



Maine County Commissioners Association

COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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NACo Board passes interim resolutions at Legislative Conference Resolutions now bound for Annual Conference in July



NACo's Board of Directors adopted resolutions as interim policy at their 2016 Legislative Conference that will be considered for final adoption by the whole membership at the Annual Business Meeting in July. One resolution is to support the Restoring the Partnerships for County Health Care Costs Act of 2015 (H.R. 4201). NACo urges Congress to not only pass legislation to improve the current situation and ease the burden put on local governments caused by the expanding cost of medical services that are provided to inmates in public institutions, but to also ultimately cover all inmate medical costs under Medicare and Medicaid. NACo also urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to utilize all necessary measures, including waivers, to enhance flexibility within the Medicaid program to improve the continuity of health care for justice-involved individuals. [~Click here to read more about NACo's resolutions.](#)



KNOX COUNTY *Maine*



County Courthouse Building Envelope Repairs

In June of 2014, a chunk of granite came loose and fell to the ground from one of the granite window surrounds (the decorative granite framing around the window) on the 1875 section of the Courthouse. After having an engineer come to look at the building, it became painfully clear that the courthouse needed a lot more work than was previously known. The County hired Building Envelope Specialists, recommended by the Maine Historical Preservation Commission to perform a comprehensive building envelope assessment on the courthouse. Deteriorated mortar joints resulting from freeze/thaw damage due to moisture infiltration is causing the integrity of the building to deteriorate. There are wide-open gaps in the mortar between the bricks and granite with water pouring in. Besides the obvious safety and structural issues of the deteriorating building, the County is also concerned about preserving a beautiful piece of its history. This building has been a fixture in Rockland for 141 years. Frequently visitors take pictures of the courthouse, and several movies have been filmed within its walls, including Stephen King's "Thinner". Rather than risking eventually losing the building, which would be a great historic

loss, the County decided to bite the bullet and get all of the repairs made as quickly as possible. The repairs are being funded through a combination of reserve funds, contingency funds, and a lease/purchase through Machias Savings Bank for the remaining \$575,000. If you look at



pictures of Rockland over the last 141 years, buildings and roads have come and gone, landscape changes and the population evolves, businesses fade away like clothing fads and car styles, but the one constant has been the Knox County Courthouse. The hope is to keep it in good condition for many years to come.



Knox County is situated on the south-eastern side of Penobscot Bay and was established on April 1, 1860. It is the most recent county to be created in Maine with its county seat in the beautiful city of Rockland. The county is named for American Revolutionary War general and Secretary of War Henry Knox who lived in the county from 1795 until his death in 1806. Knox County was carved from parts of Waldo and Lincoln counties. It is the second-smallest county in Maine by square mile and includes two nationally protected areas, Franklin Island National Wildlife Refuge and Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge. There are ten National Historic Landmarks in Knox County, several of them being schooners, and one being the summer home of the painter Andrew Wyeth. The famous Union Fair and Maine Wild Blueberry Festival in Knox County began in 1868 and was started by the North Knox Agricultural and Horticultural Society. Approximately 26,000 people attend the Union Fair every year.

Citizen's Police Academy



The second Knox County Sheriff's Office's Citizen's Police Academy is in progress! The Knox County Sheriff's Office has found that education has been most effective in gaining understanding and support from the community. Through implementation of the Citizen's Police Academy, the Knox County Sheriff's Office can offer the citizens of Knox County new insights into how police, corrections officers and dispatchers perform their duties, as well as how these departments serve the community.

Due to the success of the first Citizen's Police Academy and the demand for more, the course is now a ten-week program in which citizens from the community attend a three-hour class one night a week for ten weeks. Citizens who wish to attend may fill out an application on line at the Knox County website or pick up an application at the Sheriff's Office. Completed applications are returned to the Sheriff's Office. Applications are then reviewed and all attendees are selected by the Sheriff and her Command Staff.

Sergeant Lance Mitchell is the lead instructor of the academy and classes are taught by Knox County Deputies. There are also guest speakers from the Knox County District Attorney's Office, the Knox Regional Communications Center, the Maine State Marine Patrol, the Maine Warden's Service, and others.

The curriculum covers such areas as History of Policing, Maine Law, Patrol Procedures, Criminal Investigative Techniques, Evidence Recovery, K-9 Program, Drug Recognition Expert Program, etc. Each academy participant receives basic hands-on training in arrest control, and basic hand-to-hand combat techniques. Role playing is also an important component of the program. Classes began on March 16, 2016 and will continue on Wednesday nights from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.



The Knox Regional Communications Center (KRCC) is located in the Knox County Public Safety Building at 301 Park Street in Rockland. KRCC is a public safety answering and dispatching point for police, fire, emergency medical, and emergency management services within Knox County. The mission is to serve as the communications link between the citizen and public safety agencies, determine an accurate identification of the citizen's location and public safety response needs, supply fast and accurate activation of public safety services, and provide communications support and coordination for all public safety and support agencies. The center covers the entire Knox County area as well as the Lincolnville Fire Department. The center handles over 100,000 calls for service per year not including non-emergency calls answered by the center.

