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NEWSLETTER GOING ELECTRONIC MACo might not have your email address

THIS IS THE FINAL HARD-COPY PRINTED VERSION OF "MACo NEWS".

Beginning in April, the newsletter will be e-mailed in a format which will require the Adobe Reader program. This is a free program to download and install on any computer. Go to <http://adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

If MACo does not have your email address, you will no longer receive this newsletter. Please check pages 8-9 for the list of agencies and people with no email addresses in MACo records. If you are on the list and want to receive the newsletter, please send your email address to macopb@maco.cog.mt.us

Recently, the MACo Board of Directors directed this change as a cost-cutting measure for the MACo budget. An electronic version of the newsletter will eliminate the \$770 monthly expense for printing and mailing the newsletter.

Volume 1, Number 1 of "MACC News" was mailed to member counties in April 1972.

At that time the group was known as Montana Association of County Commissioners. One year later, the Montana Association of Counties was organized with Bylaws directing the functions and district designations for counties. Big news in the

1970's was the Constitutional Convention and the first series of local government study commissions.

In the 1980's, headline topics ranged through hiring the new Executive Director Gordon Morris, loss of federal revenue sharing, veteran's preference and the Garcia decision on overtime pay, tax relief, and full-funding for P.I.L.T.

The 1990's covered subjects such as the Open Meeting Law, welfare reform, tax reform, assessors becoming state employees, Garfield County Courthouse fire and adding associate members to the MACo Board of Directors.

In 1978, Beverly Gibson, then the Public Relations Director, began her service on the newsletter. She served as the editor for 20 years, until her retirement in 1998. Jane Jelinski, MACo Assistant Director, produced the newsletter for the next three years. When she left MACo to head the Local Government Center at MSU in July 2001, Marie McAlear assumed the duty.

**FY 2004-2005
COST-OF-LIVING
ADJUSTMENT
FOR
COUNTY SALARIES**

2.3%

MIDWINTER CONFERENCE BUSINESS SESSION MACo DUES INCREASE

President Carol Brooker, Sanders County, called roll. 41 Counties were present and quorum was announced.

Dan Watson, Past Fiscal Officer, Rosebud County, introduced the subject of a MACo dues increase.

“Most of you have had an opportunity to read the talking points on the dues increase. Basically what we are proposing is a one-time 25% surcharge on the current dues structure for the upcoming budget year. This particular proposal will generate approximately \$60,000 in revenue. Then the direction of the Board of Directors is that the Tax, Finance and Budget Committee proceed with a new dues structure proposal for the next upcoming general session.”

Rita Windom, Lincoln County, Tax, Finance and Budget Committee

“The Committee has been working hard on this issue and we feel that we have made progress. We’ve been working very closely with Harold, who is a wonderful representative for us. He has been developing a plan to bring to you in September that will be fair and equitable to everyone. I’m not in favor of dues increases at any time, except now. Our reserves are low and we have a potential of losing some of our higher paid staff. I would rather that we be proactive, be prepared and have funds in place than to come to you in a crisis situation saying, “We need this money and we need it now.” It isn’t fair to you as members not to have a chance to budget for it. I ask that you give your support so that we have funds put away and so that we can come back in September with a plan that you can approve.”

The motion to adopt a one-time dues increase and have the Tax, Finance and Dues Committee come back with a dues proposal at the next session was seconded. The motion carried on a voice vote.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 4	Property Tax Reappraisal; MACo; 9:00
March 9-10	DPHHS Medicaid Redesign; MACo
March 9-10	Tax Reform Committee; Capitol 317
March 17	Noxious Weed Meeting; MACo
March 23-24	MACo Mental Health Summit; Helena
March 25	Last day to file for office

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1	MACo Land Use Planning Committee; MACo
April 7-8	JPA Actuarial and JPIA Renewals Meeting
April 13-15	Road Supervisors Convention; Bozeman
April 26-30	Magistrates Convention; Butte
April 28-30	School Superintendents Convention; Livingston



MID WINTER BOARD MEETING SELECTIONS FROM MINUTES

Information Technology Report on E-Government Services: The IT Committee, after reviewing the RFP's, invited "mylocalgov.com" to meet with the Committee and also with a delegation of Treasurers and Clerk and Recorders. Tim Melton of "mylocalgov.com" described their approach to e-government and how he hoped to work with Montana counties. IT Chair Mary Sexton noted that the meeting with the Clerks and the Treasurers brought favorable reactions.

MACo Policy on Committees: Carol Brooker, MACo President, had asked for a clarification of the policy related to MACo committees. A prepared statement was distributed to the Board. She asked the members to review it and direct comments to her or Executive Director Morris before the Board meeting in June.

MACo/Nationwide Retirement System/NACo Partnership Presentation: Robert Hoffman, NRS Regional Director, provided a brief overview of the partnership between Nationwide Retirement, NACo and MACo. Currently 47 counties in Montana participate. The joint marketing effort earns the Association about \$11,000 a year.

MACo/U.S. Communities Contract: Executive Director Morris announced a sponsorship agreement with the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, a voluntary program affording counties with another purchasing alternative. He introduced Tom Sweet, Corporate Relations Director with NACo, who briefed the Board on the various benefits, including favorable pricing achieved by aggregating the purchasing power of counties throughout the country. Morris noted that the agreement letter and information on the program would be sent out.

Other Business:

1. Associate member Greg Hintz, representing sheriffs, announced a meeting to discuss prisoner transportation and the Transcorp Contract Proposal. The sheriffs were not interested in a contract and were considering withdrawing from prisoner transportation, leaving it entirely with the Department of Corrections.

2. Assistant Director Blattie described an employee identification project which was approved for funding under the homeland security grant program. This will enable counties to provide identification cards for employees.

3. Commissioner Certification Curriculum has been completed by the Local Government Center at Montana State University. The first certification program, a 16-hour session, will be offered December 6-8.

4. Orientation session for the voter review process has been scheduled for December 13-15 at MSU. The agenda would be developed during the next several months with the League of Cities and Towns and the Local Government Center.

5. Spring District Meetings will be scheduled in either late April or early May.

6. Urban Representative Curtiss announced regional fire finance workshops and advised commissioners to watch for the dates and try to attend one in their area.

7. Board member Rehbein questioned the Association's policy for affiliate members. It was pointed out that affiliate membership provides corporate sponsors with being qualified for membership benefits. Any organization could have more than one affiliate membership.

8. A Cooperating Agency Workshop has been scheduled for Missoula on April 20th. This workshop will be limited to 50 participants with a \$30 registration fee.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (CDBG)

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) **Planning Grant** applications are due **April 23**. CDBG Housing and Public Facility grants applications are due in 2004 and funded in 2005. **Public Facility Grant** applications are due **May 28** and **Housing Grant** applications are due **November 19**.

More information is at
www.commerce.state.mt.us/CDD/CDD or
Joanne Gilbert, 841-2791 or jgilbert@state.mt.us

APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

W₂ASACT (Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team) will present federal and state low interest loan and grant programs for water, sewer and solid waste projects and other eligible CDBG projects.

Monday, March 8, 1:00—5:00 pm CDBG
Holiday Inn, Missoula
Tuesday, March 9, 8:30 am—5:00 pm W₂ASACT
Holiday Inn, Missoula

Monday, March 16, 8:30 am—5:00 pm W₂ASACT
Colonial Hotel, Helena
Wednesday, March 17, 8:30 am—noon CDBG
Colonial Hotel, Helena

Tuesday, March 30, 8:30 am—5:00 pm W₂ASACT
Cottonwood Inn, Glasgow
Wednesday, March 31, 8:30 am—Noon CDBG
Cottonwood Inn, Glasgow

Thursday, April 1, 8:30 am
Sheraton Hotel, Billings
Friday, April 2, 8:30 am DCBG
Sheraton Hotel, Billings

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BOAT FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM

Deadline April 9

The Motor Boat Facility Program, sponsored by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), provides funds to cities, town and counties in Montana for motorboating facility improvements.

During the 2002 cycle, funding went to seven different projects statewide.

For the 2004 cycle, a total of \$150,000 is available for grants. The grants require a local match of 20%, with 80% from grant funds. The grant deadline is April 9, 2004. Typical projects include such facilities as ramps, docks, latrines, boat trailer parking areas and information signs.

Detailed information can be found at:
www.fwp.state.mt.us/parks/motorboat/default.asp

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT TRAINING

May 5-6
Polson

Topics include summaries on growth trends and water quality status; nutrients and biologicals from wastewater; EPA's five management models; Montana options and examples of wastewater treatment systems for individual or small community systems.

The sessions are sponsored by Lake County Environmental Health and Planning Department, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Natural Resources Department, Missoula City-County Environmental Health Department, and Rowland Environmental Consulting, Inc. Contact Sue Brueggeman at 883-7236 or susan.envhealth@lakecounty-mt.org



PREVENTING FALLS
By Emelia McEwen
MACo Assistant Risk Manager

Falls are the fourth leading cause of death across all industries. 50% of workers who fall eleven feet or more to a hard surface are killed. Falls are also the #1 cause of disabling injuries.

Roofs and Vents

Any opening in a roof or in a floor should be marked clearly and protected with guardrails or covered with materials which support 200 pounds. Smoke-vent or skylight plastic domes often fail to support a body weight. OSHA construction standards require a guard railing around all sides or a cover to support a 200 lb. worker.

Scaffolds and Ladders

72% of workers injured in scaffolding accidents attribute the fall to the support or planking giving way or to the employee slipping.

The maximum work height should not exceed four times the base dimension unless outriggers, guy wires or braces are added for stability. Any metal anchoring equipment that has been dropped or placed under excessive weight should be replaced because undetectable microfractures may exist in metal components. The five-year replacement rule applies to all nylon ropes exposed to sunlight.

Unstable materials such as barrels, boxes or loose brick are not safe for supporting scaffolding or ladders. Horizontally placed ladders do not make safe scaffolds.

Harnesses

Personal fall protection systems should be provided for any worker exposed to a fall hazard of 7.5 feet or more. The system should allow the worker to move only within the confines of the work area. The anchor should support four times its intended load. Body harnesses with nylon components that are exposed consistently to sunlight should be replaced after five years. Ropes exposed to wear against rough surfaces should be regularly inspected.


OSHA and US Department of Labor offer many online resources, including eTools for online safety training. Safety checklists for various worksites are also available.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>CITATION</u>
March 25	Deadline to call for local government review	7-3-173(2)
June 8	Primary Election Vote on whether or not to review local government	7-3-173(2)
June 15	Deadline for vote canvass; begin candidate filing	7-3-174(1)
June 30	Deadline for vote results to Secretary of State	7-3-174(2)
August 19	Last day for candidate filing—no filing fee; no primary; nonpartisan	7-3-176(2)
November 2	General Election of study commissioners	7-3-176
November 9	Deadline of election canvass	7-3-174(1)
November 24	Deadline to submit results to Secretary of State	7-3-174(2)

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2004 COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRS

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE Russ Bilodeau
BEAVERHEAD Mike McGinley
BIG HORN John Pretty on Top
BLAINE Don Swenson

BROADWATER James Hohn
BUTTE-SILVER BOW Michael Kerns
CARBON John Prinkki
CARTER James Courtney

CASCADE Tom Stelling
CHOUTEAU Kenneth Evans
CUSTER Janet Kelly
DANIELS Bill Tande

DAWSON Bill LaBree
FALLON Roddy Rost
FERGUS Vern Petersen
FLATHEAD Howard Gipe

GALLATIN John Vincent
GARFIELD Julie Jordan
GLACIER Bill Icenoggle
GOLDEN VALLEY Joan Krause

GRANITE Joann Huffsmith
HILL Patrick Conway
JEFFERSON Sherry Cargill
JUDITH BASIN Richard Cervenka

LAKE David Stipe
LEWIS and CLARK Mike Murray
LIBERTY Russ Tempel
LINCOLN John Konzen

MADISON Ted Coffman
McCONE Robert Kluth
MEAGHER Herb Townsend
MINERAL Judy Stang

MISSOULA Barbara Evans
MUSSELSHELL Bryan Adolph
PARK Ed Schilling
PETROLEUM Lee Iverson

PHILLIPS Carol Kienenberger
PONDERA Sam Harris
POWDER RIVER Ray Traub
POWELL Tom Hatch

PRAIRIE Ann Marie Davis
RAVALLI Betty Lund
RICHLAND Don Stepler
ROOSEVELT FerrisToavs

ROSEBUD Dan Watson
SANDERS Justin Gail Patton
SHERIDAN Bill Nyby
STILLWATER Maureen Davey

SWEET GRASS Lloyd Berg
TETON Mary Sexton
TOOLE Allan Underdal
TREASURE Roger Knapp

VALLEY Dave Reinhardt
WHEATLAND David Miller
WIBAUX Glenn Hutchinson
YELLOWSTONE Bill Kennedy

MACRS 2004 CONFERENCE

April 13-15

From Jack Knorr, President, Stillwater County

Montana Association of County Road Supervisors (MACRS) will meet at the Best Western GranTree Inn in Bozeman, April 13-15. MACRS President Jack Knorr, Stillwater County, invites all commissioners and county officials to attend.

Road issues are a major county taxpayer concern. MACRS considers the conference to be a time for elected officials to meet and exchange ideas with the county road supervisors from across the State.

Speakers who are recognized experts within the transportation industry will come from several Northwestern states.

A block of rooms has been set aside at the GranTree, and attendees are encouraged to make early reservations.

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COUNTY NEWS

TETON COUNTY Weed District was named "Outstanding District" at the 2003 Montana Weed Control Association Annual Meeting. The District, managed by Paul Wick, features a coordinated effort of different approaches to weed control. 1) The Annual Weed Whacker Rodeo is an educational day which includes hand pulling Spotted Knapweed. 2) Goats are used to graze portion of creek bottoms, which is followed by an aerial herbicide application. Grants and landowner contributions fund the project, which is in its fifth year. 3) Another grant matches land owners herbicide, dye and surfactant costs. 4) Leafy Spurge flea beetles have been used for at least ten years. 5) Three species of insects have been introduced to control Spotted Knapweed. 6) Other types of insects have helped keep Musk Thistle under control. "No longer is it just 'so and so's' problem, but a drainage problem. This attitude can and will make the difference," said Wick.

HILL COUNTY Justice Court now has a completely remodeled courtroom. It is very professional looking, much to the appreciation and satisfaction of Justice of Peace Terry Stoppa.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY Attorney offices have been updated in the first phase of a \$690,000 building remodeling. "It's the nicest office I've ever worked in. It's the first time in my career I've had a window," said County Attorney Leo Gallagher.

BUTTE-SILVER BOW is reviewing a "waste-in-place" remedy to leave most of the mine waste in the area. The County is proposing a trust to finance land redevelopment.

PARK COUNTY is closing its controversial solid waste incinerator because of costs. The cost to build a transfer station and send garbage to an out-of-county landfill is less than the required EPA upgrades to the 22-year old incinerator.

SHERIDAN, DANIELS, ROOSEVELT, McCONE AND DAWSON COUNTIES have met with Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company in an effort to prevent abandonment of the two railway lines in those counties.

JEFFERSON COUNTY citizen advisory group has presented options to address the county budget shortages. Public meetings were held in February in preparation for a possible public vote on options in June.

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY is considering water meters for all new connections to the water system. Agencies have been reluctant to grant funds because of lack of meters on the water system.

LIBERTY COUNTY has erected an 80' wind turbine which could provide up to 2/3 of the electricity needed for county operations. Energy from the generator will feed directly into NorthWestern Energy power grid. A meter on the turbine will record how much power the turbine produces. At the end of each year, NorthWestern will reimburse the county for the amount of electricity its turbine fed into the system.

FERGUS COUNTY is proposing an airspace zoning ordinance which is expected to become a model for other airports. A major feature of the ordinance is the notification which landowners near the airport, who are selling property, must give

prospective buyers.

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY is protesting an Atlantic Richfield Company plan to move millions of cubic yards of arsenic-laden sediment from the 100-year-old Milltown Dam to the ponds near Anaconda. Milltown Dam is slated for removal. "Arco is going to take care of their problem in Missoula County by bringing it to their property in our County," said Commissioner Dave Beatty.

MADISON COUNTY is being sued for cruel and unusual punishment by three people who were held in the basement jail in the 1876 Courthouse. The jail is considered to be a holding facility only.

LAKE and JEFFERSON COUNTIES have publicized the need to replace the vote scanner or counter in order to be in compliance with the Help America Vote Act. Their current equipment is not compatible with the voting equipment that is now required, and replacements are not covered in the funding from state and federal sources.

CHOUTEAU, FERGUS and BLAINE COUNTIES will finally receive new ferries for routes across the Missouri River. Congressional earmarks over the last several years will cover most of the costs. The three ferries are to be delivered this summer and MT Department of Transportation will oversee the construction of the towers, cable systems, access roads, restrooms and dwellings. Currently, the 60-year old ferries use tractor engines for which parts are no longer available. The new ferries and towers, which are historically accurate and designed to look like the old ferries, will be in place in time for local celebrations

NO E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Beginning next month, newsletters will not be sent to these people and agencies unless

email addresses are given to macopb@maco.cog.mt.us

Action for Eastern Montana, Patricia Callaghan
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Commissioner Dave Beatty
Anaconda-Deer Lodge Co. Commissioner Paul Beausoliel
Anaconda-Deer Lodge Co. Commissioner Russ Bilodeau
Anaconda-Deer Lodge Coroner Rex Lewis
Associated Press, Helena
Belgrade Rural Fire District
Beaverhead Co. Clerk and Recorder Rosalee Richardson
Big Horn County Coroner Terry Bullis
Big Horn County Sheriff Larson Medicinehorse
Broadwater County Road Department, John Masolo
Browning-Ferris Industries; Max Bauer, Missoula
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Paul Babb
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Ted Bury
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Laura Lee Dunlap
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Ristene Hall
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Michael Kerns
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Joe Lee
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Michael Mulcahy
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Charlie O'Leary
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Joe Quilici
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Mike Sheehy
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner John Sorich
Butte-Silver Bow Commissioner Bud Walker
Butte-Silver Bow County Attorney Robert McCarthy
Butte-Silver Bow Auditor Dannette Harrington
Butte-Silver Bow Coroner Lee LaBreche
Butte-Silver Bow Justice of Peace Bob Lee
Butte-Silver Bow Justice of Peace Debra D. Williams
Butte-Silver Bow Public Administrator Greg O'Leary
Butte-Silver Bow Public Works Director Jimmy Johnston
Carbon County Sheriff C. Lance Bourquin
Carter County Attorney Richard Harkins
Carter County Clerk and Recorder Pam Castleberry
Carter County Justice of Peace Tracey Walker
Carter County Public Administrator Mike Quade
Carter County Road Department, Ivan Jardee
Cascade County Public Administrator John Boland
Cascade County Surveyor Donald Henen
Chouteau County Road Department
Chronister, Moreen & Larson, Helena
Connors, Dan, Miles City
Custer County Commissioner Duane Mathison
Custer County Commissioner Milo Huber
Custer County Public Administrator Jan Alexander
Daniels County Attorney Ken Hoversland
Daniels County Clerk and Recorder Kristy Jones
Daniels County Justice of Peace Bud Kaul
Daniels County Road Department, Parris French
Daniels County Sheriff James Kramer
Daniels County Treasurer Ron Roberts
Dawson County Weed Department, Jim Sparks (MACO Brd)
Denning, Downey & Associates, Kalispell
Employee Benefit Management Serv.; Rick Larson, Billings
Fallon County Justice of Peace Anna Straub
Fallon County Public Administrator Russell Culver
Fergus County Public Administrator Steven Swiontkowski
Flathead County, IT, Norm Calvert
Gallatin County Coroner Duncan MacNab
Gallatin County Justice of Peace Gordon Smith
Garlington, Lohn & Robinson; Robert Sheridan, Missoula
Glacier County Public Administrator Richard Gonzales
Golden Valley County Justice of Peace Gail Schaff
Golden Valley County Road Department, Ceryl Hamilton
Golden Valley County Sheriff Floyd Fisher
Granite County Road Department
Granite County Surveyor William Bayer
HRDC, District 6, Lewistown
Hadebank, Cumming, Best & Savage, Jacque Best, Sidney
Hill County Justice of Peace Terry Stoppa
Hill County Public Administrator Carol Bachini-Wood
Hughes, Kellner, Sullivan & Alke, Stuart Kellner, Helena
Indiana Association of Counties
Jefferson County Justice of Peace Dennis Giulio
Judith Basin County Commissioner Ed Arnott
Judith Basin County Commissioner Richard Cervenka
Lake County Road Department, Robert Smith
Lee Newspapers, State Bureau, Helena
Liberty County Attorney Hugh Brown
Liberty County Justice of Peace Neal Allen Eveland
Liberty County Sheriff Richard Burrows
Life Care Services, Kent Kleinkopf, Missoula
Lincoln County Coroner Steven Schnackenberg
Lincoln County Justice of Peace Gary Hicks
Lincoln County Justice of Peace Terry Utter
Lincoln County Public Administrator Jeannie Dennis
Lincoln County Road Department
Lowry, Allan, Cut Bank
Madison County Public Administrator Neil Kent
McCone County Attorney Kendall Link
McCone County Justice of Peace Mary Garfield
McCone County Public Administrator Don Haber
McCone County Road Department, Dennis Tolan
McCone County Sheriff Dave Harris
MDU Resources Group, E.J. Redding, Helena
Meagher / Wheatland County Attorney Linda Hickman
Meagher County Justice of Peace Ronda Shinabarger
Meagher County Public Administrator Fern Vinton
Meagher County Road Department, Raymond Ringer
Meagher County Sheriff Rick Seidlitz
Mineral County Justice of Peace Wanda James
Mineral County Road Department, Bill Vique
Mineral County Sheriff Anita Parkin
Missoula Co. Sheriff's Office—T. Gregory Hintz (MACo Brd.)
Montana Department of Administration, Director
Montana Department of Commerce, Community Dev.
Montana Department of Military Affairs, DES
Montana Office of the Governor, Indian Affairs
Montana Office of the Governor, Governor
Montana Office of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor
Montana State University, Extension Service Director
Montana State University, Local Technical Assistance

MISSING E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Montana State University, Rural Health Office, David Young
 Montana: University of Montana, Law Library
 Morrison Maierle, John Pavsek, Helena
 Morrison Maierle, Rodger Foster, Helena
 Musselshell County Commissioner Bryan Adolph
 Musselshell County Commissioner Robert Goffena
 Musselshell County Commissioner Larry Lekse
 Musselshell County Public Administrator (vacant)
 Northwest Area Foundation, Connections Program, St. Paul
 Oil, Gas and Coal Counties, Vicki Steiner
 Park County Attorney Tara Depuy
 Park County Coroner Albert Jenkens
 Park County Justice of Peace Deanna Egeland
 Park County Public Administrator Darla Berumen
 Park County Road Department, Rick Johnston
 Petroleum County Commissioner Tom Pugrud
 Petroleum County Commissioner Lloyd Rowton
 Petroleum County Attorney William Berger
 Petroleum County Justice of Peace Donna Lund
 Petroleum County Road Department, Gary Allen
 Petroleum County Sheriff William Troutwine
 Phillips County Road Department, Larry Johnson
 Piper and Jaffray, Gorden Hoven, Helena
 Poff, Bing, Sidney
 Pondera County Public Administrator W. J. May
 Powder River County Commissioner Betty Aye
 Powder River County Coroner Kenneth Jesse
 Powder River County Public Administrator Frankie George
 Powder River County Road Department, Bob Smith
 Powell County Commissioner Gail Jones
 Powell County Commissioner Tom Hatch
 Powell County Coroner John Pohle
 Powell County Justice of Peace Terry McGillis
 Powell County Public Administrator Eva Rennfield
 Powell County Sheriff Scott Howard
 Prairie County Commissioner Ann Marie Davis
 Prairie County Commissioner Bill Leach
 Prairie County Attorney Dale Hubber
 Prairie County Justice of Peace Kathy Henry
 Prairie County Public Administrator Timothy Rittal
 Prairie County Road Department, Mark Trask
 Prairie County Sheriff William Klunder
 Ravalli County Attorney George Corn
 Ravalli County Justice of Peace Jim Bailey
 Ravalli County Public Administrator Frankie Laible
 Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman
 Rep. Rod Bitney, District 77, Kalispell
 Rep. Sylvia Bookout-Reinicke, District 71, Alberton
 Rep. Sue Dickinson, District 47, Great Falls
 Rep. George Everett, District 84, Kalispell
 Rep. Gary Forrester, District 16, Billings
 Rep. Eve Franklin, District 42, Great Falls
 Rep. Dick Haines, District 63, Missoula
 Rep. Daniel Hurwitz, District 40, White Sulphur Springs
 Rep. Larry Jent, District 29, Bozeman
 Rep. Dave Kasten, District 99, Brockway
 Rep. Jim Keane, District 36, Butte
 Rep. Carol Lambert, District 1, Hammond
 Rep. Bob Lawson, District 80, Whitefish
 Rep. Bruce Malcolm, District 25, Emigrant
 Rep. Jack Ross, District 24, Absarokee
 Rep. Jim Shockley, District 61, Victor
 Rep. Karl Waitschies, District 96, Peerless
 Rep. Bill Wilson, District 46, Great Falls
 Richland County Coroner Jack Fulkerson
 Richland County Public Administrator Frank DiFonzo
 Robert Peccia and Associates, Helena
 Roosevelt County Road Department, Tom Romo
 Roscoe Steele and Culvert, Cory Claussen, Missoula
 Sanders County Road Department, Jon Loraas
 Sen. John Cobb, District 25, Augusta
 Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, District 32, Missoula
 Sen. Aubyn Curtiss, District 41, Fortine
 Sen. William Glaser, District 8, Huntley
 Sen. Duane Grimes, District 20, Clancy
 Sen. Dan McGee, District 11, Laurel
 Sen. Linda Nelson, District 49, Medicine Lake
 Sen. Gerald Pease, District 3, Lodge Grass
 Sen. Glenn Roush, District 43, Cut Bank
 Sen. Mike Sprague, District 6, Billings
 Sen. Robert Storey, Jr., District 12, Park City
 Sen. Bill Tash, District 17, Dillon
 Sen. Joe Tropila, District 24, Great Falls
 Sen. Tom Zook, District 2, Miles City
 Short, Elliott, Henrickson, Harry Hughes, Bozeman
 Stahly Engineering, Helena
 Sweet Grass County Attorney Pat Dringman
 Sweet Grass County Coroner Joseph Hansen
 Sweet Grass County Public Administrator Sylvia Drivdahl
 Teton County Sheriff George Anderson
 Toole County Attorney Merle Raph
 Toole County Coroner Dan Whitted
 Toole County Justice of Peace Janice Freeland
 Toole County Public Administrator Helen Schnee
 Toole County Road Dept. Jim Midboe
 Toole County Sheriff Donna Matoon
 Treasure County Commissioner Doug Hollowell
 Treasure County Commissioner Roger Knapp
 Treasure County Attorney Gary Ryder
 Treasure County Justice of Peace Willis Etter
 Treasure County Road Department, Duane Schaak
 Treasure County Sheriff DeWayne Bates
 Treasure County Treasurer Kathleen Thomas
 Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins, C. Lewis, Great Falls
 U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Billings
 U.S. Forest Service, Government Relations, Missoula
 U.S. Federal Highway Administration, Helena
 U.S. Representative Dennis Rehberg—Montana Offices
 U.S. Senator Conrad Burns—Montana Offices
 U.S. Senator Max Baucus—Montana Offices
 Western Montana Area Agency on Aging, D. Lutke, Polson
 Wheatland County Commissioner David Miller
 Wheatland County Commissioner Richard Moe
 Wheatland County Commissioner Tom Bennett
 Wheatland County Justice of Peace Richard Egebakken
 Wheatland County Road Department, Tony Hensel
 Wheatland County Sheriff Steve Riveland
 Wheatland County Treasurer Rosemarie Steele
 Wibaux County Justice of Peace Bill Franks
 Wibaux County Road Department, Gary Lawrence
 Wibaux County Treasurer Sandra Evans
 Yellowstone County Data Processing; MACITA, R. Cavazos
 Yellowstone County Risk Manager Dwight Vigness

Risk Management & Loss Control THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

The 18th Annual Risk Management and Loss Control Conference was sponsored jointly by MACo, the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA) and the Local Technical Assistance Program. 47 Montana counties purchase their liability insurance through the MACo insurance pool, so this annual meeting is important and valuable

In October 2003, county offices were featured in Montana newspaper articles about an "audit" of local government offices conducted by the Montana Newspaper Association. Association representatives arrived at county offices asking for a variety of records and information. At jails and law enforcement centers, they asked for jail rosters and initial offense reports.

A Conference panel consisted of newspaper reporters / editors and John Shontz, who is Executive Director of Montana Newspaper Association. The panel explained that Montana Constitution has the strongest provision on the public's right to know in the US. In addition, Montana law directs information to be available to the general public, at the public offices, during the normal workday. The conflict comes between the right to know and the right to privacy, which are both stated in the Montana Constitution.

In law enforcement, the Criminal Justice Information Law lists information items that are clearly public, such as jail rosters and initial reports. The Law is equally clear that some items are not public, such as personal identifiers or medical information. However, exactly what information is to be available in "initial offense reports" is unclear. The Attorney General's Office, working with law enforcement offices and MSPOA, plans to have guidelines available soon.

MACo JPIA
Property & Casualty Insurance
for Public Entities

Greg Jackson

Marketing Director
Phone (406) 457-7210
Fax (406) 442-5238

NACo PUBLIC SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE FJELSTAD'S RESOLUTION

Rosebud County Commissioner Gary Fjelstad attended the NACo Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee meeting held in Deschutes County, Oregon. Fjelstad indicated this was one of the most informative NACo Steering Committee meetings he has attended since serving on the NACo Committee.

Outstanding presenters centered their talks on ways to cut costs and improve quality. Dr. Allan Kalmanoff's "Comprehensive Community Planning" dealt with detention issues such as overcrowding of county jails and presented alternatives. Other presentations regarding "Homeland Security" and "Justice Appropriations for Law Enforcement Block Grant Programs" were also very informative.

Fjelstad indicated a workshop by NACo on "How to Influence Congress Without Leaving Home" was outstanding and is a topic that would benefit all Montana counties in corresponding effectively with the congressional delegation in Washington D.C. Fjelstad plans to ask the MACo Executive Committee to consider the possibility of having Jeff Arnold from NACo make this same presentation at a MACo conference.

At the closing of the conference there was an open forum round table discussion where all counties in attendance participated in discussing issues in their individual states and counties. Topics included mental health in county jails, homeland security, and rising medical costs that counties are sustaining with inmates who are detained in county facilities awaiting trial. During the open forum, Commissioner Fjelstad presented a resolution that was received with unanimous support from the Steering Committee.

The proposed resolution would allow inmates to continue to receive Medicare and Medicaid medical benefits until they are actually convicted of a crime.

Any county that would like additional information about the resolution is encouraged to contact Rosebud County Commissioner Gary Fjelstad for more information. (346-2251 or rcc@rangeweb.net)



NACo INFORMATION



TO: Andrew Goldschmidt, NACo Membership Marketing Director

FROM: Harold Blattie, MACo Assistant Director

Montana is excited to join the ranks of states with 100% NACo membership. As a 100% membership state, Montana is entitled to a second member on the NACo Board of Directors.


We would like to advise you that Cascade County Commissioner Peggy Beltrone has been selected by MACO President Carol Brooker to be Montana's second member to the NACo Board of Directors. Commissioner Beltrone's appointment began January 1.

The Montana Association of Counties implemented the Adopt-a-County program to achieve the 100% status, enabling both the new member county and a commissioner from an identified sponsor county to receive a complimentary registration at a NACo Conference. Pursuant to the provisions of your Adopt-a-County program, the following individuals from sponsoring counties will be eligible for a complimentary registration:


- Big Horn County—sponsored by Hill County Commissioner Kathy Bessette
- Butte-Silver Bow County—sponsored by Lewis and Clark County Commissioner Mike Murray
- Cascade County—sponsored by Hill County Commissioner Doug Kaercher
- Garfield County—sponsored by McCone County Commissioner Connie Eissinger
- Lake County—sponsored by Lewis and Clark County Commissioner Anita Varone
- Treasure County—sponsored by Yellowstone County Commissioner Bill Kennedy
- Wheatland County—sponsored by Fergus County Commissioner Vern Petersen
- Wibaux County—sponsored by Rosebud County Commissioner Gary Fjelstad.

We have completed the appropriate NACo Steering Committee appointment forms online:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Agriculture and Rural Affairs | Kathy Bessette, Hill County |
| Community and Economic Development | Anita Varone, Lewis and Clark County |
| Environment, Energy and Land Use | Doug Kaercher, Hill County |
| Oil, Gas and Coal Co. Representative | Art Kleinjan, Blaine County |
| Health | Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County |
| Justice and Public Safety | Gary Fjelstad, Rosebud County |
| Labor and Employment | Carol Brooker, Sanders County |
| Public Lands | Connie Eissinger, McCone County |
| | Mike Murray, Lewis and Clark County |
| Forest Counties Representatives | Alan Thompson, Ravalli County |
| | Donna Sevalstad, Beaverhead County |
| Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs | Allan Underdal, Toole County |
| Transportation | Vernon Petersen, Fergus County |



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The National Association of Counties (in partnership with Nationwide Retirement Solutions and state associations of counties) provides this Section 457 Deferred Compensation Program.

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MACo News
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Website: <http://maco.cog.mt.us>

ARTICLES ARE WELCOMED BEFORE
THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH

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Sanders County
1st Vice President Bill Kennedy
Yellowstone County
2nd Vice President: Doug Kaercher
Hill County
Fiscal Officer Bill Nyby
Sheridan County
Urban Representative Jean Curtiss
Missoula Co
Past President Gary Fjelstad
Rosebud County

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2. Mark Rehbein, Richland County
3. Joan Stahl, Rosebud County
4. Art Kleinjan, Blaine County
5. Arnold Gettel, Teton County
6. Carl Seilstad, Fergus County
7. John Prinkki, Carbon County
8. Elaine Mann, Broadwater County
9. Bernie Lucas, Meagher County
10. Paddy Trusler, Lake County
11. Alan Thompson, Ravalli County
12. Thomas Hatch, Powell County

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Paulette DeHart, Lewis & Clark County
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Browning Ferris Industries of Montana
Employee Benefits Mgmt. Services (EBMS)
Entranco, Inc., Helena
Life Care Services, Missoula
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Technology Administrators (MACITA)
Montana Association of County Road
Supervisors (MACRS)
Montana Contractors Association, Helena
MDU Resources Group, Inc., Helena
Morrison-Maierle, Inc., Helena
MSU Extension Service, Bozeman
Norman Grosfield, Helena
NorthWestern Energy, Helena
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Tractor & Equipment Company, Williston
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