

the COUNTY VOICE

Utah Association of Counties

WINTER 2010

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Coming Soon

January 22, 2010
UAC Board of Directors Meeting
Provo

January 29, 2010
County Officials Day at the Legislature
Salt Lake City

March 6-10, 2010
NACo Legislative Conference
Washington DC

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UAC Ready to Keep Officials in the Loop for 2010 Legislature

Now that 2010 is well underway, it's time to kickoff the 2010 Utah Legislative Session, set to begin January 25 and conclude on March 11. As always, UAC will be on the Hill daily, representing county interests. Below are some ways you can stay engaged in the process, whether you are in Blanding or Bear Lake:

County Officials Day at the Legislature
This year's meeting will be January 29 in the State Office Building Auditorium. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss county issues with your local legislators.

UAC recommends that all officials who can attend do so, as this helps Legislators understand that Utah's counties are united and strong—the better the turnout the stronger we appear. UAC also asks that officials extend a personal invitation to their local legislators as this helps ensure their attendance and, again, sends the message that county officials are aware, concerned and involved in the state legislative process.

Even if you have few or no major issues this year, next year you may and this will help lay the necessary ground work toward what needs to be done in the future.

For more information about Legislature Day, see the article on page 4 of this newsletter or visit our website at www.uacnet.org/calendar.



Weekly Legislative Committee Meetings

As is custom, UAC will conduct a Legislative Committee meeting each Thursday at 9 a.m.. Primarily, these meetings will be held in the State Office Building in Salt Lake City; however, the first meeting (January 21) will be next door to the UAC office in Murray at the Salt Lake County Environmental Health Department. A final recap meeting will be held on March 25 at the UAC office in Murray.

Also, all weekly meetings will be broadcast to locations across the state. All county officials are invited to participate and are given a vote wherever and however they participate. Here is a complete schedule:

See **Legislature** page 3

2010 CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars for the following key UAC events in 2010. Should there be a change, we will notify you as soon as possible.

January 22, 2010
UAC Board of Directors Meeting
Provo

January 29, 2010
County Officials Day at the Legislature
Salt Lake City

March 6-10, 2010
NACo Legislative Conference
Washington DC

March 31 - April 2
UBHC Spring Conference
Logan

April 14, 2010
UAC Board of Directors Meeting
Ogden

April 14-16, 2010
UAC Management Conference
Ogden

May 19-21, 2010
Treasurers Summer Conference
Moab

May 26-28, 2010
Western Interstate Region (WIR)
Billings, Montana

June 30, 2010
UAC Board of Directors Meeting
Cedar City

July 16-20, 2010
NACo Annual Conference
Reno, Nevada

August 4-6, 2010
Clerk/Auditors Summer Conference
Provo

UAC Convention Attendees Choose New Leadership, Recognize Outstanding Peers

Millard County Commissioner Daron Smith was elected president of the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) at the organization's 84th Annual Convention, November 13 in St. George. Replacing Rich County Recorder Debra Ames, he will oversee the organization's Executive Committee and Board of Directors for one year.

Smith is now the third elected official from Millard County to head UAC in its 89 years of existence. Mark Johnson in 1951 and Guy Robins in 1967 precede him.

Also elected, joining Smith and Ames (now serving as past-president) on the UAC Executive Committee, are First Vice President and Utah County Commissioner Larry Ellertson, Second Vice President and Utah County Treasurer Robert Kirk, and Secretary and San Juan County Clerk/Auditor Norm Johnson.



New UAC Executive Officers (LtoR) Daron Smith, president; Larry Ellertson, 1st Vice President; Robert Kirk, 2nd Vice President, and Norm Johnson, Secretary. Sworn in by Marilyn Gillette, Tooele County Clerk (far right).

The evening also recognized Garfield County Commissioner Maloy Dodds as the overall outstanding county official for 2009. Dodds was chosen from a field of eight county officials representing each of the affiliate groups that make up the UAC membership. The process includes a selection committee that weighs the contributions and services made by each individual and a vote among peers that takes place during the Convention.

Along with Dodds, who was selected by the Utah State Association of County Commissioners and Council Members as (USACCC) their official of the year, eight others were honored. They include:

- Assessor of the Year: Dennis Ayers, Iron County
- Attorney of the Year: Troy Rawlings, Davis County
- Auditor of the Year: Mike Jensen, Tooele County
- Clerk of the Year: Norm Johnson, San Juan County
- Recorder of the Year: Norm Spriggs, Summit County
- Sheriff of the Year: Lynn Nelson, Cache County
- Surveyor of the Year: Ernest Rowley, Weber County
- Treasurer of the Year: Karen Jeppesen, Cache County

In addition to the Utah-based accolades, Davis County Treasurer Mark Altom was recognized nationally, being selected as Treasurer of the Year for the National Association of County Collections, Treasurers and Finance Officers (NACCTFO) organization. Altom, who served as NACCTFO president in 2002-03, was presented the award by current president Tom Malzahn, who is the Treasurer for Kootenai County in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

Legislature *continued from pg 1*

Date/Time	Location	Moab
January 21, 9:00 a.m.	Salt Lake County Environmental Health Dept. 788 East Woodoak Ln (Next to UAC Office)	Allen Memorial Hospital 719 West 400 North, Moab
January 28, 9:00 a.m.	State Office Building	Richfield Central Utah Public Health Department 70 Westview Dr., Richfield
February 4, 9:00 a.m.	State Office Building	St. George Southwest Utah Public Health Department 168 North 100 East, St. George
February 11, 9:00 a.m.	State Office Building	Vernal TriCounty Health Department 147 E. Main St., Vernal
February 18, 9:00 a.m.	State Office Building	Phone Line Participation Daggett (801) 924-0728
February 25, 9:00 a.m.	State Office Building	Emery (801) 924-0729
March 4, 9:00 a.m.	State Office Building	Garfield (801) 924-0730
March 25, 9:00 a.m.	UAC Office in Murray	Kane (801) 924-0731

Broadcast of Legislative Meetings
UAC will broadcast all Legislative Committee meetings live in select locations across the state. Locations in Logan, Moab, Richfield, St. George and Vernal will be set up for video conferencing, while locations in Daggett, Emery, Garfield, Kane, Millard, San Juan and Wasatch Counties will be set up to participate via phone line. A complete listing is below:

Video Conference Participation
Logan
Bear River Health Department
655 East 1399 North, Logan

Legislative Updates on UAC Website
Once again the UAC Website (www.uacnet.org) is the ideal place for county officials to keep up with issues as they take form at the Legislative Session.

Updated daily during the session, the Legislative Issues section of the website tracks every bill of

interest to county government. This section provides details including UAC's position regarding the bill, any UAC bullet sheets on the bill, and a link to the Legislative Website for the bill.

An agenda and any material to review for each UAC Legislative Committee meeting will be posted on the Website by Wednesday morning. You'll find UAC Legislative Committee meeting information at both the Meetings section and the Calendar section of the Website.



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9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
**State Capitol Complex
Auditorium**

Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
(Auditorium)
- 9:30 Overview of Key Legislation
- 10:45 Affiliate Breakouts
- 11:15 Meet Legislators (Rotunda)
- 11:45 Escort Legislators
Back to Auditorium
- Noon Lunch With Legislators
(Auditorium)
- 1:00 p.m. Adjourn

Parking

As many of you know, parking around the Capitol Complex is limited. However, there are some spots (in lots and on streets) up on the east and north sides. Also, please consider public transportation options. UTA continues to run route 500 between the Capitol and downtown area FREE of charge. This route drops riders at the Capitol every 15 minutes.

Name: _____ County: _____

The cost is \$80. Please mail or fax your registration to UAC by January 26.

Or you can register online at www.uacnet.org

Fax: (801) 265-9485 Address: UAC, 5397 S. Vine Street, Murray, UT 84107



Weird Gadgets Coming to an Office Near You

Any one of the gadgets below is sure to spice up even the duller of office environments.

USB Aroma Therapy

For all of you new age office rats, this unique office accessory will make your office day a lot more peaceful and serene. This air freshener easily plugs into your computer's USB port and emanates one of three scents. The scent is chosen with a quick click of your mouse.

Über Hygienic LCD Monitor

Are you concerned about catching the common cold, or worse, H1N1? Sometimes hand sanitizer simply isn't enough to keep the doctor away. Thank goodness Korea has come out with a bacteria killing LCD monitor that releases negative ions into your office environment that will kill bacteria and protect your eyes from your LCD monitor.

iPod Nano Tie

This will certainly add a little spice to your long office day. This awesome tie features an integrated pocket that works perfectly for your iPod Nano. Even better, the tie has been constructed from 100% silk and comes in a wide variety of colors.

Sleeping Bag Body Suit

Do you work long hours? Well instead of



making the trek back home at midnight only to return the next morning at 6am, camp out at the office. The Selk'Bag by Muschouse is a comfy, warm and wearable sleeping bag that will make your late nights at the office much more comfortable.

Mind-Reading Typewriter

Typing can be real monotonous after hours and hours. Luckily there is now brain-to-computer devices that will essentially read your mind and convert those thoughts into cursor movements on the screen. Freaky right? It sure sounds great; however, in order for it to work you'll have to have 128 electrodes placed on your scalp to decode your thoughts. It's also not the most time efficient device, as it takes about 10 minutes to type out a simple sentence.

Three Keys to Building an Effective Team

Teams and groups are not the same. A group is just a collection of people with a shared interest. A team is much more focused with specific roles, ways of working, objectives, sense of mission and required performance standards.

The first issue to think about in terms of creating a team is to think of the roles people play in the team as well as their specialist professional role, e.g. lawyer, design engineer and so forth.

All teams need an ideas person who can trigger the creative processes of the team. We also need someone to coordinate the team's activities, someone else to set the direction of the team, and someone to manage and calm down any conflict which may occur in the team.

Someone else needs to focus on gaining resources for the team and developing contacts outside the team. Someone needs to implement the ideas created in the team sessions and someone else needs

to check and follow through those ideas to completion.



Someone needs to take the 'view from the balcony' of the team and monitor the effectiveness and quality of its operation and outputs. Finally many teams need specialist input, even if only part time.

However, despite our knowledge of the importance of team roles many teams do not perform as effectively as they might, particularly top management teams.

If we want a team to perform effectively it has to be built on trust amongst its members to avoid the 'invulnerability' effect where team members will not admit that they are anything other than perfect. In particular, if the 'invulnerability' effect exists in a team, its members certainly will not bring to the attention of the team any issues which are

not looking good, particularly if it is their area of responsibility.

The next issue relating to a sound team foundation is that conflict and disagreement needs to be handled effectively and openly to avoid the real meetings taking place after the scheduled meeting. This leads to a tendency to create 'in crowds' and 'out crowds' and cliques rather than one properly bonded team.

Shared goals and standards of performance are important to avoid ambiguity in the way the team works together.

Finally the team needs to focus on team outputs rather than the gratification of individual egos and 'political' disagreements within the team.

These five issues together with setting a team credo of vision, mission and values for what the team is trying to achieve and how it achieves its objectives are vital in creating an effective team.

RS2477 Roads: The Negotiated RDI Process

Senator Bennett, at UAC's request, is discussing with Deputy Interior Secretary David Hayes a way for any interested county to resolve its RS 2477 road claims across BLM lands through a "Negotiated RDI Process," described as follows:



The BLM and a county would center talks on pre-1976 7.5 minute USGS topographic maps (or other reliable and timely map series if such USGS maps are unavailable for a given area), and tentatively group as many county roads as possible into three categories:

1. *Claimed county roads which appear on the maps.*
Grouped as valid county rights-of-

way. BLM would give FLPMA recordable disclaimers of interest (RDI's) to the county and State, thus giving indisputable title.

2. *Claimed county roads which do not appear on the maps.*

Grouped as not being valid county rights-of-way. County and state would abandon and quit-claim those roads to the BLM.

3. *Claimed roads not on the maps but still important to a county's transportation needs.*
Grouped as open to public travel under FLPMA Title V right-of-way permits. Add maintenance agreements where desired.

Interested members of the public would then review the three tentative categories and make comments to a BLM designated facilitator.

BLM-county discussions would resume and continue until they reach overall agreement on which roads will be processed under which category.

If the county and the BLM could not agree in which category to place a particular road or set of roads, then either could pursue resolution of those roads through other means. The Negotiated RDI Process is voluntary and available for interested counties who wish to pursue this option.



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Support Growing for “The County Seat” TV Series

Television Producer Chad Booth showed a half-hour pilot episode of “The County Seat” at the UAC Annual Convention, November 12 in St. George. The pilot featured two topics: RS 2477 Roads and Jail Funding.

If commitments from the counties and sponsors were received totaling \$300,000, Booth’s company would commit to produce a year’s worth (52 weeks) of episodes on different topics (two topics per half-hour episode), to air weekly on statewide commercial television. Sundays at 9:30 am are currently open on ABC 4 with a direct lead in to “This Week.” Sponsors and counties could distribute programs to cable operators, and reproduce these for unlimited internet webcasts, downloadable podcasts and DVDs at no extra cost.

Program topics will be determined in consultation with UAC and financial sponsors. So far the following entities (in alphabetical order) have indicated they



Advertisement for Chad Booth’s long-running outdoor show that appears each Sunday on ABC4.

would like to contribute financially to the first year production of “The County Seat:”

- » Emery County
- » IPAMS: Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States
- » Iron County
- » Kane County
- » Uintah County
- » Utah Farm Bureau
- » Utah Mining Association
- » Utah Petroleum Association
- » Utah Rural Electric Association
- » Utah Rural Telecom

- » Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
- » Utah Water Users Association
- » Weber County

This is a growing list, and other interested parties should contact UAC soon, as additional support will be necessary for the project to move forward.

When detailed cost info for producing and airing commercials becomes available, UAC will obtain firm written commitments from these entities.



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UTAH COUNTIES INSURANCE POOL

JOINT PURCHASE WORKERS COMPENSATION PROGRAM REDUCES COST FOR COUNTY MEMBERS

Recognizing the difficult budget issues facing Members in 2010, the UCIP Board of Trustees prioritized critical review of its programs to identify options that could reduce member coverage costs. The UCIP Board of Trustees reviewed several proposals related to the Pool's Workers Compensation program at their regular meeting held Thursday, December 17, 2009.

After review and consideration of several options, the UCIP Board of Trustees approved a joint purchase program with the Workers Compensation Fund of Utah (WCF). The program allows UCIP to utilize its joint purchasing authority to secure one master policy through WCF for all UCIP County Members. This program will provide each Member of the Pool access to the WCF's Preferred Rate level, significant safety credits and a premium volume discount much larger than any individual county would receive on their own.

By adopting this new joint purchase program, UCIP is able to save its members on average 25% of their workers compensation costs compared to continuing the Pool's self insurance program.

UCIP has already hosted telephonic training sessions on claim reporting and safety services for all county employees involved in the claim reporting process for workers compensation. UCIP will also be coordinating safety seminars, video conferences and on-site safety and inspection visits by the WCF safety specialists. Safety Representatives plan to visit each member county by the end of January to develop a report on each member's safety program. Once initial reports are completed, plans for each individual county will be developed to improve and monitor safety programs.

The UCIP Board of Trustees is excited to have been able to be responsive to member needs and believes this new program will provide reduced costs, stability in member costs and increased services to assure a safe and healthy workplace for all your employees.

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