

AGENDA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Check-In and Registration Desk Hours
Concord Convention Center

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Presidential Initiative Emergency Management Training Course
Offsite

Details on the Presidential Initiative Emergency Training can be found under "Offsite Offerings" on page 47.

Advanced sign-up required; if you were unable to sign up prior to the conference, inquire about availability at the Check-In and Registration Desk.

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Navigating the County Map Book: A Guide to Help Inform Decisions and Set Directions
Concord A, Concord Convention Center

Each year, the NCACC is pleased to share the most relevant North Carolina county-specific data maps in the County Map Book. These data and map visualizations highlight demographic, economic, health, and educational information from all 100 counties. Join NCACC Fiscal and Policy Research Director Denise Canada and intern Philip Van Wagoner to learn about the newly released 2022 County Map Book and how to evaluate and interpret mapped data.

Growing Wiser for the Older: Addressing the Aging Population

Concord C + D, Concord Convention Center

A county's senior population requires special care, and our conference host is strategically addressing the health and wellness of its older adult population. During this session, Cabarrus County officials will share some of their successes and replicable initiatives that include housing, food services, cross-generational activities and senior center offerings.

10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Strength in Storytelling: Lifting '100 Strong Productions' to New Highs
Concord A, Concord Convention Center

A division of the NCACC, "100 Strong Productions" endeavors to tell the untold stories of North Carolina through documentary films and various other video productions in support of the NCACC's mission. This interactive session will provide attendees with an opportunity to discuss the potential of this new venture, provide input on future projects, and get a sneak peak of in-progress productions.

Moderators: Chris Baucom, Executive Producer and Video Creative Director; and Sara Mogilski, Chief Operations Officer, NCACC

Douse the Flames of Common, Critical Issues with Fire Services Delivery

Concord C + D, Concord Convention Center

As counties see their population centers shift, shrink or grow, the changing demands on fire protection services can become a flash point for communities and county leaders. The resulting conflict can cause stagnation and resistance to change and updated approaches. As part of the high-growth Charlotte metro area, Cabarrus County faces challenges that are both unique and common across the state. During this session, county leaders will share how they worked through various pain points to develop solutions that bettered the service for citizens.

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Networking Lunch

Concord F-J, Concord Convention Center

1:15 - 4:15 p.m.

'Now You're Speaking My Language!' A Lesson in Negotiation Styles

Concord A, Concord Convention Center

Navigating difficult community conversations and political issues can test your negotiation prowess. This session, led by Montana State University's Dan Clark, will ground you in the basics of negotiation styles by first helping you to assess the conflict management styles of yourself and others. With this knowledge in hand, you'll be better able to apply appropriate techniques to any negotiation. Attendees will also have an opportunity to gain practice implementing different strategies of negotiation.

All in Good Faith: Successful Collaborations Between County and Faith-Based Organizations
Harrisburg, Concord Convention Center

A county government can certainly share similar goals with faith-based organizations, and alliances can take many forms. This off-site session will showcase two such projects with off-site visits to the Cabarrus Dream Center – a one-stop shop established to provide assistance for those dealing with poverty, homelessness, substance use disorder and addiction, family crises, human trafficking, behavioral health challenges, and/or housing disparity – and the Lockhart Child Development Center, which the county subsidizes for the provision of affordable childcare for county employees.

1:15 - 2:30 p.m.

Shared People, Shared Interests: Connecting Counties and Our American Indian Organizations
Concord C + D, Concord Convention Center

North Carolina is home to the largest population of American Indians east of the Mississippi. In addition to the Cherokee Nation, a federally recognized tribe/sovereignty, other tribes throughout the state are recognized under state law. These tribal organizations often deliver an array of county-like services and are a shared constituency for county commissioners. During this concurrent session, commissioners will explore ways counties and tribes might share common interests and concerns. Join the session to learn how principles of collaborative leadership can come into play in working with external organizations and explore methods to amplify ARPA resources to achieve mutual benefits.

Presenter: Greg Richardson, Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs

Panelists: Tony Hunt (Lumbee), Hoke County Commissioner; Dr. Brucie Ogletree Green Richardson, Chief, Haliwa-Saponi Tribe; and Greg Jacobs, Coharie Tribal Administrator (invited)

Facilitator: Patrice Roesler, Manager of Elected Official Programs, UNC School of Government

3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

The Threat is Real: Get Defensive and Increase Your Cyber Readiness
Concord C + D, Concord Convention Center

County governments must defend against a wide array of cyber threats and challenges due to the variety of services they provide. This session will share information on current and future threats to boards of elections, water plants, tax and financial data, as well as emergency communications systems. Lessons learned from actual incident response missions conducted in North Carolina will help attendees realize where they may have opportunities to improve their cyber posture. This must-see presentation includes recommendations

for mitigating or reducing exposure to many cyber threats, and offers real-world advice for county officials facing a live cyber incident or attack.

Speaker: Lt. Col. Seth Barun, Chief of Cyber Operations, North Carolina National Guard

4:15 - 5:30 p.m.

NC Association of Black County Officials (NCABCO) Business Meeting
Concord B, Concord Convention Center

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Networking Reception
Concord E + Prefunction + Rocky River Terrace, Concord Convention Center

Get ready for the First Night Celebration with a networking reception. NC Cooperative Extension will have activities and displays inside and out! Visit the NC Dairy Industry kiosk, take a virtual reality visit to a farm, pedal your way to a tasty treat on a blender bike, or try your hand at corn hole!

NC Cooperative Extension is a strategic partnership among local governments and our state's land-grant universities that extends knowledge to farmers and families in all 100 counties. Together, Extension identifies local needs, discovers solutions and delivers research-based tools that grow NC economies and communities.

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

First Night Celebration
Concord E-J + Rocky River Terrace, Concord Convention Center



The First Night Celebration highlights the fruits of labor of farms across the state. As North Carolina's top economic engine, agriculture has well-established roots in our state's soil, and that tradition is celebrated at this event. Food and funds donated to NC Cooperative Extension by North Carolina farms, businesses and organizations make this event possible.

This dinner will include a welcome from NCACC President Frank Williams of Brunswick County and Cabarrus County Board Chair Steve Morris, and a word of thanks from Dr. Rich Bonanno, Director of NC State Extension, and Premier Conference Partner, Civic Federal Credit Union.

AGENDA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Check-In and Registration Desk Hours
Concord Convention Center

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Opening General Session: Beth Macy
Concord F-J, Concord Convention Center

Details on Friday Keynote Speaker, Beth Macy, can be found under "Keynote Speakers" on page 44.

10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Break: Book Signing and Sponsor Visits
Concord F-J + Prefunction, Concord Convention Center

10:45 a.m. - Noon

Making Sense of the Annual Audit Report: The Story Behind the Numbers
Concord A, Concord Convention Center

When the Board of Commissioners receives the county's annual audit report, are you able to translate its language and numbers into a story that tells you about the financial health of your county government? Whether you are somewhat new to your role as a county commissioner or just need a refresher, this session will provide insight into where your eyes need to focus on the financial statements, the importance of the compliance section, making sense of the fund balance section, state deadlines and what the auditors are required to tell you. Attendees will also gain an understanding of how prior year's performance drives projections for the current and future fiscal years.

Presenter: Johnna Sharpe, NCACC County Operations Consultant

Welcoming Young People into the County Family
Concord C + D, Concord Convention Center

Programs that involve young people in county government not only provide an educational benefit for the youth, but also help to inform county leadership about issues that young citizens are grappling with. Cabarrus County actively works to bring youth and county government together through initiatives such as its Youth Commission, which consists of 20 members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, and a Youth Leadership Institute. Attend this session to learn about the commission and other youth-based programs in the county that allow for education, interaction and the creation of youth-adult partnerships.

Developing a Response to the Opioid Epidemic: Surry County's Story

Concord B, Concord Convention Center

The Surry County Board of Commissioners stepped up its response to the opioid epidemic with the hiring of a director for its Office of Substance Abuse Recovery in June 2018. Since then, the county office has moved intentionally toward implementation of a continuum of care model designed to eliminate impediments for county residents who seek treatment and recovery from substance use disorder. The county's unique approach, rooted in community research and data, provides a roadmap for other counties seeking to build an informed, agile and evidence-based response plan that takes into account a community's "readiness level" to take action on various needs.

Moderator: Chris Knopf, Surry County Manager

Panelists: Beth Macy, author; and Sonya Cheek, Peer Support Specialist; Jamie Edwards, Data Research Analyst; and Mark Willis, Substance Abuse Recovery Director, Surry County

A Bird's Eye View of Recent Historic Investments in Broadband Access

Harrisburg, Concord Convention Center

North Carolina is investing about \$1 billion in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in part to help deploy crucial last-mile broadband infrastructure to serve remaining unserved and underserved areas. And, more broadband funding will be provided by the Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA). These IIJA broadband programs will be administered primarily by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA), which received \$65 billion to support various broadband activities nationwide including efforts to connect unserved and underserved areas. During this session, you'll get an overview of these historic investments to help your county with broadband planning work.

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

NC Association of County Clerks Lunch and Business Meeting
Fairway, Concord Convention Center

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch
Concord F-J, Concord Convention Center

NCABCO Scholarship Luncheon
Kannapolis, Concord Convention Center

Separate tickets are required to attend this luncheon.

County Managers' Luncheon: NCCCMA Strategic Planning Session

Concord B, Concord Convention Center

1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

Join the New School Building Boom in NC

Harrisburg, Concord Convention Center

A new building boom is under way in North Carolina, made possible by money raised through the N.C. Education Lottery. Grants of \$30 million, \$40 million and \$50 million are now available to build new schools in counties. Attend this session to learn about this new program and how your county can participate.

Presenters: Van Denton, Director of Communications, NC Education Lottery; Adam Pridemore, Legislative Counsel, NCACC; and others

Security is Not Convenient

Concord A, Concord Convention Center

This session will provide you with an overview of the cybersecurity landscape in today's world, including threats, vectors and probabilities. You'll also learn some countermeasures that are rapidly implementable, as well as 'easy to memorize' tenets of how to view cybersecurity.

Speaker: John Hey, Director of Operations, VC3

Realizing Change in Criminal Justice

Fairway, Concord Convention Center

During the 2021 Annual Conference, members of Governor Roy Cooper's Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice (TREC) and N.C. Department of Justice representatives outlined a set of recommendations aimed at making North Carolina's criminal justice system fairer, safer and more effective. This updated session will shift the focus to measures and actions that county government leaders can take to begin to turn recommendations into reality.

Speakers: Mike Hawkins, former Transylvania County Commissioner; Sonya Harper, Director of Mecklenburg County's Criminal Justice Services Department; and Mary Pollard, Director of North Carolina Indigent Defense Services

1:45 - 4:00 p.m.

Managing Difficult Conversations with Constituents

Concord C + D, Concord Convention Center

We live in polarized times, and norms of civility and compromise have broken down. Differences of opinion can quickly become opportunities to create new enemies if conversations get out of hand. Elected officials need additional skills for managing conversations when others are frustrated, angry or demanding.

Attendees will gain tools to change these exchanges into constructive conversations in which everyone feels heard. When used effectively, these skills can save time in your busy schedules by preventing endless back and forth discussions that are at best unproductive and at worst destructive.

Participants should expect a lively and interactive session, with real-life situations providing opportunities for humor and fun. You'll be able to apply your skills using prescribed steps and tools, helping you to integrate this learning into practice so you can have more constructive conversations even with those whom you have differences of opinion.

Speaker and facilitator: Bill Doherty, co-founder of Braver Angels, and a professor and director of the Minnesota Couples on the Brink Project at the University of Minnesota. Doherty's work is derived from his background in family therapy and community engagement.

Continuous Collaboration Keeps County, Municipalities Moving Forward Together Offsite

Details on the Continuous Collaboration session can be found under "Offsite Offerings" on page 47.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Facts Before Feelings: Keeping Emotional Investing in Check [I]

Concord A, Concord Convention Center

Emotional investing is when you let emotions like excitement, fear, optimism and anxiety affect your investment decisions. It is a series of emotions that fluctuate as rates and prices move up and down. They come into play and cloud your original strategy. Learn about the types of emotions that affect investment. We will discuss the causes of emotional investing and strategies to avoid emotional investing.

Speakers: Colleen Heptig, Nationwide Retirement Specialist for Central and Western North Carolina; and Selmon Robinson, Nationwide Retirement Specialist for Eastern North Carolina, parts of Virginia and West Virginia

Navigating the Current Financial Environment [II]

Concord A, Concord Convention Center

Cabarrus County and three+one will discuss the state of the economy and its implications for local governments. With interest rates spiking and record amounts of federal funding flowing to local governments, counties have a golden opportunity to increase yields on their cash reserves. Learn how three+one has partnered with Cabarrus County to generate more interest revenue by leveraging their own data.

Sponsored Session: Mark III Employee Benefits Harrisburg, Concord Convention Center

Innovative Cost Containment Strategies — As medical and pharmacy costs continue to accelerate, new and innovative strategies are required to contain these expenses. This breakout session will discuss new and proven approaches to address costs, using various tactics to keep plan costs in check. These methodologies are designed to retain benefits and keep employers competitive in a changing workplace environment.

A Step Further — A session covering the reasons to join an intergovernmental cooperative; the benefits, strategies, operational efficiencies and how it will organize and be constructed.

4:00 - 9:00 p.m.

YouthVoice Orientation and 'Real Colors' Training Kannapolis, Concord Convention Center

Friday Evening on Your Own Offsite

Details on the Friday Evening on Your Own can be found under "Offsite Offerings" on page 47.

AGENDA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Check-In and Registration Desk Hours
Concord Convention Center

7:45 - 9:00 a.m.

Conference-Wide Youth Involvement Breakfast
Concord F-J, Concord Convention Center

County officials and YouthVoice delegates begin the day together with breakfast.

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Opening General Session: Peter Cressy
Concord F-J, Concord Convention Center

Details on Saturday Keynote Speaker, Dr. Peter Cressy, can be found under "Keynote Speakers" on page 44.

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

YouthVoice 'Bottom Line!' Budget Simulation
Kannapolis, Concord Convention Center

Designed as a classic board game, "Bottom Line!" is an engaging learning tool that simulates the county budgeting process. Attendees will work together in small groups – acting as boards of county commissioners – to first decide what values are most important to their counties. The simulation then challenges groups to remember those values during scenarios that force them to choose between cutting programs and/or services, or increasing taxes and/or fees in order to balance an annual budget.

County officials are welcome to attend and provide real-world feedback during report-outs and discussion.

10:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to complex community issues. And often, the most appropriate response typically comes from within the community that is dealing with it.

A core value of the NCACC is to promote strengthening local decision-making to respond to local needs. Through Annual Conference, the Association seeks to create a "family reunion" atmosphere that brings county leaders together to discuss shared challenges.

Concurrent sessions on Saturday will introduce a difficult or emerging topic for county officials to explore in-depth. Each session will begin with an educational-style session designed to provide context and a basis for conversation. The sessions will then break for lunch, and county leaders will have the remainder of the session time to break bread, share individual approaches to the issue, and discover potential partnerships and shared solutions.

These focused sessions will examine how county leaders can:

- Serve as a catalyst to develop local food resilience strategies (includes a screening of the NCACC's award-winning film, Resilience – Food for All);
- Ensure the needs of your community of military veterans are being met;
- Successfully coalesce a diverse stakeholder group to provide recommendations to a Board of Commissioners on how to invest national opioid settlement funds; and
- Navigate the delivery of local workforce development initiatives in a changing intergovernmental environment.

Descriptions for each session follow:

Resilience: Inspiration to Achieve Food Security
Concord A, Concord Convention Center

This session will begin with a screening of Resilience – Food for All, a film by the NCACC's 100 Strong Productions. This award-winning documentary explores the challenge of food access in North Carolina and how everyday heroes are working to strengthen food system resilience in local communities. Following the screening, NCACC Past President Ronnie Smith, whose presidential initiative on food system resiliency served as inspiration for the film, and NCACC staff will moderate a discussion on how county leaders can serve as a catalyst for developing local resilience strategies.

Moderators: Ronnie Smith, Martin County Board Chair and NCACC Past President; Chris Baucom, Executive Producer and Video Creative Director; and Laurel Edwards, Director of Policy Planning, NCACC

Shining a Light on Veterans, and County Services
Concord C + D, Concord Convention Center

The National Association of Counties is getting behind Operation Green Light, an initiative to shine a light on

the plight of veterans in counties across the country who are having a hard time connecting with benefits after serving their country. This interactive session will introduce this national initiative before transitioning to North Carolina county-specific presentations and discussions.

Moderators and Presenters: Vickie Adamson, Wake County Commissioner; James Shores, Davidson County Commissioner; Lois Harvin-Raven, Veterans Services Director, Durham County; and Eric Truesdale, Veterans Services Director, Harnett County

Bringing People Together: First Steps in Fighting Back Against the Opioid Epidemic
Concord B, Concord Convention Center

In June, North Carolina counties received the first of 18 payments negotiated as part of the national opioid settlement with opioid manufacturers Johnson & Johnson and Purdue Pharma, and drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson and AmerisourceBergen. With the funding stream in place, many county leaders are now wondering, “where do I start?” Known for its strong commitment to collaboration, Cabarrus County will share its story of how bringing together a diverse community stakeholder group set the stage for impactful, locally developed strategies to address the epidemic.

This session will also include a presentation from the NC Institute of Medicine, which is working to develop a guide on how to ensure meaningful inclusion in a county decision-making process, and moderated discussion on how – and with whom – to begin forward progress in the fight against opioid misuse and addiction.

Speakers: Cabarrus County TBD; and Alison Miller, MA, MPH, Project Director, NC Institute of Medicine

Getting to Know the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and Its Local Impact
Harrisburg, Concord Convention Center

Local workforce development administration is undergoing a significant overhaul. In this session, attendees will receive an overview of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), guidance on how to govern with maximum impact in accordance with all the pieces outlined in the WIOA, and an outline of practical steps to consider in the strategic planning and alignment processes. Following a presentation, moderated discussion will focus on the local implications of the WIOA.

Speaker: Dr. Jenni Harris, N.C. Department of Commerce

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Annual Business Session
Concord E, Concord Convention Center

Elections will be held for NCACC leadership positions, notably Second Vice President. The agenda will also include an update and overview of the NCACC legislative goals process, updates on the Association from Executive Director Kevin Leonard, remarks from National Association of Counties President Denise Winfrey of Will County, Illinois, report-outs from three YouthVoice Delegates, and recognition of select award winners.

6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

President's Reception and Banquet
Concord F-J, Concord Convention Center

This festive President's Reception and Banquet will honor Brunswick County Commissioner Frank Williams for his term as Association President, and welcome Commissioner Tracey Johnson as the NCACC's 106th President – and first from Washington County! Pre-reception bars will open at 5:30 p.m. in the pre-function area. The inauguration ceremony will be followed by a New President's Reception outside on the Rocky River Terrace (weather permitting).

The President's Reception and Banquet is a ticketed event; tickets must be purchased in advance. The New President's Reception is open to all conference attendees.