By Leon Lawrence III



Members of the Transportation Steering Committee gather July 21 to discuss “Bridge Building: Doing More With Less,” at NACo’s Annual Conference.



J.P. Ducro, Ashtabula County, Ohio testifies to his county’s experience at the Opioid Town Hall.



Theodore A. “Tab” Brown, chief, Planning and Policy Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, speaks July 21 to members of the Environment, Energy and Land Use Policy Steering Committee.

By Leon Lawrence III



Cass County, N.D. Auditor Michael Montplaisir relates his experience with citizen engagement at the workshop, “How to Gain Citizen Buy-In” as fellow panelists Verdenia Baker, county administrator, Palm Beach County, Fla. and Karl Keith, county auditor, Montgomery County, Ohio await their turn at the mic.



Eli Parks, 8-year-old son of Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County, Fla., scoots through the expo hall.



Heather Carruthers, Monroe County, Fla., kicks off the Opening General Session by singing the national anthem.



First-time attendees (l) Gregory Adams, DeKalb County, Ga. and James Jones, Chatham County, Ga. take it all in during the presentations at the Aetna Healthy Counties breakfast. The presentations focused on the public health challenges of the opioid epidemic.



Trevor Fuller of Mecklenburg County, N.C. speaks at a panel discussion July 22 at the Healthy Counties Early Childhood Lunch Summit. Photo By Hugh Clarke



Larry Suckla, Montezuma County, Colo., asks a question July 21 at the Public Lands Policy Steering Committee meeting. Photo By Leon Lawrence III



Tim McCormick, (back to camera), chair, NACo's Membership Committee, welcomes first-time attendees to a breakfast in their honor.



Roy Charles Brooks swears in NACo's new executive team: First Vice President Greg Cox, Second Vice President Mary Ann Borgeson and Immediate Past President Bryan Desloge.



An exhibitor speaks in County Talks Theater in the Exhibition Hall. County Talks sessions were presentations about new products and services that could benefit counties. Photo by Leon Lawrence III



Wyoming commissioners move between committee meetings and workshops and have a few laughs along the way. From left: Forrest Chadwick, Natrona County; Matt Avery, Campbell County; Joel Bousman, Sublette County and Loren Grosskopf, Park County.



Heather Post, Volusia County, Fla., engages in a discussion about fake news at a workshop exploring county communications.



Mary Ann Borgeson, Douglas County, Neb., and NACo's new second vice president, heads to the stage to give her acceptance speech after thanking Larry Dix, executive director of the Nebraska Association of County Officials, for his remarks about her at the Annual Conference.



Cook County, Minn. Commissioner Ginny Storlie (left) chats with Granville County, N.C. Commissioner Sue Hinman at the First Time Attendees Breakfast. Participants learned how to make the most of the conference, in a talk by NACo ambassadors.



Incoming NACo President Roy Charles Brooks shows off his custom presidential gavel, presented by Alisha Bell, NABCO president. Brooks is a past NABCO president. Photo by Leon Lawrence III



Roy Charles Brooks delivers his inaugural speech to the Closing General Session audience. He is the second NACo president from Tarrant County, Texas in eight years.



Roy Charles Brooks is sworn into office as NACo's president by his daughter, Royce. Looking on are his wife, Dr. Jennifer Giddings Brooks and their son, Marlon.



Mary Biggs, Montgomery County, Va., and George Dodge, Guadalupe County, N.M., practice their leadership skills at an exercise during the workshop, The Effective County Leader.



Karen R. Toles, Prince George's County, Md., listens to a panelist at the Healthy Counties breakfast, sponsored by Aetna. Panel members discussed the opioid epidemic's impact on public health.



Tim Quinn, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, outlines his agency's priorities during the Immigration Reform Task Force meeting. Also on the panel with him are (l) Enforcement Field Director Rebecca Adducci and Stephanie Reither, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The Winners



Congratulations to the Arts and Culture award winners shown here with members of NACo's Arts and Culture Commission. From left: Jerry Red, St. Landry Parish, La., Arts and Culture Commission vice chair; Jay Dick, Arts and Culture Commission member; Don Brown, executive director, Franklin County, Ohio Convention Facilities Authority; NACo President Bryan Desloge; Randy Maluchnik, Carver County, Minn., Arts and Culture Commission vice chair; Renee Price, Orange County, N.C., Arts and Culture Commission vice chair; Kay Cashion, Guilford County, N.C., Arts and Culture Commission chair; and Shelley Taub, Oakland County, Mich., Arts and Culture Commission vice chair.



Jefferson County, Kan., Commissioner Richard Malm (left) receives the Member Recruiter of the Year Award from Ohio County, W. Va. Commissioner Tim McCormick, who chairs NACo's Membership Standing Committee.



The Achievement Award Best in Category for Health is awarded by Arlandis Rush, AETNA vice president (second from left) to San Bernardino County for its Everyone Swims program. Accepting for the county are Geoffrey Canty and Thomas Sone. Also pictured (l) NACo President Bryan Desloge.



This year's Financial Services Center's appreciation awards — customized NACo-FCS bikes — went to (l): County Commissioners Association of Ohio Executive Director Suzanne Dulaney; Association of Minnesota Counties Executive Director Julie Ring; and Association of Indiana Counties Executive Director David Bottorff and Ryan Hoff, director of government affairs.



Seen here: Quentin Bruce, CH2M Presidential Scholarship winner, with his check and NACo President Bryan Desloge (l) and Dalen Harris, CH2M midwest director government relations. Harris presented the check to Bruce.



Smiling bright for the camera, representatives from 15 counties show off their SolSmart awards during the Resilient Counties Forum. SolSmart designations recognize jurisdictions that encourage and facilitate the rapid adoption of solar-based energy systems.

Photo by Leon Lawrence III



Davenport Presidential Scholarship winner Turiq Bruce shows off his scholarship award presented by Bill Jaisen (r), Financial Services Center executive chairman, with NACo President Bryan Desloge.



The second Aspire Award went to Miami-Dade County, Fla. Pictured here are NACo First Vice President Roy Charles Brooks; Lisa Charbarneau, chair, NACo Defined Contribution and Retirement Advisory Committee, Aspire winner, Sally Heyman, accepting the award for Miami-Dade; and Eric Stevenson, Nationwide Retirement Solutions.



The Aspire Award recognizes and honors counties that substantially promote county employee retirement savings. Seen here are (l-r): NACo First Vice President Roy Charles Brooks; Lisa Charbarneau, chair, NACo Defined Contribution and Retirement Advisory Committee; Melissa McKinlay, Palm Beach County, Fla. accepting the award on behalf of Aspire winner Walton County, Fla.; and Eric Stevenson, Nationwide Retirement Solutions, who presented the award.



Coconino County, Ariz.'s Diversity and Inclusion Program was chosen for the 100 Brilliant Ideas initiative, launched by NACo President Bryan Desloge (right) during his term. Accepting the award for the county (from left) are Jim Parks and Sarah Benatar.