

Press Release

For Immediate Release



Lea County Courthouse, Lovington, NM:

At the 2016 New Mexico Association of Counties (NMAC) Legislative Conference in Santa Fe January 18-22, the NMAC 2015 Safety Award for Division IV was presented to Lea County for Achieving the Positive Claim Trend and the Lowest Frequency of Workers' Compensation Claims for 2014/2015.

Lea County Manager Mike Gallagher and Commissioner Jim Britton were presented a \$7,000 check by NMAC Executive Director Steve Kopelman. The New Mexico shaped award plaque was presented by NMAC President Sharon Stover.

Lea County Manager Gallagher compliments county staff and employees "for achieving a positive claim trend. Lea County won this award for 2013/2014 and continues this down trend

by improvement of work place safety. In fact, the 2014/2015 statistics are fifty per cent less than the 2012/2013 numbers.”

Commissioner Britton states “work place safety has been and continues to be one of my top priorities. I am proud that Lea County is the recipient of the Division IV award. As employees continue to lower the number of workers’ compensation claims, they continue to improve work place safety.”

Lea County Chairman Commissioner Ron Black comments “I am extremely proud of the safety award that Lea County received from the NMAC. This is just one more indication that our employees are doing their work conscientiously. The safety of all of our employees is extremely important. Not only are they protecting themselves from injury, but they are saving taxpayer money by helping to keep our insurance rates low. One of the things that really impressed me when I first came in the commission five years ago is the high quality of the county employees and the pride they take in doing their job well.”

PHOTO CAPTION: (Left – right) Lea County Manager Mike Gallagher, Wendell Bostick, NMAC Executive Director Steve Kopleman, Lea County Commissioner Jim Britton, NMAC Vice President Gabe Romero, NMAC President Sharon Stover, President Elect Tyler Massey, Multi-Line Pool Board Chair Ron Lethgo, NMAC Past President Paula Garcia. Photo attached. Photo Credit: Courtesy of NMAC

There are five divisions for the State of New Mexico. Division IV consists of Lea, Eddy, Otero, McKinley and Valencia counties. Each division has one award winner and recipient of a \$7,000 check.