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MORRISON - MAIERLE

MACo SECOND VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES



JOHN PRINKKI
CARBON COUNTY
ELECTED 1989



FRANK NELSON
MADISON COUNTY
ELECTED 1999

MACo PARTICIPATION

MACo Board of Directors
Land Use Planning Committee
Oil, Gas and Coal Counties Board
Joint Powers Insurance Authority

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Beartooth Electric Cooperative, President
Southern Montana Electric Generation and
Transmission Cooperative, VP
Roberts Rural Fire District

OCCUPATION AND EDUCATION

Dairyman / Farmer / Rancher
Trained as Electronics Technician

SPECIAL ABILITIES

Consensus building and conflict resolution
Likes working with people.

I believe MACo's main role is to provide education and information. The most difficult part is in defining our legislative agenda. The Board of Directors and Executive Board need to give consideration to the concerns of all members. MACo leadership needs to have the patience to discuss any issue and be willing and able to give an historic perspective to these issues.

I believe MACo should focus on health insurance, jails, and tax policy.

MACo PARTICIPATION

Public Lands Committee
Taxation, Finance and Budget Committee
Montana Forest Counties Coalition, Vice Chair

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Rotary Club, President
Youth programs and scholarships
Fairgrounds--new recreation park development
CEP Workforce Area Council of Commissioners

OCCUPATION AND EDUCATION

Rancher / Retired School Superintendent
Masters of Education

SPECIAL ABILITIES

Fiscal and budget analysis
Understanding agriculture issues

I believe MACo's main role is to advocate for Montana counties. MACo is doing an excellent job with the legislature, has developed our insurance programs and represents us well at the national level.

We need to continue to focus on the public defender issue. In my county we are dealing with river access from public roads, which could be resolved by the legislature rather than in court. At the national level, we need to concentrate on: 1) the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Act 2) the healthy forest initiative and 3) de-listing of wolves.



My term as your president is rapidly coming to an end. It has been an eventful eighteen months. I have enjoyed the district meetings and driving across this beautiful state has been a real treat.

But spending time with county commissioners and discussing their issues is the most enjoyable part. I wish all your constituents could see what I see in all of you. You are dedicated individuals not only to your counties but to your State and Country.

I've enjoyed my 18 months and what I've enjoyed most was getting to know the elected officials of Montana.

I would really encourage each of you to consider running for position openings, whether it be 2nd Vice President, Board of Directors or an insurance trustee. The experience will enlighten you and help make you a more rounded elected official.

In an organization like ours, you hear a lot of complaining, but until you get in and work behind the scenes you don't realize the hard work and dedication of the staff at MACo.

I hope to see you all in Missoula. The conference planning committee has worked hard to provide a very diverse convention. See you in Missoula.

Carol A. Brooke

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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM WESTERN INTERSTATE REGION (WIR) PRESIDENT DONNA RUFFING

This is the hardest mail I have ever had to write. In the Wyoming Primary Election August 17, I was soundly defeated.

I am not going to try to analyze the why and wherefores just know that I am devastated.

The WIR Executive Committee held its bi-monthly telephone conference and discussed the best way to make the transition for the good of this organization. I believe the consensus was that I would serve through the October conference in Cheyenne. The final decision on transition will be on the agenda.

I profusely apologize for the disruption that this situation will cause.

Donna Ruffing, WIR President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- September 1** MACo Resolutions Committee; 11:00
- September 6 Labor Day holiday
- September 8 Interim Property Reappraisal Committee
- September 9-10 Interim Revenue/Transportation
- September 13-17 Treasurers Convention; Red Lodge
- September 14-15 Interim Education / Local Government
- September 14-15 Criminal Justice Information Meeting
- September 16 State Drought Committee; DEQ; 9:30 am
- September 17 District Court Council
- September 19-24 Clerk/Recorder Convention; Lewistown
- September 26-29** MACo Annual Conference; Missoula

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- October 4-8 Magistrates Association; Bozeman
- October 11 Columbus Day holiday
- October 13 DOT Transportation Commission; Polson
- November 2 General Election Day
- November 18-19 Joint JPIA-JPA Board of Trustees Retreat
- November 25 Thanksgiving Day holiday
- December 2 Cooperating Agency Seminar, Miles City
- December 6-8 Commissioner Orientation / Certification
- December 16-17 Study Commission Conference
- December 24 Christmas holiday (held before Dec. 25)
- December 31 New Years holiday (held before Jan. 1)
- January 3 Legislative Session begins
- January 17-19 MACo Loss Control Conference, Lewistown
- February 14-18 MACo Legislative / Midwinter Conference
- March 2-4 School Superintendents Conference
- March 4-8 NACo Legislative Conference, DC
- March 29-April 1 MACRS Conference; Billings
- April 7 JPA Trustee meeting
- April 8 JPIA Trustee meeting--renewals

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
2003-1	Utility Rate Energy Crisis
2003-2	Exemption to Nepotism
2003-3	State Lands Right of Way
2003-4	County Attorney Pay Issue
2004-1	Motor Homes Processing Fee
2004-2	Water Levels on Fort Peck Lake
2004-3	Mosquito Control District Creation
2004-4	Optional Voting on Road Levies
2004-5	Montana Land Information Act
2004-6	Enabling State Workforce
2004-7	Endorsement of Soft Drink Tax
2004-8	Historic Roads Right-of-Way
2004-9	Legal Notice Advertising
2004-10	Airport Land Use Act
2004-11	Fences Attached to Bridges
2004-12	"Clawbacks" in Tax Law
2004-13	Economic Development Proposals
2004-14	Local Option Fuel Tax
2004-15	PILT Per-Acre Distribution
2004-16	RSID Petition Exception

RESOLUTIONS FOR RE-AFFIRMATION

2002-1	Wireless Communication
2002-15	Exempt Levies for Indebtedness
2002-19	Communities for Mental Health
2002-21	Control of Substance Abuse Fund
2002-24	Involuntary Commitment Funding
2002-25	Mental Health Pre-Commitments
2002-35	State Public Defender System
2000-25	State Inmate Costs

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY RULES

Resolutions and/or Bylaws

Rule 1 Any resolution or bylaw change from a member district or county not submitted at the District meeting must be submitted to the Resolutions Committee no later than the Sunday before the Annual Convention in order to be presented to the Board of Directors for their approval.

Rule 2 Any resolution or bylaw change not submitted through Rule 1 will not be considered by the Delegate Assembly unless two-thirds of the delegates present and voting elect to suspend the rules to consider late proposals. Late proposals shall be accompanied by copies for all delegates and shall be available prior to the Introduction and Consideration of Bylaw Changes or Resolutions.

Voting Procedures

Rule 3 Each regular member has one vote. (Regular members shall be those counties which contribute annually to the financial support of the Association.) There shall be one county delegate and one alternate with the authority to vote. The delegate and the alternate must be elected county officials.

Rule 4 In speaking to a motion, a delegate will be limited to three minutes except wherein this rule has been suspended by a vote.

Rule 5 All voting shall be by show of hands or voice vote, subject to the call of the chair. A roll call vote will be conducted upon request by a delegate from the floor.

Rule 6 Debate is considered privileged and a "call for the question" cannot be used to limit debate. A vote to close debate requires a two-thirds vote of the delegates voting.

Suspension of Rules

Rule 7 Any of these rules may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

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**PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT #1
PAST PRESIDENTS ON MACo BOARD**

**ARTICLE IV
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. MEMBERS

(a) The Board shall consist of the four elected officers, the Past President, the Class 1A Representative and the elected chairperson from each of the twelve regional districts specified in Article VIII.

(b) In addition to the members identified in Subsection (a), other county elected official associations with no less than 29 members may each designate a member to serve as their representative on the Board.

(c) Every past president of the Association may continue as a member of the Board of Directors as long as such past president remains an incumbent county commissioner.

**PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT #2
BOARD-APPROVED DUES INCREASES**

**ARTICLE IV
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

...(f) review and approve annually a budget sufficient to meet the needs of the Association;

(g) prepare a schedule of services for members and affiliate members with recommended dues and assessments for each;

(h) present recommended dues increases and assessments, if any, to the membership at the annual conference for approval and adoption;

(i) as authorized by the members in 2004 Conference, may increase the dues schedule in an amount up to the annual COLA in any one year. Any increase above the annual COLA must be approved by the membership at the annual conference.

(j) (Sections (j) through (l) are re-labeled to reflect the addition of the new section.)

**PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT #3
RE-ALIGNING MACo DISTRICTS 4 and 5**

**ARTICLE VIII
REGIONAL DISTRICTS**

Section 1. DISTRICTS IDENTIFIED

The counties of the state shall be grouped into twelve districts.

<u>District 4</u>	<u>District 5</u>
Blaine	Cascade
Hill	<u>Chouteau moves</u>
Liberty	Glacier
<u>Chouteau</u>	Pondera
	Teton
	Toole

IN MEMORIAM

Alvin K. Torske, 80, passed away unexpectedly in August. Torske served as Big Horn County Commissioner from 1984 to 1990. He was involved in numerous community activities, including running the model railroad that he, his father and brother built at the Big Horn County Historical Museum.

Gerry, his wife of 56 years, his children and grandchildren survive him.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- 3:00 p.m. Board of Directors meeting
- 4:00 p.m. MACo Economic Development Committee
- 6:00 p.m. President's Reception and Banquet
 Speaker: Lt. Governor Karl Ohs
 Entertainment: Moore and Moore
 Debbie and Carrie are a twin-sister singing and song writing duo from Nashville.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 7:00-8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast
- 8:30-noon **MACo Opening General Session**
 Speaker: William Marcus, Director
 U of M Broadcast Department
 Reports
 Vice President Nominations
 2006 Conference Bids
- 12:00-1:30 p.m. Lunch & Speaker: Colleen Landkamer,
 NACo Second Vice President
- 1:30-2:00 p.m. "How to Influence Congress Without
 Leaving Home", Jeff Arnold
 NACo Deputy Legislative Director
- 2:00-2:30 p.m. BOS Workforce Investment Consortium
- 3:00-4:00 p.m. Joint Opening Session of Insurance Pools
 Workers' Compensation (JPA) and
 Property & Casualty (JPJA)
- 4:00-6:00 p.m. Urban Counties
 Hard Rock Mining Counties
 Oil, Gas & Coal Counties

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 7:00-8:30 a.m. Reservation Counties
 JPJA Trustees Breakfast
- 8:30-10:00 a.m. **All MACo Committees Meet**
- 10:30—12:10 Committee Chair Reports
- 12:15-1:15 p.m. Lunch
 Speaker: Bob Shrenk, Director
 US FS Forest & Range Management
- 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Workshops:**
 a. Earned Income Tax Credit
 b. Aging Issues
 c. Growth

- 2:45-3:45 p.m. **Workshops:**
 a. Montana Transportation Partners
 b. Wind Working Group
 c. Economic Development Committee
 (bus provided to different location)
 d. Missoula County Development Park
 (bus provided)
- 4:00-6:00 p.m. 6 County Fort Peck Lake Group
 Montana Coalition of Forest Counties
- 6:30 p.m. No-host hospitality and western buffet

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 7:00-8:30 a.m. JPJA Trustees Breakfast Meeting
- 8:30 a.m. **Closing General Session**
 Speaker: Tim Melton, MyLocalGov.com
 1. Resolutions
 2. Dues Proposal
 3. By-Laws Amendment
 4. Election of Officers
 5. Convention Site – 2006
 6. Appreciation Resolution
 7. Other Business
 Speaker: Jeff Hagener, Director
 MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- JPA Workers' Compensation Trust Annual Meeting**
 Election of Trustees and other business
- JPJA Property & Casualty Trust Annual Meeting**
 Annual report, election of officers
- 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m. Annual Luncheon
 Installation of Officers
- 2:00 p.m. 2004-2005 Board of Directors meeting

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The Truth About Taxes
From "Montana Taxpayer" Vol. 37, No. 2

Suppose that every day, ten people go out for dinner. The bill for all ten meals comes to \$100. If they paid their bills the way we pay taxes, The first four--the poorest--would pay nothing. The fifth would pay \$1. The sixth would pay \$3. The seventh, \$7. The eighth, \$12; The ninth, \$18; and the tenth would pay \$59.

Since they are such regular customers, the restaurant owner agrees to reduce the cost of the daily dinner by \$20. So, now the dinner for the ten is \$80 total and they continue sharing the bill the way we pay taxes.

The ten people ate dinner in the restaurant every day and seemed quite happy. Then the owner threw them a curve. The people who had been paying could share the \$20 savings. The restaurant owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each bill by roughly the same amount--\$3.33 for each paying person. The fifth and sixth people would receive free meals with the refund, just

as the first four had been receiving.

After they were outside the restaurant, the people began to compare their savings. "I only got a dollar out of the \$20," declared the fifth person. Pointing to the tenth person, "But that person got \$7. It's unfair! That's seven times more than I got. The wealthy get all the breaks."

"Wait!", yelled the first four people who paid nothing for the meals, "We didn't get anything at all. The system exploits the poor!"

The nine people surrounded the tenth and kicked him out of the group.

The next night the tenth person didn't come to dinner. When it came time to pay the bill, they discovered they were \$52 short!

MORAL TO THE STORY: The tax system works this way. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much or ostracize them because they are wealthy, and they just may not show up at the table anymore.

JOB OPENING
ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER
FLATHEAD COUNTY

This position directs, manages, supervises and administers various county functions, including financial and budgetary matters, at the direction of the County Commission.

The position requires knowledge of local government management, public administration, public budgeting and tax exempt financing. BA in finance, public administration or similar field is preferred, plus 5 years of progressively responsible experience in public / business administration and grant management with a minimum of three years of supervisory experience, or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Send letter of interest, resume, Flathead County employment application form, references and salary history to:

Flathead Job Service
 Workforce Center
 427 First Avenue East
 Kalispell, MT 59901

Salary: \$70,000+ DOE
 Deadline: 09/22/04 EOE
 More information:

www.co.flathead.mt.us

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WIBAUX COUNTY
SURPLUS SALE
October 4, 2004
1:00 pm
Call 796-2481 for information

COUNTY NEWS

COUNTY OFFICIALS

SWEET GRASS COUNTY re-organized its financial offices, appointing Jane Stene as the new County Treasurer. Former Treasurer Vicki Uehling has moved to the county financial officer position.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY Coroner Lyman "Skip Clayton retired at the end of August. The commissioners have since combined the office with the Sheriff.

More SHERIFF resignations:

Previously reported sheriff resignations included **PONDERA, GLACIER, CASCADE and PETROLEUM COUNTIES.**

MINERAL COUNTY Sheriff Anita Parkin resigned in August. Hugh Hopwood, Jr. will serve until the end of the year.

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE appointed John Sullivan to replace Tom Blaz, who resigned. Sullivan will serve until the new sheriff is elected.

CHOUTEAU COUNTY Commissioner Jim O'Hara traveled to China with eight other business representatives to promote trade with Montana.

BUDGETING

TETON COUNTY is challenging the Department of Health and Human Services over the charges for a court-ordered psychiatric exam, which cost over \$30,000.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, reasoning that county departments spend some of their time on activities in support of economic development, parceled out \$85,000 of metal mines money to county departments. An auditor ruled this was improper use of the funds.

BUTTE-SILVER BOW is proposing to eliminate 23 staff positions in order to address an unexpected \$2.5 Million drop in tax revenue.

DANIELS COUNTY voters passed a mail vote for a 5.5 mill levy for the county hospital district. 49% of the mailed ballots were cast.

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT

BIG HORN COUNTY and the City of Hardin negotiated a new budget for the existing law enforcement agreement.

RAVALLI COUNTY and the Bitterroot National Forest amended an existing cooperative law enforcement agreement to clarify payment reimbursement costs only when the Forest Service requests services within 24 hours of an incident.

ROADS

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY is considering a new policy and methodology for determining when an undeveloped county road will be upgraded. Traffic counts, current uses and cost/benefit analysis may be part of the criteria.

CUSTER and POWDER RIVER COUNTIES approved an agreement to swap road maintenance responsibilities in areas near the county borders.

RAVALLI COUNTY is considering maintenance of Forest Service roads, which have increased residential use following subdivision of open ranch lands. The Forest Service is not legally authorized to maintain forest access roads for residential use, but would be willing to improve the roads before the county begins maintenance.

LAKES / RIVERS

FALLON COUNTY'S Baker Lake is contaminated with human / animal waste, possibly from old cess-pools or sewer lines.

STILLWATER COUNTY abandoned a bridge right-of-way across Stillwater River. Adjoining land owners had protested trespassing and had granted right-of-way for a new bridge 100 yards upstream. Fish, Wildlife and Parks stated that it was a traditional access location. County Attorney has advised treating access and right-of-way abandonment as separate issues.

MADISON COUNTY passed an ordinance clarifying landowner and recreation responsibilities for river access. The controversial ordinance may be challenged in court.

LAKE COUNTY approved a subdivision on the shore of Lake Mary Ronan. A group filed suit to deny the approval of the subdivision because the proposal failed to address water & sewer infrastructure.

LAND USE

JEFFERSON COUNTY approved a preliminary subdivision on 230 acres of reclaimed mine-waste lands. Montana Tunnels completed reclamation, which included scraping contaminated material into a repository which was sealed with fabric, rock and topsoil and monitored for 3 years before the proposal was developed.

BROADWATER COUNTY is reviewing a proposal near Gallatin County and the Town of Three Forks. The 126-lot subdivision, the county's largest, will be 1/5 the size of Three Forks. Community impacts are being considered.

**U.S. CENSUS
AMERICAN COMMUNITY
SURVEY**

In an effort to streamline and improve the census, the US Census Bureau has developed the American Community Survey. The new survey will replace the long form used every ten years. It will be conducted annually and provide communities with information every year, within six months of the end of the calendar year.

Starting July 2004, one household out of 480 in every county and American Indian reservation will receive the survey each month, but no household will receive the survey more often than once every five years.

Montana's Flathead Indian Reservation in Lake and Flathead Counties participated in testing the American Community Survey.

Federal law requires a response to the survey, but responses are confidential and the information will only be used for statistical purposes.

Counties and communities can use the information to evaluate programs and services and to plan for the future. The annual updates can be used for a variety of purposes such as where to provide services based on population shifts.

More information about the American Community Survey is at

www.census.gov/acs/www/
or from the director of the Denver Regional Office at 303-969-6750.

**SAFETY EQUIPMENT
PROCUREMENT**

Montana State Procurement Bureau awarded Global Protection LLC of New Jersey the contract for personal protection and decontamination equipment needs. The contract is in effect until June 30, 2005.

Global Protection is a distributor for personal protective equipment, communication equipment, chemical detection and decontamination equipment, shelters and self-contained decontamination trailers.

More information on the products is available at www.globalprotectionllc.com or by contacting Gary Andres at gandres@protectivesuits.com

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**September 8 - 9, 2004
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- **Tribal Law & Authority**
- **Water Compact**
- **Fishing & Hunting Compact**

Contact:
Kathy van Hook (406) 444-4457
email: kavanhook@state.mt.us
Mark Squires (406) 444-2075
email: msquires@state.mt.us

Or www.mcc.state.mt.us

**SOCIAL & HEALTH
CAPACITY-BUILDING
GRANTS**

Montana Faith-Health Cooperative (MTFHC) Demonstration Grants are offered in three different funding levels:

- \$1,000 - \$5,000
- \$5,000 - \$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$20,000 *

(* This amount is available only to entities which conducted pilot projects or are currently serving at least 5 Montana communities/counties.)

Application deadline is October 15. Original and three copies should be mailed to: Montana Office of Rural Health MSU PO Box 170540 Bozeman, MT 59717-0540

Grant priorities are to build capacity for services for:

- 1) vulnerable at-risk populations (disabled, elderly, Native Americans, impoverished, uninsured, homeless, prisoners, children of prisoners, geographically isolated, homebound, unemployed)
- 2) health and social service needs (chronic conditions, rehabilitation, mental health, oral health, end-of-life care, substance abuse mitigation, violence prevention, holistic healthcare).

Funds cannot be used for direct services, to replace existing funding or for religious activities.

MTFHC represents both the health care industry and the faith community and receives funding to help build and expand health and social services to Montana's most needy people.

For information about the grants, go to <http://faithhealthcoop.montana.edu> or phone 994-5553.

FIRE PLAN MONEY AVAILABLE
(Western States Wildland Urban Interface
Grant Program)

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) calls for proposals to reduce hazardous fuels in the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) in Montana communities.

The 2005 program has three focuses:

Hazardous Fuel Reduction: These projects remove or modify fuels in and/or adjacent to WUI development. Effective fuels mitigation treatments can be implemented across jurisdictional boundaries, on adjoining private lands, or within the respective communities. Projects of this type include fuel breaks, thinning, pruning, landscape modifications, etc. The overall purpose is to modify or break up the fuels in such a way as to lessen catastrophic fire and its threat to public and firefighter safety and damage to property.

Information and Education In the Wildland Urban Interface: Homeowners and local government bear much of the responsibility for improving the defensibility of homes, but may lack the knowledge and information regarding what needs to be done and how to do it. Proposals to deliver educational outreach programs to individuals and communities are an important component of fire management programs.

Homeowner and Community Action: Creating conditions in and around individual structures that will limit the transmission of fire from wildland to structures is basic to reducing the fire hazard in the Interface. This is a responsibility of homeowners and communities. Agencies or groups such as homeowner's associations, which are looking for funding to assist in fuels reduction in a WUI in their area, are encouraged to apply.

The grant program requires a 50 / 50 match for funds. In-kind services may be considered as part of the match. The final decisions on funding occurs at a multi-state meeting in November. This program is not designed for individual homeowners / landowners.

Application forms and guidelines are available at www.dnrc.state.mt.us. Application deadline is September 8, 2004 and must be submitted electronically to prosenthal@state.mt.us. For more information, contact DNRC at 406-542-4235.

DEALING WITH THE PRESS

Sections from an article by Phil Rosenberg
The HR Doctor at www.hrdr.net

The first step is to recall the maxim that the role of the news reporters in a free society is to "...comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." Unfortunately, the "comfortable" has been identified with government. It seems to be the prime hobby to beat up government, pointing out the troubles, failures, ethical lapses, and other negative events, rather than to devote time and space to the far more frequent, day-to-day successes that keep the society glued together.

With that in mind, please understand that modern competitive media thrives on reporting the negative. That means public administrators need to maintain a constant awareness about the words they use, their expressions and their body language during an interview or a meeting.

...If you want to escape journalists, stop being a public official. It's the only way....

Even the founding fathers recognized that our survival as a nation and the vibrancy of the public service depends on an active press. I know it's hard to think of that when you have just read an article where your name was misspelled three different ways. However, try hard to put that behind you and remember that even Benjamin Franklin was a journalist.

So, renew your newspaper subscription and watch the news! The paper still can be used to wrap fish or line litter boxes. Actually spend time reading and listening. Get your news from a variety of sources as well, including international press to see how others view our country. Next time you see a journalist, give the person a pat on the back or a hug. However, if you do follow this advice, the HR Doctor accepts no responsibility for what comes out in the next day's press.

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INNOVATIONS IN GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Harvard University invites you to apply for an Innovations in American Government Award. It is administered by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

The Innovations Award is one of the premier public-sector awards in the nation. It is given annually to programs that serve as examples of creative and effective government at its best.

In 2002, Roosevelt County was one of 100 semi-finalists across the United States recognized for innovations in American government. These government entities were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 school, county and state nominations in six areas of innovative programs. Roosevelt County's recognition was in Protective Services for an inter-governmental law enforcement program.

All units of government--federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial--are eligible to apply.

Each of the five winners of the 2005 Innovations Award will receive a \$100,000 grant to support replication and dissemination activities.

Applications and additional information are available at www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu.
2005 APPLICATIONS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 15, 2004.

HOW TO BOOST YOUR BRAINPOWER

Selections provided by Emelia McEwen
MACo Risk Management Assistant

Practice mentally: Studies of athletes indicate that imagining a tennis serve or ski run between competitions can boost performance.

Possible reason: Mental rehearsals use most of the brain connections switched on during the real thing, so they help build mental muscle.

Capture creative peaks: Experts believe the brain to be in a highly creative state just before going to sleep and right after waking up.

Action: Use these times to think about solutions to problems and jot down any ideas that come to you.

Focus your attention: To help remember "where": If you tend to misplace your car keys, for example, say to yourself, "I'm placing the keys on the shelf by the hallway mirror."

To help remember "when": Note the weather, the day's headline news or what you are wearing at the time of performing a task.

Use it or lose it: Research suggests that as you age, you can reverse a decline in thinking abilities by becoming more mentally active.

Smart moves: Learn a new language, study a new subject, play games like checkers and do crosswords and other puzzles.

Keep fit: Evidence shows that people in their 70s and 80s who stay healthy can expand their brain power—and easily match the mental abilities of a 30-year-old.

Helpful: Keep physically active, manage stress and maintain a positive attitude.

More mental muscle builders: Read more...eat foods rich in brain-boosting beta-carotene (like apricots, carrots, papayas and sweet potatoes)... use rhymes and acronyms to help remember facts and names.

"A clear conscience is a sign of a bad memory."

Steven Wright

"Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film."

Steven Wright

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- Procurement Cards
- School Furniture
- Technology: Hardware, Software, Peripherals, and Service
- Tools and Material Handling

All contracts are competitively solicited, non-exclusive and require no fee to participate.

Contact:
info@uscommunities.org
www.uscommunities.org

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
 Vern Petersen, Fergus County

The Highway Subcommittee urged passage of a six-year transportation funding bill before the upcoming elections. We fear that a lame duck session after the election would very likely not pass a bill and starting over with a new Congress could mean drastic changes for Montana.

We reaffirmed resolutions to support:

- Funding of essential air service
- The Metropolitan Congestion Relief Act
- Local Railroad Rehabilitation and Investment Act
- The Rural Transportation Act.

The TEA21 renewal bill is stalled in Conference Committee. The House version has extra funds to cover changes in the formula so no one loses.

During a rural road transportation workshop, we learned that all states must have a new rural cooperative plan in place. Montana's has been completed. I recommend a workshop at either MACo's Mid-winter 2005 or at the 2005 Annual Conference to educate us on the new processes and procurers.

Transportation Steering Committee Chair Will Smith asked that I chair a new safety subcommittee. We agreed that I would contact him after the elections to discuss this further.

COMMUNITY and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 Anita Varone, Lewis & Clark County

This steering committee is responsible for developing NACo policy on affordable housing as well as community and economic development. Particular emphasis is on advocating for funding for federal programs such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships. The committee also works to refine the role of federal, state and county governments to enhance economic development opportunities and to create housing options for different populations.

The committee approved these resolutions:

1. Commemorating the 30-year anniversary of CDBG
2. Regulating government sponsored enterprises (FNMA and GNMA)
3. HUD economic development programs such as Brownfield, Office of Rural House and Economic Development, Loan Guarantees
4. FHA zero-down payments
5. Samaritan Initiative designed to end chronic homelessness in ten years
6. Reintegration of offenders into communities.

NACo RESOLUTIONS from PHOENIX ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NACo members adopted more than 30 new policy positions and reaffirmed over 70 previous policies at the 2004 Annual Conference in July. Full texts of all resolutions are found at www.naco.org

AGRICULTURE

Regulation of Bio-Solid Residuals or Sludge
 Staff for Natural Resource Conservation Offices
 Funding for Methamphetamine Programs
 plus 8 re-affirmed resolutions

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Programs at HUD
 30th Anniversary of CDBG
 FHA Zero-down Payment Program
 Samaritan Initiative for homeless
 plus 3 re-affirmed resolutions

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND LAND USE

LPG (propane) powered Vehicles
 Local Land Use Authority in Siting Issues
 Clarify "Waters of the United States"
 Water Quality Trading Policy
 plus 5 re-affirmed resolutions

FINANCE & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

6 re-affirmed resolutions

HEALTH

2 re-affirmed resolutions

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

New Criminal Justice Block Grant Formula
 Integration of Offenders into the Community
 plus 16 re-affirmed resolutions

LABOR

7 re-affirmed resolutions

PUBLIC LANDS

Sage Grouse as a Threatened Species
 Resource Advisory Committees
 Roadless Area Rules
 plus 9 re-affirmed resolutions

TELECOMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

4 re-affirmed resolutions

TRANSPORTATION

9 re-affirmed resolutions

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