



# MACo

## NEWS

**Vol. 35 No. 9  
SEPTEMBER 2006**

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## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

**BEST WESTERN GRANTREE INN  
BOZEMAN, MT (406) 587-5261**

### **SUNDAY, September 24**

2:00-3:00 p.m. MACo Resolutions  
Committee Meeting  
3:00-5:00 p.m. Board of Directors  
6:00-10:00 p.m. President's Reception  
Sponsor / Vendor  
Appreciation Dinner

2:45-3:45 p.m.

### **Workshops:**

**Pandemic Flu – Regional MOU  
VEBA / PERS  
Gravel Road Surfaces  
Criminal Justice Programs**

4:00-6:00 pm

6 County Fort Peck Lake  
Group

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Montana Coalition of Forest  
Counties

4:00-5:30 p.m.

MACoHCT Membership Mtg

5:30-7:00 p.m.

MACoHCT Trustee Mtg

7:30-9:00 p.m.

Commissioners Open Forum

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

### **MONDAY September 25**

8:30-10:00 a.m. MACo General Session  
10:30 a.m.-noon Proposed Resolutions  
Noon - 1:30 p.m. LUNCH - Speaker:  
Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger  
1:30-2:00 p.m. GENERAL SESSION  
2:00-2:30 p.m. Dan McGowan, DES  
3:00-5:00 p.m. All MACo committees  
5:00-6:00 p.m. Urban Counties  
5:00-6:00 p.m. Hard Rock Mining Co.'s  
5:00-6:00 p.m. Oil, Gas & Coal Counties  
5:00-6:00 p.m. CREB Participating  
Counties Meeting

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

### **WEDNESDAY, September 27**

7:00-8:30 a.m. JPA/JPIA Trustees

8:30-8:50 a.m.

**GENERAL SESSION**  
Dep't of Revenue  
Dan Bucks, Director

8:50-9:00 a.m.

County Leadership  
Institute

9:00-9:30 a.m.

Dep't of Transportation  
Jim Lynch, Director

9:30-10:00 a.m.

US Senate Reports

### **FORUMS:**

10:30-11:15 a.m.

I-154 Takings Initiative  
CI-97 Spending Limits

11:15 a.m.- noon

1:00-5:00 p.m.

**GENERAL SESSION**

6:00 PM

Officers Installation Banquet

### **TUESDAY, September 26**

7:00-8:30 a.m. Reservation Counties  
8:30-10:10 a.m. Committee Reports  
10:30-10:45 a.m. MSU Extension  
Service Agreements  
10:45-11:00 a.m. E-9-1-1 / Rural  
Addressing  
11:00-11:30 a.m. SIEC Update  
11:30 a.m.-noon Secondary Roads  
1:15-2:15 p.m. Vendor / Sponsor Mtg

1:15-2:15 p.m.

### **Workshops:**

**Public Health Statutes Project  
Drug & Alcohol Testing  
Wildland / Urban Interface  
Criminal Justice Programs**

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

7:30-8:30 a.m.

New Board of Directors

# Always a Friend

By MACo President Doug Kaercher



I read the other day that it is hard to measure a mountain until you have reached the top. Well, I have reached the top and found a very large mountain.

The shadow that MACo casts across this state is immense. MACo's size and reputation has nothing to do with who is standing at the top. Neither I, nor those who came before me, nor those that will lead in the future, have much to do with this organization's success. MACo's success is due only to its members.

Throughout my presidency I have stressed that members working together for the benefit of the whole, combining their voices to be heard as one, makes us one of the most respected organizations in this State. We should stand proud in our accomplishments, not only in the last year, but over our long history.

It has been very rewarding to serve as MACo President. I have had some great moments being the voice of MACo ranging from the local to state to the federal levels. Being involved in the Insurance Trusts has been the most enjoyable and educational experience. Their existence and function continues to be crucial to the Association and our members. Last year we were able

to bring claims in-house, saving the trusts and their members over \$400,000. We have built a new building to house the claims departments, adding to our assets. We are off to a successful start to providing a health care trust.

We have made our presence known at the national level thru NACo. The sponsorship of several steering committee positions has proven to be an excellent partnership between the State and MACo.

We saw Harold Blattie's first year come and go as executive Director with him exceeding our greatest expectation.

A special thanks goes to a very talented MACo staff and an executive committee that is second to none.

Last but not least, I want to thank all of you for allowing me this great opportunity of representing MACo. This experience has allowed me to see county government in a light that only a few will be able to experience. I will always hold a special place in my heart and look forward to serving as your Past President next year.

Always a friend to MACo,

*Doug*

## MACo GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, September 24

Tee times start at 9:00 am.

\$42 for 18 holes with cart

Format will be provided at the golf course.

Bridger Creek Golf Course

2710 McIlhattan Road Bozeman, MT

586-2333

Contact--Maureen Davey, Stillwater County

322-8010

## MACo INSURANCE TRUSTS BUILDING PROGRESS



# CANDIDATES for MACo SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

**JEAN CURTISS**  
**MISSOULA COUNTY**

ELECTED 2001



## MACo Participation

Health and Human Services Committee  
Conference Planning Committee  
Urban Counties Chair  
Commissioner Certification program

## Community Involvement

Montana & National PTA  
Economic Development Boards serving  
Missoula, Ravalli & Mineral Counties  
Health and Human Services Boards  
Leadership Montana Class 2005-2006

**Special Ability:** Ability to listen to concerns and bring people together around the issues. Ability to keep people focused on the issues

**MACo Thoughts:** MACo should take a leadership role in convening other organizations and agencies together to focus on the future of Montana. We cannot continue to work in silos. MACo should therefore:

- Host a focused board retreat
- Prioritize issues of importance
- Address issues related to growth

**JOHN OSTLUND**  
**YELLOWSTONE COUNTY**

ELECTED 2003



## MACo Participation

Chair - Transportation Committee  
Conference Planning Committee

## Community Involvement

MACRS President  
Big Sky Economic Development Board  
Billings Chamber Board of Directors

**Special Abilities** - I have a strong business background, owning a commercial aviation storage and retail aviation fuel business. I worked for Yellowstone County Road & Bridge Dept. for 30 years before elected as county commissioner. I have been involved with MACo for many years and feel my experience and leadership will keep MACo a top notch organization.

## MACo Thoughts

I work to balance rural road needs with contractor priorities and will address this issue during the upcoming legislative session. MACo provides many valuable services. Our goal should be to improve each year on the services provided, including risk management, worker's compensation and legislation.

**MIKE MCGINLEY**  
**BEAVERHEAD COUNTY**

ELECTED 2001



## MACo Participation

Chair – Economic Development Committee  
NACo Community & Economic Development  
Steering Committee  
Commissioner Certification

## Community Involvement

Dillon Volunteer Fire Department  
Beaverhead Development Corporation

## Special Abilities

Goal & result oriented  
Ability to work with all people  
Leadership Montana – Class of 2005

## MACo Thoughts

MACo is an organization that is best when all member counties are involved. MACo must keep the concerns of all counties at the forefront of any legislative issue. Our strength will show in our lobbying efforts.

**LANCE OLSON**  
**CASCADE COUNTY**

ELECTED 2003



## MACo Participation: Resolutions Committee

**Community Involvement:** Parks & Recreation Board, Gateway Recovery Board, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Opportunity's Incorporated Board, Senior Citizens Center Board, Weed & Seed Board

**Special Abilities:** To gather and review information before making decisions. From my 35 years as a barber I became a great "listener"!!

**MACo Thoughts:** My goal would be to continue providing a direction of unity and allow individual County issues to be acknowledged and addressed by all County members, large or small. MACo has been very instrumental in my development as a County Commissioner. Whenever I have needed background and or data on issues I have been able to contact MACo and have always received quick and detailed answers to my questions. MACo not only serves as a unifying organization for all of us as Commissioners but as a great source of data and information as well as guidance based on passed history and a well informed professional staff.

## 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.

## MACo STAFF CHANGES

### ***A FOND FAREWELL...***



After 26 years in county and state governments, serving as a county commissioner, MACo and NACo committee chairs, job training program manager and MACo's publications and website officer, Marie McAlear retired from MACo in August. We all wish her well in her retirement.

### ***AND A WARM WELCOME...***



**Kerissa Smith** is MACo's new Administrative Assistant, beginning September 11, 2006. Kerissa is a graduate of Helena High School and has most recently been employed by the Montana Contractors Association, where she managed all functions for the operation and marketing of MCA's physical and internet plans rooms, in addition to providing assistance to the management of the Association. Kerissa has a very strong knowledge of software applications and will conduct research and information gathering along with data sorting and management, allowing MACo to better serve our members. Kerissa and fiancé Rick Lyman have October wedding plans.

So the next time you call the office, be sure to welcome Kerissa to the MACo team!

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## 2007 MACo RESOLUTIONS

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
2000-25	Detention Costs for Inmates
2002-15	Exempt Levies for Indebtedness
2002-19	Focal Point for Mental Health Services
2002-21	Control of Substance Abuse Funds
2002-24	Involuntary Commitment Expenses
2003-4	County Attorney Pay Issue
2004-1	Motor Homes County Processing Fee
2004-4	Optional Voting in Road Levy Elections
2004-6	Workforce Funding Governance
2004-11	Fences Attached to Bridges
2004-13	Support MEDA Legislative Proposals
2004-15	Equitable PILT Distribution
2004-19	Household Fee For Open Space
2004-20	Opt Out Provision for Parks Districts
2004-23	Household Fee for Parks & Recreation
2004-26	Regulations to Improve Parkland
2004-27	De-listing the Gray Wolf in Montana
2004-28	Violations of Zoning Regulations
2004-31	Water Rights Adjudication
2004-34	MDOT Indirect Cost Exemption
2005-01	Mariah Hypersonic Wind Tunnel
2006-01	Country of Origin - BSE Disease
2006-02	Special Purpose Districts Interim Study
2006-03	Weed Control on State Lands
2006-04	Mill Levy Elections
2006-05	Junk Vehicle Disposal
2006-06	Emergency Zoning
2006-07	Exemption for Solid Waste Sites
2006-08	Support for Older Montanans Trust
2006-09	The Effects of CI-97 on Aging Services
2006-10	Gray Wolf as a Predator Species
2006-11	Mail Ballot Elections
2006-12	Wireless E-911
2006-13	Appointments to an Airport Authority
2006-14	Summer Youth Employment
2006-15	Legal Advertising & Printing Contracts
2006-16	Bridge Depreciation Reserve Funds
2006-17	Oath of Office
2006-18	Compensated Absence Liability Fund
2006-19	Construction of Bridge in Municipality
2006-20	Youth Court Costs
2006-21	Livestock Loss Mitigation Program
2006-22	Levy for Veterans Cemetery
2006-23	State Funded County Attorney Salaries
2006-24	Legislative Transparency Project
2006-25	Imagery for Nation Proposal
2006-26	Increase Debt Limit
2006-27	Collection of Impact Fees
2006-28	Mobile Home Disposal Fee
2006-29	Filing Deadline for Independents
2006-30	Appraisals for Co. Property Purchases
2006-31	Sale of Equipment without Bid
2006-32	Remove "Squaw" From Names
2006-33	Selection of Professional Services

## IN MEMORIAM



Bill Rappold, Pondera County Commissioner (1991-2002) passed away September 5. Bill was a rancher by trade, and possessed a great devotion to public service. Bill served as President of MACo from 1997-98. He was a member of the Valier School Board of Trustees, Pondera County Hospital Commission, Golden Triangle Mental Health Board, TLC, Council on Aging and the Pondera County Park Board. Bill enjoyed the remaining years of his life at home on the family ranch.

Andreas (Andy) Grande, Meagher County Commissioner (1967-1991), passed away August 23 in Bozeman. He was a respected businessman and community leader, serving four terms on the county commission. He also worked in banking and ranching, as well as continuing his life-long talents as a musician and dancer. He is survived by his wife Joyce and three children and families.

Charlie Rock, former Mineral County Commissioner, (1985-1996) passed away recently.

# MACo PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

## #1 ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

*This proposed amendment would create three classes of membership in MACo, Regular, Associate and Affiliate. Currently affiliated groups such as Clerk and Recorder and Treasurer's Associations are grouped together with businesses as Affiliate members. Affiliated member organizations should be a separate class of membership from business and should have lower membership dues.*

### Section 3. AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

Affiliate members are individuals, businesses and organizations and agencies that make proper application, are approved for membership by to the Executive Director, and pay dues adopted by the Board of Directors and ratified by the membership. Affiliate members shall be entitled to receive services as determined by the Board of Directors. They shall have no floor or voting privileges.

### Section 4. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: (New section)

Associate members are individuals and businesses that make proper application, are approved for membership by the Executive Director, and pay dues accordingly. Associate members shall be entitled to receive services as determined by the Board of Directors. They shall have no floor or voting privileges.

## #2 ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*This proposed amendment would allow for the Board of Directors to submit dues adjustments for member consideration at times other than the Annual meeting. It would also add a conflict of interest disclosure requirement upon members of the MACo Board of Directors.*

### Section 3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board shall have the powers and duties to:

- a) develop the policies of the Association within the guidelines set by the voting membership;
- b) establish a central office;
- c) employ an Executive Director, and to set his/her salary;
- d) remove the Executive Director at any time after allowing adequate due process;
- e) view and approve annually the Executive Director's Staff Policy and Procedures Manual;
- 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) the Board 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) authorize an annual independent audit of the Association by a firm of certified public accountants;
- k) function as the nominating committee and select at least two candidates each for the office of Second Vice President and Fiscal Officer. No candidate can be nominated and run for two offices simultaneously. Nominations may be made at district meetings of county commissioners and submitted to the Board;
- l) amend the approved budget by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- m) immediately disclose any conflict of interest prior to acting in any manner that may impinge upon their duty as a Board member, They shall also recuse themselves and/or abstain from any vote or decision involving said conflict.

**#3 ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Continued)**

The Executive Director shall compile, publish and maintain a "Staff Policy and Procedures Manual", which shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. ~~The Staff Policies and Procedures Manual shall include a detailed job description for the Executive Director and such other staff positions as may be created.~~

The Executive Director shall maintain detailed position descriptions for all positions.

The Executive Director shall maintain a policy manual, containing all Board and operational policies.

The Executive Director shall be responsible for the hiring and termination of staff personnel consistent with the "Staff Policies and Procedures Manual". The Executive Director shall receive approval from the Board of Directors prior to creating any new permanent employment positions.

The hiring of an Associate Director shall be by the Executive Committee and the Executive Director with confirmation by the Board of Directors.

**#4 ARTICLE VI - STANDING COMMITTEES**

*This proposed amendment would remove the requirement that the Board of Directors approve the membership of the MACo Resolutions Committee. This requirement has not been adhered to for an unknown number of years. It also removes the requirement that the Resolution Committee members select one member to serve as the committee chair and directs the MACo President to appoint the committee chair.*

**Section 1. RESOLUTIONS AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

The Resolutions and Legislative Committee shall consist of at least five members. Members (one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors) are appointed by the President, ~~subject to approval of the Board of Directors.~~ ~~The Committee members~~ President shall select the chairperson from their own number. It shall be the duty of the Committee to develop resolutions and to receive resolutions from the Regional Districts and MACo staff. The Committee may consult other elected county officials to determine resolutions beneficial to county governments, and work with those officials to promote beneficial resolutions. The Committee shall examine resolutions to be placed before the membership for proper form and content, ~~organize them by category, combine similar resolutions,~~ and recommend priorities. The Committee shall have legislation drafted as directed by resolutions approved by the membership at the annual conference or special meetings; and assist the Executive Director in securing sponsorship for the legislation. The Committee, together with the Executive Director, shall recommend to the Officers and the Board the response of the Association to all legislation affecting county government.

**#5 ARTICLE IX - ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND PROCEDURES**

*This proposed amendment would bring the MACo Bylaws into conformance with Roberts Rules of Order. and remove a conflict between sections of the bylaws. Article IX, Section 3 of the MACo Bylaws requires official business of the association to be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.*

**Section 5. ELECTIONS**

The election of officers shall occur at the annual conference and be governed by the rule of majority – over 50% plus one of the entire votes cast. The ballot will be repeated in the event of the failure of a candidate to receive a majority with the nominee receiving the lowest number of votes removed from the ballot for purposes of the subsequent vote of the members.

**#6 ARTICLE IX - ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND PROCEDURES**

*This proposed amendment would simply incorporate the most recent date of amendments to the bylaws.*

**Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE**

These by-laws having been duly amended by a majority vote of the members cast at the ~~96<sup>th</sup>~~ 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, held in Bozeman, MT on September 28, 2006. These by-laws will be effective upon the adjourning of the annual conference with all provisions for compliance in regard to the elected officers of the Association having been provided for by action on the floor of the Association.

## Owners of Fire-impacted Property, Forestlands May Qualify For Property Tax Relief

Montana property owners whose homes or forestlands burned during this summer's wildfire season may be eligible for significant property tax relief, and are encouraged to contact their local Montana Department of Revenue office for assistance.

"We express sincere sympathy to those Montanans whose homes, lands and other property have been damaged or destroyed by this year's wildfires," said Governor Brian Schweitzer. "We want them to be aware that we can provide some relief on their upcoming property tax bill."

A property owner whose home or outbuildings were partially or totally destroyed by wildfire, rendering the property unsuitable for its previous use, may be eligible for property tax relief. The tax relief is prorated based on the number of days in the tax year that the property was unusable. The relief is available for the current tax year. Property owners must complete Form AB-25 to apply for the property tax relief. The application should be completed by December 31.

In addition, a forestland owner whose standing timber has been destroyed by wildfire during 2006 will receive a 50% reduction in the assessed value for 20 years beginning with the 2007 tax year. The land impacted by the wildfire must have been classified as commercial forest by the Department of

Revenue prior to the loss.

Forestland owners must complete Form AB-26. The AB-26 can be completed at any time following the loss. However, to be eligible for a reduction on the 2007 tax bill, the forestland owner must complete and submit Form AB-26 by the first Monday in June of 2007, or within 30 days of receipt of the 2007 property tax assessment, whichever is later.


Both Forms AB-25 and AB-26 are available at all Department of Revenue local offices. The forms also can be downloaded from the department's website at [www.mt.gov/revenue](http://www.mt.gov/revenue).

"This tax relief is significant for affected property owners throughout the state," said MT Department of Revenue director Dan Bucks. "It will assist Montanans in recovering after a devastating wildfire season." Montana property owners who experience a fire-related loss of a dwelling also may be eligible for an income tax deduction. In addition, the department can issue replacement copies of property records, past-year tax returns or other revenue-related information that is lost in a wildfire.

For more information, contact your local Department of Revenue office or visit the department's website at [www.mt.gov/revenue](http://www.mt.gov/revenue).

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## Allocation of Federal Mineral Royalties for FY-2007

Total Monies Received by State in FY 2006 Pursuant to 30 U.S.C. 191				\$	38,142,694.43
25% County Share of the Total Monies Received					0.25
Total Monies Distributed to Eligible Counties				\$	9,535,673.60
	County Fiscal Year 2007 *August 15, 2006 Payment		County Fiscal Year 2006 *August 15, 2005 Payment		
	FY-0007 Total Distribution By County	By County Percentages	FY-06 Total Distribution By County	By County Percentages	Increase or (Decrease)
County					
Beaver head	\$ 898	0.01%	\$ 496	0.01%	\$ 402
Big Horn	\$ 3,159,993	33.14%	\$ 3,310,787	36.68%	\$ (150,794)
Blaine	\$ 209,731	2.20%	\$ 215,779	2.39%	\$ (6,048)
Broadwater	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -
Carbon	\$ 219,818	2.31%	\$ 181,276	2.01%	\$ 38,542
Carter	\$ 48,084	0.50%	\$ 66,091	0.73%	\$ (18,007)
Cascade	\$ 1,678	0.02%	\$ 1,257	0.01%	\$ 421
Chouteau	\$ 38,924	0.41%	\$ 40,114	0.44%	\$ (1,191)
Custer	\$ 5,099	0.05%	\$ 8,903	0.10%	\$ (3,804)
Daniels	\$ 1,731	0.02%	\$ 1,912	0.02%	\$ (180)
Dawson	\$ 297,635	3.12%	\$ 245,420	2.72%	\$ 52,215
Fallon	\$ 2,145,884	22.50%	\$ 1,499,501	16.61%	\$ 646,383
Fergus	\$ 13,029	0.14%	\$ 2,120	0.02%	\$ 10,909
Flathead	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -
Garfield	\$ 7,174	0.08%	\$ 397	0.00%	\$ 6,777
Glacier	\$ 5,236	0.05%	\$ 3,865	0.04%	\$ 1,371
Hill	\$ 65,126	0.68%	\$ 67,139	0.74%	\$ (2,014)
Lake	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -
Lewis & Clark	\$ 6,243	0.07%	\$ 19,106	0.21%	\$ (12,863)
Liberty	\$ 26,005	0.27%	\$ 19,336	0.21%	\$ 6,669
McCone	\$ 451	0.00%	\$ 1,661	0.02%	\$ (1,210)
Meagher	\$ 2,634	0.03%	\$ 2,008	0.02%	\$ 627
Musselshell	\$ 5,599	0.06%	\$ 4,591	0.05%	\$ 1,008
Petroleum	\$ 15,634	0.16%	\$ 6,431	0.07%	\$ 9,203
Phillips	\$ 1,156,210	12.13%	\$ 826,694	9.16%	\$ 329,516
Pondera	\$ 16,609	0.17%	\$ 5,928	0.07%	\$ 10,682
Powder River	\$ 73,454	0.77%	\$ 101,771	1.13%	\$ (28,317)
Prairie	\$ 85,396	0.90%	\$ 78,742	0.87%	\$ 6,654
Richland	\$ 234,008	2.45%	\$ 213,975	2.37%	\$ 20,033
Roosevelt	\$ 23,042	0.24%	\$ 10,423	0.12%	\$ 12,619
Rosebud	\$ 1,028,517	10.79%	\$ 1,607,822	17.81%	\$ (579,305)
Sheridan	\$ 12,528	0.13%	\$ 17,771	0.20%	\$ (5,243)
Stillwater	\$ 9,540	0.10%	\$ 7,748	0.09%	\$ 1,792
Sweet Grass	\$ 708	0.01%	\$ 4,702	0.05%	\$ (3,994)
Teton	\$ 665	0.01%	\$ 617	0.01%	\$ 48
Toole	\$ 44,805	0.47%	\$ 30,971	0.34%	\$ 13,833
Treasure	\$ 185,111	1.94%	\$ 91,035	1.01%	\$ 94,076
Valley	\$ 100,170	1.05%	\$ 91,520	1.01%	\$ 8,650
Wheatland	\$ 30	0.00%	\$ 30	0.00%	\$ 0
Wibaux	\$ 287,401	3.01%	\$ 237,909	2.64%	\$ 49,492
Yellowstone	\$ 875	0.01%	\$ 796	0.01%	\$ 78
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>\$ 9,535,674</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 9,026,643.35</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 509,030</b>

## Kaercher to Testify

MACo President, Doug Kaercher is scheduled to testify before the Aviation Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee on September 14, 2006 to support reauthorization of the Essential Air Service Program (EAS). President Kaercher will present testimony for the National Association of Counties on behalf of the 150 communities in the U.S. that have recipient airports, and in particular Montana's seven communities that have EAS designated airports.

The Essential Air Service Program is not only important to those eight Montana communities; it is essential to all of Montana. Without the financial support provided by EAS, Montana's only point-to-point carrier, Big Sky Airlines, may not survive. This would bring an end to being able to fly from one airport in Montana to another, without going through Denver or Salt Lake.

For example, many Montanans routinely fly from Wolf Point or Glendive to receive medical services in Billings. This is not a matter of convenience; it is a matter of necessity. Many of you fly Big Sky Airlines to attend meetings or the legislature in Helena. Without EAS, this would not be possible, even from communities such as Billings and Kalispell that are not EAS-designated communities but whose residents use Big Sky Airlines.

## LINKS TO BILL DRAFTS

### Discussed at District Meetings

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/css/committees/interim/2005\\_2006/st\\_admin\\_vet\\_affairs/default.asp](http://www.leg.mt.gov/css/committees/interim/2005_2006/st_admin_vet_affairs/default.asp)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005\\_2006/child\\_fam/legislation/LCCF10.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005_2006/child_fam/legislation/LCCF10.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005\\_2006/econ\\_affairs/Committee\\_legislation/LC8888\\_revisedAugust.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005_2006/econ_affairs/Committee_legislation/LC8888_revisedAugust.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005\\_2006/econ\\_affairs/Committee\\_legislation/LC7800\\_revisedSSN\\_breach.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005_2006/econ_affairs/Committee_legislation/LC7800_revisedSSN_breach.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005\\_2006/energy\\_telecom/Legislation/6230CBXA\\_EnhancedWireless9-1-1.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005_2006/energy_telecom/Legislation/6230CBXA_EnhancedWireless9-1-1.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005\\_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft\\_legislation/hjr10lc2000.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft_legislation/hjr10lc2000.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005\\_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft\\_legislation/hjr10lc2001.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft_legislation/hjr10lc2001.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005\\_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft\\_legislation/hjr10lc2002.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft_legislation/hjr10lc2002.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005\\_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft\\_legislation/hjr10lc2003.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft_legislation/hjr10lc2003.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005\\_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft\\_legislation/hjr10lc2004.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft_legislation/hjr10lc2004.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005\\_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft\\_legislation/hjr10lc2005.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005_2006/subcommittees/studies/draft_legislation/hjr10lc2005.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005\\_2006/subcommittees/hb790/draft\\_legislation/hb790\\_billdraft5.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/lepo/2005_2006/subcommittees/hb790/draft_legislation/hb790_billdraft5.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005\\_2006/law\\_justice/legislation/LC0071.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005_2006/law_justice/legislation/LC0071.pdf)

[http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005\\_2006/law\\_justice/legislation/LC8888.pdf](http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/committees/interim/2005_2006/law_justice/legislation/LC8888.pdf)

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# Please Support Mike's Marathon-a-thon

Submitted by: Mike Murray, Lewis & Clark Co. Commissioner

Fellow non-golfing county commissioners: We have the opportunity on Sunday, September 24 to watch Beaverhead County Commissioner Mike McGinley finish a marathon at the "Cats" football stadium at about noon. I can't do the 2 laps he must do to finish the 26+ mile course, so let's be there to encourage him to.

He is chasing his youth in hopes of returning his body to that of a 20 year old---and raising a little money for the YMCA. If you wish to sponsor Mike and his efforts, please donate for this "kids" efforts. Please use the form below.



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## COMMISSIONER THOMPSON IN D.C.

by ANTHONY QUIRINI - Ravalli Republic

Ravalli County Commissioner Alan Thompson testified before Congress about how federally mandated policies slow the process of recovering burned salvageable timber. Thompson was asked to testify on behalf of NACo before the Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization.

A bipartisan bill, the "Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act", which was passed by the House, allows counties, federal and state agencies to take short cuts to harvest burned timber, bypassing steps under the National Environmental Protection Act. According to NACO Executive Director Larry Naake, the current lengthy process leads to the degradation of timber and leaves the restoration costs to taxpayers. The idea behind harvesting the burned timber is to offset the costs for fighting fires while reducing the amount of fuels for future wild-fires.

Thompson described recent stewardship projects in timber harvests through which the contractor was responsible for planting trees, seeding and placing straw waddles to reduce the amount of erosion, instead of paying for the timber.

"With the high-fuel loads, drought, diseased trees and hot dry temperatures, the scenario for fires like those of 2000 is once again possible," he said. Thompson said the Bitterroot Forest encompasses 75 percent of the total land mass of Ravalli County. The fires of 2000 burned more than 300,000 acres, so the issue is especially important to the County. The fire suppression costs exceeded \$54 million dollars, and the County assessed a levy to help pay for the costs.

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## Paint the State Winners by County

*Thank you to all who participated and supported  
our youth in the MT Meth Project  
"Paint the State" Contest!  
Congratulations to Broadwater County's  
Alexa Audet,  
the \$13,000 Grand Prize Winner!*

Beaverhead County	Fallon County
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Amy Bump, Chelsea Clark,	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Bret Sander, Age 16
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Jacob Cleverly, Age 16	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Bailey Ferris, Age 16	Fergus County
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Stacey Ray, Age 17
Big Horn County	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Sarah Rice, Age 13
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Ben Pease, Age 16	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Shani Marciniak, Age 17
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Indra McCormick, Age 16	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Taylor Big Day, Age 14	Flathead County
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Chloe Thorton, Age 13
Blaine County	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Kenneth Yarus, Age 16
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Shelby McCann, Age 14	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Lauren Discoe, Age 17
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Kristi Doney, Age 18	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Chris Schuldt, Age 14	Gallatin County
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Emily Allison, Age 18
Broadwater County	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Jeremy Smania, Age 17
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Alexa Audet, Age 16	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Nikole Gebhart, Age 15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Emily Watson, Age 16	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Siobhan Flynn, Age 15	Garfield County
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Jonathan Fitzgerald, Age 14
Butte-Silver Bow County	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Sarah Dailey, Age 18
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Courtney Cashell, Age 13	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Matthew Maetzold, Age 13
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Richard Oulman-Harper, Age 17	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Keanne & Kendra Lamberston	Glacier County
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Courtney Sheble, Age 16
Carbon County	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Samantha Sheble, Age 18
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Red Lodge Youth Council	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Sarah Murray, Age 13
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Jacob Timmons, Age 14	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Chance Cady, Age 13	Golden Valley County
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Drue Bruner, Age 14
Carter County	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Jesse Burroughs, Age 15
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Nathan Carrol, Age 18	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Jeremiah Jansen, Age 13
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Clinton Mrnak, Age 15	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Amanda Kortum, Age 17	Granite County
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Jessica Tubbs, Age 18
Cascade County	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Jessie Paske, Age 15
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Jenna Beck, Age 16	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Ben Hauptman, Age 17
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Katy Lunstad, Age 16	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Mason Crocker, Age 13	Hill County
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Jourdon Han, Age 17
Chouteau County	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Miranda Holmlund, Age 14
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Trace Claassen, Age 16	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Nathan Hurlburt, Age 16
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Chance Claassen, Age 13	
	Jefferson County
Custer County	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Andrew Giulio, Age 15
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Roughriders 4-H	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Amber Reinschmidt, Age 17
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Shayla Swenson, Age 18	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Kayce Flathers, Age 16
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Philip Estep, Age 17	
	Judith Basin County
Daniels County	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Jordan Uhler, Age 14
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Shelby Snare, Age 15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Roxy Marquardt, Age 13
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Cydney Handran, Age 13	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Dabrianna Raprager, Age 17
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Kelsi Plante, Age 17	
	Lake County
Dawson County	1 <sup>st</sup> Place T.J. Lipko, Age 16
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Dawson Co. Boys & Girls Club	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Sarah Nelson, Age 18
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Natasha Carman, Age 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Samantha Dorne, Age 17
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Hannah Huschka, Age 15	
	Lewis & Clark County
Deer Lodge County	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Neal Livezy, Age 17
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Angela Haffey, Age 18	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Rainey Davis, Age 15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Jasmine Warner, Age 15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Kevin Faunt LeRoy, Age 18
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Mike Billy, Age 15	
	Liberty County
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Liberty Explore America
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Evan Waldron, Age 15
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Liberty Junior Hawks
	Lincoln County
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Trista Berget, Age 17
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Lacey Shaver, Age 16
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Dalton Mossey, Age 16



Madison County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Amber Bettinger, Age 16  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Adrianna Frankland, Age 15  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Tyler Grover, Age 13

McCone County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Sunny Schriver, Age 15  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Raina Urton, Age 16  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Cole Hinnaland, Age 15

Meagher County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Austin Sereday, Age 13  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Molly Hedrich, Age 13  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Riley Brewer, Age 16

Mineral County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Jocelyn Dockter, Brianna Managhan, Rolisha Rhodes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Jasmine Jones, Thomas Spencer  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ryanne Burklund, Age 16

Missoula County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Jennifer Schuberg, Age 18  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Garden City Church Youth Group  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Alex Kuennen, Age 17

Musselshell County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Dane Christensen, Age 18  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Carol Stahl, Age 18  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Trinda Blackmore, Age 15

Park County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Hannah Sukut, Age 16  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Michael Jacobsen, Age 18  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ryan Wulf, Age 18

Petroleum County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Whit Weingart, Age 13  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ashley Kiehl, Age 14  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Kylie King, Age 17

Phillips County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Kristen Engebretson, Age 18  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Josh Davis, Age 18  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Jaren Stiles, Age 17

Pondera County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Brooke Holden, Age 16  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Lauren Montijo, Age 16  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Mariah Sheble, Age 14

Powder River County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Emilee Barnhart, Age 17  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Megan Brunke, Age 16  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Jed Smith, Age 18

Powell County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Mount Powell Champs 4-H  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Meghan Higle, Age 14  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Stephanie Dobson, Age 14

Prairie County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Kyla Strasheim, Age 18  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Jasmine Freiboth, Age 17  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Chay Larsen, Age 16

Ravalli County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Coleman Pape, Age 17  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Mario Carmazzi Farr, Age 16  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Alaina Kinney, Age 16

Richland County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Amanda Livers, Age 16  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Katelyn Koch, Age 17  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Jonathon Strasheim, Age 17  
Jenna Welnel, Age 17

Roosevelt County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Froid High School Student Council  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Andrea Damm, Age 15  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Rheannon Black Dog, Age 17

Rosebud County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Annie Shaver, Age 18  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Leah Vannett, Age 15  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Chalee Daugherty, Age 15

Sanders County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Rianna Trujillo, Age 16  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Abbie Starkey, Age 14  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Johnny Wesley, Age 13

Sheridan County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Caitlin Nyby, Age 14  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Meg Shoal, Age 14  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Scott Mangel, Age 17

Stillwater County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Justin Fleming, Age 16  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Stephanie Faust, Age 17  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Justin Lindo, Age 17

Sweet Grass County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Lawson Maclean, Age 16  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Paige Leary, Age 17  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Trista Hathaway, Age 15

Teton County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Claire Nelson, Age 14  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Wade Janzen, Age 18  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Andrew Nichter, Age 17

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1<sup>st</sup> Place Shadee Jergens, Age 15  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Rachel Cross, Age 17  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Perri Taylor, Age 14

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1<sup>st</sup> Place Heidi Gates, Age 13  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Faith Keck, Age 13  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Cathy Banister, Age 16

Valley County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Caylon Hackwith, Age 18  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Kara Wesen, Age 17  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Shelby Stormer, Age 13

Wheatland County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Jake Tomlinson, Age 17  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Tate Theriault, Age 17  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Konnor Scally, Age 15

Wibaux County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Rachel Barthel, Age 13  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Andrew Barthel, Age 16  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Jackie & Krista Bushman

Yellowstone County  
1<sup>st</sup> Place Lindsey Wolfe, Age 15  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Kyle Trafton, Age 17  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Will Baker, Age 18



# VIBRATION-RELATED MUSCULOSKELETAL RISK

*Submitted by Emelia McEwen, MACo Assistant Risk Manager  
A two-part series from CTDNews, written by Joshua Clifton*

Thousands of jobs require employees to spend a majority of their day working with machinery. While increased automation in the manufacturing sector has helped control some of the negative side effects of these jobs, occupational vibration remains a serious health threat. The Institute for the Study of Human Vibration at the University of Tennessee estimates that at least 10 million people in the United States are exposed to occupational vibration each day at work. Prolonged exposure to vibration can lead to severe musculoskeletal disorders by affecting tendons, muscles, joints, back and nerves.

Exposure is generally in two categories -- whole-body vibration and hand-arm vibration. Whole body vibration commonly affects employees who sit or stand on work surfaces that vibrate. Examples include truck, bus or equipment drivers or employees who work on vibrating loading docks and platforms. The vibration caused by vehicle engines and roadways can shake the body and eventually result in micro fractures in the vertebrae and acute back pain.

Hand-arm vibration usually affects employees who use power tools, such as sanders, routers, drills or circular saws. Exposure to this type of vibration can result in fatigue, pain, numbness, tingling, increased sensitivity to cold, and decreased sensitivity to touch in the fingers, hands and arms. In addition, these types of tools and equipment may require workers to use more force and awkward postures to control, resulting in back pain and other musculoskeletal disorders.

## Whole-body Vibration

Whole-body vibration is found in nearly every job in the transportation sector. Research has shown that truck and bus drivers have higher-than-average risk for developing significant lower-back pain. Other health effects that have been associated with whole-body vibration include hemorrhoids, high blood pressure, kidney disorders, and even impotence and other adverse reproductive effects.

Whole-body vibration can also be a safety risk. Semi-truck drivers can possibly lose control of their vehicles due to numbness and deadness in the operator's hands as he attempts to safely control the wheel and other crucial functions. In addition, low-frequency vibrations of moderate intensity can induce sleep. Higher frequencies have the opposite effect. Vision can also become blurred because of the movement of the image on the retina.

What steps can employers take to control and eliminate whole-body vibration?

- ▶ **Limit the time spent by employees on a vibrating surface.** Rotate employees through the workday to prevent continuous exposure.
- ▶ **Maintain floor surfaces for vehicles** to reduce vibration exposure from driving over uneven surfaces.
- ▶ **Reduce travel speed to reduce vibration levels.**
- ▶ **Require rest breaks to avoid constant continued exposure.**
- ▶ **Obtain information on equipment vibration and recommended maintenance schedules** from the vendor.
- ▶ **Minimize the vibration created between floor ramps and vehicles** by maintaining ramps and dock levelers.
- ▶ **Improve vehicle suspension and use vibration isolation or dampening for seating** to reduce vibration transmission.
- ▶ **Encourage workers to incline the backrest up to the 10 degrees and use lumbar support.**

...to be continued in October with information on hand-arm vibration

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## NACo INFORMATION

NACo, in partnership with Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS) and MACo, provides county employees with a Section 457 Deferred Compensation Program. Since its inception in 1980, the Program has grown to become the largest supplemental retirement income program available to county employees. More than 380,000 county employees from over 1,900 counties currently participate in the Program, with accumulated assets of more than \$6 billion.

The NACo Deferred Compensation Program offers county employees a way to augment retirement savings while postponing the payment of federal and, in many cases, state income taxes. The Program allows county employees the opportunity to voluntarily contribute a portion of their wages to a special account and to direct these contributions to one or more investment options. Thus, the Program offers county employees a valuable savings alternative that can be used to supplement their retirement income. The program also provides county governments an additional benefit option to offer to their employees.

### Employee Benefits

- Helps public employees save for their future at no cost to their employer.
- Enables public employees to reduce current taxes

- Institutes a systematic savings program for public employees
- Automatic contribution deductions make it easy for employees to save
- Contributions grow on a tax-deferred basis
- Employees are 100% vested in their accounts.

### Employer Benefits

- Helps employers to recruit and retain high-caliber personnel
- Usually less expensive to maintain than defined benefit plans
- Employer contributions are not subject to Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA)
- Flexibility in program design

### NACo Oversight

What makes the NACo Deferred Compensation Program truly unique is that NACo, the only national organization that represents the interests of county governments, takes an active role in the oversight and quality control of the Program. The NACo Program was created by county employees for county employees. The Program has not lost sight of this philosophy and utilizes an Advisory Committee comprised of county officials.

...more to come in future MACo News...



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**NACo TRANSPORTATION STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT - PART 1 of 2**  
**Jamie Doggett, Meagher County Commissioner**

The NACo Transportation Steering Committee held two full days of meetings at the National Conference in Chicago. The focus of these meetings was to develop new policy in preparation for the reauthorization of the federal airport and aviation program, which expires next year, and continuing to monitor other relevant transportation issues. Congress must pass new legislation by September 2007 that both reauthorizes the airport programs such as the Airport Improvement Program and Essential Air Service and the user fees that pay for much of the federal programs. Several speakers from the aviation industry (airports, airlines, FAA and general aviation) presented their perspective on the proposed legislation.

The new highway and transit legislation (SAFETEA-LU) was signed into law last August; however, there are several issues that need to be continually watched. There is some concern that the Highway Trust Fund may not collect enough fuel tax dollars to fund SAFETEA-LU and the Transportation Steering Committee passed a resolution relating to this concern.

The Administration's FY 2007 transportation budget request is \$65.651 billion, up from the current year level of \$61.253 billion or 7%. There were many cuts in funding which the House and Senate added back into the budget for nearly every fund. The House approved its transportation appropriations bill on June 14, with the Administration's funding levels for highways and mass transit. They increased funding to the Airport Improvement Program to \$3.7 billion. Essential Air Service was increased to \$117 million. MACo President, Doug Kaercher will present Essential Air Service testimony to Congress during September committee hearings. Amtrak funding was increased in the House to \$1.114 billion. The Senate version of the Transportation Funding bill was approved by the Appropriations Committee in July. They provide for \$39.1 billion for the highway program and \$8.875 billion for transit. AIP is funded at \$3.52 billion and Essential Air Service at \$117 million. The big increase in the Senate version is Amtrak which gets \$1.4 billion, substantially above both the Administration and the House levels.

**TO BE CONTINUED.....PART II - STEERING COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS AND WORKSHOPS**

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     Superintendent of Schools  
 Gregory Hintz, Missoula County  
     **Sheriff's Office**  
 Stephanie Downs, Petroleum County  
     Treasurer

**AFFILIATE MEMBERS**

Allied Waste Services, Missoula  
 D A Davidson & Company, Great Falls  
 Employee Benefits Mgmt. Services (EBMS)  
 Great Plains Towers, West Fargo, ND  
 Great West Engineering, Inc., Helena  
 Life Care Services, Missoula  
 MT Community Action Partners (HRDCs)  
 Montana Contractors Association, Helena  
 MT County Road Supervisors (MACRS)  
 MDU Resources Group, Bismarck, ND  
 MSU Extension Service, Bozeman  
 Morrison-Maierle, Inc., Helena  
 Norman Grosfield, Attorney, Helena  
 NorthWestern Energy, Helena  
 P B S & J, Bozeman  
 Roscoe Steel & Culvert, Billings  
 Stahly Engineering, Helena  
 Tractor & Equipment Company, Billings

**MACo NEWS**  
 Phone (406) 444-4360  
 Fax (406) 442-5238  
 Email: [maco@maco.cog.mt.us](mailto:maco@maco.cog.mt.us)

**MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
 97<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
 BEST WESTERN GRANTREE INN  
 I-90 AND NORTH 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
 BOZEMAN, MONTANA  
 (406) 587-5261  
 SEPTEMBER 24 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2006**

**CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION**

Name.....County/Agency.....

Position/Title.....  I am my county's voting delegate

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

	<u>Pre-Registration</u>	<u>On Arrival</u>	
<b>Convention Registration:</b> This fee includes three lunches, two banquets, registration materials and the cost of speakers and program.	\$160	\$175	\$_____
Wednesday Night Banquet	_____ Yes, I will attend	_____ No, I will not attend	
Spouses	\$160	\$175	\$_____
<u>For optional meal, send additional payment now:</u>			
Prayer Breakfast, Monday	\$ 15		\$_____
		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 conference call Karen Houston at 444-4375.

REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED ONLY IF CANCELLATION  
 IS REQUESTED BEFORE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR OWN LODGING RESERVATIONS!!**