

NACM 19th President
Lawrence G. Myers
2003 – 2004

Board of Directors Accomplishments

1. The 2003-2004 Board of Directors was of high energy and dedication. One of the first tasks was a review, modification, and codification of internal operating procedures/policies of the Board of Directors of NACM. As with other organizations, the day-to-day practices may change more rapidly than the formal policies and procedures. While there were no major issues or problems, it was thought that some practices needed to be reviewed and endorsed or changed in order for the Board to hold its members and itself accountable.
2. The NACM Board, always looking for ways to get the Core Competencies implemented, teamed up with Michigan State University (MSU) at NACM's annual conference and, for the first time ever, was able to offer and present one of the Core Competencies as its first course towards certification in Judicial Administration from Michigan State University. Additional courses have been offered at every NACM annual conference since.
3. Building on the work and foundation of past boards, we worked to clarify and improve our relationship with the National Center for State Courts. We believe we were successful in that, and a bench mark was my appointment by Judge Ronald M. George, chief justice of the State of California and president of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Board of Directors to serve on NCSC's presidential search committee. This committee ultimately selected Mary Campbell McQueen to be the new president of NCSC in August 2004, replacing Roger K. Warren. While this was a personal honor, it was much more of a recognition of NACM as a major player in the court profession along with CCJ, the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), and the American Judges Association (AJA).
4. On November 20, 2003, at the United States Supreme Court, during the reception at the William H. Rehnquist Award Reception and Dinner, NACM's "Core Competency Guidelines Project" was recognized by the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute (SJI) and awarded the Eighth Annual Howell Heflin Award. The Howell Heflin Award is given in recognition of an innovative SJI-supported project that has a high likelihood of significantly improving the quality of justice in state courts across the nation. While I accepted the award on behalf of NACM, I quickly turned the recognition and the microphone over to Frank Broccolina and Geoff Gallas, the major forces behind the project.
5. During 2003/2004 the stars were aligned and the presidents of three major court professional organizations (COSCA, AJA, and NACM) all were from Missouri.

Michael L. Buenger, state court administrator of Missouri was president of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), Michael R. McAdams, judge of the Kansas City, Missouri Municipal Court was president of the American Judges Association, and I was the Joplin Missouri Municipal Court Administrator and president of the National Association for Court Management. While I can not point to any lasting effect, this did allow the three organizations to work more closely together. A tangible example of this is my fifth and last point.

6. On February 1–3, 2004, NACM and AJA met together at NACM’s midyear conference at the Hyatt Regency Savannah, Savannah, Georgia. To my knowledge this is the first and only time the two associations held a joint conference. After the conference, AJA President Michael R. McAdam wrote, in part, in the AJA Benchmark the following:

- . “The American Judges Association met in Savannah, Georgia at the Hyatt Regency for its midyear meeting from January 31 to February 3, 2004. This was an important meeting because it marked the first joint meeting between AJA and the National Association for Court Management (NACM).

NACM provided an extensive and valuable education program centered on the theme of ‘Best Practices in Overcoming Unequal Treatment in the Justice System’. The quality and content of the program was impressive. Even more impressive was the warmth and friendliness of the court administrators, clerks and judges in their interaction with each other. President Larry Myers of NACM and I had discussed the need for such interaction when planning the meeting, and we wondered how it would pan out. We needn’t have worried. It was important for the clerks to mingle with judges in a casual setting outside the courthouse, and it was good for the judges to spend some time learning and discussing the critical issues that face the judicial system in general and court management in particular.

The social highlights of the meeting included a tremendous Super Bowl Party hosted by NACM, where clerks, judges, spouses and guests enjoyed a hard-fought, exciting game, plenty of good food, and the viewing benefit of a gigantic TV screen, reminiscent of the sports palaces in Las Vegas. . . . NACM also put on a first-class vendor show with many prizes awarded to those present at the vendors’ reception. ...This was a truly significant and successful midyear conference for AJA”

In so many ways it is unfortunate that more joint meetings have not taken place.

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