



# MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS

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## Changing of the Guard

*(Written by Lora Tauck)*

As you now know, if you read the last MASBO news letter, Region 6 lost our fearless leader Elaine Stanhope, as she found a hirer calling - retirement! I am now trying to fill big shoes from way down here in Ekalaka. Elaine was a great help to me - I called her many times as a clerk and now as the Director for Region 6. She will be greatly missed! We have even more changes to report - in addition to Elaine's retirement, two more clerks/Business Managers have also retired: Marge Greibel of Plevna and Fay Dear of Glendive. I managed to "interview" both of these great ladies and although I know you are jealous that they are retired and you aren't, I thought you still might enjoy the following articles:

### FAY DEAR

Almost everyone in the MASBO community knows Fay - as she has been a Past President as well as a Region 6 Director. Now, after 32 1/2 years, Fay Dear has finally said "Enough - if you want me, you'll have to find me on the golf course." She is putting down her mouse and picking up her putter.

One of her best memories is receiving the honor of Outstanding School Business Official in 1994. Her funniest memory also has to do with MASBO - it was when Steve Johnson and she came off the golf course in the dark, slipping and

sliding, and someone finally came out to bring them in. She states: "anytime I golfed with the MASBO group it was an experience." I, myself, am not sure that comment wasn't personally directed at me, as I have had the "honor" of golfing with Fay many times, and was even in the same five-some when Steve and Fay had their big adventure.

When I asked Fay how things have changed since she's been hanging around the Glendive School system, she said "Everything is new each year, nothing surprises me anymore. I started out accounting in a ledger, then peg board and alas a computer - In Glendive I have a payroll clerk and accounts payable clerk (also my assistant), so my job changed considerable from what I did in Opheim."

Fay has outlasted six Superintendents, not counting the current one. She added "not bad for 32 1/2 years considering one only lasted 11 months."

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She was part of developing a voluntary program of professional certification and continuing education to provide a recognized standard of competence. She was one of the

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few who took the first certification test. She recalls that she was the last one out of the testing room and when she came out, Steve Johnson, her sometimes golfing partner, was waiting for her with wide eyes, hair all ruffled and kind of ashen. He said "WOW, wasn't that the s\_\_\_\_\_!"

Fay will miss all of her MASBO friends as she feels this is the most dedicated, supporting family of all professional groups in Montana and would like to reiterate "Thanks for the memories." I couldn't agree more and on a personal note, golf outings may never be the same for me.

Fay's replacement is not a new face to MASBO. Anne Sadorf, Fay's assistant, will be stepping to the plate. Fay added "She is going to do an excellent job and bring new life to this position."

Thanks Fay for all of your contributions, both professionally and personally! *Hit 'em high and let 'em fly!*



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## READING BETWEEN THE LINES?

*At our company we have asset numbers on the front of everything. They give the location, name, and everything else just by scanning the computer's asset barcode or using the number beneath the bars.*

**Caller:** Hello. I can't get on the network.

**Tech Support:** OK. Just read me your asset number so we can open an outage.

**Caller:** What is that?

**Tech Support:** "That little barcode on the front of your computer."

**Caller:** OK. Big bar, little bar, big bar, big bar...

*(Reprinted from phonepro.com)*

## Calendar of Events

**June 17-19, 2009** MASBO Summer Conference – Holiday Inn Grand – Billings

**Oct 14-16, 2009** MCEL – Missoula

**Oct 23-26, 2009** ASBO - Chicago

## MARGE GRIEBEL

*(Written by Lora Tauck)*

Marge Griebel has been the Clerk in Plevna for two months shy of 19 years! When I asked her if she has seen any changes in her 19 years, she replied, "Oh, it has changed dramatically!" Surprisingly, though, she has only had three (3) Superintendents! From my perspective, this doesn't seem to be very common, as Superintendent's sometimes have the appearance of being the highest paid migrant workers in the nation!

Another constant Marge experienced is her accounting program. Plevna switched to Foxie Lady shortly after she began and she has been with them ever since. She couldn't say enough about David Bardwell because "he is at the end

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of the line every time you call and need help and he is always cheerful.”

As many clerks (especially in smaller schools) can relate to, Marge has had her share of “duties as assigned.” One of these duties was the Cheerleading Advisor for both boys’ and girls’ basketball seasons. This meant that she was on the bus almost every Friday, headed for a game somewhere. (Remember when they weren’t in the same season?) She continued in this role until her daughter graduated from high school. The next year, when the bus would pull out on Fridays without her, she would sit in her office and cry because “it just seemed like I was being left behind!”

Those days are now a distant memory and she certainly hasn’t been left behind – she’s so busy it made my head spin just writing down everything she’s involved in. She puts on horse shows in eastern Montana for the Horse Show Circuit and for the 4-H Horse Play Day. She is the leader for the “Kids & Horses” 4-H group. She is a member of the Charity Chapter #60, Order of the Eastern Stars. She belongs to the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Every year she volunteers in the fair barn for the Fallon County Fair. And, in-between all this, she squeezes in showing her own horses at horse shows in Wibaux, Forsyth, Baker, Miles City and Glendive! Somehow she has managed to do all of this while keeping Jule Walker, her Superintendent, in line and out of trouble! Having worked for Jule myself, I can tell you that that is an accomplishment in itself.

I think it’s obvious what she plans on doing to fill her days post-retirement, but her ultimate goal is to “play with my horses and grandkids.”

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Marge’s replacement is Nicole Zimmerman. Please look her up at summer conference and introduce yourself!

Marge told me about the awesome retirement party that the district put on for her. She especially thanked her Superintendent for all of the time and detail put into making her party special. She was honored with a beautiful cake with horses on it that read “Happy Trails.” A member of their staff re-wrote the words to *Happy Trails* to fit Marge and sang it for her. It is obvious that she will be missed by everyone at Plevna Schools and at MASBO. Good luck Marge and try to relax a little in between all of your obligations!

## **Mileage Reimbursement Rate for 2009 Reduced**

The mileage reimbursement has been changed beginning Jan. 1, 2009 from \$0.585 down to \$0.55. To read the IRS go to [IR-2008-131, released 11-24-08](#)

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## An Accountant At Heart

*(By Kristi Albertson The Daily Inter Lake)*

Long before she ever considered working for a school district, Danelle Reisch thought a job as district clerk might be fun.

"I thought school clerk was a job that would be kind of cool to have," she said.

Granted, Reisch – then a clerk at the Whitefish Pilot – had no idea what a school clerk did, other than drop off legal advertisements at the newspaper. Now a 14-year veteran Whitefish School District employee, she knows there is a lot more to the clerk position than making sure legal notices are published.

Reisch develops and manages the district's \$15 million budget. She oversees payroll for the district's 216 employees. She serves as clerk and record keeper to the school board and puts financial statements together.

The latter, she said, is her favorite part of the job. "That's the part I really like," she said. "I'm an accountant at heart. I don't get to do a whole lot of accounting in this job; that's the part where I get to do accounting."

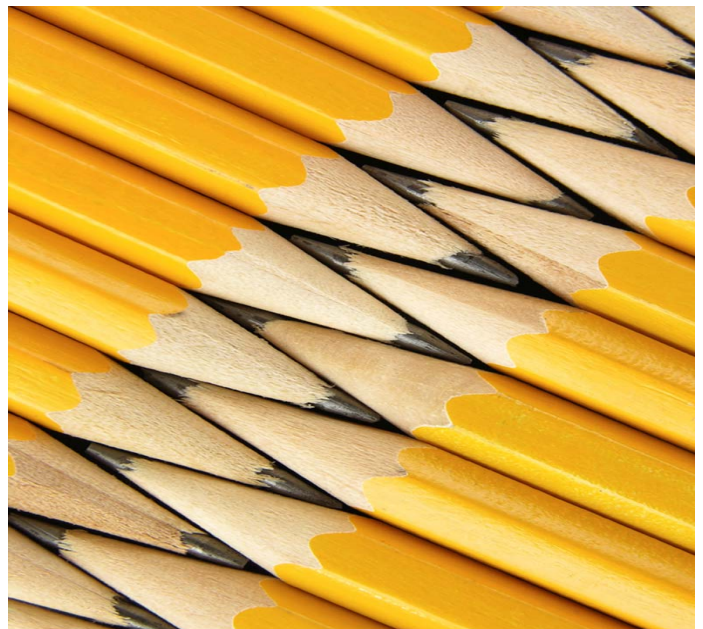
Reisch has been a certified public accountant since the late 1980s, when she graduated from the University of Montana. After graduation, she spent a few years working in Billings for the state Department of Commerce, then took a job as the Missoula School District accountant. "That's how I got into schools," she said.

She was there just a couple of years when the district clerk position opened in Whitefish. "When the job came open here, I fought for it," she said. "It was a chance to come back home."

Reisch attended ninth grade at what was then Central School and finished school at Whitefish High School in 1975. Before moving to Whitefish, she attended schools in Choteau and Great Falls – but Whitefish was home.

Today's town is vastly different from the railroad town she used to know, but it's still a good place to live, she said. One of its biggest benefits is "an incredibly supportive community, which makes things a lot easier" on the schools, she said. It helps to have a supportive community this time of year, which is one of the busiest for district clerks who are preparing for school elections. Reisch oversees Whitefish's school elections. This spring, that includes two levy requests totaling \$111,133 and five candidates vying for three open positions on the board of trustees.

Reisch also is working on the district's 2008-09 budget and is ordering supplies for next year. The goal, she said, is getting the most bang for the district's buck to provide students the best possible education. "That's the bottom line," she said. "We're here to educate kids."



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Sometimes, Reisch said, administrators can forget about the ultimate reason they're in the business. In Whitefish, administrators were forcibly reminded of their real purpose during the remodel of the district offices in the Whitefish Middle School basement. During the two-year project, which included extensive work on the middle school, administrative offices were located in Muldown Elementary School. "It was really nice to be that close to the kids," Reisch said. "It's pretty easy for us to be isolated from that."

It was even nicer for Reisch to go to work in the same building where her son, Spenser Eaton, now a fourth-grader, attended school. Working out of Muldown helped administrators see what teachers experience every day, she said. "It was good for us to be there and find out what it's like to deal with all those kids," she said.

Reisch said her job is the perfect combination of professional work and service. "It is business-related, and I can use my degree," she said. "But I feel like I'm doing something valuable and important. Schools are important. "It's something I can feel really good about. It's nice to be a part of that."

## **Black Mountain Software Scholarship**

Black Mountain Software is offering a scholarship to Montana students. We are asking your assistance in distributing the Black Mountain Software Scholarship Application to all interested 2009 graduating Montana high school seniors who will be attending an accredited institution of higher education (trade school, technical school, college, or university) after graduation are eligible.

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One scholarship will be awarded annually in the amount of \$500.00 and will be presented to the winning applicant at the annual Montana Association of Business Officials (MASBO) conference. This year the conference will be held on June 17-19, 2009 in Billings, Montana. If the applicant is unable to attend, the announcement will be made at the conference and payment will be mailed to the winner at the address on the scholarship application form. Travel expenses will also be provided to the winning applicant to attend the conference and receive the scholarship award. Expenses will be limited to one night of lodging at the conference, two days of meal per-diem at \$39.00 per day, and round trip mileage reimbursement at the current federal standard rate (\$0.55 per mile for 2009) from the applicant's home. Scholarship payment will be made payable to both the winning applicant and to the institution of higher education.



All completed applications must be mailed to:

Black Mountain Software  
ATTN: Scholarship Application Committee  
830 Shoreline Drive  
Polson, MT 59860

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Applications must be postmarked on or before **April 15, 2009**. To be considered a viable applicant:

- All spaces on the application form must be completed to include signatures
- Written essay of 500 words or less included in the proper format
- If available at the time of entry, a proof of enrollment from the institution of higher education. If proof of enrollment is not available at the time of application, the winning applicant must provide it to Black Mountain Software prior to the presentation of the scholarship payment.

Instructions for completing the form and essay requirements are printed on the application form. Additional forms may be printed from our website at:

[www.blackmountainsoftware.com/scholarship.htm](http://www.blackmountainsoftware.com/scholarship.htm)

Thank you for helping us by distributing these forms. Black Mountain Software looks forward to honoring a Montana graduate by helping to defray some of the costs of continuing their education.

**Shawn H Duthie**

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Receive the recognition you deserve.

Contact the MASBO office and get started: 442-5599.

### **NEW Opportunities to get Certified!**

- 1) Come to the MASBO office in Helena and take the test(s).
- 2) Put a group together and we will come to you.

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