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CLARK COUNTY GIS PROGRAM RECEIVES GLOBAL AWARD

(Clark County, Ind.) – Clark County has been chosen to receive the prestigious ESRI Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the 2010 International User Conference in San Diego, Cal., in July of this year. Clark County’s eGIS website was one of only 150 winners recognized for its vision, leadership, and innovative use of ESRI’s geographic information system (GIS) technology. There were more than 100,000 entries from across the globe.

Clark County Assessor Vicky Kent Hare contracted with Bloomington, Indiana-based 39 Degrees North (39°N) to create an enterprise GIS website in 2008. Through this site, the general public can quickly access land-ownership and tax-bill information, find road intersections, view Google Street Map imagery, and search for properties according to specific criteria.

In 2009, Clark County officials also launched a first-of-its-kind election application on their eGIS platform. Using secure logins, candidates can now print out their own walk lists instead of visiting the Clerk’s office to obtain these reports. This application will also help officials track voter registrations for upcoming elections and will assist the county in redistricting its precincts in 2011.

VIRTUAL INMATE HEARINGS TO SAVE MARSHALL COUNTY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

(Marshall County, Ind.) – A new program that allows Marshall County inmates to appear in court through video conferencing technology was unveiled in April. The South Bend Tribune reported that $65,000 in savings from video conferencing court dates will result the first year. The anticipated savings would come from $15,000 in transportation costs between the county jail and the courts. Another $50,000 in savings during the first year would result from not having to pay prison hearing costs.

Marshall County Sheriff VanVactor said the savings will likely increase as the jail population rises. The Tribune reported that Marshall County paid ESCO Communications $175,000 for the voice, video and data systems integrator.

AIC RECEIVES POSITIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE OF PUBLIC FORUMS

Undated (AIC) – A series of public forums in May held by the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) was well received by news media in most counties where the forums were held. The forums were designed to educate communities about the impact of declining revenues for local governments. For more information about the forums, see David Bottorff’s article in this issue on page 7. You may view a sampling of the TV coverage of these forums by visiting the AIC’s You Tube page: www.youtube.com/aicoinco.

AIC AWARDS PROGRAM TO HONOR HIGH ACHIEVING STUDENTS AND INDIANA COUNTY LEADERS

Undated (AIC) – The Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) will be recognizing Indiana county leaders and high achieving students this fall during the AIC Annual Conference in September. The AIC is pleased to announce that nominations for these awards are now being accepted. Visit www.indianacounties.org to download nomination forms. Nominations must be received by July 1, 2010 to be eligible for consideration.

In addition to being recognized with a plaque during ceremonies at the AIC Annual Conference, the AIC will produce short video productions for the counties that win the County Achievement Award and the Local Government Cooperation Award. These video productions are professionally produced and can be used to help promote the innovative ways that counties are serving their citizenry. You may view past video presentations at www.aicpodcast.org/video.
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Community Forums Create Dialogue

By David Bottorff, Executive Director
dbottorff@indianacounties.org

During May the Association of Indiana Counties and four host counties held community forums to discuss the fate of local budgets in the aftermath of the property tax caps and the recession. Thanks to the elected officials in Wayne, Elkhart, Vigo and Vanderburgh counties for their assistance in hosting the events. Also, we appreciate the county officials surrounding the host counties for attending the meetings. These events were open to other elected and appointed officials from counties as well as other units of government.

The meetings were designed to be an opportunity for discussion about best practices and how to reduce spending while maintaining quality services in an atmosphere of declining revenues. The forums were an opportunity to learn how revenue has dropped for the state, specifically with regard to individual income tax collections. An update about state revenues released around the same time as the forums highlighted the fact that some local officials and local media did not understand the lag between individual income tax collections and distribution of the income taxes to local units of government. A comment often stated during the forums was something like, “If news reports out of Indianapolis this week indicate state revenue has improved, why is this an issue?” Another typical question was, “New jobs announced this week should help our local budget, so why all the bad news?” Improved economic news is always welcome news, but it will take more than 12 months to trickle down local budgets. If individual income increases in 2010, counties will not see the effects until 2012.

SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES

The issue commented on the most during the meetings was how the rising cost of health insurance creates the most challenges for counties. It was mentioned at every meeting as one of the most difficult costs to control. Elkhart County has saved more than $1 million by changing its third party administrator, auditing claims from the providers and asking employees to pay a little more in premiums and co-pays. Some counties have tried these measures but continue to struggle.

Controlling court costs was also an often repeated topic. Is it time to allow the state to take over the courts, as it did with welfare and the school general fund? Another often repeated way counties were saving money was by reducing the number of printers and copiers in the courthouse. Reducing the number of machines saved on maintenance costs, and one commissioner even stated it had become part of their wellness program, making people walk to the printer.

Clearly some taxpayers did not understand how the caps function. Questions were asked such as “how could property taxes increase if they are capped?” One person asked how could the fiscal analysis work out so perfectly, that 1, 2 and 3 percent caps were deemed appropriate levels of tax caps. Participants at several meetings asked who is responsible for educating the public about the constitutional public question. The question I asked myself was how can you educate about the question without advocating a position on the issue? ●
2010 is the first year for full implementation of 1, 2, 3 percent property tax caps and has revealed much on the impact those will have on the State of Indiana. Statewide averages show a decline of 8 percent property tax revenue because of the caps, which translates into average budget cuts for local units of 4 percent. Some units are being forced to cut budgets by more than 20 percent.

Many of the anticipated effects have also proved correct. Properties falling into the 2 percent category are the overwhelming beneficiaries of the property tax caps. Nursing homes and commercial apartments are getting the biggest tax breaks in terms of properties affected, and in terms of dollar amounts. Local units that rely heavily on property taxes, a particular taxpayer or industry are also impacted more severely than other units of government.

The local option income taxes (LOITs) available to offset the impact of the property tax caps are far from a perfect solution. Fewer than 30 counties have chosen to adopt the new local income taxes. For the counties that have adopted some LOIT combination, the losses to the tax caps are far less. But, because local income tax distributions will be dramatically reduced in 2011 and 2012, the benefits will be markedly reduced.

The reduction in income tax collections will also mean, for both the new LOITs and the traditional CAGIT, that there will be less money for property tax relief through locally funded credits. Without that tax relief, more properties will hit the tax caps causing a downward spiral of local revenue. Economic recovery will improve the income tax situation, but the larger trends show Hoosiers’ incomes declining when compared to earners in other states.

The only real solution to this crisis is to grow the tax base. When economic growth increases the available assessed value, tax rates can be moderated, pushing fewer properties to the tax caps. Income tax collections will also increase providing greater revenue for local budgets, and also providing additional property tax relief (the income tax/property tax spiral mentioned earlier but in reverse).

Any local official will readily acknowledge the fervent desire of their community to attract economic development. But, this is much easier said than done. And here is where the Catch-22 of the tax caps emerges. Low taxes are not the only thing a business looks at when deciding to invest in a community. For many, if not most businesses, low taxes are not even the most important element in their decision. The weightiest factor is the quality of life. Communities need economic development to provide quality services but can only attract economic development with quality services.

Low taxes are not the only thing a business looks at when deciding to invest in a community. For many, if not most businesses, low taxes are not even the most important element in their decision.

If services are cut, infrastructure allowed to deteriorate, teachers laid-off, and libraries closed, even low costs may not be incentive enough to lure business development. For five-and-a-half years, state policy makers have anticipated that Indiana’s low tax environment will spur economic development. As the economic recession that began in 2008 begins to ease, let us hope that this proves true. Let us also hope that the reduction in services, valued by employees and employers alike, that must accompany the dramatic reductions in tax revenue does not choke off economic development before it begins. Otherwise this state and the communities that comprise it are in a real no-win situation, a classic Catch 22.

The AIC is partnering with the Office of Community and Rural Development and Indiana’s Universities to establish the economic development needs and best practices of local governments.
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Introducing HALO PAC

By Sarah Nichols Rossier, Deputy Legislative Director
srossier@indianacounties.org

WHAT IS HALO PAC?
HALO PAC is Hoosiers for Accountable Local Officials Political Action Committee, organized by the Association of Indiana Counties on October 30, 2009. The HALO PAC was established to support accountable, officials and legislation that supports local government. HALO PAC will support state legislative candidates and statewide candidates only.

Tony Wolfe, Gibson County Councilman, serves as chairperson of the committee. Mike Brown, Lake County Clerk, serves as PAC treasurer. Sarah Nichols Rossier serves as the custodian of records.

The HALO PAC board is comprised of the AIC Executive Committee, each AIC District President, and an appointed member of the opposite political party from each AIC District. The first meeting of the HALO PAC board was held April 30, 2010. HALO PAC Board Members include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sara Arnold</td>
<td>AIC President</td>
<td>Spencer County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dick Jones</td>
<td>AIC First Vice President</td>
<td>Clark County</td>
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<td>Therese Brown</td>
<td>AIC Second Vice President</td>
<td>Allen County</td>
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<td>Penny Lukenbill</td>
<td>AIC Third Vice President</td>
<td>Marshall County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Quyle</td>
<td>AIC Treasurer</td>
<td>Morgan County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Layton</td>
<td>Northwest District President</td>
<td>LaPorte County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
<td>Northwest District Appointee</td>
<td>Lake County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pam Coleman</td>
<td>Northeast District President</td>
<td>Steuben County</td>
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<td>Jackie Knafel</td>
<td>Northeast District Appointee</td>
<td>Noble County</td>
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<td>Deborah Adams</td>
<td>East Central District President</td>
<td>Rush County</td>
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<td>Beth White</td>
<td>East Central District Appointee</td>
<td>Marion County</td>
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<td>Nancy Marsh</td>
<td>West Central District President</td>
<td>Hendricks County</td>
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<td>Larry Gambaiani</td>
<td>West Central District Appointee</td>
<td>Parke County</td>
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<td>Pete Franzman</td>
<td>Southwest District President</td>
<td>Perry County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Wolfe</td>
<td>Southwest District Appointee</td>
<td>Gibson County</td>
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<td>Mike Jones</td>
<td>Southeast District President</td>
<td>Switzerland County</td>
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<td>Sue Paris</td>
<td>Southeast District Appointee</td>
<td>Bartholomew County</td>
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WHAT IS A PAC?
A PAC is a Political Action Committee. A PAC is a group formed (as by an industry or an issue-oriented organization) to raise and contribute money to the campaigns of candidates likely to advance the group's interests. In Indiana, there are no limits on individual PAC contributions.

What must be disclosed?
- PACs that support or oppose state candidates or public questions, or state legislative candidates must file finance reports with the Indiana Election Division.
- More than $100
  - Must report all contributions, loans, expenditures, distributions (and transfers between political committees, regardless of the amount.)
  - Must report the full name and address of each person making the contribution or receiving the expenditure
- At least $1,000 per year to the same committee, required to report the occupation of the contributor.
- Contribution Limitations For Corporations & Labor Organizations
  - $5,000 ~ apportioned in any manner among all statewide candidates (not legislative).
  - $2,000 ~ apportioned in any manner among all candidates for state senate.
  - $2,000 ~ apportioned in any manner among all candidates for state house of representatives.
  - $2,000 ~ apportioned in any manner among all state senate legislative caucuses.
  - $2,000 ~ apportioned in any manner among all state house of representatives legislative caucuses.
There’s Something for Everyone in...

LaPorte County

The sun glistens off the calm, shimmering waters of Southern Lake Michigan, framing the historic Michigan City East Pier Lighthouse – the only working light in Indiana – against the robust skyline of faraway Chicago.

In the background, the loud, signature gawking of a peacock resonates through the calm lake air from nearby Washington Park Zoo while apple and pumpkin seedlings begin to gain momentum beneath the rich, black peat of LaPorte County as they prepare to produce the world famous bounty that makes the area one of the top in the nation for agritourism. It’s all part of the wonder that is LaPorte County.

Whether it’s the water, the shopping, the world-class gaming or the eclectic and cosmopolitan dining that beckon you, the state’s farthest north county welcomes visitors throughout the year – with open arms. And they continue to come back in droves because there’s always something to do when visiting Michigan City and La Porte. But the county’s draw isn’t the domain simply of its two largest cities.

While facilities like Blue Chip Casino, Hotel, & Spa, Lighthouse Place Premium Outlets, Barker Mansion, the historic county courthouse and the LaPorte County Historical Society Museum each serve as beacons for visitors to LaPorte County, the smaller towns...
and villages prove to be just as popular. Visit the Hesston area and soak in the rich history of antique steam locomotives and vehicles before taking a short drive to one of northern LaPorte County’s many U-pick blueberry farms.

See why the state of Indiana is synonymous nationally with the sport of basketball as you sit on the concrete slab bleachers inside the tiny LaCrosse High School gymnasium. Or listen for the faint sound of a horn from the train that carried the body of President Abraham Lincoln to Springfield, Ill., as you visit the Wanatah Historical Society in Southern LaPorte County.

From north to south, and east to west, LaPorte County puts forth a guarantee that is tough to live up to in that there’s always something to do. But while that guarantee is a lofty goal, it’s attained nearly every day.

Visitors have come to know LaPorte County as a haven for beach-goers, history buffs, shopaholics, gamblers, farmers and sportsmen. Attractions like the Great Lakes Museum of Military history, the Lubeznik Center for the Arts and the Michigan City Farmer’s Market are supplemented by great events like the Great Lakes Grand Prix, the LaPorte County
Fair, the Columbia Yacht Race and the annual Hoosier CoHo Club Classic fishing tournament – the oldest such event on Lake Michigan. Sports are a huge part of LaPorte County and sports tourism is gaining steam. More than 100,000 visitors came into LaPorte County in 2009 simply to enjoy viewing or participating in sporting events.

Lake Michigan and Washington Park are major draws for participants and spectators alike, as witnessed by the massive crowds that enjoyed the Great Lakes Grand Prix and the hundreds of fishermen, sailors and ballplayers that dotted the landscape in 2009.

Michigan City is quickly becoming known as a hotbed for salmon, trout and perch fishing, and the amount of fishermen who continue to participate in these major events prove that point.

So whether you’re interested in shopping, gaming, fishing, camping, picking, sailing or enjoying, make sure to find your way to Lake Michigan’s southern shore because there’s always something to do in LaPorte County.

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We are county elected officials, and we are proud of who we are and what we do. We are advocates for local government, local control and quality assurance. We are responsible citizens in today’s world. We must find our voice, a voice that is clear and concise. We must charge our diverse, multiple voices and establish a focused message for the future. That’s why this year we are calling our 2010 Annual Conference The Strength of Many Voices. We will focus on providing everyone with ways to work together and become united for their counties! Join us in our effort of advancing county government at the Blue Chip Hotel in LaPorte County, September 27 - 30.

**EXHIBIT HALL**
Visit our huge exhibit hall full of great booths and information for your county and pick up some giveaways while you’re there. Our vendor representatives will be happy to tell you all about how their services can save your county time and money. Be sure to stop by the Host County booth and pick up your host gift. We will again be having the Cocktail Hour on Tuesday and will also be having our lunch on Wednesday in the exhibit hall.

**WORKSHOPS**
We are having 10 workshops, including one featured workshop, on Wednesday so that we can focus on the most important issues facing county officials and employees. The AIC staff and training committee chose these informative workshops as they will impact every county office. We will have three rounds of three topics that are sure to interest you. Remember you can earn three DIPLOMA credits by attending these workshops! One day registrations are available for those who would like to attend on Wednesday only.

**AFFILIATE MEETINGS**
Meet with your affiliate group on Tuesday morning. Your affiliate association will be planning this important meeting for you. Come and see what issues you will need to be up to date on. One day registrations will be available for those who would like to attend on Tuesday only.

**EVENTS**
We begin on Monday with our Annual Ray Nuce Golf Outing held at Pottawattomie Country Club. This fabulous 18-hole golf course takes full advantage of the natural beauty of the area. The course’s water hazards, towering oaks and maples, breathtaking tee shots, and rolling greens sliced from what once was the sandy dunes, provide a truly challenging course. After a day of golf join us for the welcome reception in the Blue Chip Hotel & Spa. We will be having desserts and drinks as we enjoy the music of *Harbor Lights*, an a cappella doo wop group with rich and full harmonies! And don’t forget to visit the company hospitality suites during this evening!

On Tuesday, we will host a Cocktail Hour in the Exhibit Hall. Come and enjoy a signature cocktail while connecting with potential vendors or old friends before heading up to the company hospitality suites!

Make sure on Wednesday you grab your lunch in the exhibit hall. This will be a great opportunity to see all the booths and to learn about how these vendors can help you serve your county. After a long day of learning at our workshops you can enjoy a cocktail at our Reception. Later that night, don’t miss our ‘Strength of Many Voices’ Awards Banquet as we celebrate the achievements of award winning counties and county officials. At the conclusion of the banquet get ready to have some fun and dance with one of the best DJ’s out of Chicago!

As your conference experience comes to a close, we end with our brunch on Thursday morning. Come and enjoy a great breakfast and your opportunity to be awarded one of the many door prizes available for county officials as presented by the AIC Host Committee.
Workshops

911 FUNDING – IT’S AN EMERGENCY
Funding for 911 continues to decline. A new state law provides preferential tax treatment for the fastest growing aspect of the telecommunications industry: prepaid minutes for mobile telephones. Will this lead to further reductions in revenue for 911 services? What are appropriate expenditures for 911 money? This issue has reached a critical point and attendees will discuss the multitude of issues surrounding 911 funding.

AVOIDING THE COSTS OF JAIL LITIGATION
The operating expenses associated with county jails are a burden that seems to increase every year. When every dollar is needed, an unexpected litigation can pose major problems for the county budget. This workshop will examine ways of limiting costs during lawsuits by avoiding litigation altogether.

CRAZY THINGS THAT HAPPEN AT WORK – PART 4
This workshop will explore some of the strange predicaments that county officials sometimes find themselves when dealing with unusual personnel matters. The speakers will feature compensation and staffing issues that regularly dominate heated county council meetings, and will use true-to-life scenarios to engage workshop attendees in an interactive discussion about employee salaries, overtime, employee complaints, and discipline.

DO NOT ALLOW PROPERTY IN YOUR COUNTY TO BECOME A TAX LIABILITY
Is your county allowing property to languish and become a liability when it should be back on the tax rolls? Is your county taking advantage of federal programs to mitigate environmentally contaminated properties so the property can contribute to the local economy again? Attend this workshop and learn how to get properties back on the tax rolls as a community asset. This workshop will also demonstrate how you can ensure self-reported personal property is paying its fair share of taxes.

HOW WILL HEALTH REFORM AFFECT YOUR COUNTY EMPLOYEES’ HEALTH BENEFITS? WHAT CAN YOU DO TO LOWER COSTS NOW?
The new health reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), makes a number of important changes to insurance regulations that will begin to take place in 2010. This session will address the implications for the health benefit plans you offer your county employees regarding new options, penalties, mandates and premiums. Additionally, these changes will ultimately lead to further questions regarding impacts on county budgets. Find out what your county needs to do to prepare for short and long term changes.

INDIANA 2010 COST OF COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT: A COUNTY SPECIFIC ANALYSIS
Budgets are tight and every county official is looking to do more with less. Using tax and expenditure data from each county, the relative costs of providing services around the state can be examined. This workshop will explore how your county compares in the cost of services and share ideas on how to maximize community services with available revenue.

PAVEMENT PRESERVATION: THE FUTURE IS NOW
Gas tax revenue available for road funding has been on the decline and because of trends in gasoline usage is unlikely to increase. It is more important than ever to plan for the future and explore new ways to maintain the road systems. This workshop will explore new ways to stretch dollars for materials, maintenance and other highway functions.

REORGANIZING THE COURTS
Government reorganization has been a prevailing topic throughout local and state government. In 2008, the Indiana Judicial Conference Board formed a Strategic Planning Committee, which developed the white paper, “A New Way Forward, A Blueprint for Excellence and to Greater Accountability: Enhanced Access to Justice in Indiana’s Judicial System.” This workshop will expand upon the strategies identified in “A New Way Forward,” and discuss reorganization in the Indiana court system.

ROUTING ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS
County officials are being asked across the state to become more efficient. Sharing documents between offices can streamline county operations, saving the county and taxpayers time and money. Attend this workshop to learn about programs that offer innovative document sharing solutions. This workshop will explore opportunities for different county offices that maintain land records; specifically the workshop will explore how counties can work together and share information while enforcing each county’s unique workflow rules.

THE STRENGTH OF MANY VOICES
Keynote Speaker

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A DATE WITH DESTINY: AN HISTORIC AND INSPIRATIONAL VIEW OF 9/11/01

Joe Dittmar’s eyewitness account of the sights, sounds and scenes from inside and outside the World Trade Center complex on 9/11/01 presents an intriguing and gripping perspective on what really happened before, during and after the terrorist attacks. While steeped with facts and observations of historic proportions, his presentation also presents concepts and ideas on what was learned that day and what lessons we can continue to teach. These lessons are historical, but also personal, philosophical, ethical and social. The recitation of his journey from the 105th floor of Tower Two of the World Trade Center all the way back to Aurora, Ill., in a 36 hour period provides a wealth of insight on an event that not only changed the world, but changed the way we proceed with our daily lives as Americans and residents of an ever-compacting world community. Joe’s perspective deals with not only our political and militaristic vulnerability, but also with the awaking of patriotic spirit and human determination. His offering stresses the point of ‘always remember and never forget,’ allowing all of us to help him continue to ‘tell the story’ so that perhaps history doesn’t have to repeat itself.

Conference Entertainment

Our Welcome Reception will bring the sounds of the 50s ‘doo wop’ to life with Collectables recording artists Harbor Lights. This talented group, with its golden melodies of yesteryear, will be sure to please you. Hear classic tunes like ‘Sea of Love,’ ‘Run Around Sue,’ ‘Little Star,’ and many more with the a cappella style of Harbor Lights.

The Wednesday night Awards Banquet will end with a great party! We have an exciting Chicago Party DJ who will be sure to keep you dancing and moving to the music!

Registration Information

The Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) is happy to present registration information for its 52nd Annual Conference in LaPorte County, September 27-30.

The conference provides wonderful opportunities for our members to network with about 600 county elected officials and employees from around the state. We are offering 10 educational workshops and an exhibit hall that will be filled with information to take back to the counties from more than 90 booths.

Again this year we will be offering online registration at www.indianacounties.org beginning July 7. This is a great feature that makes registering very quick and easy!

Important Notes

County official online registration will begin July 7 via www.indianacounties.org. Online Vendor registration including booth selection will begin on July 8. After you register, you will receive an email confirmation with your registration details. Paper registrations may be faxed upon request after July 7 by calling (317) 684-3710. Invoicing will be available for online registration only. All paper registrations must be mailed with payment.

Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>County Official Online Registration Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>Online Vendor Registration and Booth Selection Begins</td>
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<td>August 7</td>
<td>Early Bird Discount Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 22</td>
<td>Registration Refunds No Longer Available</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Deadline for Availability for Blue Chip Hotel and Spa Room Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>Conference Begins</td>
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</table>
Cancellation Policy: The AIC must receive WRITTEN NOTICE of conference registration cancellation BY August 22 to receive a refund minus a $25.00 processing fee. After August 22, refunds will not be available and full payment must still be made to the AIC for cancellations and registered no-shows.

Registration Fees
For County Officials, County Employees, AIC Alumni and Spouses and Guests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EARLY BIRD*</th>
<th>REGISTRATION</th>
<th>ON-SITE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full Registration</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$170</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-Day Registration</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$80</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Single event tickets are available by contacting the AIC at (317) 684-3710. Invoicing is available to those who register for conference online. All paper registrations are required to be mailed with payment.

*Early Bird Discount—you receive a discounted rate if you register by August 7. You must register online (where you can be invoiced) or submit paper registrations with payment postmarked by August 7.

Hotel Information
Rooms have been reserved at the conference host hotel the Blue Chip Hotel and Spa for the nights of September 27, 28, and 29.

Our host hotel, Blue Chip Hotel and Spa, will surround your senses. Rising against a stunning backdrop of shoreline and sky, you will discover a destination unlike any other. Born from the imagination of world-renowned architect Lucien Lagrange, Blue Chip Hotel & Spa represents a remarkable fusion of supremely personal service, world-class meeting facilities, distinctive personal luxury, non-stop gaming, and unforgettable dining and nightlife. You can visit their website at www.bluechipcasino.com

You can reserve your hotel room by logging onto their website or calling the hotel directly. If you call the hotel, please be sure to mention the Association of Indiana Counties.

Blue Chip Hotel and Spa
777 Blue Chip Drive
Michigan City, IN 46360
1-219-879-7711

Conference Rate (per night):
$109.00 Blue Chip Tower - $129.00 Spa Blue Tower

Link to Blue Chip’s online booking at www.bluechipcasino.com/groups. Group Code is GIN0926. Online booking and room block will open on July 7.

Hotel reservations must be made by September 10 to be guaranteed the conference rate. For those who would like to arrive early the conference rate will apply to a small number of rooms on Sunday, September 26. Please inquire with hotel reservations for availability. Hotel reservation lists will be reviewed to verify that individuals are registered for the AIC Conference. In order to receive Sales Tax Exemption for your hotel room, you must have a state tax exempt form from the State of Indiana. A tax I.D. number alone will not work. Please contact the Indiana Department of Revenue if you have questions regarding sales tax.
2010 Ethics Legislation – A Sign of Things Yet to Come?

By Karen Arland, Ice Miller, LLP

One of the more significant legislative items addressed by the General Assembly in 2010 was legislative ethics – specifically the receipt and reporting of gifts. Although HEA 1001, the legislation enacted this year, does NOT apply to local governments, many legislators expressed the belief that the new requirements imposed on legislators should be applicable to local government officials. Indeed, legislation was introduced in 2010, and will likely be introduced in 2011, to impose restrictions on local officials similar to the new restrictions on legislators.

HONORARIA
HEA 1001 prohibits legislators from receiving an honorarium for an appearance or a speech made in the legislator’s capacity as a member of the General Assembly. A legislator’s travel expenses may be paid or reimbursed.

LOBBIYSTS
HEA 1001 exempts certain national organizations from the definition of “lobbyist”. The exempt organizations are generally described as “national organizations established for the education and support of legislative leadership, legislators, legislative staff, or related government employees.

LATE FEES
HEA 1001 increases the penalties for late lobbyist registration reports and late lobbyist activity reports from $10 per day to $100 per day, and increases the maximum penalty from $100 to $4,500.

ACTIVITY REPORTS
HEA 1001 makes several changes to the information that must be included in the activity report each lobbyist files twice a year. Under prior law, lobbyists were not required to report expenditures for entertainment or meals when the entire General Assembly was invited. HEA 1001 eliminates this exception.

HEA 1001 requires lobbyists to report each expenditure for entertainment, including meals and drink, or for gifts when that expenditure equals $50 or more in a single day or $250 in a calendar year, if the expenditure is made to benefit a specific “legislative person”. The report of an expenditure must include the name of the lobbyist making the expenditure, a description of the expenditures, and the amount of the expenditure. HEA 1001 defines “legislative person” as a member, candidate, officer or employee of the general assembly, a member of such a person’s immediate family, a paid consultant of the General Assembly, and an agency of the General Assembly. A lobbyist who is a “close relative” of a legislative person is not considered a legislative person. A “close relative” refers to an individual’s: (i) spouse; (ii) parent; (iii) parent of the individual’s spouse; (iv) child; (v) sibling or spouse’s sibling; (vi) aunt or uncle; (vii) niece or nephew or spouse’s niece or nephew; (viii) grandparent or spouse’s grandparent; (ix) grandchild or spouse’s grandchild; (x) great-grandparent or spouse’s great-grandparent; and (xi) great-grandchild or spouse’s great-grandchild. A relative by adoption, half-blood, marriage, or remarriage is considered a relative of close kinship.

GIFTS AND EXPENDITURES
One of the most significant changes HEA 1001 makes to lobbyist reporting requirements is with respect to lobbyist gifts and expenditures. Except for gifts made between “close relatives”, a lobbyist must file a written report whenever a lobbyist makes a gift that must be reported in a lobbyist activity report. The report must include: (i) the lobbyist’s name; (ii) a description of the gift; and (iii) the amount or value of the gift. A copy of the gift report must be filed with the lobby registration commission, the legislative person...
to whom the gift was made, the principal clerk of the house or the secretary of the senate, depending upon for which body the legislative person is either a member of or a candidate.

The gift report must be filed not later than 15 business days after the gift is made. A gift report is confidential and is not available for public inspection or copying until 10 business days after the report has been filed with the lobby registration commission. Not later than January 7 of a year, the lobbyist registration commission is required to provide each legislator and legislative candidate a compilation of all gift reports relating to the member or candidate. The compilation must include a description of each gift, the amount of the gift, and the name of the lobbyist that made the gift.

With respect to expenditures, if an expenditure for entertainment (including meals and drink) or a gift can clearly and reasonably be attributed to a particular legislative person, the expenditure must be reported with respect to that person. An expenditure report with respect to a particular legislative person must report actual expenditure amounts and may not allocate a prorated amount derived from an expense made with respect to the several legislative persons, to the extent practicable. An activity report must report expenditures for a function or activity to which all members of the General Assembly are invited, and those expenditures may NOT be allocated and reported with respect to a particular legislative person.

If two or more lobbyists contribute to an expenditure, each lobbyist must report the actual amount the lobbyist contributed to the expenditure, even if the lobbyist would not be required to report the expenditure if only one lobbyist had made the expenditure.

Any activity report may not report expenditures or gifts relating to property or services received by a legislative person if the legislative person paid for the property or services and the amount charged the legislative person is the amount that would be charge to any purchaser in the ordinary course of business. An activity report may not report expenditures or gifts made between close relatives, unless that expenditure or gift is made in connection with legislative action. A lobbyist may not make a gift with a value of $50 or more unless the legislative person consents before the gift is made. A lobbyist must inform the legislative person of the cost of the gift at the time the lobbyist seeks the person’s consent.

PURCHASES

HEA 1001 now requires lobbyists to report purchases made from legislators or candidates for legislative office. Except for purchases made by a lobbyist from a legislator’s (or candidate’s) business in the ordinary course of business at prices that are available to the general public, a lobbyist must file a written report with respect to a particular legislator or candidate whenever the lobbyist makes a purchase of goods or services for which the lobbyist paid more than $100 from: (i) a legislator (or candidate); (ii) the legislator’s (or Continued on page 22
Continued from page 21

candidate’s) sole proprietorship; or (iii) the legislator’s (or candidate’s) family business, regardless of the manner in which the business is legally organized.

The report must include: (i) the name of the lobbyist making the purchase; (ii) a description of the purchase; and (iii) the amount of the purchase. The lobbyist is required to file a copy of the purchase report with the lobby registration commission, the legislator (or candidate) to whom the gift was made, the principal clerk of the house or the secretary of the senate, depending upon for which body the person is either a member of or a candidate.

The report must be filed not later than 15 business days after the purchase is made. A report is confidential and is not available for public inspection or copying until 10 business days after the report has been filed with the lobby registration commission. Not later than January 7 of a year, the lobbyist registration commission is required to provide each legislator and legislative candidate a compilation of all purchase reports relating to the member or candidate. The compilation must include a description of each purchase, the amount of the purchase, and the name of the lobbyist that made the purchase.

REVOLVING DOOR

HEA 1001 adds provisions to provide that an individual who was member of the General Assembly after December 31, 2011 may not be a registered lobbyist or serve as a legislative liaison for a state agency for a period of one year after the individual ceases to be a member of the General Assembly. A person who is either a member of the General Assembly or a legislative candidate for election on November 3, 2010 may not be registered as a lobbyist or serve as a legislative liaison before June 1, 2011. Such a person may be a lobbyist or legislative liaison after May 31, 2011.

CONCLUSION

As noted above, many legislators sought to extend the restrictions on gifts, expenditures, and purchases to local officials, and many indicated that such legislation would be introduced in 2011. County officials may want to review these new restrictions closely, and determine whether similar restrictions should be imposed locally.

Ice Miller LLP serves as general counsel to the Association of Indiana Counties. For further information on the new ethics legislation, please feel free to contact Karen Arland at Karen.arland@icemiller.com.
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