As I reflect on this last year, I would like to begin by saying how much I appreciate the opportunity and privilege it has been to serve as your President of NCRCO. As with the Republican Party we have seen our numbers and influence ebb and flow over the years. I am excited that we are now moving in a very positive direction and have a very bright future with amazing opportunities ahead of us. More than anything I would like to encourage those within our membership to get involved. In order to continue to move forward it is going to take a concerted effort of the entire membership.

This past year, I heard from many of you wanting to step up and take a more active role, which is exactly what we need.

At our next business meeting in Clark County I am excited to have a potential partner present to the caucus, Community Leaders of America. CLA is a national caucus of America’s local Republican elected Mayor’s and Council Members with representatives from every state and from communities of all sizes across the country. CLA was created as a direct response to the lack of a unified national strategy supporting Republicans running for local elected offices. CLA, which was founded in 2013, is driven by a three pronged mission: Political, Policy, and Communications.

If this mission is successfully carried out, it ensures that the local Republican elected officials are able to serve the citizens in their communities in the most efficient, effective, and responsive manner.

I look forward to having an open and educational discussion as we consider this opportunity of partnership. If you would like to learn more about their mission prior to the meeting you can check out their website at strongcommunityleaders.com. (Continued on page 2)
I am also excited to announce that Special Assistant to the President William F. Crozer will again be joining us to give us an update and answer questions from our membership.

I very much appreciate the dialogue we had at our last business meeting in DC and look forward to the same in Clark County.

Please do not miss our NCRCO reception on Saturday July 13th from 7-9 at Margaretville.

I look forward to seeing each of you in Clark County!

MAGA

Darry Stacy
NCRCO President

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Special Business meeting guest
William Crozer

Before joining the White House as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, William Crozer was Vice President at BGR Group, where he practiced at the federal, state and local levels. In that capacity, he was responsible for developing and implementing engagement strategies both in Washington and in state capitals around the country.

Prior to his tenure at BGR Group, William worked in Georgia Governor Nathan Deal’s Office of Executive Counsel during the 2013 legislative session. He also served on 2012 GOP Presidential nominee Mitt Romney’s campaign as Georgia Political Coordinator where he oversaw grassroots operations in the state and also assisted in the campaign’s Southeast Volunteer Deployment Program. From 2007 through 2009, William worked in the Republican National Committee’s (RNC) Finance Department where he founded and managed a donor group for young professionals. In that role, he planned and executed various fundraising events throughout the country with members of Congress as well as the President.

A native of Thomasville, GA, William received a BA from the University of Virginia in 2007 and a JD from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2012.
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.

Just like a famous credit card, never leave home without your NCRCO Challenge Coin!

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Do you know other who should be a member of NCRCO or someone who you would like to receive an electronic copy of our newsletters?

If so, please send us their email address!

Send the request to jbriggs@briggscom.com
Counties Matter to the Trump Administration

On June 11th, county leaders from Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland were invited to a second round of White House meetings. This all day event addressed issues ranging from the opioids crisis to infrastructure, affordable housing, criminal justice reform, workforce development, the new Mexico/Canada Trade agreement, dairy, rural and a number of other issues.

Speakers included several top administration staff. Presentations included two separate panels.

Prior to the actual Summit I had the privilege to do an interview with the press in front of the West Wing along with two other County Leaders. I complimented the Trump Administration for recognizing the important role counties play in governing across the US.

Dr. Ben Carson, HUD Secretary, led off the presentations and highlighted a number of reforms and policy changes currently underway that can help counties, especially in the arena of affordable housing.

Kellyanne Conway, Counselor to the President, provided a detailed update on the opioid crisis and significant details regarding efforts of this Administration to address the crisis, especially at the county level.

We also heard from John Melle, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere. He discussed the details of the recent trade deal between the United States, Canada and Mexico. Mr. Melle noted a number of major improvements for the US economy in the new deal and that we still need Congress to ratify the agreement.

All of the speakers and panelists took questions from the county leaders in attendance. That included a number of tough questions covering a multitude of subjects.

During the NACo Annual Conference in Clark County the White House is hosting another White House Summit which will include the counties of New York State. These counties are also included in NCRCO Region 2.

All of this is even more interesting when considering the recent front page story in Governing Magazine titled “How Donald Trump Became the Counties’ Best Friend.” The article can be found at https://www.governing.com/topics/politics/gov-trump-counties.html and outlines how the Trump Administration has continued to reach out and work with counties in a way no recent administration has.

Numerous county leaders from throughout the US are quoted and all reinforce that the level of communication and cooperation with counties by the Trump administration is unprecedented. It’s good to see a Republican President understand the value and importance of county government.

Christian Leinbach
ChristianLeinbach@Gmail.com
On October 24, 2018, President Donald Trump stated, “Since I first took office, my administration has made it a priority to invite County Commissioners from across the United States to the White House...I’m pleased to say that more than 3,700 local officials from all 50 states have now participated in a White House State Leadership Conference.”

Moving forward into 2019, William F. Crozer, Special Assistant to the President/Deputy Director White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs is now working on another round of these meetings. The meetings are designed for county (commissioners/supervisors) and municipal officials and will include briefings and discussions with Senior Administrative Officials on shared federal-state-local priorities pertinent to our respective states.

The first regional State Leadership Days initiative event at the White House was held with local elected leaders from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Kellyanne Conway (Assistant to the President & Senior Counselor) and Secretary Ben Carson (Housing & Urban Development) and other senior officials discussed infrastructure, rural development, regulatory reform and combatting the opioid crisis.

On June 25, the White House will host local elected officials from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas followed by local elected officials from the Northeast on July 16. The fourth of 10 regional State Leadership Day events will be on July 25 with local elected officials from Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Nebraska.

President Trump has done an unprecedented amount of outreach to counties. This is the first administration to actively local input from counties to help them make decisions in Washington DC. – building a true federal-state-local partnership! This is a remarkable and historic effort.

These meeting are being held in cooperation with the National Association of Counties (NACo)!

Remember, this is a great opportunity to meet members of the Intergovernmental Affairs team across the federal government. These individuals are your primary points of contact for issues important to your counties and your communities.

When you get the invitation, I strongly urge you to attend! #CountiesMatter

Cindy R. Bobbitt  
NACo Central Region Representative  
Past President NCRCO  
Grant County Commissioner Oklahoma
This past winter saw many State Legislatures coming to State Capitals and doing what we ask. In Idaho it seemed as though the important issues were set aside and other non-important legislation was introduced. At the end of the session there were numerous bills introduced to committees and voted on by the full membership all in the same day. Is this really the way to run a State without public input? Only time will tell.

Lately in Oregon the GOP State legislators walked out on the topic of Oregon’s Cap and Trade legislation, which lead their Governor to request the Oregon State Patrol to go find the GOP legislators and bring them to the Capital to finish their business.

Several states declared emergency declarations due to weather related events from this winter and spring. President Trump has granted Federal Declarations to assist with funding which we all appreciate as many rural areas were hit that may not have the required resources to deal with emergencies of that magnitude.

Idaho’s new Republican Governor, Brad Little, since taking office six months ago, has had his administration cut or simplify burdensome regulations by over 40 percent, breaking the record for the largest regulatory cuts in Idaho’s history.

Idaho’s Republican Senators Crapo and Risch and Oregon’s Democratic Senator Wyden held a Press Rally in Boise Idaho to kick off the Permanent Endowment Legislation to fund Secure Rural Schools forever. Let’s hope this bi-partisan effort is seen by others as working together to find solutions for the people we all represent.

Election season is coming and in some areas has already started. Let’s keep the Conservative Republicans in office for the good of all the United States.

Gordon Cruickshank, Commissioner
Valley County, Idaho and
NACo’s West Region Representative

Editor’s Note: Gordon is too humble to tell you this himself so I will:

Spokane – Valley County Commissioner Gordon Cruickshank was awarded the prestigious Dale Sowards Award at the National Association of Counties’ (NACo) Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference in Spokane County, Washington, during the closing ceremonies on Friday, May 17, 2019. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to public lands counties and to draw attention to the public policies they represent.

Commissioner Cruickshank was recognized by his peers from throughout 15 Western states for his 12 years of outstanding leadership and service to counties throughout the Western Interstate Region, including a term as WIR president in 2015-2016.
This is my final opportunity to address you as an officer of NCRCO so I will try to make this insightful. Let me begin by thanking all of you for the pleasure and privilege of having been allowed to serve you as an officer of the NCRCO for the past eight years.

In that time I have seen many ups and a few downs but overall I have seen a steadily strengthened organization buttressed by past presidents as well as by other steadfast members far too numerous to attempt to name.

My involvement with NCRCO has allowed me to come to know and work with some incredible individuals who have also become good friends. My involvement and those friendships will continue though I will be changing roles within the organization.

As I look back at the changes that have occurred in the eight years I think it is important to note that not only has the NCRCO changed but I also believe that our efforts have helped NACo evolve into a more balanced and effective organization as well.

When I first become involved in NACo and NCRCO, I became aware that a number of my contacts on the Hill both at the staff and elected level viewed NACo as a extension of the DNC.

I believe now that perception is largely gone. This change was certainly not due entirely to the efforts of the NCRCO, but I do believe that we have played a role.

As more Republicans have entered leadership positions in NACo, our associates on the Hill have been forced to reevaluate their view of NACo. Each time one of us took a NACo staffer with us to visit an ally on the Hill, we weakened the perspective that NACo was biased. These small efforts, coupled with the tremendous work of Matt, Deborah, and their team of professionals have raised NACo to the top of list for being a resource for congressional members of both parties.

Personally, I think that NACo has now reached the desired sweet spot of being politically relevant without being partisan. I am pleased to think that NCRCO has played a role in the transition and we must all continue our efforts with NACo and within the NCRCO to keep NACo above the partisan divide.

We are all busy people and I know that sometimes it seems we are spreading ourselves too thin, but I urge you to step up and get more involved in the NCRCO and in NACO. We are ambassadors of the Republican philosophy at the county level and if we are not active and vocal through NCRCO we will allow others to frame the issues for us.

I have been an officer or an elected official within the Republican Party at some level for over forty years (yes, I did start in high school). In that time I have learned many tough lessons, but the most critical one is the “we get the government we deserve, not the one we desire”. As county leaders, it is a critical part of our job that we are active at the national level.

We have to make the time to be engaged at the national level.

In the West, we have a saying that when dealing with the legislature, “if you are not at the table you are on the menu”. Working together, we can make certain that counties are always at the table.
Region 6 Report—(Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio)

By David Zimmerman
Tazewell County Board Chairman, Illinois

At a recent monthly GOP breakfast in Tazewell County, Illinois, our local Republican State Representative was giving a recap of the just completed legislative session.

He stated that the Republicans and the Democrats agreed on one principle and that is what drove the lawmakers. That principle was “growth.”

But the concept of growth means two different things in the State of Illinois. Growth for the GOP means growth in jobs, opportunities and a solid, growing economy. Conversely, for the Democrats in Illinois (and nationally), the principle means growth in debt, taxes, regulations, and spending!

Unfortunately in our State, the Dems have the Governor’s office and supermajorities in both houses. Therefore, you know what kind of growth we will have for the next four years.

On another note, states in Region 6 will play a major role in the upcoming 2020 presidential elections. Michigan and Ohio in particular will be a pivotal part in helping maintain a check on the anti-growth policies of the Democrats. With large voter turnouts and the right candidates on the ballot, I believe we can strengthen our GOP majorities at the county level and develop the next generation of Republican leadership.

NRCRO, NACo and you all play a critical part in building strong, ethical leaders for the future. Thank you for serving and caring about what we leave to the next generation.

By Ron Wesen
Skagit County Commissioner, Washington

Alaska
Republican Governor Dunleavy line item vetoes cut $409 million from the Legislature’s budget in late June after their first special session. The Governor has called for a second special session to begin on July 8th with the sole topic of deciding on the amount of this year’s oil fund check residents will receive.

A bipartisan majority in the house are majority Democrats, the majority voted down $3000 per resident in the first special session. Because of lower oil prices and a state budget deficit less state funding is being sent to local schools and boroughs. The local governments are making tough choices to balance their local budgets.

Idaho
Republican Brad Little was sworn in as the 33rd Governor of Idaho after serving as lieutenant governor for ten years. Republicans have a majority in both the Senate and House. The voters approved an initiative to expand in the Medicaid 2018 general elections. The Legislators approved funding and added work requirements, substance use risk assessments, and Medicaid funds to cover treatment of adult for mental disease in the 2019 session. Legislators also approved increases to minimum public school teacher pay. They also adopted an agreement between stakeholders governing water rights in the Boise River Basin. Campaign finance laws were strengthened by requiring some local campaigns to file monthly reports. They also require voter approval of construction or remodeling of municipal building or multipurpose sports stadium complexes when project cost exceeds $1 million or when 51% of project is public funds.

Montana
The Republican party in Montana is not happy that their Democrat Governor Steve Bullock is spending time out of state campaigning for President. The security detail is paid for by the citizen of Montana when Governor Bullock is campaigning in Iowa, New Hampshire, and California. Governor Bullock did not garner 1% in the polls so he was not allowed to take part in the first rounds of the Democratic debates for president. Out of state security for the campaign has topped over $300,000.

Oregon
Republican Senators fled the state for over a week, which resulted in a quorum not being available to vote in the senate. HB 2200, a cap-and-trade bill was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. When the Republicans returned on June 30, the last day of session, nearly half the Democrat senators joined the Republican senators to send the bill back to committee by a vote of 17-10. Both sides agreed, the bill did not have the votes to pass. Over the nine days that the senators were out of state, protest from both sides took place.
Washington

The Washington state legislative session ended on schedule this year. Governor Inslee signed the $52.4 billion budget. This budget is 18% higher than the last budget including a $2.5 billion tax increase. Democrats controlling the house, senate and Governor’s chair chose to spend all the increased revenue from the good economy, yet still raised taxes and failed to add to the rainy day fund.

This is the first time the democrats have raised taxes when state government’s financial health was already positive.

The final state operating budget was disappointing to counties, but not surprising. The legislators chose not to increase the shared marijuana revenues. They will prepay the postage for our mail in ballots but they took $160 million from the Public Works Assistance Account which is used to help fund our local road projects.

Governor Inslee is also running for president. He was in the first round of debates that took place the last week of June. The cost of his security detail for his out of state campaigning has been an issue.
Pursuant to the NCRCO Bylaws, President Stacy appointed a Nominating committee consisting of Immediate Past President Joe Briggs, current President Darry Stacy, Past President Cindy Bobbitt, Regional Director Connie Rockco and member at large Holly Williams.

The committee reviewed the current membership list for eligibility and past service and offers the following names in nomination for election at our July 14th business meeting:

**President**  
Ron Wesen, Commissioner Skagit County WA

**Vice President**  
Nancy Sharpe, Commissioner Arapahoe County CO.

**Secretary**  
Holly Williams, Commissioner El Paso County CO.

**Regional Directors:**

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<th>Region</th>
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<td>Browyn Asplund-Walsh (NH)</td>
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<td>Michael Keville (NY)</td>
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<td>Connie Rocko (MS)</td>
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<td>David Zimmerman (IL)</td>
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<td>Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Mike Brown (KS)</td>
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<td>Kade Holliday (AR)</td>
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<td>Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington</td>
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<td>Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada</td>
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In addition to the individuals above who have agreed to serve if elected, the committee has also contacted members in each of Region 7, Region 10, Region 11 and Region 12 about serving in these roles. Those individuals have not confirmed their ability to accept the nomination as of publication of the newsletter.

Additionally, the bylaws require that nomination from the floor be accepted so any other members whom the committee did not contact who would like to serve can be nominated at the meeting on July 14th.

Lastly, the Treasurer and Secretary positions are two year terms with the Secretary elected during odd numbered years and the Treasurer in even numbered years. Accordingly, current Treasurer Mike McGinley will remain our treasurer until his term expires next year. The Secretary and Treasurer positions are not term limited whereas the President and Vice President position are limited to a single term and Regional Directors are limited to two successive terms.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Briggs Chairman of the Nominating Committee
The National Conference of Republican County Officials

Welcomes you to the 84th Annual NACO Conference and Exposition!

The NCRCO Members only reception will be held on Saturday July 13th from 7 to 9 pm at Jimmy Buffett’s Margaritaville located at 3555 South Las Vegas Boulevard.

Members may purchase guest tickets on line or at the door for $20 each.

The NCRCO Business meeting will be held on Sunday July 14th at 3:30 to 5:00 pm in the Skyview 2, Resort Tower 26th Floor of Bally’s.

The public is always welcome to attend our business meetings.

www.ncrco.org