



IT'S TIME TO PREPARE FOR 2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION!

(Believe it or not...)

It's hard to believe, but Spring District Meetings are fast approaching and it is time to begin preparations for the 2003 Legislative Session.

SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

District meetings are planned and conducted by the districts. Traditionally, combinations of the twelve districts have met together so that there have been a total of five district meetings across the state. The chairs of the combining districts agree on the host district, which identifies the location for the meeting and arranges a luncheon.

- April 8 Districts 8, 9, & 12 in Dillon
- April 10 Districts 10 & 11 in Polson
- April 15 Districts 4 & 5 in Chinook
- April 17 Districts 1, 2, & 3 in Circle
- April 19 Districts 6 & 7 in Lewistown

Chairs of each district contact their member counties to ask for agenda items and work with the other chairs to set the agenda for the meeting. One of the agenda items for this spring is to consider resolutions for legislative proposals and for MACo policies. County Commissions are encouraged to invite all county officials to attend district meetings. Any county official or staff person may generate and present a resolution at district meetings.

MACo RESOLUTIONS POLICY

Resolutions can and should originate at the county level for presentation at district meetings. Each resolution should be accompanied by a statement of the problem being ad-

HIGHLIGHTS—INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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dressed and the proposed solution. This should include statutory references and language revisions where possible. A Model Resolution is on page 3.

The Resolutions Committee, working with the MACo staff, shall attempt to consolidate similar resolutions with the consent of the originating sponsor/s. The Committee will refer the resolution to a MACo committee for subsequent legislative action.

Sponsorship begins with the district meetings and extends through the legislative session. The legislative responsibilities of a sponsor include working with the assigned MACo committee and the staff to prepare testimony for the sponsoring legislator, supporting testimony from local officials during the hearing phases of the bill and helping monitor the legislation's progress.

Other affiliated elected official associations are encouraged to participate in the resolutions process.

**FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GORDON MORRIS**

UPDATE: GPS-ITS Project

I want to follow up on the February Newsletter report on the MDOT-MACo GPS-ITS Project. I am pleased to report that, with the presentation in Kalispell by Skip Nyberg and a Feb. 15 meeting, significant progress has been made.

Let's begin with the question that has been in people's minds, "Isn't GPS-GIS data already collected by other projects, such as enhanced 911, sufficient to be used in lieu of driving the roads again?" From the perspective of the State and the Federal Highway Administration, "No." The "experts" agree that this is a necessary project and the data must be collected. This will provide the transportation base for all other data, already collected or being collected. I again note that this is taken at face value and if it is correct, then the roads must be driven.

MDOT and MACo have started to work with counties in 12 MACo districts. In each case an effort was made to find counties interested and willing to lead in collecting the data within the district. This requires each lead county to provide an employee, seasonal or temporary, who would receive training in the requirements to gather the data consistent with guidelines set for quality assurance and control. **These counties are referred to as the "data collecting counties." There may be more than one county per district and there is still some question in a couple of cases noted with "question marks" behind the county in the list below.** There is an assumed cooperative effort between the data collecting county and the non-data collecting counties. The non-data collecting counties will contract to provide a driver for which they will be reimbursed at an agreed upon rate. This was more fully explained to the February Newsletter.

Since the midwinter conference MDOT and MACo met and re-analyzed the earlier cost conclusions. However, the \$11.10 per mile remains the rate of reimbursement to the data collecting counties. The Department will provide MACo with a memo to assure that, in the case of unanticipated expenses resulting in costs beyond the scheduled reimbursement rate, the state would make an effort to mitigate. Finally, and noteworthy on the part of the Department, was their consideration to subsidize the per diem costs for training. Counties sending an employee to the training would be reimbursed for hotel and meal costs. (This does not include any salary considerations during this training.)

Assuming approval by MACo Executive Committee, the MOU would be signed once we have all the subcon-

2002-2003 COST OF LIVING

The cost-of-living adjustment factor effective July 1, 2002, is **2.8 percent**. This percentage represents 100 percent of the change in the annual index from 2000 to 2001.

MACo will email a copy of the report from University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research to county commissions and county clerks and recorders.

tracts in place with the data collecting counties. I am hoping to have all contracts on file by March 8th. The data collecting counties have already received electronic copies for completion and approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

This is eminently doable and counties will not be "out of pocket." Nor does this effort have to take away from or compete with other county projects. I recommend that data collector counties hire temporary or seasonal employees and that drivers be found from the ranks of retired county road employees. A job description is being prepared for the data collecting position and will be available shortly. The position requires minimum education requirements and background. For example, a high school senior with skill in computer procedures would be adequate. So it is really wide open to a unique local consideration and solution. **And, "No, you cannot employ your nephew!" This would be nepotism.**

I hope this further clarifies the scope and methodology in regard to the project. I encourage you to call Harold or me with questions.

| | Data Collector | Counties to be driven |
|-------------|---|--|
| District 1 | Roosevelt County Valley County (?) | Roosevelt, Sheridan and Daniels Valley and Phillips |
| District 2 | McCone County | McCone, Dawson, Garfield, Prairie, Richland and Wibaux |
| District 3 | Custer County | Custer, Carter, Fallon, Powder River, Rosebud and Treasure |
| District 4 | Hill County | Hill, Blaine and Liberty |
| District 5 | Glacier County | Glacier, Chouteau, Pondera, Teton and Toole |
| | Cascade County (?) | Cascade |
| District 6 | Fergus County | Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum and Wheatland |
| District 7 | Stillwater County | Stillwater, Big Horn, Carbon and Sweet Grass |
| | Yellowstone County (?) | Yellowstone |
| District 8 | Lewis & Clark County (?) | Lewis & Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater |
| District 9 | Lewis & Clark County (?) Park County (?) | Gallatin, Meagher and Park Park, Meagher and Gallatin |
| District 10 | Sanders County (?) | Sanders, Flathead, Lake and Lincoln |
| District 11 | Missoula County | Missoula, Mineral and Ravalli |
| District 12 | Beaverhead County | Beaverhead, Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Granite, Madison, Powell and Butte-Silver Bow |

MODEL RESOLUTION

TO ESTABLISH A DISTRIBUTION OF DISTRICT COURT FUNDS

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

To distribute revenue equally based on the number of vehicles under MCA 7-6-2352 to the extent that funds are available after expenses provided for in MCA 3-5-901 are funded, and the funding of grants under MCA 7-6-2352 have been funded.

WHEREAS, 7% of the collections made from the 2% vehicle registration fee under MCA 61-3-504, 61-3-521 and 61-3-537 is deducted as a district court fee; and

WHEREAS, the district court fee funds allowable expenses under 3-5-901; and

WHEREAS, to the extent that funds are available after funding all allowable expenses under MCA 3-5-901, the State is required to make grants to the governing body of a county for district courts for assistance, as provided under MCA 7-6-2352; and

WHEREAS, there may be funds remaining in the account after all allowable expenses and grants have been funded, then such funds should be distributed directly to counties.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Association of Counties will seek legislation to make further distribution to counties, based upon the vehicle count in each and every county after all allowable expenses and grants have been funded, by adding to MCA 7-6-2352 to read: "(8) The Supreme Court administrator shall distribute funds remaining, after expenses provided for in MCA 3-5-901 are funded, and after the distribution of state grants to the governing body of a county for the district courts for assistance, as provided in this section, to all counties, based upon collections of the fee per count." Current section (8) would be renumbered to become section (9).

Board of Directors Member JUSTICE OF THE PEACE REPRESENTATIVE



GARY OLSEN
Justice of the Peace
Broadwater County
Elected 1998

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Prior Occupation | Retired school teacher / administrator / guidance counselor |
| Favorite Part of the Job | The variety—you never know what will come through the door next. |
| Least Favorite Part | Dealing with attorneys and endless motions; seeing former students in court!!! |
| Personal | Family: wife of 32 years, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren; for fun—plays with grandchildren and attends sporting events |
| Motto | "Live, love, laugh and smile lots each and every day." |

MIDWINTER

COUNTY SECURITY IN AFTERMATH OF 9-11-01



Continuity of Government
Steve Bender, Department of Administration



Threats of Bio-Terrorism
Dr. Todd Damrow, State Epidemiologist



CONFERENCE AGENDA



Natural Resource
Information System
Duane Anderson
Montana State Library

Dean Harmon
MACo President



The Honorable Judy Martz
Governor of Montana
John E. Prendergast
Adjutant General
Department of Military Affairs



Montana Tax Reform
HB 124 Cleanup
Kurt Alme, Director
Department of Revenue



Records Retention Requirements
Marsha Porter, Missoula County



Personnel Issues
Mike Sehested
Missoula County Deputy Attorney
Steve Johnson
Missoula County H. R. Director
Jack Holstrom
MACo Personnel Services



GASB 34—Federal Budget Act
and Accounting Standards
Norm Klein
Local Government Services
Department of Administration

CONFERENCE

Representatives from 48 of the 55 MACo member counties made the journey to Kalispell. The wide variety of workshops, including those centered around county security and response to emergencies, informed and advised the elected and appointed officials who attended. “Best conference we’ve had—thoroughly enjoyed all of the sessions—including DES for the first time!” wrote one evaluator.

The opening sessions focused on county security issues. Highly rated programs included computer security by David Wojciechowski, Flathead County, and bio-terrorism by Dr. Todd Damrow, State Epidemiologist. Dr. Damrow “opened our eyes to a much larger world than anthrax...,” wrote one attendee. “...real basic info. on a real complex and scary issue,” wrote another. However, even though the computer security session was highly rated, one person wrote, “Computers are for teenagers or people who understand them.”

Favorite sessions on Friday included Kurt Alme, Department of Revenue Director, and David Gibson, Business Officer for the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity. “Keep them coming back. It is important to have honest communication between the State and county levels.” commented one person. Another noted, “While I may not share the same political philosophy, Mr. Alme is believable and energetic. He is a straight shooter. I also admire Mr. Gibson’s energy. As we focus our energies, I am glad he is where he is.” President Harmon commented, “Regardless of your viewpoint of the Governor and her decisions, she sure hit a home run with Mr. Alme.”

Two main criticisms were mentioned repeatedly by conference participants on the meeting evaluation forms. One was the distance to travel, perhaps because it followed the Annual Conference in Glendive. Plentiful suggestions mentioned more central locations for midwinter conferences. The second area of concern was consistent throughout most workshops. People want and use handouts and miss them when there is nothing to refresh or emphasize what is being learned.

The MACo Conference Planning Committee will be meeting March 13 to discuss the evaluations and ways to curtail the increasing length of the conference.

INSURANCE PROGRAMS



JPIA Board of Trustees



Ed Costner
Casualty Actuarial Consultants
Brentwood, TN

SAFETY PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS

Park County



Rosebud County



Custer County



Liberty County



Gallatin County



NORTHCENTRAL MONTANA BEGINS 10-YEAR EFFORT TO FIGHT POVERTY

Northwest Area Foundation recently named Northcentral Montana a *Venture Community*.

Northwest Area Foundation helps communities reduce poverty in the eight states that the Great Northern Railroad served. The foundation anticipates distributing over \$200 million in Montana, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa over the next 10 years.

NEXT MEETING for 11 COUNTIES
Fort Benton—Montana Ag. Center
(across from High School football field)
March 6 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Why Northcentral Montana?

Low wages, high unemployment, and a decade old drought plague the 11 county region. (Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Pondera, Chouteau, Teton, Cascade and Judith Basin Counties). Poverty rates range from 13% to 34% with the greatest among the area's Indian nations (Blackfeet, Rocky Boy and Fort Belknap) and urban Indians. "Our reservation unemployment is as high as 70%," said Caroline Brown, Director of Business Information Center at Fort Belknap Tribal College.

Foundation's Unique Philosophy

Six years ago Northwest Area Foundation began years of strategic planning, community discussions, individual interviews, and research on these northern tier states. Several key messages emerged:

1. People have lost confidence in attempts to find outside solutions to local problems.
2. Many people have lost hope that communities can transform themselves.
3. When asked what might make a difference, many people said their communities needed the resources—not just financial, but also ideas, leadership, and coordination—to support their own efforts to improve their future.

The Foundation's mission and programs are based on these conclusions. The Foundation believes positive and directed change is possible, and hopes to share the results of their efforts.

Initially, the Foundation worked with communities in Central Oregon and Minor County, South Dakota to write long term plans. Late last Summer, four more areas were selected including Northcentral Montana.

The relationship is straight forward. The Foundation will assist the region with finances and expertise to write the 10-year plan. If it significantly reduces poverty and meets the Foundation's other criteria, the region will take the next step with the Foundation and have their support in making the plan a reality.

The Foundation acts independently when it makes a Venture Community designation. In the Montana case, Foundation staff interviewed community leaders throughout the region over a year ago. "I'm impressed with the way the Northwest Area Foundation wants to build this coalition from a community ground up perspective," Blaine County Commissioner Vic Miller said.

Northwest Area Foundation staff explained the program to about two dozen individuals at a meeting in Havre on November 7th. The eclectic group included church representatives, bankers, county commissioners, mayors, tribal leaders, economic development planners, human service providers and community volunteers. "Our common link was our interest in revitalizing the region by focusing on the least among us," Cascade County Commissioner Peggy Beltrone said.

Prodigious Task

The region's first task was to agree on an agency to manage the funding and choose two representatives. Bear Paw Economic Development will be the region's fiscal agent, with the funding deposited in the Native American Bank in Browning. George Heavy Runner, Browning, and Luanne Belcourt, Rocky Boy, will represent the region at training in St. Paul.

The mechanics of writing a plan for this large, diverse area is challenging. The region will take the Foundation's direction on how to proceed after Heavy Runner and Belcourt are trained. The group reassembled in Browning for a February session to review the region's economy and the existing social and economic services.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March

1-5 NACo Legislative Conference, Washington DC
 7 Montana Geographic Information Council; TBA
 7 Noxious Weed Awareness; MACo Conf. Room, 9:00 am
 11 **MACo Finance/Budget Committee; 10:00 am**
 13 **MACo Conference Planning Committee; 10:00 am**
 14 State Revenue for Local Gov'ts; Capitol Room 137;
 14 Political Practices-Lobbying Advisory Group; MACo; 9:00
 15 District Court Council
 18 Local Government Accounting Training; Billings
 20 Local Government Accounting Training; Glasgow
 21 Local Government Accounting Training; Miles City
 21 **Last Day to file as a candidate for office**
 21 Joint Economic Development; Dept. Transportation; 10:00
 26 Local Government Accounting Training; Great Falls
 27 Local Government Accounting Training; Missoula
 28 Local Government Accounting Training; Butte

April

2-5 Association of County Road Supervisors; Billings
 8 **MACo Districts 8, 9 and 12; Dillon**
 10 **MACo Districts 10 and 11; Polson**
 10-12 County Superintendents of Schools; Lewistown
 11 **JPA Workers' Comp. Trustees; MACo Conf. Room**
 12 **JPIA Property & Liability Renewal Meeting; MACo**
 15 **MACo Districts 4 and 5; Chinook**
 17 **MACo Districts 1, 2 and 3; Circle**
 19 **MACo Districts 6 and 7; Lewistown**
 19 District Court Council

REMINDER!

Please submit the name of your 2002 County Commission Chair to the MACo office.

Suggestions for Local Drought Committees

Keys to Successful Local Drought Responses

- County Commissioners officially appoint members of local drought committee. Choose a committee chair who is a local leader. Pull together county government, extension service, state representatives, watershed groups, and conservation districts to build political clout.
- Involve schools and students in water conservation education.
- Engage local media to disseminate timely information on drought. Use PSAs to show what people can do to mitigate local drought impacts. Develop water conservation materials for media dissemination and to circulate to local businesses such as restaurants, etc. for display.
- Contact MT Bureau of Mines and Geology for groundwater information.
- Hold a rural drought and fire meeting in early summer to encourage fire and drought planning and precautions for prevention and mitigation.
- Implement Agri-Met irrigation scheduling to save water and power. Plan irrigation from reservoirs carefully and conserve early on in season. Plant more cereal crops than alfalfa to mitigate water shortages. Apply early for DNRC's low-interest loans to improve irrigation efficiency.
- Define and prepare eligibility formulas for USDA assistance programs administered by the Farm Services Agency. Local drought committees can work with local FSA Office to assess moisture conditions for data needed by local USDA food committees.
- Soil moisture content is a better indicator of drought conditions for agriculture than precipitation.

Spring Drought Preparedness Conference for Local Drought Coordinators

- Invite from every county in Montana and pay travel expenses through grant funding obtained by DNRC.
- Hold the Conference in a centralized location.
- The Conference Agenda should:
 - Demonstrate how to use the Montana Drought Web site to find relevant information on ways to mitigate drought impacts, sources of drought assistance funding, real-time data on drought impacts, etc.
 - Present mitigation information on drought impacts in cities, towns and rural communities.
 - Review successful drought mitigation plans such as those developed by watershed groups in the Jefferson, Big Hole and Blackfoot River Basins.

The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee

- Work with Congress to open CRP lands early to provide timely mitigation from forage shortages and prevent premature liquidation of livestock.
- Involve the Montana Association of Counties as a channel to localities.
- Find counseling for psychological concerns caused by severe drought.
- Encourage member agencies to support watershed group efforts.
- Have Office of Governor keep visibility of drought issues high (PSAs).
- Continue to work for Montana's interests in National Drought policy dialog.
- Survey county drought committees for good ideas.
- Post income tax information and other helpful items on Internet site.

Attorney General OPINIONS

Volume 49 No. 16

Question:

Does the library board have the power to require the county commissioners to levy five mills in support of the county library?

Held:

1. The county commissioners are generally obligated to fund the library budget submitted by the library board within the limits set by MCA 15-10-420.
2. The county has the power to enter an inter-local agreement under which it could bind itself to fund the library budget as submitted by the library board under MCA 22-1-309(1).

Requested by:

John T. Flynn
Broadwater County Attorney

Volume 49 No. 17

Question:

Does the two-year residency requirement of MCA 7-4-2104 (2) disqualify from standing for election a person who was transferred into a county commission district by virtue of reapportionment conducted pursuant to MCA 7-4-2102?

Held:

The two-year residency requirement contained in MCA 7-4-2104(2) does not disqualify from standing for election a person who was transferred into a county commission district by virtue of reapportionment conducted pursuant to MCA 7-4-2101, as long as the person has resided at the same address, now in the new district, for the requisite two-year period.

Requested by:

Brant S. Light
Cascade County Attorney

FIREFIGHTING GRANTS

U.S. Fire Administration encourages an electronic application process at www.usfa.fema.gov/grants. Maximum grants of \$750,000 will be awarded in several categories: firefighting equipment, vehicles, prevention programs, training (including fire department EMS), and fitness/wellness. A 10% match is required for departments serving fewer than 50,000 people; 30% match is required when serving over 50,000. Applications will be accepted until March 31, with rankings held in April and awards announced mid-May. For information phone toll free 866-274-1960 or email usfagrants@fema.gov.

PREPAREDNESS EQUIPMENT GRANTS

The State of Montana has a total of \$883,000 for preparedness equipment grants. Requests for applications are due by April 1. The complete grant application is to be submitted by June 1 and will be accepted only from Local Emergency Planning Committees. Awards will be for 1) personal protective equipment, 2) chemical, biological or radiological detection equipment, 3) decontamination equipment or 4) communications equipment. The awards will be announced August 1. More information is available from Sheri Medow Smith at 841-3969 or sheris@state.mt.us.

MackKAY APPOINTED U.S. MARSHALL

Dwight MacKay, former Yellowstone County Commissioner, is Montana's new U.S. Marshal. Since leaving the County Commission, MacKay has been serving as State Director for US Senator Conrad Burns. Previous to his County Commission service, MacKay spent ten years in law enforcement.

The U.S. Marshal's office in Billings employs 19 deputies and staff and has 36 court security officers under contract. The major duties are to provide security for federal judges, to transport federal prisoners and to assist in apprehending federal fugitives.

SHERIDAN COUNTY SURPLUS AUCTION

APRIL 27 AT THE COUNTY SHOP (4246 HWY 16 S)

Contributors include the County, local schools, town, fire departments

ITEMS INCLUDE:

SELECTION OF NEW PARTS FOR OLDER CATERPILLAR DOZERS AND GRADERS
LIMITED SELECTION OF PARTS FOR CHAMPION, GALLEON, INTERNATIONAL AND WABCO

For more information call Dellas Christensen, 765-1221

2001-2002 FOREST RESERVE RECEIPTS

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| ANACONDA-DEER LODGE | \$ 43,706 |
| BEAVERHEAD | 205,550 |
| BROADWATER | 22,691 |
| BUTTE-SILVER BOW | 63,075 |
| CARBON | 50,703 |
| CARTER | 13,690 |
| CASCADE | 47,052 |
| CHOUTEAU | 8,112 |
| FERGUS | 25,047 |
| FLATHEAD | 1,502,228 |
| GALLATIN | 109,518 |
| GLACIER | 7,504 |
| GOLDEN VALLEY | 6,287 |
| GRANITE | 410,187 |
| JEFFERSON | 180,604 |
| JUDITH BASIN | 78,285 |
| LAKE | 119,862 |
| LEWIS AND CLARK | 422,863 |
| LINCOLN | 5,664,639 |
| MADISON | 141,563 |
| MEAGHER | 133,754 |
| MINERAL | 717,143 |
| MISSOULA | 704,873 |
| PARK | 145,112 |
| PONDERA | 27,380 |
| POWDER RIVER | 46,442 |
| POWELL | 456,225 |
| RAVALLI | 307,199 |
| ROSEBUD | 13,060 |
| SANDERS | 1,629,594 |
| STILLWATER | 28,495 |
| SWEET GRASS | 49,283 |
| TETON | 61,858 |
| WHEATLAND | 16,732 |

SAFETY RAY SEZ

BY Ray Barnicoat
MACo Risk Manager



Over the past several months my risk management articles have addressed the Hepatitis C epidemic. I have talked about the concerns the insurance industry has had over this risk exposure and the rapid growth of this disease in our society.

I talked about the need for educating our employees who are at risk of being exposed to this disease. In visiting with a number of county sheriffs and other first responder groups, I have been pleased to hear that the training has been going on with a good number of you.

Training is still our best defense. This stuff can come at you in ways that would blow your mind. The most disheartening example I want to share with you is a story that was published in the Helena Independent Record on Friday, October 12, 2001. The story tells about a grade school teacher in a public school in southeastern Montana who was being charged with exposing five 2nd-grade students to Hepatitis C Virus during a demonstration of blood drawing.

The 55-year-old substitute teacher pricked the fingers of students with the same needle he used to puncture his own finger only moments earlier. According to court documents, the teacher knew that he was infected with the liver disease, knew it was contagious, knew it was spread by contact with blood and knew the virus could cause serious health problems, including death.

The chances of infection from needle sticks are slim, according to Jim Murphy, health specialist with the Department of Public Health and Human Services. This may be good news but I think we always have to remain mindful that the potential for infection is always there. The only way this risk can be properly managed is through education and the practice of good universal precautions. You will never know for sure where or how you may become exposed.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
SYSTEMS PROGRAM
GASB 34 Seminars**

Local Government Services Bureau, in the Division of Administrative Financial Services of Department of Administration, provides technical assistance in the areas of budgeting, accounting and financial reporting for local governments. This service continues to be provided at no charge as our program is fully funded by State general fund appropriations. Included in our services are training seminars with a wide variety of accounting topics of interest to local government finance and administrative personnel.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued Statement No. 34, which significantly changes the way in which governments report their financial activity. We have made a commitment to provide sufficient training to assist you in implementing the provisions of the statement within the timelines defined by the GASB. We are treating all counties, cities and towns in Montana phase 2 governments, which means that we have targeted FY June 30, 2003, as the first year of reporting under the new reporting model defined in GASB #34. Because of the comprehensive nature of GASB #34, it is not only a concern for finance/administrative personnel, but also for members of the governing body as well.

Consequently, we have made plans to conduct training seminars covering specific GASB #34 topics over the 18-month period from January 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. The specific dates and locations have not been finalized. We will notify you when they are. The topics to be covered and the general dates are:

Seminar #1 – March, 2002

Fixed Assets/Infrastructure Assets/Depreciation

Seminar #2 – June, 2002

Major Fund Determination/Revenue Classifications/Fiduciary Fund Realignment/FYE 2003 HB #124 Budget Considerations* (*unrelated to GASB #34)

Seminar #3 – October, 2002

Modified Accrual vs. Full Accrual Accounting/Cash Flow Reporting

Seminar #4 - April, 2003

Management Discussion & Analysis (MD & A)

Seminar #5 - June, 2003

Report Preparation/Required Supplementary Information

We have selected six sites at which these seminars may be conducted—Billings, Glasgow, Miles City, Butte, Missoula and Great Falls. These sites are subject to change as a result of input from local governments.

For more information, fax (406) 841-2910 or email mahughes@state.mt.us.

NACo INFORMATION

**COUNTY RETIREMENT PROGRAM
RANKS FIRST**

NACo's deferred compensation program, administered by Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS), placed first among its competitors for its return on the fixed annuity option offered to county employees.

The NACo program is the largest deferred compensation program in the country for county employees.

The study which determined the rating was conducted by Buck Consultants and released in January. The study has been performed every year since 1989 and the NACo program has always come out on top. The NACo program is the only one in the country that receives oversight and is advised by county participants. More than 380,000 county employees participate.

Montana county employees are served by Randy Grow, who can be reached at 800-627-1583 or online at growr@nationwide.com .

Rural County Governance Center

The Rural County Governance Center was established in July 2001 and was designed to provide rural public officials with information on emerging and current issues facing rural communities.

NACo President Javier Gonzales initiated the Center to increase the capacity of rural county elected officials to develop and sustain vibrant rural communities.

The Center's activities this year will focus on developing a virtual library containing model programs, information resources and funding information. It will sponsor applied research and publish research reports of vital interest. The Center will also conduct various conferences and workshops on critical issues during the year.

These are on-line resources of the Rural County Governance Center:

**Rural County Governance Center
Virtual Library**

Model Programs, Information, and Funding Resources

- Economic Development
- Rural Health
- Environmental Issues
- Telecommunications
- Transportation and Infrastructure

Research Reports

- County Government Survey

This information can be accessed at:

www.naco.org/programs/comm_dev/rural/index.cfm .

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2nd Vice President: Carol Brooker
Commissioner, Sanders County

Fiscal Officer: Dan Watson
Commissioner, Rosebud County

Urban Representative: Mike Murray
Commissioner, Lewis & Clark County

Past President: Gary Fjelstad
Commissioner, Rosebud County

District Chairs

1. Carol Kienenberger, Phillips County
2. Todd Devlin, Prairie County
3. William Duffield, Fallon County
4. Doug Kaercher, Hill County
5. Arnold Gettel, Teton County
6. Joy Schanz, Golden Valley County
7. John Prinkki, Carbon County
8. Sam Samson, Jefferson County
9. Jennifer S. Mitchell, Gallatin County
10. Howard Gipe, Flathead County
11. Judy Stang, Mineral County
12. Ted Coffman, Madison County

Associate Board Members

Leo Gallagher, Lewis & Clark County
Attorney

Cheryl Hansen, Roosevelt County
Clerk & Recorder

Dena Tippets, Hill County
Clerk of District Court

Tim Wong, Cascade County
Coroner

Gary A. Olsen, Broadwater County
Justice of the Peace

Dottie Donovan, Beaverhead County
Superintendent of Schools

Chuck Maxwell, Yellowstone County
Sheriff

Susan Miller, Jefferson County
Treasurer

Staff

C. Gordon Morris Executive Director
L. Harold Blattie Assistant Director
Carla Smith Financial Officer
Oline Barta Administrative Assistant
Marie McAlear Publications Officer
Karen Houston Meeting Planner
Ray Barnicoat Risk Manager
Emelia McEwen Assistant Risk Manager
Greg Jackson JPIA Marketing Director
Jack Holstrom Personnel Services
Fran Monro JPA/JPIA Admin. Assistant

Affiliate Members

Browning Ferris Industries of Mon-
tana (BFI)

Employee Benefits
Management Services (EBMS)

Entranco, Inc.

Life Care Services (BCRC)

Montana Association of County
Information Technology

Administrators (MACITA)

Montana Association of County
Road Supervisors (MACRS)

Montana Contractors Association

Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

Montana Power Company

Morrison-Maierle, Inc.

MSU Extension Service

Norman Grosfield, Helena

Roscoe Steel & Culvert Company

Stahly Engineering

Tractor & Equipment Company,
Williston, ND

Tractor & Equipment Company,
Great Falls

Tractor & Equipment Company,
Billings

Willis