

**ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS COUNTIES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Holiday Inn - Springdale, Arkansas**  
**August 11, 2009**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** President Mike Jacobs called the meeting to order and Jeanne Hunt called the roll. Members present were: Jo West Taylor, Roger Haney, Mike Jacobs, Skippy Leek, Danny Hickman, Danny Russell, Pat Dicker, Doris Tate, Johnny Rye, Larry Fratesi, Chris Villines, Vicki Rima, Faron Ledbetter, Gene Raible, Wes Fowler and Leonard Krout. Member absent was: Debra Buckner.

**MINUTES:** Jeanne Hunt informed the members the minutes of the June Board meeting had been mailed to each for their approval. As there were no changes or additions, motion was made by Danny Hickman and seconded by Gene Raible to approve the minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

**FINANCIAL AND INVESTMENTS REPORT:** Brenda Hildebrandt presented the investment schedule and financial report to the members. The investments are currently earning an average of 3.77%. The budget to line item shows we are currently where we need to be on revenues. As there were no questions, motion was made by Faron Ledbetter and seconded by Wes Fowler to approve the financial and investments report as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

**CONVENTION REPORT:** Jeanne Hunt gave each member a listing of all sponsors and co-sponsors and stated our overall sponsor income is \$40,375.00. She also stated there were a total of 46 exhibit booths. There are 530 attendees pre-registered. Eddie Jones talked with the members regarding speakers for the conference. We have recently heard there could be problems with protestors trying to get into the meeting where Senator Blanche Lincoln will be speaking. We have been assured by the hotel that we may legally ask protestors to leave the property as it is private property.

**NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS REPORT:** Steve Baker, Program Director with Nationwide, gave a report to the Directors outlining the current membership of Arkansas counties in the Nationwide Retirement Program. There are a total of 69 member counties and county government related entities. Fran Walker, Retirement Specialist with Nationwide, encouraged all to call on her for any assistance they may need.

**AAC RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT:** Risk Manager Debbie Norman handed out a status report to all members. There are currently 43 RMF member counties and 1 additional county related entity. Thirty-seven counties are in the auto program and 7 other county related entities. The property program has 32 member counties and 3 additional entities. There are 398 volunteer fire departments in the auto program and 253 in the property program. Debbie informed the members that the RMF Trustees had met last week and approved a 10% discount to be applied to the annual auto contribution if the

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county member participates in all three RMF programs, GL, auto and property. Members will also receive a discount on their auto contribution if they complete a defensive driving course which is available through the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department through the T2 program free of charge.

**AAC WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST REPORT:** Eddie Jones gave out a status report to the members stating that 74 counties and 9 other county related entities were members of the Trust. A \$1,000,000 dividend to member counties was declared and distributed in June for the 2005 premium year. That brings the total dividends distributed to members since 1997 to approximately \$19,000,000. Since 2008, total assets for the Trust have increased by \$1.3 million. The 2009 premiums billed and receipted will be around \$6.5 million.

**NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT:** Jeff Sikes informed the members that this had been his first trip to a NACo Annual conference. He felt it was very worthwhile and he had made many contacts that he believed could benefit the Association as we begin to offer more on-line services to our counties. Vicki Rima stated she attended the Pre-tech conference offered. She has attended many IACREOT conferences and felt she learned more during this one NACo conference than any of those. Mike Jacobs stated there were three big issues at the NACo conference this year, the Clean Water Act, nationwide membership to NACo and a proposal for new Executive Board members. The last issue caused quite a raucous during the business session, but everything seems to be smoothed out now. All encouraged everyone to try to attend these NACo meetings if at all possible.

**DIRECTORS REPORT:** Eddie Jones stated the property report was the same as last meeting, the Acme building has been looked at by many, but no takers as of now. The Cotham's property was current in their rental agreement and no large expenses were incurred on the building recently.

The legislative staff have been attending most of the affiliate meetings this summer in order to discuss changes in the laws resulting from the recently held Legislative Session. For those officials who couldn't attend their affiliate association, we held a one-day legislative workshop at the AAC office with over 125 participants in attendance.

Among the many meetings attended, Eddie informed the members that he had attended and spoke to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Highway Finance twice recently. Counties are responsible for 69% of the road miles in Arkansas.

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The AAC Legislative Committee met in July to review the efforts during this past legislative session. All members felt the cooperation level amongst all the affiliate associations was the best it had ever been. The big negative was communications and lack of AAC staff. Eddie stated we are currently working on beefing up the IT and communications with county officials.

Eddie informed the members he had terminated the accountant and had hired Karen Lester temporarily in order to assist him in securing a new accountant. We have recruited Cindy Posey from Windstream in a temp-to-perm position. He also stated he had made both accounting positions answerable to him only.

Eddie reminded the members he would like to hear their ideas on the direction of AAC and any suggestions they might have on our goals and perhaps this could be a matter for our next board meeting.

Jeff Sikes and an ad hoc committee made up of Chris Villines, Faron Ledbetter, Debbie Wise, Vicki Rima, Debra Buckner and John Montgomery met a few weeks ago to discuss the short and long term IT goals for AAC. They are looking at Capwiz, a company NACo uses, along with local companies Flex360 and Capsearch in trying to update or service delivery and legislative communications for our members.

Vicki Rima spoke to the members about the current retirement issues involving her and several other officials. She said she and the others would never intentionally bring this kind of attention to county government and she asked for everyone's thoughts for their staff and families as this situation plays out. Vicki also thanked everyone for all the support they have shown.

Wes Fowler informed the board this would be his last meeting and he wished to thank everyone for the experience. Jimmy Hart will be the new incoming President of the County Judges' Association and new member of the AAC Board.

As there was no further business for discussion, motion was made by Faron Ledbetter and seconded by Jo West Taylor to adjourn for dinner. Motion approved unanimously.