

COUNTY NEWS



Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter



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Annual NACo Conference in Las Vegas

The NACo Annual Conference & Exposition is the largest meeting of county elected and appointed officials from across the country. More than 3,000 county leaders convened in Clark County, Nevada, adopting positions on pressing federal policies affecting counties and exchanging innovative solutions to challenges facing American communities. Featured keynotes at the conference were given by Chris Pilkerton (U.S. Small Business Administration), Roy Spence (CEO of The Purpose Institute), David Kwong (Illusionist, New York Times crossword writer and TV producer) and Jeanette Betancourt (Senior Vice President, US Social Impact, Sesame Street Workshop). Other highlights included the swearing in of Douglas County, Neb. Commissioner Mary Ann Borgeson as the new NACo president. Borgeson took her oath of office at the association's annual business meeting and tops the new four-person team of officers, First Vice President Gary Moore, judge/executive of Boone County, Ky.; Second Vice President Larry Johnson, DeKalb County, Ga. commissioner and Immediate Past President Greg Cox, supervisor, San Diego County. Her presidential initiative will explore how counties can best serve the nation's aging population. Maine was represented by Commissioner Peter Baldacci of Penobscot County and Commissioner Amy Fowler of Waldo County. Some of the workshops at the conference were recorded and are available online at the NACo website. ~Please click here to take advantage of these resources.



Lincoln County MAINE

Red E Fox Lincoln County Communication's Ambassador for 911 Education

Congratulations Deputy Kevin Dennison!



For several years, Lincoln County Communications/911 Center has been providing emergency number / 911 education for elementary school children during school visits, community events and agency open-houses. Six-year veteran Emergency Communications Officer Emily Snowman spearheads the program. Utilizing the Red E Fox and Cell Phone Sally programs, children receive best practices and guidance on what 911 is for, what to say when you call and when not to use 911.

These programs are essential to the early elementary school program because the children are at an age where they are learning at an incredible pace and in the event of an emergency, may be called upon to notify emergency services. In the Spring of 2019, we provided education to 568 school age children from 9 of our 13 elementary schools in Lincoln County. We received very positive feedback regarding these visits from school principals, teachers and parents as well as the kids that participated in the past. It reinforces the use of 911 as only an emergency number and programs like these are proven to help in cutting down on mistake calls by children.

Emergency Dispatching is a very difficult job that only a select few have the ability to perform as an occupation. Being at their best when others are sometimes at their worst is a responsibility that they take very seriously. Being able to show and teach children the right way of using the emergency response numbers is just one more way for dispatchers to give something back to the communities in which they serve, as well as exposing children to an aspect of public safety that is rarely seen.

Emily's demeanor as well as her knowledge of 911 operations make her the right person to run this program. Her enthusiasm and desire to teach awareness is an asset for the entire county.

On June 22, 2019, Deputy Kevin Dennison officially was promoted within the Patrol Division of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office to the rank of Patrol Sergeant. This promotion was only the latest event in Sergeant Dennison's distinguished law enforcement career that first began in 1993 when he worked summers for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office while attending college.

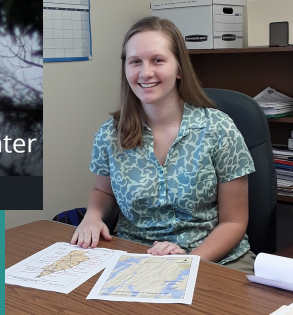
After graduating from University of Maine in Augusta in 1997 with a degree in Public Administration Sergeant Dennison began his active duty service with the United States Army as a Warrant Officer pilot flying attack helicopters. Sergeant Dennison had previously served with the Maine Army National Guard. His service with the National Guard began in 1991 and continued until he graduated college and decided to begin active duty military service. During Sergeant Dennison's seven years of active duty, he served two tours of duty supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. When Sergeant Dennison returned from active duty in July 2004, he resumed service with Lincoln County, now as a full time Patrol Deputy. In 2005, he graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's Basic Law Enforcement Training Program. Sgt. Dennison continued his career in the military as a Chief Warrant Officer pilot flying MEDEVAC helicopters for the Maine Army National Guard. It was during 2008 Sergeant Dennison was again called on to support Operation Iraqi Freedom when his Maine Army National Guard Unit was activated for a one-year deployment.

Upon his return from his latest military deployment in 2009, Sergeant Dennison returned to the Patrol Division where he soon became a Field Training Officer. In 2013, Sergeant Dennison became a certified K-9 handler along with his current partner "Duke". In 2015, Sergeant Dennison and K-9 Duke were awarded an "Exceptional Duty Bar" by Sheriff Brackett for their outstanding work as a K-9 team. Early in 2019, Sergeant Dennison was named the Deputy of the Year at the Sheriff's Office for 2018. Sergeant Dennison lives locally with his wife of 22 years and two school-aged children.

Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE Maine Government Internships

COLLEEN HENDRICKS, SUMMER PLANNING INTERN



Colleen Hendricks, summer planning intern, ended up at Lincoln County and the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission when an earlier opportunity fell through - and how lucky we are! Colleen is part of the 2019 Maine Government Summer Internship Program, sponsored by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center. She grew up in Wiscasset and is about to begin her last semester at UMaine-Machias. Her travels through the world of county planning this summer have been interesting and wide-ranging. Colleen has taken on a variety of projects under the guidance of Lincoln County Planning Department's (LCRPC) director, Mary Ellen Barnes.

Colleen has worked on the LCRPC website updating information, stories, and images and making the Facebook page more active and relevant to the RPC audience. She learned about the LCRPC's Brownfield Assessment Program and visited a commercial site in Wiscasset which is benefitting from these EPA hazardous waste assessment funds. Colleen has also put a few miles on her car gathering scenic and business-related images from around the County to showcase and share her experiences in Lincoln County. She helped to update and distribute the County's Recycling Department program information with a new recycling flyer and informative press release for the towns of Alna, Wiscasset and Westport Island. ~Please click here to read the full article.

BIKE Rodeo



Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Mark Bridgman teaches Lucy Leeman how to safely exit a driveway during a bicycle safety rodeo at Bristol Consolidated School on Saturday, June 22. The sheriff's office brought two big boxes of bike helmets to give away, courtesy of Karl's Kids. Lincoln County Sheriff Todd Brackett was an early supporter and "couldn't do enough to help us," Leeman said. In addition to Bridgman, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Kevin Dennison staffed the event.

Maine County Government Day



The Photo to the left shows Lincoln County Commissioners Mary Trescot and Bill Blodgett at Maine County Government Day celebrated in the Hall of Flags at the Maine State House in April. This annual event offers an opportunity to educate legislators and the public about County Government.

