

PROFILES IN SERVICE

STAN PONSTEIN

NACo Board Member
Commissioner, MAC President
Kent County, Mich.

Number of years active in NACo: 10 years

Years in public service: 44 years

Occupation: Costco Wholesale, Member Service

Education: Aquinas College, B.A in Political Science

The hardest thing I've ever done: I ran for the Grandville Board of Education at the age of 19, and won.

A dream I have is to: Visit all 50 states; one left, Hawaii

You'd be surprised to learn that I: I have a Culinary Arts degree



PONSTEIN

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Run and finish the Old Kent River Bank 25K.

My favorite way to relax is: Sit in the backyard with my wife with a glass of wine and watch and listen to the birds at our feeders.

Every morning I read: Morning headlines from *The Times-Picayune*

My favorite meal is: Crab cakes as a starter, mushroom

risotto with wild Gulf shrimp for the entrée and Bananas Foster for dessert.

My pet peeve is: Those who ask a question that is longer than the answer.

My motto is: The state of Michigan motto, "*Si quaeris peninsulam amoenam circumspice.*" (If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you.)

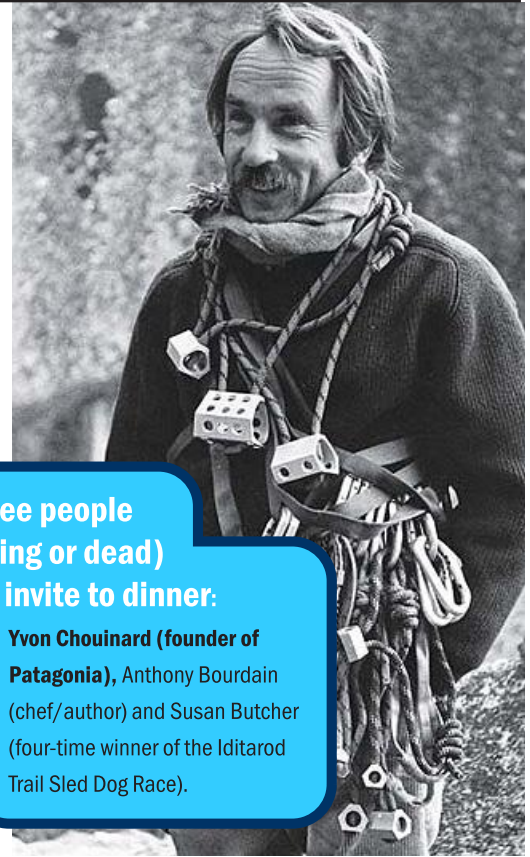
The last book I read was: "A View from the Wolf's Eye," by Carolyn C. Peterson

My favorite movie is: "The Sound of Music"

My favorite music is: New Orleans jazz

My favorite U.S. president is: Theodore Roosevelt

My county is a NACo member because: NACo staff, access to information, collaboration, advocacy, partnerships and see what we can achieve when we work together.



Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:

Yvon Chouinard (founder of Patagonia), Anthony Bourdain (chef/author) and Susan Butcher (four-time winner of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race).

GET TO KNOW...

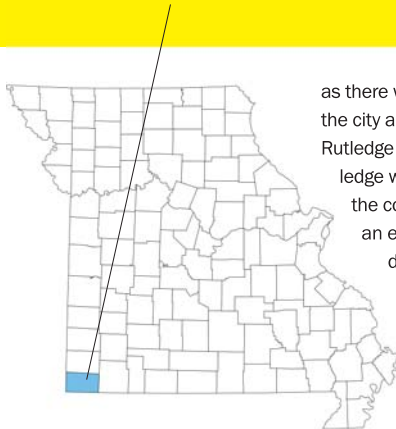
McDonald County, Mo.

Welcome to McDonald County, Mo.

McDonald County, Mo., founded in 1849, was named for Revolutionary War soldier Alexander McDonald.

The county, which borders Arkansas and Oklahoma, has been nicknamed "Snake County" for the large number of snakes that live in the county's streams and caves. The county has over 100 caves, many of which were marketed as "show caves" in the early 20th century to bring in visitors.

Every Christmas, people from across the world send letters to the county's town of Noel, to receive its custom post office stamp that says, "Seasons greetings from Noel, Missouri, Christmas City, USA." The tradition started in the Great Depression when the town's postmaster decided it would be a festive idea, and now people from as far as China send



as there was a rivalry between the city and the village of Rutledge to be chosen. Rutledge was initially named the county seat following an election, but Pineville didn't want to cede the title. There was reportedly blood shed over the dispute and Rutledge's log courthouse was destroyed, allegedly by Pineville residents.

Pineville officially became the county seat in 1857 when the state legislature required all

county seats to be closer to the center of the county. Pineville is located on Elk River, which attracts thousands of people who flock there each summer to canoe along with Big Sugar Creek and Indian Creek. Big Sugar Creek State Park, which was created in the 1990s to preserve part of the Elk River water system, sits on more than 2,000 acres and is home to rare plants like the Chinquapin tree.

Get to Know features new NACo member counties.

letters and packages.

The county seat of Pineville was the filming location of the 1938 Western "Jesse James" about the infamous outlaw. McDonald County native Dabbs Greer launched his acting career as an extra in the film and then went on to become a series regular in TV shows like "Gunsmoke" and "Little House on the Prairie," and played the older version of Tom Hanks' character in the Oscar-winning film "The Green Mile."

Pineville's position as the county seat didn't come easily,



Annual Conference

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West regions will hold elections for their representatives before attendees get together for the closing reception at Austin City Limits at the Moody Theater.

A bevy of social and networking events will provide opportunities for county officials to form new friendships and compare approaches to issues that all counties face. To sweeten the deal, Visit Austin has negotiated discounts at nearby restaurants and entertainment venues for conference badge-wearing patrons on Friday, July 21. Also, by showing your conference badge, attendees will receive discounted admission to the LBJ Presidential Library from July 20-25.

The Passport to Prizes program will offer an incentive for enterprising attendees to visit many of the more than 182 vendors in the exhibit hall. The conference's annual community service project will involve stuffing backpacks with school supplies for students in the Austin Public Schools system. [EN](#)

You can read daily County News coverage of the conference at www.naco.org/news.