



Illinois Association of County Officials NEWS

"...improving the quality of public service through education."

WINTER 2020

www.iacoonline.org

IACO 2020 Conferences Cancelled

I am sure that it comes as no great surprise that your IACO was forced to make the decision to cancel the upcoming Fall Conference. It became evident that with the considerable restrictions currently in place IACO could not provide a comfortable learning environment. As medicine continues to make great strides forward in the treatment of COVID-19 it is my sincere belief that the health threat of this disease will soon become no greater than the common flu thus setting the stage for an outstanding Spring 2021 Conference. In the interim your IACO welcomes feedback and suggestions regarding how your affiliate can best be served during this health emergency.

Tamiko Kinkade, IACO Administrator, will begin contacting members and vendors that had requested that IACO hold their Spring Conference fees for the Fall Conference. These individuals/vendors will be given the option of a refund for those fees, or given the option to hold them over for the 2021 Spring Conference.

Future Conference Dates:

April 19-21, 2021

**2021 IACO Spring Conference
Wyndham City Centre Springfield, IL**

November 17-19, 2021

**2021 IACO Fall Conference
Marriott Hotel
Bloomington/Normal, IL**

Message from the President

**Michael A. Iwanicki, Superintendent
Veterans Assistance Commission - McHenry County**



To the IACO family,

2020 will most certainly be memorable for each of us. Adapting the work environment to the pandemic, keeping up with impactful legislation in the midst of election year politics, and maintaining education requirements have challenged us all.

Many offices have developed new methods of working in order to protect clients and staff as well as continuing to provide excellent service to the community. Hopefully you had opportunities to share ideas and experiences with other members of your affiliation. What may seem like an obvious solution to some may have been overlooked by others whose circumstances are somewhat different. Many of the ideas include efficiencies and methods that will continue after COVID. Your ideas and experiences likely have universal elements that would benefit all IACO members so maybe it would be a good idea to have a forum to share such insights.

COVID-19 has created an operational burden on each of our offices, however, the politics of Washington and Springfield continue. Your IACO Legislative Committee is working to ensure that legislatures and IACO members are educated of the consequences of proposed legislation. If you see legislation that may impact on your office (good or bad) please share.

Looking toward 2021 there has been discussion regarding extending the conference a day to allow everyone additional time to catch up on their continuing education requirements. While many organizations waived the CEU requirement for 2020, still others had not and would benefit from the extra time. If your affiliate would benefit from an extra day at the Spring 2021 Conference please contact Tamiko. Between now and then if there is anything your IACO can do to assist please share with you affiliate representative to the IACO Board or leave me a message at 815-334-4229.

I very much look forward to welcoming everyone at the IACO 2021 Spring Conference. So much is gained from our time together. I personally want to thank all of the vendors who despite their own struggles continue to support your IACO. Finally, thank you for the incredible service you continued to provide your community during this difficult time. You and your staff represent what is good in Illinois.

Sincerely,
**Michael A. Iwanicki, President
Illinois Association of County Officials**

2020 IACO OFFICERS

President

Mike Iwanicki - VAC of McHenry County

President Elect

Bobbi Rairden - Douglas County Treasurer

Vice President

Melissa Hurst - Coles County Circuit Clerk

Secretary / Treasurer

Rebecca C. McNeil - McLean County Treasurer

Immediate Past President

Scott Erickson - Knox County Clerk

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Assessment Officers

Georgia Shank - Bond County

Auditors

Bob Grogan, CPA, CFE - DuPage County

Circuit Court Clerks

Erin Cartwright Weinstein - Lake County

Coroners and Medical Examiners

Chris Marsh - White County

County Board Members & Commissioners

L. Scott Schwerer - McDonough County

County Clerk and Recorders

Josh Langfelder - Sangamon County Recorder

Regional Superintendent of Schools

Michelle Mueller - ROE #40

Treasurers

Kirby Ballard - Green County Treasurer

Veterans

Michael A. Brooks - Peoria County VAC

INDUSTRY PARTNERS:

Scott LePenske - Devnet

Mike Meyer - Computer Information Concepts

Becky Jansen - Credit Collection Partners

STAFF:

IACO Administrator - Tamiko Kinkade

217-585-9065 – tkcps@comcast.net

IACO Comptroller- Nancy Krumwiede

217-649-3418 - mnkrum75@gmail.com

IL Association of County Officials

P.O. Box 9296 - Springfield, IL 62791-9296

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Message from Past President

Scott G. Erickson **Knox County Clerk**

It almost seems like the plot to a blockbuster movie. A virus wreaks havoc around the globe and our best defense against it is to stay at home and wear a mask. It takes down world economies yet can be killed by washing of hands.

Nobody can disagree that 2020 is a year that we will never forget! The pandemic has caused so much chaos and confusion that normal is just not normal anymore. The pandemic has also had a profound influence on the IACO organization. The cancelation of a conference is unique enough, but to have to cancel BOTH conferences is a once in a lifetime occurrence. This leads me to why I am writing you today. The work done by the IACO Board of Directors and the Executive Board is a constant and ongoing mission. And to have the honor to be able to serve on the Board of this organization is a great accomplishment. That being said, with the necessity to cancel the conferences this year, it has prevented our President from having the pleasure of serving IACO to the fullest extent. Therefore, the Board of Directors voted to continue the terms of the current Executive Board members for another year and to defer the election of the newest member of the Executive Board until next year.

There have been many tough decisions to make this year and this decision was no exception. We are in uncharted waters and need to make sure that the IACO ship continues to sail. I know that we will come out of this pandemic stronger for having worked through it and blessed by having faith that this too shall pass. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2021 and hope you all have a safe and blessed rest of the year.



Sexual Harassment Training

The Illinois Association of County Board Members will be hosting two additional sexual harassment preventing training webinars in October.



OCTOBER 8, 2020 • 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 15, 2020 • 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Register online at www.ilcounty.org.

The training is IDHR compliant and certificates will be issued upon verification of completion.



2020 Legislative Report

Mark Armstrong, Legislative Chair
Kane County Assessor



[Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) recently posted a list of the adjectives that were most commonly used to describe the past six months. They included *unprecedented, surreal, perturbing, anomalous, uncanny, and discombobulated*. Depending on one's situation, each of these could be used to describe the 2020 legislative session.

The session began promisingly. At the Fall 2019 conference, IACO placed three items on its legislative agenda for 2020:

- **SB 2741: Provide a statewide enforcement mechanism for taxable leaseholds (35 ILCS 200/21-16)** For most properties, if property taxes are unpaid, they are subject to tax sale. However, the courts have held that local governments cannot lose their property to tax deeds. This means that if the lessee of a taxable leasehold does not pay the property tax due, there is no enforcement mechanism available. Public Act 101-0198, which will be effective January 1, 2020, provides a collection process in such instances, but is limited to counties between 800,000 and 1,000,000 in population (DuPage County). IACO supports making that remedy available for all downstate counties.
- **SB 1302: Provide for timely Juvenile Court Detention Hearings (705 ILCS 405/5-410, et seq.)** IACO supports legislation that would provide for a full judicial, detention hearing within an absolute 48 hours of a juvenile's confinement (currently 40 hours not including weekends and holidays) and further provide for secure video detention hearings by closed circuit television and video conference upon approval by order of the Chief Circuit Judge.
- **TBD: Modernize public notice laws (various)** Current public notice provisions rely heavily on publication in local newspapers. However, the number of newspapers there are fewer local newspapers available, and their circulation numbers are increasingly diminishing. IACO proposes establishing a working group of IACO affiliates and other stakeholders to review effectiveness of current public notice laws and explore any additional methods of public notice that might be appropriate.

Two of our bills were introduced (see bill numbers above) and we received interest from a variety of stakeholders for the modernization of public notices. But as might be expected, everything was placed on hold when the first stay-at-home order was issued.

Near the end of May, both chambers of the General Assembly met in an abbreviated, socially distant setting, and sent 22 separate bills to the Governor (almost all addressed either the state or the pandemic). By comparison, a year ago the legislature sent 637 bills to the Governor. As none of our legislation was related to the state budget or the pandemic, no action was taken and our bills were re-referred to the Senate Assignments Committee. We believe that this re-referral was not related to the merits of our proposals, but to the lack of time available in the abbreviated legislative session.

The IACO Legislative Committee is committed to work on behalf of all IACO affiliate organizations in the coming year. While we cannot be certain of what the sessions will look like or who the legislators will be, we will continue our task of promoting legislation that helps county officials go about their tasks in an efficient, cost-effective manner. If you have any thoughts or ideas for legislation for the coming year, please contact your affiliate's representative on the IACO Legislative Committee.

IACO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Katie Blakeman
Champaign County
Circuit Clerk

Andrea Chasteen
Will County
Circuit Clerk

Tony Cox
Gallatin County
Coroner

Andy Golman
Sangamon County
Auditor

Gretchen DeJaynes
McDonough County
Clerk

Kirby Ballard
Greene County
Treasurer

Andrew Tangen
Lake County
Veterans Assistance Commissioner

Shawn Walsh
Will County
Regional Superintendent of Schools

Ronnie White
Randolph County
Commissioner

Mark Armstrong, Chairman
Kane County
Supervisor of Assessments

Congratulations to our 2020 IACO Scholarship Winners

Scholarship Funding
Assistance provided by:

DEVNET
INCORPORATED



4 Year University \$1,000.00

- **Taylor Lohman**
Daughter of Montgomery Treasurer, Nikki Lohman



4 Year University \$1,000.00

- **Rebecca Rickert**
Daughter of Kane County Treasurer, David Rickert



2 Year Community College \$500.00

- **Aiden Mellon**
Grandson of Moultrie County Clerk and Recorder, Georgia England



2 Year Community College \$500.00

- **Davalynn Tarr**
Daughter of Jasper County Clerk and Recorder, Amy Tarr



Essay Winner \$1,000.00

- **Kennedi Davis**
Daughter of Knox County Treasurer, Robin Davis

IACO County Official of the Year Nominations

Since the conference for 2020 have been cancelled, we had a dilemma about how to handle the County Official of the Year Award. It is suggested that we award two County Official of the Year awards in 2021. We will award this year's award in the Spring, and then be back on our regular schedule for Fall next year.

So, you have a bit more time to get a nomination together, but we do want nominations!

Illinois Association of County Officials



“...improving the quality of public service through education.”



2021 IACO Spring Conference

April 19-21, 2021

Wyndham City Centre (formerly the Hilton) - Springfield, Illinois

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2121

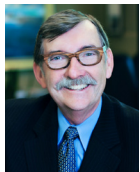
- 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM **EXHIBIT BOOTH SET-UP**
5:00 PM **IACO BOARD MEETING**
Evening **HOSPITALITY SUITES OPEN**

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2121

- 7:30 AM **REGISTRATION OPENS**
8:00 - 9:00 AM **OPENING SESSION**
Scholarship Awards & Recognitions

9:00 AM - 6:00 PM **EXHIBIT HALL OPEN**

9:15 AM - NOON **EDUCATIONAL SESSION**
THE TEN FAMILIES OF RISK
Speaker: Gordon Graham



Everything we do in life involves a level of risk – and the same is true with what you do professionally. Since we do thousands of different things at work – how can you possibly start to “Recognize” the real risks you face. In this program, Gordon puts all of the “risks” you face into ten families. This makes the “Recognition”, “Prioritization” (what is important now) and “Mobilization” (doing something to change outcomes) approach to addressing risks proactively so we can reduce exposure from that given risk.

Noon - 1:30 PM **FREE LUNCH in the Exhibit Hall**

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM **EDUCATIONAL SESSION**
THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE
Speaker: Gordon Graham

“Rules without enforcement are just nice words.” In this brief program, Gordon will address the critical issue of employee discipline – and what it is and what it is not. Failure to discipline in a prompt, fair and consistent manner is a ticket for nothing but future problems and there are many legal and “risk” concerns involved in this process that need to be fully understood.

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM **BREAK IN THE EXHIBIT HALL**

3:15 PM - 4:30 PM **EDUCATIONAL SESSION - TOPIC TBD**
Speaker: FBI

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM **RECEPTION IN THE EXHIBIT HALL**
Please join us in the exhibit hall for some great snacks, free beer/wine and take the time to visit with our exhibitors.
We ask that all hospitality suites remain closed during the Exhibit Hall Reception 4:30 - 6:00 PM DOOR PRIZES TUESDAY NIGHT

AFTER 6:00 PM **ON YOUR OWN - JOINT HOSPITALITY**
All registered attendees and Industry Partners are encouraged to visit the hospitality suites on the 29th floor of the hotel.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2121

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM **EXHIBIT HALL OPEN**
Continental Breakfast will be available in the Exhibit Hall.

9:00 AM **AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION MEETINGS**
The affiliated association groups are planning timely sessions for their members. You should be receiving information from your organization regarding those sessions.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM **BREAK IN THE EXHIBIT HALL**

11:30 PM - 1:00 PM **FREE LUNCH**
LAST CHANCE - At the request of Tuesday-only attendees, we have asked that Exhibits stay open through lunch.

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM **PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION/DINNER**
You WON’T want to miss what we have planned for this year’s President’s Reception. **DOOR PRIZES TUESDAY NIGHT!**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2121

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**
Join us for our inaugural Legislative Breakfast; State Representatives and Senators of both parties have been invited to take your questions and offer comments on the issues of the day.

To Follow **AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS’ MEETINGS**
Some affiliate organizations host meetings on Wednesday.

Online registration will open in January 2021!



IACO 2020 County Official of the Year

Deadline for Submission: **4:30pm on Friday, March 5, 2021**

Previous Winners

1990	Terry Desmond County Clerk
1991	Chris Martin Treasurer
1992	Nelson Hagnauer County Board
1993	Bonnie Barton Sup. of Assessment
1994	John Novak Treasurer
1995	Bobby Myers Treasurer
1996	Steve Sonnemaker Auditor
1997	Barbara Gross County Clerk
1998	Lynn Reed Coroner
1999	Shirley Booker Treasurer
2000	Becky Kramer County Clerk
2001	Nancy Krumwiede Treasurer
2002	Bill Underwood Coroner
2003	Tom Ross Auditor
2004	Joel Kegan Circuit Clerk
2005	Kirby Ballard Treasurer
2006	Betty Coffrin Clerk/Recorder
2007	Tony Cox Coroner
2008	Ron White County Board
2009	Jeff Simpson Sup. of Assessment
2010	Lindi Kernan Sup. of Assessment
2011	Bruce Troutman County Treasurer
2012	Victoria J. Harper County Treasurer
2013	Dave Dobill Clerk/Recorder
2014	Wendy Ryerson Sup. of Assessment
2015	Bruce Clark County Clerk
2016	Gina Noe Circuit Clerk
2017	Cindy Braden Circuit Clerk
2018	Tom Cavanagh County Treasurer
2019	Mark Armstrong Sup. of Assessment

Each year the IACO recognizes an outstanding county government official who best demonstrates our mission of improving the quality of county government through education, promoting responsible public policy, and providing ethical service while maintaining a high standard of performance. This form is intended to facilitate the selection process by providing biographical information of each candidate. All nomination forms must be received by the deadline in order to be considered.

Purpose and Criteria: The purpose of the Illinois Association of County Officials' County Official of the Year Award is to recognize a county government official or employee who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in county government both within his or her own community and on a regional or statewide level. This distinction will be made each year to one person representative of the high ideals embraced by the Illinois Association of County Officials, (IACO).

Eligibility: Any elected or appointed official or employee of a IACO member county is eligible. Current members of the IACO Board of Directors are ineligible to receive the award.

Award: The results will be kept secret until the Fall Conference. At the Tuesday Evening Banquet, the award will be presented to one individual who has made significant contributions through their service.

Nominator Responsibility: In most instances nominations will come from the nominees affiliate organization. The nominator is expected to ensure that the nominee is at the Fall Conference Banquet to receive the award. It is not however required that the nomination come from the nominees affiliate organization. The Veterans for instance may nominate a candidate from the Coroner's, but such a nomination would require considerable research by the Veterans to understand the position of Coroner and prepare a nomination that can compete with other nominees. It would be better for the Veterans to contact the Coroners and seek support for the potential nominee.

Selection Process: The selection of the County Official of the Year is a difficult process – due in large part because of the high quality of the candidates. Our overall goal is to establish a process that results in a fair selection with as minimal bias as possible. The members of the committee all represent an affiliate organization – and it is natural that we would support the individual nominated from our own affiliate – if for no other reason than we are most familiar with the service and dedication of that individual. So our goal was to minimize that bias to the extent possible and streamline the application process.

Here is the selection process that we have used since 2009.

- 1) Any currently serving county official (at the time of nomination) will be considered for the award. Individuals that have resigned or retired earlier in the year are not eligible. (The Board noted the IACO President can at any time recognize an individual with a "President's Award")
- 2) To minimize the inherent bias of committee members (supporting the candidate from their own affiliate organization) the Board approved a selection process currently being used by another national organization:
 - a) Each IACO Awards Committee member is responsible for selecting a "judge" from outside the IACO membership, such as a local judge, state official, or community leader. Contact information for the judge is forwarded to the Awards Committee Chairperson.
 - b) Nominations are forwarded to these judges directly from the Awards Committee Chairperson along with a scoring sheet. (Committee members do not receive the applications.)
 - c) Judges rank the nominees in several categories based on the merits of the application and forward the scoring sheets back to the Chairperson.
 - d) The Chairperson tallies the scores and announces the winner at the Fall IACO Conference.
- 3) Use of a standardized application
- 4) Use of a standardized scoring sheet for use by judges

**The official nomination form and supporting materials must be received by
4:30pm on Friday, March 5, 2021**



IACO 2020 County Official of the Year

Deadline for Submission: **4:30pm on Friday, March 5, 2021**

The Illinois Association of County Officials "County Official of the Year" Award is given annually to individuals who have contributed to the betterment of county government in a manner above and beyond what is expected in their everyday duties. It is not a longevity award, but recognition of significant contributions to their county government and county government in general.

Sponsor/Contact Person:

Name: _____ Position: _____

Affiliate: _____ Title (within affiliate organization): _____

Work Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

County Official of the Year Candidate:

Name: _____

Current Position (Office & County): _____

Number of years the candidate has worked in county government: _____ Number of years in current position: _____

Has this candidate been nominated for this award in the past? If so, when? _____

Please attach a biography of the Candidate (limit up to 1000 words) which demonstrates his/her overall professionalism and dedication to county government, specifically highlighting the following:

1. Service and leadership in their respective county, including improvements or efficiencies in the operation of nominees own office or local jurisdiction;
2. Service and leadership within their respective affiliate organization, including positions held within the affiliate organization, and years of participation;
3. Service and leadership within their communities;
4. Dedication to continuing education;
5. Service and leadership with other affiliate organizations, including IACO.

This form is intended to facilitate the selection process by providing biographical information of each candidate. All nomination forms must be received by the deadline in order to be considered. The official nomination form and supporting materials must be received by 4:30pm on Friday, March 5, 2021 by mail, e-mail (pdf format only), or fax to:

Bobbi Rairden, Awards Committee Chair

Douglas County Treasurer

PO Box 320, Tuscola, IL 61953

Phone: 217-253-4011; Fax: 217-253-2590

bobbi.rairden@douglascountyil.com