

COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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By MCCA Executive Director, Rosemary Kulow

Recently, I attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) annual conference in New Orleans, LA, along with Penobscot County Commissioner, Peter Baldacci – MCCA’s chosen NACo representative, and Cumberland County Manager, Peter Crichton. NACo provides many valuable services to our nation’s counties, including legislative advocacy at the federal government level, discount health programs, information analyses and dissemination, and other beneficial programs and services. This year’s annual conference was held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center July 11-14 and was well attended by county representatives from all across the USA, including Alaska and Hawaii.

The convention provides opportunities for meetings of all affiliate groups and committees, as well as chances to network with peers and other county government officials. In addition, continuing education work sessions that cover a wide range of topics are available to attendees. As an executive director of a state association, I was invited to a reception for relatively new execs that was hosted by the executive director of NACo, Matt Chase. There, I met and heard perspectives from several other executives about issues facing them in their prospective states. During the convention I also visited the Exhibit Hall to meet various vendors who provide programs and services to county government.

~ Read more by clicking here.

Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation’s official Park and Recreation Month. The theme for 2014 is “Out Is In”. Maine’s public park and recreation programs are striving to keep the outside in style. County government is involved in promoting healthy outdoor activities by contributing to the protection of public areas, increasing recreational opportunities for families. [Watch a video clip about Brunswick’s bike path by clicking here.](#)



From Court to Court

The Cumberland County Jail held its first inmate basketball tournament this year. Lead by Corrections Officer Rob “Renee Rancourt” Ridge, there were 13 teams from the C and B pods, which were whittled down to the final four for the championship.

All the teams proved to have game, but in the end it was the Pre-Trial’s winning over the Sentenced with a score of 21 to 18.

Jail Administrator Major John Costello believes that inmates keeping inmates busy is a productive way to help them get through one of the toughest times in their lives.



Sheriff Liberty with Award winner Sgt. John Bourque

Deputy of the Year Award

The National Sheriffs’ Association recently presented Sgt. John Bourque with the Charles Meeks Merit Award for Deputy Sheriff of the Year during a ceremony held at the association’s conference in Fort Worth, Texas. Sgt. Bourque was selected from a pool that includes more than 3,000 sheriff offices and 100,000 deputy sheriffs, across the country. “I was so surprised by it,” Bourque said. “It’s just a great honor.”

Bourque, 38, a graduate of Maranacook High School in Readfield, began his law enforcement career with Kennebec County in 1997. He has since held several positions within the agency, including patrol deputy and detective. Kennebec County Sheriff Randall Liberty said in a release that Bourque has particularly thrived as a narcotics investigator, during which he has managed confidential informants and maintained contact with other agencies to help interrupt the drug trade. Liberty nominated Bourque for the award.

[Read the full article by Craig Crosby by clicking here.](#)



Search & Rescue

Last week, David Crocker, 86, of Portland suffered a severe medical event while out fishing, said Emily Maccabe of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. After Mr. Crocker received a phone call that awoke him, he was able to call for help. Local heroes Sgt. Hall and Deputies Welsh, Anderson, McIntire and Griffin lead the successful search and rescue mission along Meadow Brook in Casco. Due to travel time, the deputies were in the woods for some time searching before the wardens arrived. According to Sheriff Kevin Joyce, they utilized all of their available resources to locate the individual in an area that was densely wooded and with a thunderstorm quickly approaching. Mr. Crocker was taken to Brighton Hospital after being outside for more than two days. Thank you for the excellent teamwork!

Repairs at Two Bridges

Cleanup is wrapping up and repairs should be getting under way soon at Two Bridges Regional Jail in Wiscasset, scene of a June 5 fire that damaged a wood shop. The shutdown in production has forced the temporary shutdown of a kiosk where the goods the inmates make are sold on Wiscasset’s waterfront; but the inmates in the woodworking program have been busy preparing the building for repair work, according to Naomi Bonang, lieutenant of the jail’s industries program.

Weather permitting, the jail’s wood shop may be back up and running full-time in September, in time to start the annual work on the Toys for Toys project, Bonang added. [Read the full article by Susan Johns by clicking here.](#)

