



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

In this issue:

- 2015 Convention of Maine Counties
- 100% NACo Membership
- Kennebec Sheriff Named Warden
- September is Hunger Action Month
- Trailblazer Beverly Daggett
- Charlie Webster New Franklin Commissioner

2015 Convention of Maine Counties

Thank you to all who participated in the annual MCCA Convention! It certainly was a *downeast adventure*! This year's event hosted by Hancock County offered eighteen educational sessions, delicious dining, evening entertainment, and a variety of fun activities. 152 people attended the convention along with 20 speakers and 23 exhibitors. Although sponsorship was not as strong as it has been in years past, MCCA considers the conference a decided success. In an attempt to keep in sync with digital technology, online registration and online payment options were made available as well as a phone app convention guide containing area and event center maps, daily schedules and session information. A slideshow of pictures can be viewed on the MCCA website homepage. *And*, never skipping a beat, the Convention Planning Committee is set to meet in October to discuss what went well and what could be improved on in the 2016 convention being hosted by Penobscot County. The results of the recently compiled evaluation forms will be instrumental moving forward. Evaluation forms are still being counted and are available at the MCCA website.



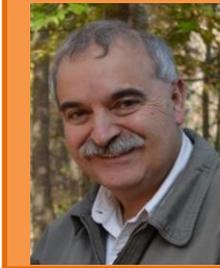
~Your voice matters! [Click here to complete an evaluation form now.](#)



NACo is the only national association that represents county governments in the United States. Beyond the critical benefit of representing the interest of counties during the development of new legislation, NACo provides information on grants, discount programs for medical services, and free participation in US Communities, a cost savings purchasing alliance, and much more. For the first time in history, Maine has achieved 100% membership as forward thinking commissioners in Piscataquis County voted to join the NACo ranks. At the convention, NACo Director of Membership Marketing, Andrew Goldschmidt, presented a plaque in honor of the accomplishment. One of the advantages of full membership is the acquisition of an additional seat on the NACo Board. MCCA Board of Directors voted in their last meeting to approve Comm. Gary McGrane to be Maine's second representative to the NACo Board of Directors. [~Click here to read more about the benefits of NACo membership.](#)



What's for dinner? For many families, this can be a stressful question. One of every six people in Maine struggle with hunger. While there are State and Federal programs in place, people trying to make ends meet don't necessarily qualify and often depend on friends and neighbors at their local food banks and pantries to fill the plate. There are various ways individuals can make a meaningful difference through donating and volunteering. Did you know for every dollar donated to a food pantry, the organization can buy eight dollars of food to distribute? Those dollars add up. Volunteers are always needed to hand out food, manage facilities, and work on fundraising events. As we approach the holiday season, consider lending a hand. [~Click here to find your local food pantry.](#)



Charlie Webster Franklin County Commissioner

Governor Paul LePage has appointed former legislator Charles "Charlie" Webster to represent the residents of District two in Chesterville, Farmington and New Sharon as a Franklin County Commissioner. He is the owner of Webster Heating Co. in Farmington. He served in the Legislature as a representative and a senator during the 1980s and 1990s. He also was the chairman of the Maine Republican Committee from 2008 to 2012. [~Click here to read the full article by Sun Journal's Donna Perry.](#)

People in County News



Kennebec County Sheriff Named Warden

Kennebec County Sheriff Randall Liberty has been selected as the next warden of the Maine State Prison. Liberty, the county's sheriff for the past seven years, is set to take over the top position at the prison Sept. 28, according to a Department of Corrections news release. "I look forward to working with the professional and dedicated staff at the Maine State Prison," Liberty said. "I appreciate this opportunity and am honored by the trust and confidence that the governor and Commissioner (Joseph) Fitzpatrick have placed in me. I look forward to my continued service to the people of the state of Maine."

County Administrator Robert Devlin said in a prepared statement that Chief Deputy Ryan Reardon will step into the position, which is an elective office. Devlin described Reardon as "an experienced law enforcement professional who can quickly fill the void created by Sheriff Liberty's departure." [~Click to read the article by Craig Crosby.](#)



Trailblazer Beverly Daggett

Beverly Daggett, an Augusta legislator who was the first woman to serve as Maine Senate president, passed away September 6 at the age of 69 in Lewiston after a long illness. She was elected the 111th Senate president Dec. 4, 2002, making her the first woman to ever hold the position. "Bev Daggett paved the way for women and children in our state," Speaker of the House Mark Eves said in a statement. "Her bipartisan leadership and steadfast service to her community inspired so many of us." She was active in the community and served as a Kennebec County commissioner and was a member of the Green Street United Methodist Church. She and her husband, Tom, raised three children. [~Click here to read the full article by Portland Press Herald's Gillian Graham.](#)

