



# Illinois Association of County Officials

# NEWS

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

SUMMER 2023

[www.iacoonline.org](http://www.iacoonline.org)

## 2023 IACO OFFICERS:

### President

**Melissa Hurst** - Coles County Circuit Clerk

### President Elect

**Rebecca C. McNeil** - McLean County Treasurer

### Vice President

**Erin Cartwright Weinstein** - Lake County Circuit Clerk

### Secretary / Treasurer

**Karen Stukel** - Will County Recorder

### Immediate Past President

**Bobbi Rairden** - Douglas County Treasurer

## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

### Assessment Officers

**Mark Armstrong** - Kane County

### Auditors

**April Palmer** - Rock Island County

### Circuit Court Clerks

**Tammy Weikert** - Rock Island County

### Coroners and Medical Examiners

**Chris Marsh** - White County

### County Board Members & Commissioners

**Michael Holliday, Sr.** - Madison County

### County Clerk and Recorders

**Lori Gadbois** - Kankakee County Recorder

### Regional Superintendent of Schools

**Michelle Mueller** - ROE #40

### County Treasurers

**Kirby Ballard** - Greene County

### Veterans Assistance Commissions

**Andrew Tangen, JD** - Lake County

## INDUSTRY PARTNERS:

**Scott LePenske** - Devnet

**Chuck Venvertloh** - Computer Information Concepts

**Becky Jansen** - PayCourt

**Illinois Association of County Officials**

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

[www.iacoonline.org](http://www.iacoonline.org)

## Message from the President

**Melissa Hurst**  
Coles County Circuit Clerk



Hello everyone!

I hope you are enjoying your summer and staying cool! I had so much fun with all of you at Spring Conference. It felt like the perfect kickoff to summer! As President of IACO, it is always my goal to see you all networking and connecting with each other and your vendors. That time spent putting your heads together and sometimes commiserating with each other over problems and working toward solutions in your offices is so so valuable.

Speaking of the summer, the slower pace of the summer is a great time to work hard and play hard. My hope is that you have gotten to do the play hard part as your IACO board has been hard at work planning the Fall Conference in Bloomington-Normal. We hope you will make plans to join us from November 13th-15th. We will again spend time together, honor a new County Official of the Year, and learn a ton. Do you know of someone that always goes above and beyond for their county? Is there someone that inspires you to be a better elected official by the way they care for their employees and constituents? Nominate them for this honor!

Make sure to look through this newsletter for informational recaps from Spring Conference education sessions, news from the legislature, and more! As always, please reach out if you have an idea that you think could make IACO better. I am looking forward to my final couple of months as your President. It is an honor to lead a group of people like you that are so committed to your people, your colleagues, and yourselves! Make sure to enjoy the dog days of summer and I will see you in November!

## 2023 IACO Fall Conference

**November 13-15, 2023 (Mon – Wed)**

**Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conf. Center**

**201 Broadway, Normal, IL 61761**

**REGISTER TODAY**  
**at [www.iacoonline.org](http://www.iacoonline.org)**

# Legislative Committee Update

**Mark Armstrong**  
**Legislative Chair**  
**Kane County Assessor**



The 103rd General Assembly adjourned on May 27, 2023, completing its first “normal” session since 2019. While nearly 6,700 bills were introduced, fewer than 9% of all legislation passed and sent to the Governor.

Legislation supported by IACO affiliate organizations which passed out of the General Assembly includes:

- HB 925 creates the Veterans Service Organizations State Charter Act, which clarifies the process for establish Veterans Service Organizations which participate in the selection of county Veterans Assistance Commissions; this is an initiative of the Illinois Association of Veterans Assistance Commissioners. As of this writing, it awaits gubernatorial action.
- HB 2507 is an omnibus bill which included a provision providing that Townships with populations between 1,000 and 2,999 residents (currently, fewer than 1,000 residents) must be grouped into a Multi-Township Assessment District and elect a single Assessor, effective with the first election after the 2030 decennial census; this provision is a joint initiative of the Illinois Association of County Board Members and the County Assessment Officers Association. As of this writing, it awaits gubernatorial action.
- SB 1225 permits chief county assessment officers in all counties to require an application for the preferential assessment for subdivision common area; it is an initiative of the County Assessment Officers Association. It was signed by the Governor on June 9 and is now law (Public Act 103-83).
- SB 2227 provides much-needed cleanup to the recording statute and fee schedules; it is an initiative of the Illinois Association of County Clerks and Recorders. As of this writing, it awaits gubernatorial action.

For more information, the text of the legislation can be viewed on the General Assembly’s web site at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov). For more information of 2024 legislative initiatives of your affiliate, contact your affiliate’s legislative chair.



*Special Thanks to  
Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs  
for his hospitality during the Local Officials Appreciation Picnic  
2023 during the State Fair. It was a great day!*

# Around the Corner

**Rebecca C. McNeil**  
**McLean County Treasurer**  
**IACO President-Elect**



We had a fabulous turnout back in May for spring conference. The Crowne Plaza did not disappoint. The 2023 IACO Fall Conference at the Bloomington Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center is right around the corner. Your IACO leadership team has been busy planning for this fall and beyond. Chances are you are not the only one with questions and / or concerns about a topic. If you are new or just coming back in from the pandemic, you will find that we are an organization of passionate leaders and public servants who rise to the occasion every time a challenge is presented. What I have found, is that there are numerous different ways to transform a challenge into an opportunity.

During the next year, I hope we can continue to show the benefit of communication, collaboration, and cooperation. We are in this together! IACO is truly all about educating our members. We want to empower you with knowledge to help you build your confidence, overcome fears, and take initiative. We want to give you the knowledge you need to stay current on changes and challenges that are facing County Government. Every day we navigate through the challenge of leading and learning across multi-generations, being assertive, and preserving integrity by consistently making the right choices. We encourage every affiliate to submit a nomination for County Official of the Year 2023. The application for this award can be found in the newsletter. Read over the application and take a minute to think who has inspired you along the way. We truly have a number of very active, talented, and accomplished members of our organization. This is the time to nominate one of them.

# IMRF Correction

**Randy Stevens, Field Services  
Team Leader**



In the IMRF presentation on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, I discussed elected official participation in IMRF. The information was incorrect. IMRF Resolution 6.64 is only required for Governing Body Members. In the past this applied to all Elected Officials, but that ended 05/17/2019. To participate, the Elected Official must complete form 6.21- Election to Participate for a Qualifying Position. Once submitted, the elected official must participate in IMRF for the duration s/he holds that specific office. Form 6.21 only needs to be submitted once. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Randy Stevens | [rstevens@imrf.org](mailto:rstevens@imrf.org) | 800-275-4673 | 309-579-2000

# 2023 IACO Scholarship Recipients



**Joshua Basnett** of Fairfield, Illinois is the winning recipient of the 2023 IACO 4-Year College University Scholarship worth \$1,000.00. Joshua attended Fairfield Community High School 3.85 GPA – 4.0 GPA

**School Involvement:** Band Officer Marching & Pep Band; Scholastic Bowl Competitions; Stage Manger for School Plays

**Volunteering and Work Experience:** Mission Trip Mayfield, Kentucky Tornado Relief Help; Praise Band Member - Drummer; DiMaggio's Pizza

**Joshua** is the grandson of **Tim Hahn, Richland County Chief Assessment Officer.**



**Kaiden Droste** of Biggsville, Illinois is the winning recipient of the 2023 IACO 4 Year College University Scholarship worth \$1,000.00. Kaiden attended West Central High School 3.945 GPA – 4.0 GPA

**Major Awards:** 2023 Illinois State Scholar; 2021-2022 All Conference Running Back - Safety; 2022-2023 All State Running Back - Safety

**Organizations and Activities:** National Honor Society; Future Farmers of America FFA; Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track

**Kaiden** will be attending Illinois Wesleyan pursuing business management. He is the son of **Tina Droste, Henderson County Treasurer.**



**Delaney Leffler** of Benton, Illinois is the winning recipient of the 2023 IACO 2-Year Community School Scholarship worth \$500.00 Delaney attended Benton Consolidated High School 4.0 GPA and Rend Lake College 4.0 GPA.

**Volunteering and Work Experience:** Baby Sitting; Receptionist at the Leffler Funeral Home

**Extra-curricular Activities:** Musical Theater; Church

**Delaney** will be attending Southeastern Illinois College in the fall pursuing musical theater. Delaney is the daughter of **Marty Leffler, Franklin County Coroner.**



**Cooper Barringer** of Bethany, Illinois is the winning recipient of the 2023 IACO 2-Year Community School Scholarship worth \$500.00 Cooper attended Okaw Valley High School.

**Volunteering and Work Experience:** Solid Rock Chapel; United State Army CORPS of Engineers; Bethany Fire Department

**Extra-curricular Activities:** Future Farmers of America (FFA)

**Cooper** will be attending Lake Land College pursuing pre-engineering. Cooper is the son of **Lori Barringer, Moultrie County Chief County Assessment Officer.**



**Andrew Springer** of Sycamore, Illinois is the winning recipient of the 2023 IACO Technical School Scholarship worth \$500.00. Andrew attended Sycamore High School and Kishwaukee College.

**Volunteering and Work Experience:** Feed my Starving Children; DeKalb County Summer Help

**Extra-curricular Activities:** Track, Cross Country and Winter Running

**Andrew** will be attending Hobart Institute of Welding Technology pursuing pipeline Welding. Andrew is the son of **Becky Springer, Dekalb County Treasurer.**

# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING CONFERENCE SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

5/3 Fifth Third Bank  
AllPaid Payment Solutions  
Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program  
Ameresco  
American Stamp & Marking Products  
ArcaSearch Corporation  
Autoagent Data Solutions, LLC  
Bellwether LLC  
BlueCrest  
Bruce Harris & Associates, Inc.  
Catalis Tax & CAMAA  
Centrica Business Solutions  
Computer Information Concepts, Inc. (CIC)  
CourtFunds  
Court Money  
DEVNET Incorporated  
EagleView  
Election Systems and Software  
EverView  
Exela Technologies  
Farmer Mac  
Fidlar Technologies  
Fike & Fike Inc.  
GBS - Governmental Business Systems  
Goodin Associates, Ltd.  
Harris & Harris  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund  
Illinois Property Assessment Institute  
IMET  
Invoice Cloud  
JANO Technologies  
Journal Technologies  
JPMorgan - Chase Bank  
Kofile  
Law Bulletin Media  
Liberty Systems, LLC  
Linebarger Groggan Blair & Sampson, LLP  
LRS - IT Solutions - Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc.  
Mail Communications Group  
Maximus US Services  
Joseph M. Meyer & Associates  
National Association of Counties  
NextEra Energy Resources  
PayCourt  
PFM Asset Management LLC  
PMA Financial Network, LLC  
Platinum Technology  
Providence Bank & Trust  
Schneider Geospatial  
Sidwell  
Snedeker Risk Management  
Statewide Publishing  
The Master's Touch, LLC  
TheGovApp.com  
Tipton Systems  
TRIEDATA Inc  
Tyler Technologies  
US Archives  
US Imaging, Inc.  
Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.  
VR Systems

## Platinum Sponsors:



## Gold Sponsors:



## Silver Sponsors:

**Bruce Harris & Associates**  
**InvoiceCloud**  
**Output Services Group, Inc.**  
**NextEra Energy Resources**  
**Tyler Technologies**

## Bronze Sponsors:

5/3 Fifth Third Bank  
AllPaid Payment Solutions  
Ameren Energy Efficiency Program  
ArcaSearch LLC  
Autoagent Data Solutions LLC  
Catalis Tax & CAMA  
Centrica Business Solutions  
CourtMoney  
Election Systems & Software  
Exela Technologies  
Fike and Fike, Inc.  
GBS  
Goodin Associates, Ltd.

Joseph E. Meyer & Associates  
Journal Technologies  
JPMorgan Chase Bank  
Maximus US Services  
PFM Asset Management LLC  
PMA Financial Network, LLC  
Providence Bank & Trust  
Sidwell  
Snedeker Risk Management  
Tipton Systems  
Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.  
VR Systems, Inc.

## County Auditors

**April Palmer**  
**Rock Island County Auditor**  
**IACO Board Member**



The IL Association of County Auditors (IACA) Summer Conference and Workshop will be held on Thursday, August 3, 2023 and Friday, August 4, 2023 in St. Charles Illinois. We will be discussing a variety of issues including how to educate stakeholders on the critical distinctions between internal auditing and external auditing, and to discuss how the Office of County Auditor adds value to County operations through the internal audit function. The workshop will also include planning for a potential additional presentation to be made at the IACO Conference in November.

The current IACA President is Rock Island County Auditor April Palmer. "I find collaboration among the various County Auditors has frequently been helpful to me and many other members of the IACA. With the talented and hardworking Executive Board and other active members of the IACA surrounding me, we are positively moving forward." Please stay tuned for future announcements from the IACA.

## County Treasurers

**Illinois County Treasurer's Association Presented  
ICTA Treasurers of the Year during the  
2023 IACO Spring Conference. Congratulations!**



*Pictured left to right:  
Bob Watt, Zone I  
Nikki Lohman Zone II  
Staci Mayall Zone II  
Stephanie Helmuth Zone III  
Bev Lower Zone IV*

## What Makes a Good COTY Application?

**Rebecca C. McNeil**  
**McLean County Treasurer**  
**IACO President-Elect**



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!

**Deadline for Submission: 4:30pm on October 31, 2023**



# IACO 2023 County Official of the Year

Deadline for Submission: **4:30pm on October 31, 2023**

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.

- 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 nomination form and supporting materials must be received by 4:30pm on October 31, 2023**

## 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
2022	Jennifer Gomerick-Minton Sup. of Assessments



# IACO 2023 County Official of the Year

Deadline for Submission: **4:30pm on October 31, 2023**

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 October 31, 2023 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.

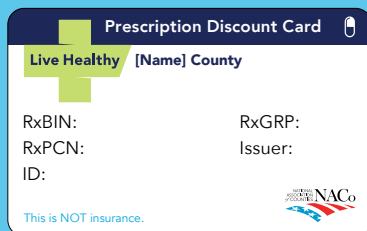
- **Save up to 80%\*** on generics and **up to 40%\*** on brand-name prescription medications for residents and their pets

## 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](https://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



## At-a-Glance Tentative Conference Schedule

Sunday, November 12	
5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Exhibit Booth Set-up
4:30 pm	IACO Board Meeting
Monday, November 13	
7:30 am	Registration Open
7:30 am – 5:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open / Coffee & Breakfast
9:00 am – 11:45 am	Education Sessions TBD
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	FREE LUNCH in Exhibit Hall
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Education Sessions TBD
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Reception
5:00 pm	All the Queens Horses - Movie
Tuesday, November 14	
7:30 am	Registration Open
8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open / Coffee & Breakfast
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Affiliate Organization Meetings
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	FREE LUNCH in Exhibit Hall
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	President's Banquet
Wednesday, November 15	
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Closing Breakfast



Did you know Ronald McDonald House® Charities of Central Illinois collects pop tabs? It pays off in a big way, too! Each year, they collect approximately 40 million tabs. That cashes out to about \$10,000 for our charity! So the next time you grab a can of soda, remember to save the tab for us and the many families we serve. This initiative is good for Ronald McDonald House families, local schools and the environment. We can all do a little to make a big difference in our community!



### What is a pop tab?

Pop tabs are the little aluminum tabs from all kinds of cans: soda, some pet food, canned fruits, vegetables and more.

### How do pop tabs help the Ronald McDonald House?

Once the pop tabs are collected, they are taken to be recycled in exchange for dollars, which support the children and families we serve at our Houses.

## START COLLECTING NOW!

**Bring your tabs to the IACO Conferences! We will get them to the Ronald McDonald House Charities!**

## Returning to Normal



**Rebecca C. McNeil**  
**McLean County Treasurer**  
**IACO President-Elect**

The 2023 IACO Fall Conference is right around the corner in downtown Normal. This is the third IACO conference that has been held in McLean County and I hope you are looking forward to your stay November 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>. The Town of Normal is situated in McLean County right alongside Bloomington at the point where interstates 55, 74 and 39 intersect. The location is ideal and easy to get to for anyone, whether traveling by auto, bus, Amtrak Train, or air. The Marriott Hotel & Conference Center is a beautiful 9 story hotel with a restaurant, bar, pool, fitness center and concierge service. The hotel is located right between Illinois State University and Uptown Normal, which is a beautiful shopping area we like to spotlight.

Uptown Normal is a safe and unique area that you can conveniently walk to after a long day of conference education sessions. The area continues to experience significant transformation and is truly a place for everyone to hang out! It is so easy to spend a few hours or even an entire afternoon discovering the district's wide range of boutiques, restaurants, bars, and specialty shops. Looking for unique one-of-a-kind shops? A few of my absolute favorite places are Apricot Lane, the Garlic Press, and Uptown Gifts Boutique. Looking for Illinois State University swag? Alamo II and Campustown are super popular with students and alumni looking for that perfect ISU fall sweatshirt. Afterward, you may want to enjoy some lunch or dinner at Medici's, DP Dough, Pub II, or Firehouse Pizza. Then, make sure to stop in for some dessert at Insomnia Cookies or Theo's Microcreamery. The aroma of their fresh baked cookies and homemade ice cream is hard to resist. And if you are in the mood to just relax - pull up a chair at Coffee Hound, Starbucks or Stave Wine Bar. These are wonderful places to meet with a small group, catch up on emails, or just sit outside and watch the world pass by.

The Uptown area is highlighted by the Children's Discovery Museum for those with children or grandchildren that are coming along. You may even want to extend your visit or come back another time once you see how inviting it looks. I have spent countless hours in the museum with my own daughters as they were growing up. The Children's Discovery Museum inspires the love of learning through the power of play by providing hands-on exhibits, classes and programs that actively engage the visitor in experiences that stimulate imagination, curiosity, and wonder. This is also the perfect place to stop in and do some early Christmas shopping. The Museum Store is jam-packed with educational books, toys, puzzles, games, gadgets and gizmos galore!

This November is going to be an exciting time. I hope you will join us and see what being in Normal is all about. To learn more visit: [www.uptownnormal.com](http://www.uptownnormal.com) or [www.visitbn.org](http://www.visitbn.org).

# OFFICIAL IACO 2023 FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

November 13-15, 2023 - Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Broadway, 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  
Movie SHOWING:  Yes  No  Unsure

### Tuesday:

FREE Lunch:  Yes  No  Unsure  
President's Banquet:  Yes  No  Unsure

### Wednesday:

Breakfast Buffet:  Yes  No  Unsure

## 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 at the **Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center** can be made online at: <https://rb.gy/2f301>. 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. If you need to call the hotel, call 309.862.9000 and ask for the front desk. The hotel will provide you with a confirmation number when you make your reservation. Rate: \$96/per night plus tax. Self-Parking is complimentary for those staying at the hotel. **The hotel block expires at midnight on October 20, 2023.**

*Cancellation/no-show policy: Reservations made and not cancelled 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 cancelled. If you need to cancel a hotel reservation after October 20th, please email Tamiko at [tk@tkcpsolutions.com](mailto:tk@tkcpsolutions.com) in case another IACO Attendee is needing a room.*

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS MAKING A HOTEL RESERVATION, contact Tamiko at: [tk@tkcpsolutions.com](mailto:tk@tkcpsolutions.com)

**Conference cancellation policy:** Conference registrations made and not cancelled will be billed. Cancellations must be made in writing on or before November 6 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 [tk@tkcpsolutions.com](mailto:tk@tkcpsolutions.com).

**Payment Information:** The Conference Registration Fee is **\$220**, but register before November 3 and receive the Early Bird Rate of **\$205**.

	Early Bird	After Nov. 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Conference Registration		
County Official/Deputy	<b>\$205</b>	\$220
<input type="checkbox"/> MONDAY Only (Official/Deputy)*	\$120	\$135
<input type="checkbox"/> TUESDAY Only (Official/Deputy)*	\$120	\$135
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest or Retired Official**	\$120	\$135

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclosed is a check for my registration  
 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

# MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID AND NACo



*The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The group was very impressed with the trainers and felt the curriculum was extremely useful in helping the county workforce address and support the need of county employees who may be experiencing mental health and/or substance use needs. The training was comprehensive, skills-oriented and provided the essential tools and guidance to support our staff."*

— **Michael Orth**,  
Commissioner, Westchester County, NY, Department of Community Mental Health

## WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), a skills-based training administered by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges in their peers, friends and colleagues.

To help the National Association of Counties (NACo) realize its vision of creating healthy, safe and vibrant counties across America, the National Council and NACo are partnering to offer crucial MHFA trainings to county employees and the communities they serve. The National Council-NACo partnership will support elected officials and county staff, who are asking for help with their own mental health and wellbeing. And, by extension, create a framework for counties to destigmatize mental health and substance use issues as they provide community residents with more equitable access to quality mental health and substance use treatment services.

Less than  
**10%**  
of employees feel their workplace is free of stigmas about mental health.

— McKinsey Center for Societal Benefit

Nearly  
**1 IN 5**  
adults in the U.S. lives with a mental illness.

— National Institute of Mental Health

Counties are the entry point to the criminal justice system, and  
**64%**  
of jail inmates have a mental illness.

— NACo

**98%**  
of MHFA at Work participants in 2021 said they would recommend the training to a colleague.

— MHFA

## WHAT MHFA COVERS

- Noticing signs and symptoms of substance use and mental health challenges.
- Navigating difficult conversations about mental health.
- Knowing that recovery is possible – and how to support it.
- Tackling mental health stigma in the workplace.
- Understanding principles of safety and privacy. Building resilience and strategies to alleviate burnout.
- Implementing a 5-step MHFA Action Plan (ALGEE).
- Reinforcing relevant employee resource groups, employee benefits and HR initiatives.

## WHO SHOULD TAKE IT

- County employees at all levels, including elected officials and county staff across all departments and organizations.
- Human resources and benefits partners, senior leaders and front-line managers.
- First responders including law enforcement, corrections officers, fire and EMS services.
- Hospital and nursing home staff.
- School teachers, administrators and youth-serving staff.

### Sources:

- Coe, E., Cordina, J., Enomoto, K., Seshan, N. (2021, July 23). Overcoming stigma: three strategies toward better mental health in the workplace. McKinsey Quarterly. <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/healthcare-systems-and-services/our-insights/overcoming-stigma-three-strategies-toward-better-mental-health-in-the-workplace>
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). (n.d.). Mental illness. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>
- National Association of Counties. (n.d.) Behavioral health matters to counties. <https://www.naco.org/sites/default/files/documents/NACo%20Behavioral%20Health%20Priorities.pdf>

