



# COUNTY NEWS

## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

### In this issue:

- NACo's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Expo
- Waldo County Garden Project Update
- Franklin County Commissioner Fred Hardy Remembered
- Crochet Group Donates to the Center for Grieving Children
- Knox County Color Guard



**NACo's 80th ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION**  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY / CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA / JULY 10-13, 2015

By MCCA Executive Director, Rosemary Kulow



This year's annual National Association of Counties (NACo) conference was held in beautiful Charlotte, North Carolina July 10-13. Many educational opportunities and business meetings were available concerning any number of important issues facing American counties. Numerous steering committees and their subcommittees met throughout the conference to develop policy positions for consideration by the NACo Board of Directors and the convention body as a whole. NACo has the following steering committees: Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Community, Economic & Workforce Development; Environment, Energy, and Land Use; Finance, Pensions & Intergovernmental Affairs; Health; Human Services & Education; Justice & Public Safety; Public Lands; Telecommunications & Technology; and Transportation.

I serve on the **Agriculture & Rural Affairs Steering Committee**, and at this year's meeting held Saturday morning we discussed how the U.S. Dept. of Commerce's Economic Development Administration investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and build strong regional economies. We also heard a very interesting presentation about how Churchill County, Nevada, home to Naval Air Station Fallon, the Navy's premier tactical air warfare training center, works with the Naval Air Station to guide growth and development to insure that lands around NAS Fallon remain compatible with the installation's training mission. This is primarily accomplished through the protection of local and historic ranchland. [~Click here to read the report by MCCA Executive Director Rosemary Kulow in its entirety.](#)

### Waldo County Garden Project Update

The Waldo County Garden Project is a volunteer program of clients from the Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center and Commissioner William Shorey, who is also a volunteer. Randy and David Doak do the groundwork for the garden. The garden was started in 2010 and that first year it produced approximately 7000 lbs. of vegetables. In 2011 there was 12,000 lbs., in 2012 there was 16,000 lbs., in 2013 there was 23,000 lbs. and in 2014 26,000 lbs. of fresh vegetables were produced. 2014 was a difficult year because we experienced a lot of rain and had to do a lot of replanting. Over the last four years, the produce was raised on a leased piece of land approximately 5 acres in size. Late in 2014 the County Commissioners purchased the Nickerson Farm, including those five acres. This farm has some of the best land in Waldo County and the County is looking forward to this being a very productive location as we move forward. For example, this spring (2015) one mile each of potatoes and string beans have been put into the ground, 1800 feet of turnips, beets and carrots are growing, 3500 feet of corn has been planted; and all told for 2015 there will be approximately 25,000 feet of vegetables under cultivation. Commissioner Shorey feels that the amount of produce going forward into 2015 will exceed 50,000 lbs. This has been an invaluable project for food cupboards, senior centers, various churches and the Game Loft in producing fresh vegetables to those in need in Waldo County.



### Franklin County Commissioner Fred Hardy Remembered

Longtime Franklin County Commissioner Fred Hardy passed at age 85 on July 4 after being ill for several weeks. Commissioner Hardy is remembered as a dedicated public servant who was frugal with taxpayers' money and had a strong work ethic. He was also a staunch supporter of getting the county jails back under county control. Mr. Hardy was a county commissioner serving District 2 for about 22 years, County Clerk Julie Magoon said. "I truly enjoyed working with Fred over the past 18-plus years," she said. "Fred worked nonstop for his district and also the whole county, serving on numerous committees and boards. There was hardly a day when Fred wasn't on the road, with (his wife) Ruby of course, attending a meeting or a public hearing. Fred had a great sense of humor and wit, and always had a story to tell . . . which usually led to another story. He was just a great person and friend. All of us here at the county are going to miss him." Fred was very active in many organizations and boards within the county, Maine and beyond. He was a retired dairy farmer and had served as a supervisor for a local shoe manufacturer, according to his biography on the Greater Franklin Development Corporation website. Fred Hardy was a founding director of the corporation. [~Click here for a compilation of articles.](#)

### Crochet Group Donates to the Center for Grieving Children

Inmates at the Cumberland County Jail perform many kinds of work that helps their community. If assigned to the Community Corrections Program, an inmate can perform work off site for non-profit organizations, or work a paying job and help offset the cost to tax payers for housing. Inmates that remain in the jail also perform work that makes a positive difference to the community. Inmates can be a member of the Crochet Group. Some have experience in crocheting, some do not, but they learn. So far this year, 30 animals/characters have been crocheted and donated to the Center for Grieving Children and nearly 100 crocheted blankets have been donated to the Linus Project. Jail Administrator John Costello states, "These kinds of programs are a win/win for everyone. The children receive a quality item to take their minds off of difficult times and the inmates develop a sense of pride by producing a useful object and by helping others." There is a lot of work that goes into making these programs work. Thank you to all the dedicated Corrections staff that make this happen each and every day!



The Knox County Color Guard participated in this year's Fourth of July parade in Thomaston. In this picture from left to right is Deputy Patrick Polky, Sggt John Palmer, Deputy Jeremy Joslyn, and Deputy Nate Jack. The Color Guard can be seen marching in parades, funerals and special events. They take great pride in the showing of colors and represent Knox County well.

