Happy New Year! What an exciting time for the Republican Party and NCRCO! I hope you plan to attend the NACo Legislative Conference February 25 through March 1 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in DC.

As promoted on the NACo Website: “With a new administration, and newly elected members of Congress, the 2017 Legislative Conference is a can’t-miss opportunity to elevate the county voice at the national level.”

Hopefully, you got to see NCRCO Past President Ray Valdes speak at the RNC Convention. Ray did a great job. After many years in office, Ray retired in December. Ray served in almost every position in NCRCO and represented us well at the convention. We wish him well in retirement and will be forever grateful for his service to NCRCO and to NACo.

We will be having our Business Meeting and Reception on Monday night this year, rather than Sunday night.

The Business Meeting will be at 5:00 p.m., followed by the Reception at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 27th.

We are grateful to the McLane Group for again being a Platinum Sponsor for 2017. Please read the sponsor page at the end of the Newsletter.

Hope to see you in DC in February.

Jon
In Defense of the Electoral College

A good deal of discussion this last election had to do with whether the Electoral College was still relevant or whether it should be superseded by declaring the candidate who received the most popular votes the winner. (The current 538 electors who vote in the Electoral College are made up by giving each state one for each member in the House plus two for the senators and D.C. gets three.) Making a change to the popular vote would be a slow and difficult process at best. Even if the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact was used rather than amending the Constitution, it is not an easy process. Is this something we even want to attempt? A few years ago, Judge Richard Posner (Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit and senior lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School) in a Commentary outlined five reasons in defense of the Electoral College.

FIRST – Certainty. While a dispute over the outcome of an Electoral College vote is possible, it is less likely than a dispute over the popular vote. Because the winning candidate’s share of the Electoral College invariably exceeds the candidate’s share of the popular vote and because almost all states award electoral votes on a winner-take-all basis, even a very slight plurality in a state creates a landslide electoral-vote victory in that state. – If the popular vote was the method used, the loosing candidate would have an incentive to seek a recount in the states where the loss (or win) was by a small margin, in order to increase the overall vote total. As this occurs state by state the result would be debilitating uncertainty, delay and conflict. Remember the turmoil in Florida in 2000? And that was just one state.

SECOND – Everyone’s President. The Electoral College requires a presidential candidate to have a transregional appeal. No region (South, Northeast, etc.) has enough electoral votes to elect a president.

THIRD – Swing States. The winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes induces the candidates to focus their campaign efforts on the toss-up states, where voters are more likely to pay close attention to the campaign – to really listen to the competing candidates – knowing they are going to decide the election.

FOURTH – Big States. The Electoral College restores some of the weight in the political balance that large states (by population) lose by virtue of the malapportionment of the Senate decreed in the Constitution. A win by the same margin in a large state, versus in a small state, results in a bigger electoral vote payoff.

FIFTH – Avoid Runoff. The Electoral College avoids the problem of elections in which no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. (For example, in 1992 Clinton received a 43% plurality of the popular vote, but won a majority of the Electoral College.) There is no pressure for runoff elections when no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, since the Electoral College invariably produces a winner.

Judge Posner concludes that the argument that the Electoral College is undemocratic falls flat. In his words, no form of representative democracy, as distinct from direct democracy, is or aspires to be perfectly democratic. He says certainly not the federal government where in the entire executive and judicial branches, only two officials are elected – the president and vice-president. All the rest are appointed – under federal Article III – judges for life.
Reference sources indicate that over the last 200 years, over 700 proposals have been introduced in Congress to reform or eliminate the Electoral College. There have been more proposals for Constitutional amendments on changing the Electoral College than on any other subject. But while polls of the general public support change, it is reported that surveys of political scientists have supported continuation of the Electoral College. In any event, until it is changed, the Electoral College is what our founding fathers established and is the process by which we select our president.

JON BURROWS
County Judge, Bell County, Texas
NCRCO President

**NCRCO Annual Business meeting and RECEPTION are approaching fast!**

At each of the NACo membership meetings our association gathers to conduct our business and to relax with great speakers. The 2017 NACo Leg Conference in Washington DC will be no exception.

The NCRCO Legislative Business Meeting and Reception will be held on Monday, February 27, 2017, at the Wardman Marriott Hotel. The Business Meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. in Room Lincoln 3, followed by the Reception at 6:00 p.m. in Lincoln 4.

The business meeting is open to the public but the reception is members and their guests only. Our guest speaker has yet to be announced but we have invited several of the proposed Trump Cabinet members to join us.

2017 NCRCO paid members will find their tickets waiting for them at the business meeting for pick up. You can also purchase a guest ticket in advance online by using the link provided to paid members. Guest tickets are $20 and your annual dues remain $30. Dues are now due for 2017, please use the online payment system or send your check to NCRCO, 5900 Western Drive, Great Falls MT 59404 prior to the Leg Con to save time at the door of the meeting.
The 2016 Presidential Election may end up as the most significant political event and national shift of my lifetime. A lot about 2016 reminds me of 1980. In 1980 many voters believed America was going the wrong direction. Iran was a big part of the problem. Remember the Iranian Hostage Crisis? The 1970's began with the US fleeing Vietnam, Watergate, an economy in turmoil and a major gas crisis. The 1970's was a time of political and economic turmoil. And then US voters elected Ronald Reagan as the 40th President. As a result of the 1980 Presidential Election, the direction of the nation changed; and we entered the beginning of the longest peacetime economic boom in history.

Up until 2016, the election of Ronald Reagan was the most significant political event in my life. I'm not suggesting Donald Trump is the second coming of Ronald Reagan, but I am saying that the impact of Trump's victory is at least as significant, if not more so.

So why is the Trump victory both significant and important to our nation, as well as our Republican Party? Here are some thoughts. They are by no means comprehensive, but they are what I believe are the most important lessons I've learned from this Election.

First, there was nothing normal about this election. It wasn't about traditional party strategies or tactics. Neither major party saw this coming. The Democrats laughed while the Republican Presidential race began to look like everyone that could run would. We know now that the Democratic Party did everything in their power to, "clear the field" for Hillary Clinton. Of course they didn't count on voters "feeling the burn" for Bernie Sanders. No one thought that the Democratic race would go almost to the convention. That was supposed to happen to the Republicans. Many Republicans of all political stripes said out loud that the Trump phenomenon wouldn't last. I found myself saying several times, “Wow! He can't say that or do that. He's finished.” I/we were wrong. Donald Trump broke most of the traditional rules and won the primary and the general decisively! Winning over 300 Electoral College votes is a big deal in a "divided America."

So what happened?

There can be no question that most of the media and political pundits got it wrong. No, I'm not talking about a conspiracy. Of course there were some of the main stream media clearly in the bag for Hillary Clinton, but if we are honest, almost all the polls and political pundits had Clinton winning by 4-6 points. But that didn't happen. There are many reasons. One serious area that will be discussed and bring change to the system is polling. In both the primary and general election, polls seemed to be wrong far too often. In the Primary, both Sanders and Trump beat the pollsters in states the polls said they should or couldn't win. I could discuss the impact of changing technology or voters attitudes towards pollsters, but I'll save that for another day. In the end, the polls were wrong; and most media outlets and political pundits rely heavily on what they learn from polls.

I think there are more fundamental reasons for Trump’s historical victory and the hysterical response of his opposition.
First, it’s all about Trump. This victory was not a victory led by Republican National, State or County parties. In many cases, victory was achieved without much help from these organizations. Rather, it was Trump’s knowledge of who the electorate are and his personality that led to this amazing victory.

Secondly, it’s about the message. Trump understood the core feelings of distrust, frustration and outright anger of a major segment of the electorate. He also understood that blue collar voters were concerned about jobs, immigration, energy and national security. Early in the Republican Primary, he forced his opponents to debate issues they didn’t want to discuss.

Thirdly, it’s about the voters many Republicans have ignored for decades. Trumps appeal to inner city voters with a sincere message of hope regarding jobs, crime, education and urban renewal captured attention. While it may not have led to big inner city votes for Trump, it did paint Trump in a very different light than prior Republican candidates for President. His appeal with “energy-voting” Democrats was apparent in places like Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and his appeal with blue collar rank and file union members was manifested in Michigan.

Finally, let’s not discount the Hillary factor. Hillary Clinton may have been the worst Democratic Presidential Candidate since George McGovern. They only difference between the two is that McGovern was an honest, if not even principled liberal. In some respects, Clinton is a lesson in free markets. One could easily argue that her nomination as the standard bear for the Democrats was a result of a “rigged market.” The deals for her nomination had been made long before the first primary. The fact that Bernie Sanders didn’t know that, didn’t help, but in the end she was the nominee. Trump was the result of a very open “free market” contest, and whether you agree or not, he was the best nominee for the party in 2016.

A closing thought. There is one more lesson I learned about Trump post-election. I was not a supporter of Trump in the Primary. I was concerned with his unorthodox approach to the campaign, his style of seemingly saying whatever he was thinking, and frankly his lack of Presidential Decorum. However, when he won the needed delegates, I was on board; in part, because I believe in the “free market” process, and a Hillary Clinton Presidency was simply unthinkable. What amazed me most about Trump in 2016, are his choices for key Cabinet and Administration positions. First, his “Team of Rivals” with appointments such as South Carolina Governor Haley, former Texas Governor Perry, Betsy DeVos and the list goes on. Secondly, his appointments made it clear that he was going to stay with his campaign commitments and not morph himself and his team into a more mainstream administration. This isn’t to say that the future is settled and bright for President Trump, the Country or Republicans; but from where I am, I believe American Can Be Great Again. In part that depends on Trump and his team, but it also depends on what you and I do as Americans and as members of the NCRCO. Let’s Make America Great Again Together!

Christian Leinbach
Commissioner, Berks County Pennsylvania
NCRCO Past President
Minutes of the 2017 Annual Conference Meeting

National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO)
Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting

July 20, 2016 5:00 pm
Long Beach, CA
Long Beach Convention Center
The meeting was called to order by President Jon Burrows (TX), who also welcomed members and guests.
Christian Leinbach (PA) opened in prayer.
Nancy Sharpe (CO) led in the pledge.
Roll call was taken by sign in sheet. A quorum was declared present.
President Burrows recognized the sponsorship of McLane Group.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Secretary Klein introduced the minutes from the 2016 Legislative Conference meeting and it was seconded by Dick Cecil (DE). Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report and Proposed Budget were introduced by Treasurer Joe Briggs and seconded by Terence Farrell (PA). Motion passed unanimously.

Audit Report was introduced by Charles Jones (TX) and seconded by Robert Boyd (KS). Motion passed unanimously.

Cindy Bobbitt (OK) gave the nominating report for and opened nominations from the floor. Judge Glenn Whitley (TX) moved the nominating committee slate seconded by Dick Cecil (DE). Motion approved unanimously. The following were elected:

President – County Judge Jon Burrows (TX)
Vice President – Commissioner Joe Briggs (MT)
Treasurer – Commissioner Robert Boyd (KS) (First year of a two-year term, per By-Laws)

DIRECTORS:
Region 1 – Commissioner Toni Pappas (NH) (Serving first year of term)
Region 2 – Commissioner Jeff Haste (PA) (Eligible to serve a second year)
Region 3 – Councilman Rob Arlett (DE) (Serving first year of term)
Region 4 – Commissioner Chip LaMarca (FL) (Serving first year of term)
Region 5 – Probate Clerk Paul Boyd (TN) (Eligible to serve a second term)
Region 6 – County Surveyor Kent Ward (IN) (Serving first year of term)
Region 7 – Commissioner Duane Sutton (SD) (Eligible to serve a second term)
Region 8 – County Auditor Ryan Wescoat (MO) (Serving first year of term)
Region 9 – Commissioner Darry Stacy (OK) (Eligible to serve a second term)
Region 10 – Commissioner Lew Gaiter (CO) (Serving first year of term)
Region 11 – Commissioner Gordon Cruickshank (ID) (Eligible to serve a second term)
Region 12 – Commissioner Demar Dahl (NV) (Serving first year of term)
Per By-laws, Ken Klein continued as Secretary and Cindy Bobbitt as most current Past President became Immediate Past President:

Secretary - Councilman Ken Klein (WA) (Completing a second year of a two-year term, per By-Laws)
Immediate Past President – Commissioner Cindy Bobbitt (OK)

SPEAKERS
Outgoing NACO President Sally Clark made remarks about her experience as NACO President. Remarks were also made by now NACO 2nd VP Greg Cox concerning his candidacy. Rob Arlett (DE) gave an RNC Convention Update. Incoming NACO President Bryan Desloge made remarks on his vision for NACO. Candidate for Lt. Governor of Montana and longtime NCRCO member Leslie Robinson announced her campaign. President Burrows spoke concerning the Reception Speaker who was Gail Gitcho.
Meeting adjourned at 5:41pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Klein (WA), Secretary

Changes in our Officers for 2017

No, in this case I am not referring to graying hair, receding hairlines or anything else having regarding the aging process, I am talking about changes in personnel.

As you read in the article on the preceding page, at our last meeting Commissioner Bob Boyd was elected our new Treasurer and Councilman Ken Klein was scheduled to continue into the 2nd year of his term as Secretary.

Unfortunately neither of these fine gentleman are able to continue in these roles for the NCRCO. Ken has resigned his elected position to take a full time senior staff position within his county while which a boon to the people of his county will be our loss and Bob was not successful in his reelection bid this past year.

Region 9 Director Darry Stacy has stepped up and answered President Burrows request that he take over the duties of Secretary but we are still looking for an individual to serve as the Treasurer. Vice President Joe Briggs has temporarily resumed his previous duties as Treasurer until our meeting in February where a new Treasurer will need to be selected.

Additionally since Darry has vacated the position of Director for Region 9, that position is also now available. Please consider stepping into one of these vacant positions.
“We are going to...rebuild our highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, schools, hospitals. We’re going to rebuild our infrastructure, which will become, by the way, second to none. And we will put millions of our people to work as we rebuild it.”

~ President-Elect Donald Trump during his election acceptance speech

By winning the White House and maintaining control of both chambers of the U.S. Congress, the GOP will control both the executive and legislative branches of the federal government for the first time since 2007.

The first session of the 115th Congress began on January 3, 2017. Speaker Paul Ryan has already signaled that he plans to continue focus on his “A Better Way” agenda, which offers a detailed Republican roadmap and some policy proposals that President-elect Trump could address. In particular, it lays out ideas for tackling tax reform, overhauling health care programs, spring regulatory reforms, combatting poverty, enhancing national security and boosting the economy.

President-elect Trump campaigned promising to roll back the Obama Administration’s regulatory agenda. Republican leaders in Congress have also made no secret of their dislike for many of the federal agencies’ new regulations. Whether Congress takes action to block them or the incoming Trump Administration begins the process of withdrawing them and drafting new ones, several regulations that impact counties will be receiving fresh scrutiny, including “Waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS) rule that was finalized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

On February 13, 2016, the sudden death of Justice Antonin Scalia left a vacancy on the Supreme Court. To replace Justice Scalia, President Obama nominated Merrick Garland, who currently serves as the chief judge of the U.S Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Since that time, Senate republicans have declined to hold hearings on the nomination, vowing to wait until after the presidential election to consider a successor Justice Scalia. Prior to Election Day, some had speculated that if Hillary Clinton were to win the presidency, Republicans may be inclined to confirm Garland, whose record suggest he would be a relative moderate on the high court. Now, with the election of Donald Trump and the Republicans holding their majority in the U.S. Senate, no action will be taken to fill the vacancy until President Trump has the opportunity to choose his own nominee.

The next four years should be an exciting time for the GOP as we work together to “Make America Great Again”!

Cindy R. Bobbitt,
Grant County Oklahoma Commissioner
Immediate Past President NCRCO
Treasurer's report

NCRCO Treasurer Joe Briggs reported on the Financial status of our organization in Long Beach at the Annual Meeting held on July 20, 2016,

As of July 16th paid membership stood at 70 with cash in the Bank of $10,026.62 with no outstanding receivables and anticipated conference expenses of $2,690.00.

An operating budget for FY 16-17 was approved by the membership during the annual meeting that called for revenues of $9,240 and expenses of $7,215.

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Although NCRCO operates on a Fiscal year of August 1 through July 31 of each year, our dues and sponsorships are on a calendar year. This of course means that our dues are now due. Dues remain $30 per year and can be paid by Cash, Check or Credit Card.

To simplify the check in process before the events at the Leg Conference I am again asking all of our members to consider paying their dues in advance.

This simple action will allow us to avoid members having to stand in line to check in at the event. Pre-Paid members will find their name badge ready for pickup and you can proceed directly into the meeting rather than being delayed.

Prepayment can be accomplished either by using the secure credit card system (PayPal) that can be accessed from our website or by sending your check for $30 along with your contact information to the address displayed in the red box.

We will of course be happy to accept payment at the conference as well, but I hate lines, don’t you?

Joe Briggs
Cascade County Montana Commissioner
NCRCO Vice President & Acting Treasurer
REGION 1 Report - (Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont).

By Toni Pappas, Hillsborough County Commissioner, New Hampshire

New Hampshire

With the New Hampshire House, Senate and Governor’s office all in Republican hands, several legislative initiatives will likely become law. Newly elected Governor Chris Sununu said he’d be supportive of laws that allow individuals to carry concealed weapons without a permit, and ensure that people receiving Medicaid benefits work if they are able. Along with the budget, his top priority is to deal with New Hampshire’s heroin and opioid crisis. He will also sign Right to Work legislation which gives workers in union shops the choice not to join the union.

Maine

Maine’s GOP Chairman Richard Bennett congratulated Republican Congressman Poliquin on winning another term in the Second District. He is also pleased that the voters reelected the Republican majority to the Maine Senate and added to the numbers in the Maine House of Representatives. Along with Republican Governor Paul Le Page these victories will change the political landscape in Maine for years to come.

Massachusetts

Republican Governor Charlie Baker urged Massachusetts residents not to rush to judgement about Donald Trump’s administration. Baker is trying to strike a difficult balance as he represents a liberal state. He is reassuring immigrants and others that Massachusetts will remain a “welcoming state”. He is finding ways to work with the incoming administration on issues such as infrastructure spending and medical research.

REGION 2 Report – (Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania)

By Jeff Haste, Dauphin County Commissioner, Pennsylvania

New York - Republican National Committee Has opened a regional office in Queens, New York.

With the State of New York being in play in this year’s Presidential Election, excitement is growing with the opening of this office. The Republican Party continues to fight the Democrat Governor’s attempt to raise the state’s minimum wage to $15.00.

Connecticut - The Connecticut Republican Party is conducting a grassroots movement called “Take Back Connecticut” in an effort to give citizens a viable option to the State’s Liberals. Carly Fiorina was the guest speaker at the 2016 Prescott Bush Awards Dinner held at the Hilton in Stamford CT.

New Jersey - Voters in New Jersey just capped off the Primary season that started with Governor Christie running for President and ended with Governor Christie helping Donald Trump win the state’s 51 delegates.

When they say 1 vote counts, IT DOES !!! In January, Republican Melissa DeCastro was sworn into the office of Salem County Freeholder after winning the election by 1 vote over her Democrat opponent.

Pennsylvania - Republican voters of Pa overwhelmingly gave Donald Trump their support for President. This year the Republican faithful will try to place PA in the republican column for President as well as elect a Republican Attorney General, Auditor General and Treasurer. The popular Senator Pat Toomey will also be seeking reelection.

As of this writing, the Democrat Governor has still not been able to get a budget passed by the Republican Legislature.

His inability to have a budget passed is a growing strain on the 67 counties of PA.
Greetings from the reddest state in the union - OKLAHOMA.

We did it, however now that Republicans have won not only the Presidency and Congress, but most governorships, state legislatures and County offices across the United States we must ask ourselves if we have the intestinal fortitude to make the changes we were elected to make.

Very few people imagined that an unorthodox outsider such as Donald Trump would win the Presidency, but with it came a mandate from the citizens that they are fed up with the direction this country is going and the “swamp” that has been created in DC.

Don't kid yourself, we have been given this incredible gift and challenge before and squandered the opportunity. In order to capitalize on the opportunities we have been presented with, we as Counties must rise up and lead by example. We have a track record through the most difficult times of meeting the needs of our citizens by governing in an efficient and conservative manner.

America has been left with some of the most challenging problems we have faced in our history and we must believe that as Republicans we have real solutions. It is not merely enough to take our turn behind the wheel driving in the same direction. Now is the time for us to step up and lead the way of responsible government in a responsible manner.

When people look back on this turning point in our Nation's history, what legacy do you want to eave and which direction will they say you drove?

By Gordon L. Cruickshank,
Valley County Commissioner, Idaho.

Alaska

The State is still in a huge budget deficit (about 4 Billion). Last year the State Legislature failed to address revenues and spent most of their time making massive cuts. Those cuts trickle down to the municipalities and this year they are continuing to discuss more cuts. Alaskans pay no property tax or State Sales tax. They do however each receive a check from the State which has been running approximately $2,000.00 per person (every man, woman and child). Many residents think it is time for Alaskans to step up to the plate and pay for the services they receive. Instead the Legislature is simply cutting the services. Alaska’s Governor Walker, an Independent, seems to be the only one who is willing to impose taxes and has submitted legislation with a plan unfortunately the State Legislature would rather criticize him and make more cuts. All of the cuts impact the residents. US Senator Murkowski and US Representative Young both Republicans won their elections in 2016. Alaska voter turnout was 60.77%

Idaho

Idaho retained US Senator Crapo in this election as well as both US Representatives Simpson and Labrador all Republicans. Idaho Governor Otter has applied to the Trump Administration to be selected for a seat on the Administration. The Idaho State Legislature continues to be controlled by the Republican Party. In 2018 we will elect a new Governor and two Republicans (the current Lt. Governor and a former Legislator who ran for Governor) have already made it know they will run. Quite a few County Commissioners lost their races in either the Primary or General Election so the work continues to educate the new elected officials on county government. Idaho voter turnout was 75.87%.

Montana

With the assumed confirmation of Representative Ryan Zinke to Interior, for the Trump Administration, Montana will hold a special election 85-125 days after the vacancy occurs. Montana Association of Counties is working to encourage this to be a mail in Ballot which is expected to save the taxpayers $500,000.00. At least a dozen people have expressed an interest in the seat.

Montana elected their first Republican in 30 years as Superintendent of Schools. Elzie Arntzen is a former legislator who was a friend of local government. Cory Stapleton a Republican is the new Secretary of State and the first “R” in 12 years. Matt Rosendale, another former legislator, is the new State Auditor and the first Republican to hold this office in over 30 years. Tim Fox, Attorney General retained his seat for the Republicans. And Democratic Governor Bullock was re-elected after a race with Governor Candidate Greg Gianforte running with former Phillips County Commissioner Lesley Robinson as his Lt. Governor for the Republicans.
With this 2016 election the Montana Land Board will now be controlled by Republicans for the first time in 20 years. Republicans control the State Legislature and two former county commissioners were elected to the legislature. It appears the Republicans fared well in Montana. Montana voter turnout was 74.44%.

Oregon

Oregon elected their first statewide Republican in 14 years, Dennis Richardson (former legislator and candidate for governor) to the office of Secretary of State. Oregon House of Representatives is controlled by the Democrats 34-26 over Republicans. Oregon Senate is controlled by the Democrats 17-13 over Republicans. 6 Republican Legislators elected from primarily Democratic Districts and no Democrats elected from majority Republican Districts. Oregon has a 1.7 Billion State deficit which is about 10% of the State General Fund.

34 new county commissioners elected out of 120 seats in this election with 75% of the seats Non Partisan. Automatic voter registration added a record number of voters however most were Non-Partisan. Oregon voter turnout was 80.33%.

Washington

Washington US Senator Murray a Democrat won her reelection. Out of the ten races for Washington US Representative seats four were won by Republicans and six were won by Democrats. Democratic Governor Jay Inslee retained his seat. Of the Statewide offices 3 are held by Republicans and 3 are held by Democrats. Apparently the Superintendent of Public Instruction is Non-Partisan as I find no listing of Political Party. Washington voter turnout was at 78.76%.

A limited number of the NCRCO “Challenge Coins” are still available for purchase by our members for the low price of only $10.

Order yours online at NCRCO.org or purchase it at the upcoming NCRCO event.

These high quality metal coins make great Presentation gifts, display pieces and attention grabbers at events.

If you are so inclined you may even dare to use them for their more modern purpose of issuing a drink challenge to your military friends.

Just like a famous credit card, Never leave home without your NCRCO Challenge Coin!
Founded by Drayton McLane Jr. in 1992, McLane Group is a holding company comprised of a variety of diverse enterprises that demonstrate a tradition of excellence and innovation established more than a century ago. McLane Group is a privately held entity located in Temple, Texas. Although headquarters are in Central Texas, the company and its entities have a worldwide footprint.

Drayton McLane Jr. serves as chairman of McLane Group. A native Texan, this acclaimed businessman, leader, and generous philanthropist ensures the focus of all his endeavors is based upon strong Christian values and moral ethics. With business principals passing through generations, McLane Group continues to stress the honorable qualities extolled by McLane’s forefathers: honesty, integrity, and high ethical principles.

Through the years, Drayton McLane Jr. has shaped a diverse portfolio within the McLane Group. Currently, the holding company is comprised of several entities within global logistics, the technology industry, and food production. Past ventures range from international distribution to a major league baseball team. In addition, Mr. McLane has investments in several joint business ventures within the information technology market.

The McLane name is synonymous with a strong commitment to quality and innovation. Drayton McLane Jr. began his career assisting his father in the family business, building a strong grocery distribution network that grew into one of the largest distributors in the world. Today the heritage continues through McLane’s sons Drayton III and Denton, while the family tradition of excellence remains within the collection of McLane companies.

McLane Intelligent Solutions (McLane Intel) is the most relevant company to counties. It is an IT Managed Services company headquartered in Temple, Texas, with offices in Bryan/College Station. The company provides outsourced IT Services to small and medium sized businesses and non-profit organizations throughout the state of Texas. Founded in 1999 as JC Technology Group, the company was acquired by Drayton McLane in the summer of 2004. McLane Intel was founded on a core set of values and business principles that have guided them since its inception.

Those original principles were:

- Communicate in a language the client can understand
- Keep the Client informed
- Always be on time – keep our commitments

Led by an experienced executive management team, McLane Intel possesses exceptional technical skills.

These are demonstrated by a wide variety of individual certifications from Microsoft, Citrix, VMWare, Cisco, and many others. McLane Intel has a commitment to integrity, growth, and best practices.