MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS OCTOBER 2015

MASBO is dedicated to training and supporting the people responsible for business operations in Montana schools. Our goal is to enable members to manage the business in order to support education for Montana children.



MASBO Staff

Denise Williams, Executive Director 406-461-3659 or dwilliams@masbo.com

Marie Roach, Administrative Assistant/ E-rate Specialist 406-461-8804 or mroach@masbo.com

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

[go to www.masbo.com for more info and to register]









SCHOOL ELECTIONS WORKSHOPS

Whether you run your own school election or the county does it for you, it's important to know the terminology, rules, forms, deadlines and process. Learn about many changes made to election laws in the 2015 legislative session.

Missoula – November 4 at Grant Creek Inn Great Falls – November 10 at Heritage Inn Bozeman – November 13 at GranTree Inn Miles City – November 18 at Sleep Inn & Suites

Registration fee is \$80. Invite your county election administrator to sign up, too!

Click here to see the agenda.

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

This all-day workshop is set up like a miniconference so you can choose the sessions you want to focus on. Want to get a lot of practice using Excel? Bring your laptop with, preferably, the most current version. You can also learn about OPI's GEMS data warehouse, cloud computing and Google Tools/Docs and Office 365. Tyler Technologies and Black Mountain Software users can learn more about their systems, too.

Missoula – November 5 at Grant Creek Inn Bozeman – November 12 at GranTree Inn Miles City – November 19 at Sleep Inn & Suites

Registration fee is \$90. Don't forget to bring your laptop, tablet or other devices!

FALL NEW CLERK ACADEMY - November 16 & 17 at Holiday Inn Grand in Billings

This workshop is 2 full days designed for clerk/business managers with less than 5 years' experience in school finance, budgeting and accounting. Topics covered will include Affordable Care Act 101, Balancing and Fund 15 Grants, Budgeted Funds, Coding & Claims, Meetings & Minutes, Payroll & Personnel, Pupil Transportation, and Preparing for Audits. Newer clerks (zero to 3 years' experience) will be in a separate group for part of each day to take it a bit slower, and reviewing the calendar, acronyms and clerk/superintendent/board duties. Registration fee is \$200, and lunch is included both days.

MASBO Board of Directors

President Tammy Tulberg, Target Range Schools Region 1 Director Vice-President Cindy Foley, West Valley Schools Region 2 Director Past President Mike Arnold, Havre Schools Region 3 Director Fiscal Agent Kim Aarstad, East Helena Schools Region 4 Director Ex-Officio, MSUIP **Denise Williams** Region 5 Director Ex-Officio, OPI Janelle Mickelson Region 6 Director

Noreen Anderson, Hellgate K-8 School Lucinda Woodland, Cascade Schools Rhonda Opp, Medicine Lake Schools Lorie Carey, Jefferson Co. High School Rita Huck, Huntley Project Schools Jen Mettler, Baker Schools

MEET YOUR MASBO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[To help you get to know the Board of Directors, we'll feature the bio of a different board member each month.]

LORIE CAREY, REGION 4 DIRECTOR

Greetings from Region 4!!

In May of 2014 I was elected to the MASBO board as Region 4 director so I'm roughly halfway through my term.



Prior to my employment at Jefferson High School in Boulder, I was fortunate enough to be able to stay at home with my two (2) kids – Steve and Mariah (yes, her name is Mariah Carey and it wasn't intentional (a). During that time I worked part-time for MPIA (Montana Potato Improvement Association) in plant propagation and Sitz Angus Ranch for sales catalog creation. Circumstances on our ranch changed like they do for many of us regardless of profession so it became necessary to put my MSU accounting degree to further use.

In October 2003 I began working for JHS as the administrative assistant to the clerk and secretary to the superintendent. Eighteen months later I became the clerk/business manager. In 2008 I was roped into helping with the girls' basketball program and am still at it. Governmental accounting has so many different facets that it's not surprising how long it takes to learn the ropes. There are new things to learn every day.

Even though our house sits in Cardwell and Whitehall districts, our driveway is in Jefferson High's. After attending Cardwell through 8th grade, our kids both chose to attend JHS and graduated in 2008 and 2012. It was nice to be able to be part of their lives in the school system.

I garden (certified seed potatoes only), like to read, help work cattle and cook for crews, love to bake yeast breads, raise chickens, and currently am working on home and garage improvements. While not an avid fan of any sport or team, I am, and have always been, a Cat. I promote and support 4-H and help school groups when possible. Helping others has been part of my life since I was part of the 4-H program as a youngster. Helping other clerks/business manager is very rewarding to me and I hope helpful to others.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

MASBO'S new mailing address is 900 N. Montana Avenue, Suite A5 Helena MT 59601

MONTANA PUBLIC EDUCATION CENTER (MT-PEC)

MT-PEC has collaborated once again to bring you the GREAT Work of Montana's Public Schools, Volume III. The publication and accompanying video can be found at the MT-PEC website at www.mt-pec.org. It contains explanation of the G.R.E.A.T. acronym, recent work of the K-12 Vision Group's purpose, values, visions and goals and results of the latest MT-PEC /Zogby poll of Montana voters' opinions on K-12 public education issues. Please share this information with your trustees, staff and community. Montana public schools are:

Governed by elected schools trustees

Responsive to the needs of each community

Excellent and Efficient

Adaptive and Innovative to ensure student success

Trusted through Transparency

SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION (SFIC)

<u>Senate Bill 128</u> created a 16-member School Funding Interim Commission for the 2015-16 Interim and each successive fifth interim. The bill requires the commission to:

- conduct a study to reassess the educational needs and costs related to the basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools;
- if necessary, recommend to the following legislature changes to the state's funding formula; and
- issue a report on the commission's findings and recommendations, including any draft legislation for amending the state school funding formula, by no later than the 15th of September preceding the next regular legislative session

The commission is composed of 12 legislators and 4 members of the public (click <u>here</u> to see the list). The commission met on September 23 (click <u>here</u> to read the minutes log). The next meeting is scheduled for January 11-13. Topics of study are recruitment and retention, facilities, special education, and district structure and boundaries.

There is a <u>webpage</u> dedicated to all meeting materials and lots of other information about the SFIC. Also, you can sign up to receive email updates about the School Funding Interim Commission on the **Sign up for e-notices page**.



P-CARD NEWS-----

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT P-CARDS?

MASBO has about 100 school districts participating in our p-Card program. If you're not already on board, or just want to know what all the fuss is about, there is a very informative power point <u>presentation</u> posted on the Illinois ASBO website. View it and then call our office if you have further interest or questions.

MASBO IS HERE TO HELP!

Please contact Marie Roach at mroach@masbo.com or 406-461-8804 if you need assistance with MASBO's Procurement Card Program. Marie can answer any questions you have about the application process and she reviews your application before she sends it to BMO Harris Bank for processing. It's a good idea to copy Marie on your emails to Illinois ASBO so she's aware of any information requests or questions pending. If necessary, she will follow up with either you or Illinois ASBO to avoid any unnecessary delays.

MASBO ENDORSES THESE PROGRAMS



Montana Schools Group Insurance Authority Workers Compensation Insurance **Shawn Bubb,** Director of Insurance Services 406-457-4500

sbubb@mtsba.org
http://www.msgia.org/home



Health, Dental, Vision, Life and Long-Term Disability Benefits

Eric L. Schindler, Chief Executive Officer 406-457-4510

eschindler@ms-sf.org

www.mustbenefits.org



Montana School Unemployment Insurance Program **Theresia LeSueur,** Director 406-457-4407 tlesueur@mtsba.org

http://www.mtsuip.org/



Healthcare Reform
Section 125 Services
Health Savings Account Services **Debbie Braden,** Fringe Benefit Consultant
866-576-0201, ext. 26

<u>Debbie.Braden@americanfidelity.com</u> <u>http://www.americanfidelity.com/home.aspx</u>



Western States School Program Property & Liability Insurance Plan **Dave Pillatzke,** Program Manager 406-457-4531 <u>dpillatzke@paynewest.com</u>

http://msplip.com/

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES					
NOVEMBER 1					
TR-1 Bus Routes (district due date)	By November 1, districts must send one copy of the TR-1 for each bus route to the county superintendent and submit a TR-1 for each bus route electronically to the OPI. Each TR-1 must be signed by the board chair and county superintendent.	OPI Transportation Form Calendar A.R.M. 10.7.101 (2)(g)			
NOVEMBER 10					
TR-1 Bus Routes (county due date)	By November 10, the county superintendent must electronically mark each TR-1 submitted by the district as "Received" in OPI's Pupil Transportation online system. If a TR-1 is not marked as received, the district will be unable to submit their Bus Route Claim for Reimbursement (TR-6).	OPI Transportation Form Calendar A.R.M. 10.7.101 (2)(h)			
Final Expenditure Reports for Grants Ended September 30, 2015 due	Final expenditure reports for projects that ended September 30 are due no later than November 10: ESEA Title I, Part A, Improving Basic Programs ESEA Title I, Part A, Improvement Grants ESEA Title I, Part B, Subpart 3, Even Start ESEA Title I, Part C, Migrant Education ESEA Title I, Part D, Neglected, Delinquent and At-Risk Youth ESEA Title I, Part E, Striving Readers ESEA Title II, Part A, Improving Teacher Quality ESEA Title III, Part A, English Language Acquisition & Language Enhancement ESEA Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2, Rural and Low-Income School Program (RLIS) ESEA Title X, Part C, Education of Homeless Children and Youth IDEA, Part B IDEA, Part B: CSPD IDEA, Preschool IDEA, Part D: RTI, Significant Needs	OPI Grants Calendar			
File school food program claim for reimbursement with OPI	Claims for reimbursement are due on the 10 th of each month; except months with less than 10 operating days. If a month has less than 10 operating days, combine the month with another (i.e., combine August and September on the September claim and May and June on the May claim).	School Nutrition Programs Checklist FY2015-2016 Reimbursement Rates			
OPI pays grant cash requests	OPI pays grant cash requests submitted by the 25 th of the previous month.	Payments to Schools and Coops Click on Grants tab			

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES					
NOVEMBER 15					
Verification of Free & Reduced Price Meal Application Due	Free and reduced school meal applications require annual verification. Start the verification process on October 1 and complete it by November 15. Use the verification activity tracker to keep notes on your progress. The FNS 742 verification form is used to report verification to OPI.	Verification Process Verification Activity Tracker FNS 742 Verification Form			
NOVEMBER 20					
OPI makes K-12 BASE aid payments	(GTB) Guaranteed Tax Base Aid (SBG) School Block Grants	FY2016 Payment Schedule State Payments to School and Cooperatives			
NOVEMBER 25					
Grant cash request due to OPI	Grant cash requests made by this date will be paid on November 10.	OPI Grants Calendar			
DECEMBER 1					
Licensed educators and professionals must have registered his or her license with OPI.	By December 1, all licensed educators and professional staff must have registered their license with the Office of Public Instruction. If not registered by this date, educators are considered not licensed for accreditation purposes.	OPI Summary of Activities			

Child Count Data Verification

Each year the U.S. Department of Education requires all states to report a count of students who were in special education on a day that falls between October 1 and December 1. Montana has selected the first Monday in October as their official Child Count Reporting Day. Using the Child Count Data Verification Application, districts will submit to the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) a list of students who were in special education on this year's Child Count date, October 5, 2015.

The Child Count list is generated from data extracted from AIM. The application opens prior to the Child Count date and stays open until the <u>third Friday in November</u> to allow districts adequate time to review the list for accuracy and make changes as necessary. Because the list is created from AIM data, changes to the list must originate in AIM. For instance, a special education student may be missing from the list because her IEP in AIM is unlocked. Once the IEP is locked and the information is imported into the Child Count application, the student will appear on the list.

The following information must be in AIM for students to appear on Child Count:

- a completed, locked IEP that is active on Child Count date;
- a completed, locked Evaluation Report with an age-appropriate disability;
- an age-appropriate Setting of Service; and
- an enrollment on or prior to the Child Count date.

The Child Count list may be submitted between October 5, 2015, and November 20, 2015. For additional information or questions, please contact: Jan Duiker, OPI Special Education Division, (406) 444-7432 or jduiker@mt.gov

RANDOM NEWS & HANDY RESOURCES

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) RESOURCES

The Affordable Care Act, or health care law, contains benefits and responsibilities for employers. The size and structure of your workforce – small, large, or part of a group – helps determine what applies to you. Click <u>here</u> to access the **Internal Revenue Service webpage** for info pertaining to large and small employers.

American Fidelity Assurance Company has a <u>webpage</u> that is a great resource to help you manage the challenges and changes resulting from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and rising health care costs. Take a look and contact Debbie Braden (contact info on page 4 of this newsletter) if you have questions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS UPDATE WEBSITE

With the adoption of the new public records statutes in Montana, the Local Government Records Committee has worked closely with the Secretary of State's office to update the website pertaining to local government records. Check it out at http://sos.mt.gov/records/Local/index.asp

OPI MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Don't forget to check out the OPI Summary of Activities for important information from all divisions of the Office of Public Instruction, including School Finance. Click *here* to view the November summary.

EDUCATION SUPER HIGHWAY

Governor Bullock and Superintendent Juneau are pleased to announce a partnership with Education Super Highway (ESH), a national non-profit focused on upgrading Internet access in public schools so all students can take full advantage of the promise of digital learning. ESH will be providing tools, technical assistance and consulting services to the state and to districts, *all at no cost*. This exciting opportunity will support robust Wi-Fi in schools and help districts obtain the bandwidth students need in the 21st century classroom.

ESH team members will be reaching out to directly to districts and other stakeholders in the coming weeks in order to assess current broadband status, assets and capabilities. This data will be compiled into a Connectivity Report that will provide a comprehensive review of broadband challenges and opportunities for K-12 schools. ESH—in close collaboration with the Governor's Office, the Office of Public Instruction, the service provider community, and schools across the state—will use the Report's results as a starting point to identify options and strategies for bringing affordable, scalable high-speed broadband access to schools in Montana. Further information about ESH and the resources it offers is available at its website: www.educationsuperhighway.org.

SCHOOL FACILITIES CONDITION INVENTORY - remember this?

During the December 2005 Special Session, the legislature appropriated funds to conduct a facilities condition inventory. This study was administered by Architecture and Engineering Division of the Department of Administration in two phases. Since facilities is a topic of discussion of the School Funding Interim Commission and certainly an on-going concern in your school districts, it may be time to re-visit the results of this important study, if you haven't done so already. Click here to access background information and final results.



CALENDARS, CALENDARS AND MORE CALENDARS!

Below is a chart to help you find various calendars that are available online.

Source	Direct Link	Steps on how to find it on the internet	
MASBO Calendar	http://www.masbo.com/i4a/calen dar/?pageid=3356&showTitle=1&s howDebugOutput=false&widgetPr eview=0&page_version =	 Go to <u>www.masbo.com</u> Hover cursor on Resources (left side of page). Click on Calendar. 	
MASBO Payroll Manual	http://www.masbo.com/files/PUB LICATIONS/Payroll%20Manual 20 14.pdf	 Go to <u>www.masbo.com</u> Hover cursor on Publications (left side of page). Click on MASBO Publications. Click on Payroll Manual 2014. Calendar by month is on pages 4 and 5. 	
OPI Calendar	http://gems.opi.mt.gov/ReportsAndData/Pages/OPIDataCollectionsDueDates.aspx	 Go to www.opi.mt.gov Hover cursor on Reports & Data (along top bar), GEMS Data Warehouse, then click on Public Access. Hover cursor on Reports & Data (at top), then click on Collections, Deadlines, Notices and Data Verification Calendar. From here you can filter by month and type of calendar. Remember to click on View Report (right side of page). 	
OPI Grants Calendar	http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/FEDPrgms/gh/OPI-GRANTS-CALENDAR.pdf	 Go to <u>www.opi.mt.gov</u> Hover cursor on Finance & Grants (along top bar),then click on State & Federal Grants Handbook. Click on OPI Grants Calendar. 	
OPI Transportation Forms Calendar	http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/PupilTrans port/PTHAppH.pdf	 Go to www.opi.mt.gov Hover cursor on Finance & Grants (along top bar),then click on Pupil Transportation. Scroll down to Handbook. Click on Appendix H – Pupil Transportation Forms Calendar. 	



MASBO EXHIBITOR MEMBERS					
Foxie Lady Computers, Inc. David Bardwell foxieladyc@aol.com	Todd Watkins Consulting Services Todd Watkins Toddwatkinsconsulting101@gmail .com	Fellon Insurance Services Dale Fellon fellonins@msn.com			
Montana Schools Unified Insurance Program Theresia LeSueur tlesueur@mtsba.com	Pine Cove Consulting Brandan Bassett bbassett@pinecc.com	Horace Mann Keith Jorgensen keith.jorgensen@horacemann.com			
Frontline Technologies Jim O'Halloran johalloran@frontlinetechnologies.com	Anderson, Zurmuehlen & Co. Stefeni Freese, CPA sfreese@azworld.com	Tyler Technologies Darlene Markegard Darlene.Markegard@tylertech.com			
Black Mountain Software Teresa Van Buren teresav@blackmountainsoftware.com	RESA4U/Southwest MT School Services Bruce Grubbs bgrubbs@resa4u.org	MSGIA-WCRRP Shawn Bubb sbubb@mstba.org			
American Fidelity Assurance Company Debbie Braden Debbie.Braden@americanfidelity.com	School Specialty Scott Wilkey scott.wilkey@schoolspeciality.com	CHMS, P.C. Doris Leader, CPA doris@chmspc.com			
Montana Unified School Trust Eric Schindler eschindler@ms-sf.org	United Pension Administration Elizabeth Harris upahelp@msn.com	VALIC John Wing John.wing@valic.com			
Stifel Nicolaus Bryan Stelmack yroybal@stifel.com	Rudd & Company, PLLC Julie Kostelecky, CPA, CVA jkostelecky@ruddco.com	Wipfli/GHG Kim Dare, CPA kdare@wipfli.com			
Infinite Campus Stephanie Sondrol Stephanie.sondrol@infinitecampus.com	D.A. Davidson & Co. Bridget Ekstrom Bekstrom@dadco.com	Western States School Program Dave Pillatzke dpillatzke@paynewest.com			
TCPN (The Cooperative Purchasing Network) Derek Anderson danderson@tcpn.org	Edie Barnard Edie.barnard56@gmail.com	Ron Foltz CPA firm Ron Foltz, CPA Ron.foltz@ronfoltzcpa.com			
	Klimas Financial Services, Inc. Charles Klimas cklimas@gwnsecurities.com				