

COUNTY OFFICIALS E-NEWS

Promoting better county government through direct assistance to county officials and their associations.

September 2014

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month (NPM) during which communities focus on increasing their preparedness and resilience after an emergency situation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages communities to plan a National PrepareAthon! Day on September 30 to develop plans of action for disaster management and recovery. FEMA has developed several resources communities can use to create their plans of action:

- ⇒ Download the NPM Digital Engagement Toolkit
- ⇒ Visit www.ready.gov/september for tips and information about NPM
- ⇒ Visit www.ready.gov/es/septiembre for information in Spanish
- ⇒ Use the hashtag #NatlPrep on social media to promote NPM
- ⇒ Register for National PrepareAthon! Day at www.ready.gov/prepare

For more information about National Preparedness Month or the National PrepareAthon! Day, please visit the [FEMA website](http://www.fema.gov).

AMERICA'S
PrepareAthon!
BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.

*"When our Nation faces crisis,
we respond with unmatched
determination and resilience. Let
us honor the strength our people
show in times of adversity by
preparing ourselves, our
neighbors, our schools, and our
workplaces before disaster
strikes."*

— President Obama,
Presidential E-Message -
National Day of Action as Part of
America's PrepareAthon!



Assistant Vice President of IPS, Chuck Shoopman, UT President Joe DiPietro, & CTAS Executive Director Robin Roberts converse during COOP 2014.

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COOP 2014 General Session

COOP 2014 Debrief

During the week of August 25th, CTAS provided a unique training opportunity for newly-elected or re-elected county officials called the County Officials Orientation Program (COOP). Officials participated in several training sessions that covered a wide range of topics including legal issues, personnel issues, ethics, records management, and office-specific sessions.

CTAS staff were also on hand at a Meet & Greet to welcome the officials to county government. Officials were able to put faces with names and connect with their County Government Consultant.

It is estimated that approximately 1,000 county officials attended COOP. The next orientation program will occur in four years after the next general county elections in 2018. CTAS also provides a smaller version of COOP for off-year elections. The next smaller version COOP will occur in 2016.

What to Do If You Missed COOP

Don't worry! All of the presentation slides containing valuable training material are available on the CTAS website. The [link on the home page under News & Featured Items](#) will take you straight to everything you missed. If you have any trouble with any of the materials, please contact your County Government Consultant (see map on Page 4).

Reminder: Update Your Contact Information

CTAS periodically sends information regarding training or other opportunities via email and traditional mail. Please keep your contact information in our County Officials Directory up to date as much as possible so you will receive this valuable information. You may send your updates to Liz Gossett, E-Media & Information Specialist at liz.gossett@tennessee.edu or 615-532-5293.

Upcoming Events

Sept 18—TCCA Regional Meeting (Springfield)

Sept 23—TCCA Regional Meeting (Baxter)

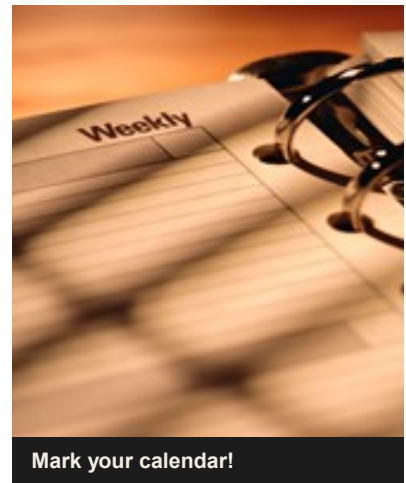
Sept 24, 25—Customer Service for Front Line Employees (various locations)

Sept 25—TCCA Regional Meeting (Buchanan)

Sept 29—TCCA Regional Meeting (Chapel Hill)

Sept 30—TCCA Regional Meeting (Cleveland)

[CTAS Training](#) | [Events Calendar](#)



Mark your calendar!



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County Spotlight

Union County



County Seat: Maynardville

Population: 18,313

**County Government
Consultant:**

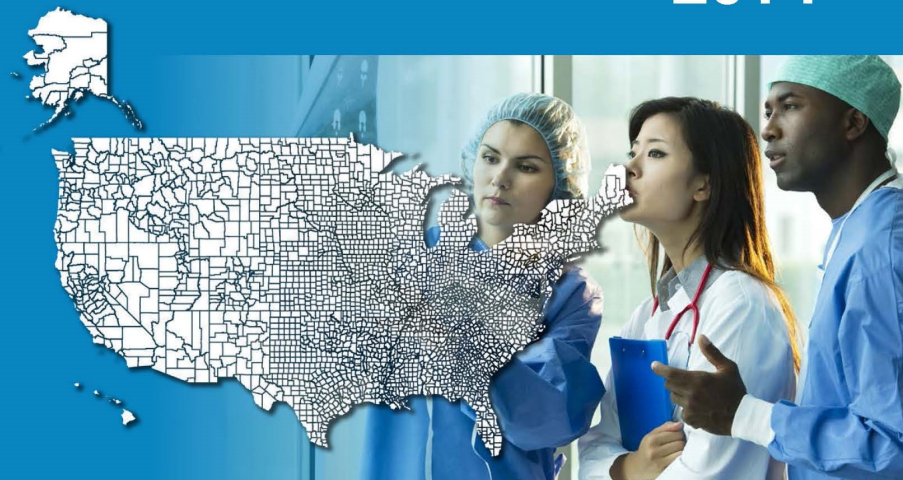
Wesley Robertson

Union County is home to several famous musicians including Roy Acuff, Chet Atkins, Carl Smith, and Kenny Chesney. Acuff was a baseball player until he was injured then pursued a career in music. He started performing for the WSM radio show, home of the Grand Ole Opry. Acuff became a nationally recognized musician after the release of several chart-topping hits. He also eventually became the host of the Grand Ole Opry.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org>

County Health Benefits 2014



Lead Authors:

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NACo Director of Research

NACo Report on County Health Benefits—July 2014



NACo: County Health Benefits Report

The National Association of Counties (NACo) recently released a report analyzing the results of two surveys conducted in early 2014 asking counties about their health benefit plans. The surveys yielded five main insights about county health plans:

- ◇ *County health benefit eligibility for employees and dependents and county spending on health insurance increased significantly over the last five years.*
- ◇ *Counties are making plan changes and reducing costs.*
- ◇ *Counties are still grappling with the effects of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on the health benefits offered to their employees.*
- ◇ *Most counties offer some type of wellness program, at a higher rate than in 2009.*
- ◇ *Counties are more likely to offer retiree health benefits than other employers.*

The [full report](#) is available from the [NACo website](#). Alternatively, an [executive summary](#) is also available.

For more information about NACo, please [visit their website](#).

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CTAS Field Services Area Map 2014

Updated County Government Consultant Field Services Map

The field services area map for the CTAS County Government Consultants has been updated to reflect a few organizational changes within the agency. Please make a note of your County Government Consultant and give them a call if you need assistance.

This map is also available on the [front page of the CTAS website](#) under About CTAS then CTAS Field Services Map. If you have any issues with the CTAS website, please contact Liz Gossett, E-Media & Information Specialist at liz.gossett@tennessee.edu or 615-532-5293.

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County Officials E-News is published on a monthly basis by The University of Tennessee County Technical Assistance Service to bring important information to county officials across Tennessee. For any questions or comments about this newsletter, please email Liz Gossett, CTAS E-Media & Information Specialist, at liz.gossett@tennessee.edu.