



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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San Diego County, Calif. Supervisor Greg Cox was sworn in July 16 as NACo president, taking the helm of the new 2018-19 executive team during NACo's Annual Business Meeting in Davidson County/Nashville, Tenn.

In his inaugural speech, Cox said, "I have seen firsthand the ability of county governments to transform lives and communities. When America's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs are united at the national level, we can be an immense force for good. I am honored to lead NACo in this noble effort."

Cox's presidential initiative is named, "Connecting the Unconnected" which will build on former President Roy Charles Brooks' "Serving the Underserved" campaign. His effort will focus on using technology, data and public-private partnerships to connect people to services. This initiative will explore the many ways counties link residents to services. It builds on NACo's previous effort by continuing to inform and illustrate how counties help our most vulnerable citizens forge pathways to live well and thrive.

~Click here for the full article by NACo Writer Bev Schlotterbeck.



San Diego, Calif. Supervisor Greg Cox takes NACo helm

NACo executive team left to right: 2nd VP Gary Moore, from Kentucky; 1st VP Mary Ann Borgeson from Nebraska, President Greg Cox from California, & Immediate Past President Roy Charles Brooks of Texas.



Somerset County Information Technology

The IT Department does more than just computers. Somerset County has 55 servers, 5 virtual networks, 21 network switches and routers, wireless access points at the Courthouse and Jail, 70 printers, 7 computer-communication equipment rooms, 120 cameras, 170 phones, 30 cell phones. They also periodically support local municipalities when they need help. And they do it all with just **six** employees! *~Please click here for additional info about Somerset County's IT operations.*



News from the Sheriff's Office



Somerset County Detective Jeremy Leal

Detective Jeremy Leal, of the Somerset County Sheriff's Office Criminal Division, has been trained to rein in "crimes against persons," Sheriff Dale Lancaster said. "When I took office, I worked with the (county) commissioners to create a position that specifically deals with crimes against persons," Lancaster said. "Detective Jeremy Leal was selected for this position. Detective Leal has been sent to numerous, comprehensive trainings that focus on developing the skills required to investigate sexual assaults against children." Lancaster said Leal works closely with the Kennebec and Somerset County Children's Advocacy Center and has developed a strong working relationship with the Somerset County DA's Office, resulting in multiple convictions. "This strong partnership with the Somerset County District Attorney's Office coupled with Detective Leal's skills has improved the Somerset County Sheriff's Office ability to be more effective, bring these offenders to justice, and to take them off of the streets of Somerset County," Lancaster said. District Attorney Maeghan Maloney agreed saying, "There are not enough positive words to describe the work of Detective Leal."

~Click here for the full article by Doug Harlow.

Commissioner Newell Graf

Somerset County Commissioner Graf was chosen to sit on the "Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services Board" by Governor LePage.

Recently, he was able to argue for a grant to assist the DA's offices throughout the state funding to change their accounting system so that the different programs that currently don't talk to one another will and this will create a system of checks and balances for taking restitution.

Congratulations Dawn!

Somerset County Administrator Dawn DiBlasi will celebrate her five-year anniversary this year! Fantastic!



Emergency Management/Communications

Mike Smith, the Communications and EMA Director for Somerset is now the President of the Maine Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). In addition, a line dispatcher nominated and submitted Tammy Barker's name to the Maine NENA Chapter for the Director of the Year award and she was chosen! Tammy is Somerset's Deputy Director of EMA/Communications. Everyone in Somerset County is very proud of them both! Keep up the outstanding work!

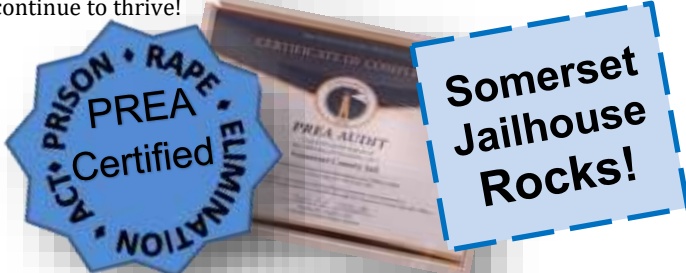
Somerset County has been very busy checking off a lengthy list of goals for improvement. In fiscal year 2018, the following accomplishments were achieved:



- ★ Completed a Mitel Phone System Upgrade
- ★ Improved Disaster Recovery position by adding internet connections allowing them to keep facilities connected to servers located in other facilities.
- ★ Data Storage Upgrade: Added two terabytes of memory and upgraded the SAN (Storage Access Network equipment)

- ★ Network Upgrades – upgraded network switches at the Jail & Communications Center
- ★ Added wireless access at the District and Superior Court rooms
- ★ Implemented a new Security System with Access Controls at the Courthouse & Regional Communications Center
- ★ Revamped the County Intranet
- ★ Performed wireless access connectivity testing for the Sheriff's Office mobile laptops (Cruiser Toughbook laptops). Measured signal quality and connection drops throughout the County using existing equipment and the latest technology to make recommendations for improved connectivity. Their wireless vendors were helpful in providing the test equipment.
- ★ Upgraded the system firewalls and software for improved cyber security
- ★ Conducted County wide Cybersecurity Training
- ★ Enhanced Cybersecurity posture by performing intrusion testing
- ★ Upgraded 34 Workstations
- ★ Replaced 5 Multi-function (Scan, Print, & Fax) Printers

Wow! And many more ambitious plans have been made for Fiscal Year 2019. We'll look forward to seeing Somerset County continue to thrive!



The Somerset County Jail became PREA compliant December 28, 2017 which made it the first county jail in the state of Maine to become PREA compliant. This project was completed over the course of a year. The jail also went through its first American Correctional Association audit with a score of 99.67%. It's the second county jail in the Maine to go through this process which took two years to complete and demonstrated compliance with 59 out of 59 mandatory standards, and 301 out of 302 non-mandatory standards.

Somerset County Jail received an MMA grant for fit test kits and respirator filters, a scholarship grant for Hostage negotiation training for two applicants, and a "programs" grant to reduce recidivism and substance abuse in the amount of \$169,948.00 in state funds. Through the programs grant, Somerset was able to hire a case worker. Another MMA grant provided iEvac hoods for personal protection against smoke in the event a pod needs to be evacuated.

Mary Matthews from Safety Works conducted an initial Safety visit. Through this visit she was able to gather data based on OSHA 300 logs. She calculated 2016 data as 3.40 TRC (total recordable case) and 2.30 DART (days away, restricted, transferred). "These rates are listed below for comparison with the industry averages for our industry NAICS Code (922140). The rates for the state in 2015 (most up to date published data) are 5.20 TRC and 3.50 DART. Somerset has been proactively requesting such Safety Works consultations to create an even better work place.

Perhaps the crowning achievement to date happened in May of 2017 when jail staff saved an inmate from an overdose. Since then, a B-scan has been put in place to reduce contraband in their facility and the equipment has assisted other agencies as well.

