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## BLATTIE BECOMES MACo EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On July 1, L. Harold Blattie began his service as MACo's Executive Director.

Blattie is the first county commissioner to serve as MACo's Executive Director.



"I am excited and look forward to assuming my new duties. My 20+ years of public service at the local levels has given me the 'street smarts' in understanding issues facing local government from a practical, hands-on standpoint. I also look forward to continuing to work with our legislators to help provide information about the effects of legislation on counties," he said.

Blattie came to MACo in January 2002 for the Assistant Director position. He had been Stillwater County Commissioner for six years and was MACo President in 2000.

### MESSAGE FROM HAROLD

As we begin a new era of service to counties, I once again reflect on why MACo exists and its role in county government. MACo's Vision Statement embodies this:

*"MACo enhances the public service mission of counties by promoting integrity and providing proactive leadership while acknowledging and respecting Montana's diversity."*

This short, but powerful, statement provides clear direction for our Association. MACo exists to provide services to counties so you, as county officials, are able to provide the highest level of

service and the best governance possible for your constituents.

MACo continues to work within the diversity of our counties. We strive to maintain a "big picture" perspective that achieves the greatest good for the greatest number. We will always strive to find consensus on issues, but we understand that it is not always possible. When we cannot reach consensus, MACo will continue to facilitate and to provide information, while stepping back from the decision-making process.

For the next several months MACo staff will be reduced while we search and select the Associate Director. During this time, I ask that you be patient with MACo staff, since they may not always be able to immediately respond to your questions and inquiries.

In closing, I am very grateful to everyone who contacted members of the MACo Board of Directors on my behalf. It is humbling to know that so many of you supported my being promoted to this position. I will strive to do my very best.

# MACo BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Selections from Meeting

### June 8, 2005

**FY 06 MACo Budget:** Bill Nyby, MACo Fiscal Officer, recommended a dues structure at \$250,750 with the PILT assessment at \$12,443 (the most recent PILT payment). Montana Public Employees Association had submitted a final complete payment for the former MACo building. The motion to adopt the budget passed.

Due to the number of new members and the complexity of the budget, the Board recommended that the budget be presented at annual meetings and that salary adjustments be addressed at the mid-winter board meetings.

**Executive Director Position:** The Executive Committee recommended offering the position to current Assistant Director L. Harold Blattie, effective July 1, 2005. Nyby advised that a budget amendment would be necessary and that this action would save expenditures for advertising and recruiting, approximately \$12,000.

President Kennedy presented letters recommending this appointment from Lincoln County and Yellowstone County and said that Powder River County had called.

District 1 recommended advertising

District 2-hire Harold

District 3-hire Harold

District 6-hire Harold

District 9-hire Harold

District 11-hire Harold

District 12- hire Harold

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kaercher moved to rescind the Board's earlier decision to advertise and instead promote Harold effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. This motion, seconded by Past President Brooker, passed with one opposing vote.

There was concern that service levels might decline if the Associate Director position was not filled until January. Both Gordon and Harold stated that service need not suffer with the involvement of the Executive Committee and Board members as needed. Urban Representative Curtiss moved that the Board advertise for the Associate Director. No second was made but this was the apparent consensus of the Board.

**District Meetings Update:** Some Districts have yet to elect Chairs and Vice Chairs and could meet prior to, or during, the annual conference.

#### **MACo Officer Nominations:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Mark Rehbein, Richland County

Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County

Jean Curtiss, Missoula County

Fiscal Officer

Bill Nyby, Sheridan County

Allan Underdal, Toole County

#### **Other Business:**

- mylocalgov.com has been purchased by Official Payments and the mylocalgov.com effort had been ended in Lewis and Clark County. Gordon will advise Tim Melton, who was heading the effort, of continued interest and recommend follow-up.
- Urban Representative Curtiss reported that recent 211 legislation had not been adequately funded. The 211 Task Force will focus on establishing a "help" number system in the eastern portion of the state. They are trying to qualify for federal funding in this effort.
- Board member Davey's motion to amend Resolution 2005-1 to specifically require "mandatory county of origin labeling" passed unanimously. The amended resolution is to be sent to the Governor, Secretary of Agriculture and Congressional delegation.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kaercher presented a draft job description for "Associate Director" and recommended no change in the Executive Director's job description.

Kaercher proposed an amendment to By-Laws Article V to reflect the change in position title. The motion to present the By Laws change to the membership at the annual conference in September was approved.

## 2006 WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE GRANTS

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) announced grants for projects to reduce hazardous fuels in and around communities in Montana.

The 2006 Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program offers financial assistance to achieve four main goals: Improving fire prevention in the interface; Reducing hazardous fuels; Restoring fire-adapted ecosystems; and, Promoting community assistance.

The grant program is a 50/50 match for all federal funds. Project proposals must have some level of cost sharing, but the 50/50 match may be consolidated at the state level with a combination of all State Fire Assistance programs. In-kind services may be considered as part of the match.

Paula Rosenthal, Supervisor of Fire Prevention and National Fire Plan (NFP) programs for the Montana DNRC, said, "All the applications we receive will be reviewed extensively by an interagency screening committee comprised of local, state and federal officials. Montana applications are prioritized and forwarded to a regional committee for final funding decisions. Montana competes with 16 other western states for funding from this program. The final decision on funding the proposals occurs at a multi-state meeting in November. The successful grantees are awarded their funding the following July."

Rosenthal stressed that this program is **not** designed for individual homeowners or landowners. "Under the NFP, we have a different cost-share program available to assist individual homeowners/landowners. Those interested in that program are encouraged to contact their local Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D) to receive more information," she explained.

Application information, forms and guidelines are available on-line at [www.dnrc.mt.gov](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov)

Applications must be **received** no later than September 6, 2005 and **must** be submitted electronically to [prosenthal@mt.gov](mailto:prosenthal@mt.gov)

## FIRST LAND BANKING TRANSACTION

The Montana State Land Board endorsed the first land banking transaction in June with preliminary approval of the sale of two parcels of state trust land.

'Land banking' is the process of consolidating state lands to increase public use of the land. Under the new process, the land board can purchase key parcels of land that would permit public access to state lands that are currently land-locked. Land banking allows the sale of isolated state properties as well. It also allows leaseholders of isolated parcels the opportunity to exchange other accessible lands for those isolated parcels rather than going through the sale process.

Nearly 50% of Montana's school trust lands are wholly surrounded by private property, according to a study commissioned by the State Auditor's Office. In 2003, legislation to create the land banking process passed and rules were adopted in September 2004.

Land banking will operate as a pilot program through 2008, allowing competitive sales on up to 100,000 acres of trust lands with at least 75,000 acres being isolated. Nominations may be from lessees, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) or the Land Board.

Current lessees will have the opportunity to match the highest bid in an effort to reduce the number of isolated tracts and replace them with land more valuable to the school trust.

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# The Current Thinking on Senate Bill 116

by Myra L. Shults, Attorney  
Land Use Consultant to the Joint Powers Insurance Authority

Senate Bill 116 contains procedural changes to the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act. The intent was that most of the provisions, except Section 3 which changes the requirements for subdivision regulations, would be effective on April 19, 2005—the date the Governor signed the bill.

However, both the Attorneys' Roundtable on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the Montana Association of Planners' (MAP) Clinic on June 3<sup>rd</sup> have addressed the applicability. The purpose of this article is to advise the readers of the current thinking, subject, always, to the interpretation of the county attorney.

As John Horwich, professor of Land Use at the University of Montana Law School, said at the MAP Clinic, there may be as many interpretations of which sections were effective on April 19<sup>th</sup> and which sections are not (until the subdivision regulations are amended) as there are attorneys looking at the issue. One thing is certain—how SB 116 affects a particular set of subdivision regulations is fact specific, so this article contains only general guidance.

It is now thought that a reference to Section 3 in other sections of SB 116 means that the other section is not effective unless the subdivision regulations are amended. The converse is: if a county tries to amend its subdivision regulations, piece-meal, using a provision in SB 116 which cross-references a subsection in Section 3, that partial amendment triggers an immediate effective date pursuant to Section 19 (2) and requires a wholesale amendment of the subdivision regulations.

The analysis may be more even more complex because the subsections of a section in the bill may be interrelated and need to be read as a whole, or they may be interpreted individually. Some, but not all, attorneys believe an amendment to parts of existing subdivision regulations which are not addressed by the bill does not trigger the requirement to amend the entire set of subdivision regulations to be in conformance with SB 116.

Confused? Perhaps the following, which addresses most of the sections of SB 116, will help: [Link to online SB 116:](http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/billhtml/SB0116.htm)  
<http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/billhtml/SB0116.htm>

Sections 1 [76-3-103], 2 [76-3-501], 5 [76-3-602], 6 [76-3-603], 12 [76-3-610], 14 [76-3-625] and 15 [76-4-127] were listed by Professor Horwich at the MAP Clinic as effective on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Since then he has added Sections 10 [76-3-608], 13 [76-3-620] and 16 [76-3-505] as effective on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We agree to all of these.

Section 3 [76-3-504] is specifically mentioned in Section 19 (2), so it is not effective until the county amends its subdivision regulations. Trying to make a change found in one of the subsections of Section 3, only, is an example of how that change can trigger the immediate effectiveness of the entire SB 116. Section 19 (2) states: [Section 3], amending 76-3-504 and concerning adoption of regulations, and reference to that section apply upon adoption of regulations under that section or on October 1, 2006, whichever occurs first.

Professor Horwich also listed Section 4 [76-3-601] as already in effect, but because of the cross-reference to 76-3-504 (3) (found in Section 3) and the deadlines authorized by that subsection, the conservative position is that it is not in effect. However, the changes made by this section are minimal.

Section 7 [76-3-604] requires an amendment of the subdivision regulations because of its cross-reference to the deadlines authorized by 76-3-504 (3) and the list of required materials found in 76-3-504 (1)(a) [both of which are in Section 3]. Even though it would be nice to have the added time provided in this section to review subdivision applications, the procedure is not available until the subdivision regulations are amended. **This is a change to the advice in MACo information sent out shortly after the legislative session.**

(continued on next page)

## SB 116 CONTINUED

Section 8 [76-3-605] was designed to address the existing practice of holding two hearings on subdivisions and the “effectiveness on the date of signing” was supposed to ratify that practice. But because of the cross-references to 76-3-504 (1)(o) [Section 3] and Section 9, in subsection (1) of Section 8, a county can neither ratify the existing procedure by resolution nor begin holding more than one hearing, without amending its subdivision regulations to provide for the process. Subsection (4) which allows the planning board ten working days for submission of its recommendation to the governing body is arguably in effect, and a change to the subdivision regulations to allow the added time should not trigger a wholesale change, because the subsection does not contain a cross-reference to Section 3. If a county wishes to make this change, and whether it can, is subject to the interpretation of the county attorney.

Section 9 [New] is new law and obviously not effective until it is included in the subdivision regulations. However, this section merely codifies what is commonly being done. Until the subdivision regulations are amended, there seems to be little downside to following the procedure in Section 9—especially if the subdivider realizes it is in his or her best interest and consents.

Section 10 [76-3-608] may not have initially been in Professor Horwich’s list of sections which are immediately effective, because of the cross-reference to Section 11 [76-3-609 (2) or (4)]. Section 11 [76-3-609] is an example of what is effective on April 19<sup>th</sup> and what is not effective until subdivision regulations are amended. It can be argued the definition of a first minor subdivision in subsection (2) was effective on April 19<sup>th</sup>. So, counties can use that analysis before they amend their subdivision regulations, then process the first minor or subsequent minors as set forth in their subdivision regulations. There is a counter position that this definition cannot be used until the subdivision regulations are amended to set forth the element review and sufficiency review pursuant to Section 3. As always,

check with the county attorney for guidance. Depending upon how the county attorney interprets subsection (2), subsection (3) may or may not be in effect now.

There was some discussion at the MAP Clinic about what to do if there is a conflict between existing subdivision regulations and the new law. Generally the conclusion was the more stringent should be followed. This will require a provision-by-provision comparison between the existing regulations and sections in the new law.

Section 13 [76-3-620] sets forth the requirements for a decision letter. Even though Professor Horwich did not initially list Section 13 as effective immediately, upon checking his notes he agrees that it is. He recommends counties follow this procedure even before they incorporate it into their subdivision regulations.

Section 16 [76-3-505] was not initially listed by Professor Horwich, but it is clear 76-3-505 was repealed on April 19, 2005. Arguably procedures in subdivision regulations which are based on 76-3-505 (summary review) are no longer valid.

This summer, law students in the Land Use Clinic at the Law School are incorporating the legislative changes in Senate Bill 116 and Senate Bill 290 into the 2003 version of the Model Subdivision Regulations under Professor Horwich’s supervision. The Clinic hopes to have this project completed by the end of the summer. Even if a county’s subdivision regulations are not based on the model regulations, the proposed changes should be a valuable guide.

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## UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK INSPECTIONS

Peggy Beltrone, Cascade County Commissioner, calls our attention to county underground storage tanks and the trouble DEQ has had in relaying information to the operators of county tanks. The information goes to Commissioners, school district administrators, etc. and doesn't seem to reach the employees who manage the fuel operations.

According to Bill Rule, DEQ program manager for underground storage tanks, federal and state requirements for county-owned tanks include routine monitoring. Counties must contract with a licensed inspector for a 3-year inspection of the facilities and the records. Every county should assign at least one contact person to be in charge of the regular checks and inspections. The State expects this person to be professional, trained in monitoring and maintaining the tanks.

DEQ is preparing training for all owners / operators, including county contact people, to be presented in October. The training may soon become a mandatory requirement from the federal level, and this particular training in Montana will be ground-breaking.

Following the 1998 effort in Montana to identify and to remove unneeded underground storage tanks, 20,000 storage tanks were removed. The 4,000 remaining tanks must have monitoring by trained people and each county must have a contact person to oversee that the monitoring is conducted regularly.

Need more information? Go to <http://www.deq.state.mt.us/UST/index.asp>

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## State Entitlement Shares and P.I.L.T

County Information for FY 2005-2006  
is posted on the MACo Website at

<http://maco.cog.mt.us>

## 2005 MACo SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS WRIGHT and SKOVGAARD

Elizabeth (Liz) Benson Wright was awarded the MACo \$1,000 President's Scholarship at a recent MACo Executive Committee meeting. Liz is a 2005 graduate of Billings Senior High School. She has a perfect (4.0) grade point average and graduated first in her class of 400 students.

During her high school career, Liz excelled in mathematics, chemistry, German and music. As a Junior, she served as a US Senate page in Washington DC during her second semester, and then went on to visit Germany for two weeks.

She hopes to study biology, or perhaps mathematics, at the University of Montana.

Shaye Alyse Skovgaard was awarded the MACo \$500 President's Scholarship at the April MACo Executive Committee meeting. Shaye is a 2005 graduate of Billings Skyview High School. She attained a 3.57 grade point average and graduated 53rd in her class of 309 students.

During her high school career, Shaye developed keen leadership skills through participation in softball and in student council offices.

She hopes to attend Montana State University to become a secondary teacher. "No one in my family has ever graduated from a four-year university. It is because of this that my family drives me to excel," she wrote.

"As long as there are tests, there will always be prayer in schools."

Bumper Sticker on green Ford pickup in  
Great Falls

# COUNTY NEWS

## WIND ENERGY

**FALLON COUNTY** is exploring wind energy generation and the possibility of a port authority, with wind energy development as one of its projects.

**CARBON COUNTY** held a series of events in the county for local wind energy project development.

**VALLEY COUNTY** was the site for wind farm meetings conducted by federal and state agencies responsible for the environmental review of a wind energy park.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

**CASCADE COUNTY** withdrew from the City-County Planning Board, after 40 years of participation. The County will include the 4.5 mile "donut" area around the City of Great Falls in county planning.

**LAKE COUNTY** approved a controversial subdivision, allowing more units than would have been allowable if the new Density Regulations had been in place. Also at issue is the sewage treatment for the units.

**MISSOULA COUNTY** Airport plan for expansion has conflicted with the City of Missoula growth plan for the surrounding area.

**LEWIS and CLARK COUNTY** cannot take the impacts on neighborhood wells into account as they consider a subdivision, according to their county attorney. That is a matter for the state regulators.

**DAWSON COUNTY** shut down construction of their new Senior Center in February because building construction got ahead of the shop drawings. Three months later and two weeks past original completion date, the project resumed.

## FAIRGROUNDS

**PRAIRIE COUNTY** committed flush funds for constructing restrooms on the Fairgrounds.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**, after leasing state land for 25 years at \$5 a year, received ownership of their Fairgrounds property, following land transfer approval from the State Land Board.

**LEWIS and CLARK COUNTY** Fairgrounds have been approved for major changes, one of which is a controversial closure of the horse racing track.

**SANDERS COUNTY** has received complaints about noise and dust from the Fairground's motocross track.

## VARIETY

**GALLATIN COUNTY** is conducting a mail survey of 2,000 residents covering county services and satisfaction ratings.

**ROSEBUD COUNTY** high school agriculture students built a shed on site for the landfill. The county paid for the materials; the students donated their construction talents.

**CASCADE COUNTY** appointed a citizen board to set road repair priorities for 1,400 miles of rural roads. The Commission is planning to phase out the elected County Surveyor position, which has historically overseen the road department.

**PARK COUNTY** authorized solid waste green box attendants to use cameras to take pictures of people and vehicles when they illegally use the containers. The focus will be on contractors who dump without paying the user fees.

**LINCOLN COUNTY** has been urged by the superintendent of the school district to make stronger efforts to collect delinquent taxes on 1,000 properties due from 1996 through 2003.

**YELLOWSTONE COUNTY** will let voters decide whether to enact new ordinances to limit sexually oriented businesses and curb the distribution of obscene materials.

**GLACIER COUNTY** has established a satellite office for the County Treasurer and the Sheriff in the Browning City Hall.

**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY** is joining State efforts to oppose cloud seeding in Idaho. The State of Idaho had requested a release of liability for cloud seeding.

**BUTTE-SILVER BOW COUNTY** met with pawn shop owners to reinforce transaction reporting laws, considering this a possible way to prevent enabling meth. addicts from maintaining their habits by selling stolen goods.

**RAVALLI COUNTY** Commission and other county officials floated the Bitterroot River to view setback examples and river erosion.

**McCONE COUNTY** will loan its FAA entitlement monies to **HILL COUNTY**. They were unable to use their 2002 entitlement and would lose it unless it is used in an approved project.

**Annual Conference  
Packets  
were emailed June 10.**  
Go to <http://maco.cog.mt.us>  
or contact Karen at  
[macomtg@maco.cog.mt.us](mailto:macomtg@maco.cog.mt.us)  
if you did not receive the email.

**SAFETY RAY SEZ**  
**Ray Barnicoat**  
**MACo Risk Manager**



The main role of the Montana Safety Bureau is to perform safety inspections in our facilities. After the Bureau performs an inspection, we receive a copy of their findings, including the photos.

One of the most common categories of violations in county facilities is electrical. We have concerns when we see their reports and the violations identified. Many of their findings show an increased risk of fire. All of them show the potential for electrical shock.

To help raise your awareness of this issue, I have included an article written by Jerry Laughery that is in the May issue of the "Montana Contractor News". It would be wise to self-inspect your facilities before the Safety Bureau arrives. Using the information in the article, fix the hazards before they cause a fire or injure an employee or a member of the public.

**ELECTRICAL RULES FOR THE JOBSITE**  
**by Jerry Laughery**

You may not think much of taping up a dinged extension cord. However, this common practice is not only dangerous, it also could set your company up for a hefty fine, if an OSHA or MSHA compliance officer sees it in use. Here are some reminders about electrical safety:

▶ Splices to extension cords are not allowed, but OSHA will look more kindly on it if the splice

is done by an electrician and covered with shrink-wrap rather than duct tape. Splices are required to have the same mechanical properties as the original cord.

- ▶ Do not use Romex cable to make your own super-long extension cords.
- ▶ Extension cords should be three-wire, made with at least 14 gauge wire. Tool cords and extension cords must have a "ground" prong.
- ▶ Do not modify electrical cords provided with power tools.
- ▶ Do not use homemade junction boxes for "gang box" power distribution.
- ▶ All temporary power must have ground fault circuit interruption (GFCI) protection
- ▶ Check the polarity of all outlets in use. GFCI outlets won't do their job if polarity is reversed.
- ▶ If cords are running through walkways, be sure to tape the cord down or route the cord over the walkway if possible.
- ▶ Do not run over cords. If you must drive over cords, be sure they are protected with planking to avoid damaging the cord.
- ▶ Upon discovering a damaged cord, take the cord out of service. Tag the cord with an out-of-service tag or cut the cord up and dispose of it.
- ▶ Do not hot-wire compressors into service panels.

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"I can't use a cell phone in the car. I have to keep my hands free for making gestures."  
Bumper Sticker  
seen on an older pickup on Smelter Road

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# MONTANA WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The magnitude and complexity of the noxious weed problem in Montana requires a plan of action with five major components:

1. **Risk Analysis and Prevention:** The Plan proposes to enhance prevention programs in the state by 1) improving prediction models and identifying pathways for weed invasion; 2) engaging and educating landowners to protect areas from introduction and spread of weeds; 3) promoting ecosystem management concepts; 4) regulating introduction and movement of weeds in Montana, and 5) refining early detection/rapid response efforts on new invaders.
2. **Management:** Management of noxious weeds in Montana is divided into three categories: Category 3--non-established new invaders, Category 2--established new invaders, and Category 1--those widespread in the state. Category 3 and 2 weeds are the highest priority species for management in Montana. The goal is preventing invasion, eradicating small infestations, or long-term, high-intensity containment of larger infestations to prevent movement to non-infested sites. A \$4.7 million annual budget is proposed for prevention, early detection, rapid response, and task force operations. Category 1 involves reducing established weed infestations and containing their spread by expanding Cooperative Weed Management Areas, which would minimize economic environmental impacts of weeds in Montana. The Plan proposes to support increased funding for weed management within county, state, and federal entities; facilitate partnerships between agencies and private land managers through the management areas and secure cost-share programs to assist private land managers. About \$24 million is needed annually to adequately address management of established noxious weeds in the state.

3. **Inventory, Monitoring and Evaluation:** This information is critical for identifying non-

infested lands, detecting newly invading weeds, identifying boundaries of established weed infestations, developing management plans, and evaluating weed management efforts in the state. An estimated \$4.7 million annually is needed to complete plant and section-based inventories, increase private and agency participation in statewide inventory efforts, and facilitate web-based data entry and retrieval.

4. **Public Awareness, Education and Outreach:** This will ensure that everyone in Montana is aware of the serious impacts of noxious weeds on natural resources and that land managers implement systems-based integrated weed management methods. An estimated \$3.4 million annually is needed to meet public awareness, education and outreach components of this Plan.
5. **Research:** Research provides a scientific foundation for sustainable, ecologically-based weed management. Six research areas are identified: Impacts, Prevention, Weed Biology and Plant Dynamics, Integrated Weed Management, Land Restoration and Effects of Natural Disasters (fire, flood, drought, etc.) An estimated \$4.7 million is needed annually to conduct research required to fill information gaps and to transfer new technologies to Montana land managers



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# NACo INFORMATION

## NACo PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD Discount Cards average savings of 20% off retail prices

MACo and NACo are in the process of arranging to participate in the new NACo program for prescription drug discount cards. The program has not been finalized at the national level, but details for implementing the program, such as the need for individual county contracts for participation, will be presented at the MACo Annual Conference in Billings.

NACo has contracted with Caremark to provide a prescription discount card for member counties to offer to their uninsured and underinsured residents. The rising cost of prescription drugs coupled with the growing population of the uninsured has created a crisis in our country. The NACo prescription discount card program offers help to uninsured and underinsured county residents to save money on their prescriptions.

There is no cost to NACo, no cost to the counties participating in the program and no cost to the participants using the discount card. Only NACo member counties can participate.

The NACo Prescription Discount Card provides the following benefits to participants:

- > Average savings of 20%
- > Extra savings available through mail service
- > Savings on specialty medications
- > No enrollment fees
- > No age requirements
- > Family coverage with just one card
- > Over 54,000 participating pharmacies (210 locations in Montana--no Walmarts)
- > Coverage for all commonly prescribed medicine
- > Unlimited use
- > Access to website for health information.

Participants do not have to fill out any forms to participate and, therefore, the counties do not

have to maintain any database of who has the cards. The card will be given to citizens with a brochure and can be used immediately.

The discount cards are accepted at 210 pharmacies in Montana. The overall average savings is about 20%, with the savings range from 13% to 35% on purchases of drugs at a local pharmacy and up to 50% on mail order purchases. Savings differences are based on brand-name prescriptions vs. generic.

The program provides great flexibility for participating counties. The discount cards can be used by anyone--senior citizens / elderly or the uninsured. Some counties may use the cards for their jail populations or their employees if they do not have prescription drug insurance coverage.

The NACo Prescription Discount Card provides the following benefits to member counties:

- > No enrollment fees
- > No eligibility transmission
- > Marketing Kit
  - Pre-approved press releases
  - Promotional poster
  - Participant letters
  - Card graphics

(Any changes to wording in promotional materials must be approved by NACo and Caremark.)

- > Customer care provided by Caremark
- > Website support
- > Participant ID cards with county seal/logo.

The Caremark/AdvancePCS program was chosen not only for its price savings, but also for its ease of use and understanding. The program was chosen after a two-year process that involved the NACo Membership Committee, a consulting firm and an evaluation committee.

# MACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
96<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
Holiday Inn Grand Montana  
5500 Midland Road  
Billings, Montana  
(406) 248-7701  
September 25 - September 29, 2005

## CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION

Name .....

County/Agency .....

Position / Title.....

**9** I am my county's voting delegate

Spouse's name, if attending.....

	<u>Pre-Registration</u>	<u>On Arrival</u>	
<b>Conference Registration:</b> This fee includes two luncheons, three banquets, registration materials and the cost of speakers and program.	\$150	\$165	\$ _____
Wednesday Night Installation Banquet	_____ Yes, I will attend	_____ No, I will not attend	
Spouses	\$150	\$165	\$ _____
<u>Optional meal</u> Prayer Breakfast, Monday	\$ 11		\$ _____
Commissioner Certification – Phase III (Thursday-includes lunch)	\$ 50	\$ 55	\$ _____
TOTAL:			\$ _____

Make checks payable to MACo, and send with this entire form to MACo at **2715 Skyway Drive, Helena, MT 59602**. For information regarding the convention, call Karen Houston at 444-4375; for information regarding registration, call Patti Grosfield at 444-4374. **REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED ONLY IF CANCELLATION IS REQUESTED BY SEPTEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>**

## THE CORCORAN

MUSEUM OF ART - COLLEGE OF ART  
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the staff of the Corcoran, I would like to thank you for the Montana Association of Counties' recent gift of \$1,500 in support of NACo's sponsorship of the upcoming special exhibition *Botanical Treasures of Lewis and Clark*. I know that I speak for the exhibition's organizers, Jan Denton, Leslie Exton and Wendy Cortesi, in saying that we are very grateful for this contribution.

We are delighted to be partnering with NACo and the State Associations on this exciting project and look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress as the date of the exhibition's opening draws closer. In the meantime, please accept my sincere thanks once again for the Montana Association of Counties' enthusiasm and generosity.

Sincerely,  
Katherine T. Gibney

Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations

cc: Larry Naake, NACo Executive Director

## MORRIS ACKNOWLEDGED



Morris accepting a plaque commemorating his service to Montana Sheriff and Peace Officers Association, presented by Greg Hintz Missoula County Sheriff Department

With several acknowledgements for his long-serving and successful efforts for counties, Gordon Morris moved to a new MACo position on July 1.

Statewide and local associations took the month of June to honor him at their various monthly meetings by acknowledging his 23 years of participation and advocacy for local and county interests.

Morris begins his new duties for the MACo Insurance Trusts to bring insurance claims service into MACo and planning a possible new building for these services.

### MACo NEWS

Phone (406) 444-4380

Fax (406) 442-5238

Email: [macopb@maco.cog.mt.us](mailto:macopb@maco.cog.mt.us)

ARTICLES ARE WELCOME

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1st Vice President : Doug Kaercher

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