



Illinois Association of County Officials NEWS

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

FALL 2022

www.iacoonline.org

2022 IACO OFFICERS:

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Bobbi Rairden - Douglas County Treasurer

President Elect

Melissa Hurst - Coles County Circuit Clerk

Vice President

Rebecca C. McNeil - McLean County Treasurer

Secretary / Treasurer

Erin Cartwright Weinstein
Lake County Circuit Clerk

Immediate Past President

Mike Iwanicki - VAC of McHenry County

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Karen A. Stukel - Will County Recorder

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Michelle Mueller - ROE #40

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Andrew Tangen, JD - Lake County

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Scott LePenske - Devnet

Mike Meyer - Computer Information Concepts

Becky Jansen - PayCourt

Illinois Association of County Officials

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

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Message from the President

Bobbi Rairden
Douglas County Treasurer

I hope everyone is having a fabulous summer! The IACO Board has been busy getting everything in place for the fall conference. We had a summer board meeting and did a lot of brainstorming. We are working on some great educational pieces and always welcome input from you. We will be naming our "County Official of the Year" award winner at the Fall Conference. Please see the information and an application link in this newsletter. This is a great honor, and I know there are many of you out there deserving of this award.

We will also be celebrating all those who will be leaving our ranks after this next election. **This retirement party will be EPIC!!** It seems to me that many people quietly retired over the last couple "Covid" years. We look around and they are just gone. I want those retiring to be cheered and congratulated for their years of work well done. Please come and help us do that! I promise lots of fun and fellowship! With that in mind, don't hesitate to get your registration sent in for fall conference! See the link in this newsletter.

See you all in November!!



REGISTER TODAY!

2022 IACO Fall Conference

November 21-23, 2022 (Monday - Wednesday)

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
Uptown Normal, IL



Are you retiring this year?
Come party with us at the
IACO Fall Conference!
We will be honoring all retirees
this year during Tuesday night's
President's Banquet!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN AT:

www.iacoonline.org

2022 IACO Fall Conference

Nov. 21-23, 2022 (Mon. - Wed.)

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel &
Conference Center - Uptown Normal, IL



Bust out your dobbers and prepare to yell bingo at the Retirement Party during the IACO Fall Conference!

All proceeds will benefit the IACO Scholarship Fund.

We will have great prizes and loads of fun!

Join us Tuesday night November 22nd at the Marriott Normal.

Let us know you are retiring when you register for this year's conference!

Scholarship Thank you!



Thank you so much for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. I plan to use it towards schooling and books. I really appreciate it. Thanks Again!
Andee



Andee Brown of Havana, Illinois is the winning recipient of the 2022 IACO 2-Year Community College Scholarship worth \$500.00.

Membership Has its Advantages!



Erin Cartwright-Weinstein,
Lake County Clerk of the Circuit Court
IACO Secretary-Treasurer

In the last newsletter, I wrote about what it meant to me to be a part of IACO. Those of us who attend IACO have a strong connection. We continuously build on those relationships at every event and meeting. The opportunity to connect in an educational yet relaxed environment allows us to become more than acquaintances. We discuss family, friends, and work issues. It is amazing how much more we have in common than we would otherwise recognize. Even when we disagree, we agree to disagree and move forward, and continue to connect on the things in which we can agree. However, those who do not attend seem to have stronger dissension in their relationships. Disagreements grow, and the ability to work together for the betterment of our community becomes nonexistent.

So, how do we get more county officials involved in IACO? We welcome all elected and appointed county officials to attend our conferences whether their affiliate organization is a member or not. Is there someone in your county that would benefit from attending an IACO Conference? **Invite them!** IACO has worked hard to provide a diverse educational platform, address legislation affecting all county departments, schedule interactive entertainment, support families of county officials through scholarships and encourage relationship building between the counties and county departments. What is missing?

We are open to suggestions and ask for your support by encouraging your colleagues to join IACO and attend the events. **See you all in November!**

Karen Stukel Elected IACO 2023 Secretary-Treasurer



Every fall, your IACO Board chooses one from their ranks to become the new Secretary-Treasurer and begin their years of serving their way "up the chairs." This year, the board has voted to appoint Karen Stukel (Will County Recorder) to the position of Secretary-Treasurer for the 2022-2023 year. We wanted to give Karen an opportunity to introduce herself to you. Take a moment to read below and make sure to say hi when you see her at Fall Conference in November!

"Hello! I was first elected in 2008. During the last 14 years of my career, I have served in many roles and committees such as: Zone 4 President (2 Years), scholarship committee, Legislative committee, and the political action committee.

Over the last several years, I have been involved in the Executive Board of the Illinois Association of County Clerks and Recorders as their Sargent at Arms, Secretary, Second Vice President, First Vice President, and I am currently the IACCR President. Additionally, I am currently the Vice President of the Illinois Electronic Recording Commission. I have been a member of IACO since 2008, and before serving on the Executive Board, I participated as the IACCR Affiliate Representative. I was honored when I was approached and asked to if I would consider the opportunity to be on the Executive board. I feel I can bring knowledge and experience to the IACO board as well as the willingness to continue to help us move forward and volunteer as I have with my current organization, and I look forward to working with my fellow board members."

Welcome Karen to the IACO Executive Committee!

What Makes a Good COTY Application?

Rebecca C. McNeil, McLean County Treasurer
IACO Vice President



Each year, the IACO recognizes an outstanding county official who best demonstrates our mission of "Improving the quality of County Government while maintaining a high standard of performance" by honoring them with the title of County Official of the Year (COTY). As some know, to be honored by your peers is truly one of the highest forms of recognition. As a previous nominator, I thought I would share my experience and offer some tips that I found to be helpful. We all know that we are stronger when we work together. I took this approach and asked another IACO member to be a co-nominator along with me. In most instances, County Official of the Year nominations will come from the nominee's affiliate organization. However, that is not the rule. I was from a different affiliate than my nominee and my co-nominator. My co-nominator and I had both worked with the person we wanted to nominate, and overwhelmingly felt like that person had truly demonstrated the mission and high standards that were deserving of the COTY award. Through a process of collaboration, communication, and cooperation, we split up the tasks so that we could specifically address each of the areas the nomination form suggested that we highlight. We picked three of the six areas that we each felt most comfortable working through. This process allowed us to create a nomination that contained a wider variety of accomplishments, strengths, and peer recommendations. The process also allowed us both to save quite a bit of time, instead of adding more work to our busy schedules. As the biography of accomplishments and peer letters came together, I came to realize that knowing and working alongside this public servant was a distinct honor and privilege for many. True leadership is sacrifice, not privilege. Giving is also more important than receiving. Our candidate had been so giving of their time to their colleagues, profession, and affiliate. That is what public service is about. When creating a nomination, always be creative, and purposeful. You will not regret the effort and you will likely experience a sense of contagious joy along the way. In the end, were we successful? YES! Our candidate was recognized as IACO County Official of the Year.

Right now is the time to begin collaborating with a colleague to start writing a nomination for someone that you believe to be exceptional!

Scholarship Technical/Trade School

The IACO Board will be offering two \$500 scholarships next spring for students who will be attending a Trade School. These schools are also known as Technical or Vocational schools. Trade schools highlight the importance of vocational training for students who aren't on a college degree track. Vocational/Technical/Trade schools provide training for any number of meaningful careers with high earnings potential. Whether a student attends a private technical school or a community college for vocational training, they should apply for these scholarships. Not every student is destined for college. We understand that. We believe in supporting students interested in a trade. Education comes in many forms, and we want every student to know how valuable their eventual skills can and will be. Following are but a few of the trades: cosmetologist, esthetician, barber, airplane mechanic, auto mechanic, tractor mechanic, massage therapist, plumber, dental hygienist, chef, home inspector, LPN, legal assistant, electrician, welder, HVAC, and the list goes on.

LINK

Local Information News and Know-how

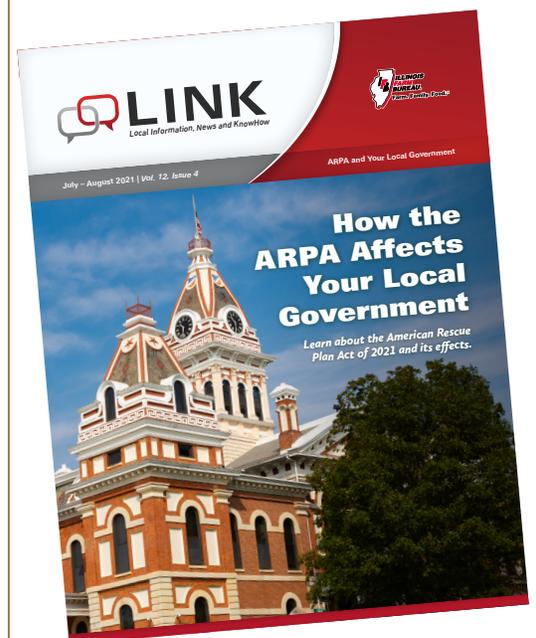
Illinois Farm Bureau is happy to share information on our local government newsletter, *LINK (Local, Information, News and Know-how)*. This bi-monthly newsletter goes out electronically to our county Farm Bureaus. It can also be shared with local elected and appointed officials upon request.

The purpose of the newsletter is to raise farmer awareness, capability and participation in local government issues and help connect county Farm Bureau staff and leadership to their elected and appointed officials.

Each publication contains insights and information about local government issues and activities along with suggested opportunities for county Farm Bureau involvement.

Topics recently covered in *LINK* include titles such as: *How ARPA affects your Local Government*; *Driving a Plan for Successful Infrastructure Spending*; and *Understanding Property Taxes in Illinois*.

Illinois Farm Bureau encourages county Farm Bureaus to share this publication with local officials. If you are not already receiving this newsletter, please feel free to contact your local county Farm Bureau office and request the information.



Future Conference Dates:

2022 IACO Fall Conference Nov. 21-23, 2022 (Mon. - Wed.)

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center - Normal, IL

2023 IACO Spring Conference May 10-12, 2023 (Wed.-Fri.)

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Springfield, IL

2023 IACO Fall Conference November 13-15, 2023 (Mon. - Wed)

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center - Normal, IL

2024 IACO Spring Conference May 15-17, 2024

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Springfield, IL

2024 IACO Fall Conference November 18-20, 2024 (Mon. - Wed)

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center - Normal, IL

Is one or more of your favorite vendors missing out on the fun of an IACO Conference? Do them a favor and let them know about us! Tell them how much you'd appreciate their participation at an IACO Conference. Exhibit/Sponsor Registration is open at: www.iacoonline.org

County Assessment Officers Rise to Meet Challenges

By Lori Barringer, CIAO Moultrie County - 1st Vice President County Assessment Officers Assn. of IL & Mark D. Armstrong, CIAO-M Kane County, 2nd Vice President; County Assessment Officers Assn. of IL



Membership in the County Assessment Officers Association of Illinois is open to the Chief County Assessment Officers in each of our 102 Counties (Cook and St. Clair Counties elect a County Assessor, and the other 100 counties elect or appoint a Supervisor of Assessments). Our post-pandemic real estate market continues to challenge our members, with significant increases in some market segments, and stagnation in others. Nevertheless, our membership is committed to providing a fair, equitable, and transparent assessment process through the state.

The CAO continues to provide relevant educational sessions at our conferences. At the IACO Fall Conference in Normal, we will have presentations on four topics:

- ***The Illinois Plat Act: An Overview***

When property is subdivided according to the Plat Act, Chief County Assessment Officers have several statutory responsibilities in Article 9 of the Property Tax Code. But what exactly does the Plat Act require, and how can Assessing Officers know when a document is made according to the Plat Act? Conference attendees will learn about the requirements of the Plat Act and how it relates to the duties of County Assessment Officers.

- ***Voluntary Establishment of Multi-Township Assessment Districts***

After each decennial census, CCAOs in counties with township organization must propose mandatory Multi-Township Assessment Districts (MTADs) for all townships with fewer than 1,000 persons. But Illinois law provides for voluntary MTADs as well. Conference attendees will learn how Knox County started with 21 Township jurisdiction, and ended up with three.

- ***Open Meetings Act and Boards of Review***

The Illinois Open Meetings Act applies to all public bodies, including Boards of Review. Conference attendees will learn how Boards of Review can ensure their proceedings meet the requirements of this Act.

- ***Reassessment in a General Assessment Year***

The 2023 taxable year is a general assessment year for township-based counties, and with a few exceptions, assessors "shall actually view and determine as near as practicable the value of each property listed for taxation as of January 1 of that year" (35 ILCS 200/9-155). Conference attendees will learn the best practices to employ in such a year.

While these topics are of special interest to county assessment officers, some of them may be of interest to the membership of other IACO affiliates. Please check your conference program for times and locations. For more information, please contact CAO Conference Committee Chair (and Moultrie County CCAO) Lori Barringer at lori.barringer@moultriecountyil.gov.

OFFICIAL IACO 2022 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

November 21-23, 2022 - Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Normal, IL

Attendee Full Name: _____
First Name for Badge (if different): _____
Title/Office (e.g. Coroner/Auditor) _____
County/Jurisdiction (e.g. Lee County): _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____
E-mail: _____

MEAL TICKETS:

Please let us know whether or not you plan to participate in the following meals. There is no additional cost for these events, however, we need accurate head counts.

Monday:

FREE Lunch: Yes No Unsure

Tuesday:

FREE Lunch: Yes No Unsure

Retirement Party: Yes No Unsure

Wednesday:

Breakfast Buffet: Yes No Unsure

Are you retiring at the end of 2022? YES NO How many years have you served as an Illinois County Official? _____

Affiliate Organization:

EVERYONE IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE! A CONFERENCE NAME BADGE WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE TO ALL SESSIONS!

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auditor | <input type="checkbox"/> County Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Circuit Court Clerk | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheriff | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Review | <input type="checkbox"/> County Clerk / Recorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Election Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> State's Attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Assistance Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coroner | <input type="checkbox"/> County Engineer | <input type="checkbox"/> Reg. Superintendent | <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor of Assessments | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Official |

Hotel Reservations:

Reservations can be made at the **Marriott** at: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1660593892489&key=GRP&app=resvlink>. Follow the steps to create your hotel reservations online. I do not recommend calling the hotel to make reservations. Often, you get forwarded to the central reservation line and they do not always have (or give) accurate information. The hotel will provide you with a confirmation number when you make your reservation. **Rate: \$98/per night plus tax (Gov Rate)**. Self-Parking is complimentary for those staying at the hotel.

The hotel block expires at midnight on October 28, 2022.

Hotel cancellation/no-show policy: Reservations made and not canceled 24 Hours prior to the 1st day of check-in will be billed for the first night's room and tax and the remaining nights reserved will be canceled.

PLEASE DO NOT RESERVE MORE HOTEL ROOMS THAN NEEDED! In the past, individuals have made reservations and canceled them after the cut-off date. IACO loses access to those rooms for conference attendees and will be penalized for this through attrition. PLEASE only reserve the rooms you know you need!

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS MAKING A RESERVATION (or are told they're sold out), contact Autumn Devos at autumncpsolutions@gmail.com

Conference cancellation policy: Conference registrations made and not cancelled will be billed. Cancellations must be made in writing on or before Nov. 11 to receive a refund. All refunds (less a \$25 processing fee) will be made via a check mailed to the attendee after the conference. Cancellations should be sent to the Tamiko Kinkade at the address listed below or e-mail to tkcps@comcast.net.

Payment Information: The Conference Registration Fee is **\$220**, but register before Nov. 11 and receive the Early Bird Rate of **\$205**.

	Early Bird	After Nov. 11
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Conference Registration County Official/Deputy	\$205	\$220
<input type="checkbox"/> MONDAY Only (Official/Deputy)*	\$120	\$135
<input type="checkbox"/> TUESDAY Only (Official/Deputy)*	\$120	\$135
<input type="checkbox"/> RETIREMENT PARTY ONLY	\$95	\$95
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest or Retired Official**	\$120	\$135

Spouse Name: _____

Total enclosed: _____

- Enclosed is a check for my registration
 Please apply the funds paid for the 2020 Spring Conference
 Please charge my credit card for registration

Card Type: Mastercard Visa American Express Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____ Billing Zip: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

***The One-Day Only Registration includes ONE day's activities (Mon. or Tues.), NOT a combination of the two!** It is critical that everyone attending the conference register and pay a registration fee. Please register everyone from your office that is attending.

****All county employees must register.**

Illinois Association of County Officials

Attn: Tamiko Kinkade, Administrator - P.O. Box 9296 - Springfield, IL 62791-9296

Phone: (217) 585-9065 Fax: (217) 529-7178



IACO 2022 County Official of the Year

Deadline for Submission: **4:30pm on Monday, October 31, 2022**

Previous Winners

1990	Terry Desmond County Clerk
1991	Chris Martin Treasurer
1992	Nelson Hagnauer County Board
1993	Bonnie Barton Sup. of Assessments
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 Assessments
2010	Lindi Kernan Sup. of Assessments
2011	Bruce Troutman County Treasurer
2012	Victoria J. Harper County Treasurer
2013	Dave Dobill Clerk/Recorder
2014	Wendy Ryerson Sup. of Assessments
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 Assessments
2020	Holly Lemons Circuit Clerk
2021	Bob Kahman Sup. of Assessments

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 Fall 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 Monday, October 31, 2022**



IACO 2022 County Official of the Year

Deadline for Submission: **4:30pm on Monday, October 31, 2022**

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) written by someone **other than the candidate** 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.
6. Letters from peers encouraged.

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 Monday, October 31, 2022 by mail, e-mail (pdf format only) to:

Rebecca McNeil, Awards Committee Chair

McLean County Treasurer

115 East Washington, Room M101 - Bloomington, IL 61702-2400

rebecca.mcneil@mcleancountyil.gov

Saving feels better.



The National Association of Counties (NACo) has enhanced the Live Healthy Discount Program to deliver greater healthcare savings to county residents at **NO COST** to the county.

No-cost Prescription Discount Program.

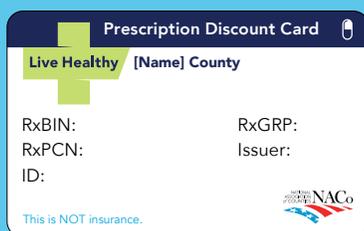
- **Save up to 80%*** on generics and **up to 40%*** on brand-name prescription medications for residents and their pets

Low-fee health discounts nationwide.

- Provides 24/7 telemedicine service and **save 15% to 75%** on vision services, hearing aids and screenings, diabetes supplies, prepaid lab work and more

Low-fee dental discounts nationwide.

- Save **15% to 50%** on check-ups, cleanings, fillings, crowns, x-rays, root canals and more at over 110,000 participating providers



To learn more and enroll your county,
visit NACo.org/Health

*This is not insurance. Savings may vary by drug and by pharmacy. The Prescription Discount Card is operated by CVS Caremark®. The Discount Medical Organization for NACo Health and Dental Discounts is Alliance HealthCard of Florida, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2022 CVS Caremark

