

IACO County Official of the Year Nominations

Since the 2020 Conferences were 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. So, we will award the 2020 County Official of the Year award at the 2021 Spring Conference to be held June 21-23, 2021 at the Wyndham Springfield. And, then we will award the 2021 County Official of the Year at the 2021 Fall Conference in November.

Get your nominations in now! June 4th is the deadline for application. The application can be found on the IACO Website at www.iacoonline.org or on pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter.

County Official Memorials

Please submit the names of current or former **county officials that have passed away**. The last time we were able to honor these individuals was the 2019 Fall Conference. So, please forward to me anyone that has passed since November of 2019. You can forward the information to me Tamiko Kinkade at tkcps@comcast.net. We will remember them during our Tuesday evening President's Banquet.



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Message from the IACO Administrator

Conference FAQs:

As Spring is in full bloom, so are the plans for the IACO Spring (June) Conference. Conference Registration is now open at www.iacoonline.org. I hope to answer most of the obvious questions you might have. But, if I miss something here, please feel free to send me an email at: tkcps@comcast.net.



Q: What about COVID Restrictions and Social Distancing Guidelines?

IACO has been working hard with the hotel to organize and create a safe and effective conference for all Illinois County Officials. We are planning the conference with the confidence that we will be in the Governor's Bridge-to-Phase-5 Stage. While we will still make every effort to maintain social distance, the Bridge Phase establishes new capacity limits for settings determined by risk level. Individuals with full vaccination — defined as 14 days after receiving a final vaccine dose — or a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) 1-3 days prior to an event do not count against capacity limits. In earlier phases occupancy was set at a flat number. In the Bridge Phase, the capacity will be based on a percentage of occupancy. Therefore, we can have an increased occupancy as vaccinated individuals do not count toward that decreased occupancy capacity. While the Governor has not yet moved us to the Bridge phase, he has repeatedly said as summer approaches, he will continue to evaluate the risk and lift gathering restrictions. Because vaccinated individuals do not count in the occupancy limits in the bridge phase, we will be asking conference registrants whether they have been or will be fully vaccinated prior to the conference. Your privacy is important to us, so please rest assured we will not retain or share the vaccination information we are gathering. We are using it for the sole purpose of determining meeting room occupancy. You are not required to share this information, however it is my hope that you will in order to make room for everyone that wants to attend. Our focus will continue to be on the health and safety of attendees.

Q: What about Masks/Face Coverings?

Complying with all CDC guidelines a mask will be required to enter the building and must be worn when in public areas, such as, lobby spaces, hallways, restrooms, etc. or in any situation where it may not be possible to fully adhere to 6-foot social distancing. Based on the latest guidelines, it is required that all conference participants wear a face covering/mask (worn over the nose and mouth) during any interaction with hotel staff and other employees throughout the facility unless actively eating or drinking.



Q: Will the education sessions be social distanced?

We are using the larger meeting spaces to host the joint educational sessions and will choose the space that adequately holds the various sessions. Our goal is to have everyone 6' apart for these settings. When seated in the sessions you will not be required to keep your mask on. However, if you get up from your seat to go to the restroom, etc., we ask that you put your mask back on.

Q: Will we have an Exhibit Hall?

Yes, however it isn't without its challenges. The number of exhibits we usually have requires a lot of space and, the exhibit hall has been very crowded in the past few years. So, we have done several things to make it safe for exhibit representatives and attendees. We are eliminating about a dozen booths in the exhibit hall. And, we will have 8' drapes between exhibitors. Also, the exhibit hall will only be open on Monday. Because we must keep everyone social distanced, we need the space occupied by exhibits in order to have enough space to hold our Tuesday affiliate meetings and keep everyone social distanced.

Q: What about the 2020 County Official of the Year?

We will award the 2020 County Official of the Year at the Spring conference and will do so at the banquet on Tuesday evening. County Official of the Year Nominations are due June 4th. (See the application in this newsletter or online at www.iacoonline.org.)

Q: What about Social Events?

Social gatherings fall under strict COVID guidelines which make indoor social gatherings difficult. So, we are moving the Monday evening reception usually held in the Exhibit Hall outside. We have applied for a permit to close off the street in front of the hotel and have our reception outside. We are seeking sponsors to help offset the additional costs, but hope to have a fun, relaxing environment for you to safely network with your peers. We will have music, corn hole, and other outdoor games as well as food and beverages.

Q: What about Hospitality Suites?

This was a very tough decision, but we will not have hospitality suites at this conference. The COVID restrictions for social gatherings are much stricter and it became apparent we could not do the hospitality suites safely and social distanced. Once COVID restrictions are lifted we will return to hospitality suites. We do encourage you to “continuing the conversation” at local establishments that are open late.

Q: Will the Conference Registration still include FREE Lunch?

Yes! On Monday, we will offer a light lunch in the lower level of the hotel. Instead of everyone hitting the lunch space at the same time, we will encourage half of the attendees to go visit the exhibit hall and half to head down to grab a quick lunch. Then we will switch them up. We will bring lunch to the vendors in the exhibit area toward the end of the lunch hour so they can take advantage of visiting with the attendees while they are in the exhibit hall between sessions.

On Tuesday, lunch will be served in your affiliate meeting room. Lunch will likely be lighter than in years past due to COVID restrictions. Likely a pre-packaged salad with meat/cheese on it or a sandwich, chips, individually wrapped cookie, etc.

Q: How do I register for the conference?

On-line Registration is open at www.iacoonline.org. Or, you can mail your registration form with payment. The early-bird registration deadline is June 11. Payment must accompany registration. Conference registrations made and not cancelled will be billed. Cancellations must be made in writing on or before June 11 to receive a refund. All refunds (less a \$25 processing fee) will be made via a check mailed after the conference. Cancellations should be sent to the Registrar via e-mail to tkcps@comcast.net or via fax to (217) 529-7178.

Q: I registered for the 2020 Spring Conference and asked you to hold the registration fees, do I still need to register for this Conference?

YES! If you registered for the 2020 Spring Conference but asked us to hold your fees for the next conference, please register mark the box “Please apply the funds paid for the 2020 Spring Conference” and “invoice me” at the payment portion of the form.

As new developments occur in the weeks ahead, your best avenue for staying informed is to check the website (www.iacoonline.org) or keep checking your email. Thank you for your understanding and patience while we work through the details of what we hope will be a great conference!

Online Conference Registration is open at www.iacoonline.org

IACO Spring Conference

June 21-23, 2021

Wyndham City Centre- Springfield, Illinois

At-a-Glance Tentative Conference Agenda

Sunday, June 20	
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Registration Open
5:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Exhibit Booth Set-up
5:00 pm	IACO Board Meeting - <i>Affiliate Presidents are encouraged to attend</i>
Monday, June 21	
7:30 am	Registration Open
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open / Coffee & Breakfast
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Opening Session
9:30 am – 11:45	Education Session w/Break
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Exhibit Hall Open / FREE LUNCH
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Education Session
3:40 pm – 4:00 pm	Education Session
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Exhibits Move Out
6:00 pm	Outdoor Street Party
Tuesday, June 22	
7:30 am	Registration Open/Coffee & Breakfast
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Affiliate Organization Meetings - <i>Watch your email for information from your organization regarding session details.</i>
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	FREE LUNCH - Lunch will be served in your session rooms
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	President’s Banquet
Wednesday, June 23	
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Legislative Breakfast
To Follow	Affiliate Organization Meetings

Hotel Reservations:

Reservations can be made at the Wyndham City Centre online at: <http://bit.ly/iaco0621>. 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. If you need to call the hotel, call 217-789-1530 and select option 1 for guest room reservations. The hotel will provide you with a confirmation number when you make your reservation. The group rate is **\$98.00** plus tax. Self-Parking is complimentary for those staying at the hotel.

The hotel block expires at midnight on June 4, 2021.

Reservations made and not cancelled 24 Hours prior to 4:00 pm day of will be billed for the first night's room and tax and the remaining nights reserved will be cancelled.
IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS MAKING A RESERVATION (or are told they're sold out), contact Tamiko Kinkade via email at: tkcps@comcast.net and include the nights you need and the number of rooms you need.

OFFICIAL IACO 2021 SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

June 21-23, 2021 (Monday-Wednesday) Wyndham City Centre - Springfield, 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

Reception: Yes No Unsure

Tuesday:

FREE Lunch: Yes No Unsure

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 |

THIS REGISTRATION FORM IS FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS, THEIR STAFF, GUESTS. VENDORS MUST USE THE INDUSTRY PARTNER REGISTRATION WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.IACONLINE.ORG.

COVID Restrictions:

We are planning the conference with the confidence that we will be in the Governor's Bridge to Phase 5. We will make every effort to maintain social distance. However, this updated guidance establishes new capacity limits for settings determined by risk level. In an update to current Phase 4 mitigations, individuals with proof of full vaccination — defined as 14 days after receiving a final vaccine dose — or a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) 1-3 days prior to an event do not count against capacity limits. In earlier phases occupancy was set at a flat number. In the Bridge Phase, the capacity will be based on a percentage of occupancy. Therefore, we can have an increased occupancy as vaccinated individuals do not count toward that decreased occupancy capacity.

Please check one (1) of the boxes below. We will only use this information to make wise decisions on room assignments/capacities. This information will not be shared or retained.

- Yes. I will be fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to the Conference and will bring my vaccination card with me to the conference.
- I have not been vaccinated, but I plan to be tested and will bring proof of COVID-negative test within 3 days prior to the conference.
- No, I will not be vaccinated prior to attending and will not be tested.
- I prefer not to provide this information.

Regardless of your answer, everyone is welcome to attend.

Payment Information: The Conference Registration Fee is **\$195**, but register before June 11 and receive the Early Bird Rate of **\$180**.

	Early Bird	After June 11
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Conference Registration		
County Official/Deputy	\$180	\$195
<input type="checkbox"/> MONDAY Only (Official/Deputy)*	\$95	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> TUESDAY Only (Official/Deputy)*	\$95	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Guest or Retired Official**	\$65	\$95

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 (Monday or Tuesday), 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.**

****The Spouse/Guest Fee DOES NOT apply to individuals employed by county offices. All county employees must register.**

Illinois Association of County Officials

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