

South Dakota County News

South Dakota
Association
of County Officials



October 2010

The mission of the South Dakota Association of County Officials is to promote effective and efficient county government for the citizens of South Dakota. SDACO members fulfill our mission by continually extending the services they offer to the public and increasing their knowledge of South Dakota county issues. This publication of the *South Dakota County News* is dedicated to the county officials who have volunteered their time and effort to make a positive impact for South Dakota Counties.

SDACO Certified Officials

The SDACO Continuing Education Program serves as an informational tool for South Dakota Elected officials. Officials certified through the program have dedicated their time to ongoing learning opportunities in their community, around the state, and even throughout the country. Over 130 elected officials have certified with the SDACO Continuing Education Program, and the SDACO continues to strive to offer advanced learning opportunities.

SDACO Executive Board and Committees

Committees are essential in the continued success of the association. Some of our standing committees have already begun their work, and SDACO members will continue to see the benefits of their effort. We would like to recognize new Executive Board and Committee members. Over the next few months we will update you on the activities and goals for each of the SDACO Committees.

Thank you to all South Dakota elected officials who improve their skills through continuing education and service on many SDACO and community committees.

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The *South Dakota County News* is published bi-monthly to provide education and information to our members and to the public from the South Dakota Association of County Officials

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President's Corner: Karen Layher, Grant Co. Auditor.



I love this weather! These last two weeks have been great and I know the farmers are very thankful as they bring in the harvest.

I hope you enjoyed the convention and the educational sessions. I know some of the meeting rooms were uncomfortable and our last general session was long, but I want to say "thanks" for the good debate on the resolutions. I believe we can move forward in confidence knowing the ROD committee will perfect the resolution. I must give "kudos" to Carrie for her first convention. Well done! Also, I would like to extend a sincere appreciation to Bob and Kris for assisting Carrie as she came on board and your expertise in planning a great convention did not go unnoticed. I want to say a special thank you to Janell for all she has accomplished as a member of the SDACO team. All of us wish you the best as you begin a new journey.

I believe the number of vendors in attendance set a record. The vendors and sponsors are a vital part of our organization. On behalf of all the members of SDACO please accept a sincere thank you for your attendance at convention and for your donations. If anyone knows of someone who would like to become an associate member, please give Carrie or myself a call. New ideas for associate members are also welcome.

Now, I need your help. I am in need of a Register of Deeds to fill a spot on the Public Relations Committee for a three year term. Please email me if you are interested in helping out. I am sure my email box will be full! Next, due to the resignation of Marshall

County Auditor Julie Hagan who has accepted a new job (after election), there is a vacancy to be filled by an auditor on the Continuing Education Committee. The appointment would be a two year term. Again, please send me an email.

Finally, I would like to say "Well done!" to past president Dawn for her leadership and dedication in promoting our organization. I look forward to the year ahead as President, working with the executive board members and all of the officials in advancing the goals of SDACO. Thank you for the privilege of serving and if I can be of assistance to you please call me at 605-432-6711 or email me at karen.layher@state.sd.us

Wishing you a Happy Halloween!

Karen Layher



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

From Our Executive Director: Carrie Gonsor



Happy Halloween!

October is a fun month in South Dakota. Leaves are turning, hunting season begins and everyone is gearing up for winter. The SDACO office is remaining as busy as always as we too prepare for a few transitions .

SDACO would like to welcome all new Executive Board and Committee members. Participation in the SDACO will benefit both the official and the county, and we are looking forward to working with both new and experienced officials from around South Dakota. A list of the 2010-2011 SDACO Executive Board and Committees is located at the end of the newsletter.

The staff in the Pierre office will see another change in October. Janell Brochu, the SDACO Administrative Assistant for the past year and a half, will be leaving the office on October 29. The search for a new Administrative Assistant has begun and we will hopefully welcome a new staff member in early November. SDACO appreciates all of the hard work Janell has put in over the past year and a half and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

The National Council of County Association Executives is meeting in Salishan, OR, on October 20 to October 23. Bob Wilcox, Executive Director of SDACC, and I will travel to Oregon to learn new techniques for improving our organizations. During this trip, I will have the opportunity to meet association leaders from around the country and learn about county officials in South Dakota's surrounding states. I am looking forward to the trip and will hopefully have

fun and informational news to report in November.

SDACO is pleased to announce that advertisement space on the SDACO website is now available. Two Associate Members have already chosen to advertise online, with many more to come. The support of Associate Members is important to the ongoing operations of the SDACO. If you have a company that you believe would be interested in the SDACO Associate Member Program or advertising with SDACO, please let us know.

As always, we are here to serve you. Please contact SDACO at 224-1968 or sdaco@sdcounties.org if we can be of any assistance.

Attorneys At Law

Tellinghuisen & Gordon, P.C.

Roger Tellinghuisen
Brad Gordon
Eric Strawn

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tg@spearfishlaw.com

The SDACO Extends Continuing Educational Opportunities for Members

The SDACO is now offering webinar training sessions for all who wish to participate. [Webinars](#) are online seminars or presentations used to provide information about a subject you want to teach about. They can be interactive or not, and they can be presented live and then placed in archives for others to view later. Webinars allow you to listen when you desire, especially if it has been pre-recorded and you can watch at your convenience. The audience and presenters can simply participate from their desks or their home offices.

Several private and public organizations host webinars that are beneficial for both your office and your county. Check out the FREE webinars listed on the SDACO website, under the CEC Portal. Go to www.cec.sdcounties.org and click on Free Training or simply follow the link under each webinar listed below. Many webinars will count as credits for your SDACO Certification under the SDACO Certified County Officials Program!

The SDACO will also begin to offer South Dakota specific webinars. These webinars will be available to all who have registered under the Specialized Training section of the CEC Portal. For more information, call 605-224-1968.

Upcoming FREE Webinars: How Can Smart Growth Put Your County On a Path to a Green Economy?

Thursday, October 14, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EDT
Join this webinar to explore the innovative land use and design strategies available for promoting green economic development and develop comprehensive plans and building policies to create jobs and save money. To find more information about the

webinar and to register, go to <http://cec.sdcounties.org/category/free-training/>.

Brought to you by NACo.

Rural Counties & Health Reform: Opportunities for Improved Care Quality and Delivery

Tuesday, October 19, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EDT
Join this webinar to learn about provisions in the health reform law and initiatives that have the potential to improve the health of residents in rural counties. To register, click here. To find more information about the webinar and to register, go <http://cec.sdcounties.org/category/free-training/>.

Brought to you by NACo.

Justice for All: Effective County Juvenile Justice Efforts

Thursday, October 28, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EDT
Local youth reform efforts using the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) have maintained public safety while reducing youth detention and increasing savings for counties. Washoe County's JDAI team presents its successes and challenges for your consideration. To find more information about the webinar and to register, go to <http://cec.sdcounties.org/category/free-training/>.

Brought to you by NACo.

Simple Green IT Strategies to Save Your County Money and Protect Resources

Thursday, October 28, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EDT
Join this webinar to learn how to harness the IT resources that already exist within your county to save money and protect valuable county resources. To find more information about the webinar and to register, go to <http://cec.sdcounties.org/category/free-training/>.

Brought to you by NACo.

Congratulations Certified Officials

Congratulations Certified County Officials!

SDACO is pleased to announce that over 130 South Dakota elected officials have certified in the SDACO Continuing Education Program.

The SDACO Continuing Education Program is designed to increase the official's professional competency as a local leader and a public manager. County Officials certified through the SDACO Continuing education program continually strive to enhance the quality of services provided to the public and to maintain a personal and professional growth.

Certified officials must attend either Spring Workshop or the Annual Counties Convention, and fulfill at least 6 hours of elective credits. Each elective credit must be beneficial to the ongoing duties of an

elected county official. Supervisory Certified Officials have extended training in office management, employment law, and leadership training.

Pre-approved elective courses include sessions at workshops administered by the SD Secretary of State, SD Department of Legislative Audit, SD Department of Revenue and Regulation, SD Department of Health, SD Association of County Commissioners, SD Association of County Welfare Officials, Software User Meetings, SD Professional Land Surveyors' Association, International Right of Way Association, the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Association of County Record-ers, Election Officials, and Clerks (NACRC), the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers and Finance Officers (NACCTFO), and all SDACO sponsored webinars.



Continuing Educational Opportunities (Continued)

Save Money through Green Purchasing and Enter NACo's 2011 County Greener Office Competition

Tuesday, November 9, 2 - 3:15p. EDT
Join this webinar to learn green purchasing strategies available to help you immediately start saving money and resources. Also, find out how your county can participate in NACo's Green Office Competition. To find more information about the webinar and to register, go to <http://cec.sdcounties.org/category/free-training/>.

Brought to you by NACo.

Health Reform & Behavioral Health from American College of Mental Health Administration

The American College of Mental Health Administration (ACMHA) is offering a series of free webinars throughout 2010 and 2011 focused on behavioral health and the health reform law. The webinar on October 14, 3 - 4 p.m. EDT will focus on Medicaid. To find more information about the webinar and to register, go to <http://cec.sdcounties.org/category/free-training/>.

Continuing Education Certifications Awarded

Newly Certified Officials:

County	Name	Office
Bon Homme	Sandra Frasier-Shaffer	Reg. of Deeds
Custer	Dennis Zellner	Reg. of Deeds
Dewey	Kelli Mowrer	Treasurer
Fall River/Shannon	Melody Engebretson	Reg. of Deeds
Jerauld	Connie Ness	Treasurer
Marshall	Ruby Hagen	Treasurer
Meade	Denise Deaver	Reg. of Deeds
Sully	Peggy Johnson	Reg. of Deeds

Maintaining Certification:

Aurora	Susan Urban	Auditor
	Maxine Schroeder	Treasurer
	Arlene Koch	Reg. of Deeds
Beadle	Jill Hanson	Auditor
	Barb O'Riley	Reg. of Deeds
Bennett	Susan Williams	Auditor
	Nancy Sterkel	Reg. of Deeds
Bon Homme	Tamara Brunken	Auditor
	Jason Humpal	Treasurer
Brookings	Vicki Buseth	Finance Officer
	Beverly Chapman	Reg. of Deeds
Brown	Maxine Taylor	Auditor
	Carol Sherman	Reg. of Deeds
Brule	Pamela Petrak	Auditor
	Doreen Priebe	Treasurer
Butte	Elaine Jensen	Auditor
	Paula Walker	Reg. of Deeds
Campbell	Lisa Schaeffbauer	Auditor
	Renee Rieker	Treasurer
	Carina Fuehrer	Reg. of Deeds
Clark	Nancy Worth	Auditor
	Kay Mahlen	Treasurer
	Janet Hurlbut	Reg. of Deeds
Clay	Ruth Bremer	Auditor
	Cathi Powell	Treasurer
	Betty McCambridge	Reg. of Deeds
Codington	Cindy Brugman	Auditor
	Ann Rasmussen	Reg. of Deeds
Corson	Dorothy Schuh	Auditor
	Heather Gall	Treasurer
	Virginia Sauer	Reg. of Deeds
Custer	Linda Nelson	Auditor
	Dawn McLaughlin	Treasurer

Davison	Susan Kiepke	Auditor
	Brenda Sanders	Treasurer
	Deb Young	Reg. of Deeds
Day	Sandy Raap	Auditor
	Connie Wagner	Treasurer
	Janet Knapp	Reg. of Deeds
Deuel	Pam Lynde	Auditor
	Judy Bartling	Treasurer
	Carole Fischer	Reg. of Deeds
Dewey	Adele Enright	Auditor
	Deborah Goldade	Reg. of Deeds
Douglas	Diane Christensen	Auditor
	Carol VanDerWerff	Treasurer
	Randy Larson	Reg. of Deeds
Edmunds	Keith Schurr	Auditor
	Dianne Stafford	Treasurer
	Kathleen Braun	Reg. of Deeds
Fall River/Shannon	Sue Ganje	Auditor
	Lori Bachand	Treasurer
Faulk	Sherry Fix	Treasurer
	Sally Snow	Reg. of Deeds
Grant	Karen Layher	Auditor
	Raynelle Mueller	Treasurer
	Karen Hooth-Quade	Reg. of Deeds
Gregory	Jim Waterbury	Auditor
	Sara Grim	Treasurer
Haakon	Patti Rhodes	Treasurer
	Karyl Sandal	Reg. of Deeds
Hamlin	Dixie Opdahl	Auditor
Hand	Sandra Selting	Auditor
	Sheri Koeck	Treasurer
	Sheila Coss	Reg. of Deeds
Hanson	Lesa Trabing	Auditor
	Julie Ruden	Treasurer
	Debra Zens	Reg. of Deeds
Harding	Kathy Glines	Auditor
	Becky Brengle	Treasurer
	Sue Litzel	Reg. of Deeds
Hughes	Shellie Baumgart	Finance Officer
Hutchinson	Jeanie Simonsen	Auditor
	Tamara Miller	Treasurer
	Julie Herrboldt	Reg. of Deeds
Hyde	Colleen Leisinger	Auditor
	Connie Konrad	Reg. of Deeds
Jerauld	Cindy Peterson	Auditor
	Mette Ness	Reg. of Deeds

Cont. Ed. Certifications Awarded (continued)

Kingsbury	Jennifer Albrecht	Auditor
	Caryn Hojer	Reg. of Deeds
Lake	Kay Schmidt	Auditor
Lawrence	Connie Atkinson	Auditor
	Deb Tridle	Treasurer
	Sheree Green	Reg. of Deeds
Lincoln	Paula Feucht	Auditor
	Debra Turner	Treasurer
Lyman	Pam Michalek	Auditor
	Carol Sundall	Treasurer
	Tracy Brakke	Reg. of Deeds
Marshall	Julie Hagen	Auditor
	Marlene Sime	Reg. of Deeds
McCook	Geralyn Sherman	Auditor
	Laurie Schwans	Reg. of Deeds
McPherson	Steven Serr	Auditor
	John Hilgemann	Reg. of Deeds
Meade	Lisa Schieffer	Auditor
	Susan Boadwine	Treasurer
Mellette	Jerry Schwarting	Auditor
Miner	Susan Connor	Auditor
	Debra Eggert	Treasurer
	Karla Neises	Reg. of Deeds
Minnehaha	Julie Risty	Reg. of Deeds
Moody	Lori Schaefers	Auditor
	Gail Meyer	Reg. of Deeds
Pennington	Julie Pearson	Auditor
	Janet Saylor	Treasurer
	Donna Mayer	Reg. of Deeds
Perkins	Sylvia Chapman	Finance Officer
	Darlene Lockert	Reg. of Deeds
Potter	Karen Doerr	Auditor
	Jeanie Lagan	Treasurer
	Elaine Storkson	Reg. of Deeds
Sanborn	Diane Larson	Auditor
	Karen Krueger	Treasurer
	Lynn Brueske	Reg. of Deeds

Spink	Cindy Shultz	Auditor
	Sharon Jungwirth	Reg. of Deeds
Stanley	Linda Stroup	Treasurer
	Bev Stoesser	Reg. of Deeds
Sully	Patty McGee	Auditor
Tripp/Todd	Louise Flisram	Reg. of Deeds
Turner	Sheila Hagemann	Auditor
	Marlys Anderson	Treasurer
	Carol Viet	Reg. of Deeds
Union	Carol Klumper	Auditor
	Myron Hertel	Treasurer
	Jana Foltz	Reg. of Deeds
Walworth	Gwenn Ackerman	Auditor
	Chuck Hanson	Treasurer
	Susan Eisemann	Reg. of Deeds
Ziebach	Cindy Longbrake	Auditor

Supervisory Certification:

Custer	Dennis Zellner	Reg. of Deeds
Lawrence	Connie Atkinson	Auditor
	Deb Tridle	Treasurer
	Sheree Green	Reg. of Deeds



Receiving their Supervisory Certification are, Deb Tridle, Dennis Zellner, and Sheree Green. Also certifying is Connie Atkinson.



Newly Certifying Officials are Sandra Frasier-Shaffer, Connie Ness, Dennis Zellner, Peggy Johnson, Melody Engebretson, Denise Deaver, and Ruby Hagen. Also certifying is Kelli Mowrer.



2010 Annual SD Counties Convention:

The 96th Annual South Dakota Counties Convention was held in Pierre on September 21-23. County Officials, Commissioners, Welfare Officials, and Highway Superintendents joined together to discuss county issues and to receive continued education.

SDACO would like to thank all sponsors and vendors who made our "Wonderful World of Counties" convention such a success.

Thank-you!

Thank you to the scholarship committee for all their hard work in raising funds for the scholarship fund. They did a terrific job.

My grandchildren will greatly enjoy the John Deere tractor/trike I won in the raffle.

Thanks to all the vendors and sponsors also.

Janet K. Knapp
Day County Register of Deeds

2010 Convention Sponsors

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SDACO Scholarship Endowment Fund

Great job Scholarship Committee and SDACO! In the 2010 calendar year, the Scholarship Committee raised a total of \$4,736.98 for the scholarship fund. The 2010 County Government Scholarship for \$500.00 was awarded in June. After expenses, the total for the SDACO Scholarship Fund is \$15,955.33.

Below is a breakdown of how much money has been raised for the scholarship fund this year.

2010 Convention Revenue

TV Raffle \$ 2,630.00
Cell Phone Fine \$ 5.00
Total Convention Revenue \$2,635.00

Deputy Workshop

Raffle \$210.00
Total Deputy Workshop Revenue \$210.00

Spring Workshop

Raffle \$965.00
Silent Auction \$468.00
Park Lane Jewelry \$318.98
Donation \$55.00
Cell Phone \$5.00
Total Spring Workshop Revenue \$1,811.98

Extra Revenue

Scholarship Bake Sale \$80.00
Total Extra Revenue \$80.00

Please contact the scholarship committee if you have fundraising ideas for the next year.

2009-2010 Scholarship Committee
Janet Saylor, Chair (janets@co.pennington.sd.us)
Connie Konrad (connie.konrad@state.sd.us)
Carol Klumper (ucauditor@iw.net)

“Wonderful World of Counties”



Sharing ideas with other officials is always beneficial.



Susan Kiepke, Davison Co. Aud., was THRILLED to win a prize during Wednesday evening’s social event.



The vendor fair was a huge success.



EVERYONE showed up for the social events!

SDACO Scholarship Fundraiser Winner!



Congratulations to Vicki Buseth, Brookings County Finance Officer. Vicki was the winner in our 2010 raffle drawing and went home following the Fall Counties Convention with a new RCA 40” HDTV for her home.

(The Super Bowl Party is at your house this year, Vicki?)

Grant Opportunities for SD Counties

The Federal Government provides many opportunities for non-profit organizations and small government entities to receive funding through grants. Grants can provide huge monetary rewards with just one proposal. Some government grants can total in the millions of dollars. Those who receive government grants find it easier to raise money from other government and private sources, and grants can give your organization instant credibility and public exposure. While the grant writing process may be tedious, the benefits often outweigh the frustrations.

The most important part of writing grants is to know how to find grant funds and resources based on the mission of your organization. South Dakota counties have several resources available to help in finding appropriate grants. First, most counties are members of Planning Districts. The staff of your Planning District should be able to help you search for grants and will aid you in the grant writing process. Next, the SDACO has identified several grants that may benefit your county. A list of grants can be found on the Members Only section of the CEC Portal. Finally, NACo has a comprehensive list of Federal Grants on their website. The NACo Federal Grant Database is for NACo Members Only and lists hundreds of available grants.

For more information on grants available for SD Counties or for grant writing tips, contact the SDACO at SDACO@sdcountries.org or 605-224-1968.

Examples of Grant Opportunities

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Training Assistance

To help the participant identify the laws relating to alcohol, tobacco, firearms and

explosives, and provide training in specific investigative skills and techniques, and to help state, county, and local law enforcement officers improve their law enforcement capabilities in the organized crime area, including arson, undercover, firearms and explosives investigations.

Community Development Block Grants/Entitlement Grants

To develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income.

Community Connect Grant Program

To encourage community-oriented connectivity by providing grants to eligible applicants who will deploy broadband transmission service in rural communities where such service does not currently exist; who will connect all critical community facilities such as local schools, education centers, libraries, hospitals, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, public safety organizations, fire, and rescue services, as well as residents and businesses; and who will operate a community center which provides free and open access to area residents.



Economic Adjustment Assistance

To address the needs of distressed communities experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time, and generally result from industrial or corporate restructuring, new Federal laws or requirements, reduction in defense expenditures, depletion of natural resources, or natural disaster.

How to Back-Up Your Computer Files

It's amusing how pc users the world over are mortified of losing data by a virus attack but don't care much about backing up files. Though the intention is the same--to save data, people are concerned more about virus attacks than having a back-up program.

Saving files in a separate disk, CD, or even a different pc is known as back-up of files. In the event of a data loss, it can be recovered if it's saved elsewhere. What and how much to back up is completely an individual choice. Normally, data of importance like financial records, tax statements, personal files, and anything that is important to a person should have a back up. The back-up worthiness of a file is the value of the file itself. Back-up takes so little time yet saves precious money, time, and energy.

A simple back-up solution for your files is to attach all your files to your email box. If your pc loses data due to whatever reason, you can still access all your files from any other pc that has an internet connection. Simple, all it requires is your willingness. The next methods are to save your data onto a disk or CD. However, these act only as short-term data stores as they are not immune to getting

blighted. Therefore, the best long-term back-up option is to store data in zip drive or tape drive. This then mandates checking of the tape at least periodically for quality that might deteriorate with the passage of time.

Windows utilities offer a back-up facility. While installing Windows XP, Ntbackup.msi, a back-up program of Windows utility, can be installed, too. Unfortunately, Windows back-up utility does not involve a third party and is done within the pc. So if data stored in a drive is lost, Windows back-up fetches it back from another drive where it's stored as back-up. This saving exercise has to be performed religiously every week or so. Still, Windows back-up utility is not a safe back-up option.

To solve this problem there are software utilities that cover back-up automatically. Software utilities offer back-up programs that back up files the moment they are saved on the pc. The back-ups provided by software utilities are good for even complete hard drive failure. Disaster recovery and back-up of open files are the features of some software back-up utilities.

By Natalie Aranda, PopularArticles.com

Office Exercise: How to burn calories at work

Finding time to exercise can be a challenge for anyone who has a busy schedule. Why not work out while you're at work? Consider 5 creative ways to make office exercise part of your routine.

1. Make the most of your commute

Walk or bike to work. If you drive to work, park at the far end of the parking lot.

2. Look for opportunities to stand

You'll burn more calories standing than sitting. Stand while talking on the phone.

3. Take fitness breaks

Rather than hanging out in the lounge with

coffee or a snack, take a brisk walk or do some gentle stretching.

4. Trade your office chair for a fitness ball

A firmly inflated fitness or stability ball can make a good chair. You'll improve your balance and tone your core muscles while sitting at your desk.

5. Get social

Organize a lunchtime walking group. Do laps inside your building or, if the weather cooperates, take your walking group outdoors.

By Mayo Clinic Staff

President to Sign Legislation Removing Cell Phones from Listed Property

The President is poised to sign legislation that would remove employer-provided cell phones from the definition of listed property under the taxcode, relieving state and local governments from the extensive, burdensome, and costly record-keeping requirements that have been required in identifying and tracking calls made from these phones. The GFOA, along with other associations representing state and local governments, have advocated for this change to the taxcode for several years. The change in law can be found in H.R. 5297, a larger measure that provides tax breaks and other enhancements to small businesses.

Also included in H.R. 5297 is a provision that would level the playing field for state and local government employees by allowing participants in governmental 457(b) plans to treat elective deferrals as Roth contributions.

This option is already permitted in 401(k) and 403(b) plans.

The bill would also allow 401(k), 403(b), and 457(b) plans to permit participants to roll their pre-tax account balances into Roth accounts. The amount of the rollover would be included in taxable income, except to the extent it is the return of after-tax contributions. If the rollover is made in 2010, the participant can elect to pay the tax in 2011 and 2012.

The Senate approved H.R. 5297 in early September. The measure is expected to be approved by the House and signed by the president in the coming days.

This article was originally published in the GFOA Newsletter (September 24, 2010), and was suggested for this newsletter by Deene Dayton, Director of Local Government Assistance.

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NACo News

Health Reform Law Toolkit for counties as employers

NACo has a new online toolkit that outlines many of the primary issues regarding the health reform law for counties in their role as employers. To access the toolkit, visit www.naco.org/healthreformimplement.

To submit questions, email: healthreforminfo@naco.org.
Contact: Anita Cardwell · 202.942.4267

The NACo Health Reform Law Toolkit will also be available on the CEC Portal, under Free Training.

County Government Works – new video PSAs available

The newest additions to the public awareness toolkit are video PSAs to post on your county website, play on your government cable channel or offer to your local television stations. This is just one easy way for you to be part of the County Government Works

campaign. The PSAs cover county services like public safety, transportation, criminal justice, parks, recycling, food safety, emergency management and immunizations.

Contact: Tom Goodman · 202-942-4222

To download videos, contact Tom Goodman or visit the CEC Portal, under Free Training.

Send NACo your best proposals from energy efficiency projects

To ease the process of collecting bids for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant projects, NACo is creating an RFP Library online. Visitors can view a variety of RFPs utilized by counties and adapt them to their own projects.

Contact: Cindy Wasser · 202.942.4274



Interesting Obscure Facts

- All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds
- Almonds are a member of the peach family
- Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors
- Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable
- On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated
- The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing
- There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar
- There's no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewable Vitamins
- Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men
- If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite

Spotlight on...

Doreen Priebe Brule County Treasurer 2nd Vice President



Hometown:
Chamberlain

How long have you lived there?

I have lived in Chamberlain most of my life.

Work experience:

I worked as an office manager for several years. I was Dental Assistant for several years. I started with the County in December 1995 and became Treasurer in 2001.

What do you like most about your job?

I really like working with the public.

Tell us about your family:

I have been married to my wonderful husband David for 25 years. (See Dave just like on Wheel of Fortune!) We have 3 children Dana, Danielle, and Desiree.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like planting flowers, reading, and remodel-

ing projects.

If you could travel to one place in the world, where would it be and why?

I would to go to Hawaii, Bahamas, or any place that I could be on a really nice beach. (I want to go back to Disney World with my kids again!)

Tell us one thing about yourself that most people would be surprised to know about you:

I have 2 Dwarf African frogs as pets, Frankie and Louie. Also, I have a snail named Thelma (Louise has passed on).

Do you have a favorite quote or motto?

Every day is a gift.

If you could meet one person, past or present, who would it be and why?

I would have lunch with my Granny Lee and write down her recipes. She was the best cook ever!



As you may know by now, I will be leaving the SDACO office in Pierre at the end of October. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that, although I didn't see you in person very often, I have enjoyed working for you as the administrative assistant for the South Dakota Association of County Officials for the past year and a half. I clearly remember how unsure of myself I felt at my first workshop (the 2009 New Officials Workshop), having just started working for the Association less than 2 weeks earlier, and on its heels was the 2009 Spring Workshop just a month later. But everyone made me feel so welcome--I felt like I was among friends. Despite the time and effort that goes into putting on workshops and conventions, I always looked forward to seeing everyone again.

South Dakota is fortunate to have such a wonderful group of county officials. Thank-you for the opportunity to serve you. I will miss you all! ---Janell Brochu (bjbrochu@hotmail.com)

Spotlight on...

Sara Grim Gregory County Treasurer Executive Board Member



Hometown:
Bonesteel, SD

How long have you lived there?

I have lived there all my life with the exception of three years spent in Texas in college.

Work experience:

Treasurer for the past 21 years. Also Secretary for HS Rodeo Association for three years and then the past three years took care of the HS Rodeo Calendar Program. Before becoming Treasurer, I worked at Rural Office of Community Services at Lake Andes. I have always worked on our family ranch and have served as a rodeo secretary.

What do you like most about your job?

The people, I love all my people. I love the fact that I get to meet all the people in my County. What a wide array of personalities!!

Tell us about your family:

Oldest daughter, Kim, has a Photography business in Parkston, SD. Her husband is a Highway Patrolman and she has an 11 year old son and a 21 year old stepdaughter. Second daughter, Mollie, just got married 1 year ago and she and her husband work on a ranch at Arthur, NE, and I am supposed to quit hounding her for grandchildren (so I took her a new horse!!). Youngest daughter, Callie, works at Sandhills Physical Therapy in North Platte, NE, and has a signifi-

cant other who ranches in the Sandhills only 30 miles from Mollie. Husband Rich is a rancher, brand inspector, hired hand, best friend, boss, slave driver, etc.!!!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

My horses and dogs take up a lot of my free time along with the ranch. Rodeo is also a hobby I love but some people say it is more of a sickness!!!!!!

If you could travel to one place in the world, where would it be and why?

We want to return to Alpine, TX, where we went to school. Loved it down there. We would also like to visit Australia and New Zealand.

Tell us one thing about yourself that most people would be surprised to know about you:

My father was a State Senator for 6 years and then ran for Lt. Governor along side Roger McKellips but they were defeated when Janklow won his 1st term as Governor. Now my nephew, Billie Sutton, is running for my Dad's old Senate seat.

Do you have a favorite quote or motto?

"A lack of planning on your part does not necessarily constitute an emergency on mine."

If you could meet one person, past or present, who would it be and why?

I am reading Elizabeth Gilbert's biography "Eat, Pray, Love". Love the book and would love to have a heart to heart with Liz.

Spotlight on...

Cathi Powell Clay County Treasurer Continuing Education Committee



Hometown:
Vermillion, SD

How long have you lived there?

I was born in Vermillion and have always lived within 25 miles of Vermillion.

Work experience:

I started out my working career at the University of South Dakota in their Food Service. I worked there from September of 1970 to May of 1979. I started working in the Clay County Treasurer's Office in May of 1979 as a Deputy. In January 1993 I took office as the Clay County Treasurer. I am now in my 5th term as County Treasurer and have been with Clay County for 32 years.

What do you like most about your job?

The diversity. Between collecting property taxes and licensing vehicles we get to meet just about everyone who lives in the county. Living in a college town, there are some real characters out there.

Tell us about your family:

My husband (Leo) and I have been married for 39 years. We have two sons. Steven is our oldest and has just started his fellowship to become a Hematologist/Oncologist. He and his wife, Meredith, live in Richfield, MN with my one and only grandchild, Robert. Robert just celebrated his 1st birthday in July. Our youngest son, Ben lives at home with us and works full time at one of the local elementary schools. He is not married but is looking.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy reading, sewing, watching TV and working in my garden (vegetables no flowers).

If you could travel to one place in the world, where would it be and why?

I'm not much of a traveler. I'm kind of a homebody. When I do travel it is to Minnesota to visit my son and his family or to Arizona to visit my sister and her family.

Do you have a favorite quote or motto?

Treat people the way you would like to be treated.



Employment Opportunity?

If your county has an employment opening and you would like to have it posted in our newsletter or on the SDACO website, just contact the SDACO office at 224-1968 (phone), 224-9128 (fax) or sdaco@sdcounties.org (email).

Introducing...

Kris Kroll Stanley County Auditor



Hometown:
Fort Pierre

How long have you lived there?

I was born and raised in the Fort Pierre area. After graduating from college, I moved to Wichita, KS for years and then to Rapid City, SD for another 5 before returning home.

Work experience:

Business environment until the birth of my children and then I stayed home with them until my youngest began school full-time.

Of the job positions you've held previously (not necessarily with the county), which was your favorite and why?

I've always enjoyed where I've worked and can't necessarily pick a favorite.

Tell us about your family:

My son, Conner, is 10 and in the 5th grade. My daughter, Jasi, is 7 and in the 2nd grade.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spend time with my family – any outdoor activities, camping, boating, etc.



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October 21st:
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District Meeting

October 31st:
Halloween

October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17	18	19	20	21 District Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 						



November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1		3	4	5	6
7 	8	9	10	11 	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30				

November 2nd:
Election Day

November 7th:
Daylight Savings Time
ends

November 11th:
Veterans Day

November 15th:
Sioux Valley District
Meeting

November 25th:
Thanksgiving Day



History and Customs of Halloween



Halloween is an annual celebration, but just what is it actually a celebration of? And how did this peculiar custom originate? Is it, as some claim, a kind of demon worship? Or is it just a harmless vestige of some ancient pagan ritual?

The word itself, "Halloween," actually has its origins in the Catholic Church. It comes from a contracted corruption of All Hallows Eve. November 1, "All Hallows Day" (or "All Saints Day"), is a Catholic day of observance in honor of saints. But, in the 5th century BC, in Celtic Ireland, summer officially ended on October 31. The holiday was called Samhain (sow-en), the Celtic New Year.

One story says that, on that day, the disembodied spirits of all those who had died throughout the preceding year would come back in search of living bodies to possess for the next year. It was believed to be their only hope for the afterlife. The Celts believed all laws of space and time were suspended during this time, allowing the spirit world to intermingle with the living.

Naturally, the still-living did not want to be possessed. So on the night of October 31, villagers would extinguish the fires in their homes, to make them cold and undesirable. They would then dress up in all manner of ghoulish costumes and noisily paraded around the neighborhood, being as destructive as possible in order to frighten away spirits looking for bodies to possess.

Probably a better explanation of why the Celts extinguished their fires was not to discourage spirit possession, but so that all the Celtic tribes could relight their fires from a common source, the Druidic fire that was kept burning in the middle of Ireland, at Usinach.

Some accounts tell of how the Celts would burn someone at the stake who was thought to have already been possessed, as sort of a lesson to the spirits. Other accounts of Celtic history debunk these stories as myth.

The Romans adopted the Celtic practices as their own. But in the first century AD, Samhain was assimilated into celebrations of some of the other Roman traditions that took place in October, such

as their day to honor Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple, which might explain the origin of our modern tradition of bobbing for apples on Halloween.

The thrust of the practices also changed over time to become more ritualized. As belief in spirit possession waned, the practice of dressing up like hobgoblins, ghosts, and witches took on a more ceremonial role.

The custom of Halloween was brought to America in the 1840's by Irish immigrants fleeing their country's potato famine. At that time, the favorite pranks in New England included tipping over outhouses and unhinging fence gates.

The custom of trick-or-treating is thought to have originated not with the Irish Celts, but with a ninth-century European custom called souling. On November 2, All Souls Day, early Christians would walk from village to village begging for "soul cakes" made out of square pieces of bread with currants. The more soul cakes the beggars would receive, the more prayers they would promise to say on behalf of the dead relatives of the donors. At the time, it was believed that the dead remained in limbo for a time after death, and that prayer, even by strangers, could expedite a soul's passage to heaven.

The Jack-o-lantern custom probably comes from Irish folklore. As the tale is told, a man named Jack, who was notorious as a drunkard and trickster, tricked Satan into climbing a tree. Jack then carved an image of a cross in the tree's trunk, trapping the devil up the tree. Jack made a deal with the devil that, if he would never tempt him again, he would promise to let him down the tree.

According to the folk tale, after Jack died, he was denied entrance to Heaven because of his evil ways, but he was also denied access to Hell because he had tricked the devil. Instead, the devil gave him a single ember to light his way through the frigid darkness. The ember was placed inside a hollowed-out turnip to keep it glowing longer.

Continued on next page

The Irish used turnips as their "Jack's lanterns" originally. But when the immigrants came to America, they found that pumpkins were far more plentiful than turnips. So the Jack-O-Lantern in America was a hollowed-out pumpkin, lit with an ember.

So, although some cults may have adopted Halloween as their favorite "holiday," the day itself did not grow out of evil practices. It grew out of the rituals of Celts celebrating a new year, and out of Medieval prayer rituals of Europeans. And today, even many churches have Halloween parties or pumpkin carving events for the kids. After all, the day itself is only as evil as one cares to make it.



Halloween Trivia and Superstitions



- Pumpkins are actually a fruit
- Tradition claims that children born on Halloween are protected from evil spirits throughout their life
- If a young girl puts a silver coin and rosemary under her pillow on Halloween, she will dream of her future husband
- To prevent spirits from entering their homes, people would put out their fires and keep their houses dark. They did not want the spirits to enter and feel welcome
- On Halloween you should never turn around if you hear footsteps because you might see death behind you

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