



DECEMBER 2019

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KAC MAKING PLANS FOR 2020

By Bruce Chladny, Executive Director

Another great conference has come and gone! I hope that all who attended returned to your place of work and shared with a co-worker something that you learned and encouraged them to save the date for the conference next year. If not – you still have time.



I had twelve first time attendees share their business card with me. And a big congratulations goes out to Joel S. Fager, 1st District, Wabaunsee County Commissioner. His name was pulled out of the hat and his conference registration will be comped next year. What a great tradition I hope we started. It was nice meeting many new people and to welcome those who had not experienced the conference before. I heard several nice complements about those first-time experiences.

As is customary in years past, I was asked to give a “State of the Organization Speech” – just eleven weeks on the job. A task that proved easier to accomplish than I first thought. I shared with the group that if I had to sum up the state of the organization in one word – I would say that the organization is “Changing” or to put a more positive spin on the situation - Evolving or Transforming. I have had the chance to speak with many of our supporters and business partners already – and let me tell you – the KAC is strong! Well respected! NEEDED! It is evident with many of the people I have spoken with that Kansas Counties matter! And what happens in the farthest reaches of the State has an impact on Topeka and vise-versa. So, let me commend all of you for the roles that you have played in helping build and shape the Association to how it looks and operates today.

As an update to the announcement I made – we are moving ahead on the six regional suppers to discuss wind and solar energy. Organizers are putting plans in place and finding locations and local commissioners or contacts to help host the events. We will be sending out more information in the weeks to come. But I ask that you put these on your radar and look to attend first of next year if this issue interests you.

Also, Jay and I have already had requests to provide talking points to aid in discussions with state leaders and local influencers about home rule. This is fantastic. We are working to create

tools and talking points that can be personalized so that you feel confident and comfortable telling those decision makers why it is so important that statutory home rule be extended to constitutional home rule.

And finally, invoices for the 2020 Association dues are getting ready to be mailed. Please be sure that whoever is responsible for paying the bills receives the invoice and it is paid in a timely fashion. We, as an organization, can not express how vitally important it is that all 105 counties stay strong and unified. And as a member of the KAC, your voice is heard loud and clear in Topeka. Kansas counties are strong, but we have needs, and we want to work with decision makers to make sure we are providing the best possible life for all Kansans.

With that said, I've begun the process of soliciting my counter parts in other states around the country to ask how their dues are structured and other important financial information. With this information, I plan to work with KAC leadership to look at our dues structure as well as put together a working plan that helps solidify our financial future through outside fees for service, expanded services, grants, and other various income streams. I tell you this as I am a firm believer of financial transparency and want you all to know where we are and where we are headed.

So as 2019 draws to a close, it is my hope that 2020 proves to be even more bright and prosperous for us all! ■

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES IS MOVING!

We are excited to announce a move to a new location. We are still going to be within walking distance to the State Capitol. Our new location will have plenty of parking for staff and visitors as well as meeting room space for classes or other meetings.

Our office will close December 19 and reopen in our new location January 2 to accommodate the move and the holidays. We will have limited access to email during this time.

Effective **December 23, 2019** our address will change:

Kansas Association of Counties
715 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612

Our phone number will remain the same at 785-272-2585.

Staff email will remain the same:

Bruce Chladny, Executive Director, chladny@kansascounties.org

Jay Hall, Legislative Policy Director & General Counsel, hall@kansascounties.org

Dorrie Sullivan, Education & Communications Director, sullivan@kansascounties.org

Dornella LeaL Operations & Finance Director, leal@kansascounties.org

Norm Bowers, Local Road Engineer, bowers@kansascounties.org

Betty Oliva, Office Manager, oliva@kansascounties.org

Dana Wethington, Marketing Coordinator, wethington@kansascounties.org ■

COUNTY COMMENT

County Comment is published monthly as the official newsletter of the Kansas Association of Counties. Questions or comments are welcome and may be forwarded to [Dana Wethington, Editor](mailto:Dana.Wethington@kansascounties.org).

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Topeka, KS 66603

Bruce Chladny, Executive Director
Craig Cox, KAC President

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COUNTY PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AWARDS GIVEN AT CONFERENCE

Brad Shores, a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas, and on behalf of ACEC gave recognition to the outstanding county public improvement projects for 2019 during the Annual Conference and Exhibition.



Brad Shores, ACEC

The County Public Improvement Award competition recognizes engineering projects, not for their engineering excellence, but for their benefit to the citizens of a community. This is the 58th year ACEC of Kansas has presented the awards.

The winner of the Under 10,000 population category is Pratt County for their Pratt County Lake Improvements project.

The outlet and inlet structures at Pratt County Lake were damaged by a flood and left in an unsafe condition. Kirkham Michael & Associates, Inc. designed improvements to the inlet and outlet structures; in which, Smiley Concrete LLC was selected as the prime contractor and constructed the project. The improvements restored the lake's infrastructure with a larger drainage system and functioning valves. Pratt County Lake offers a wide



ACEC award to Pratt County for spillway project at Pratt County Lake

range of activities and can continue to be enjoyed by all.

The Engineering firm was Kirkham Michael & Associates and the Contractor was Smiley Concrete LLC in Pratt.

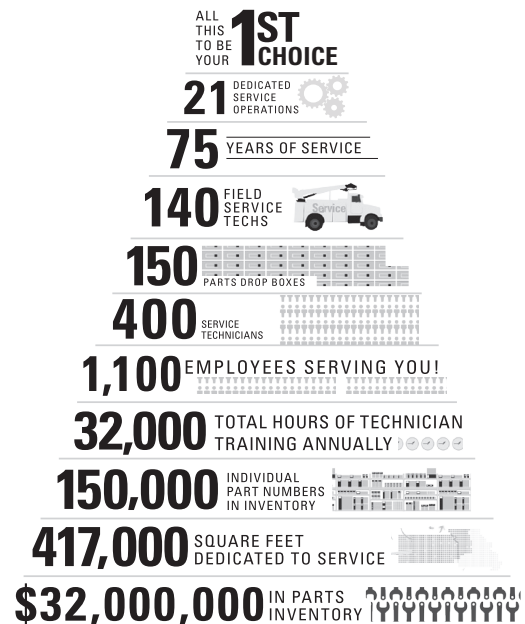
The project was made possible by the foresight and funding by the Pratt County Commission consisting of Tom Jones, Glenna Borho, and Joe Reynolds. Doug Freund, Road Supervisor, was the county lead on this project. Tanner Yost and Charles Scott represented Kirkham, Michael and Associates, as well as Robert Smiley and Chris Freeman with Smiley Concrete.

The winner of the Over 10,000 population category was Riley County for their Denison & Marlatt Roadway Reconstruction project.

Increased capacity was the driving force behind the reconstruction of Denison and Marlatt Avenues in

continued next page

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Riley County and Manhattan. The County partnered with the City of Manhattan on a project to widen the roadway, add designated turn lanes and improve the function and safety of the Denison/Marlatt intersection. Residents of both Riley County and City of Manhattan have realized significant benefits in the form of reduced traffic congestion, improved safety and drainage and a roadway which will allow for future expansion of Kansas State University and peripheral development, including the 2022 opening of the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF).

The Engineering firm was Alfred Benesch & Company and the contractor was Bayer Construction Company, Inc.

The project was made possible by the foresight and funding by the Riley County Commission consisting of Ron Wells, Marvin Rodriguez, and John Ford. Gary Rosewicz, Assistant Public Works Director, was the county lead on this project. ■



ACEC award to Riley County for Marlatt/Denison intersection improvement

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Rates: Up to 75 words \$65; 76-150 words \$95; more than 150 words \$120.

The website posting is from submission date for at least a month and *County Comment* is for one month.

Deadline: First of each month for County Comment

Contact: Dana Wethington at wethington@kansascounties.org



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COUNTIES



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CONFERENCE ATTRACTS MORE THAN 500 OFFICIALS, RECORD VENDORS

By Dorrie Sullivan, Education & Communications Director



The 2019 KAC Annual Conference in Wichita November 12-14 was a success by all measures with record attendance from members and vendors. We held 20 workshops and two keynote addresses, an exhibition with 106 vendors and multiple opportunities for networking.

Congratulations to our **two winners for a free registration for the 2020 KAC Annual Conference!**

- Joel Fager, Wabuansee County Commissioner for 1st time attendee
- Brenda Pogue, Ford County Register of Deeds for completing our survey

County officials from across Kansas took advantage of vendors' knowledge at the Kansas Association of Counties' Annual Conference and Exhibition to see how various products and services could help them do their jobs back home.

"This conference is always the best," said a returning business owner who was a vendor. The company was among a record-setting 106 exhibition businesses, appreciating the benefit of seeing current and potential customers within a few hours in one location.

The vendors filled 116 spaces for the half-day show. More than one-third of those displayed equipment or offered services related to counties' public works departments. Among others' products were employee benefits, technological services, safety and security, design and office supplies.

Many of them rank this expo as among the best of the trade shows they go to, citing interest from the attendees and the short format. They offer various giveaways and prizes that include candy, gadgets and electronics.

Twenty-one companies were sponsors and their contact information is on the KAC website through June 2020 at <http://www.kansascounties.org/services/annual-conference>

The 2020 annual conference will be October 13-15, returning to the Hyatt Regency Wichita and exhibition at Century II. Watch for registration for you to attend with an announcement in County Comment in the spring.

Whether you missed the conference or want a reminder of vendors, here are the 2019 vendors by company name, industry and contact information.

Company	Industry	Contact	Phone	Email
ACEC of Kansas	Consultant/ Procurement	David Comstock	785-233-4512	comstockpe@gmail.com
Ag Spray Equipment	Ag/Industrial	Troy Reno	316-283-4444	newton@agspray.com



"This year's keynote, Tim Gard, was an excellent choice! I haven't laughed so much in a long time – nice balance between very important but sobering discussions and a lighter touch. This year's exhibition was exceptional with so many vendors who are really committed to counties."

– Attendee Survey Respondent

"All of the workshops were on target and gave lots of choices, but how can you do some repeats? I missed a couple I would have liked to attend."

– Attendee Survey Respondent

Allied Oil & Supply Co	Oil Distribution	Chuck Crandall	316-616-6300	btinto@allied-oil.com
American Medical Response	Ambulance Service	Melissa Papish	913-335-5026	melissa.papish@amr.net
Architect One	Architecture	Scott E. Gales	785-271-7010	seg@ao.design
Asphalt Zipper, Inc.	Road Repair Equip	Dave Fokken	888-947-7378	DaveF@asphaltzipper.com
Assoc of Community Mental Health Centers	Healthcare	Heather Elliott	785-234-4773	helliott@acmhck.org
BCI - Realty Partners, LLC	Real Estate	Mike McCown	913-533-2240	mike@bcidevelopment.com
Bergkamp Inc.	Asphalt/Equip. Manufacturing	Dale Sisneros	785-829-0181	dales@bergkampinc.com
Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Co	Property/Casualty Ins	Mike Johnson	402-399-3190	mjohnson@bhhc.com
Big R Bridge	Structures/Fabrication	Juan Banuelas	913-225-6895	jbanuelas@bigrbridge.com
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health Care	Janet McMurray		janet.mcmurray@bcbsks.com
BlueScope Construction	Design-Build Const	Brian Aldrich	816-589-3761	bnaldrich@bluescopeconstruction.com
Bruckner Truck Sales	Trucking	Shawn Wasinger	785-625-7343	swasinger@brucknertruck.com
Capital I Ind. Inc.	Road Equipment	Don Irving	306-873-7571	dirving@capitali.ca
Central Power Systems & Services	Power Systems	Erin Miller	913-244-0319	erin.miller@cpower.com
CFS Engineers	Civil Engineers	Kenny Blair	785 272-4706	kblair@cfse.com
Circle C Paving&Construction	Construct/Pavement Presrv	Chad Alexander	316-794-5070	chad@circlecpaving.com
Civic Plus	Software	Jacob Bertram	888-228-2233	bertram@civicplus.com
Commercial Tire Centers	Tires	Kevin Christensen	785-823-2517	tireguyKevin@yahoo.com
Compass Behavioral Health	Behavioral Health Svc	Lisa Southern	620-260-6679	lsouthern@compassbh.org
ComplianceOne	Drug Testing	Linda Flanagan	800-886-1123	lflanagan@comp-one.com
CIC	Computer Software	Debbie Trahan	800-437-7457	dtrahan@cicesp.com
Corporate Plan Management	Employee Benefits	Matt Marple	785-273-8398	mmarple@corpplan.net
Coughlin Company	Cold Milling	Ted Weber	785-201-8364	ted@coughlincompany.com
Crafco	Paving	Andy Chesney	316-570-0652	amdy.chesney@crafco.com
CTS Group	Performance Contract	Ellie Blankenship	314-221-5235	eblankenship@ctsgroup.com
DCS	Construction Project Mgmt	Craig Singer	316-258-1827	craig@dcsservices.net
Dustrol	Asphalt Maintenance	Aaron Hansen	316-213-5614	ahansen@dustrol.com
Egan Arrow	Safety	Tom Egan	785-342-5886	tom@eganarrow.com
Election Source	Election Services	Don Vopalensky	402-840-3551	dvopalensky@electionsource.com
Enbridge Energy	Energy	Brent Rush	918-223-2496	brent.rush@enbridge.com
Energy Solutions Professnls	Energy Services	Dr. Rose Kane	620-705-1280	rose@energyesp.com
Equitable Solutions, LLC	Mass Appraisal Svs	Ryan Janzen	620-386-0377	ryan.janzen@equitableolutionsllc.com
Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions	Asphalt	Doug Francis	785-577-2615	Doug.Francis@ergon.com
Filesafe	Security Systems	Greg Hindman	785-820-9051	ghindman@filesafeus.com
FirstNet Built with AT&T	Telecommunications	Tina Blackwell	816-778-2352	tina.l.blackwell@att.com
Foley Equipment	Equipment	Walt Bettis	316-943-4211 x 1213	WDBettis@foleyeq.com
Freedom Claims Management	Insurance	Julie Yarmer	620-792-9151	julie@freedomclaimsinc.com
G.W. Van Keppel Co	Equipment	Ben Schmidlein	785-608-4471	bschmidlein@vankeppel.com
Gallagher Benefit Services	Employee Benefits	Sally Tatro	316 977-9779	sally_tatro@ajg.com
Gavel Roads	Online Auction	Lori Rogge	785-556-7162	lori@gavelroads.com
Geveko Markings Inc.	Pavement Markings/Rd Repair	Jay Nettesheim	770-847-9410	JNettesheim@gevekoMarkings.com
Hamm, Inc.	Aggregate	Jaime Hackmann	785 597-5111	jaime.hackmann@nrhamm.com

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Henry M Adkins & Son	Election Services	Brad Bryant	800-633-5503	brad@adkins-printing.com
High Plains Mental Health Center	Mental Health	Walt Hill	785-628-2871	Kaley.Conner@hpmhc.com
ITC	Transmission Utility	Eric Ivey	417-598-0956	eivey@itctransco.com
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.	Engineering/Architect	James Tobaben	785-663-5607	jtobaben@jeo.com
John Thomas Traffic	Roadway Safety	Roger Alexander	785-633-7434	ralexander@jttraffic.com
KS Aggregate Producers'/ KS Ready Mixed Concrete Assoc	Aggregate/Ready Mixed Producers	Jerry Younger	785-235-1188	jyounger@kapa-krma.org
Kansas County Highway Assoc	County Roads/Highways	Justin Mader	785-826-6527	jjustin.mader@saline.org
Kansas EMS Association	Emergency Management	Mary Napier	785-580-3459	mary@kemsas.org
Kansas Health Foundation	Nonprofit-Health	Kristi Zukovich	316-491-8455	kzukovich@khf.org
KS Information Consortium	Government E-Payments	Amber Purcell	785-296-8970	amber.purcell@egov.com
Kansas Power Alliance	Energy	Kimberly Gencur Svaty	913-486-4446	kimberly@gencursvaty.com
KS Soybean Commission	Soybeans/Ag	Dennis Hupe	785-271-1040	hupe@kansassoybeans.org
KS State Univ Global Campus	Online Education	Adrienne Churchil	785-532-5575	global@ksu.edu
KCAMP	Risk Management/Insurance	Carrie Nelson	785-380-6188	cnelson@kcamp.org
KDHE Brownfields Program	Brownfields	Seth Mettling	785-296-5519	seth.mettling@ks.gov
Kimble Mapping, Inc.	GIS Mapping	Luke Kimble	785-539-7499	lkmap@sbcglobal.net
KNOWiNK, LLC	Electronic Poll Books		855-765-5723	sales@knowink.com
KU Public Management Ctr	Professional Development	Ruth DeWitt	785 864-2554	rdewitt@ku.edu
KU Transportation Ctr	Transport. Research, Train, Tech. Assist	Lisa Harris	785 864-2594	lharris@ku.edu
KWORCC	County Government Workers Compensation	Dortha Bird	785 357-1069	dortha@kworcc.com
Kyocera	Rugged Mobile Devices	Lynn Robertson	858-232-3805	lynn.robertson@kyocera.com
LyCox	Road Packing Equipment	Dale Dalbey	406-294-1936	dale@walknrollpackers.com
McConnell & Associates	Road Maintain Supplies	Dale Robeson	316 264-1180	d.robeson@mcconnellassociates.org
Mid-Continental Restoration.	Construction	John Fagan	913-522-6636	john_fagan@midcontinental.com
Midland GIS Solutions	Profssnl GIS and Web-based GIS Services	Matt Sorensen	660-562-0050	sorensen@midlandgis.com
Mid-States Materials	Mining	Chad Gerhardt	785-409-4244	chadg@midstatesmaterials.com
Midwest Foam Works	Concrete	Trey Filter	316-749-7550	foamworks@usa.com
Murphy Tractor & Equipment	Equipment Dealer	Curtis Christiansen	316-945-1015	info@murphytractor.com
National Association of Counties	Association	Kim Hall	202 942-4221	kim.hall@naco.org
Nationwide Retirement Solutions	Financial Svc/Retire Plans	Don Regan	309-660-2917	regand2@nationwide.com
Networks Plus	IT/Tech solutions	Kelly Gillespie	800-299-1704	consulting@networksplus.com
NextEra Energy	Energy	Mike Murray	785-235-9000	mikemurray@capitoladvantage.biz

PFM Asset Management	Investment Management	Jason Glidden	913-317-1640	gliddenj@pfm.com
Point & Pay	Payment Processor	David Meibert	833-729-4968 x 709	dmeibert@pointandpay.com
Postalocity	Mail	Nikki Stockham	316 262-3333	nstockham@postalocyt.com
PrairieLand Partners	Equipment Sales/ Srvcs/Parts	Matt McAsey	785-263-3051	mmcasey@plpjd.com
Proseal, Inc.	Pavement Preservation	Chris Greenwell	316-650-9805	chris@proseal.us
Purple Wave Auction	Online Auction Service	Penny Hughs	785-766-6945	association@purplewave.com
Raymond James & Associates	Bond Issues	Greg Vahrenberg	816-509-5451	greg.vahrenberg@raymondjames.com
Renodry USA	Masonry Dehydration	Michael Clancy	612-554-1863	michael.8clancy@gmail.com
Revere Healthcare Solutions	Health & Wellness	Carmine DiPalo	913-283-8223	cdipalo@reverehs.com
Schwab Eaton	Engineering	Brad Fagan	785-539-4687	bfagan@schwab-eaton.com
Scotwood Industries	Ice Melt	Phil Collins	913-851-3500	pcollins@scotwoodindustries.com
Shive-Hattery	Architecture/ Engineering	Steve Davis	800-798-8104	sdavis@shive-hattery.com
Stifel, Nicolaus & Company	Finance	David Arteberry	816-283-5137	arteberry@gkbaum.com
T & W Tire	Tires	James Castillo	316-409-6573	jcastillo@tandwtire.com
TBS Electronics	Communications	Mark Grabar	800-530-5550	mgrabar@tbselectronics.com
Team Laboratory Chemical Corp.	Industrial Chemicals	Dennis Odom	218-846-9490	dodom@teamlab.net
The Railroad Yard, Inc.	Steel	Bob Strait	405 612-9004	bob@railroadyard.com
Thomson Reuters	Software	Sonny Sagar	785 623-0970	sonny.sagar@tr.com
TIPS The Interlocal Purchasing System	Purchasing Co-op	Charlie Martin	903-739-0736	charlie.martin@tips-usa.com
Truck Center Companies	Trucks	Mike Grady	316-258-1469	mgrady@truckcentercompanies.com
UNIQUE Paving Materials Corp.	Road Maintenance		800-441-4880	
Universal Construction Company.	Construction	Zak Smith	913-342-1150	zsmith@universalconstruction.net
USDA Rural Development	Government/Finance	Dan Fischer	785-271-2737	dan.fischer@usda.gov
Valley Hope Association	Substance Abuse	Crystal Norman	785-202-0742	crystalnorman@valleyhope.org
Vance Brothers	Asphalt/Engineer/ Maintenance	Adam Hahs	816-518-0271	ahahs@vancebrothers.com
Varney & Associates, CPAs	Accounting	April Swartz	785-337-2202	aswartz@varney.com
Wichita Kenworth	Trucks/Transportation	Galen Esslinger	316-247-7218	GalenE@wichitakenworth.com
Wilson Communications	IT Managed Services	Dan Finnegan	785-658-2111	danf@wilsoncommunications.com

SURVEY RESULTS

Top three workshops:

1. Can I Say That at Work? Good & Bad Humor in the Workplace
Tim Gard, Keynote speaker
2. Opening and Vacating County Roads
Norm Bowers, KAC Local Road Engineer & Bill Kassebaum, Morris County Counselor
3. Meaningful Property Tax Relief: What's the Right Path?
Roger Hamm, Deputy Director, Div. of Property Valuation, KS Dept. of Revenue

Top workshops tied for 4th place

- Conversation with Transportation Secretary Julie Lorenz
Julie Lorenz, KS Transportation Secretary
- Employment Law Updates
Forrest Rhodes, Foulston Siefkin
- How to Avoid Swimming with the Phishes
Danielle Hall, Deputy Disciplinary Administration, State of KS
- Kansas Counties and Kansas Wind
Kimberly Gencur Svaty, Principal

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Each year the KAC staff spends time right after our annual conference debriefing to make sure we take note of the things we thought went well and what might need to be tweaked for the coming year's planning. More importantly, we also conduct an after-conference survey to capture our attendees' ideas and questions. Never one to shy away from the critiques, I thought we could address a couple of the more prevalent questions that we received in the survey.

Why can't the conference just be held in Wichita every year?

There is real economic impact for the county that hosts our conference – event planning is big business, so we feel it is important to that we move around the state to other locations. However, as our conference has grown, we have outgrown most locations. There are only two locations that currently have the exhibition space, along with the meeting and hotel rooms that we need to accommodate our members and vendors: Wichita and Overland Park.

Why don't you have more topics specific to my job (as a Public Works Director, a Noxious Weed Director, a Clerk, etc.)?

We look to our affiliate and associate member organizations for content ideas (planning for 2020 is already underway) and we try to find something for everyone, but with an organization the supports all county officials, we look for broad topics that will address many groups and have wide appeal. If you have an idea for a speaker or topic, send it us for consideration!

Can't you repeat some of the topics?

If we have a topic that seems to have wide appeal, we will try to bring back the topic in a webinar or find another opportunity. Our budget doesn't allow for the cost of video taping sessions at this time. We are reticent to ask our speakers to presented twice, but we may find that as an option in the future, if we have a speaker who is open to doing so.

Can you bring back Tim Gard? Best keynote you have had in recent years!

Tim was a resounding success, and although we wouldn't bring him back next year, we could bring him back in a few years. We look for keynote speakers who are addressing current issues and sometimes we also just need to have a good laugh. This year seemed like a time for that!



Chip Westfall, left, Harvey County Commissioner and Vice President of the KAC Board, congratulates Craig Cox, Riley County Assistant County Counselor and President of the KAC Board

NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS (NRS)

Contact: Burt Burrows, Program Director
P.O. Box 24232
Denver, CO 80224
Phone: 303-452-6300,
816-221-5266 or 785-271-7010
Fax: 785-271-7020



[Nationwide Retirement Solutions](#) (NRS) administers the NACo 457 Deferred Compensation Program for county employees across the U.S. NRS provides education, investments and recordkeeping functions for these plans. Along with the 457 Plan, NRS also administers a 401a Match Plan and the Post Employment Health Plan (PEHP), a plan that provides retiree health care reimbursements, tax free.

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The Live Healthy discount program 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. ©2015 CVS/caremark. 106-35891b 100515

Surveyor Review Update

In 2011 major changes were made to the laws relating to the review of survey plats recorded at the register of deeds. I thought it would be helpful to explain the background and describe the various options the individual counties have implemented.

Counties have always been involved in surveying and land records. The county surveyor was one of the original county elected positions established by the territorial legislature. Since territorial days the counties have been responsible for preserving the survey markers established by the federal government and the related survey records. Cornerstones like the one shown in Figure 1 were originally set at half mile intervals by government surveyors, and were later covered when roads were opened on section lines. One of the duties of the county surveyor was to review surveys by private surveyors prior to recording the plat at the register of deeds.

Prior to 2011 all surveys recorded at the register of deeds were to be reviewed by the county surveyor. If the county did not have a county surveyor on staff it was necessary for the county to appoint a county surveyor for the plat review. Since there are not many surveyors practicing in the rural areas, many times the appointed county surveyor did not live in the county. This caused a delay in the review as surveys were mailed back and forth. Cost of reviews also became an issue as some reviewers charged by the hour

and seemed to spend a lot of time doing the review. County surveyors developed different sets of criteria for the review; and many private surveyors found they were dealing with different criteria if they worked in multiple counties. The register of deeds did not like being in the middle of the review issue when a citizen came in to record a survey that had not been reviewed. The review issues festered during the first decade of this century. The private surveyors introduced legislation to just repeal the requirement for county surveyor review. KAC felt the reviews had value and opposed an outright repeal.

In order to develop a compromise that would work for all involved, in 2009 KAC set up an ad hoc committee consisting of four private surveyors, two registers of deeds, two planners, one mapper, one county counselor, one highway official, plus KAC Chief Counsel and myself. It was apparent from the dialog during the meetings that many groups felt the County Surveyor review was a protection to the public and needed to continue. It was also apparent that there were major issues for both the private surveyors and the counties, especially where there were no local surveyors to perform the review. Out of these discussions KAC developed legislation that would provide flexibility for the counties while providing survey oversight where appropriate. The proposed legislation was coordinated with 11 groups/associations that we thought might have an interest in land records or surveying issues. The proposed legislation was successful and became law in 2011.

Changes in survey review law: The 2011 law made the following major changes related to survey reviews.

- Listed the items the county surveyor may review and defined the required submittals by the private surveyor.
- Allows county commission to designate additional review items.
- Surveys of new tracts and surveys that result in new legal descriptions are required to be recorded at the register of deeds.
- The county surveyor review only applies to surveys that are required by law to be recorded at the register of deeds.

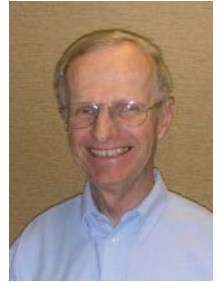


FIGURE 1. Cornerstone originally set about 1857

- Charge for the review is to be based on actual cost.
- County commissions can by resolution waive the review requirement for regular surveys, but not subdivision plats.

Eight years have elapsed since the survey review law was revised. During this time individual counties have determined how to handle the reviews or determine if the reviews were even necessary.

Reviews Waived by County Commission:

Since 2011 there have been 25 counties that have waived the review requirement. Those counties are shown in Figure 2.

While 25 counties consist of about one-fourth of the counties, the population in those counties totals just 295,000. The population correlation is as follows:

Waived Reviews

- 25 counties
- Population 295,000 (10% of state)
- Average Population – 11,000

Retained Reviews –

- 80 counties
- Population 2,600,000 (90% of state)
- Average population – 33,000

If the number of surveys is roughly equivalent to population then 90% of surveys in the state are still being reviewed.

Review Options Implemented: Of the 79 counties that elected not to waive the survey reviews, three major options were implemented.

Option 1: Review by county surveyor, or if no county surveyor then one surveyor was appointed to perform

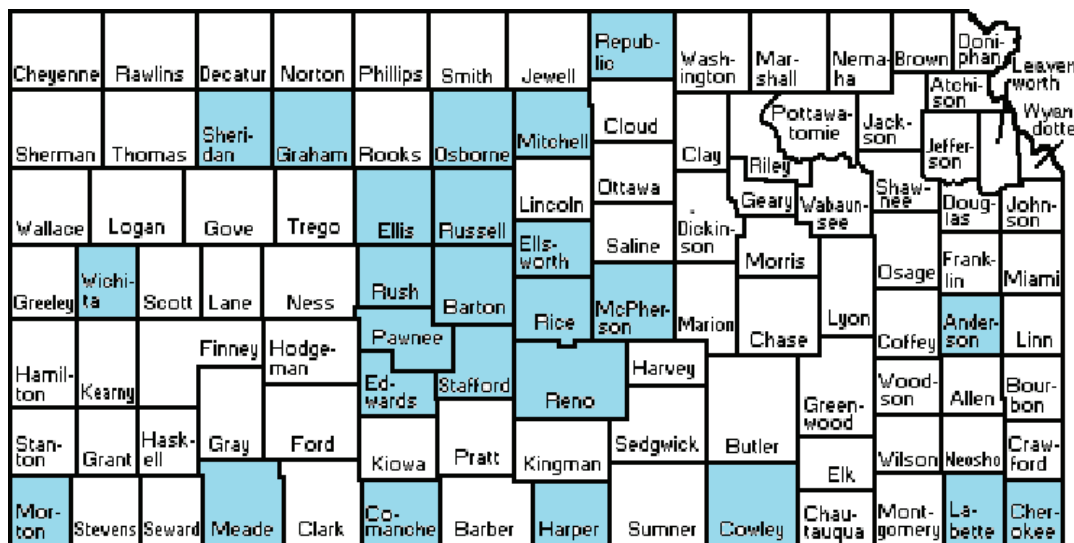
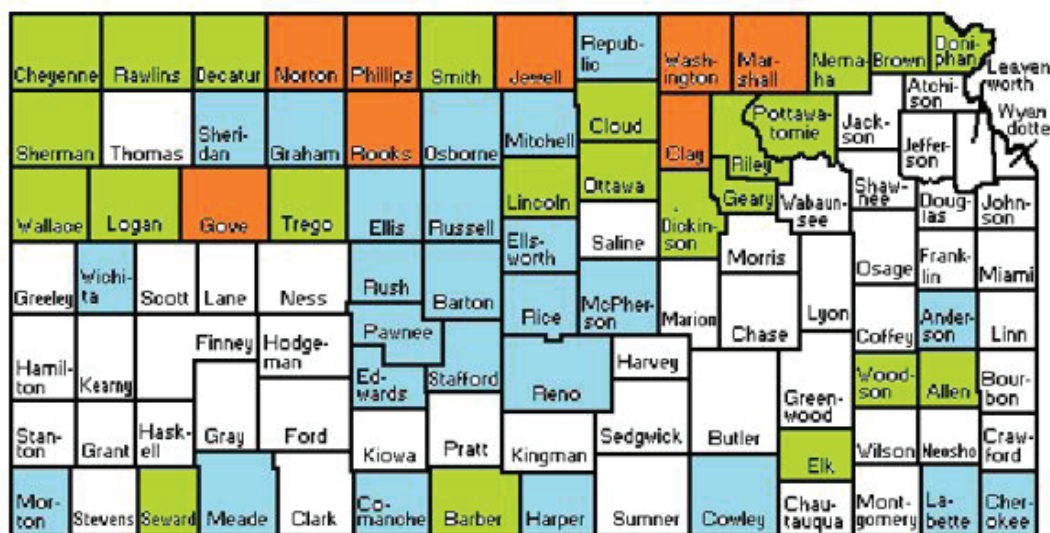


FIGURE 2. Counties that have waived county surveyor review.



LEGEND: Blue-review waived, Green-review by any licensed surveyor, Orange-review by listed surveyors, White-review by one named surveyor.

FIGURE 3. Survey review options implemented

the reviews.

Option 2: County appointed more than one surveyor that could perform reviews.

Option 3: County allows any licensed surveyor to perform the reviews.

Review Option Tally

- 49 Option 1 counties with one designated reviewer
- 8 Option 2 counties with multiple designated reviewers
- 23 Option 3 counties allowing any licensed surveyor to be a reviewer

The geographic distribution of the various options is shown in Figure 3.

continued next page

I was involved in the review law changes, and I did not envision multiple reviewers in a county. It appears that the commissioners and registers of deeds were more creative than this old engineer. I can certainly see the need for two reviewers, as one person cannot be available 100% of the time.

In case you are interested in my opinion on reviews I will give it. To paraphrase Larry the Cable Guy: “Half the surveyors are below average.” The surveyors coming out of Oklahoma and Texas to survey for wind farms are bringing the average way down. Surveyors, like anyone, make mistakes. It is hard to correct a document after it is recorded at the register of deeds, and the extra set of eyes checking the survey plat is good idea. If the cost is reasonable and the review doesn’t delay recording but a few days why not do it?

I had to do quite a lot of research for this article. Thanks to all the registers of deeds and surveyors that talked with me on the phone. Hopefully, the maps are correct, but remember, I am a surveyor, and surveyors do make mistakes. ■

If you like roads, and who doesn’t, you may be interested in my twice monthly email on current road issues and road items of statewide interest. If you would like to receive these emails just send me an email request with position, and county or company at bowers@kansascounties.org.



The Kansas Association of Counties is jointly hosting Local Government Day with the League of Kansas Municipalities on **Wednesday, January 22, 2020**

3-4 pm **Legislative Update:**
Jay Hall, KAC Legislative Policy Director & General Counsel
Pioneer Room

4-5 pm **Speakers:** House and Senate Leadership (invited)
Shawnee Ballroom

5-7 pm **Reception:** Meet with your invited legislators and fellow local government leaders during the reception. The room will be divided by regions to encourage interaction.
Emerald Ballroom

Location: Capitol Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS.

Registration Required: All Local Government Day events are **free**; however, we ask that you **register by noon on Thursday, January 16** so we can better manage our programs and menu. To register, click [here](#).

KAC Open House

Stop by the new Kansas Association of Counties office!

When: Wednesday, January 22 from 9 – 11 am

Where: 715 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS

Light refreshments will be served.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Review Appraiser – Franklin County

Franklin County, Kansas, is now accepting applications for a Review Appraiser.

Salary: \$13.99 per hour DOQ.

Associate's degree in mathematics, statistics, real estate appraisal, agricultural economics, or business required or 2-3 years related experience and/or training required. Valid driver's license required. Obtains cost information/pertinent data from owners concerning property, and determines use of land for classification purposes.

Full job announcement at www.franklincoks.org. Apply on-line at: www.franklincoks.org or www.HrEpartners.com.

Franklin County is an EOE

Economic Development Director – Coffey County

Coffey County, Kansas is seeking to hire a full time Economic Development Director. The Economic Development Director is expected to enhance the economic vitality of Coffey County through the attraction of new businesses, retention and expansion of existing businesses, infrastructure development, tourism, leadership development, and to build awareness of the mission and priorities of Coffey County. A Bachelor's degree in economic development, public or business administration, marketing, finance, or economics from an accredited college or university is preferred. Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) preferred. Minimum of two to three years of economic, real estate or community development, grant writing, entrepreneurial and business planning, or related experience in a similar capacity. Any combination of education, training and experience that provides equivalent knowledge, skill and ability to perform the duties of the position will be considered. Must reside in Coffey County within 90 days of employment. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Applications can be accessed at www.coffeycountyks.org on County Services under employment opportunities. For questions please call: 620-364-8780. Applications accepted until position is filled. Pre employment drug testing is required with conditional offer of employment. Coffey County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Health Department Administrator – Harper County

Harper County is currently accepting applications for our Health Department Administrator position. This individual will be responsible for the supervision and coordination of the Public Health Services, Public Health In-Home Services, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Services of the agency within federal, state and local guidelines in order to meet the needs of Harper County citizens.

Applicants must possess a Bachelor's Degree in business or a health related field; current BSN or RN license preferred. Must have a minimum of five years of employment with a health care provider, and at least three years in a supervisory/management role.

Pre-employment drug screen and background check required.

Benefit package includes paid health and dental options, employer funded Health Reimbursement Account, KPERS retirement plan, paid life insurance and a generous Paid Time Off (PTO) benefit.

Further information is available in the Human Resources office at the Harper County Courthouse, as well as online at www.harpercountyks.gov. Harper County is an equal opportunity employer.

Noxious Weed Supervisor – Phillips County

The Phillips County Commissioners are taking applications for the position of Noxious Weed Supervisor. Under the administration supervision of the County Commission, the position is an exempt position under FLSA. The employee's responsibilities include but are not limited to the department's budget, report preparation, chemical sales and usage, the control and eradication of weeds and equipment maintenance. One year's experience in weed control and chemical application is preferred. Benefits include health insurance, KPERS and vacation/sick leave. Salary is negotiable. Applications can be picked up at the County Clerk's Office or by email coclerk@ruraltel.net and must be submitted back to said office before 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 20, 2019. Phillips County is an EOE.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Economic Development Director – Jefferson County

Jefferson County, Kansas is looking for an experienced, highly motivated self-starter economic development professional. Jefferson County is located in the triangle between Kansas City, Topeka and Lawrence.

Following the implementation of a new Strategic Plan two years ago, Jefferson County has been working on:

- Business Retention and Expansion;
- Organizational Leadership and Management;
- Identifying potential sites for industrial and commercial growth;
- Incentive programs for business and industry;
- Housing needs;
- Communication with the public and new marketing strategies;
- Attraction of new business and industry.

The person selected will lead Jefferson County Economic Development and facilitate the ongoing effort of economic growth and development; work collaboratively with other community partners to meet current and long-range needs and the community's economic goals. Duties include helping to identify sites suitable for small or large development activity; identifying developers and users whose skills or preferences fit an identified need in the community; soliciting, refining and negotiating preliminary development proposals; performing financial feasibility studies; maintaining a directory of available buildings, sites, and property owners. You will also coordinate with developers, property owners, City officials, lenders and builders on expansion needs and new siting.

The position requires a motivated self-starter with a demonstrated successful economic development track record. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college plus at least four (4) years of experience in economic development, business development, marketing or a closely related field is preferred; though any equivalent combination of education and experience which provided the applicant with the knowledge, skills and abilities required to succeed in this critical position will be seriously considered. Demonstrated experience working in a collaborative culture with other community partners including but not limited to: municipal government, utility providers, local chambers of commerce, community volunteers, etc. is a strong plus.

This position is open until filled. If you are interested, please send your cover letter and resume to:

Linda Buttron
Jefferson County Clerk
300 Jefferson St, PO Box 321
Oskaloosa, KS 66066
Phone: (785) 403-0483
www.jfcountyks.com
E-mail: lbuttron@jfcountyks.com

You may also apply online at www.jfcountyks.com
Job Opportunities

Jefferson County is an ADAA & Equal Opportunity Employer

Thanks to our 2019 Conference Sponsors

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Kirkham Michael & Assoc.

Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors

Henry M. Adkins & Son

ITC

Kansas Health Foundation

Computer Information Concepts

LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW 2020

By Jay Hall, Legislative Policy Director & General Counsel

The 2020 Legislative session opens at 2:00 PM on January 13, 2020. With that in mind, here are a few key dates and topics to keep in mind that could dictate how the legislative session goes.

Dates – Legislative Deadlines shape the calendar for legislation and determine what moves forward (and what does not).

February 3, 2020 is the last day for members to request bill drafts from the Revisors office. After this date, only committees can request bill drafts.

February 10, 2020 is the last day for non-exempt Committees (all committees other than Tax committees, Appropriations, Ways and Means, and a few others) to request bill drafts. It is also the last day for non-exempt committees to introduce bills.

February 27, 2020 is Turnaround Day. This is the last day that non-exempt bills (bills that have not touched a non-exempt committee) to be considered in the original chamber. Because 2020 is the second year of the biennium, any bill that is still in its chamber of origin that has not been “blessed” by an exempt committee is effectively dead.

April 3, 2020 is First Adjournment. After this date, no bills will be considered other than bills vetoed by the governor, omnibus appropriations bills and omnibus reconciliation bills.

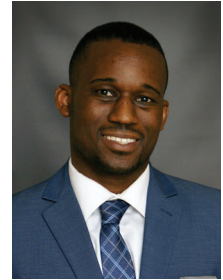
The veto session is expected to begin on April 27.

Issues – Dates give us the framework of timing. Issues fill in the space between that framework. Three major issues aside from the state budget loom over the start of the legislative session. How each of these is handled could well dictate how the rest of the session runs.

1. **Medicaid Expansion.** After last year’s battle that held up the budget for a period of time, the Senate is indicating that they will vote on a proposal very early in the Session. However, this bill will likely be different than the bill that passed the House last year. That will likely set up an interesting conference committee to sort out the differences. If this does run early

in the session, the trades and compromises made (or not made) to get this moving could set the stage for later negotiations on the budget and other issues.

2. **Tax reform.** The Governor’s Council on Tax Reform should have a report out very early in the legislative session. This report will likely be the framework that Governor Kelly works from in establishing her priorities for taxing. Already there is talk about eliminating the state sales tax on food. However, these proposals are not yet in the form of actual legislation. What these ideas look like in practice will go a long way in determining who will or will not support these ideas.
3. **Constitutional Amendment Regarding Abortion.** This is a high priority for many in leadership in both chambers. There are 84 Republicans in the House and 30 in the Senate. Any Constitutional Amendment would require 84 votes in the House and 27 votes in the Senate to pass.



In addition to those three issues, the overarching theme of the legislative session will be the looming November elections. Keep an eye on which members are retiring, which are seeking higher office (i.e., House members running for Senate, Senators running for Congress or a statewide office) and which may be looking for a place in leadership in the future (the 2021 biennium will have new officers). That could influence what legislation moves forward, or how individuals vote based on their future plans.

As always, KAC will be releasing weekly reports to keep our membership informed of what is going on under the dome. ■

INVESTING IN MANAGERS HAS MULTIPLE BENEFITS FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

As a county employee, you may have started out in frontline service on the asphalt crew or handling tax payments, and from there had the opportunity to transition into supervision. You likely received some training to support you in your new role. But when your manager retired and you transitioned into that role, did you get additional training or are you – like so many managers – just feeling your way through? This presents a real opportunity for county governments: investing in improving skills among managers can have a big impact on effectiveness across the organization.

The Heartland Certified Public Manager® Program (CPM) is a training opportunity for the managers in your organization to develop their skills and become real drivers of success.

Offered on a calendar-year basis, CPM is a professional development program focused on strengthening competencies in managing work, leading people, and developing staff, resulting in a national certification for graduates. Participants meet for two days each month from January to November, in classes that address topics such as succession planning, project management, and difficult conversations.

“But don’t panic,” says Terri Callahan, CPM Program Manager. “We don’t lecture at you all day. We present curriculum, but our classes are interactive and practical. We encourage participants to bring their expertise into the conversation so that everyone can learn from one another’s experiences.”

Beyond strengthening day-to-day effectiveness, there’s another tangible return on the investment in CPM: participants complete capstone projects in conjunction with their sponsoring agencies. Projects focus on process improvement, cost savings, revenue



Some of the county participants in 2019 CPM include Colleen Drees, Finney County Health Department; Anabel Clinesmith, Seward County Clerk’s Office; Andrew Barkley, Seward County Rural Fire; Trey Phillips, Finney County GIS; Stephanie Roush, Finney County Department of Corrections; Tiffanie Askew, Ford County Attorney’s Office; and Bobby Bonner, Cimarron Basin Community Corrections.

generation, or other important organizational needs. “It’s not unusual for a capstone project to more than recoup the cost of CPM for an agency, whether through actual savings/revenue or in efficiencies gained,” says Terri Callahan.

While there can be hesitation to invest in training that just seems to increase an employee’s attractiveness to other organizations, in fact research shows that employees are more likely to stay when they feel their employer cares enough to invest in their development. And as so many of us know from our own experience, research also shows that about 50% of employee decisions to leave an organization are decisions to leave their manager. Supporting managers in strengthening their skills can be an important step toward improving employee retention. ■

“It’s not unusual for a capstone project to more than recoup the cost of CPM for an agency.”

— Terri Callahan, CPM Program Manager



The 2020 Certified Public Manager® Program will begin in January with classes offered in Wichita, Topeka and Metro Kansas City. Register by November 15 for the early bird rate of \$3,500. Visit www.kupmc.ku.edu to learn more about CPM. For class meeting dates or to register, [follow this link](#).

This is a 12-week online program with content provided by industry leading executives. The curriculum provides best practices in leadership, organizational development and change management, negotiation and collaboration, effective business communication, and how to deliver increased value from high performance county management.

Course 1: Leadership Mindset & Positive Engagement

This course provides insights from members of the program's National Leadership Board on the ways leaders shift their mindset from being excellent individual contributors to becoming highly effective leaders. The course also focuses on increasing empowerment and engagement to achieve individual, team and enterprise success. The second half of this course demonstrates how leaders enable "positively deviant" performance and engender positive culture and communication.

Course 2: Leading Effective Change

The emphasis of this course is to prepare participants to engage in change initiated by others and to drive effective change as an active change agent. This course illustrates three facets of organizational change, including planning, executing and sustaining successful change. A balance of theoretical and pragmatic insights allows participants to understand the strategic, financial or market-based reasons for change and drive toward breakthrough results.

Course 3: Communication and Collaboration

Participants learn and practice the skills needed to improve the quality of interpersonal communication in a variety of contexts. Participants will learn how to effectively speak the language of business and convey information across diverse stakeholder groups, as well as break down silos between business divisions to drive better decision making. Each participant will understand effective communication as it relates to leading others, managing conflict, providing and receiving feedback, and negotiating with the Mutual Gains Approach.

Course 4: Leading High Performance Teams

This closing course focuses on measures, metrics, and practices used across the enterprise to achieve high performance. Participants learn that business results – values and benefits – may differ from one company to the next and even from department to department within a single company, but the consistent variable is It's All About People.

COURSE 1: January 6th – January 31st

Module 1: Your Leadership Mindset
Module 2: Your Potential as a Positive Leader
Module 3: Positive Leadership and Your Team:
Empowerment & Engagement
Module 4: Leadership Rules and Your Oath
Break Week: Feb. 3rd – Feb. 7th

COURSE 2: February 10th – March 6th

Module 1: The Process of Change: Planning
Module 2: The Process of Change: Executing
Module 3: The Process of Change: Sustaining
Module 4: Leadership Rules and Your Oath
Break Week: March 9th – March 13th

COURSE 3: March 16th – April 3rd

Module 1: Speaking the Language of Business
Module 2: Positive Communications
Module 3: Mutual Gains Approach

COURSE 4: April 6th – April 10th

Module 1: It's All About People
Graduation



"Many frontline managers are exactly the people we cannot afford to lose. The NACo High Performance County Leadership Academy helps to retain these vital employees and helps enable them to be better leaders."

Matt Chase, Executive Director, NACo

Kansas Counties Enrolled in the NACo Leadership Academy



Kansas Statistics

- 9 Total graduates & current enrollees
- 8 Participating counties
- \$12,300 Total scholarship savings to date
- \$87,000 Scholarships available

Academy Pricing

- 1st Enrollee - \$495 (\$1, 500 scholarship)
- 2nd -19th Enrollee - \$1, 695 (\$300 scholarship)
- 20+ Enrollee - \$1, 595 (\$400 scholarship)
- Contact Kevin Darrow at kevind@pdaleadership.com to learn more

"This isn't your run-of-the-mill leadership class. The insights from global leaders as well as weekly break-out groups were invaluable.

- Director of Human Resources

"The NACo High Performance Leadership Program was well worth the time that I put into it. It provided me/reminded me of many concepts that make me a better, more productive leader. It was well worth the investment in time, money and energy it required, and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in Personal Professional Improvement."

- CIO

"This course opened up my eyes to the type of leader I want to be. Without going through this course, I would have remained an average leader. Now I have knowledge and tools to become a great leader!"

- County Highway Superintendent

"The program provides practical ways of dealing with issues from a leadership perspective. It has allowed me to evaluate my leadership skills, as well as provide for me, valuable leadership tools that I didn't have in my toolbox."

- Commissioner

\$804,405 Total Members Savings

700 Total Counties

428 Total Enrollees



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