



Association of Minnesota Counties

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ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES ANNOUNCES 2016 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS FOR INDIVIDUALS FROM CASS, DAKOTA AND OTTER TAIL COUNTIES

(St. Paul, MN)— **OTTER TAIL County's Administrator Larry Krohn, CASS County's Health, Human and Veterans Services Director Reno Wells, and DAKOTA County's Public Services and Revenue Division Director Tom Novak** were recognized with Association of Minnesota Counties' (AMC) 2016 'Outstanding Service Awards' for exhibiting excellence, innovation and dedication to their work in county government. 2017 AMC President Gary Hendrickx, a Swift County commissioner, presented the awards at the association's annual conference December 5 in Minneapolis. The recipients were nominated by their counties and selected by a committee of county officials.

About the Award Winners:

Reno Wells Health, Human and Veterans Services Director - Cass County

37 Years of Service

For 30 years, Reno Wells served as Cass County Probation Director/Probation Officer, recognized by Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers with the Al Reker Distinguished Service Award. Contribution include Cass County/Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Wellness Court collaborative court systems and relationships. For 7 years serving as the Cass County Health, Human and Veteran Services Director increasing access to service delivery to customers throughout Cass County, assured priorities of aspects in Public Health such as emergency preparedness and WIC; Human Services such expansion of safety in Child Protection to comply with Governor's Task Force; and Veterans Services such as developing an Assistant Veterans Services Officer during his directorship. A Cass County Deputy Sheriff, part-time Peace Officer License for 35 years. Working with key stakeholders including advisory committee, county elected officials, AMC, County/Tribal cooperation, and public. United States Military Services in the United States Army Reserves for 30 years. Contributions to his community include volunteering as Area Fire and Rescue Firefighter and Emergency response. He serves the Local Townships in a capacity at the local, district and state level for the past 32 years.

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Tom Novak

Public Services and Revenue Division Director - Dakota County

37 Years of Service

Few individuals in our state's history have contributed more to county government than Tom Novak. Tom began his career in Dakota County working in the County Assessor's Office in the summer of 1967. Since then he has served as Treasurer, Treasurer-Auditor, Interim County Administrator, and in 1998 was selected to serve as Director of the newly erected Public Services and Revenue Division in Dakota County. In his new role, Tom assumed responsibility over five departments: Assessing Services, Property Taxation & Records, Service & License Center, Public Library and Law Library. During his many years of public service Tom Novak has become a valuable mentor to many elected and appointed officials and managers, both within and outside of Dakota County. He has contributed greatly to the success of Dakota County as it has grown to become the state's third largest county over the past 37 years. He is an innovative leader, an effective manager and hard worker who is always willing to undertake and successfully complete any project that is given to him. Tom Novak has demonstrated substantial and consistent leadership within county government for over 37 years, developing many innovative improvements and programs along the way. The relationships he has developed with state legislators, county and local elected officials, county and city employees, and the public have truly been exceptional and have raised the visibility and effectiveness of county government statewide. His lengthy service to Dakota County has truly been exceptional.

Larry Krohn

Administrator - Otter Tail County

39 Years of Service

Throughout the course of Larry's employment with Otter Tail County since 1977, his work ethic and focus have always demonstrated a philosophy of good will and exceptional professionalism. In a career that has ranged from serving in Land and Resource Management, to County Coordinator, and to his appointment as Otter Tail County's first County Administrator, his tenure's reputation has been one of managing a government agency that is efficiently run and respected among the people it has served. Most notable of his many achievements are: the development of the Partnership4Health, a four-county public health network of programs; the Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste agency; the county's buffer strip initiative; and projects such as a multi-county collaborative effort that jointly developed and purchased an Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) and the acquisition and remodeling of the Government Services Center. Larry's quiet, unassuming leadership style is best characterized as that of a teacher who is a source of information and knowledge and a "people builder" who knows how to gently "lift them up" to accomplish their goals. His reflective decision making manner exemplifies the importance of using your heart as well as your head.

AMC is a voluntary statewide organization that assists the state's 87 counties in providing effective county governance to the people of Minnesota. The association works closely with the legislative and administrative branches of government in seeing that legislation and policies favorable to counties are enacted. In addition, the Association provides educational programs, training, research and communications for county officials.

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Editors: Photo available upon request.

Photo Caption: 2017 AMC President Gary Hendrickx, a Swift County commissioner, presented the Outstanding Service awards at the association's annual conference December 5 in Minneapolis. The recipients were nominated by their counties and selected by a committee of county officials.