



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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More than 1,500 county officials were in Washington, D.C. February 21-25 to meet with each other and members of the Administration and Congress on key issues like transportation, municipal bonds, the environment and public lands as part of NACo's annual Legislative Conference. Among others, Vice President Joe Biden was a primary speaker. Penobscot County Commissioner Peter Baldacci, Cumberland County Manager Peter Crichton, Cumberland County Assistant Manager Bill Whitten, and MCCA Executive Director Rosemary Kulow represented the interests of Maine counties. They attended educational sessions, workshops and meetings with Maine legislators stressing talking points concerning workforce development and training, jail operations, continued health care funding for those incarcerated but not convicted, continued funding for FEMA and Homeland Security, and continued funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program. Other key federal policy priorities NACo has identified for counties were also discussed.

MAINE SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

One Team, One Mission



MSA Conference

Remember to register for the MSA Annual Conference coming March 18 and 19 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. Trainings on March 18th include:

- Civil Process Law and Procedures, "A Yearly Update"
- Homeland Security Informational for Law Enforcement
- They're Inmates: Who Really Cares? A practical discussion of ethics and professionalism in corrections

March 19th features vendors, a full day with Dr. Kevin Gilmartin and an evening banquet and awards ceremony. ~ [Click here for more info and to register.](#)

MCCA

Where are we going?

Help us decide.



As part of MCCA's adopted Strategic Plan, the Strategic Planning Committee would like everyone to participate in an online survey to determine what programs and services the counties would like MCCA to provide.

~ [Please click here to fill out this brief survey.](#)

Cumberland County Celebrates Black History Month 2015



Emmanuel Caulk

Cumberland County School Superintendent Emmanuel Caulk recently wrote about Black History Month, a time when we reflect on and celebrate how the contributions of African-Americans have helped make our country great. You might be interested to know that Gerald Talbot became the first African-American member of the Maine House of Representatives in 1972, representing part of Portland. Talbot also helped reorganize the NAACP in Maine, an organization today led by his daughter, Rachel Talbot Ross.

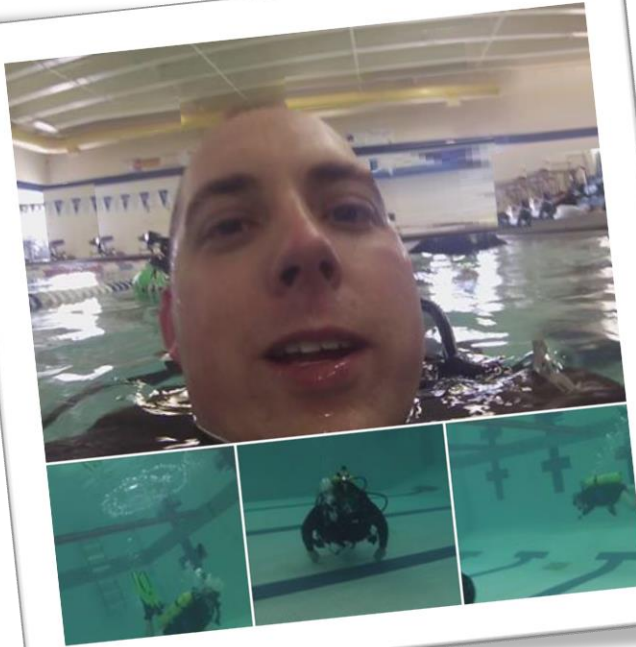
In a learning expedition called "Small Acts of Courage," the students are learning about the Civil Rights movement through the stories of Portland residents who fought for racial equality in the 1960s.

New Leadership in Hancock County

The last time a new sheriff took office in Hancock County, 34 years ago, the law enforcement landscape was decidedly different. Technology, drugs, mental health issues — all these things have become everyday factors or tools when it comes to police work, according to Sheriff Scott Kane, who was sworn into his new position on Jan. 1. "I started in 1984 part-time, and the changes from 1984 until now are incredible," Kane said during a recent interview at his office. And part of what Kane has to deal with as sheriff is the county jail, which falls under his oversight. People with mental health issues that might be exacerbated by drugs or first-time offenders who may need help addressing their substance issues often wind up in jail, he said. Some people deserve to be there, Kane said, but some people who get arrested are better off getting back out so they can get the counseling they need. The new sheriff, who has been a certified DARE officer for more than 20 years, said he fully supports recovery programs that can help people get their lives back on track, and that he wants to get more crisis response training for his officers.

Aside from Hancock County, new sheriffs began serving this month in Aroostook, Androscoggin, Penobscot, Somerset, Waldo, Washington and York counties.

~ [Click here to read the full article by BDN reporter Bill Trotter.](#)



Kennebec County Emergency Management

The Kennebec Sheriff's office recently tested brand new communication equipment purchased using money from a grant that was received through Kennebec County Emergency Management. Aqua City gave them tips on how to best use the equipment and helped them with the gear. It will be far more efficient to have direct communications topside and diver to diver in critical rescue or recovery situations. Photos are of the dive team getting several hours of work at the Alford Youth Center in Waterville.



Frederick Douglass Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Dr. Mae Jemison Pilot Bessie Coleman Barack Obama Sojourner Truth