



MEMBERSHIP FEES WILL INCREASE

At its fall meeting, the NACM Board of Directors reviewed the ever-increasing costs to operate the association. Your dues help provide for publications, Web site updates, ongoing professional development and outreach, and conference notification. While costs have increased, membership dues for NACM have remained status quo for 10 years.

In an effort to maintain a stable and vital association, the board voted to increase annual membership

fees by \$25 dollars in two consecutive years. The increases will be as follows:

	Effective JAN. 1, 2006	Effective JAN. 1, 2007
REGULAR	\$100	\$125
ASSOCIATE	\$100	\$125
RETIRED	\$ 70	\$ 95
STUDENT	\$ 70	\$ 95
SUSTAINING	\$325	\$350

NACM LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM 2005-2006

As an incentive to increase membership, the NACM Board of Directors will award two stipends totaling \$2,400 for NACM members who recruit the most new members.

- I. The NACM member who recruits the most new members equal to eight or more, or a group of NACM members on behalf of their state/regional association who recruit the most new members equal to 10 or more, for the period from January through June 2006, will be awarded an amount not to exceed \$1,400 to reimburse them for travel, five (5) nights lodging, registration, and per diem to attend the annual conference in July 2006.
- II. The NACM member who recruits the most new members equal to eight or more, or a group of NACM members on behalf of their state/regional

association who recruit the most new members equal to 10 or more, for the period from July through December 2005, will be awarded an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to reimburse them for travel, four (4) nights lodging, registration, and per diem to attend the mid-year conference in January 2006.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

BOARD RELEASES NATIONAL AGENDA

As a leading voice for those managing courts both in the United States and abroad, NACM has a responsibility to speak out for court improvement and to lead the way toward better justice and exemplary public service. To that end the NACM Officers and Board announce a National Agenda on the Court Management Profession 2005–2010. Look for the full agenda online at www.nacmnet.org. ♦

A Word From Your Editor:

Eric Silverberg will take over as editor of *Court Communiqué*. Please help him by sending items for future publication. Eric has been a NACM board member and has been involved with the Publication Committee and Website subcommittee. I have enjoyed my brief return to the NACM newsletter. Thanks to all who sent in items; it made the job so much easier! Now I'll be asking for articles for *Court Manager* – please consider submitting material to me that is appropriate to that publication.

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THE TURNIP FIELD

PRISON ACCOUNT SWEEPS YIELD UNEXPECTED RESULTS FOR COLLECTIONS

By: Nial RAAEN, DIRECTOR OF TRIAL COURT SERVICES, MICHIGAN STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

“Turnips!” exclaimed the judge sitting next to me at our annual judicial conference. “You can’t get blood from a turnip!” It wasn’t what I expected to hear, especially during the chief justice’s presentation on court collections, but his reaction reflected the attitude that many court officials have about enforcing financial orders. Not long after the presentation, one Michigan court challenged that commonly held belief — with surprising results.

The 17th Circuit Court in Kent County, Michigan, already had an active collections program to enforce financial sanctions in felony cases. Paula Taylor, the court’s finance division director, knew that the court was receiving restitution payments for crime victims from prisoner accounts. Taylor contacted the Michigan Department of Corrections (DOC) and learned that DOC would also deduct funds from prisoner accounts for other financial obligations upon receipt of a court order. As soon as the court began issuing orders, they started to see results.

Initially, prisoners were upset about the sweeps, and the courts received many inquiries from both prisoners and their family members. Now, many family members come directly to the court to make payments on the offender’s behalf. Taylor reports that the 17th Circuit Court has collected more than \$418,000, and of the 3,949 sweep orders issued by the court, 1,832 accounts have been closed as paid-in-full.

Noting the 17th Circuit Court’s success, the Michigan State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) contacted DOC representatives and reached an agreement on standards for statewide implementation of the sweep process. SCAO developed specialized forms to initiate and terminate collection of prior debt. For new cases, the order is included with the judgment of sentence, and collection can begin as soon as the offender is remanded to prison. DOC processes orders monthly and collects 50 percent of the funds the offender receives over \$50. DOC transmits funds to the court when they accumulate to at least \$100. To encourage other courts to participate, the SCAO hired temporary staff to prepare 886 sweep orders for 20 circuit courts. In addition, a special financial match program was developed that enables courts to match cases with outstanding balances against the DOC prisoner file to automatically generate collection orders. The program has matched 7,262 cases and generated orders for circuit courts in an additional 26 counties. So far in 2005, the 46-county sweep and financial match has already generated more than \$333,000 in fine and cost revenue from prisoner accounts. Beth Barber, SCAO’s trial court collections project manager, credits the effort’s success to cooperation between DOC officials and the courts and believes that the program will eventually become a regular component of collections programs.

The prisoner account sweep process is part of a growing list of collections initiatives being undertaken by the SCAO. These activities are funded with revenues from a consolidated criminal assessment created in 2003. For more information, contact SCAO Trial Court Collections Project Manager Beth Barber at barberb@courts.mi.gov or (517) 373-5895, or Paula Taylor at Paula.Taylor@kentcounty.org or (616) 632-5133. ♦

*I don’t know what the future may hold,
but I know who holds the future.*

Ralph ABERNATHY

COMMITTEE CHAIRS MAKE REPORTS

(FOR FULL COMMITTEE REPORTS SEE THE NACM WEB SITE.)

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Marcus Reinkensmeyer, Chair

Fall 2005 PROGRESS REPORT: Published *Court Manager*, Vol. 20, No. 2.; held two meetings; appointed new editors: *Court Manager* – Andra Motyka, *Court Communiqué* – Eric Silverberg.

ANTICIPATED FUTURE ACTION: Continue work on the Disaster and Business Continuity Mini-Guide being expanded to encompass a debriefing on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; publication of future issues of *Court Manager* and *Court Communiqué*; finalize recommendation for next mini-guide topic; transition from current editors to new editors for *Court Manager* and *Court Communiqué*. Delay publication of the Disaster Recovery Mini-Guide until the fall of 2006 to address “lessons learned” and debriefing from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

WEB COMMITTEE – Michael L. Bridenback, Chair

Fall 2005 PROGRESS REPORT – Attendance Marketing designed a link on the NACM Web site devoted to the annual conference in San Francisco; held conference call of the new committee.

ANTICIPATED FUTURE ACTION – Twelve specific issues were discussed including potential enhancements and items for further discussion; assignments were made. The chair will discuss those suggestions that may have budgetary implications with the board at the fall meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Pamela S. DeVault, Chair

Fall 2005 PROGRESS REPORT – Committee members contacted and appointed; membership reports forwarded to committee members and *Court Communiqué*; designated Memorabilia Subcommittee; mailing to attendees of leadership seminar in San Francisco; arranged coverage of NACM booth at CTC; held conference call of the committee to discuss goals, objectives, and responsibilities.

ANTICIPATED FUTURE ACTION – Continue monthly distribution of membership reports; continue contacting new and purged members; recruit and assign committee members to cover non-represented states; solicit new members at local association meetings; prepare for work of Award Subcommittees; maintain regular contact with committee members volunteering for specific mail-

ings to recruit new members; coordinate memorabilia/on-line store activities through subcommittee; and review NACM strategic plan for future conference call discussion.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Collins Ijoma, Chair

Fall 2005 PROGRESS REPORT – The special committee was appointed to consider the addition of two judges who are members of NACM– one representing limited jurisdiction courts and the other representing general jurisdiction courts. The potential benefits were discussed by the committee. It was the overwhelming consensus of the committee not to support the proposal of adding positions to the board for judges. Several specific issues were raised, and they can be found in the full committee report on the Web site.

EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE

T.J. BeMent, Chair

2005 FALL PROGRESS REPORT – T.J. BeMent was appointed as the new chair.

ANTICIPATED FUTURE ACTION – “packaging” of training materials; partner with the Web Site Subcommittee to post materials; coordinate with state and regional associations; explore partnerships with the National Center for State Courts and state/regional associations to provide short/focused training sessions; develop national “train the trainer” curriculum.

SITE SELECTION SUB-COMMITTEE, CONFERENCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Paul J. Burke, Vice President, Chair

2005 FALL PROGRESS REPORT – Compiled/reviewed all potential material for 2008 conference sites; committee has met three times via conference call to discuss issues. The committee has considered the following cities for the 2008 conferences: Anaheim, California; Boston, Massachusetts; Charleston, South Carolina; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Lake Tahoe, Nevada; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Phoenix, Arizona; Portland, Oregon; San Diego, California; Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma, Washington.

ANTICIPATED FUTURE ACTION – Contact/review level of support that may be available from local/state resources; visit sites/facilities that meet established criteria. ♦

FACT is Rolling Along

By CHRIS CRAWFORD

Whew, what a busy year! FACT, the Forum on the Advancement of Court Technology, was a proud sponsor of CTC9, the National Center for State Courts' 9th Court Technology Conference in Seattle, Washington, September 13-15, 2005. We put together a private vendor break room on the showroom floor and sponsored a reception for the newly formed group of court technology professionals called CITOC, Court Information Technology Officers Consortium (http://www.ncsconline.org/d_tech/citoc/). If you're a court techie, you should drop by the CITOC Web site and consider joining this organization.

For more information about CTC9, see their Web site at www.CTC9.org. It has streaming video with some of the excellent education sessions and a listing of technology vendors. The vendor show was very well attended and a great place to see a dizzying array of software and services.

FACT is also participating in the National Center's GJXDM (Global Justice XML Data Model)

Information Exchange Package Documentation (GIEPD) to standardize criminal charging data in case management systems. This is a perfect example of the need for private sector technology professionals to work in cooperation with court managers to develop workable standards that will benefit all.

Does this article contain enough abbreviations and acronyms for you? Do you find it hard to keep current in the fast-paced world of court technology? Then I suggest you drop by the FACT Web site at <http://fact.ncscs.dni.us> to see how FACT can help you to keep up with court technology developments. Better yet, join FACT for a mere \$35 a year and this will be doubled in the form of NACM education sponsorships. If you've got ideas about how FACT can help you, drop me an email.

Crawford is chair of FACT (<http://fact.ncsc.dni.us>) and can be reached at ccrawford@justiceserved.com. ♦

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY UPDATE - NEW PARTNERSHIPS

By MAUREEN CONNOR, DIRECTOR, JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

Michigan State University is pleased to announce that the Colorado Association for Municipal Court Administration and the Association of Clerks of the District Courts of Virginia have recently joined the Judicial Administration Program as partners. Nancy Lake of Virginia, and Valmarie Marino of Colorado, were early champions of the partnership possibilities.

RECENT PARTNERSHIP OFFERINGS

New Mexico Judicial Education Center, North Carolina Conference of Court Administrators, and the Mid-Atlantic Association for Court Management recently offered courses fulfilling the Judicial Administration

Program requirements. The total number of individuals participating in the Judicial Administration Program courses totaled more than 150.

ICM COURSES AVAILABLE FOR THE JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

Four courses of the Institute for Court Management's Court Management Program were approved to fulfill Judicial Administration Program course requirements. Past and future participants can apply their program attendance toward the Judicial Administration Program noncredit certificate. The ICM courses and their corresponding Judicial Administration Program course equivalents are:

CMP COURSE	JA COURSE REQUIREMENT MET
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES OF CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT	CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT
MANAGING TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT
CMP CONCLUDING SEMINAR	LEADERSHIP



CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE COURT MANAGERS

Arthur A. Sims (former NACM board member) retired as court executive officer, Superior Court of California, County Of Alameda, effective December 2005. Art served in that position since September 2000. Art's past positions include executive officer of the unified Superior Court of California, County of Riverside as well as executive officer of the former Riverside Municipal Court.

Pat S. Sweeten, director of executive office programs, California Administrative Office of the Courts, has been elected to succeed Art Sims in December 2005. She served as director of executive office programs at the California Administrative Office of the Courts, assistant executive officer and chief financial officer for the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, and the assistant executive officer for the Superior Court in San Diego County.

Shelley Organ began ICM's Court Management Certification Program last February and, having successfully completed the program, attended the graduation ceremonies in Williamsburg, Virginia. What makes Shelley's attendance and graduation from ICM special is that as a Canadian court manager, ministerial approval is required for her to leave Canada.

Rodney Olson was named trial court administrator for Administrative Unit 2 in Fargo, North Dakota, August 1, 2005.

Sally Holewa, former trial court administrator in Administrative Unit 3 in Bismarck, North Dakota, took over as the state court administrator for North Dakota October 20, 2005, succeeding **Ted Gladden**, who retired.

The following individuals have been appointed to the position of district court administrator in their Pennsylvania counties: **Douglas Praul** - Bucks County; **Deborah Higgins** - Huntingdon County; **Patricia Ellis** -

Jefferson County; **Mark Grim** - Adams County; **Ron Mackay** - Lackawanna County; and **Linda Critzer** - Warren/Forest Counties. **Marc Flood** has been appointed deputy administrator in Philadelphia. **Joseph Cabraja** retired after a long career as DCA in Beaver County, and **Rich DeFilippi** succeeded him. **Carol Hutchison** retired after several years as DCA in Venango County. **Colleen McCarthy** retired as DCA in Pike County.

Rick Lewis was appointed court administrator for the City of Colorado Springs (Colorado) Municipal Court in August 2005. He previously served as district administrator in the 18th Judicial District in Centennial, Colorado. Lewis fills the vacancy created by **Steve Wheeler's** retirement after 18 years as the court administrator.

Mary Lou Strehle, past president of the Arizona Courts Association, has been appointed family court administrator, Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County. Prior to her promotion, Mary Lou served as the southeast regional court administrator, Superior Court of Arizona, in Mesa.

Art Bernardino has been appointed court manager for the Chandler Justice Court, Arizona. He previously served as court administrator for the Superior Court of Delaware.

Tracy (T.J.) BeMent (current board member) and **LaDeana Gamble** were recently selected as the new assistant court administrators for the Las Vegas Township Justice Court, Nevada.

Polly Pearce, Court Fellow, administrator of courts for the Circuit and Superior Courts of Hamilton County, Indiana, will retire in December 2005.

John A. Clarke, Los Angeles Superior Court executive officer, received UCLA's Anderson School of Business 17th annual Award for Executive Leadership on December 5, 2005. ♦

OTHER COURT MANAGER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

While MSU offers court managers educational opportunities and higher education degrees, other institutions also have programs, among them:

Norwich University offers an online graduate program resulting in a Master of Justice Administration degree (MJA). For more information on their program, contact www.mja.norwich.edu or Norwich University, P.O. Box 367, Northfield, VT 05663-0367; (800) 460.5597, ext. 365.

University of Denver offers a Masters of Science in Legal Administration (see the *Court Manager* article "Going to Class in Your Pajamas," Vol. 20, Issue 1). Contact the school at University of Denver College of Law, MSLA Department, 2255 E. Evan Avenue, Denver, CO 80208; (303) 871-6308; www.law.du.edu/msla/ or msla@law.du.edu

Investigate some of the universities or colleges in your area to determine if they offer a program in judicial/court administration. ♦

Applying COURT RESEARCH TO THE OPERATION OF TRIAL COURTS— *THE TRIAL COURT RESEARCH AND IMPROVEMENT CONSORTIUM*

The Trial Court Research and Improvement Consortium (TCRIC) is a group of state trial court and administrative office staff, justice consultants, and academics formed to improve the operations and performance of trial courts with the stated objectives of:

Conceiving, sponsoring, and conducting research in areas of critical importance to the operation of state trial courts in order to produce evidence based knowledge that can be used to develop internal research capabilities, improve operations, and stimulate the improvement of trial courts nationwide.

The consortium is coordinated by The Justice Management Institute (JMI), Greacen Associates LLC, and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

In 2001, the Urban Court Managers Network (UCMN), a group of major urban trial court executives and presiding judges, articulated the need for research and developed a National Agenda on Urban Trial Court Research, subsequently endorsed by NACM. That fall, leaders of JMI, Greacen Associates, and NCSC assembled a group devoted to trial court research.

At the first meeting the following research topics were identified:

1. Self-represented litigants
2. Performance measures
3. Problem-solving/specialty courts
4. Multi-cultural justice
5. Family courts, and
6. Governance.

Recently TCRIC members added to the list:

7. Procedural justice, and
8. Relationship of research and policy in trial courts.

A key characteristic of TCRIC research is the active involvement of court practitioners in all phases of research. Research projects coordinated through TCRIC began working on the top three topics, with the following results:

Self-represented litigants – TCRIC members have developed and tested assessment tools for programs assisting self-represented litigants. California completed an evaluation of five pilot projects and nine other jurisdictions tested a “quick and clean” evaluation approach, all using the same data-gathering instruments. The benefit to courts is the development of assessment tools and data against which a court can gauge its performance. The next phase of this

research is being coordinated by the newly formed Self Represented Litigant Network.

Problem solving/specialty courts – Adult drug courts have been surveyed to identify the existence and magnitude of those costs incurred in operating the drug court beyond costs directly associated with participants. The study results can be used by courts planning or modifying their drug court or other problem-solving court.

Performance measurement – NCSC has developed a set of performance measures, called CourTools, that courts can use to assess their performance over time and compare to other courts. TCRIC will work with NCSC to recruit TCRIC courts to participate in testing the collection and use of the measures.

Membership in TCRIC is open to all interested courts and related organizations or individuals. Those who express an interest will receive notice about all meetings and all materials distributed, even if they do not attend meetings. There are now 93 members of TCRIC from 22 states representing 28 courts, 11 administrative offices, and 19 justice-related or academic organizations.

JMI acts as the secretariat to the group. Agendas for the consortium meetings are prepared by the convening organizations and researchers.

TCRIC meetings are scheduled around other national meetings to reduce travel costs and promote participation. Meetings provide updates and discussions of research and are usually one or two days in length. The meetings are highly interactive, intellectually stimulating, and are clearly improving the scope and quality of research on trial courts.

Those who attend TCRIC meetings are expected to provide their insights on the research and join in research efforts of interest to them. If you are interested in participating, please contact Doug Somerlot at dsomerlot@jmijustice.org. ♦

The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of September 30, 2005, NACM membership was 2,513 strong. California leads with 23 new members for the period July through September. If you enjoy the benefits of NACM and have not renewed your membership, please do so. If you know someone who would enjoy the benefits, recommend a member today! Regular membership in NACM is open to anyone who works in a court or government setting serving as clerk of court, court administrator, or in any court management, court education, court research, or judicial officer capacity. Additional membership categories include associate (consultant or vendor), student, honorary, retired, and sustaining members. **Remember! You**

get one year of free membership dues for bringing in 10 new members! Also, don't forget the 2005-06 Membership Incentive Program, which provides expense reimbursement for the annual and mid-year conferences for recruiting new members. For details, please see: <http://www.nacmnet.org/MembershipIncentiveProgram.html>.

You can obtain more membership information by contacting NACM: National Association for Court Management, c/o NCSC, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185-4147, Attention: Administrative Services, or call (757) 259-1841. You can also visit the NACM Web site at www.nacmnet.org. ♦

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM 2005-2006, *Continued from page 1*

CRITERIA

1. The Board of Directors and Officers of NACM are not eligible.
2. All other members of NACM are eligible.
3. Renewal of a current member for a new year will not be counted as a new member.
4. Recruiting a member who has allowed their membership to lapse for a period of six months or more will count as a new member.
5. In the case of a tie, the winner will be determined by the earliest date of the last new member recruited.
6. In the case of a tie as to the earliest date of the last new member recruited, the winner will be determined by a drawing of the one name out of the two or more eligible members by the president of NACM.
7. The travel portion of the award must be used for the lowest coach airfare.
8. If the recipient elects to drive, the travel portion will be for the lowest amount of either actual miles driven at the current federal rate or the lowest coach airfare between the two cities.
9. The award may not be transferred to another person, however, should the winner be a state/regional association, then the recipient will be at their discretion.
10. If the winner of the award is unable to attend the next conference, the winner must use the award to attend any one of the next three annual or mid-year conferences.
11. If the award is not used by that time stated immediately above, then it will be forfeited and reissued during a future year. ♦

MARK YOUR 2006 CALENDAR & PLAN TO ATTEND

2006 NACM Midyear Conference. Theme: "The Court Executive Leadership Team."
Colorado Springs, Colorado, The Broadmoor, January 29-31, 2006

2006 NACM Annual Conference. Theme: "Leadership of the Nation's Trial Courts."
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Marriott Harbor Beach Resort, July 9-13, 2006

Would This Work in Your Court?

CHANGE FOR CHARITY

These days, in many courthouses across the nation, when you walk into the building you are required to pass through a metal detector (and aren't we glad we have them). Do you notice how many people have to empty their pockets of change, keys, wallets, and phones? Here at the 21st Judicial District Justice Center in Grand Junction, Colorado, we decided to tap into this potential funding resource for community non-profit organizations. The idea of Change For Charity was born.

We provide a rather low-profile, custom-made, see-through container at the end of the table where plastic trays sit that are used by parties to put their pocket contents in (which allows them to walk through the metal detector without it beeping). A professionally made sign on the container states:

CHANGE FOR CHARITY

(we insert the charity of the month's name here)
will receive all of the spare change you contribute.

Thank You,
21st Judicial District Employees

The idea is to give customers of the Justice Center an opportunity to empty their pockets of change and

contribute to helping the community. Employees of the Justice Center decide on which non-profit will receive the money collected each month. Since we started this program in 2003, we have contributed more than \$3,100 to worthwhile community programs. Approximately 1,500 people pass through the security station daily.

Perhaps you and your staff would like to consider implementing something similar at your organization. It is definitely a win-win-win situation.... customers don't have to deal with change going through the metal detector, employees feel good about being part of the process, and the community reaps the benefits. For more information on this program, contact Judy Vanderleest, judicial administrator, (970) 257-3632. ♦

AUTO CLUB OFFERS LINK TO COURT WEB SITE

MEMBERS OF THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAN USE THE AUTO CLUB'S WEB SITE (WWW.AAA.COM) AS A DIRECT LINK TO PAYING TRAFFIC TICKETS ONLINE. THE NEW SERVICE LINKS MEMBERS TO SUPERIOR COURTS IN LOS ANGELES, ORANGE, RIVERSIDE, SAN BERNARDINO, AND VENTURA COUNTIES. THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HAS MORE THAN SIX MILLION MEMBERS.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COURT MANAGEMENT

c/o THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS
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PLEASE VISIT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COURT MANAGEMENT'S HOME PAGE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT WWW.NACMNET.ORG.