



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES ANNOUNCES 2015 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

(St. Paul, MN)— **Patty O'Connor, Blue Earth County Taxpayer Services Director**, and **Janice (Jan) Fransen, Jackson County Coordinator**, were recognized with Association of Minnesota Counties' (AMC) 2015 'Outstanding Service Awards' for exhibiting excellence, innovation and dedication to their work in county government. 2015 AMC President Christopher Shoff, a Ramsey County commissioner, presented the awards at the association's annual conference December 7 in St. Cloud. The recipients were nominated by their counties and selected by a committee of county officials, chaired by 2015 AMC First Vice President Jack Swanson, a Roseau County Commissioner.

About the Award Winners:

Patty O'Connor, Taxpayer Services Director – Blue Earth County

Patty O'Connor has spent her 37 year career working in county government and has been an active leader at the local, state and national levels to advance countless issues to better serve the public and streamline processes within local government.

Earning her way through the ranks, Patty's extensive knowledge and experience, coupled with her no-nonsense work ethic, active participation, dedication and passion for counties have been the basis for her exemplary career in county government. She has gone above and beyond to serve the Association of Minnesota Counties and the National Association of Counties in numerous leadership positions, task forces and committees. She has offered her expertise throughout the years and helped move forward legislation and county government initiatives in the areas of Elections and Taxpayer Services. Throughout her career, Patty has contributed significantly to county government in Minnesota and has exhibited exceptional leadership and innovation through the use of technology and implementation of best practices in her field. Patty has been a long-time participant and champion of AMC.

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Janice (Jan) Fransen, County Coordinator – Jackson County

Janice Fransen has served as Jackson County's Coordinator since the creation of the position in 1997. During those 18 years, she has consistently balanced a sound relationship with commissioners, other elected officials, administrative staff, cities, community organizations and the citizens in general. She has been very open and innovative in her approach to making improvements within the governing structure of Jackson County. Jan's organizational skills have been exceptional. Her ability to secure and research data and present information in a very timely and appropriate format has become part of her signature. Jan has served as Jackson County's IT and HR Director since the start of her position. Her expertise in both areas has been very beneficial. Her attention to detail and ability to adjust to an ever changing environment has been excellent. Her sensitivity to personal and private data has been without blemish. She has respected authority while expressing her concerns and presenting recommendations when requested. Jan has been instrumental in the creation of many joint ventures with counties and cities throughout her career.

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: Photos for each recipient attached.

Photo Caption: 2015 County Achievement Awards were presented at the AMC Annual Conference December 7 in St. Cloud by 2015 AMC President Commissioner Christopher Shoff (Freeborn County).