



Highlights

Page 2

Elected Officials Training Agenda

Page 3

MACo Adds New Staffers,
Counties Receive Awards

Page 5

MACo Health Care Trust

Page 8

Interoperability Montana Status

Page 9

Grant Writing Workshop

Pages 10-11

NACo News

Pages 12-13

County Election Results

Page 14

Announcements & Reminders

Advertisers

Page 3

Great Plains Towers

Page 4

MT Dept. of Commerce

Page 5

MACo HCT, Morrison-Maierle

Page 6

NorthWestern Energy,
Get 'Er Done Wiest,

MACo JPIA Personnel Services,
Stahly Engineering

Page 7

Arthur J. Gallagher

Page 8

MDU Resources,

Nationwide Retirement Solutions

Page 9

Joint Powers Trust, Gaelectric,
RDO Equipment

Page 10

Wells Fargo,

Robert Peccia & Associates

Page 11

Integra Information

Technologies, U.S. Communities,
MT Correctional Enterprises

Page 13

MACo JPIA/JPA, MACo Risk
Management/Loss Control

Theme of general elections: change

By Mike Harbour, MACo Communications Officer

Voters in the Nov. 4 general election chose to change the status quo in Montana county offices by electing 39 new commissioners out of 69 races.

In the rest of the dozens of other office elections, which mainly consisted of district court clerk races, voters went the other way by mostly choosing incumbents.

While voters in all 56 counties got the chance to vote on commissioner candidates, only two counties, Golden Valley and Petroleum, each had just a single commissioner race to decide. All other counties had at least two offices up for grabs, usually a commissioner and the district court clerk.

Of the 69 commissioner races, more than 20 were uncontested. That's a classification that appeared in both urban and rural counties. For example, Yellowstone County Commissioner John Ostlund had

no challengers in the most populous county in the state.

By dint of its city-county governing structure and double-digit precincts, Butte-Silver Bow County laid claim to the most contests with 17, six of those for commissioner offices.

Among incumbents who were reelected, perhaps the most notable is Bill Tande, a Daniels County commissioner who began his tenure as longest-serving Montana commissioner in office in 1979. Tande, who ran unopposed, will be the veteran on the commission, since appointees to the other two seats, Donald Oaks and

Monica Hand, did not win. Instead, Oak's seat will be filled by Gary Linder, and Hand's replacement is James Snare.

For complete county election results, see pages 12-13 of this issue, or visit our Web site for a spreadsheet version.



Conference to feature safety, health topics

Traffic sign reflectivity, accident investigation, and job safety analysis are just some of many topics to be covered at MACo's Risk Management Loss Control Conference at Helena's Red Lion Colonial Hotel in mid-January.

The conference will open with keynote speaker Michael Punke, author of "Fire and Brimstone." His presentation, like his book, will be on the North Butte mining disaster of 1917. Punke is a lawyer, novelist, and Montana resident.

The three-day event, set for Jan. 13-

15, will feature programs and sessions tailored to safety, roads, and law enforcement personnel.

Registration will be available at the MACo Web site on December 1; a draft agenda already is posted there, as is a detailed description on this exciting event.

For more information about the conference, contact Emelia McEwen at 444-4370 or macorma@maco.cog.mt.us. For questions on registration, contact Karen Houston at 444-4375 or macomtg@maco.cog.mt.us.





MACo News

First phase of training, commissioner certification set for next month

MACo, together with the Local Government Center at MSU-Bozeman, will be presenting Phase I of its annual elected officials training/commissioner certification Dec. 1- 4 in Helena in the MACo conference room.

Courses will be taught on numerous topics, such as open meeting, code of ethics, and local government laws.

For more information, see the draft agenda below or visit our Web site at www.maco.cog.mt.us.

DRAFT AGENDA MACo and Local Government Center, MSU-Bozeman Elected Officials Training/Commissioner Certification - Phase I

Monday, Dec. 1

3 pm **Registration**
5:30 pm **Dinner with MACo Board of Directors, Red Lion Colonial Hotel**
Welcome: Mike McGinley, MACo President and Beaverhead County Commissioner
Self Introductions
Keynote Address: To be announced

Tuesday, Dec. 2

8-10 am **Creating Gracious Space.**
10-10:30 am **Break**
10:30-12:30 pm **Course 101.1**
Intro to County Government
An in-depth review of the legal basis of Montana county government and the roles of the county commissioners.
12:30-1:30 pm **Lunch**
1:30-2:30 pm **Course 102.1**
The Commission Decision Process
An overview of the decision process of the board of county commissioners and of the constitutional rights and limitations of Montana citizens to participate in county government decisions.
3:30-4 pm **Break**
4-5 pm **Course 103.1**
The Montana Code of Ethics
An in-depth review of the statutory requirements imposed upon all elected and appointed county officials by the Montana Code of Ethics.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

8-10 am **Course 104.1**
County Functions and Services
A review of essential county functions and services and how they are delivered.
10-10:30 am **Break**
10:30-12:30 pm **Course 105.1**

12:30-1:30 pm **Lunch**
1:30-3:30 pm **Course 106.1**

Local Government Law

A review and discussion of how to find and use the law related to county government.

Lunch

Course 106.1

The Montana Legislative Process

A review and discussion of how the Montana legislative process works from the perspective of county government.

Break

Course 107.1

The Montana Association of Counties and National Association of Counties

An overview of key organizations that support county elected officials.

3:30-4 pm
4-5:30 pm

Thursday, Dec. 4

8-9 am **Course 107.1, continued.**
9-10 am **Course 108.1**
Human Resource Risk Issues
An in-depth review of the legal requirements and risk exposures associated with critical human resource management issues.
10-10:30 am **Break**
10:30-11:30 am **Course 108.1, continued.**
12-1 pm **Lunch – Douglas Steele, Vice Provost and Director, MSU - Extension**
Course 501.1
Pending Legislation Affecting Local Government
A look at proposed bills that could affect county government.
3-3:30 pm **Break**
3:30-5:30 pm **Course 507.1**
Elements of Land Use Law
A review of the legal requirements for, and critical elements of, the land use planning process.
5:30 pm **Adjourn.**



MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2715 Skyway Drive
Helena, MT 59601-2123

406.444.4360 - Fax 406.442.5238
maco@maco.cog.mt.us



MACo News

Ravalli, Gallatin counties win awards

By Emelia McEwen, MACo Senior Loss Control Specialist

Two MACo-trained county entities were named winners in the 2008 Governor's Safety and Health Awards Program held last month in West Yellowstone.

The Ravalli County Road Department was named the small public employer of the year, while the Gallatin County Nursing Home placed second in the large public employer category.

The program was created to recognize commitment to excellence in the workplace safety and health arena. It also promotes greater awareness of workplace health and safety across the state and offers the opportunity for leaders to share model programs.

The awards are the highest honors given by the State of Montana in recognition of health and safety excellence. Employees of the Ravalli County Road Department were presented with a banner and plaque during the awards ceremony, and Gallatin County Nursing Home representatives received a plaque.



Representatives of Ravalli County's road department received its Governor's Award (top) as did staff from the Gallatin County Nursing Home (left) on Oct. 3.

Knudsen, Sehestedt join MACo

Talia Knudsen has joined MACo as the association's new administrative assistant, while Mike Sehestedt took the newly created position of chief legal counsel.

Knudsen is a Montana native who grew up in Helena. She was the administrative assistant for MDM Supply in Helena before joining MACo, and she previously worked for the state Legislative Services Division. Knudsen has a journalism degree from the University of Montana and has called Helena home for the last three years.



Talia Knudsen

Sehestedt in October left a 30-plus-year career at Missoula County, where he was the chief civil deputy. A Nebraska native, he's also a UM graduate where he earned his juris doctor in law. Some of the many highlights of Sehestedt's career at Missoula County include helping to establish the county's risk management pool, representing the county in front of state and federal courts, and preparing proposed legislation and amendments to pending legislation.



Mike Sehestedt

Knudsen will handle a wide range of front-office duties for MACo, as well as legislative work when Montana's senators and representatives gather next year in Helena. Sehestedt will serve as general counsel for the association and its insurance trusts, taking over many duties from MACo's longtime contract attorney Norm Grosfield, who will retire in December.

State Holidays This Month

- Nov. 4 — Election Day
- Nov. 11 — Veterans' Day
- Nov. 27 — Thanksgiving



GREAT PLAINS TOWERS, INC.

126 SIXTH STREET WEST
WEST FARGO, ND 58078-1536

E-MAIL kreski@greatplaintowers.com
www.greatplaintowers.com

OFFICE 701-282-2236
FAX 701-282-2148
OFFICE 800-853-2236



State of Montana

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Department of Commerce

Anthony J. Preite, Director



...committed to the state's vision for economic prosperity and serving the many citizens, communities, businesses, and organizations.

Direct technical assistance and training for Montana's entrepreneurs, businesses, and their employees in partnership with communities, counties, and local and regional development groups:

Andy Poole; Deputy Director
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2707
E-mail: apoole@mt.gov
Website: businessresources.mt.gov

Financing for Montana businesses that generate a positive financial and economic return for the state and its citizens:

Gary Morehouse, Asst. Division Administrator
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2732
E-mail: gmorehouse@mt.gov
Website: businessresources.mt.gov

Herb Kulow; Portfolio Manager
Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-1218
E-mail: hkulow@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/instate

Financing for homeownership and rental assistance for Montana families:

Bruce Brensdal; Executive Director
Board of Housing
Phone: (406) 841-2840
E-mail: bbrensdal@mt.gov
Website: housing.mt.gov

Local government financing:

Dave Cole; Administrator
Community Development Division
Phone: (406) 841-2776
e-mail: dacole@mt.gov
Website: <http://comdev.mt.gov/>

One-stop reference source for virtually all state, federal and local development based public finance programs:

Gary Morehouse; Asst. Division Administrator
Business Resources Division
Phone: (406) 841-2732
E-mail: gmorehouse@mt.gov
Website: mtfinanceonline.com

Louise Welsh; Bond Program Officer;
Board of Investments, INTERCAP Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-0891
E-mail: Lwelsh@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/Intericap

Herb Kulow; Portfolio Manager
Board of Investments, Infrastructure Loan Program
Phone: (406) 444-1218
E-mail: hkulow@mt.gov
Website: investmentmt.com/Programs/instate



MACo News

Know your numbers when dealing with health insurance

By Owen Voigt, MACo Health Care Trust Administrator

What is a deductible? For health insurance, a deductible is an amount the covered person pays beginning at the start of the benefit period. Your benefit period may begin either on January 1 or July 1, depending on your contract. The covered person pays towards the deductible until it is met. Health insurance deductibles are different than auto or homeowners insurance where you pay a deductible for each event.

Example: If you have a \$1,000 health insurance deductible and you receive \$400 of medical services one month and a month later another \$600, those both count toward your deductible. You then will have met your deductible and for the rest of that benefit period, no more deductible is due.

What is co-insurance? Health insurance is unique in that it requires co-insurance; you and your health insurance/benefits carrier share the medical bills you incur. The co-insurance is usually 80/20, meaning you pay 20 percent of the bill and your insurer pays 80 percent. Typically, co-insurance is paid after the deductible is met.

Example: If your plan has a \$1,000 deductible with 80/20 co-insurance and you incur \$2,000 of medical bills, you will pay the \$1,000 deductible, leaving \$1,000. Of that, you will pay 20 percent, or \$200, and the insurer will pay 80 percent of the \$1,000, or \$800. Net \$2,000 in bills, and you'll pay a total of \$1,200; the insurer pays \$800.

What is the maximum out of pocket, or maximum member liability? This is the amount of your medical bills you have to pay before your insurer will pay 100 percent.

Example: You have a \$1,000 deductible with 80/20 co-insurance and a \$3,000 maximum out of pocket. Over a period of several months, let's say you incur a total of \$11,000 in medical bills; the following figures illustrate how much is paid by you and how much by the insurer.

Medical bills	\$11,000
Deductible	\$1,000
Remaining amount	\$10,000
Your co-insurance (20%)	\$2,000
Insurer's co-insurance (80%)	\$8,000

In this example, your payment toward the \$11,000 in bills is \$3,000 (your maximum out of pocket, including a \$1,000 deductible and \$2,000 of co-insurance), and the

insurer pays \$8,000. Any additional medical bills incurred within the benefit period from eligible medical services will be paid at 100 percent. For a \$120,000 major medical event (if the bills are eligible), you'll pay \$3,000 and your insurer will pay \$117,000.

Here is where it gets tricky; some insurers penalize you if you go to a provider, doctor, hospital or other health care provider out of their preferred provider networks. Some insurers do not count the deductible towards their maximum out of pocket or maximum member liability. If you are ever wondering about what counts or not, you can call your customer service representative or give us a call at MACoHCT and we can help you sort it out.

There are only three kinds of medical services: illness, injury and wellness. Examples of illness are pneumonia, asthma or diabetes. Examples of injury are a broken arm, twisted ankle, or a cut to your hand. Examples of wellness or preventive procedures are having an annual mammogram, a blood draw to check your triglycerides, or a colonoscopy as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. Illness and injury benefits are subject to the plan benefits or limitations as stated in the plan; wellness/preventive benefits usually have a limit such as \$250 for mammograms and \$1,500 for colonoscopies.

Did you know only about 13 percent of the people in a plan will meet a \$1,000 deductible in a year, and only about seven percent of the people in a plan will use about 80 percent of the total benefits paid?

It seems frustrating how much health services and insurance costs, while life insurance seems cheap. One of the things I have learned is people are disappointed to pay so much for health insurance premiums and don't receive any benefits. Another thing I have learned is even though life insurance premiums are inexpensive, no one ever complains about not getting to use this benefit.

Health Care Trust Calendar of Events

Nov. 1-Dec. 15	January open enrollment period
Nov. 10	Annual MDCR Part D notice mailed
Nov. 14	January renewal rates deadline

MORRISON - MAIERLE

ENGINEERS • SCIENTISTS • SURVEYORS • PLANNERS

Providing resources in partnership with clients to achieve their goals

Billings • Bozeman • Helena • Kalispell • Great Falls • Missoula • Phoenix



Phone: 406-442-3050
Fax: 406-442-7862
Web page: www.m-m.net



MACo HCT MACo Health Care Trust

A Cost-Effective Alternative for Health Insurance Benefits for Counties and County-Related Boards and Districts

406.443.8102 * 406.535-6893 (Lewistown office)
ovoigt@macohct.com * www.macohct.com



MACo/County News

MACo News seeks your suggestions

Every month, MACo staff strives to publish a helpful and insightful newsletter in *MACo News*. We strive to make it an indispensable source of information for county elected officials.

As part of our efforts to continuously improve the *News*, we welcome any suggestions or comments from our readers. We'll even be glad to consider any story ideas, too, as long as it benefits our audience.

To talk to someone directly or to submit a note regarding *MACo News*, contact Communications Officer Mike Harbour at 444-4380 or macopb@maco.cog.mt.us.

To advertise in *MACo News*, contact us at macopb@maco.cog.mt.us or (406) 444-4380



Engineers and Land Surveyors

3530 Centennial Drive, Helena, MT 59601

(406) 442-8594

7585 Shedhorn Drive, Bozeman, MT 59718

(406) 522-9526

NorthWesternTM Energy

Delivering a Bright Future

NorthWestern Energy is one of the largest providers of electricity and natural gas in the Upper Midwest and Northwest, serving approximately 640,000 customers in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. Our utility operations consist of regulated electric and natural gas distribution, transmission, energy supply and non-regulated electric operations.

J. Michael Pichette

Director-Government Relations/Montana

208 N. Montana, Suite 104, Helena, MT 59601

406/443-8996 michael.pichette@northwestern.com

www.northwesternenergy.com

Court clerks complete certification

Thirty-four clerks of district courts throughout Montana received professional certification in October via a program conducted by the Montana Association of Clerks of District Court and the MSU Local Government Center.

"The coursework required for professional certification includes the principles of court management, personnel management, the legal requirements and procedures of the clerk of court's office and effective communication skills," said Dan Clark, the center's executive director.

"In undertaking this rigorous course of professional study, those who attended demonstrated both competence as a clerk of district court and commitment to serving the people of his or her county."

Clark said that to be certified, a clerk must attend 40 hours of education in four years, attend three out of four annual professional association conventions, and attend at least one district meeting each year.

MACo JPIA

Property and Casualty Insurance for Public Entities

Personnel Services

Jack Holstrom

Attorney at Law

(800) 471-6304

macops@maco.cog.mt.us

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

MACo Telephone Numbers

Main office
406/444-4360

Claims
406/442-1178

*Health Care
Trust*
406/443-8102

*JPIA/JPA
Trusts*
406/444-4370

Before



Get 'Er Done Wiest

RURAL

Hedge, Brush, or Tree Removal
Fuels Reduction

561 Wiest Road, Brady, MT 59416

Ph. **406-753-2393**

Fax: **406-753-2395**



After



Gallagher

Public Entity & Scholastic Division

Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.

Flood Insurance

Part 1 of 2

Floods can strike anywhere at any time and with almost no warning. Pictures of submerged land are common on the television news.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 caused massive flooding in the south, but devastating floods have also attacked the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic states and New England in recent years. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. flood losses between 1994 and 2004 averaged more than \$2.4 billion per year.

While most floods affect homes and commercial properties near water bodies, locations away from the water are not immune. FEMA reports that 25 percent of flood insurance claims comes from areas with a low-to moderate risk of flooding. In these areas, flooding can result from torrential rainfalls, rapid melting of heavy snows, and breakage of water mains. Business owners who have not paid attention to their insurance coverage may be surprised when floods occur.

Standard commercial property insurance policies do not provide coverage for losses caused by water. A typical policy defines water as:

- Flood, surface water, waves, tides, tidal waves, overflow of a body of water, and spray from any of these, all whether driven by wind or not;
- Mudslide or mudflow;
- Water that backs up or overflows from a sewer, drain or pump; or
- Water under the ground pressing on, flowing or seeping through foundations, walls, floors or paved surfaces, paved and unpaved basements, or doors windows and other openings.

For financial protection from floods, businesses should consider buying a flood insurance policy from the National Flood Insurance Program.

We are a leader in providing Risk Management solutions to Public Entity and Scholastic organizations. We provide:

- *First Dollar or Deductible Programs*
- *Pools, Captives, or Risk Retention Groups*

Large or small, we'll be your partner in providing Risk Management services for your Public Entity.

Please contact Richard Terlecki or Debbie Young at (800) 524-0191 for more information.

Arthur J. Gallagher

7380 Sand Lake Road, Suite 390, Orlando, FL 32819

(800) 524-0191, Ext. 3512

www.ajg.com



County News

Interoperability Montana urges commissioners to play role in project

By Joe Brenneman and Bill Fleiner, Interoperability Montana

Analysis of emergency events ranging in scale from the horrific terrorist attack on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, or the natural disaster in New Orleans to the shooting at the border in Glacier County consistently reveal that communications between responding agencies is the weakest link in our emergency response system. Tragically, the courage, dedication, and training of our emergency responders are all too often compromised by the lack of interoperable communication, or in more comprehensible nongovernmental speak, "We can't talk to each other when we really need to!"

The only purpose of the Interoperability Montana Project is to address that fundamental need for emergency responders. We have adopted a different strategy than the states surrounding us. Our method is based upon the belief that the best system is one that is developed, maintained, and operated under the auspices of local jurisdictions while partnering with state and federal agencies to maximize effectiveness. Various consortia have formed around the state to give guidance to the development of a statewide communication system that works for Montana. To provide a comprehensive management plan for the entire state the Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) was formed.

The scope of the project dictated that the majority of the emphasis to date went toward the oversight of the

project management necessary to build the infrastructure necessary to make the system work. Now that the Northern Tier Project is very close to going live; it is imperative that a sustainability plan is developed for maintaining, operating and enhancing the statewide communication system while keeping the system under local control.

To address the vital issue of long-term sustainability, a draft proposal was submitted at the October IMPD meeting in Helena. This preliminary proposal used MACo county dues paid as a possible guideline for individual county contribution, as well as funding guidance for partners in the program. This public document provides a starting point for discussion on how best to plan for long-term operation of our very own statewide interoperable communications system. The final governance and funding strategy will likely vary a great deal from the initial proposal, but without the necessary first step, we continue to lack a concrete initial proposal to initiate discussion.

This communication system will not be forced upon any jurisdiction, either city or county. The daunting challenge faced by IMPD and the regional consortia is to build a system with sufficient advantages to encourage participation by all emergency agencies in Montana. The IMPD welcomes attendees at the monthly meeting in Helena. County commissioners who wish to play an active role formation and development of the sustainability plan for our statewide communications system are encouraged to join the IMPD governance committee.

Information on the statewide interoperability communications system, including contact information for IMPD board members, is available at <http://interop.mt.gov>.

For more information, contact Flathead County Commissioner Joe Brenneman at 758-5508 or jbrenneman@flathead.mt.gov or Interoperability Montana's Bill Fleiner at wfleiner@mt.gov or 980-2053.



Building a Strong America

Our company reflects a multi-dimensional enterprise comprised of regulated and non-regulated businesses operating in different geographic locations and offering a broad spectrum of high-quality products and services.

MDU Resources' lines of business include:

- Construction Materials and Mining
- Construction Services
- Electric and Natural Gas Utilities
- Natural Gas Pipeline and Energy Services
- Natural Gas and Oil Production

Gary Forrester, Gov't. Affairs
2527 Gardiner St., Billings, MT 59101
406/259-7243 gary.forrester@mduresources.com
www.mduresources.com

These days, finding money to pack away for your future isn't easy. But it's not as hard when you know where to look. That's where Nationwide Retirement Solutions comes in. We've been helping public sector employees save smarter and better for over 30 years.

Food for thought

Simply pack your lunch a couple of times a week, and invest that savings toward retirement.

Lunch money saved per pay period	\$20
Pay periods per year	x 26
Total lunch money saved per year	\$520
Savings over 30 years with inflation	\$29,164 ⁽¹⁾
Invested over 30 years	\$92,015 ⁽²⁾

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

(1) Amount per pay adjusted for inflation by 4% annually.

(2) Assumes an average annual return of 8%. Also assumes savings are invested at the end of each month. Total balance of \$92,015 does not reflect deductions for federal or state taxes. \$92,015 is not intended to represent any specific investment result of any specific investment. Neither the accumulation or other tax account takes into consideration fees or expenses associated with any particular investment. Investment returns are not guaranteed and will vary depending upon your investment and market experience.

Call 1-877-677-3678 to put a Retirement Specialist from Nationwide on your side or visit NRSFORU.com to learn more about how to invest for your future with deferred compensation.

©2008 Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved. The National Association of Counties (NACo) is a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization. Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nationwide Retirement Solutions Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nationwide Financial Services Corporation, member FDIC.





County News

Applications for PERI scholarships for 2009 conference now online

Applications are available for the 12th Annual Public Entity Risk Institute (PERI) Small Entity Scholarship Program, which will provide financial assistance to help small organizations attend the 2009 Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA) Conference and Expo. PERI will accept scholarship applications through Feb. 27, 2009.

PERI, a nonprofit research institute focused on risk management training and education, plans to award up to 20 scholarships valued at \$1,000 in financial assistance to small public entities and community nonprofit organizations interested in attending the 2009 PRIMA Conference in Dallas, Texas, next May.

"Education and training are at the core of PERI's mission," said Gerard Hoetmer, PERI executive director. "The PRIMA Conference is an ideal forum for local governments and nonprofits to advance their understanding of risk management."

The scholarship program is open to employees and elected officials of local governments and schools, and staff and board members of small community nonprofit organizations. The scholarships have made it possible for small local governments, school districts, and nonprofits to attend the annual PRIMA conferences.

The 2009 PRIMA Conference, set for May 31-June 3, will feature an extensive lineup of workshops and presentations by leading risk management professionals along with an expo showcasing the latest products and services from vendors and suppliers.

For more information on the application, program or conference, visit www.primacentral.org, or contact PRIMA at (703) 528-7701 or info@primacentral.org.

Grant workshop to be held in Billings

MSU-Billings and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant writing workshop in Billings, Nov. 13-14. Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend.

Tuition is \$425 and includes a workbook and an accompanying 220MB resource CD that's packed full of tools and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, and online reservations are necessary.

For more information, visit <http://grantwritingusa.com/events/write/bimt1108.html>. You also may contact Grant Writing USA's Cathy Rittenhouse at (800) 814-8191 or cathy@grantwritingusa.com, or MSU-Billings' John Walsh at 896-5872 or jwalsh@msubillings.edu.



JOINT POWERS TRUST
Vern Peterson, Plan Administrator
396 Montsen Lane
Lewistown, MT 59457
Ph: 866.886.8612
Email: jpt@wb.midrivers.com

From complete, turn-key full coverage health plans to pooling stop loss for self-funded plans, the JPT can assist!

We invite you to compare us with your current health plan!



We're working with landowners, utilities, state officials and transmission companies to develop state and regional energy solutions.



RENEWABLE AND ENERGY STORAGE DEVELOPMENT

600 Central Plaza
Great Falls, MT 59401

406.452.2526
www.gaelectric.ie

Service and Support You Deserve From RDO Equipment Co.



SALES

PARTS

SERVICE

Your best source for expert service, parts, and knowledge is **RDO Equipment Co.** Our highly trained technicians stay on top of changing technology and we have a large inventory of parts in stock.

We also provide parts and service support for non John Deere equipment too. Call us and discover how we can help you.



Ask about other products we carry!

Customer Focused. Quality Driven.



Billings	Belgrade	Great Falls
5221 Midland Road 406-259-5536 800-234-5420	141 Andrea Drive 406-388-8353 800-927-3001	4900 Tri Hill Road 406-452-8521 800-823-3337



NACo News



NACo's Altemus grateful to visit MACo annual conference

Editor's note: NACo 1st Vice President Teresa Altemus was a luncheon speaker at MACo's 99th Annual Conference in Hamilton in September. Altemus expressed her appreciation to MACo in a letter to MACo Executive Director Harold Blattie; we've reproduced the letter below.

Harold,

Thank you and to all the commissioners in Montana for making me feel "right at home!" I truly had a great time getting the opportunity to renew "old" friendships and making new ones! I had the best time and the only regret I had was not having the time to stay longer. I secretly hope I can come back next year (maybe John will "hold" his invitation to fly with him open)! I still have my "take-away's" and will never look at oysters from the York River again without thinking about the "oysters" in Montana!

I truly enjoyed attending all of the meetings, workshops and general sessions. I had a wonderful time! I see it as my responsibility when I attend a state meeting as NACo's 1st vice president to find out how NACo as an organization can continue help member counties from across this country.

When I ran for NACo 2nd vice president, you may recall that I said many times that when I went to the respective state meetings that I would do my best to get to know

your supervisors and commissioners and find out how I can best serve NACo and you! This is a job I take seriously...to some maybe too seriously. I am pleased that I could be in small measurement some help. I really enjoyed the trailer eco/river display outside! I learned that I can't build a rip-rap system right! I flooded the downstream neighbor! The rivers in my county don't have the bends in them like the rivers in BEAUTIFUL Montana!

After the many conversations with your commissioners, I understand the thoughts behind not wanting to give up the land use freedoms that everyone enjoys. Last night at my board meeting, we had a discussion on family land transfers, and I will say that my thoughts drifted to Montana and the shock that your commissions and citizens might experience if they were limited to transferring family land. The reason we have this provision in our ordinance is because there were some that were trying to circumvent the subdivision ordinance. I believe we still need to "tweak" so the families that really want the chance to give land to their children can. It is a daunting process, one I recognize will not be liked by all.

Again, thank you Cyndi, Mike, Allan, Carl, Greg and John for everything!

My best,
Teresa

WELLS FARGO

Today | Deposit checks without leaving your desk.

Wells Fargo *Desktop Deposit*[®] service lets you scan checks in your office and send images directly to your bank account — securely and electronically. So there's no rushing to the bank. And minimal technology resources are required to implement or maintain the system. *Why wait for someday?*SM Call your Wells Fargo Banking team at 406-454-5400 and learn about our *Desktop Deposit* service today.

© 2008 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC. (116560_9322)



CIVIL ENGINEERING | PLANNING | SURVEYING




ROBERT PECCIA & ASSOCIATES

NOW CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

For 30 years, Robert Peccia & Associates has offered clients throughout Montana and the United States quality and innovative engineering and related services.

- Water Supply
- Wastewater Management
- Drainage
- Site Development
- Traffic & Transportation
- Highways & Road Design
- Airport Design
- Environmental Studies
- Natural Resources
- Surveying
- S.U.E.
- Graphic Design/Mapping

www.rpa-hln.com



Energy independence focus of NACo's newest county forum

The role of counties in shaping our energy independent future and how it can help secure our nation's economy and natural environment will be the topic of NACo's County Forum on Energy Independence in Baltimore, Md., on Dec. 10-11.

The forum's goals:

- Understand the county role in moving the nation toward an energy independent future;
- Develop goals, policies and plans for local energy strategies;
- Discuss current strategies, challenges, and emerging opportunities with an eye toward economic development and job creation; and
- Learn the latest resources, tools, and best practices to meet your energy goals.

Due to the structure of this forum, which will include several breakout sessions with special training opportunities on tools and resources, counties are encouraged to send both elected officials and county staff, such as energy and environmental managers, engineers, and economic development officials.

Discussions and information will focus on challenges and opportunities in this accelerated issue area. Conversations will be structured in a roundtable format that will allow all attendees to network, brainstorm, and learn from each other.

Topics will include energy efficiency and renewable energies, alternative fuels and vehicles, economic development and job growth, energy infrastructure development, and emissions reductions and environmental benefits.

Registration is due by Nov. 21 and the fee is \$100 per person; only three people per county or organization may register.

For more information, contact Kelly Zonderwyk at kzonderwyk@naco.org or (202) 942-4224.

MACo News advertising works — ask us how!

U.S. Communities
Government Purchasers

SAVING YOU MONEY
Over 7,000 public entities purchase quality products with the most favorable government pricing.

YOU CAN TOO!

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

- Office and School Supplies
- Office Furniture
- Technology Products
- Carpet and Flooring
- Procurement Card
- Electrical and Communication Data Supplies
- School/Classroom Furniture
- Janitorial Supplies
- Tools and Materials Handling

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



Rural health works grants available

NACo is now accepting applications for the Rural Health Works Technical Assistance Grant for rural counties. Rural Health Works is strategic planning process that assists counties to evaluate their healthcare system and to generate county-specific data on the relationship between the health care sector and the local economy. The ultimate goal of the project is to strengthen rural economies by improving the local health system.

NACo will grant a total of three awards on a competitive basis. The award, valued at more than \$18,000 for each county, includes intensive technical assistance on the Rural Health Works model.

The application is available from www.healthycounties.org, and the application deadline is Dec. 15. For more information, contact Christina Rowland at crowland@naco.org or (202) 942-4267.

Space For Sale!

Reach potential clients through *MACo News*

This e-publication is sent to OVER 950 e-mail addresses and is posted on the MACo Web site.

Act now!

For more info, contact MACo at macopb@maco.cog.mt.us or (406) 444-4380

Document Management Specialists



101 S. 27th Street
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: 208-336-2720
Fax: 208-336-2722
www.integrainfotech.com

With over 30 years experience in document management, we can help your organization transfer to paperless. Scanning old files to digital



Producing and delivering quality products and services

Jack Hinkle, Sales and Marketing
300 Conley Lake Road, Deer Lodge, MT 59722
www.cor.mt.gov/MCE mce@mt.gov



County Election Results

Change is theme of 2008 general elections across Montana

Anaconda-Deer Lodge

Commissioner (# 1): Mark Sweeney
Commissioner (# 2): Rose Nyman
Commissioner (# 3): Neal Granat Warner
Chief executive officer: Rebecca Guay
Attorney: Joan Sanders Borneman
Chief law enforcement officer: John P. Sullivan

Beaverhead

Commissioner (# 1): Tom Rice
Clerk of district court: Sheila Bronkhorst

Big Horn

Commissioner (# 1): John Pretty on Top
Clerk of district court: Karen Yarlott

Blaine

Commissioner (# 1): Dolores Plumage
Clerk of district court: Kay O'Brien Johnson

Broadwater

Commissioner (# 1): Laura Obert
Commissioner (# 2): Elaine Graveley

Butte-Silver Bow

Commissioner (# 3): John Morgan
Commissioner (# 4): Terry L. Schultz
Commissioner (# 5): Don Kronenberger Sr.
Commissioner (# 6): Wally Frasz
Commissioner (# 8): Ristene Kurilich Hall
Commissioner (# 12): David Palmer
Clerk of district court: Lori Maloney
Chief executive officer: Paul David Babb
Attorney: Eileen Joyce
Clerk & recorder: Sally J. Hollis
Public administrator: Jeanne Joki Tanner
Sheriff: John P. Walsh
Coroner: Lee LaBrechee
Superintendent of schools: Cathy Maloney
Treasurer: Patrick Callaghan
Assessor: Dan Fisher
Auditor: Danette Harrington

Carbon

Commissioner (# 1): Doug Tucker
Clerk of district court: Rochelle Loyning

Carter

Commissioner (# 1): Steve Rosencranz
Dist. court clerk/school superintendent: Marilyn Hutchinson

Cascade

Commissioner: Bill Salina
Clerk of district court: Ruth Reeves

Chouteau

Commissioner: Daren Schuster
Clerk of district court/superintendent of schools: Rick Cook

Custer

Commissioner: Jack Nesbit
Clerk of district court: Hazel Parker

Daniels

Commissioner (# 1): Bill Tande
Commissioner (# 2): Gary Linder
Commissioner (# 3): James Snare
Clerk of district court: Patricia McDonnell

Dawson

Commissioner: Jim Skillestad
Clerk of district court: Tammy Kinsey Helmuth
Clerk & recorder/assessor: Nancy Howard

Fallon

Commissioner: Deb Ranum
Clerk of district court: Jeraldine Newell

Fergus

Commissioner (# 1): Ken Ronish
Clerk of district court: Phyllis Smith
Justice of the peace: Rana Wichman

Flathead

Commissioner: Jim Dupont
Clerk of district court: Peg Allison

Gallatin

Commissioner (# 1): Bill Murdock
Clerk of district court: Jennifer Brandon

Garfield

Commissioner (# 2): Robert Cosgriff
Sheriff/coroner: Frank Edwards

Glacier

Commissioner (# 2): Tony Sitzmann
Clerk of district court: Diane Anderson
Superintendent of schools: Darryl Omsberg

Golden Valley

Commissioner: David Paugh

Granite

Commissioner: Clifford Nelson
Clerk of district court: Carol Borhnsen

Hill

Commissioner (# 1): Mike Wendland
Clerk of district court: Dena Tippets

Jefferson

Commissioner (# 2): David Kirsch
Clerk of district court: Marilyn Craft

Judith Basin

Commissioner (# 1): William Annala
Clerk of district court/superintendent of schools: Julie Peevey

Lake

Commissioner (# 1): Bill Barron
Clerk of district court: Lyn Fricker

Lewis & Clark

Commissioner: Derek Brown
Clerk of district court: Nancy Sweeney

Liberty

Commissioner (# 1): Rlynn Rockman
Clerk of district court: Anne Seidlitz-Melton

Lincoln

Commissioner: Anthony Berget
Clerk of district court: Susan Farmer

Madison

Commissioner (# 1): David Shulz
Commissioner (# 2): Marilyn Ross
Attorney: Chris Christensen

McCone

Commissioner: Connie Eissinger
Clerk of district court: Trudy Kirkegard

(please see next page)



County Election Results

Change is theme of 2008 general elections across Montana

Meagher

Commissioner: Ben Hurwitz
Clerk of district court: Donna Morris

Mineral

Commissioner (# 3): Duane Simons
Clerk of district court: Kathleen Brown

Missoula

Commissioner: Michele Lanquist
Clerk of district court: Shirley Faust

Musselshell

Commissioner: Larry Leske
Clerk of district court: Connie Mattfield

Park

Commissioner (# 2): Marty Malone
Commissioner (# 3): C. Randall Taylor
Clerk of district court: June Little
Auditor: Martha Miller

Petroleum

Commissioner: Larry Ahlgren

Phillips

Commissioner: Richard Dunbar
Clerk of district court: Iris Robinson

Pondera

Commissioner: Joe Christiaens
Clerk of district court: Kara Thompson

Powder River

Commissioner: Lee Thompson
Clerk of district court: Aletta Shannon

Powell

Commissioner (# 1): Cele Pohle
Clerk of district court: Joan Burke
Treasurer: Lisa Smith

Prairie

Commissioner (# 1): Ann Marie Davis
Clerk of district court/clerk & recorder: Toni Kalfel
Treasurer/superintendent of schools: Jaime Smith

Ravalli

Commissioner (# 2): Greg Chilcott
Commissioner (# 3): James Inman
Clerk of district court: Debbie Harmon

Richland

Commissioner (# 1): Loren Young
Clerk of district court: Arlene Carranza Riggs

Roosevelt

Commissioner (# 1): Jim Shanks
Dist. court clerk/school superintendent: Patricia Stennes

Rosebud

Commissioner (# 1): Bob Lee
Clerk of district court: Elizabeth Cole
Superintendent of schools: Joby Parker

Sanders

Commissioner (# 3): A. Ben Cox
Clerk of district court: Diane Rummel
Justice of the peace: Donald Strine
Public administrator: Donna Neal

Sheridan

Commissioner: Robert Nikolaisen
Clerk of district court: Cheryl Olson

Stillwater

Commissioner (# 1): Dennis Shupak
Clerk of district court: Sandra Fox

Sweet Grass

Commissioner (# 1): Susan Mosness
Clerk of district court: Deanna Novotny
Public administrator: Elaine Allestad

Teton

Commissioner (# 1): James Hodgskiss
Clerk of district court: Lisa Sinton

Toole

Commissioner (# 1): Ben Ober
Clerk of district court: Sandra Peers

Treasure

Commissioner (# 1): Morris Spannagel
Justice of the peace: Willis Etter

Valley

Commissioner (# 1): Dave Pippin
Clerk of district court: Melissa Greenhagen

Wheatland

Commissioner (# 1): Richard Moe
Clerk of district court: Janet Hill

Wibaux

Commissioner (# 1): Sandy Nelson
Clerk of district court: Michael Schneider

Yellowstone

Commissioner (# 1): John Ostlund
Clerk of district court: Carol Muessig

MACo

Property and Casualty Insurance & Workers' Compensation Insurance

For Public Entities

Greg Jackson

JPIA/JPA
Trust Administrator
Phone (406) 444-4370
macoim@maco.cog.mt.us

MACo

Risk Management and Training

Emelia McEwen

Senior Loss Control Specialist

Fred Hansen

Loss Control Specialist

Phone (406) 444-4370

FAX (406) 442-5238



Announcements & Reminders

Mark Your Calendars

2009 Holidays

The following is a list of legal holidays in 2009 and the dates they will be observed by most state employees.

Legal holidays

New Year's Day
 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
 Lincoln's & Washington's Birthday
 Memorial Day
 Independence Day
 Labor Day
 Columbus Day
 Veterans' Day
 Thanksgiving Day
 Christmas Day

Observed

Thurs., Jan. 1
 Mon., Jan. 19
 Mon., Feb. 16
 Mon., May 25
 Fri., July 3
 Mon., Sept. 7
 Mon., Oct. 12
 Wed., Nov. 11
 Thurs., Nov. 26
 Fri., Dec. 25

NOTE: If the holiday occurs on a weekend, the workday closest to the holiday is treated as the holiday for pay and leave purposes.

November

Nov. 7 Legislative Audit Committee*
 Nov. 17-18 Revenue & Trans. Interim Committee*
 Nov. 18-20 MACo Joint Ins. Pools Trustees Retreat, Forsyth
 Nov. 18 Legislative Finance Committee*
 Nov. 19 LAWS (session tracking) Training*

December

Dec. 1-5 MACo Elected Officials Training/Commissioners Certification*

Upcoming MACo Events

Jan. 13-15 Risk Management Loss Control Conference*
 Feb. 9-12 Midwinter Conference*
 Sept. 20-24 Annual Conference*

*All meetings are held in Helena unless noted.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County
1st Vice President Carl Seilstad, Fergus County
2nd Vice President John Ostlund, Yellowstone County
Fiscal Officer Allan Underdal, Toole Co.
Urban Representative Greg Chilcott, Ravalli County
Past President Cynthia Johnson, Pondera County

MACo STAFF

Harold Blattie, Executive Director
 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director
 Mike Sehestedt, Chief Legal Counsel
 Karen Houston, Meeting Planner
 Tom Swindle, Finance Officer
 Mike Harbour, Communications Officer
 Sara McGowan, Accounting Technician
 Talia Knudsen, Administrative Assistant
 Greg Jackson, JPIA/JPA Trust Administrator
 Emelia McEwen, Sr. Loss Control Specialist
 Fred Hansen, Loss Control Specialist
 Jack Holstrom, Personnel Svcs. Admin.
 Fran Monro, Member Services Rep.
 Keith Stapley, Claims Manager
 Wendy Sesselman, WC Claims Supervisor
 Dennis Jupka, Senior Claims Adjuster
 Bonnie Knopf, Data Specialist
 Christine Holling, Claims Adjuster
 Liz Krzan, Asst. Claims Adjuster
 Kerissa Lyman, Claims Assistant

Owen Voigt, Health Care Trust Administrator
 Alyce Bailey, Enrollment/Eligibility Specialist
 Pam Walling, Marketing/Member Services Representative
 Laurie Goltry, Admin./Enrollment Asst.

DISTRICT CHAIRS

1. Richard Dunbar, Phillips County
2. Mark Rehbein, Richland County
3. Donald Reiger, Fallon County
4. Harvey Worrall, Chouteau County
5. Arnold Gettel, Teton County
6. Jerome Kolar, Judith Basin County
7. Maureen Davey, Stillwater County
8. Andy Hunthausen, Lewis & Clark Co.
9. Bernie Lucas, Meagher County
10. Carol Brooker, Sanders County
11. Carlotta Grandstaff, Ravalli County
12. Tom Rice, Beaverhead County

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Leo Gallagher, Lewis & Clark Co. Attorney
 Amanda Kelly, Judith Basin County Clerk & Recorder
 Marilyn Hollister, Rosebud County District Court Clerk
 Steve Immenschuh, Granite County Sheriff/Coroner
 Gary Olsen, Broadwater County Justice of the Peace
 Diane Inbody, Teton County Superintendent of Schools
 Gregory Hintz, Missoula Co. Sheriff's Office
 Pam Shelton, Rosebud County Treasurer

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Diamond Sponsors

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., Orlando, FL
MT Dept. of Commerce, Helena

Silver Sponsors

MDU Resources, Billings
NorthWestern Energy, Helena
Gaelectric, Great Falls

Bronze Sponsors

Allied Waste Services, Missoula
MT Correctional Entps., Deer Lodge
Morrison-Maierle, Inc., Helena
WGM Group, Missoula
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP, Missoula

Copper Sponsors

Beck Consulting, Red Lodge
Norman Grosfield, Attorney, Helena
Life Care Services, Missoula
Tractor & Equipment Co., Billings
ColorMax/ArcaSearch, Paynesville, MN
LandAmerica Lender Svcs, Covina, CA
MSU Extension Service, Bozeman

AFFILIATE MEMBER

MT County Road Supervisors (MACRS)

MACo NEWS

444-4360 Fax: 442-5238
macopb@maco.cog.mt.us