



NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK APRIL 7—13, 2002

Counties serve more than 230 million residents in the United States and have jurisdiction over most of the national territory. County residents exceed the number of persons residing within municipalities, villages, townships and other types of local government entities. County governments are the fastest growing all-purpose governments in terms of employment size, with growth rates exceeding those of the federal, state, municipal and township units since 1980's.

In a recent survey of American counties, all Montana counties were considered rural counties. The social services provided most widely by all sizes of county governments are:

law enforcement	84% of counties
911 emergency services	82%
senior citizen programs	57%
mental health services	53%
health clinics	52%
emergency medical services	51%
solid waste removal	51%

Devolution, the trend in American government to shift responsibility for public services from the federal level to the state and local levels, affects rural county governments the most. Rural counties are more likely to report significant problems with reduced federal and state revenues, declining local tax base, pressure from citizens to reduce taxes, and mandates from higher levels of governments. These fiscal constraints are compounded by the fact that most rural counties do not have staff available to seek additional outside funds.

HIGHLIGHTS—INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DROUGHT MEETINGS	2
UNCLAIMED COUNTY CHECKS	3
COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARDS	4
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRS.....	5
COMPUTER USE POLICY SUGGESTIONS	6
REGISTRATION FORM, NACo W.I.R.	9

Rural county governments are much less likely to engage in comprehensive planning, farmland preservation, zoning, watershed protection, and other land-use planning activities. They are also less likely to engage in economic development activities. While county governments generally play a larger role in economic development than in the past, rural counties are less likely to have land-use planners and economic development professionals on staff.

TOPIC	RURAL	URBAN
Declining tax base	40%	12%
Staff– Econ. Dev.	31%	61%
Land Use Planner	29%	73%
Grant Writer	28%	51%
County Website	37%	85%
Privatization of services	17%	43%
Business Development	34%	52%
Land Use Plans	38%	64%
Farmland Policy	16%	39%

**From
Assistant Director Harold**

Over eighty people braved the "storm of the winter" to attend the Local Drought Coordinators Seminar that was held March 20th in the MACo conference room. Attendees were greeted by nearly a foot of new snow by Wednesday night and quips such as "Let's have another of these next week, except in my hometown" were heard often during the day.

This first-ever seminar focused on drought from a local perspective. Attendees included Local Drought Coordinators, Disaster Coordinators, County Commissioners, Extension Agents, Watershed Coordinators, Farmers, Ranchers, Business owners, State and Federal Agencies, as well as members of the Montana Drought Advisory Committee.

The seminar provided an opportunity for local people to learn about resources that are available to help in drought planning and mitigation. While it was acknowledged that the only permanent solution to drought is moisture, there are many ways that local people can have a dramatic impact on the effects of drought in their communities by planning and working cooperatively with all stakeholders.

There were nearly a dozen workshops with topics as wide and varied as are the interests in drought management across our diverse state. Workshop topics included: Navigating the Drought Internet Site, Drought Strategies for Agricultural Producers, A Successful Watershed Drought Plan, Our Town Well is Going Dry! Where Can We Find Help? and many others.

Attendees reported that the seminar was very helpful, not only in providing information that they will be able to use in their communities, but it also gave them a better understanding about how drought affects other interests beyond their own needs and how working together can provide a means for sharing the limited resources in time of need.

More information can be obtained on the state drought web site at: <http://nris.state.mt.us/drought/> or by contacting Jesse Aber at jaber@state.mt.us or (406) 444-6628

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Montana Association of Counties
2715 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602
Phone (406) 457-7207 Fax (406) 442-5238
**ARTICLES MAY BE SUBMITTED BEFORE
THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH**

E-mail: macopb@maco.cog.mt.us
Website: <http://maco.cog.mt.us>
Subscriptions are \$25 per year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April

- 2-5 Association of County Road Supervisors; Billings
- 4 **MACo Health/Human Services; Capitol 152; 10:00 am**
- 8 **MACo Districts 8, 9 and 12; Dillon**
- 10 **MACo Districts 10 and 11; Polson**
- 10-12 County Superintendents of Schools; Lewistown
- 11 **MACo Executive Committee; MACo Conf. Rm.; 10:00**
- 11 **JPA Workers' Comp. Trustees; MACo Conf. Rm.; 1:00**
- 11 State Drought Advisory Committee; Capitol #152; 9:30
- 12 **JPIA Property/ Liability Renewal Meeting; MACo; 8:00**
- 12 **JPIA Bond Working Group; MACo; 1:00 pm**
- 15 **MACo Districts 4 and 5; Chinook**
- 17 **MACo Districts 1, 2 and 3; Glendive**
- 17 Growth Policy Forum; MACo Conf. Room; 9:30 am
- 19 **MACo Districts 6 and 7; Lewistown**
- 19 District Court Council
- 23 **MACo Health Insurance Meeting; MACo; 10:00 am**
- 29 Elkhorn Advisory Group; MACo Conf. Room; 9:00 am

May

- 9 CEP Workforce Investment Board
- 10 District Court Council
- 13-14 Governor's Conference on Future of Montana Forests
- 15-16 BOS Joint Workforce Council
- 17 State Drought Advisory Committee; Capitol #152; 9:30
- 20-24 **NACo Western Interstate Region (WIR); Billings**

FOR SALE

Mark-Rite Admiral 120 paint striping machine on a truck frame (Serial # 36417) includes:

- Ingersoll Rand 3-cylinder air compressor
- Binks 60 gallon pressure fluid tanks with agitator (2)
- Bead tanks, 25 gallon (2)
- Paint thinner tank, 10 gallon, with instruction book

The striper is in fair condition, clean & maintained.
\$4,000 OBO

Carl Bagley, Phillips County 654-2512

FOR SALE

2 high speed dot matrix printers - excellent condition

- 1- Oki Pacemark 4410, network ready
- 1 - Lexmark 4227

Several boxes of green bar and carbonless, 8.5"x11"

Contact Milt Hovland, Sheridan County
765-3403 or mhovland@co.sheridan.mt.us

SHERIDAN COUNTY SURPLUS AUCTION

APRIL 27

AT THE COUNTY SHOP (4246 HWY 16 S)

ITEMS INCLUDE:

NEW PARTS FOR OLDER CATERPILLARS
LIMITED SELECTION OF MISCELLANEOUS PARTS

Call Dellas Christensen, 765-1221

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

By Kurt Alme, Director, Montana Department of Revenue

The 2001 Legislative Session provided for the Montana Department of Revenue, which serves as administrator of the State's unclaimed property, to hire an auditor to oversee its efforts in that program. Recently, the auditor has been working to determine the level of compliance of local governments statewide in delivering unclaimed property to the Department of Revenue. The auditor's work has raised some questions concerning the Department of Revenue's responsibilities under the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act (MCA 70-9-802 through 829).

The biggest question is whether funds related to cancelled county warrants and treasurer's checks must be forwarded to the Department of Revenue as unclaimed property.

Recently, the Department met with representatives from MACo and the Montana County Treasurers' Association to discuss unclaimed property issues, including county warrants and treasurer's checks and the legal requirements of the statutes. The statutes do provide that funds related to cancelled county warrants and treasurer's checks be forwarded to the Department as unclaimed property.

Under Montana's Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, the Department of Revenue is responsible for finding owners of unclaimed intangible personal property turned over to the State. Montana is considered a

"custodial state" and holds such property on behalf of the owners of lost or abandoned property. We have a very good success rate of reuniting about 44% of unclaimed property with its rightful owner.

By definition, unclaimed property includes -- but is not limited to -- money, uncashed checks, drafts, state warrants, utility deposits, interest dividends or income, safe deposit box contents, credit balances, savings and checking accounts, customer overpayments, gift certificates, uncashed payroll checks, unidentified remittances, stocks, bonds and uncashed coupons.

Montana law specifically defines county-issued warrants (claim warrants, payroll warrants, district court warrants and the like) and treasurer's checks as "property."

The Uniform Unclaimed Property Act deems property still held by a government or governmental subdivision (in this case, the county) one year after the property becomes distributable to be presumed abandoned. Expiration of a statute of limitations does not preclude the presumption of abandonment. Funds related to warrants and treasurer's checks that have remained uncalled or unpaid for periods beyond their prescribed statutes of limitation are property presumed abandoned.

Abandoned property must be reported to the Department of Revenue and turned over to the Department. That means

each local government is required to deliver funds related to cancelled county warrants and treasurer's checks to the Department.

So, the Department plans to work cooperatively with all counties to make compliance with the statutes as simple as possible. Beginning in April, the department will send a notice of our auditor's specific findings to each Montana county that has been audited. All counties will then have a designated period of time to deliver the specific unclaimed property listed to the Department of Revenue. We will be working with MACo and the Montana County Treasurers' Association to establish a reasonable time period.

Because counties may have been unaware that the unclaimed property should be delivered to the state, the Department of Revenue will not impose penalty or interest if the property is turned over within the designated period.

We encourage any county that has not been visited by the unclaimed property auditor to contact the department at 444-6900 with their questions about what constitutes unclaimed property.

The Department appreciates having the opportunity to work cooperatively with the counties in reaching resolution to this matter.

MACo and County Treasurers' Association will have a corresponding article on this subject in the May issue of [MACo News](#).

RE-ACTIVATE COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARDS

7-4-2503(4)(a) MCA states, "The county compensation board shall hold hearings annually for the purpose of reviewing the compensation paid to county officers. The compensation board may consider the compensation paid to comparable officials in other Montana counties, other states, state government, federal government and private enterprise."

MACo has various salary publications available to provide information as needed.

7-4-2503(4)(b) MCA reads, "The county compensation board shall prepare a compensation schedule for the elected county officials, including the county attorney, for the succeeding fiscal year. The schedule must take into consideration county variations, including population, the number of residents living in unincorporated areas, assessed valuation, motor vehicle registrations, building permits, and other factors necessary to reflect the variations in the workloads and responsibilities of county officials as well as the tax resources of the county."

The cost-of-living adjustment factor effective July 1, 2002, is 2.8%. The mileage reimbursement rate is 36.5¢ for up to 1,000 miles; then it becomes 33.5¢.

MILLER APPOINTED TO WORKSHOP

Victor Miller, MACo 1st Vice President, was appointed by President Dean Harmon to represent the State of Montana and MACo at an International Workshop for Emergency Response (IWER) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on May 20 - 24, 2002.

IWER is sponsored by North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Partnership for Peace, which was formed following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, to help in the transition to democracy.

This latest civilian exchange will focus on earthquake safety during a three-day workshop featuring speakers from Japan, India, and Turkey. 300 invitees from 23 nations will participate. Three other States participate in the program in addition to Montana: Louisiana, Nevada and Arizona.

WESTERN COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP

The fourth Western Community Stewardship Forum (WCSF) will be held April 14-17 in Estes Park, Colorado. Gallatin County has been invited to attend this session. Previous attendees from Montana have been Jefferson County in October 1999 in Park City, Utah; Madison County in April 2000 in Red Lodge, Montana and Carbon County in September 2000 in Estes Park, Colorado.

Counties which attend are then tracked in their planning and development efforts by NACo.

INSURANCE INSIGHTS

by Greg Jackson
Insurance Marketing



MORE SPECIAL DISTRICTS JOIN JPIA

In the past few months, these Special Districts have joined the JPIA Property and Liability Pool. They bring the total number of Special Districts in the Insurance Pool to 88.

- **Petrolia Irrigation District**
Petroleum County; Monte Solberg, Agent, Lewistown Insurance
- **Reed Point Water / Sewer District**
Stillwater County; Webb Mandeville, Mandeville Insurance Agency
- **Tri-County Water / Sewer District**
Teton, Chouteau and Cascade Counties; Will Rasmussen, Agent, Payne Financial Group
- **Greenfields Irrigation District**
Teton County; Mark Biegler, Agent, Western States Insurance
- **Ashland Water / Sewer District**
Rosebud County; Roger Vraa, Agent, Rosebud County Insurance
- **Twin Bridges Park District**
Madison County; Roberta Barrows, Agent, Talbot Agency
- **Port of Montana Port Authority**
Butte-Silver Bow; Rody Holman, Agent, Western States Insurance

.....
: "I married the first man I ever kissed. :
: When I tell this to my children, they :
: just about throw up." :
: Barbara Bush :
:.....

2002-2003 COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRS

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE	Wayne Ternes	McCONE	Connie Eissinger
BEAVERHEAD	Donna Sevalstad	MEAGHER	Jamie Doggett
BIG HORN	John Pretty on Top	MINERAL	Judy Stang
BLAINE	Victor Miller	MISSOULA	Jean Curtiss
BROADWATER	Jim Hohn	MUSSELSHELL	Kelly Gebhardt
CARBON	David Davidson	PARK	Ed Schilling
CARTER	John Kerr	PETROLEUM	Lloyd Rowton
CASCADE	Gayle Morris	PHILLIPS	Richard Dunbar
CHOUTEAU	Harvey Worrall	PONDERA	Bill Rappold
CUSTER	Dan Connors	POWDER RIVER	Don McDowell
DANIELS	C. William Tandy	POWELL	Tom Hatch
DAWSON	James Deckert	PRAIRIE	Todd Devlin
FALLON	William Duffield	RAVALLI	Alan Thompson
FERGUS	Joe Spika	RICHLAND	Mark Rehbein
FLATHEAD	Dale Williams	ROOSEVELT	Ferris Toavs
GALLATIN	William Murdock	ROSEBUD	Gary Fjelstad
GARFIELD	Phil Hill	SANDERS	Harold Laws
GLACIER	Allan Lowry	SHERIDAN	Bob Nikolaisen
GOLDEN VALLEY	Edgar Lewis	STILLWATER	Clifford Bare
GRANITE	Earl Martin	SWEET GRASS	Lloyd Berg
HILL	Patrick Conway	TETON	Sam Carlson
JEFFERSON	Sherry Cargill	TOOLE	Ben Ober
JUDITH BASIN	Henry Vaskey	TREASURE	Char Mackley
LAKE	Mike Hutchin	VALLEY	Marlene Erickson
LEWIS and CLARK	Mike Murray	WHEATLAND	Tom Bennett
LIBERTY	Loyd Boyer	WIBAUX	Sandy Nelson
LINCOLN	Rita Windom	YELLOWSTONE	Jim Reno
MADISON	David Schulz	BUTTE-SILVER BOW	Michael Kerns

Board of Directors Member TREASURERS' REPRESENTATIVE



Susan Miller

Jefferson County Treasurer
1982 to present

Prior Occupation	Deputy Treasurer
Favorite Part of the Job	People contact; representing local government; job task variations. Enjoyed the membership in Montana Treasurers' Association, the challenges, accomplishments and friendships.
Least Favorite Part	Politics
Goals for the Position	Complete the tasks on hand and leave the office ready for the next treasurer
Personal	Married; no children, one dog; enjoys swimming, bicycling, motorcycle rides, group gatherings and dinners; cooking
Motto	Keep moving forward!

17-COUNTY O.P.A. REORGANIZATION

April 25th is the extended deadline for comments regarding the proposed reorganization of Offices of Public Assistance in seventeen eastern Montana counties. The proposal addresses management structure, service delivery, workload balance and distances for clients. T. Gary Curtis, private consultant, conducted a series of interviews and a review of information to make three recommendations. Much credit was given to OPA county directors and county commissioners for suggestions and background.

Recommendation 1

Valley, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Daniels Counties unite into one service delivery area with Wolf Point the main office. Phillips County aligns with counties to its west.

Recommendation 2

Richland, Dawson, Wibaux, Fallon and Carter Counties unite into one service area with Glendive as the main office.

Recommendation 3

Temporarily, McCone County will move to in a service area with Garfield, Prairie, Custer, Powder River, Treasure and the northern half of Rosebud County with Miles City as the main office. The Northern Cheyenne Reservation unites under one County Director in Hardin.

Curtis also recommends that the enrollment form allow registration from outside the home county but still be tracked by county of residence and office of enrollment. After discussion about fraud prevention, he also recommends a return to the practice of providing enrollment information to the County Commissioners, with a procedure to notify the Commission when a legal requirement excludes this practice.

MIDWINTER MEETING FOLLOW-UP

COMPUTER USE POLICIES

Selections from
Montana State Government Policy

All entities that use the State's network are encouraged to adopt similar policies. These policies apply to all computers that reside on the inside of the State's Internet firewall, including all state agencies, as well as local government entities.

There is a fundamental importance of information resources and a responsibility for safe keeping these resources. Each agency will create, disseminate and maintain a copy of each employee's consent form for this policy.

Internet Filtering

- 1) Employees should not have an expectation of privacy for use of the Internet.
 - 2) Internet filtering (or blocking) of individual web sites or general classes of sites will be instituted for the following reasons:
 - a) network performance
 - b) an apparent violation of state or federal law or policy
 - c) security risks.
- These classes are filtered:
- a) Radio stations-real audio
 - b) Sexually explicit material
 - c) Hate speech
 - d) Non-standard e-mail sites
 - e) Anonymous web sites
 - f) "Napster"-style music distribution sites

Electronic Mail

All e-mail, sent or received, is the property of the State of Montana. The State e-mail system is to be used for:

- 1) the conduct of state and local government business and delivery of government services
- 2) transmitting sharing of information among governmental,

research, and educational organizations

3) supporting open research and education in and between national and international research and instructional institutions

4) communicating and exchanging professional information

5) encouraging debate of issues in a specific field of expertise

6) applying for or administering grants or contracts

7) announcing requests for proposals and bids

8) announcing new services for use in research or instruction

9) conducting other appropriate business.

The following items represent, but are not restricted to, misuse of e-mail resources:

- 1) Circulating chain letters
- 2) For-profit activities; "non-profit or public , professional or service organization activities that aren't related to job duties
- 3) Extensive use for private, recreational or personal activities
- 4) Use of personal e-mail accounts

Communications sent or received by e-mail system may be "documents" under Article II, Section 9 of Montana Constitution or public records Section 2-6-101 MCA, and should be generated and maintained accordingly. If a mail item needs to be retained, it should be moved to an archive folder, a disk, or be printed.

Unsolicited mail, or spam, should be deleted immediately.

Employees should strive to keep message and attachment sizes as small as possible.

COUNTY NEWS

COMMUNICATION TOWERS

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY approved cell tower proposals, adding requirements to use non-reflective material or paint, to have an approved weed management plan and to make FAA-required markings on them.

GALLATIN, BIG HORN and FERGUS COUNTIES all are considering complaints and possible proposals to establish air protection zones around airports, in response to nearby cell-tower locations.

LAND SWAP

SANDERS COUNTY arranged a successful land exchange with the Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC). DNRC obtained a four-acre parcel of county property where their buildings are located and the County received a permanent easement for part of the golf course and a property lease for DNRC Fire and Aviation efforts.

DROUGHT AND MENTAL HEALTH

CHOUTEAU COUNTY's social services have up to 50% increases in cases needing drug/alcohol treatment, mental health counseling and law enforcement for stress related conflicts.

PER-HEAD CATTLE ASSESSMENTS

PRAIRIE COUNTY will establish a predatory animal control program, if a petition to establish a 50¢ per head assessment on cattle is successful. 40% will be used for aerial coyote control and 60% for a county-wide bounty on coyotes.

SPACE FOR NEW DISTRICT JUDGE

CASCADE COUNTY is faced with finding space for a fourth district judge to begin in 2003. Proposals include remodeling the courthouse or the old jail and leasing.

EMPTY V.A. CENTER

CUSTER COUNTY has agreed to accept ownership of the former Veterans Center in Miles City if the Center can demonstrate **a balanced cash flow so that it won't become a burden on taxpayers.** However, remodeling and improvements are needed to attract tenants, and tenants are needed to accumulate funding for remodeling.

COUNTY LAND AUCTION

VALLEY COUNTY has shifted from a per acre charge for grazing on its county land to a per-animal-unit rate. In addition, the County asks for volunteers from grazers to put the leased acreage up for auction. Their 10-year plan is to auction 4,000 acres per year, but this year they offered only 2,328 acres because not as much land was volunteered for sale.

LEVY VOTE RECOUNTS

PARK COUNTY conducted three recounts of the tied vote for a sheriff's mill levy to hire more staff. The vote finally was declared a failed vote because of the tie.

BAR STOOL RACES

FLATHEAD COUNTY denied a petition requesting a 24-year tradition to continue down the main street of Martin City. Recent opposition to the race of bar stools, mounted on skis, down the snowy street led the Commission to insist that the races be held on a back street.

ENERGY SOURCES

FALLON COUNTY is working with the City of Baker to drill a gas well to lower energy costs for all county and city buildings.

DISSOLVED PLANNING BOARD

FLATHEAD COUNTY and surrounding communities dissolved their countywide administrative planning board. Now, before new planning jurisdictions are set, court must decide who owns a \$256,000 cash reserve left over from the original Board.

COUNTY CURFEW

HILL COUNTY, following a series of hearings, approved its first county curfew for children and youth.

EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

LEWIS and CLARK COUNTY passed a resolution to ban ex parte communications for quasi-judicial decisions. Opponents or anyone else with a pending issue before the Board may not contact any of the Commissioners outside of the public hearing process.

BEARS IN THE GARBAGE

GALLATIN COUNTY has arranged with BFI Waste Services to have new bear-proof dumpsters placed in Big Sky, in accordance with the County ordinance.

PARK COUNTY will more carefully adhere to its policies for locking the gates around the green box collection site in Cooke City to prevent bears coming into the collection site.

JAILS

GALLATIN COUNTY set the end of June for a mail ballot on an \$18.3 million jail bond issue. A citizen petition containing nearly 10,000 signatures called for the election.

CARBON COUNTY is considering a proposal for construction of a modular jail. The County closed its substandard jail last July and has been transporting inmates to Yellowstone County, but has been consistently exceeding its number of reserved beds.

ROADS and BRIDGES

RAVALLI COUNTY District Court judge ruled that the County isn't responsible for a bridge that crumpled in 1996 and doesn't have to compensate landowners who built a new bridge there. The decision was based on a 1979 precedent that defined public and private bridges.

PARK COUNTY's proposal to have landowners pay for the replacement of cattle guards and irrigation culverts on county roads was abandoned. However, a landowner will be required to pay for a cattle guard or culvert if the landowner wants one in a new location.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY is considering a road abandonment based on a petition with 79 signatures of support. However, other neighbors spoke for continuing the east-west access.

CARBON COUNTY road maintenance procedures have been criticized, with the Commissioners attempting to explain the affects of drought, inflation, and increased travel. They are considering forming a committee to study road issues.

WIR Conference Registration Form

Please type or print clearly all information requested below. Information with an asterisk (*) will appear on your Conference badge. *Please make a copy of this form for your records.*

*Last Name: _____ *First Name: _____
 *Title: _____ *Nick Name: _____
 *County/Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Tel: _____ Fax: _____
 Email: _____

Spouse/Youth Registration

Spouse and Youth Registration fees include admission to all General Sessions, the WIR Reception, and the Conference-Wide Event. Please complete the following information, if applicable:

Last Name	First Name
_____	_____
_____	_____

Registration Fees

		Postmarked by April 15		Postmarked After April 15 & On-Site	
Member		<input type="radio"/> \$385		<input type="radio"/> \$435	
Non-Member County		<input type="radio"/> \$435		<input type="radio"/> \$490	
Government		<input type="radio"/> \$485		<input type="radio"/> \$535	
Private Sector		<input type="radio"/> \$510		<input type="radio"/> \$560	
Spouse	<input type="radio"/>	\$95	<input type="radio"/>	\$110	
Youth		<input type="radio"/> \$95		<input type="radio"/> \$110	

Advanced Leadership Training Seminar

“Leading with Influence – Meeting the Challenges of Change”

\$75 per person \$65 per person for 3 or more people

Total amount due: \$ _____

Payment Information

The Conference Registration fee **MUST** accompany this form and **MUST** be received before your registration can be processed. *You may reserve your registration with a voucher or county purchase order made payable to the National Association of Counties.*

However, a purchase order will only hold your registration. All fees must be paid in order to obtain your badge and event tickets at the Conference.

Select One: Check PO or Voucher
 Master Card VISA American Express Discover

Card Number: _____
 Expiration Date: _____
 Cardholder's Name: _____

Mail or fax your completed form to:

NACo
 P.O. Box 79691
 Baltimore, Maryland 21279-4293
 Fax: (202) 737-0480
 Any Questions? Please call (202) 942-4293.

Conference Information

Conference Registration

Registration fees include all sessions and functions that are a part of the Official Program. Registration fees do not include transportation or hotel accommodations.

Cancellation Policy

A full refund of your Conference registration fee (less an administrative fee of \$50 – or half of the spouse/youth fee) will be granted if written notice of Conference registration cancellation is postmarked no later than April 29, 2002. Cancellation requests postmarked April 30, 2002 or later will receive a 50% refund. No refunds will be honored after May 13, 2002. **All cancellations must be made in writing.**

Hotel Reservations

All requests for hotel accommodations must be made directly with the Holiday Inn Grand Montana. The Holiday Inn Grand Montana is offering an \$85 single/double room rate (plus applicable taxes currently at 4%). Room reservations must be submitted by May 6, 2002 in order to receive the discounted rate. Please call (406) 248-7701 and ask for the Reservations Department. Please don't forget to refer to NACo to get the reduced rate!

Holiday Inn Grand Montana Billings
 5500 Midland Road
 Billings, Montana 59101
 Tel: (406) 248-7701
 Fax: (406) 248-2031

Badges

Your Conference badge **MUST** be worn to all Official functions. No admittance will be allowed without your Conference badge.

NACo INFORMATION

2002 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE March 1-5; Washington DC



VISITING CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
DENNIS REHBERG

L-R: Vern Petersen, Fergus County; Connie Eissinger, McCone County; US Representative Dennis Rehberg; Victor Miller, Blaine County; Kathy Bessette, Hill County; Gary Fjelstad, Rosebud County; Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County; (in front) Dean Harmon, Roosevelt County

NACo Steering Committee meetings were held during the first days. Montana's delegates to the committees were:

- Vern Petersen, Transportation
- Connie Eissinger, Public Lands
- Victor Miller, Labor and Employment
- Kathy Bessette, Environment, Energy and Land Use
- Gary Fjelstad, Community and Economic Development
- Bill Kennedy, Health
- Dean Harmon, Finance and Government
- Harold Blattie, Agriculture

- Training sessions included topics on:
- Delivering Human Services During Emergencies
 - HIPAA Impact on Local Government
 - Safeguarding Retirement Benefits
 - Election Reform
 - Drinking Water Safety
 - Influencing Congress
 - Remote Sales Tax
 - Welfare Reform Reauthorization
 - Endangered Species
 - Transit, Highway and Road Funding
 - E-government for Rural Counties

The closing session featured US Attorney General John Ashcroft as speaker.

"Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up." (as seen on a T-shirt)

PROMOTING MONTANA FOR WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION May 20-24; Billings



PROMOTION BOOTH IN WASHINGTON DC
Karen Houston, MACo Meeting Planner, and
Paulette Turner, Yellowstone County Commission Office Manager

Montana NACo member counties and their corresponding votes are:

Anaconda-Deer Lodge.... 1	Meagher 1
Blaine 1	Mineral 1
Broadwater 1	Missoula 3
Carbon..... 1	Musselshell 1
Carter 1	Park..... 1
Cascade 3	Petroleum..... 1
Custer..... 1	Phillips..... 1
Daniels 1	Powder River..... 1
Fallon..... 1	Prairie..... 1
Fergus 1	Ravalli 1
Flathead 3	Richland 1
Gallatin 2	Roosevelt 1
Glacier..... 1	Rosebud..... 1
Granite..... 1	Sanders..... 1
Hill 1	Stillwater..... 1
Judith Basin..... 1	Sweet Grass..... 1
Lewis and Clark..... 2	Teton 1
Lincoln..... 1	Toole 1
Madison..... 1	Valley 1
McCone..... 1	Yellowstone..... 5

Previous members whose dues have recently lapsed will not have votes at the Billings WIR meeting. They are Beaverhead, Chouteau, Jefferson, Powell and Sheridan Counties.

PLEASE SUPPORT MACo SUPPORTERS

Gordon E. Hoven
Montana Public Finance
406 443-4958



Securities products and services are offered through U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc., member SIPC and NYSE, Inc., a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp. 300-0634

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5405 Momont Rd.
Missoula, MT 59802

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and
Training
Ray Barnicoat
and
Emelia McEwen
Phone (406) 457-7210
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Highways - Shoulders - Airports
Secondary Roads
Parking Lots - Haul Roads - Building Sites

For More Information and Job Estimates
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Nationwide's commitment to county employers and employees includes comprehensive communication and administrative support as well as advanced interactive systems and technology.

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