



SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTY NEWS

The mission of SDACO is to promote effective and efficient county government for the citizens of South Dakota

What Counties Can Do To Better Educate Students About County Government

By: Jada Athey, 2009 County Government Scholarship Winner

When educating today's youth about the importance of county government it is important that counties inform students of the functions and responsibilities of this branch of government. The role of county government is to deal with the matters concerning its citizens such as taxing, recording, financing, and maintenance at each department. Students should realize the huge responsibility each office carries throughout the ordinary business day. Students also need to be more informed of the programs and services that are available to them at the county level. Not only the programs they can benefit from but also ways they can aid in the success of these programs. Important services include the county health office along with social services such as the ICAP program and food pantry. These programs have the potential to benefit all citizens in the community especially those who are disabled or elderly or even those who are having financial hardship.

To achieve the goal of educating students about their local county government, action must be taken. Implementing programs to include students in the function of government is key. In order for students to take action and get involved, programs must be implemented to include them, such as Student Government Day.

Student Government Day would include a mock election of county officials. Before elections, each

student would have to know and understand each position they are voting for. Each student would have to be educated in the workings of the office they are campaigning for. It would also be beneficial to take a tour of the courthouse and see firsthand the responsibilities of each county office and its importance. Attendance at commissioners meetings would also be another way to show students the many decisions that arise in the process of maintaining our county.

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President's Corner



I hope this finds everyone well and ready for a great summer!

I had the opportunity to travel to Washington , DC with Eric and Bob to attend the National Council of County Association Executive's Presidents & Executive Directors Meeting. What a great experience! As expected, Eric and Bob were great hosts. I can't thank them enough for making the trip so incredible. The NACo Staff was so friendly and helpful. What a great bunch of individuals we have working for us in Washington , DC. I really appreciated John Thune's Staff welcoming us and taking us on a staff lead tour of the Capitol. It became quite obvious that Eric has already gained great respect with many people across the country. We are very fortunate to have him working for us. And I hope that each of you, if you haven't already, have the opportunity to visit our nation's capitol. What an amazing city and unbelievable history! Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to visit!

One thing that became apparent throughout the course of the meetings is that our association needs to take a proactive stance. By this I mean that we each need to take an active part in looking at the future of our positions and duties and try to best determine where the future is taking us. This will enable us as an association to be paving the way to change rather than playing defense, as is often the case. We can be proactive, rather than reactive. I would encourage you each to make a commitment to the association and ask yourself where you see changes coming and how we can best handle these changes. Participating in this is in our individual best interests as well as in the best interests of our tax payers. I believe you will be amazed how helpful this will be. Please email your thoughts and ideas to Eric or me. Your participation

will be greatly appreciated. Please continue to do this on a regular basis. *"I am a member of a team, and I rely on the team, I defer to it and sacrifice for it, because the team, not the individual, is the ultimate champion."* Mia Hamm , U.S. Women's National Soccer Team

Our association has accomplished many things and I believe we all have our taxpayers' best interests at heart. I also believe that being a member of an association is a lot like being a member of a family. We are going to have our good times and our struggles. When everyone works together, things run much more smoothly. And I am so hopeful, as I have said before, that we can keep our momentum going. I'm including a picture of my family to show you my home team. (And to show you why my vehicle often times looks like it is lived in!) As in most families, not everyone is happy all of the time. I have pictures from that same cold December day to prove that but will spare you!

We wish all of you and your families, happiness and healthiness!

Caryn, Ashley, Mark, Mikenna & Matthew

Calling all Vocalists...

McPherson County Auditor
Steve Serr will be directing the
County Choir during the 2009
County Convention.

Please contact the SDACO
or SDACC office if you would
like to participate in the choir.

From the Executive Director



SDACO Executive Director
Eric Erickson

Greetings!

I have recently returned from serving as a councilor at South Dakota Boys State. It is always a great reminder of the future that is possible for the state. It is also a great reminder on how quickly things change.

It was 11 years ago that I was a Boys State citizen. In those 11 years significant changes

have happened. When I attended Boys State I did not have a cell phone, email account, and the future founder of Facebook did not have a drivers license yet.

I bring this up as I wonder what the world will look like 5, 10 and 20 years from now. What will counties in South Dakota look like? How will they be managed? What will the responsibilities of the auditor, treasurer, and register of deeds entail?

This summer we will ask you to please complete a comprehensive survey of what services you provide

and how you provide them. Finding out where we are is the first step in positioning ourselves for the future.

The mission of the SDACO is "To promote effective and efficient county government for the citizens of South Dakota." We need to take a look at the future and determine how our offices can provide the best service possible to the citizens of South Dakota. We must ensure that we are a part of the discussion on how the state should move forward. As Brookings County Commissioner Don Larson often says, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu."

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance. I Enjoy the summer!

The South Dakota County News is published bi-monthly to provide education and information to our members and to the public by the South Dakota Association of County Officials 300 E Capitol Ave., Suite 2, Pierre, SD 57501

The appearance of advertising in this publication in no way implies endorsement or approval by SDACO of any advertising claims of the advertiser, its product, or services.

We want your ideas!

We have begun the process of reformatting the *South Dakota County News* and the updating the information on the association website www.sdcounties.org.

Please let us know the information you would like included in future newsletters and on the website!

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2009 SDACO County Government Scholarship Update

The South Dakota Association of County Officials County Government Scholarship is doing quite well due to the work and participation of many officials in fundraising. A special thank you to the members of the Scholarship Committee, Shellie Baumgart for donating the quilt which was raffled off, those who donated and bid on items during the silent auction, and those who sold raffle tickets.

A special appreciation is also due to those who have made gifts to the scholarship endowment in memorial for individuals. We received the following gifts during Spring Workshop:

Patty McGee donated \$200 in memory of her son Brad McGee.

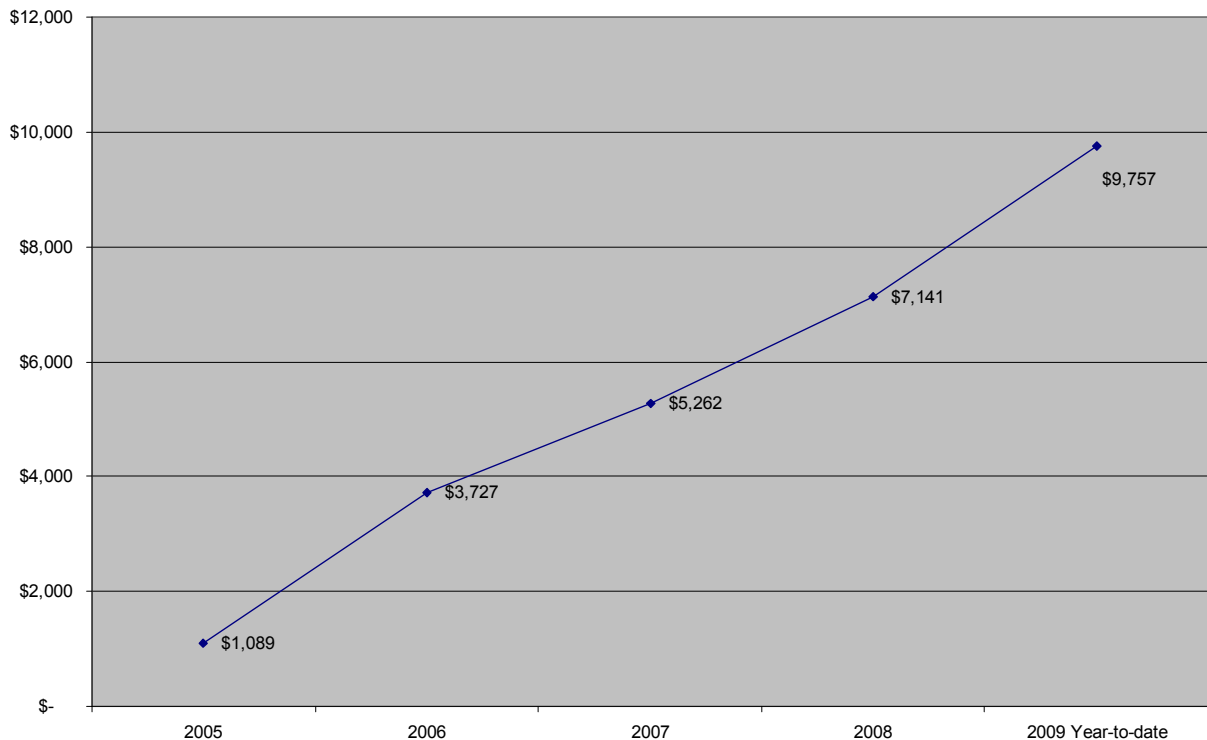
Kathleen Flakus donated \$250 in memory of her husband Larry Flakus.

The amount of money raised at Spring Workshop is truly amazing. Here is a rundown of the money raised:

Memorial gifts	\$ 450.00
Silent Auction	\$1,020.00
<u>Quilt raffle</u>	<u>\$1,146.00</u>
Total Raised	\$2,616.00

Below is a chart of how our SDACO Scholarship Endowment has grown. We will also raise additional funds during the SD Counties Convention in September.

SDACO Scholarship Endowment



2009 SDACO County Government Scholarship Awarded



The South Dakota Association of County Officials has awarded the 2009 County Government Scholarship to Jada Athey of Milbank. Jada is a 2008 graduate of Milbank High School who will enter her sophomore year at South Dakota State University this fall. Jada is the granddaughter of Grant County Deputy Treasurer Marilyn Rethke.

ning a statewide contest with her essay “*What counties can do to better educate students about county government*” which can be found on the next page.

Each year the South Dakota Association of County Officials awards a \$500 scholarship to the child or grandchild of a county auditor, treasurer, register of deeds or their employees’ children or grandchildren. The recipient must be at least a second year registered full-time students in a South Dakota university, college, or vocational program. Association members hold various fundraisers throughout the year to raise the scholarship funds.

Jada is awarded the scholarship after win-



NACo Board of Directors Approve Changes to Governance Structure

By Tom Goodman, NACo Public Affairs Director

The NACo Board of Directors, meeting at the Western Interstate Regions Conference in Umatilla County, Ore. May 21, made significant changes in the association’s governance structure, approved a dental discount program, and chose three sites for future Annual Conferences.

The changes in the governance structure included reducing the number of elected officers from five to four and adding four regional representatives to the NACo Executive Committee. The changes, which were recommended by the NACo Task Force on Governance and Structure offer a nine-month review, also included guidelines for the election of officers.

Some of the 11 recommendations can be implemented immediately. Others require amending the bylaws and must be approved by the NACo membership in a vote at the Annual Conference.

The three sites chosen for future Annual Confer-

ences are Tarrant County (Ft. Worth), Texas for 2013; Orleans Parish (New Orleans), LA. for 2014; and Mecklenburg County (Charlotte), N.C. for 2015.

Learn more about the governance changes, future conferences and the new dental discount program at www.naco.org.

South Dakota representation on the NACo Board of Directors

Don Larson

Brookings County Commissioner

dlarson@brookingscountysd.gov

Nancy Hansen

Brown County Commissioner

nancyh@nvc.net

Angela Ross Prepares for Retirement



Angela Ross

Angela Ross will retire June 30th after serving the citizens of Meade County 33 years and 2 months in the Register of Deeds office.

My favorite part about being Register of Deeds is helping the public. I loved working

with them and looking things up. I just loved it when I found someone's great-great grandfather's patent.

I should write a book about all the changes, marriage licenses, etc. When I started, I typed on a manual typewriter, then electric, then computers. We went from making the books, filming and making our microfiche to scanning our documents. I have been through many changes. I have made some very good friends from the rally from England and Germany and they come back and see me every two years.

I have four deputies that work for me and they are the greatest. I never had to worry about the office when I went to workshop, convention or vacation. They made my job easy.

My plans are to quilt, crochet, knit, cross-stitch and whatever. I teach a class on Wednesdays and my group is called Happy Hookers (Crochet Hook) that is. We do plan on going to visit our kids in Denver more often than we do now. We miss seeing our two grandchildren in Denver. We also have a granddaughter in Sturgis that we will get to spend more time with. We don't plan on doing much traveling, I guess we are homebodies.

I think I work with the best people in SD. Everyone is so friendly and very helpful. My first convention was in Pierre and all the Register of Deeds made me feel I belonged with the group. I have very good memories and loved working with all the officials. I will miss all of you.

What Counties Can Do To Better Educate Students About County Government (continued from the front page)

Involvement of students in politics is essential for the future of our county and decisions that are made within it. Democracy cannot survive without youth involvement. Much action is taken to show the students how important it is to vote, but sometimes it is only at the national level rather than close to home. Staying active in the county government will create less issues at the state level if handled by individual counties.

Other ways to get youth and students involved is to let them experience it first-hand. At the state level, students are given the opportunity to become a legislative page, helping senators and representatives with their everyday tasks. A similar program at the county level could be implemented to give students a brief look at the tasks and responsibilities of various county officials. Also, getting to meet and talk with county office holders at school, for instance in a question and answer period. Talking with local

officials will give students a better understanding and perhaps spark an interest in a career field or show them places they can be of service. Rather than taking trips to zoos and other entertainment spots, schools should be required to show students something they can benefit from. Places of interest could be to the county highway department, the sheriff's office, county health nurse, and county auditor to name a few. Important decisions are made within the county and in order for this to continue, youth must have the knowledge of what is taking place at each and every branch of government.

Educating the youth about our county government is essential. The fresh ideas given will start the movement towards sparking the youths' interest. Besides, the youth will be deciding upon the problems that will arise in the future and *the youth is our future*.

Frances Larsen Prepares to Retire



Frances Larsen

Custer County.

Frances was first elected in 1983. She has been a life-long resident of Custer County. She has enjoyed serving the public and has made many friends, most of them she has known all of her life. Frances has enjoyed being part of the history of Custer County and assisting with historical research. The methods of research have developed over the years from frontier days when everything was hand recorded, then filming documents and providing copies electronically, to digitally scanning documents to computers which made recording and copying documents for the public much easier.

Frances Larsen has many accomplishments to her credit. She was instrumental in developing "same day turn around" on all documents. The new "Scanfile System" has made remarkable changes in the operation of the Register of Deeds Office. She credits a lot of changes to the motivation of five (5) remarkable deputies during her 30 plus years as Register of Deeds.

Frances is highly regarded for her many contributions and support for the Beacon Website development for Custer County. Her library skills were exceptionally valuable researching the data needed from the Register of Deed's Office.

Frances served on the South Dakota Association of County Officials (SDACO) as its 2nd Vice President and Group Leader before they had a Director of the Association. She served as a SDACO board member. Her greatest privilege was to know the many elected officials statewide, many of whom have become life-long friends and mentors. Frances was a committee member to honor Governor George Mickelson after he lost his life in an airplane crash. A Chapel in the Youth

Forestry Camp in Custer State Park was built to honor him.

Frances has been a member of the Custer County Republican Central Committee as an elected official and State Committee Woman. She was a charter member of the Custer County Republican Women. Frances served as Custer County Republican Women's president and program chairperson. She enjoyed having tea at the "old" Governor's Mansion. She sat in on legislative committees during session supporting legislation for counties.

Frances has also served in many other organizations. She was the 1st Chairperson for the Custer "After 5" organization sponsored by "Stone Craft Ministries for Christian Business Women". She served 11 years as a 4-H Leader. Church member of Liberty Baptist Tabernacle for 22 plus years. She was the Treasurer for many years for Southern Hills friends of N.R.A.

One of Frances's many favorite songs describes how she feels about her career as the Register of Deeds (I am a Patriot): "This Is My Country" the "GRANDEST ON EARTH". Her favorite Christian Music includes "Beulah Land". Favorite opera: "Phantom of the Opera". Last book read: "Never Surrender" by William Boykin. Favorite President: Ronald Reagan.

Frances says two things dominate her life, Dannie and her faith. The Power of Prayer, the first time she had to speak in public was at a candidate forum. She prayed, "Lord, if you want me in this position, you are going to need to supply me with all the words". And HE did! She says she has not been at a loss for words since, as many of you know. Her favorite Bible Verse: Isaiah: 43:16.

Secondly, she is looking forward to retiring at their ranch, listed on the register of historical places. She is reminded of the saying, "Every rancher needs a wife who has a job in the Courthouse". She says, [Well, I guess that will change-huh?] She will miss everyone, "one and all", and wishes everyone the best and "May God Bless".

Submitted by Loren W. Cofell

Are County Investments Safe?

By Deene Dayton

With today's market in a turmoil, is each county comfortable with how their investments are sitting?

County investments start with a well grounded investment policy that is required by SDCL 4-5-8. Have you recently reviewed your county's policy to ensure that it fits today's investment practices?

Some of the areas that are relevant to an investment policy are, A. types of investments, B. where to invest, C. interest earned, D. who does the investing, E. pledging collateral, F. periodic reports from the treasurer, and, G. specific investment strategies.

For those counties that invest in mutual funds and government backed securities, their investment policy should also consider credit risk, custodial credit risk, concentration and interest rate risk.

Are you diversified? Do you have all your eggs in one basket? Will cash be available when needed (laddering)? Are you chasing rates? Higher rates mean higher risks. Have you checked the DLA website for banks that have not sufficiently pledged collateral?

Some recent tools in the investment arena are CDARS and sweep accounts. Make sure that you fully understand the pros, cons and risks of any investment before participating.

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Surplus Office Equipment

Codington County is disposing of the following equipment. These are older items currently in working condition. Please contact the Codington County Auditor at 882-6297 for additional information on the following items:

Pitney Bowes, Model 3324, Burster
Purchased used in 1996

Epson DFX-8500, dot matrix, heavy duty,
printer (w/stand)
Purchased in 1999

Please contact the SDACO office if you would like to include surplus equipment in future issues of the SD County News.

Get involved in the SDACO!!

The following positions will be open for election or appointment at the SD Counties Convention this September in Watertown.

SDACO Executive Board – Please contact the Nominating Committee

2nd Vice President (Register of Deeds)

Secretary/Treasurer (2-year term)

Treasurer At-Large Position (3-year term)

Register of Deeds At-Large Position (3-year term)

Nominating Committee – Please contact the Nominating Committee

Register of Deeds Position (3-year term)

Continuing Education Committee – Elected during Round Tables at Convention

Register of Deeds Position (2-year term)

Treasurer Position (2-year term)

Auditor Position (2-year term)

Register of Deeds Position (3-year term)

Treasurer Position (3-year term)

Auditor Position (3-year term)

By-Laws Committee - Contact SDACO 1st Vice President Dawn McLaughlin

Register of Deeds Position (3-year term)

Resolution Committee - Contact SDACO 1st Vice President Dawn McLaughlin

Register of Deeds Position (3-year term)*

Treasurer Position (3-year term)*

Auditor Position (3-year term)*

***Applicants must be from the James River District, Southeast District, or Lake District.**

Public Relations Committee - Contact SDACO 1st Vice President Dawn McLaughlin

Register of Deeds Position

Treasurer Position

Auditor Position

Scholarship Committee - Contact SDACO 1st Vice President Dawn McLaughlin

Auditor Position (3-year term)

Summer Events in South Dakota Counties!!

June

- June 26-27th—Calvary Days in Sturgis
- June 26th-28th—Annual Farley Fest www.farleyfest.com
- June 27th—Extreme Ranch Bull Riding event, 3 miles south of Armour

July

- July 3rd-5th—125th Celebration in Leola
- July 4th @ 2:00—4th of July Parade in Watertown
- July 17th-18th—4th Annual Kampeska Wing Fling @ Stokes-Thomas City Park in Watertown
- July 29th-August 1st—Fall River County Fair
- July 30th-August 1st— Union County Fair
- July 31st-August 1st— Haakon/Jackson County Fair

August

- August 1st-2nd—7th Annual Riverside Park Days in Flandreau
- August 3rd—Mellette County Horse Show
- August 5th-7th-Bennett County Fair, Rodeo & PowWow in Martin
- August 6th-9th— Sully County Fair in Onida
- August 7th-9th-Corson County Fair in McIntosh
- August 8th-11th-Potter County Fair in Gettysburg
- August 8th-9th—Redlin Arts Center's Annual Summer Celebration in Watertown
- August 11th-16th-Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls
- August 12th-15th-Lawrence/Butter County Fair in Nisland
- August 13th-15th— Todd County Fair in Mission
- August 14-16th—Annual Frontier Days Rodeo in White River
- August 17th-20th— Turner County Fair in Parker
- August 17th-23rd-Brown County Fair in Aberdeen
- August 21-30th-Central States Fair in Rapid City
- August 26th-30th-Corn Palace Festival in Mitchell

Save the Date!

The Annual Fall Convention
is scheduled for September
21 - 23, 2009 at the Best
Western Ramkota in
Watertown, South Dakota.

**JUNE
SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS**

- **June 24th-25th - Welfare Officials Workshop**

June 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Welfare Officials	25 Welfare Officials	26	27
28	29	30				

**JULY
SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS**

- **July 16th— James River Valley District Meeting**
- **July 16th — Upper Missouri Valley District Meeting**
- **July 24-29th— NACo Annual Conference in Nashville, TN**

July 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 District Meetings	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
					NACo Annual Conference	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
NACo Annual Conference						

**AUGUST
SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS**

- **August 1st— Resolutions are due in the SDACO office.**
- **August 10th-11th— SDACO Executive Board Meeting**
- **August 15th- Continuing Education Forms due.**

August 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Resolutions Due
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Executive Board	11 Executive Board	12	13	14	15 Continuing Education Forms Due
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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Hughes Co. Finance Officer

Julie Risty
Minnehaha Co. Reg. of Deeds

Dawn McLaughlin, 1st Vice Pres
Custer Co. Treasurer

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Deuel Co. Auditor

Myron Hertel
Union Co. Treasurer

Karen Layher 2nd Vice Pres
Grant County Auditor

Lisa Schieffer
Meade Co. Auditor

Julie Herrboldt
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Paula Feucht, Sec. / Treasurer
Lincoln Co. Auditor

Doreen Priebe
Brule Co. Treasurer

Julie Pearson, Parliamentarian
Pennington Co. Auditor

2008-2009 SDACO Committees

Continuing Education Committee (elected)

John Hilgemann, Chair
McPherson Co. Reg. of Deeds

Geralyn Sherman
McCook Co. Auditor

Marla Liggett
Tripp Co. Treasurer

Kathy Glines
Harding Co. Auditor

Brian Hunhoff
Yankton Co. Reg. of Deeds

Carol Sundall
Lyman County Treasurer

Pam Lynde
Board Liaison

Re-organization & By-Laws Committee (Appointed)

Sheila Coss, Chair
Hand Co. ROD

Sue Roust
Minnehaha Co. Auditor

Debbie Eggert
Miner Co. Treasurer

Myron Hertel
Board Liaison

Resolutions Committee (appointed)

Cindy Schultz, Chair
Spink Co. Auditor

Jeanie Simonsen
Hutchinson Co. ROD

Deb Wooley
Roberts Co. Treasurer

Deb Tridle
Lawrence Co. Treasurer

Bev Stoesser
Stanley Co. Reg. of Deeds

Susan Urban
Aurora Co. Auditor

Louise Flisram
Tripp/Todd ROD

Donna Breitag
McPherson Co. Treasurer

Julie Herrboldt
Board Liaison

State Board of Elections Delegates (nominated)

Paula Jones
Yankton Co. Auditor

Karen Layher
Grant Co. Auditor

Public Relations (appointed)

Ann Rasmussen, Chair
Codington Co. ROD

Sara Grimm
Gregory Co. Treasurer

Susan Kiepke
Davison Co. Auditor

Carina Fuehrer
Campbell Co. ROD

Sue Ganje
Fall River/Shannon Auditor

Audrey Lembke
Kingsbury Co. Treasurer

Doreen Priebe
Board Liaison

Nominating Committee (elected)

Terri Volmer, Chair
Jones Co. ROD

Deb Turner
Lincoln Co. Treasurer

Sheila Hagemann
Turner Co. Auditor

Lisa Schieffer
Board Liaison

Scholarship Committee (appointed)

Carol Klumper, Chair
Union Co. Auditor

Janet Saylor
Pennington Co. Treasurer

Connie Konrad
Hyde Co. ROD

Julie Risty
Board Liaison

SDACO Staff

Eric Erickson
Executive Director

Janell Brochu
Administrative Assistant

Nicole Ogan
County Websites

Ryan Ogan
Information Technology

Ben Kleinjan
Summer Intern

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