



MARYLAND Association of COUNTIES

To: Members of the Media
From: Maryland Association of Counties (MACo)
Re: Invitation to Attend the 2015 MACo Winter Conference

The Maryland Association of Counties invites members of the media to attend the MACo Winter Conference, December 9-11, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel in Cambridge, Maryland.

The theme of the conference is "Mission: Public Safety," focusing on policing in the modern age and how new technology can enhance communications, coordinated response, and public relations during routine emergencies and regional catastrophes. The conference schedule and descriptions of the educational sessions can be found at www.mdcountries.org/MACoCon.

- Members of the media are asked to pre-register for the conference using the Press Registration Form (included in packet). There is no fee for Press to attend the conference. However, if you plan on attending any of the meal events, tickets are required and can be purchased by either using the registration form included in this packet or onsite at the MACo Registration Desk.
- Upon your arrival at the conference, please check-in at the MACo Registration Desk to receive your Press Badge and conference program.
- WiFi is accessible throughout the Hyatt Convention Center.
- To schedule interviews with MACo Board Members or staff or to obtain information pertaining to the conference, please contact MACo Meetings & Events Director Virginia White at vwhite@mdcountries.org or call 410.269.0043.
- You can also visit our website (www.mdcountries.org/MACoCon) to learn more about the schedule, educational topics, meetings and briefings, speakers, and other events.

We hope you will join us for our Winter Conference in Cambridge.



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 23, 2015

Contact:
Virginia White
Meetings & Events Director
410.269.0043, vwhite@mdcounties.org
Annapolis, MD

MACo Winter Conference: Elected Officials Gather to Discuss Public Safety in the Modern Age

Annapolis, MD (11/23/2015) – Every year, county elected officials, Senators, Delegates, and other representatives of Maryland’s 23 counties and Baltimore City gather in Dorchester County, Maryland for the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Winter Conference. The goal of the event is to provide county decision-makers and other participants with tools for more effective leadership and a clearer perspective on the issues that will be addressed during the upcoming Maryland General Assembly Session. The ultimate result of attendance is more effective and efficient county government.

The MACo Winter Conference will be held December 9-11, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Maryland. The theme of the conference is “Mission: Public Safety,” focusing on policing in the modern age and how new technology can enhance communications, coordinated response, and public relations during routine emergencies and regional catastrophes.

Through over 20 educational break-out sessions, general sessions, meetings, and briefings, attendees will learn about issues faced by different departments of county government. Sessions will cover topics such as police body cameras, tools and technology for policing, media techniques, emergency preparedness, business development, justice reinvestment and much more.

Panelists during the course of the three-day conference will discuss best practices and case studies in these topics and others. Heavy focus will be placed on the importance of county government services and collaboration across all levels of government.

MACo 2015 President, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, expresses his thoughts about the Winter Conference:

“The MACo Conference is the place where all Maryland counties – large and small, urban and suburban and rural – come together to talk about and plan for the best ways to move the ball forward on the critical issues that affect our communities.”

MACo’s Winter Conference marks the change in term for its Board of Directors. County Executive Leggett will conclude his term as MACo President and Washington County Commissioner John Barr has been nominated to assume the Association’s top leadership role. The Governor of Maryland traditionally presides over the installation of the MACo Board of Directors at the Winter Conference Inaugural Banquet, which will take place on Thursday, December 10, 2015. Governor Larry Hogan has accepted the Association’s invitation to attend and address MACo’s leadership and conference attendees with thoughts about the upcoming Maryland General Assembly Session.

Also being featured at the conference are courses from the Academy for Excellence in Local Governance certificate program, forty table-top exhibits of vendors offering cost-saving services and products to local governments, and several Association meetings and government briefings. Educational and networking opportunities at the conference allow attendees to learn about issues facing local government and the resources and strategies for successfully meeting those challenges as they prepare for the upcoming legislative session. The conference schedule, descriptions of the educational offerings, and a listing of confirmed exhibitors can be found at www.mdcounties.org/MACoCon.
-END-

About the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo):

MACo is a non-profit and non-partisan organization serving Maryland county governments by articulating their needs and ideas to the Maryland General Assembly. The Association's membership is composed of county elected officials and representatives from Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. MACo's members determine Association policy and positions on executive and legislative proposals through an elected Board of Directors and a Legislative Committee. Through MACo's advocacy, training, educational programs, and annual conferences, members are provided with endless opportunities to improve their capacity to serve their residents.

More information and conference program updates are provided at www.mdcountries.org/MACoCon.

Note to Members of the Press:

MACo is pleased to invite members of the Press to attend the Winter Conference. Press registration materials are available via www.mdcountries.org/WCD15PressKit.

Please contact Virginia White (vwhite@mdcountries.org) with scheduling requests for interviews of MACo leadership and staff.

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES



MISSION: PUBLIC SAFETY



MACo Winter Conference
December 9-11, 2015
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel
Cambridge, Maryland

REGISTRATION BROCHURE

REGISTER TODAY! www.mdcounties.org/MACoCon

MACo Winter Conference



MARYLAND Association of COUNTIES

About MACo

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) is a non-profit and non-partisan organization that serves Maryland's counties by articulating the needs of local government to the Maryland General Assembly. The Association's membership consists of county elected officials and representatives from Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City.

MACo is the only organization serving the needs of county elected officials and governments across the state of Maryland.

Who Should Attend?

- County Elected Officials
- County Staff
- Legislators
- Legislative Staff
- Cabinet Secretaries
- State Officials
- State Staff
- Congressmen
- Commercial Representatives
- Non-profit Representatives

MISSION: PUBLIC SAFETY

MACo's Winter Conference leads into Maryland's General Assembly Session—the intensive 90 days of law-making that affect all residents of our state. More than 400 of Maryland's government leaders and legislators will gather at MACo's Winter Conference to discuss the preeminent policy issues of the day.

In addition to our 20 educational sessions, attendees will participate in workgroups, meetings, and briefings that will help shape the policy landscape in the upcoming General Assembly Session.

This year, the conference will focus on policing in the modern age and how new technology can enhance communications, coordinated response, and public relations during routine emergencies and regional catastrophes.

LEARN

Participate in educational sessions to help you gain knowledge and understanding of the public safety issues facing local governments today.

BRAINSTORM

Discuss issues with county officials, county professionals, and legislators and find solutions to these important challenges.

COLLABORATE

Network with key decision-makers and create partnerships to benefit local governments by saving money and increasing efficiency in public services.

At-A-Glance

Please note that the schedule is tentative and subject to change.
Check www.mdcounties.org for updates.

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

9:00 am - 10:00 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00 am - 4:30 pm	Registration
11:00 am - 4:30 pm	Power Zone Lounge Open
11:00 am - 6:30 pm	Exhibits Open/Cyber Café Open
Noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch on your own
1:15 pm - 2:45 pm	Academy Core Session
2:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Coffee Break
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Academy Core Session
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Welcoming Reception
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Welcoming Banquet & Keynote Presentation (ticket required)
8:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Dessert Reception

Thursday, December 10, 2015

7:30 am - 8:45 am	County Elected Officials Breakfast & Business Meeting (ticket required)
7:30 am - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
7:30 am - 3:30 pm	Registration
7:30 am - 3:30 pm	Power Zone Lounge Open
7:30 am - 3:30 pm	Exhibits Open/Cyber Café Open
9:00 am - 10:15 am	General Session
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am - 11:45 am	General Session
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Buffet Lunch (ticket required)
11:45 am - 12:45 pm	Affiliate & Interest Group Lunches (ticket required)
Noon - 2:00 pm	Spouse Lunch (separate registration required)
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	EDUCATIONAL AFFILIATE SESSIONS <i>Sponsored by MACo's Affiliate Members</i>
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Coffee Break
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	EDUCATIONAL AFFILIATE SESSIONS <i>Sponsored by MACo's Affiliate Members</i>
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Coffee Break
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	EDUCATIONAL AFFILIATE SESSIONS <i>Sponsored by MACo's Affiliate Members</i>
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Inaugural Banquet Reception
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Inaugural Ceremony & Awards Banquet (ticket required)
8:30 pm - 9:30 pm	President's Reception



Sponsor Showcase

**An exclusive opportunity for
MACo Winter Conference Sponsors!**

- 30-minute educational sessions
- All content belongs to the sponsor/presenter – *partisan and campaign-oriented presentations strictly prohibited!*
- MACo will provide the room, projector, screen and internet connection.

Seven 30-minute timeslots are available!

Please contact [Kaley Schultze](mailto:kschultze@mdcounties.org) (kschultze@mdcounties.org) for more information or view our [Sponsorship Brochure](#).

Friday, December 11, 2015

7:30 am - 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast
7:30 am - 10:30 am	Registration
7:30 am - 10:30 am	Power Zone Lounge Open
8:00 am - 9:30 am	General Session
9:30 am - 10:45 am	2016 General Assembly Forecast
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Coffee Break & Hotel Check-out
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Closing General Session
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Wrap-Up Boxed Lunch (ticket required)

**Attend MACo's Winter Conference:
Register now at www.mdcounties.org/MACoCon**

SCHEDULE

Please note that the schedule is tentative and subject to change.
Check www.mdcountries.org for updates.

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

9:00 am - 10:00 am | **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

Sponsored by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)

9:00 am - 4:30 pm | **REGISTRATION**

Sponsored by Davenport & Company, LLC

11:00 am - 4:30 pm | **POWER ZONE LOUNGE OPEN**

The Power Zone Lounge is a special space for our attendees to meet in small groups, charge their mobile devices, take phone calls, or catch up on email. It's the perfect place to handle a bit of office work or talk about a potential partnership with a vendor!

11:00 am - 6:30 pm | **EXHIBITS AND CYBER CAFÉ OPEN**

Noon - 1:00 pm | **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

Noon - 4:30 pm | **AFFILIATE MEETING** (private)

Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO)

1:15 pm - 2:45 pm | **ACADEMY FOR EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE CORE COURSE**

Basics of Risk Management

One of the main responsibilities of local governments is to protect its residents from risk to themselves and their property. Risk may result from a number of sources, including fire, crime, automobile accidents, harm to the infrastructure, or as a result of waste disposal. This class is designed to sharpen the awareness of officials that local government activities are subject to risks that may result in significant loss. Through learning about steps to reduce and control loss exposure, and tools for identifying hazards, government officials can learn how to avoid the consequences of taking unnecessary risk.

2:45 pm - 3:00 pm | **COFFEE BREAK**

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm | **ACADEMY FOR EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE CORE COURSE**

Conducting Effective Meetings

Conducting public business requires managing the issues that come before a public body. Building an agenda, promoting useful discussion, and providing a structure for decision-making are key goals for an effective meeting and for effective public officials. The instructor also covers the proper use of organized rules of order - known as parliamentary procedure - which allow all voices to be heard but with debate that remains focused and civil.

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm | **WELCOMING RECEPTION**

Hosted by the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm | **WELCOMING BANQUET & KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

Sponsored by MACo's Silver Corporate Partners

Join us for a welcoming dinner to start off our conference! MACo Past President and former Maryland State Senator Jim Robey will deliver the Keynote Presentation and discuss his career in public service and public safety.

8:30 pm - 9:30 pm | **DESSERT RECEPTION**

Sponsored by MACo's Corporate Partners

Join your fellow conference attendees in Michener's Library at the Hyatt for refreshments and networking.

Thursday, December 10, 2015

7:30 am - 8:45 am | **COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS FORUM, BREAKFAST, & BUSINESS MEETING** (ticket required)

County Elected Officials will be given a ticket to this event so that they may conduct Association business and discuss policy and governance issues among their peers.

7:30 am - 9:00 am | **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

Sponsored by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)

7:30 am - 3:30 pm | **REGISTRATION**

Sponsored by Davenport & Company, LLC

7:30 am - 3:30 pm | **POWER ZONE LOUNGE OPEN**

The Power Zone Lounge is a special space for our attendees to meet in small groups, charge their mobile devices, take phone calls, or catch up on email. It's the perfect place to handle a bit of office work or talk about a potential partnership with a vendor!

7:30 am - 3:30 pm | **EXHIBITS & CYBER CAFÉ OPEN**



SCHEDULE

Please note that the schedule is tentative and subject to change.
Check www.mdcounties.org for updates.

Thursday, December 10, 2015

9:00 am - 10:15 am | **GENERAL SESSION**

The New Blue: Tools, Technology & Transparency in Modern Policing

From Robocop to Minority Report, Law and Order to CSI, film and television paint vivid, and at times almost unbelievable, pictures of technology-driven policing now and in the future. But is reality that far from fiction? While we may not have robotic cops or “pre-cogs,” advancements in law enforcement and public safety technology are paving the way for more innovative tools and techniques to aid modern policing. In this session, learn about the creative ways law enforcement and first responders are harnessing technology to protect and serve Maryland’s citizens.

10:15 am - 10:30 am | **COFFEE BREAK**

10:30 am - 11:45 am | **GENERAL SESSION**

Mastering the Media in Crisis and Calm

In public leadership, important issues suddenly arise and transform – with the media fueling both sides of this rapid change. Having strong media relationships helps ensure fair and informed coverage of county-related issues, builds public confidence, and increases awareness of county priorities and services. Communicating well with the media, particularly during a crisis or emergency situation, is critical. This session will deliver techniques for clear and concise messaging and building strong media relationships. Speakers will cover traditional media relations, online/social media outlets, and special tips for crisis communication.

11:45 am - 12:45 pm | **BUFFET LUNCH** (ticket required)

Sponsored by Correct Care Solutions

11:45 am - 12:45 pm | **AFFILIATE & INTEREST GROUP LUNCHES**
(lunch ticket required)

**** = Only Affiliate Members are invited to attend Affiliate Meetings***

Attorneys Affiliate*	Regional Councils
Human Services Affiliate*	Rural County Coalition
Public Information Officers	Women of MACo

Noon - 2:00 pm | **SPOUSE LUNCH**

(separate registration required)

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | **AFFILIATE SESSIONS**

Making Your Public Safety Budget Count

Sponsored by MACo's Budget & Finance Affiliate

At its best, public safety priorities come from a partnership of elected officials and independent public safety authorities. When that partnership doesn't work, challenges are inevitable. This session will explore the funding relationship between the county and these independent bodies and offer suggestions for building a good working relationship.



I Spy with My Little Eye – Police Body Cameras and the Maryland Public Information Act

Sponsored by MACo's Attorneys Affiliate

As Maryland and its counties move toward implementing a broad police body camera policy, one key issue that must be addressed is how to treat body camera footage under the Maryland Public Information Act. Such footage poses genuine privacy, technical, and practical challenges to county governments that the Act does not specifically address. Panelists will provide an overview of how the Act currently handles body camera footage, highlight the benefits and challenges the footage poses, and offer differing perspectives on whether and how body camera footage should be treated differently under the Act.

When Lightning Strikes: Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults

Sponsored by MACo's Aging Affiliate

Emergencies can affect every segment of a community, often being most detrimental to vulnerable populations like older adults. Hidden dangers lurk in the aftermath of emergencies, when older adults are at increased risk for exploitation. In this session, speakers will share best practices for preparing older adults in our community for emergencies with insight for human services and aging agencies, and those of us with older adults in our families and neighborhoods. In this session, consider how to best protect older adults in your community - and even in your own family - with advice for developing communication plans, planning for medical needs and for pets or service animals, and preparing for critical decision-making that might be required at the time of an emergency.

Old MacDonald Had a Farm (and a Winery...and a Creamery ...and a Gift Shop) – Regulating Agro-Tourism Businesses

Sponsored by MACo's Environmental Health Affiliate

Agro-tourism and related on-farm businesses (such as wineries, creameries, and on-farm markets) play an increasingly important role in the economic vitality of both farms and the counties in which they are located. However, while generally supporting such endeavors, counties must also manage valid public health and environmental concerns that arise from food processing and other activities by on-farm businesses. Panelists will discuss the benefits and challenges surrounding on-farm businesses, highlight key safety and health issues posed by them, and offer examples of how certain counties have responded to these concerns.

2:00 pm - 2:15 pm | **COFFEE BREAK**

SCHEDULE

Please note that the schedule is tentative and subject to change.
Check www.mdcountries.org for updates.

Thursday, December 10, 2015

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm | **AFFILIATE SESSIONS**

After-action: Lessons Learned Following the Civil Unrest in Baltimore

Sponsored by MACo's Administrators Affiliate

What happens when civil unrest erupts? Both advance planning and immediate actions carry magnified importance. What agencies should you involve in the planning and implementation of a response? When and how should you reach out to neighboring jurisdictions, the state or federal government for assistance? In the aftermath, how do you keep citizens connected to vital social services, and maintain commerce, traffic, and "normal" activity? This session will explore lessons learned from this spring's high profile events in Baltimore, from multiple players within and around the City.

Maryland's Disconnected Youth: The Impact of Jails, Jobs, Homelessness, and Hunger

Sponsored by MACo's Human Services Affiliate

The impacts of familial incarceration, hunger, homelessness, and lack of employment can have deep and long-term effects on the future course of a youth's life and on society at large. According to the Governor's Office for Children, approximately 90,000 children in Maryland are estimated to have a parent under some form of correctional supervision such as parole, probation, jail, or prison. It is estimated that 94,000 teenagers and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 are either not working or not in school. Additionally, about one in eight Maryland households is food insecure and approximately 15,000 youth enrolled in Maryland schools are considered homeless. In this session, learn more about the impact of these issues on Maryland youths, and how state and local programs are providing programs to help.

Bringing Business to Your Backyard

Sponsored by MACo's Administrators Affiliate

Businesses decide to locate in certain areas for many reasons. It could be the highly educated workforce, the sense of community, or the cost of doing business – just to name a few. During this session, a site selection consultant will discuss the most important factors a company considers when looking to expand or relocate a business and how attendees can better market their jurisdictions to be more attractive to business.

Don't Let Your Project Go Down the Drain – Reforming Stormwater Restoration Permitting

Sponsored by MACo's Engineers Affiliate (CEAM)

Stormwater restoration projects are often inherently difficult from both an engineering and cost perspective. Add to that a relatively small contractor pool; frustrating permit process; and for some counties, challenging federal permit goals. To address these issues, MACo and county stakeholders have been working with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to make sensible reforms to its permitting process. Panelists will discuss the general challenges posed by stormwater restoration projects, identify specific problems with MDE's current permitting system, and highlight positive reforms that MDE is undertaking based on county feedback.

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm | **COFFEE BREAK**

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm | **AFFILIATE SESSIONS**

Who What and Where of Zoning for Medical Cannabis **Sponsored by MACo's Planners Affiliate**

In 2014, Maryland passed legislation legalizing the production and use of medical cannabis in the state. Over the past six months, counties have grappled with how to zone and site medical cannabis facilities, including growing and processing facilities and dispensaries. Panelists will provide an overview of the State's application process for medical cannabis facilities, highlight key issues a county should consider when zoning for the facilities, and offer examples of how different counties are approaching the issue.

Dollars & Sense: Justice Reinvestment for Your County Jails **Sponsored by MACo's Corrections Affiliate**

Maryland is using a data-driven approach to develop a statewide framework to reduce the State's incarcerated prison population, reduce spending on prison corrections, and reinvest in strategies to increase public safety and reduce recidivism. But what about the county jails? In fiscal year 2014, Maryland's local jails held an average daily population of over 11,500 inmates, nearly 66% of which were pretrial. Diversion, deflection, and other front-end programming present a wealth of opportunity for local government fiscal savings by reducing incarcerated populations while increasing public safety. This session will discuss some of the unique opportunities to apply Justice Reinvestment Strategies at the local level in our county jails.

Crime & Violence Through a Public Health Lens **Sponsored by MACo's Health Officers Affiliate (MACHO)**

Remarkably, prior to the 1980s, 'public health' was rarely mentioned in discussions of violence or its root causes, and was seldom included as a partner in its resolution. Today, violence is clearly recognized as a public health problem. It has become clear that violence affects other social determinants of health that perpetuate poor health outcomes in specific groups in our communities. This session will give a brief overview of the trends that contributed to the growing recognition that violence can be addressed from a public health perspective. Panelists will describe in detail the role of local health departments in collaborations with schools, law enforcement, the judicial system, corrections, social services, and other community partners to address this leading cause of injury, disability, and premature death.

Say "Ahh": County Compliance with the Affordable Care Act **Sponsored by MACo's Human Resources Affiliate**

This is the first year of implementation for several elements of the Affordable Care Act, including reporting requirements that must be used for employee tax returns. At the same time, new affordability of care standards create potential for fines and penalties as their applicability to various scenarios is discovered. In this timely session, hear best practices for implementation of new requirements and learn strategies for avoiding penalties as a county employer.

SCHEDULE

Please note that the schedule is tentative and subject to change.
Check www.mdcountries.org for updates.

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Keeping the Bugs Out of the Ballgame: Pesticide Use on Recreational Fields

Sponsored by MACo's Parks & Recreation Affiliate (MACPRA)

Over the last several years, environmental and community groups have raised health concerns about the application of pesticides on lawns and recreational areas used by children. During the 2015 General Assembly Session, the Maryland legislature considered a pesticide application ban on day care, school, and park recreational areas except in an emergency. Panelists will debate different aspects of this issue, including health concerns raised by pesticide use, the need to keep and maintain functional recreational areas, and how counties currently manage their pesticide applications in parks.

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm | **AFFILIATE MEETING** (private)
County Administrators Affiliate

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm | **DIVERSITY CAUCUS RECEPTION**

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm | **INAUGURAL BANQUET RECEPTION**
Sponsored by MACo's Bronze Corporate Partners

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm | **INAUGURAL CEREMONY & AWARDS BANQUET** (ticket required)

Sponsored by MACo's Gold Corporate Partners

This event is the highlight of MACo's Winter Conference. Our new Board of Directors is installed and we celebrate our public service, best practices, and legislative awards. Traditionally, the Governor installs the Board and addresses the audience.

8:30 pm - 9:30 pm | **PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**

Friday, December 11, 2015

7:30 am - 9:30 am | **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

Sponsored by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)

7:30 am - 10:30 am | **REGISTRATION**

Sponsored by Davenport & Company, LLC

7:30 am - 10:30 am | **POWER ZONE LOUNGE OPEN**

8:00 am - 9:30 am | **GENERAL SESSION**

The ABCs of EOCs: County Roles During a Local Emergency

Emergency operations centers (EOCs) are the heart of a coordinated response to a critical situation. This session will give an overview of the various agencies involved in a local emergency response, with a special spotlight on the school system and their preparations when serving as emergency shelters in our communities. Panelists will explore the roles of county elected officials and leadership staff in local emergency operations centers. Through presentation and a short tabletop exercise, participants will gain insight into the chain of command during an emergency, how agency functions translate into emergency support functions during a crisis, and how to work in an incident command structure.

9:30 am - 10:45 am | **2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FORECAST**

The upcoming session appears to be a challenging one for officials in Annapolis. Revenues are up for the coming fiscal year, but competing ideas on how the funds should be used may trigger disagreements. At the same time, the increasing cost of school construction, the growing concern over public safety issues and improving the state's business climate warrants public and political attention. The General Assembly's two presiding officers, the House and Senate minority leaders, and a policy advocate from the Administration will share their views on the issues confronting Annapolis for 2016 and beyond.

10:45 am - 11:00 am | **COFFEE BREAK & HOTEL CHECK-OUT**

11:00 am - 12:30 pm | **CLOSING GENERAL SESSION**

Separating Myth from Fact on Medical Cannabis

As Maryland moves forward with legalized medical cannabis, there remain questions, concerns, and potential misconceptions about how certain aspects of the policy will be implemented. Some question whether cannabis has valid medical uses that outweigh its potential drawbacks. Others raise concerns over issues like security (both on-site and during product transport) and financial oversight (federal banking law still views proceeds from medical cannabis as illegal). Panelists will summarize where Maryland is in its implementation process and address the commonly raised issues of medical efficacy, security, and accounting and financial management.

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm | **WRAP-UP BOXED LUNCHES**
(ticket required)

Grab a boxed lunch and join your fellow attendees for one last chat to discuss what you've learned at the conference before you head home!



REGISTRATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

REGISTRATION

General Policies

- Registration DOES NOT include hotel reservations. Registrants must make their own hotel reservations. Discounted rates at the Hyatt have been arranged.
- Registration fees include meal tickets AS LISTED on the registration form. **Meal tickets are NOT included for one-day registrations.**
- Payment MUST accompany registration. Registrations received prior to payment will not be processed until payment is received. Amount due will be determined by postmark date on payment.

Spouse/Domestic Partner Registration

- Spouse registrations are intended for the spouses, domestic partners, or significant others of registered attendees. Participants must be at least 18 years old; for activities involving alcohol, guests must be at least 21 years old. Business partners, coworkers, associates, clients, etc., do not qualify for this registration and must register separately. MACo reserves the right to refuse the spouse registration rate to any registrant if it is clear that this rate is being abused.

Cancellations/Changes and Refunds

- If a written request for cancellation or change resulting in a refund is received by November 10, 2015, fees will be refunded, less a \$75.00 processing fee. After that date, fees are non-refundable.
- Substitutions are accepted at no charge until December 4, 2015.
- On-site substitutions and registration transfers, except in cases of extreme emergencies, will result in an additional \$150 charge.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE CONFERENCE

- Elected Officials Breakfast – Only County Elected Officials registered to attend the conference are given tickets to this event.
- Welcoming Banquet, Lunches, and Inaugural Banquet/Awards Ceremony – these are ticketed events. **Tickets are included in full registrations.** Tickets may be purchased in addition to full registrations; one-day registrants may only purchase meal tickets for events occurring on the day of their registration. Tickets may not be purchased without a registration.
- Spouse registrations include Wednesday and Thursday Banquets and spouse lunch – the Friday lunch session is not included with the spouse registration.

PRESS

Registration

- Members of the press are welcome to attend the MACo Winter Conference. Press registrations are complimentary, however meal tickets are not included and registration is required. Meal tickets may be purchased in addition to a daily registration if desired. Please fill out the press registration form available at www.mdcounties.org.
- Press credentials entitle the bearer to attend and cover sessions, workshops, and other open meetings during the conference. Those holding press credentials are not entitled to participate in the discussions, including Q&A sessions involving conference attendees – MACo asks that any individuals seeking to actively participate in the substance of the conference purchase an appropriate event registration to do so.
- Press seeking to participate in the meal events must purchase tickets through MACo to join those events.

Videotaping

- Videotaping is permitted without needing permission in all of the common areas of the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel; this does not include meeting rooms or ticketed meal events. We ask that you kindly notify us of your intention to videotape in any of the common areas so that we can be sure to find you a space that doesn't interfere with foot traffic. Videotaping is not permitted in any of our private meetings or ticketed meal events.
- Permission is needed to videotape an educational session. If members of the press wish to videotape a session, they must send a request to Virginia White at vwhite@mdcounties.org at least one week prior to the start of the conference. **MACo must obtain waivers from all speakers involved before a session may be taped.**

Requests for Interviews

- Members of the press desiring to interview MACo's leadership should send a scheduling request to Virginia White at vwhite@mdcounties.org.



PRESS REGISTRATION FORM



MACo Winter Conference | December 9-11, 2015 | Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel | [Hotel Reservations: 888.421.1442](#)

Name: _____ Name on Badge: _____
First MI Last

Employer: _____

Job Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Tele: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Twitter Handle: _____

Only if purchasing a Spouse Registration: Spouse Name: _____ Name on Badge: _____
First MI Last

Check here to reserve a seat on the Thursday Spouse Lunch: Telephone Number: _____

Please check appropriate registration fee:

PRESS RATES

	Through 11/24/2015	After 11/24/2015
Full Registration <i>(includes all conference sessions, meals, and breaks for 1 person)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$270	<input type="checkbox"/> \$320
Spouse Registration <i>(Includes Wednesday & Thursday Banquets and Thursday Spouse Tour)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$160	<input type="checkbox"/> \$195
Wednesday Sessions & Breaks only <i>(order meal tickets separately)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> FREE
Thursday Sessions & Breaks only <i>(order meal tickets separately)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> FREE
Friday Sessions & Breaks only <i>(order meal tickets separately)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FREE	<input type="checkbox"/> FREE

MEAL TICKETS

Wednesday Welcoming Banquet	__ \$70	__ \$75
Thursday Lunch	__ \$40	__ \$45
Thursday Inaugural Banquet	__ \$90	__ \$95
Friday Boxed Lunch	__ \$20	__ \$25

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____ \$ _____

NEW PRESS REGISTRATION POLICIES:

Please check here to indicate that you have read and understand the policies on the next page.

CANCELLATIONS/CHANGES/REFUNDS: Please view policies on next page. Refund requests must be received by 11/10/2015.

PAYMENT METHOD: Check or Money Order payable to **MACo**. Your confirmation/receipt will be emailed to the email address on this form.

Please check appropriate box: Check VISA MasterCard *(sorry no AMEX)*

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

REQUIRED -Billing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature: _____ Print Cardholder Name: _____

MAIL or FAX completed registration form with payment to: MACo - Attn: Allison Valliant, 169 Conduit Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 or FAX: 410.268.1775
 Questions? avalliant@mdcounties.org PHONE: 410.269.0043

MACo Office Use Only

Date Paid _____ Check or PO Number _____ Amount _____

TESTIMONIALS

“At Nationwide Retirement Solutions, we strive to have partners who share our enthusiasm for and understanding of the importance of helping Public Sector employees be prepared for retirement. Over the last 25 years we've had the opportunity to share those ideas with the members of MACo.

Throughout the year we attend many conferences, and **we are always certain the MACo Summer and Winter Conferences are first on our calendar** because they allow us to maintain existing relationships and provide excellent opportunities to develop new ones.”

~ *Scott Wamboldt,*
Nationwide Retirement Solutions

"There is **no better way to learn, grow, and connect with Maryland county officials** and staff than at the MACo Winter Conference! This conference is a 'must attend' for our organization every year!"

Andrew Goldschmidt, National Association of Counties

“What a great time. We were talking about the people who do such a good job in safety and health for their counties. We’re honored to be able to answer questions about workers’ compensation and benefits of being part of a great organization. **The new relationships we build within MACo are priceless.** Thank you for your support.”

Mario Melfa, Chesapeake Employers’ Insurance Trust

“MACo provides an excellent opportunity to have quality time with our long-time customers in a terrific setting. It also gives us **a chance to meet new County and City members and network with our peers.**”

Dee Freeman, Motorola Solutions, Inc.

“As a Corporate Partner and exhibitor at the MACo conferences, Cigna has enjoyed working with the MACo team and **counts these conferences as a key opportunity to meet and connect with county officials and staff.**”

Beth W. Truffer, Cigna



HYATT REGENCY CHESAPEAKE BAY HOTEL

Cambridge, Maryland

Discounted Group Rates

(per room, per night, plus applicable taxes)

Single or Double Occupancy:	\$129.00
Triple/Quadruple Occupancy:	\$154.00/\$179.00
Water-view:	\$40.00 additional
<i>(additional fees apply for smoking, pet-friendly, and balcony rooms)</i>	

Reservations

By Phone: 888.421.1442

***(be sure to request the discounted group rate by name:
Maryland Association of Counties Winter Conference)***

Online:

Rooms may also be reserved online through the Hyatt's online reservation portal — please click the [reservation link](#) or go to www.mdcounties.org for more information.

Policies

Room Block Deadline: November 16, 2015

Please reserve your room before this date.

Reservations made after this date will be subject to availability & prevailing rates.

The MACo Group Rate is valid for 2 days before and 2 days after the Conference.

MACo Guests ***do not pay*** the \$20 Daily Resort Fee.

Hotel Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be made 72 hours prior to arrival date to receive a full refund. Guests may change date of departure only at check-in, but additional fees will apply.



Maryland Association of Counties
169 Conduit Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
www.mdcounties.org

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*Are you interested in learning more about
Maryland county legislative priorities?*

*Do you want to discuss policy challenges and
solutions on the local level?*

*Could you benefit from face-to-face interactions
with Maryland's new government leadership on
the local, state, and federal levels?*

Maryland Association of Counties

WINTER CONFERENCE

December 9-11, 2015

**Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel
Cambridge, Maryland
Dorchester County**

REGISTER TODAY!

www.mdcounties.org/MACoCon