



MAC LOOKS AHEAD TO 2010

December 31, 2009

MAC's 38th Annual Conference

The Nov. 22-24 Annual Conference at Tan-Tar-A was one of the best! Attendance was high, our speakers were top-notch, and sponsors contributed handily to defray overall costs. Due to the generosity of our gold, silver, and bronze sponsors, we were able to keep MAC registration fees at a very reasonable rate. Please extend your appreciation to them when you have a chance! Company names are posted on our website – www.mocounties.com. Thanks to all who participated despite the tough economic times!

Meet Your New Executive Committee

At conference, the following persons were elected to serve as executive officers for the coming year: President and **Livingston County** Presiding Commissioner Eva Danner, President-Elect and **Iron County** Treasurer Jack Adams, 2nd Vice President and **Polk County** Collector Debbi McGinnis, 3rd Vice President and **Greene County** Presiding Commissioner Dave Coonrod, Treasurer and **Benton County** Assessor Rodger Reedy, and Past President and **Carroll County** Clerk Peggy McGaugh. These are the people that you will be working with (along with the full board of directors and MAC staff) to implement the association's policies in the coming year.

Gearing Up For A New Session ... The General Assembly Convenes On Wednesday, Jan. 6

MAC Legislative Services For 2010

With the Missouri General Assembly convening on Jan. 6, the MAC staff will utilize a number of legislative tools to keep you abreast of what is going on in Jefferson City. Periodic bulletins (including bill numbers, brief summaries and dates of importance) will be sent out to help you track county legislation. Urgent messages will be sent out by broadcast fax and/or e-mail (for those of you who prefer it). Our website, www.mocounties.com, is also a great tool for tracking legislation and keeping informed of governmental changes. The website is linked to the state government website and will allow you easy access to the Missouri Senate and House websites.

2010 Missouri County Government Platform

The membership adopted the following six resolutions during the Nov. 23 annual business meeting. *(The resolution summaries are in no particular order. All six are MAC priorities and will be given the same attention.)*

1. **Support Upgrading Statewide 9-1-1 Wireless Emergency Services.** Missouri trails the nation in wireless 9-1-1 accessibility. MAC will support legislative action to design a complete, detailed, and integrated plan for upgrading Missouri's 9-1-1 wireless emergency services.
2. **Support Fully Funding State Mandates On County Governments.** MAC will respectfully request that the Missouri General Assembly and Gov. Nixon include in the state's FY 2011 budget (1) an increase in the appropriation for prisoner per diem reimbursement authorized under 221.105, *RSMo*, (2) an appropriation to fully fund state assessment maintenance reimbursements, (3) an appropriation to fully fund any new obligations placed on the election officials of this state, (4) both an appropriation to fully fund the reimbursement for the detention and care of neglected and/or delinquent juveniles and the salaries of juvenile court personnel in single-county circuits, (5) an appropriation that would relieve counties of the cost of providing office space and certain utility expenses for the various state public defenders' offices, and (6) an appropriation to fund the requirements of SB 711 relating to property tax enacted in 2008 or, failing to do so, relieve county officials of the same. Additionally, recognizing the difficult budgetary constraints that the state of Missouri is experiencing and the dim prospects for additional state appropriations for these programs and, as a partner with the state in the delivery of these services, the Missouri Association of Counties requests that Gov. Nixon and the Missouri General Assembly hold county governments harmless from any further state budget cuts in these areas.
3. **Oppose The Pre-Emption Of Local Authority.** MAC will oppose legislation that would preempt a county's authority to deal with local issues and local problems.
4. **Oppose Legislation That Erodes The Local Tax Base And Call Upon The General Assembly To Address Missouri's Antiquated Tax Structure.** MAC will be calling upon the General Assembly to limit legislation that would have a negative budgetary effect on local governments

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without guaranteed replacement revenue. Additionally, MAC will request the General Assembly address Missouri's antiquated tax code, especially as it relates to sales tax, so that both state and local governments are well-positioned in the future to meet the increasing service needs of their citizens.

5. **Support A Transportation Funding Package That Will Address Missouri's Dire Infrastructure Needs.** Amendment 3 funding ended in 2009, reducing significantly the amount of funding available for maintenance and repair of our current system and leaving virtually no new money for Missouri's transportation needs beyond our current system. MAC will respectfully request the General Assembly's support for a transportation funding package that will address Missouri's dire infrastructure needs.
6. **Support Of Funding For The County Assessment Maintenance Fund From Additional Withholdings.** MAC will support legislation to allow additional withholdings from local property tax collections to offset the lack of adequate funding from the State of Missouri to fully fund the statutory per parcel level allowable by current law for assessment maintenance purposes. Additionally, MAC seeks to protect and preserve all current funding levels, regardless of source, and to cooperate in finding new funding sources, or increasing existing sources, for the betterment of the assessment process.

Off-System Bridge Funding Remains In Jeopardy

On Sept. 30, 2009, per provisions in the federal transportation bill SAFETEA-LU, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) rescinded \$8.708 billion from the states' apportioned funds. Missouri's share is \$202 million, with over \$17 million in cuts from Missouri's off-system bridge program. A bill has passed the U.S. House that would extend SAFETEA-LU through to Sept. 30, 2010, however the rescission monies lost will not be reinstated. The House Committee on Surface Transportation and Infrastructure is considering a new long-term authorization of the nation's surface transportation programs known as the Surface Transportation Authorization Act (STAA). As it stands now, the STAA would eliminate the Highway Bridge Program's requirement that 15 percent of annual federal highway funding apportioned to the states go to off-system bridge maintenance. U.S. Representative Sam Graves has been leading efforts to reinstate the 15 percent requirement. He has introduced a resolution, H.R. 848, in an attempt to put the House of Representatives on-record as supporting the program.

9-1-1 Survey Conducted

Platte County Commissioner Betty Knight, a member of the Missouri Advisory Committee for 9-1-1 Service Oversight, has been instrumental in conducting a survey of Missouri's counties concerning 9-1-1 funding, usage and accessibility. Counties contributed data regarding their methods of funding 9-1-1 services, how much is spent funding 9-1-1, the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS), 9-1-1 call volume per month, percentages of total call volume in regards to landline vs. cell phone, and the category of service (basic, enhanced, phase II, etc.). DeKalb County Clerk Mary Berry also sits on the committee. In September, committee members released an updated draft of the committee's 9-1-1 Strategic Plan, which is a comprehensive guide used to assist legislators and the governor in developing an updated and enhanced 9-1-1 system across the state.

Thank you to all the counties that participated in the survey. Your input is essential to moving toward a statewide enhanced 9-1-1 system in Missouri. Currently, staff is analyzing the results of the survey and will report with specific conclusions when they are available.

Consider Joining MAC's Prepaid Legal Services Program

Forty-nine counties have signed up to take advantage of the Prepaid Legal Services Program managed by Ivan Schraeder, the association's legal counsel and a partner with The Lowenbaum Partnership L.L.C.

Under contractual agreement, Mr. Schraeder will provide to participating counties 10 hours of advisory or opinion services per month via telephone or written communication.

Participating counties pay an annual fee, based on their assessed valuations. Counties who are interested in the program should contact Cindy Wells at the MAC office (573-634-2120) for an application form. Mr. Schraeder may also be contacted at 314-746-4823 for more information about the program.

Your State (MAC) And National (NACo) Membership Service Fees Are Due

What happens this year in the halls of the State Capitol will not only have impact on your duties, but it will also influence the public's perception of your ability to extend much-needed services to the friends and neighbors who elected you.

For budgeting purposes, you have already received the formula for estimating your 2010 member service fees and you may compute the calculation, as long as you obtain the exact figure that your county assessor submitted to the State Tax Commission for your 2009 assessed valuation.

MAC will also do the calculations as soon as we receive the current assessed valuations from the Tax Commission the first week in January. **Immediately after receiving the figures, we will send out the invoices for MAC member service fees. Please wait for your invoice before submitting your payment.**

Current members of NACo should have received a dues invoice from NACo in October. If you have not already paid your NACo dues, please forward your check directly to NACo at P.O. Box 79007, Baltimore, MD 21279-0007. Non-member counties wishing to join NACo may call 202-942-4242 to obtain the amount of dues for 2010.

On behalf of the MAC board of directors and staff,
we hope you had the happiest of holidays and
we wish each and every one of you
a prosperous new year.