



WCA'S O'CONNELL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NCCAE

—Michelle Gormican Thompson,
Thompson Communications

Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Executive Director Mark D. O'Connell has been elected president of the National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE). O'Connell was sworn into office October 24, 2009 in Sonoma County, California at the council's annual meeting.

"I am thrilled to have Mark as the new president of NCCAE. Mark has that rare combination of immense talent, vision and determination that produces great results for the members of the Wisconsin Counties Association," said Iowa State Association of Counties Executive Director Bill Peterson. "Those attributes are what attracted the support of his peers in NCCAE and led to his election as our president. These are not easy times at either the national or local level, but right now, I can't think of a better leader for our organization than Mark O'Connell."

The NCCAE represents state associations of counties across the country. The council aims to strengthen and improve county government organizations. Out of the 50 states,

47 states have at least one state association. There are a total of 53 state associations, with some states having more than one association.

"Mark is an outstanding and respected leader at the national level. He works hard to ensure state associations continue to stay at the forefront of leadership on the wide range of issues facing counties," said Idaho Association of Counties Executive Director Daniel G. Chadwick. "His leadership is critical

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in the next 12 months to help propel this organization into a future where the voice of counties continues to be heard at both the state and federal levels on major issues.”

As president of NCCAE, Mark will represent the council on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counties (NACo). The NACo Board oversees the Washington D.C.-based organization and represents over 2,000 counties nationwide.

“As a colleague of Mark’s, I have been consistently impressed by his keen knowledge of state and county government and his vision of the role counties play in these challenging economic times, as well as our role in governing through the economic recovery,” said Stephen J. Acquario, New York State Association of Counties Executive Director. “Mark’s vision and his leadership will not only benefit the property taxpayers of Wisconsin but also assist other states, like New York. Agriculture is the number one industry in both New York and Wisconsin and plays a vital role in the economies of other states as well. While our states may differ in population, we face similar challenges. I look forward to Mark’s leadership and working with him on behalf of all states across the country.”

“Mark has very actively supported state executive directors of county associations throughout the country for several years,” said North Dakota Association of Counties Executive Director Mark Johnson. “State directors rely on his leadership and counsel.”

Mark O’Connell has served as the Wisconsin Counties Association Executive Director since 2001 and has been with the association since 1989. For more information on WCA, visit www.wicounties.org. **wc**



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