

# NACIO NEWS

JULY 2009

Issue 3

## President's Posting

I hope you are all successful in keeping your head down (or making yourself known) whichever works best for you in these times of economic concern.

What a change a year brings: Last summer I wished you low gas prices. This summer I pray for us all to have a house at which to park our car.

Counties are feeling the economic pinch just as we do. Travel, training and conference expenses are typically one of the first areas to face budget scrutiny.

If that keeps you from attending the NACo 2009 Annual Conference, we understand and plan to have details from the NACIO events posted on the website as soon as possible.

When I say we, I mean the corporate we for a number of reasons. First, NACIO filed incorporation papers on July 1. Secondly, Bret Scott will assume the NACIO presidency during the conference, so I will be handing the leadership baton to him!

NACIO has grown consistently since its founding in the '60s. The time has come to incorporate as a non-profit organization. Please see the story on Page 3.

While I'll get the ball rolling on the incorporation process, Bret will take the lead once he becomes president at the annual NACo conference.

**Please see President's, Page 3**



NACIO members and their guests will honor the winners of the 2009 Awards of Excellence Competition aboard the General Jackson on July 24 in Nashville. Attendees will cruise the Cumberland River, enjoying one of the most popular activities the city has to offer. **NACIO thanks Diana Buckley and her staff in Ellis County, Texas**, for all the planning and effort that has gone into this year's competition.

## Congrats to 2009 Award winners!

An eight-page Annual Citizens' Report from Clermont County, Ohio, took Best of Show in the 2009 NACIO Awards of Excellence Competition because, in a word, it communicates.

Crisp, easy on the eyes, and dotted with smiling faces, the report gives useful, one-paragraph highlights from each of the County's departments in clear, concise language. Each paragraph closes with contact information.

"It really communicates to the audience it was designed to reach," said Ellis County Auditor Mike Navarro, who served on the 30-member judging panel. "It is very effective and easy to use."

Judges also liked the fact that the piece was produced entirely by county staff members and printed for only \$1600, demonstrating good use of resources in today's tough economic times.

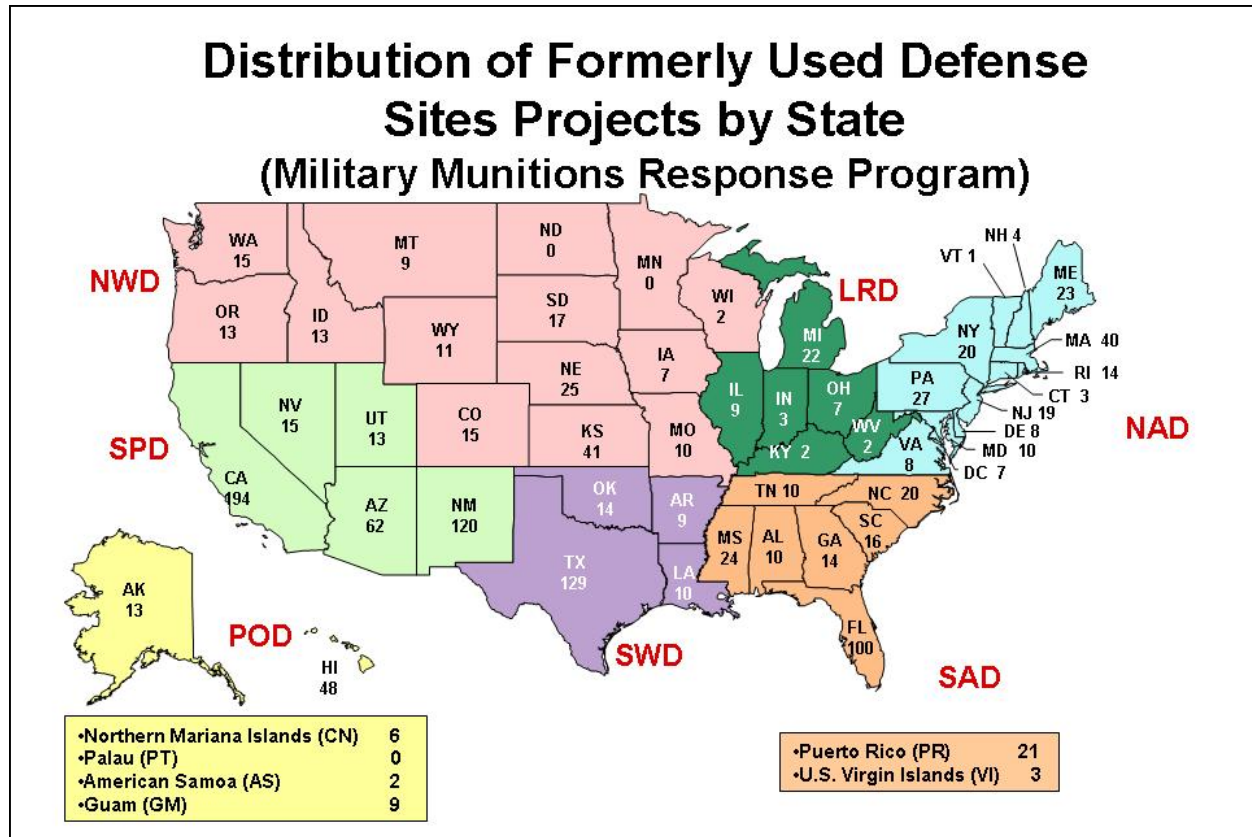
Clermont County's Kathy Lehr also received Best of Class recognition in Writing for her volume of news releases on a wide variety of topics.

Nine other entries were named Best of Class recipients in the competition, including three from Florida and one each from California, Georgia, Hawaii, North Carolina, and Washington. For the complete list of winners, visit our website at [www.nacio.org](http://www.nacio.org) or stop by the NACIO display booth.

NACIO extends its thanks to this year's panel of judges, a distinguished group that included print and television journalists, elected and appointed officials, and public and private sector retirees, most notably former NACo President and retired Dallas County Commissioner Roy Orr.

**- Awards Chair Diana Buckley**

# NACIO NEWS



## Corps of Engineers shares info on old munitions sites

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a large-scale effort to assess safety and environmental hazards at Formerly Used Defense Sites that may contain military munitions.

Called "FUDS," many of these sites were no longer needed after the military finished training and testing new weapons and warfare capabilities. The sites were cleaned up according to the best practices available at the time and then transferred to other landowners.

After learning of NACIO's role in sharing information, a COE representative contacted NACIO for assistance in spreading the word on these sites.

The Corps is conducting the assessments, called site inspections, to comply with a 2002 law requiring the

Department of Defense to assess potential risks to human health and the environment from unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, and munitions constituents (material inside the munitions).

The site inspections will:

- Determine if the site poses a significant threat and if a detailed investigation is needed;
- Determine if an immediate response is needed; and,
- Collect data to help prioritize the site for any future cleanup action.

The site inspection is just one phase within the Corps' Military Munitions Response Program. The properties will be prioritized as part of the

Munitions Response Prioritization Protocol, a system assigning relative priorities for response actions.

Generally, a site presenting a greater relative risk to human health, safety or the environment will be addressed before one with a lesser relative risk. However, local land reuse needs, community interest, funding and available technology also may influence response action sequencing.

For more information about FUDS in your area, visit the COE booth at the NACIO Annual Conference in Nashville or go on-line to see their site. The address is

[https://environment.usace.army.mil/what\\_we\\_do/fuds/](https://environment.usace.army.mil/what_we_do/fuds/).

- Candice S. Walters  
Public Affairs Specialist, USCOE

# NACIO NEWS

## NACIO incorporates

It's official! As of July 1, 2009, NACIO is an incorporated non-profit group. Seeing as how the organization has been around for more than 40 years, it's about time!

This change reflects the natural growth and evolution of NACIO rather than a break with the past.

NACIO's office address will continue to be at NACo headquarters in Washington, DC, and NACo will continue to provide through the services offered to us by Tom Goodman. Tom is the Public Affairs Director for NACo and is NACIO's liaison.

NACIO was incorporated in the District of Columbia and will file to become a tax-exempt organization just as NACo is.

NACIO's original purpose was to provide a forum in which communications professionals who work for county governments can share information about issues and problems relating to counties.

Over time, the mission has grown to include promoting a better understanding of county government among the public generally and to

## Congratulations! It's a NACIO!

improve the professional capabilities of NACIO's members.

Just like NACo, NACIO provides a mechanism by which counties share information and experiences in order to improve county government. It helps counties – and therefore taxpayers – save money.

NACo has long been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a "social welfare" organization, tax exempt under section 501 (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NACIO is aiming for the same designation.

The incorporation papers and IRS filing are being handled by the law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP out of Washington, DC.

- Jane LeMaster

### President's Posting

#### From Page 1

As Bret moves into the presidency, I will be rotating onto the NACo Board of Directors to represent NACIO as an affiliate member.

While I will never fill his shoes (Come on, have you seen the size of the man's feet?) I am very thankful for the contributions Robert Tucker has made in this position. As past president, Robert not only served as the NACo board rep for the past two years, but also during his tenure as NACIO president.

Robert is a wonderful ambassador for NACIO and I hope he realizes how much we all value his contributions.

Congratulations again to Todd McGee of the NC Association of Counties. Todd has been nominated as Second Vice President of NACIO!

Thanks is owed to Diana Buckley and her staff for all their work on the awards competition. Great job, ladies!

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the NACIO officers and members for their insight and input. It's been an honor serving as your president.

God bless!

- Jane LeMaster

## Please join us for NACIO events in Nashville

- NACIO joins forces with NACo to co-sponsor this summer's Advanced Leadership Training workshop on Saturday, July 25. It is a half-day workshop titled, "In Command of Your Own Press: Alternatives to Traditional Media."
- The NACIO Membership/Business meeting will be held on July 25 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- The NACIO Roundtable Discussion will be July 26 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Jackson E meeting room.
- NACIO is sponsoring a workshop on Body Language at 10:45 a.m. July 27 in Governor's Ballroom D. The workshop "Let Me See Your Body Talk: Understanding the Importance of Non-Verbal Communication" will be presented by Jan Hargrave. Ms. Hargrave has been a popular guest on the Montel Williams Show, Fox News, The Learning Channel and E-Entertainment Television. A Louisiana native, Ms. Hargrave peppers her presentation with Cajun spice as she provides insight into the unspoken word!