

## **Other Annual Conference Information**

### **Changes Or Cancellations To Lodging Reservations**

Reservations may have been made initially under the county name but must all have individual names of who will occupy each room **no later than November 14, 2017**. Any reservation being held under the county name after this date will be cancelled.

**County officials should take note that the date for changing or cancelling any reservations for the NACO conference is November 14.**

Any county making cancellations or changes lodging reservations after the November 14th date will be charged the first night's lodging.

### **County Official of the Year Nominations Are Being Sought**

Do you know of an elected or appointed county official who you feel serves as the embodiment of a true dedicated public official? If so, nominate that individual for the annual County Official of the Year Award. The Nebraska Association of County Officials will present its highest honor to one county official at the conclusion of the December 15 business meeting.

The County Official of the Year Award was created as a means of honoring one individual each year for his or her leadership abilities, high standard of public service and outstanding contributions made to the medium of county government and that person's community.

The official nomination form can be found on NACO's website or by clicking [here](#).

**To nominate someone you know, print the form, complete it and return it to the NACO office by November 30**, along with any supplemental materials you feel would provide additional insight into why this person is deserving of the award. Supporting material may include testimonial letters from peers or other printed matter that highlight his or her record of service. Each of the 2017 nominees will be introduced and recognized during the conference. The announcement will be made as to who has been chosen by a special selection committee following the NACO Business Meeting on Friday, December 15. The 2017 recipient will join an elite list of county officials who have previously received this award and will receive a handsomely engraved plaque befitting of this prestigious honor.

### **Conference Keynote Speaker**

V.J. Smith is a professional speaker and published author. He graduated from South Dakota State University in 1978 and spent the decade of the 1980s working for the Allied Signal Aerospace Company in Kansas City. He returned to his alma mater in 1990, working for six years in the SDSU Athletic Department. He was appointed Executive Director of the SDSU Alumni Association in 1996. In January 2007 he left that position to

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pursue a career in professional speaking. Smith travels the country and makes over 100 speaking appearances a year.

In March 2014, Meeting and Conventions Magazine named V.J. as one of the favorite speakers of meeting planners throughout America.

He is the author of the best-selling book, "The Richest Man in Town." The book details Smith's relationship with a little old man who ran a cash register at a local Wal-Mart. "That guy changed my life," Smith says.

Smith is a two-time finalist in Toastmasters' International's "World's Championship of Public Speaking." He is also the author of, "Can You Hear What I See" and "Jackrabbit Tales."

V.J. is the President of Life's Great Moments and resides in Brookings, SD.