



# THE MACA Reporter

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## Conference ... RAP-UP

Here is the final rap-up of the 1991 Missouri Court Conference. The majority of the evaluation replies liked the Trip to Jefferson City, the Break-out Sessions, the Panel with the Prosecutors and Clerks, Department of Revenue, Barbara Hale, and using the Cinema for the Conference. The format for the Panel session will be changed so that more questions can be answered. Those that did not make the trip to Jefferson City want to go next year, however, this type of trip is not planned for the next two or three years to come. Some clerks asked that we not use planned questions at break out sessions and panels. If you remember, these are the questions that were sent in by clerks on the questionnaire, that is why they were used.

It is easy to make a comment about something that you do not like or agree with, however, the whole group has to be taken into consideration. All comments are read and we, the Board, try very hard to correct if possible and feasible. The Room Reservation problems are again being worked on. More rooms have been added to the total reserved.

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### MEMBERSHIP DUES .....

The 1992 Membership dues are going to be due in January of each year. This is necessary to keep it separate from the Conference registration in May. The notice will be sent with your December mailing.

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MUNICIPAL IMMUNITY: In the Small Court Break-out Session mention was made regarding the liability on Community Service. The state Statute to cover this is 479.190 (3).

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### FORMS EXCHANGE .....

At the next conference we are going to have a FORM EXCHANGE SESSION. If you have a form that has worked for your court, bring 200 copies and you can explain how and why it works. If you cannot afford the cost of printing 200 copies, send in one to any officer and MACA will see that it is copied for you. If it is a 2 or 3 part form, (same on all pages) just make a copy of the top page. We all know there are many ways to accomplish the same job, but we do look for the fastest, easiest and most professional. (Note: if you are going to bring a form, please send a copy to me so that we know how many forms will be on display, R. Bovinett)

### GOODIE BAG ITEMS::: : : : : : : : :

Each year your officers go from place to place to obtain items to put in the Goodie Bags. We need some of our members to help us. Please let your Region Director know if you can obtain items to be distributed. We are now asking for at least 200.

# Editor's Notes

## DID YOU KNOW .....

that your past and current officers, their courts and cities helped pay for all printing costs and materials for the past Newsletters, registration and other forms used to help MACA get off to a good financial start?

## DID YOU KNOW .....

that your officers volunteered hundreds of hours to plan the past conferences on their own time and only since last year, they are now being allotted a dollar amount for attending the Board Meetings, but still on their own time.

## CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:::::::::::

MACA has accepted and signed a contract with the University of Missouri Institute for Executive Development for them to be incorporated with the Certification Program. Your Board knows this is a BIG STEP in the RIGHT DIRECTION. ALL present certification applications on file will be reviewed by the University. \* \* \* \* \*

## STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR SEMINAR:

ST. LOUIS - Nov. 22nd  
KANSAS CITY - Nov. 15th  
CAPE GIRARDEAU - Nov. 8th  
SPRINGFIELD - Nov. 1st

Make sure you attend. New laws affecting the Court will be some of the topics.



"I have an unlisted number."



EDITOR - Rita Bovinett  
CO-EDITOR - Patti Fogal



## SIXTH ANNUAL NACM CONFERENCE

The 1991 Nat'l Assoc. for Court Management Conference was held in Philadelphia Penn. July 7-12. Your President, Mary Ann McGrail and myself along with other MACA Members attended the conference. The theme was "Founding a Bill of Rights for Court Leaders". The conference was packed with a variety of educational programs, some of which you hear about upcoming year. A unique program put on by the Circuit Court of Cook County, Il. was a big hit at the conference. It is a production of Mock Trial Fairy Tales called "THE FAIRY TRIAL TRILOGY", that are chosen to educate and improve the public's understanding and perception of the court system.

Next years NACM Conference will be held in New Orleans in the French Quarter 7-26/31,92. Mark your calendar now!  
NACM Dues will be increasing in 1992. Contact any MACA officer for a NACM application.

## 1991 NACM LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

This seminar preceded the NACM Conference in Philadelphia and set out some significant goals for State Associations. One important factor is to have a ten (10) year plan for our State Association. I will be working with our Board on this plan for MACA. The issues facing the courts for the 90's and beyond were addressed. Consumer Orientation (Service to the Court Customer) was discussed and will be added to our 1992 conference.

Submitted by Donna Johnson



ANNUAL COURTS CONFERENCE

1991



THE BUS TRIP TO JEFFERSON  
CITY WAS A SUCCESS!!!!  
INFORMATIVE AND FUN!!



THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING  
MADE YOU WANT TO WHISPER,  
EVEN OUTSIDE !



THE HOSPITALITY ROOM HAD A MEXICAN THEME AND LOTS OF GOOD STUFF TO NIBBLE AND DRINK. THERE WAS EVEN A PINATA!!



THE POST-PARTY AT THE FORTH SEASONS EAR EVEN HAD A SUPREMES MEDLEY STARRING--- JUDGE GEORGE D. PITTMAN AND JUDGE MICHAEL DOSTER!!!! (COPIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE!!)



THE JUDGES KEPT UP THEIR TRADITION AND AGAIN WON THE VOLLEYBALL GAME! NEXT YEAR WE GET THEM FOR SURE!!!





WHAT A GREAT CONFERENCE!!!

MANY THANKS TO ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS WHO DID SUCH A FANTASTIC JOB ON THE PROGRAM.

I LEARNT MORE ABOUT MY STATE GOVERNMENT IN ONE DAY THAN I LEARNT IN MY ?? YEARS. (HOWEVER, I AM STILL MASSAGING MY CALF MUSCLES)

LOTS OF LUCK TO THE BOARD & COMMITTEES WHO HAVE TO DO THE CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR BECAUSE THEY "WILL NEVER TOP THIS ONE".

*Pat Workham*

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**NEW LEGISLATION MADE CHANGES IN OUR D.W.I. LAWS .....**

Some of the changes are listed below:

1. The blood alcohol content rate required for an administrative suspension or revocation is lowered from .13% to .10%.
2. The penalty for a first offense under the abuse and lose law is shortened from a one year revocation to a 90 day suspension.
3. A court may order a person convicted of a DWI or BAC to reimburse the state or local law enforcement agency for costs associated with the arrest.
4. Certain Municipal DWI violations shall be given the same effect as state DWI violations for the purpose of enhancing the penalties for subsequent violations. Municipal violations may only be used where the Judge is an attorney and the defendant had an attorney or waived the right to council in writing.

We are hoping that all of these issues will be addressed at the State Court Administrators Seiminar this Fall.

We encourage everyone to attend.

Submitted by Patti Fogal  
Director Region I

If there are copies of any bills you are interested in obtaining, please direct your request to either the **SENATE BILL ROOM** or the **HOUSE POST OFFICE, State Capitol, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101**





DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM COLLECTING FINES IN YOUR COURT?

READ ON .....

The following is part of an article  
"GETTING A GRIP ON COURT COLLECTIONS:  
An Overview of the Colorado Collections  
Investigator Program", by Investigator  
Paul Litschewski.

"One defendant had made his plea and now stood before the judge in the crowded courtroom to receive his sentence. The judge imposed a \$ 100 fine, and the defendant quickly, but nervously responded, "Your Honor, may I have six months in which to pay?" The courtroom became deathly silent as the large group of defendants waiting to be called awaited the judge's reply. There was a pause that seemed to last hours as everyone's eyes were on the judge who hadn't dealt with this question before. "Yes!" the judge finally exclaimed, and a sigh of relief emanated from the crowd as they relaxed into their seats and put away their pocketbooks. Each subsequent defendant asked for and was granted time to pay. Needless to say, many failed to make payment within the time period granted, having placed the matter lower and lower on their priorities in the months that followed.

This story is not a verifiable account. It is, however, a plausible conjecture of how the floodgates were opened to mounting accounts receivables in the courts."

Doesn't this sound like your court? As the investigator said in his article, when it comes to getting free credit, the word spreads fast, and that the defendants now had valuable knowledge that took some of the fear out of committing a crime. They knew they would get time to pay.

However, this was increasing the responsibilities for the Court Clerks and defendants returning to court to request more time to pay required even more time on the part of the judges and the court clerks.

The Colorado Judicial Department had a pilot program to evaluate and recommend solutions to this problem.

An investigator interviews the defendant after his fines has been assessed by the Judge and an application for stay of execution has been filled out with the defendant's name, current address, place of employment, marital status, number of dependents, financial affidavit, and personal references. It seems that if the defendant had to take more time to fill out the form, some would pay then to save time.

Municipal Courts might not have the manpower nor the funds to have an investigator, but somehow THIS program or PARTS of the program can be implemented in our courts.

If you want more information on the program, contact the COLLECTIONS PROGRAM COORDINATOR, Office of State Court Administrators, 1301 Pennsylvania St., Ste. 300, Denver, Colorado 80203-2416, phone # 303-837-3628.

The article mentioned above was printed in THE COURT MANAGER, Volume 6 # 5 Summer 1991.



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