



# COUNTY NEWS

## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

### In this issue:

- Looking forward to the Annual Convention of Maine Counties 10/12/14
- Sprucing Up in Androscoggin County
- MCCA in NACo County News
- Aroostook County Crime Busters
- Kennebec County Receives the Pro Patria Award
- Oxford County Joins the Fight against Human Trafficking
- Are You Ready? September is National Preparedness Month

### Looking Forward to the Annual Convention of Maine Counties

October is upon us, and with the Convention only about a week away beginning on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, York County is putting the finishing touches on the final details to ensure a successful event. The schedule is jam-packed with informative training sessions featuring topics such as, "It's all about Personnel" by Rick Dacri, "Elected Officials Training" by Gene Libby, "The Importance of Employee Supervision" by Malcolm Ulmer and many more. Several associations will be conducting meetings including the MCCA Board of Directors and the Risk Pool. There will also be plenty of entertainment. Political analysts Ethan Strimling and Phil Harriman who usually *Agree to Disagree*, will be debating the issues for our edification and amusement. Inspirational speaker Randy Iudkins will make a presentation as well as Justice Associate

Kathy Rowlings of NACo. There area politicians. And these are just a few of the activities planned. To see more of the schedule, visit the MCCA website

~ or [click here](#).



### Sprucing Up in Androscoggin County

The Androscoggin County Jail's Alternative Sentencing Program completed several projects this summer to help the community. This picture shows work that was done planting, weeding, mulching and cleaning up at the Lewiston High School (LHS) Memorial Garden trimming hedges on school grounds, as well as sweeping the driveways, Also, work was done at Martel Elementary School, painting, cleaning, and laying tile through LHS and the OUI Awareness Program.

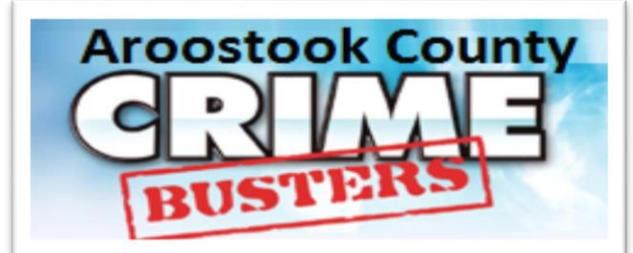
## STATE TO STATE

### MCCA in NACo County News

In a recent interview with NACo Staff Writer Charles Taylor, MCCA Executive Director, Rosemary Kulow, said that taming state plans to assume more control over county jails was the top priority of MCCA during the state Legislature's 2014 session.

A law enacted in 2008 mandated that the local share of jail budgets be capped at a specified amount. Any shortfall was to be made up by the state Board of Corrections. However, jail costs have been "far exceeding the state allocations," said Ms. Kulow. This created what the Legislature termed an "emergency" in L.D. 1824, a bill "to provide additional authority to the state board of corrections (BOC)." The legislature created a task force, whose members included representatives from the MCCA, the Maine Association of Sheriffs and other stakeholders, which reached a compromise they all could live with. According to Ms. Kulow, MCCA will continue to work with the State BOC to create standards that will apply across the board to all the counties and their jail systems.

~[Click here to read more](#).



After only six months of enhanced patrol coverage in Aroostook County, Chief Deputy Sheriff Darrell Crandall reports compelling results.

You may remember in the February issue of the MCCA newsletter, the law enforcement unit of the Sheriff's Office had undergone a significant transformation doing away with a call sharing agreement with the state police in place for the last 12 years. Under that agreement, Sheriff's Deputies patrolled one fifth of the county each week on a five week rotation. In January, the Sheriff's Office opted to resume covering the entire county daily.

A compelling bellwether of how this move has increased efficiency is the clearance rate, as tracked by the FBI. For every "index crime" reported to the FBI, they are also asked to report whether they were able to solve that crime. Index crimes are defined as homicide, rape, robbery, burglary, assault and theft. Sheriff Crandall is proud to report that the clearance rate for the first six months of 2014 was 67%, with the most currently reported Maine average being 32%. For comparison, their 2013 clearance rate was 37%. In addition, their overall arrests have increased by 40% over last year at this time.

~[Click here for more](#).



### Kennebec County Receives The Pro Patria Award

Maine Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense office, announced Sheriff Randy Liberty and the Kennebec County Sheriff Office was honored with the Pro Patria Award in recognition of extraordinary support of its employees who serve in the Maine National Guard and Reserve. The ESGR's Pro Patria Award is presented annually by each ESGR State Committee to one small, one large and one public sector employer in their state or territory. Recipients have demonstrated the greatest support to Guard and Reserve employees through their leadership and practices, including adopting personnel policies that make it easier for employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserves.

~[Read more here](#).

### Oxford County Joins the Fight Against Human Trafficking



Deputies at the Oxford County Sheriff's Office are joining the statewide push to curb human trafficking through the creation of a new task force. Last April, the state legislature passed LD 1730 to assist the victims of human trafficking with support groups and funding. Since passage, local law enforcement agencies have participated in a joint task force aimed at identifying, investigating and prosecuting human trafficking, Oxford Deputies will be training in Portland to sharpen their skills in spotting signs of trafficking.

~[Click to read more](#).



## FEMA

### September is National Preparedness Month.



Here in Maine, a popular saying is "if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute." However, as we saw with the recent flash flooding that Southern Maine experienced in

August, extreme weather can be dangerous. And while most of Mother Nature's powers can be anticipated, we sometimes have little or no time to prepare for severe weather. It was Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the terrorist attacks in 2001 that led to a law Senator Susan Collins coauthored to strengthen our nation's capacity to respond to natural disasters as well as terrorist attacks. The government has established protocols that will help our country through natural disasters, disease pandemics, catastrophic accidents or vicious acts of terrorism. And your household should have them too. We need all Americans to learn how best to respond to an emergency, whatever form it may take. ~[Read the full article by Senator Collins](#).



Maine ~ the way life should be.

Fire Repair Progress at Two Bridges