



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 17, 2017

Missouri Association of Counties set to hold 46th annual meeting

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri Association of Counties (MAC) will hold its 46th Annual Conference & Expo on Nov. 19-21, 2017, at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Camden County (Osage Beach), Mo. More than 700 people, including county elected officials, sponsors and exhibitors, are expected to attend the three-day conference, which features informational training and networking sessions on topics designed to enhance local government.

“County government plays a vital role in the lives of all Missourians,” said Missouri Association of Counties Executive Director Dick Burke. “This educational conference is an excellent opportunity for our membership to be informed about current issues, as well as to share ideas and learn best practices when developing public policy to ensure that Missouri’s county governments are effective and efficient.”

The annual conference also serves as a time for MAC members to elect officers and board members, and establish legislative priorities for the upcoming year.

The opening session of the annual conference begins at 8:15 a.m. on Monday morning and will feature Ed Smart, father of Elizabeth Smart, who was abducted in 2002 and returned home nine months later. Smart will share his story, and describe the trauma their family endured and how they tried to minimize the effects on their other children. He will also talk about how his family dealt with law enforcement and the media, while holding on to hope and learning to rely on the strength of family.

At 9:00 a.m., the Immediate Past President Bryan Desloge of the National Association of Counties (NACo) will give an overview on the federal policy agenda that NACo is advocating for in Washington D.C. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy.

At 9:30 a.m., Missouri Department of Corrections Director Anne Precythe will speak about the Justice Reinvestment Initiative in Missouri. In June, Gov. Eric Greitens formed the Justice Reinvestment Task Force by executive order to look at ways to improve Missouri’s criminal justice system by reducing its prison population, lowering recidivism and finding a solution to the ongoing issues related to county jail

NEWS

Missouri Association of Counties

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reimbursements. As chair of the task force, Precythe will speak about the work being done by the task force and why this initiative is so important for Missouri.

Following the morning's general sessions, two rounds of educational breakout sessions are scheduled from 10:30 a.m. until noon, which include:

- Missouri Sunshine Law: The Need to Know Open Meetings and Social Media;
- Missouri's Marijuana Initiative;
- Don't Take the Bait! Why People Fall for Phishing Attacks;
- For Self-Funded Health Plans, Slash Employee and Employer Prescription Drug Cost! Zero Dollar Co-Pays;
- The PACE Program
- The Minefield of Nepotism;
- Understanding Key Elements of an Investment Program;
- Update on Illicit Drug Use in the U.S. and Missouri – Are We Making Progress?
- Polypropylene Storm Sewer Pipe: The Future is Here;
- The Ultimate in County Government Guide to Funding Capital Facilities Projects; and
- Revising Missouri's Prevailing Wage Law.

Afternoon breakout sessions will continue from 1:15 to 2:00 p.m. and include:

- CERF Update;
- The Stepping Up Initiative: Reducing Mental Illness in Jails;
- Implementing and Funding Improvements to Historical Courthouses, Facilities and Infrastructure;
- Challenges in Health Care, ACA Update and Alternative Funding for Missouri Public Entities; and
- County Legal Issues.

At 8:20 a.m., on Tuesday, Rep. Kevin Corlew, R-Kansas City, who chairs the 21st Century Missouri Transportation System Task Force, and Rep. Jeff Messenger, R-Republic, who chairs the House Policy Development Caucus, will speak about the work they have been doing in trying to find a solution to funding Missouri's transportation system.

At 9:00 a.m., Rep. Holly Rehder, R-Sikeston, and Daniel Landon, senior vice president of government relations for the Missouri Hospital Association, will speak about the need for a strong prescription drug monitoring program.

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