

## NCRCO 2014

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President: Christian Y. Leinbach**  
Berks County Commissioner  
Pennsylvania

**Vice President: Don Rosier**  
Jefferson County Commissioner  
Colorado

**Secretary: Cindy R. Bobbitt**  
Grant County Commissioner  
Oklahoma

**Treasurer: Joe Briggs**  
Cascade County Commissioner  
Montana

**Immediate Past President: Ray Valdes**  
Seminole County Tax Collector  
Florida

### REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1: **Bill Doherty**  
Barnstable County  
Commissioner, MA

Region 2: **Terence Farrell**  
Chester County  
Commissioner, PA

Region 3: **Joe Carpenter**  
Gaston County  
Commissioner, NC

Region 4: **Dennis Hollingsworth**  
St. Johns County  
Tax Collector, FL

Region 5: **Gary Moore**  
Boone County  
Judge/Executive, KY

Region 6: **Kent Ward**  
Hamilton County  
Surveyor, IN

Region 7: **Dave Sellie**  
Burke County  
Commissioner, ND

Region 8: **Stephen Holt**  
Jasper County Collector  
of Revenue, MO

Region 9: **Jon Burrows**  
Bell County  
Judge, TX

Region 10: **Don Rosier**  
Jefferson County  
Commissioner, CO

Region 11: **Greg Chilcott**  
Ravalli County  
Commissioner, MT

Region 12: **Michael K. Jeanes**  
Maricopa County Clerk of  
the Superior Court, AZ

# GOP

# County Courier



May, 2014

## President's Letter



The NACo Annual Conference is only about a month away. I certainly hope you are planning to join with county leaders in New Orleans this July. Our NCRCO Business meeting and Reception will take place on Sunday evening, July 13<sup>th</sup>. The Business meeting will begin at 5:30PM and the Reception will begin at 6:15PM. We will be electing NCRCO officers and discussing and debating issues important to both NACo and NCRCO. If you have not already made reservations please make them today. I am working with NACo leadership to secure a keynote speaker.

This conference will mark one year since I was elected to serve as your President. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve. I've sought to begin the rebuilding process along with a strong team of officers, directors and members. We have seen solid growth in both membership and in the fiscal health of NCRCO. As I move to turn over the leadership of NCRCO to the next President I would like to give one more challenge to our membership.

I believe deeply in the foundations of this great nation; the ideals of "Life, Liberty and Property" (The Pursuit of Happiness). I believe in the Declaration and the Constitution of the United States. I believe that God created this great land between two great oceans to be, as Ronald Reagan often said, a city on a hill. That city's light has dimmed and our flag is tattered. There are many reasons for our decline. Fiscal and moral irresponsibility clearly play a role. A failure to follow the admonitions of our great founders and founding documents also have helped lead to our decline.

But, as I consider where we are today I believe there is another issue that has helped lead to our current crisis. We have become a people without the will or in some cases the ability to have a civil debate on issues of importance to the future of our communities or our country. I must admit that over the years I have been guilty of making issues personal, letting emotion rule my response rather than logic, facts and common courtesy. Let's face it; our human response is to lash back at those who disagree with us. When challenged on issues it is sometimes easier to react than it is to thoughtfully consider the arguments and then thoughtfully respond. Make no mistake, our children see parents, politicians and preachers debate and argue in uncivil ways and our children either walk away from society or end up being even more uncivil than we are. I don't know about you, but that is not the society I want to leave to my children and grandchildren.

To that end I am asking that we start setting a different standard for civil debate in an uncivil society. I'm calling for NCRCO to consider supporting the national efforts of [www.ToTheVillageSquare.org](http://www.ToTheVillageSquare.org) to challenge local leaders to provide a forum for civil debate and discussion on issues critical to our communities and nation. Commissioner Brian Desloge, Leon County Florida is one of the founders of this organization which is now ready to go national.

(Continued on page 2)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Here is a powerful excerpt from one of their brochures. It tells the story better than I could.

From the publication "It's surely time for lunch. Let friendship redeem the Republic."  
A Founding Tale: "...You and I ought not to die until we have explained ourselves to each other."

So began the late-life correspondence between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the founding fathers described in the recent HBO mini-series "John Adams" as "the north and south poles of our revolution." Once friends, differences in opinion and political competition had taken a toll.

They, like others in the founders' generation, had deep philosophical disagreements. But as they went about the business of building a country, an endeavor that if unsuccessful would surely lead to their hanging, they hardly had the luxury to stop talking to each other.

Despite the differences between them and the odds against them, the founders managed to cobble together their opus – and ours – the Constitution, which despite all probability still guides this diverse group of people forward together.

But, alas, "politics ain't beanbag" and two election cycles later, Jefferson and Adams had no tolerance for one another.

Fast-forward a couple of centuries and most of us are likely to relate to the fix Adams and Jefferson found themselves in. We, like they, have deep disagreement with - and sometimes little tolerance for - one another.

The two founders ultimately died friends, having given history the gift of their final correspondence. They died on the same day, July 4th, 50 years to the day after the nation they built was born.

"Whether you or I were right," Adams had written to Jefferson, "posterity must judge. Yet I ask of you, who shall write the history of our revolution?"

The philosophical descendants of Jefferson and Adams are alive and well today in us, in this amazing American experiment "in the course of human events."

And we are still writing the history of their revolution.

Like the founders, we hardly have the luxury to stop talking to each other."

It's time for a new dawn of debate and freedom in this nation and we can help make this start in our home states and counties. We can debate the important issues passionately and civilly. The future of our Republic depends on it.

*Freedom*



Thank  
you!

SPONSORS

NACo is the only national association that represents county governments in the United States. NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,069 counties and advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money.

NACo membership is an investment in your county's future because the association works to ensure that counties have the resources, skills and support needed to successfully lead their communities into the future. Your county's membership with NACo saves you and your county time and money and helps you grow professionally.



## NACo Health Discount Program



Select Energy Services is headquartered in Houston, Texas, and has grown to become a company with over \$1 billion in revenues and more than 5,000 employees. We provide services to more than 400 customers in every major shale play throughout the United States and Canada. We deliver innovative and efficient end-to-end water solutions and wellsite services to oilfield operators through two primary divisions:

[WaterOne™](#) and [WellOne™](#).

Phone: 713.296.1000

The National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO) business meeting was held Monday, March 4, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Jefferson West conference room at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.

President Christian Leinbach called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer. The Flag Salute was led by Dan Degear (NY). President Leinbach said that Gov. Haley Barbour (MS), the scheduled speaker for the NCRCO reception, is stranded at an airport due to the snow blizzard and will be unable to attend.

A membership sign-in sheet was passed around the room and cross referenced with membership dues collected at the door showing the following in attendance:

Officers present:

President – Christian Leinback (PA)  
Vice President & Region 10 Director –  
Don Rosier (CO)  
Secretary – Cindy Bobbitt (OK)  
Treasurer – Joe Briggs (MT)

Officers absent:

Past President – Ray Valdes

Directors present:

Region 1 – Bill Doherty (MA)  
Region 2 – Terence Farrell (PA)  
Region 3 – Joe Carpenter (NC)  
Region 6 – Kent Ward (IN)  
Region 9 – Jon Burrows (TX)  
Region 12 – Michael Jeanes (AZ)

Directors absent:

Region 4 – Dennis Hollingsworth (FL)  
Region 5 – Gary Moore (KY)  
Region 7 – Dave Sellie (ND)  
Region 8 – Stephen Holt (MO)  
Region 11 – Greg Chilcott (MT)

Members present:

Randal Ahrens (CO)  
Darius Allen (CO)  
Beryl Amedee (LA)  
Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh (NH)

Jim Bagby (FL)  
John Becker (NY)  
Scott Belt (IA)  
Mike Bobbitt (OK)  
Chris Bowen (MS)  
Robert Boyd (KS)  
Joe Bryan (NC)  
Jimmy Burnsed (GA)  
S. John Campanie (NC)  
Dick Cecil (DE)  
Sallie Clark (CO)  
Ryan Costello (PA)  
Gordon Cruickshank (ID)  
Demar Dahl (NV)  
Dan Degear (NY)  
Bryan Desloge (FL)  
Donald Earle (NY)  
Ed Eilert (KS)  
Gary Fickes (TX)  
Low Gaiter III (CO)  
Craig Hanson (ID)  
Jeff Haste (PA)  
James Healy (IL)  
Dennis Hisey (CO)  
Carol Holden (NH)  
Don Holden (NH)

Bill Imfeld (FL)  
Liz Karan (NC)  
Timothy Karan (NC)  
Steve Keen (NC)  
Ken Klein (WA)  
Chip LaMarca (FL)  
Gary Lee (OH)  
John Martin (CO)  
Brian Maughan (OK)  
Lanny Mixon (MS)  
Brent Oleson (IA)  
Jeffrey Ownby (TN)  
Chad Roche (AZ)  
Nancy Sharpe (CO)  
Darry Stacy (OK)  
Janice Van Hess (GA)  
Peter Van Nortwick (WA)  
Glenn Walters (NM)  
Jeff Wheeland (PA)  
Glen Whitley (TX)  
Jason Williams (NC)  
Jeff Williams (AR)

Guests present:

Mrs. Darry Stacy (OK)  
NACo Staff Liaison:  
Mike Belarmino

President Leinbach thanked Select Energy and CVS/Caremark for their sponsorship to NCRCO. C Bobbitt gave a brief overview of who Select Energy was and the services they provide in support of oil and gas energy. C Leinbach spoke about the many benefits CVS/Caremark offer to counties for prescription discount cards and other medical services.

Newly appointed NCRCO Vice-President Don Rosier (CO) was introduced and spoke briefly about his background. NACo 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Sallie Clark was acknowledged.

Regional Director Reports were given by Bill Doherty (1), Terence Farrell (2), Joe Carpenter (3), Kent Ward (6), Jon Burrows (9), Don Rosie (10) and Michael Jeanes (12).

Secretary Bobbitt presented the minutes from the last annual meeting held July 21, 2013 in Ft. Worth, Texas. C. Holden moved to approve minutes as presented, second by D. Cecil. Motion carried.

S. Clark addressed the group about NACo reaching out to the affiliate and caucus organizations, such as NCRCO, to include them in the NACo conference agendas with meeting and speaker details.

Bryan Desloge, an NCRCO member and candidate for NACo 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (July 2014), addressed the group and presented his platform.

President Leinbach spoke about the various NCRCO Committees and their responsibilities. Appointments to committees for 2014 were made as follows:

**Audit:**

Ray Valdes, Chair  
Joe Bryan (NC)  
Carol Holden  
Robert Boyd (KS)

**Hospitality:**

Don Rosier, Chair  
Peter Van Nortwiek (WA)  
Janice Van Ness (GA)  
Chad Roche (AZ)

**Nominating:**

Ray Valdes, Chair  
Christian Leinbach (PA)  
Dick Cecil (DE)  
Kent Ward (IN)  
Darryl Stacy (OK)

**Budget and Finance:**

Joe Briggs, Chair  
Michael Jeanes (AZ)  
Ken Klein (WA)

**Annual Achievement:**

Carol Holden, Chair  
Dick Cecil (DE)  
Beryl Amedee (LA)  
Chip LaMarca (FL)  
Lew Gaiter (CO)

**Membership:**

Beryl Amedee, Chair  
Brian Maughan (OK)  
Chester Ward (NC)  
Robert Boyd (KS)

Treasurer Briggs distributed copies of the financial report from December 31, 2013 with an update as of February 27, 2014. There is a balance of \$8,052.04 with no pending receivable. A pending payable from the NCRCO Reception held in Ft. Worth Texas in July 2013 was outstanding; however, NACo is adamant that they have no outstanding bill from the conference and the Hotel and Conference Center also confirms there are no outstanding bills to the NCRCO. Therefore this bill should be considered null and void.

Treasurer Briggs addressed the normal annual membership renewal process that transpires during the Legislative Conference with registration and money being taken at the door prior to the business meeting and/or reception. This is a cumbersome process and slows the overall progression to enter the meeting/reception. Therefore, 140 NCRCO membership renewal notices were mailed prior to this conference and 32 renewals received by mail at a cost of only \$68.60 in postage. S. Belt moved to approve the treasurer's report, second by N. Sharpe. Motion carried.

The 2014 Membership committee will address the membership renewal process and report back to the President with possible recommendations.

The report from the Issues Committee was presented by J. Brigg concerning the EPA unilaterally changing the Clean Water act to cover virtually all water. The Committee advised members to keep an eye on this legislation. No action taken.

President Leinbach gave a review of the NCRCO By-Laws and terms of holding an NCRCO Office. He reported that since D. Rosier was appointed as Vice President that left the Region 10 Director position open. D. Heisy moved to elect Nancy Sharpe (CO) to fill the term, second by D. Rosier. There were no other nominations from the floor. Motion carried.

B. Amedee gave an invitation and overview of the NACo Annual Conference that her home state of Louisiana is hosting in New Orleans in July, 2014. President Leinbach asked about possible speakers for the NCRCO Reception. Invitations will be extended to Gov. Bobby Jindal (LA) and Gov. Haley Barbour (MS) since he was unable to attend and speak at this reception.

President Leinbach announced that the NCRCO Reception is immediately following this business meeting next door in Jefferson West room. Speakers will be Karilyn Brown, Justice of the Peace for Pulaski County, AR running for the AR House District 41 and Ryan Costello, Commissioner Chester County, PA running for the PA 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

With no other business, D. Cecil moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m., second by B. Amedee. Motion carried.



According to the Bylaws, NCRCO operates on a fiscal year of August 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> despite our dues calendar being January through December. So if you have not yet paid your dues for the calendar year 2014, I would ask that you do so as soon as possible. The Executive committee and Board are working to expand the strength and influence of our organization and your dues are an important resource in those efforts. I would also ask that if you know of Republican County elected officials who are not currently members please invite them to join.

If you are unsure of your membership status or would like me to send a membership invitation to an associate, please drop me an email at [jbriggs@briggscom.com](mailto:jbriggs@briggscom.com), or forward an email copy of this Newsletter with the membership reply (below).

The Budget and Finance Committee is currently working on a budget for the August 1, 2014 through July 31, 2015 fiscal year. This budget will be presented to the members for discussion and approval at the upcoming Annual meeting in New Orleans.

The second project that we are working on is the purchase of a table top display system for use at our conferences. As is the case at most association events, the other organizations and vendors who display at the NACo events have premade visual impact designs to provide information whether the display is staffed or not. Currently we are just putting out brochures on a table and staffing it as our schedules allow. The system we are looking at is relatively simple and cost effective, but will raise the professional standard of our display considerably. The system will include a table cover with a customized NCRCO graphic, a retractable table top banner with the NCRCO emblem and brochure racks. The combination of these items will provide a flexible display system that we can easily ship to whatever location is necessary.

A simplified financial statement for the current fiscal year is included below for your information.

<b>Simplified Financial Report for FY 2013-2014</b>			
Description	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
Starting Balance as of August 1, 2013			\$2,947.00
Balance from prior NCRCO Treasurer	\$1,513.23		\$4,460.23
Dues	\$2,350.00		\$6,810.23
Reception guest Income	\$75.00		\$6,885.23
Donations	\$3,550.00		\$10,435.23
FY 2013-2014 Expenses through April 30, 2014		\$251.79	\$10,183.44
Balance as of April 30, 2014			<u>\$10,183.44</u>



**New Members: Cut out the Membership Reply form, complete it, and send it in today!**

**MEMBERSHIP REPLY**

YES, I want to be an active participant in the National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO) and help support the programs that will benefit all local elected and appointed Republicans. Enclosed is my annual membership fee of \$25.

Please complete the following information. Send your reply along with your \$25 check, payable to:

**The National Conference of Republican County Officials**  
**NCRCO TREASURER, Joe Briggs, 5900 Western Drive, Great Falls, MT 59404**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ FAX # \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ HOME/CELL PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to the National Conference of Republican County Officials are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Authorized and paid for by the National Conference of Republican County Officials.

### Scott, Crist in tight bid for Governor



Florida Governor Rick Scott, Republican, is in the same position his challenger, now-Democratic hopeful Charlie Crist, was in when Scott first ran for governor in 2010. At that time, Crist was the Republican Governor of Florida facing Scott for the first time. Just as then, the race is predictably tight. A recent Voter Service Survey poll puts Scott ahead of Crist by a narrow margin. Quinnipiac and McLatchey/Marist polls indicate Crist - Republican turned Independent turned Democrat – has a slight lead over Scott. The lead continues to vacillate, depending on the poll service, and has expanded and slimmed. The victor in this race truly won't be known till November. Crist still has to win his party's nomination



in the primary this August, but it is a near certainty that he will face Scott in the General Election this fall.



Florida United States Congressional seats are up for contention. In Northeast Florida, freshman Congressman Ron DeSantis will face challenges for his newly redrawn 6<sup>th</sup> congressional seat – a seat he was first elected to in 2012. Northeast Florida is a Republican stronghold, so DeSantis shouldn't have much trouble securing a second term. As a state, Florida historically has held a position firmly in the Red column; however, recent demographic shifts particularly resulting from an influx of retirees from the Blue states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania could put Florida in play as soon as the 2016 Presidential elections.

### REGION 12 UPDATE

Michael Jeanes, NCRCO Region 12 Director

In Arizona, eight Republican candidates continue to work towards the Republican nomination for governor to succeed term limited Republican Gov. Jan Brewer. The primary election is August 26<sup>th</sup>. Three AZ congressional seats currently held by Democrats are being viewed as winnable by the AZ GOP. All three districts have strong, highly qualified Republican candidates who have a very good chance of defeating the incumbents in November.

The California Republican Party recently published an email discussing the Democrat's "Paycheck Fairness Act." The CA GOP stated "the act doesn't provide paycheck fairness for women. In fact, it will cut flexibility in the work place for working moms and end merit pay that rewards good work—the very things that are important to us." The 2014 California Republican Convention will be held September 19-21 at the LAX Marriott.

Former US Rep. Charles Djou has been described as "the Republicans best hope for high office" in Hawaii. Djou is running for Hawaii's CD1 seat. Djou joined the Army Reserve one month after Sept. 11, 2001. "I did so because I believe in America and everything our country stands for -- freedom, liberty and equal opportunity. But, our government today is failing us. The politicians in office simply aren't listening. Partisan politics has become more important than people. We need leaders who will fight for our country, our children and our future -- to create jobs, and make sure people can afford to live in our beautiful state."

On their website, the Nevada Republican Party reports that at their spring meeting, a motion was approved in support of the resolution against the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) previously passed by the Republican National Committee (RNC). Nevada GOP Chairman Michael McDonald said, "We don't think the Obama Administration needs to tell us how to educate Nevada students. Local school boards accountable to parents can best develop the curriculum for Nevada's children, not a panel of "experts" in Washington DC."

### ARKANSAS:

The Republican Party of Arkansas held its Winter State Committee Meeting and a Special Event with Senator Rand Paul on January 31, 2014 in Hot Springs, and held its State Committee Meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Arkansas' U.S. Senator John Boozman is recovering from heart surgery on April 22, 2014. His surgeon reports that Senator Boozman will be fully able to return to his duties without any restrictions.

### LOUISIANA:

The Republican Leadership Conference will be held May 29-31, 2014 in New Orleans. Following 2013's [Red to the Roots Tour](#), the Republican Party of Louisiana is embarking on an unprecedented endeavor to reclaim Mary Landrieu's U.S. Senate seat in 2014, and cultivate a sustainable "ground game" for the 2015 & 2016 elections that follow. This endeavor is codenamed: [Project Geaux Red](#).

[Project Geaux Red](#) is committed to identifying and empowering Republican activist in every community across the State of Louisiana, and equipping them with the technology and information necessary to ensure Louisiana sends conservative Republicans to Congress in 2014.

Louisiana will be welcoming the NACo Annual Conference to the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans July 11-14, 2014. NCRCO is working on getting a high level Louisiana Elected Official to speak at our membership reception.

### OKLAHOMA:

The Republican Party continues to be a powerhouse in Oklahoma. In 2012 Republicans won every Congressional seat and expanded its majority in both the State House and Senate. Republican voter registration is at an all-time high. It is reported that the Party is on the cusp of becoming the majority party as Republican voter registration closes the gap, ending the reign of the Democrat Party since statehood.

The Party reported that on the first day of candidate filing, it hit a new record for Republican candidates filing on the first day. On the other side of the aisle, the Democrats did not even file enough candidates to challenge control of either the House or the Senate. In addition, there were five statewide races entirely unchallenged.

### TEXAS:

March 4<sup>th</sup> was a busy day for the Republican Primary in Texas. Winning their Primary outright was John Cornyn for re-election as U.S. Senator; Attorney General Greg Abbott for Governor; Glenn Hegar for Comptroller; and George P. Bush (Jeb's son) for Land Commissioner. In the runoff set for May 27 are David Dewhurst (Incumbent) and Dan Patrick for Lieutenant Governor; Dan Branch and Ken Paxton for Attorney General; Tommy Merritt and Sid Miller for Agriculture Commissioner; and Ryan Sitton and Wayne Christian for Railroad Commissioner. All of these offices are currently held by Republicans and have been for several elections. After the Primary Runoff, the Party will be making a concerted effort to continue its dominance on the General Election ballot.

Texas considers itself among the strongest Republican states in the nation. Every statewide elected office and majorities in the state senate, state house and on the state board of education are held by Republicans. Texas Republicans have majorities in 107 Texas counties that contain nearly two-thirds of the state's population. (Over two dozen Democrat elected officials have switched to the Republican Party since November 2010.)

All Region 9 states were Red States in the presidential elections of 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012. Expectations are high for each state's Republican Party in the elections of 2014 and 2016.



Congressional races in Southeastern Pennsylvania are often viewed by the national Republican and Democratic Parties as key battlegrounds. So when long-time Republican Congressman Jim Gerlach announced his retirement in Pennsylvania's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, political pundits initially billed this as one of the nation's more competitive open seats.

As we head into the primary, however, the initial pundit predictions appear far off-base, with Republicans coalescing around my fellow Chester County Commissioner, Ryan Costello, one of our own members of the National Conference of Republican County Officials. While the campaign is still early, Costello -- who serves as Chairman of the Chester County Board of Commissioners and is a former Chester County Recorder of Deeds -- has energized Republican and independent voters throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> District, which includes portions of Chester, Montgomery, Lebanon, and Berks Counties.

For their part, local voters have rallied around Costello's message of getting our country back on the right track by finding bipartisan solutions to the challenges facing the nation, his support for implementing policies that will stimulate the economy and grow jobs, and his desire to restore fiscal responsibility in Washington. Of course, his track record as a county commissioner doesn't hurt either.

Under his leadership, the Board of Commissioners last year approved a revised 5-year strategic plan for Chester County that set priorities and goals in the areas of health, environment, public safety, and the county economy. Elements of the strategic plan include promoting job creation, tourism and the continued growth of agriculture sector; improving water quality and protecting open space; revitalizing the county's urban cores; and improving the county's transportation infrastructure to address traffic and congestion.

In his role as County Commissioner, Ryan has balanced annual budgets exceeding \$500 million, cut government spending, reduced the size of county government, and still made significant investments to preserve farmland and open space. Under his leadership, Chester County also maintained one of the lowest tax rates in southeastern Pennsylvania. It also earned the highest possible bond rating from independent agencies for its smart fiscal management of taxpayer dollars.

From the perspective of NCRCO members, we all benefit when a candidate with county government experience like my friend Ryan Costello is elected to Congress. As a Congressman, Costello will call on his experience as a County Commissioner when voting on a range of issues. Equally important, he will bring to Congress his own first-hand experience in dealing with the issue of burdensome unfunded mandates that are passed on to counties by the federal government.

For more information on Ryan Costello's campaign for Congress, please visit [www.ryancostelloforcongress.com](http://www.ryancostelloforcongress.com).

## NCRCO REGIONS

- Region 1: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
- Region 2: Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
- Region 3: Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia
- Region 4: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
- Region 5: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee
- Region 6: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio
- Region 7: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin
- Region 8: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska
- Region 9: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
- Region 10: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
- Region 11: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington
- Region 12: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada



Like NCRCO on Facebook!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/NCRCO>



***Volunteer to Chair or be appointed to a standing committee*** – Send us an email and tell us how you would like to participate. These committees are waiting for **you!**

- a. **AUDIT COMMITTEE:** The Audit Committee is charged with auditing the Treasurer’s books and making a report of findings during the NCRCO Annual Business Meeting. The Committee shall consist of at least four (4) NCRCO members, other than current NCRCO Officers and Regional Directors, one of whom shall be an active NCRCO Past President.
- b. **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The NCRCO Treasurer is the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. The Budget and Finance Committee shall be responsible for developing the Annual NCRCO Budget in conjunction with the President, presenting it to the NCRCO Board of Directors and membership for approval, and for securing sponsorship funding support for the organization.
- c. **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:** The Hospitality Committee is responsible for working with the President to oversee, plan and implement all NCRCO Receptions and Hospitality events.
- d. **ISSUES COMMITTEE:** The Issues Committee is responsible for formulating ideas and proposals for endorsement by the Board of Directors and membership, and bringing forth appropriate Resolutions and positions for official action by the organization.
- e. **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Membership Committee assists the Treasurer with maintenance of current NCRCO membership records. Coordinating with the RNC, NACo, and the NCRCO Regional Directors, the Committee shall solicit new memberships for the organization from all of the Republican County Officials throughout the United States, compile a current NCRCO membership prospectus, and distribute same to prospective new members.
- f. **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** The Newsletter Committee is responsible for the production and distribution of the official NCRCO Newsletter “GOP COUNTY COURIER”, which is sent to all NCRCO members, Officers of NACo, and other interested parties as may be determined beneficial to NCRCO.

## New "Waters of the United States" Definition Released

*Counties are strongly encouraged to submit written comments on potential impacts of the proposed regulation to the Federal Register.*

On April 21, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jointly released a new proposed rule — [Definition of Waters of the U.S. Under the Clean Water Act](#) — that would amend the definition of "waters of the U.S." and potentially expand the range of waters that fall under federal jurisdiction. The proposed rule, published in the Federal Register, is open for public comment for 90 days, until July 21, 2014.

To read NACo's analysis of the proposed "waters of the U.S." definition, including information on where to submit comments, click [here](#). This document includes a policy brief and a comparison chart showing existing and proposed regulatory language and its potential impacts on counties.

### Why "Waters of the U.S." Regulation Matters to Counties

The proposed "waters of the U.S." regulation from EPA and the Corps could have significant impact on counties across the country, in the following ways:

Seeks to define waters under federal jurisdiction: The proposed rule would modify existing regulations, which have been in place for over 25 years, regarding which waters fall under federal jurisdiction through the Clean Water Act (CWA). The proposed modification aims to clarify issues raised in recent Supreme Court decisions that have created uncertainty over the scope of CWA jurisdiction and focuses on the interconnectivity of waters when determining which waters fall under federal jurisdiction. Because the proposed rule could expand the scope of CWA jurisdiction, counties could face significant impacts as more waters become federally protected and subject to new rules or standards.

Potentially increases the number of county-owned ditches under federal jurisdiction: The proposed rule would define ditches as "waters of the U.S." if they meet certain conditions. This means that more county-owned ditches would likely fall under federal oversight. In recent years, Section 404 permits have been required for ditch maintenance activities such as cleaning out vegetation and debris. Once a ditch is under federal jurisdiction, the Section 404 permit process can be extremely cumbersome, time-consuming and expensive, leaving counties vulnerable to citizen suits if the federal permit process is not streamlined.

Applies to all Clean Water Act programs, not just Section 404 permits: The proposed rule would apply not just to Section 404 permits, but is also relevant to other Clean Water Act programs, including stormwater, water reuse and green infrastructure. Such programs may become subject to increasingly complex and costly federal regulatory requirements under the proposed rule.



## Finding the Value in Agricultural Water

Water continues to be an important county issue. Availability, quality and conservation are just a few of the factors commissioners deal with when wrestling with water decisions. At the winter conference, commissioners were able to hear the latest on the important topic of protecting against the dry up of agricultural water.

It is difficult to discuss agricultural land dry up without defining the value of agricultural water. Gary Barber, Chair of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable, Dr. Perry Cabot, Water Resource Specialist from the Colorado Water Institute and Dick Brown, from Sand Dollar Research, presented a summary of the conference held by the Colorado Agricultural Water Alliance earlier in the year. The purpose of the conference was to find a way to value agricultural water so that when the inevitable conversation arises about finding the balance between water conservation, growth and agriculture in Colorado, policy makers will have the best information.

The focus of the valuation conversation centered on the Arkansas River Basin. The importance of water to the Arkansas Basin is obvious; however, quantifying the value is another matter. Presenters showed that the value of irrigated agricultural land to this river basin alone is over \$695 million. An 8% flow reduction, whether due to dry years or through agricultural land dry up, would reduce that value by \$82 million and cost 950 jobs. A 17% reduced flow brings that number to \$174 million. Impacts are felt not only on the agricultural industry, with a loss of thousands of jobs, but also on the recreational industry and the associated impacts for communities. Overall, the entire economic value, including all spillover benefits, of agricultural and recreational water to just the Arkansas Basin amounts to \$1.36 billion dollars.

Numbers like this show the importance for Colorado as future negotiators sit to discuss water. As the headwaters state, having data like this is essential to protect the interests of Colorado citizens throughout the state. If Colorado is able to find the balance between urban growth and agricultural protection, then the state's position will be much stronger when future dry years force the difficult conversations to occur.

## Protect Your County Against Cyber Phishing Attacks

*The article below was provided to CCI by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. As you see, the Division indicates that some Colorado local governments have been successfully attacked. The Division is not detailing the nature of the successful attacks but is asking that we make sure Colorado counties continue to be vigilant in defending against them.*

Municipal government systems in the Colorado area have recently been targeted by computer hackers using phishing emails.

Hackers use phishing emails to gain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, and financial information. The goal of a phishing email is to lure the recipient into clicking a link or an attachment containing malware that can compromise sensitive information. Phishing emails appear to originate from a trustworthy source such as a colleague or supervisor, or often purport to be from popular social web sites, auction sites, banks, online payment processors, or IT administrators.

Avoid being a victim of phishing by deleting any emails that are from strangers and never click on links or attachments from unsolicited email messages. Legitimate companies will not solicit Personally Identifiable Information (PII) via email. If you believe the email to be from a trusted source but are unsure, close the email and initiate contact with the source directly. Do not use the link provided in the email.

If you suspect that you have been a victim of this scam or that your system has been infected with malware, disconnect the infected system from the network but DO NOT power down the machine. If your system has been breached or you have lost any PII to these types of schemes, please contact the United States Secret Service (USSS) Denver Field Office at 303-850-2700 and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Denver Field Office at 303-629-7171.

## CDHS Puts Mobile Technology in the Hands of Child Welfare Workers to Keep Kids Safe and Families Healthy

The Colorado Department of Human Services is distributing mobile technologies throughout the state as part of Governor John Hickenlooper's Child Welfare Plan "Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy 2.0" announced in February 2013. The plan reflects the importance of having well-trained, highly-qualified caseworkers with the best supports and tools available to meet the needs of Colorado's children and families.

County child welfare workers spend a large amount of time away from the office; visiting families in their homes; working with parents, foster parents and treatment professionals; and testifying in court hearings. When away from the office, workers have limited access to data systems and cannot always record information in a timely manner. With an investment of \$927,300 in mobile devices - laptops, tablets and smart phones – Colorado's child welfare workers will be more efficient and effective in their jobs.

"Social workers pursue this line of work to help our most vulnerable children and families. By utilizing technology we can help them be more efficient to make a difference for kids," said Julie Krow, director, CDHS Office of Children, Youth & Families. "There is a significant amount of time spent waiting between appointments and court hearings. Now, caseworkers can spend that time completing documentation that allows real-time information sharing that enhances child safety."

Mobile technologies will be distributed to child welfare workers in 53 county human services departments throughout the state (below). CDHS is working with the remaining 11 counties to identify and purchase mobile devices over the next two months.

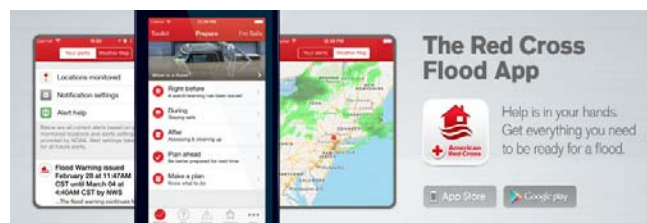
### American Red Cross New Flood App Can Save Lives

Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. The American Red Cross developed its new Flood App to help save lives and reduce losses from floods and flash floods.

This free app gives iPhone, iPad and Android smart phone users instant access to local and real time information, so they know what to do before, during and after a flood. The content is available in English and Spanish based on the user's language settings on their mobile device. The app includes location-based, audible NOAA flood and flash flood watches and warnings – even if the app is closed. Other features include:

- One-touch "I'm safe" messaging that allows users to send a message letting family and friends know that they are out of harm's way;
- Preloaded content that gives users instant access to critical action steps, even without mobile connectivity;
- Toolkit with flashlight, strobe light and audible alarm to let others know where you are;
- Locations of open Red Cross shelters;
- Real-time recovery resources for returning home and cleaning up; and
- Badges users can earn through interactive quizzes and share on social networks.

The app is the latest in the series of Red Cross emergency preparedness apps that put lifesaving information right in the hands of people whenever and wherever they need it. The expert advice in Red Cross apps, which also include apps for First Aid, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes and other services, has been used to help save lives during disasters and medical emergencies. Red Cross apps have been downloaded on nearly 4 million mobile devices. The Flood App, along with the others, can be found in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store for Android by searching for American Red Cross or by going to [redcross.org/mobileapps](http://redcross.org/mobileapps). Apps can help prepare people for disasters, but they are not a substitute for training. Red Cross First Aid and CPR/AED training empowers people to know how to respond to emergencies in case advanced medical help is delayed. People can visit [redcross.org/takeaclass](http://redcross.org/takeaclass) for course information and to register.





The NCRCO Creed states:

WE BELIEVE ...

- That faith in God, as recognized by our Founding Fathers, is essential to the moral fiber of the Nation.
  - That the free enterprise system is the most productive supplier of human needs and economic justice.
  - That all individuals are entitled to equal rights, justice, and opportunities, and should assume their responsibilities as citizens in a free society.
  - That fiscal responsibility and budgetary restraints must be exercised at all levels of Government.
  - That the Federal Government must preserve individual liberty by observing Constitutional limitations.
- That peace is best preserved through a strong National defense.

The Membership Committee seeks to gather those Republican county officials from across the country who abide by this creed, so that we may more effectively accomplish NCRCO objectives, which include informing federal officeholders and administrators of the needs of local government, and influencing official policies and actions of NACo.

Your current Membership Committee members are Commissioner Robert Boyd (Riley County, KS), Commissioner Brian Maughan (Oklahoma County, OK), Commissioner Chester Ward (Pender County, NC), and yours truly, Councilwoman Beryl Amedee (Terrebonne Parish, LA), serving as Chairwoman.

By popular request, we will soon be able to receive dues of new and renewing members electronically! So please invite your fellow Republican county officials to join (or rejoin) NCRCO any time. There is no need to wait for the Legislative Conference or the Annual Conference!

Speaking of the Annual Conference, I would like to welcome everyone to my home state of Louisiana for NACo 2014 in July! Pack your coolest summer clothes to tour New Orleans and bring light sleeves for indoor A/C. Be sure the clothes you pack fit loosely because we *love* to feed people down here!

The Membership Committee will set up a well-appointed NCRCO display table, which will be manned by members throughout the conference. You *know* your feet will need to rest at some point from all the walking to and from conference meetings and French Quarter sight-seeing. We will have a couple of chairs behind the NCRCO table just for YOU! **Please donate an hour of your choosing to sit, smile, and shake hands in air-conditioned comfort.** Be the face of NCRCO! Send me an email ([amedee@tpcg.org](mailto:amedee@tpcg.org)) to reserve your hour. Your feet will thank you... and so will we!

See ya' in New Orleans!

### ***OBJECTIVES of NCRCO***

- *To further the ideals of the Republican Party through regular contact and association with peers at semi-annual meetings, by Internet and other communication channels.*
- *To assist in building a grassroots Republican network that will help elect more Republicans at the local, state, and national levels.*
- *To define, clarify, and discuss ideas or proposals supported by Republican County Officials, and to disseminate positions we adopt.*
- *To provide the opportunity for Republican County Officials to unite in their efforts to inform federal officeholders and administrators of the needs of local government, and concerns as to the impact of federal programs, from a Republican viewpoint.*
- *To foster loyalty to the Republican Party and to promote its principles and platform by all Republican candidates in all elections.*
- *To provide a forum from which to participate in, comment upon, or consider official policies and actions of the National Association of Counties (NACo).*
- *To serve as a national voice from the local level and advance public understanding of the role counties play in American politics.*

**NCRCO NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**  
for  
**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND REGION DIRECTORS**  
July, 2014, New Orleans, LA



**OFFICERS:**

**President – Cindy Bobbitt** – Grant County, OK Commissioner  
**Vice President – Don Rosier** – Jefferson County, CO Commissioner  
**Treasurer – Joe Briggs** – Cascade County, MT Commissioner (being elected for a 2-year term per By-Laws)  
**Secretary – Beryl Amedee** – Terrebonne County, LA Councilwoman (being elected for one year per By-Laws)  
**Immediate Past President – Christian Leinbach** – Berks County, PA Commissioner

**DIRECTORS:**

**Region 1 – Commissioner Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh** – Merrimack County, NH (first year of new term)  
**Region 2 – Commissioner Terence Farrell** – Chester County, PA (serving a second year)  
**Region 3 – Commissioner Jason Williams** – Gaston County, NC (first year of new term)  
**Region 4 – Tax Collector Ray Valdes** – Seminole County, FL (first year of new term)  
**Region 5 – County Judge Gary Moore** – Boone County, KY (serving a second year)  
**Region 6 – Surveyor Kent Ward** – Hamilton County, IN (serving a second year)  
**Region 7 – Commissioner Dave Sellie** – Burke County, ND (serving a second year)  
**Region 8 – Commissioner Robert Boyd** – Riley County, KS (first year of a new term)  
**Region 9 – County Judge Jon Burrows** – Bell County, TX (serving a second year)  
**Region 10 – Commissioner Nancy Sharpe** – Arapahoe County, CO (first year of new term)  
**Region 11 – Commissioner Greg Chilcott** – Ravalli County, MT (serving a second year)  
**Region 12 – Supervisor Greg Cox** – San Diego County, CA (first year of new term)



# WHEN WILL NCRCO MEET NEXT?

OUR MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014 AT 6:00PM, DURING THE NACO ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS (JULY 11-14, 2014).



**COME JOIN US!!**



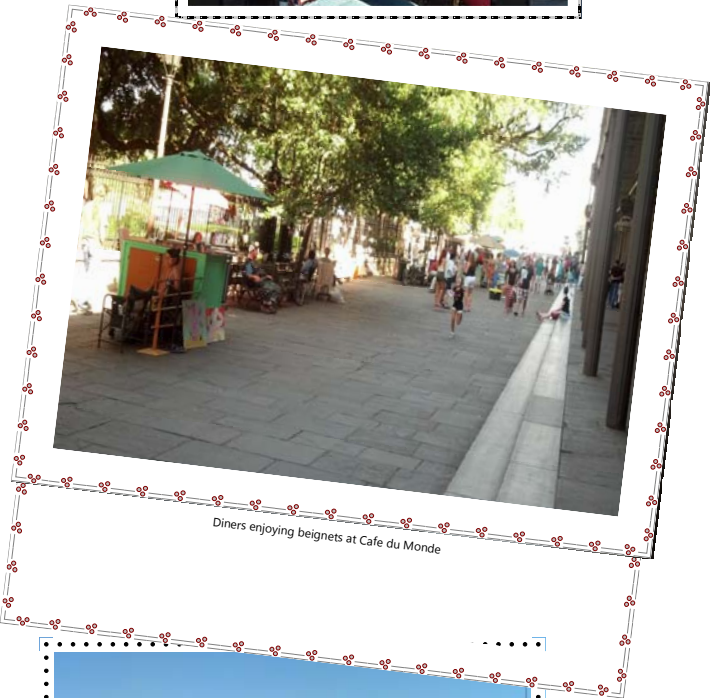
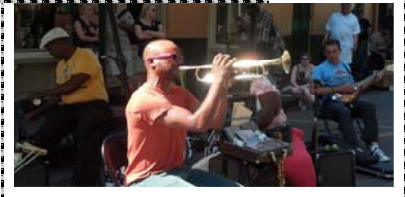
Saint Louis Cathedral at Jackson Square



Street musicians, New Orleans French Quarter



Pedestrian Mall



Diners enjoying beignets at Cafe du Monde

**Don't Miss Out!  
It'll be FUN!**



The Riverwalk



The Crescent City Connection