

DID YOU KNOW...

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

THE VALUE OF YOUR ASSOCIATION

Often, the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners (SDACC) board members and staff are questioned about membership dues and the value of Association membership.

Vision Statement

The South Dakota Association of County Commissioners (SDACC) exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of county government to better serve the people of South Dakota.

Mission Statement

The Mission of SDACC is to work as a united body, promoting effective and efficient delivery of government services necessary for the maintenance of the health, safety and welfare of all citizens.

SDACC exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of county government to better serve the people of South Dakota.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Promote Effective and Efficient Delivery of Government Services

- Enhance communication, cooperation, sharing information, and providing a forum for open discussion of any issues important to counties.
- Provide Education and Training for Members

Goal 2: Strengthen Cooperative Working Relationships Among Our Membership and Other Organizations With Which We Share Interests and Do Business.

- Represent each South Dakota County and it's elected officials by serving as a liaison to the Governor and State Government, South Dakota Legislature, Congress, other governmental agencies, the media and the public
- Provide legislative service to the membership to assist in the development of sound policy as it relates to county government.

Association Member Dues

SDACC membership dues are calculated using a base of \$750 per year per county plus 22 cents per capita based on the most recent US Census. Dues make up about 30% of SDACC's total operating budget.

Board of Directors

SDACC is governed by a Board of Directors composed of five officers (President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President-also called the Executive Committee), one representative from each of the eight districts and one member from each county whose population is over 65,000. These individuals set the policy for the Association and challenges the staff to diversify our revenue base, increase our value to members and efficiently contain our costs.

**For over 100 years, the
South Dakota Association of County Commissioners has assisted the
state's 66 counties in providing effective governance for all citizens**

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

Publications & Communications

To meet the information needs of counties in a variety of ways, SDACC provides counties with the following publications:

County Comment: SDACC's main communications vehicle is the County Comment electronic newsletter, which is sent 3 times per year with one print issue at convention. It contains in-depth articles on significant county issues, notices of upcoming SDACC events, regular comments by the SDACC president, county news, job notices, and more.

Legislative Update: An electronic legislative update is sent via email during the South Dakota Legislative Session. The update alerts counties to pertinent happenings in state government.

Salary Survey: Every odd year, valuable data including salaries, county benefit expenses, county benefit leaves, insurance, number of employees and more is collected and a report produced for members.

County Directory: The South Dakota Association of County Commissioners and County Officials Directory, distributed early in the year following elections, lists important information for each of South Dakota's 66 counties: courthouse contact information, board meeting schedule, county demographics, as well as contact information for commissioners and other key offices.

"Did You Know" brochures: To help county officials, employees and citizens better understand what county government does, SDACC produced a number of brochures. These documents provide an overview of county revenue and expenditures, duties of a county commissioner, parliamentary procedure, as well as other topics.

Web Site: www.sdcountycommissioners.org is the more comprehensive resource for counties and others interested in county issues and activities. It is the source for South Dakota county information, SDACC events and meeting, links to resources, legislative updates and county job postings.

Convention and Training

SDACC offers several educational programs to help county commissioners and others keep up to speed on issues, trends and technology.

Spring Workshop - April

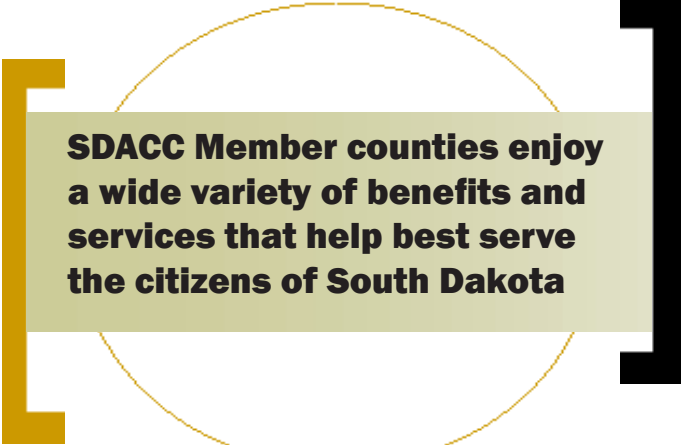
This important, comprehensive workshop is one that no newly elected or experienced county commissioner should miss! Held odd years in March in Pierre, SD. This workshop features interesting topics that will help make you a more effective county commissioner.

Annual Conference - September

The SD Counties Annual Conference is the premier county government event in South Dakota. The conference serves as SDACC's annual business meeting, when the membership votes in the legislative platform and elect new officers to the board of directors. A Vendor Fair features exhibit booths of products and services for county government. Education is the major emphasis of the conference, with thought-provoking workshops and general sessions on current hot topics.

Technical Assistance

This involves conducting research and providing results to one or all counties on issues that are important to individual counties. Examples of technical assistance topics include open burn bans, regulation of fireworks, drought designation, indigent legal costs, indigent health care costs, fire district information, property tax opt outs, county unobligated balances, health insurance, personnel matters, etc.



SDACC Member counties enjoy a wide variety of benefits and services that help best serve the citizens of South Dakota

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

Legislative

The original function of the Association, legislative services remains a primary focus for the organization. Activities include, but are not limited to, lobbying during legislative sessions, representation at interim and administrative hearings, assisting in policy development, research, and responding to legislative requests for information. Working together as a unified group, the Association has been a key player in obtaining additional funding for counties. More than 60% of all bills introduced to the South Dakota Legislature have some sort of impact on counties. We work proactively to incorporate county concerns into legislation and reactively respond to proposed bills that would positively or negatively affect county government. We attend House and Senate committee meetings, talk with legislators, and correspond regularly with other local government entities.

Because the county message is often best heard when delivered by commissioners in legislators' own areas, counties are often called upon to contact their own legislators to share their concerns directly.

Procedures for Due Process

1. Resolutions must be submitted in standard resolution form along with supporting criteria. (see sample.)
 - a) Justification for the Resolution
 - b) Counties Affected by the Resolution
 - c) Impact of Resolution
2. Resolutions may be submitted by a county to the SDACC Resolutions Committee and shall be passed and signed by a majority of the members of the board in the county of origin.
3. Resolutions may be submitted by a district to the SDACC Resolutions Committee and shall be passed by a majority of the district counties at a meeting where a quorum is present and signed by the chairperson of the district of origin.
4. The officers and members of the SDACC Board of Directors may submit resolutions at any SDACC Board of Directors meeting where a quorum is present. The resolution shall be passed by a majority vote of the members present.
5. All resolutions except those addressed in Item 4 must be postmarked on or before July 31. Any reso-

lution postmarked after July 31 will be returned to sender. A representative from the county/district of origin should appear before the Resolution Committee to testify in support of the resolution.

6. Resolutions will be reviewed by the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners' Resolutions Committee.

A. Committee will review form and content.

B. Committee action shall be:

1. Pass
2. Amend Resolution
3. Include in Policy Statement
4. Table

7. Resolutions tabled by the committee shall contain a brief statement to support the committee's action.

8. All properly submitted resolutions shall be printed and sent to counties on or before September 1.

A. Resolutions shall be listed as follows:

Section I: Resolutions the committee passed, including resolutions amended by committee.

Section II: Resolutions incorporated into Policy Statement.

Section III: Resolutions the committee tabled.

9. Resolutions passed by the committee shall receive first reading at the first business session at the South Dakota Association of County Commissioner's Annual Convention.

10. First reading of resolutions shall be solely for information purposes.

11. Any county desiring to take from the table a resolution that the Resolutions Committee tabled must state their intent during the first reading of resolutions. To remove a resolution from the table requires a majority vote of the members present. Official action is to be taken during the second reading of the resolutions.

12. The second reading of the resolutions shall be part of the regular business session of the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners. The procedure shall be:

A. Final disposition of resolutions passed by the Resolutions Committee.

B. Consideration and final disposition of any resolutions introduced by the SDACC Board of Directors.

C. Consideration and final disposition of any resolutions taken from the table.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

13. Any county desiring to introduce a new resolution from the floor may do so during the second reading of the resolutions at the convention by suspending the rules. The resolution shall be prepared and fifty copies provided.

Distinguish between Resolutions and Policy

Every year it seems that the Legislative Committee and commissioners generally have questions about or are confused on whether a particular issue should be presented as a “Policy Statement” or as an official “Resolution.” The legislative platform should be perceived as having two separate levels:

1. Official Resolutions: (Higher Profile)

Resolutions should call for specific wording changes in the existing South Dakota laws or regulations; Resolutions should be addressed specifically to the upcoming legislative session as a specific, one-time request for action;

Resolutions should be premised on the thought that the SDACC Executive Director, staff, and all SDACC lobbyists would concentrate on preparing a draft of a bill, locating a sponsor, and making sure that the matter starts through the legislative process, i.e., resolutions contemplate ‘action’ on the part of the SDACC.

2. Policy Statements: (Lower Profile)

Policy statements should reflect county sentiments about circumstances generally;

Policy statements should be an opinion or a position on an issue which counties share generally year after year - it could be an opinion in which counties as a large group endorse or reflect the opinion of a district or region;

Policy statements should be premised on the thought that the SDACC Executive Director, staff, and all lobbyists would be in the role of supporting legislation drafted by any other party (specific counties, cities, state, or federal government). (i.e., policy contemplated ‘reaction’ from the SDACC.)

With the above mentioned distinction understood, all parties involved would more clearly have a means to distinguish between various requests presented for legislative analysis or support. The distinction would

allow a means of sorting through the issues that come up, and of distinguishing the issues once they had been considered or debated.

SDACC Board of Directors also serve in the capacity of the Resolution Committee with a representative from each District. The chair of the committee is the 1st Vice President of the SDACC.

The Resolutions Committee should meet as needed prior to the convention to complete its mission. The Resolutions Committee should NOT meet during the convention for the purpose of considering new resolutions. The sole intent of the committee during the convention should be to review resolutions that have already been passed by the committee and to develop a presentation to support the committee’s position.

If a county cannot submit a resolution in a timely manner prescribed by the guidelines, they will have to wait until the next convention. Expecting the committee to analyze, research and make a professional presentation on last minute resolutions is not acceptable and should not be tolerated by the officers or the Board of Directors of the SDACC.

SAMPLE - Drought Disaster Aid

WHEREAS, South Dakota continues to suffer from a natural disaster in the form of severe agricultural drought conditions, including inadequate winter snowfall, meager spring rains, late spring frosts and devastating winds accompanied by high temperatures; and

WHEREAS, said drought conditions are beyond the financial capabilities of the individual counties or the State of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, federal emergency agricultural disaster assistance is necessary to prevent the imminent demise of family farms and ranches in South Dakota;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by _____ (District or County) that the President of the United States, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture exert any and all efforts to restore the \$4 billion of agriculture disaster aid which was earlier deleted from the 2006 Federal Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill.

SAMPLE - Supporting Criteria

Justification for the resolution: the severe drought conditions and lack of winter snow pack have caused South Dakota farmers and ranchers significant financial hardships. The lack of adequate moisture has forced the sale of livestock herds, and also created low crop yield or in some cases, total crop failure. This has had a direct effect on the counties economic stability.

Counties affect by the resolution: 38 counties have passed drought disaster resolutions

Impact of resolution: Increasing Federal Emergency Supplement Appropriations Bill by \$4 billion. This would increase the federal disaster payments to South Dakota farmers and ranchers.