

# Dickinson County Courthouse Newsletter

July 16, 2014



## Employee Spotlight!



### **Let's get to know our County employees!**

The June Newsletter featured the picture of the little boy to the left. Did you guess Bill Leupold?

The following is a little personal information provided by Bill.

**Start date with Dickinson County:**

January 1, 2010

**Where born:** Holy Family Hospital, Estherville, Iowa

**Places Lived:** Superior, Ames, Carlisle, & Orleans, Iowa.

**Hobbies, talents, special interests:** Hunting, Fishing, Bicycling, Wild Flowers, Bird Watching, Snorkeling

**Favorite Travel Spots:** Minneapolis, Cozumel

**Favorite Food:** Beef Stroganoff, my wife brought it into our marriage, and I'd never had it before.

**Least Favorite Food:** Liver!

**If I were stuck on an island, I would bring (3 things):** Satellite phone, Survival "How to book", and a Rambo knife with compass, and fire making abilities

**Something Few Know About Me:** I've visited with the Iowa Cattlemen, the head of the DNR, the Governor and the president of Pioneer International (trust me, he had the plushiest office!) about the economic effects of recreating prairies on farm ground, and some alternatives to help the environment. As an unintended result, the Raccoon River Watershed Project was started.

**Favorite thing to do in Dickinson County:** Soaking in the beauty of the smallest county in Iowa, and thinking what a lucky, lucky man I am to live here

## **Let's talk Iowa – Dickinson County Elections:**

Federal law doesn't dictate how states choose their delegates, so individual states decide what system to use. Most states use the primary system -- where voters statewide simply cast a vote for the candidate they support -- but some use the older caucus system.

**Iowa caucuses are the first "voting events"** of the presidential election year. In Iowa, the caucuses themselves are local party precinct meetings where registered Republicans and Democrats gather separately, and discuss the candidates. The caucus system dates back to 1796, when American political parties emerged, and it hasn't changed a whole lot since then. Most states eventually replaced this system, because as political parties became more centralized and sophisticated in the early twentieth century, party leaders or "bosses" were perceived as exerting too much control over choosing a nominee.

**Iowa’s Primary system**

Iowa is one of 21 states with a mixed primary system. The primary is closed, meaning one must be registered in a political party in order to vote and can only vote for candidates of their party. Voters are allowed to change their political party affiliation on Election Day.

**Dickinson County’s Primary Election Stats**

Dickinson County has 15 regular precincts – up from 11 prior to the 2010 census. Because there are 15 precincts there are 30 different ballots (15 Republican & 15 Democrat).

The Dickinson Co. Primary turn out on June 3, 2014. **Which precinct is YOURS?**

Precinct #1 had 886 registered voters	.....208 voted.....	23.48%
Precinct #2 had 775 registered voters	.....134 voted.....	17.29%
Precinct #3 had 780 registered voters	.....115 voted.....	14.74%
Precinct #4 had 310 registered voters	.....20 voted.....	6.45%
Precinct #5 had 1119 registered voters	.....135 voted.....	12.06%
Precinct #6 had 338 registered voters	..... 23 voted.....	6.8%
Precinct #7 had 149 registered voters	..... 10 voted.....	6.71%
Precinct #8 had 2140 registered voters	.....147 voted.....	6.87%
Precinct #9 had 129 registered voters	.....15 voted.....	11.63%
Precinct #10 had 546 registered voters	..... 81 voted.....	14.84%
Precinct #11 had 879 registered voters	.....148 voted.....	16.84%
Precinct #12 had 595 registered voters	..... 51 voted.....	8.57%
Precinct #13 had 968 registered voters	.....112 voted.....	11.57%
Precinct #14 had 528 registered voters	..... 46 voted.....	8.71%
Precinct #15 had 1721 registered voters	.....147 voted.....	8.54%
	254 voted Absentee	



If you look at the stats above, you will see that only 1,646 of 11,863 registered voters exercised their right to vote in Dickinson County. Not only were the voting numbers low, but because of the low numbers, **the cost of each ballot cast in Dickinson County was \$11.85**

When the polls open on Election Day this November, every citizen over the age of 18 will be able to cast a vote. It is a right we take for granted, one that defines our nation as a democracy. But universal suffrage — letting everyone vote — did not appear overnight with the ratification of our Constitution. **Slightly more than 100 years ago, you had to be white, male, and wealthy in order to vote.**

**Dickinson County as an employer is named a Blue Zone designated worksite:**

The State of Iowa has taken major steps in creating a healthier community for all of its citizens and becoming a national leader in well-being improvement by implementing the Blue Zones Project™. Communities throughout the State have committed to change their environment, policy and social networks to increase their health, well-being and longevity.

Dickinson County’s Wellness programs played a major part in the County Courthouse being designated as a Blue Zone worksite. On May 19, 2014, Jenny Weber, RD LD, Community Health Consultant, Blue Zones Project, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, informed Dickinson County that she was pleased to announce that Spirit Lake’s seventh designated worksite for the Blue Zones Project™ was Dickinson County! She sent thanks to the Dickinson County Wellness Team for leading the way for other worksites; and putting the health and well-being of the County staff at the forefront of the Wellness objectives. Congratulations Dickinson County employees on your efforts and for being named a Blue Zone designated worksite. Thank you everyone for the hard work and dedication you’ve given to the Wellness Programs.

## **9 Things Happy People Don't Do:**

This article was given to me and suggested that it be shared in the county newsletter. Although some of the article might be condensed for the newsletter, one thing happy people don't do will be in each of the next 4 newsletters. The article was written by Dan Baker, PhD of the Bottom Line Publications.

**Number 5: Happy people DON'T use negative language. They rarely chastise themselves or insult other people, either out loud or in their internal self-talk. When you catch yourself using negative language, rewrite the story to make it positive.**

## **July Spotlight:**

**Get to know more about those who work for Dickinson County!**



Find out more about this little boy in the August issue.  
In the meantime, can you guess who this is?

## **Motivational quote for the month:**

*“When you’re going through Hell, keep going.” Winston Churchill*

*“If you want to make God laugh, tell Him what you’ll be doing next week!” Anon*