A Message from Executive Director Larry Dix...

The NACO Board will consider and vote at their upcoming June 18th meeting to determine the representative from the Nebraska Association of County Officials who will serve as a member of the National Association of Counties board of directors.

The NACO Bylaws (Article IV, Section 2a) states:

There shall also be one (1) nonvoting ex officio Director: the county official appointed annually by the Directors to serve as the Nebraska representative on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors, hereinafter called the Ex Officio Director. The Ex Officio Director shall be in addition to the seventeen Directors, unless the person so appointed already serves as an Officer, Metropolitan, District, or Affiliate Director in which event there shall be no Ex Officio Director.

Currently, Tim Loewenstein is the Nebraska representative. Tim was not successful in his bid to serve another term on the Buffalo County Board and therefore will no longer be eligible to serve in this capacity. If you, or you know of anyone, who wishes to be considered for this position, please let me know via email so they can be considered during the June 18th meeting.

I have attached the Nebraska Representative Guidelines as adopted by the NACO Board.

NACO BOARD of Directors Appointment Requirements

Secretary of State John Gale has announced the availability of a free online course, The Introduction to Records and Information Management.

Developed by the Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER) project, with the support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the course is designed to focus on the records and information management practices fundamental to the efficient and economical operations of any government agency.

Memo to County Officials from Secretary of State John Gale

Reminder: NACo Steering Committee Nominations need to be received by NACO no later than June 1, 2010. Complete details were published in the April 20, 2010 edition of E-News. Please contact Larry Dix at NACO if you have any questions.

2010-2011 Steering Committee Nomination Form (PDF)
Stay Ahead of the Story: Media Relations Strategies for County Officials in Tough Times
Thursday, June 3
1:230 p.m. CDT

Tough times mean counties are under increasing scrutiny. Are you prepared to handle tough media inquiries and respond to critics? Are you doing all you can to communicate the essential and effective services your county provides? With a little planning, you can stay ahead of the story, respond to critics and be an effective leader and promoter of county government. Webinar panelists will discuss effective media relations tools and strategies; whether social media such as Facebook and Twitter are right for you; and tips on how to make the most of your NACo participation and out-of-county conference travel.

Health Care and the Rural Economy: Implementing Rural Health Works
Thursday, June 3
1:230 p.m. CDT

The webinar serves as a follow up to the May 11 webinar and will outline specific action steps about how your county can implement the key components of the Rural Health Works model. The webinar will dedicate a significant amount of time for questions and discussion so that you can learn about ways to leverage the economic potential of your county's local health care system.

Leadership Series: Looking for Balance in a 24/7 World
Thursday, June 10
1:230 p.m. CDT

Fiscal instability, transparency, public accessibility 24/7 through the Internet all of these and more threaten to undermine your mission and your health. Keith Niemann, on loan to NACo from University of Nebraska Extension Program, will present a process for evaluating changing priorities and demonstrate strategies for living North of the line.

Key Issues in the Health Reform Law for County Employee Health Benefits
Thursday, June 17
1:230 p.m. CDT

Many provisions in the Affordable Care Act directly impact employer-sponsored health insurance plans, including those offered county employees. Join this webinar to learn about the health reform law’s implications for county health benefit plans regarding new options, penalties, mandates and premiums. Learn how your county can begin to prepare for some of the changes in 2010 and beyond.

For more information on these and other upcoming webinars not listed here, go the NACo Webinars & Seminars page.

Inheritance Tax

During the summer, NACO staff will be compiling inheritance tax information from a random sampling of counties. The information will allow our office to evaluate the effects of 2007 legislation for the inheritance tax exemptions and the rate of the inheritance tax paid to the county during the 2009 calendar year.

Trapping Ban

Nebraska law permits counties to adopt a resolution having the force and effect of law to prohibit the trapping of wildlife in the county road right-of-way or in a certain area of the right-of-way (partial ban). This law was modified in 2009. Prior to the modifications, there was a ban of trapping, except for raptors, in the county road right-of-way.

Of the 75 counties that responded to a survey about whether or not their county currently has a trapping ban in the county road right-of-way, 23 counties or 31% have adopted a prohibition. Three of the counties with a ban have a partial ban to trapping the county road right-of-way.

If you are aware of any news that may be of interest, please let us know

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