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## *The Affiliates*

Maryland Association of County Civil Attorneys  
Maryland Association of County Administrative Officers  
Maryland Association of County Planning Officials  
Maryland Association of County Health Officers  
Maryland Association of County Parks and Recreation Administrators  
Maryland Association of County Environmental Health Officers  
County Engineers' Association of Maryland  
Maryland Association of County Human Services Administrators  
Maryland Association of County Correctional Administrators  
Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Until the official recognition of the first affiliate organization, county government professionals met informally, often reporting their activities to the Board of Directors and publicizing their meetings and conferences through MACo publications. At that time, the Association only generally recognized the existence of such organizations. The bylaws of January 1962 stated that, "this Association, its officers and members collectively and individually, may participate in and affiliate with, individually or as a component part of this Association, any other organization having similar purposes or ideals, and the officers and Board of Directors of this Association shall have power to contribute to and aid such other organizations in the furtherance of joint purposes." It was not long before such groups began to desire a more formal organization of their representatives from each county, and a strong, solid legislative voice.

### **County Civil Attorneys**

The first of these groups to pursue official status with MACo was the county attorneys. The Board of Directors received a letter from Prince George's County Attorney Robert Mathias, "seeking instructions on the procedure to be followed for a county attorney organizational meeting." Agreeing that it was a worthy venture, the Board directed Mathias to help draft a constitution as chairman of a four-member committee organized for that purpose. The Maryland Association of County Civil Attorneys became MACo's first affiliate organization at the Summer Conference Business Meeting in 1963.

### **County Administrative Officers**

County administrators did not waste any time presenting their draft constitution requesting affiliate status the following year. The proposed constitution was approved and during the 1964 Summer Conference Business Meeting, the Association's second affiliate organization, the Maryland Association of County Administrative Officers, was founded. Its purpose was to "study

and disseminate to its membership information relative to administration of county government” and “to provide a forum” for discussing that information.

Citing a need to formally recognize the two affiliates, a bylaw revision proposal to establish affiliate status was presented to the membership at the January 1969 Winter Conference. The proposal stated that, “affiliate organizations may be created through action of the Association in order to advance the purpose of the organization.”

### **Planning Officials**

Officially recognizing affiliates in the bylaws set the stage for more affiliate organization requests. In the spring of 1969, W.C. Dutton, Jr., Chairman of the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission, contacted the Board of Directors, suggesting that an affiliate of county planners be organized. Charles County Commissioner Reed W. McDonagh noted it would be a “tremendous benefit to Maryland, especially to those counties who have not yet emerged with a land planning program.”

The Association sponsored a statewide County Planners Conference in 1969 that drew nearly 100 elected and planning officials representing 21 counties and Baltimore City. It was reported at the December 1969 Board meeting that, “a poll during the conference revealed a unanimous interest in the formation of a planners' organization as an affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties.” The Maryland Association of County Planners was formally recognized at the Annual Winter Business Meeting in January 1970.

### **Health Officers**

In a December 1969 letter to the Board of Directors, Talbot County Health Officer Dr. Louis S. Welty suggested that since many of the county health officers belonged to the National Association of Health Officers, building a local organization would be worth exploring. At the June 11, 1970 Board meeting, Dr. Welty appeared before the Board to discuss the feasibility of such an affiliate. Dr. Welty stated that 19 county health officers were members of the national association and were meeting regularly. The proposed objectives of the affiliate were outlined for the Board. Executive Secretary Murnane reported to the Board on October 22, 1970 that the Maryland Conference of Health Officers had drafted a constitution to be submitted at the Annual Meeting. The Health Officers held their first affiliate sessions during the following Annual Winter Meeting. The Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) described its purpose as being to “promote the health and well being of Maryland citizens.”

### **Parks and Recreation Administrators**

In November 1974, the Deputy Director of the Harford County Department of Recreation and Parks requested affiliate status for Parks and Recreation department administrators. The Board did not review the Parks and Recreation Administrators' request until three years later on June 9, 1977. This time, county engineers, who had requested affiliate status in past years, personnel officers, and labor relations directors all requested affiliate organization status.

Approved by the Board on August 20, 1977, Resolution 77-1 called for the formation of a fifth affiliate organization “to be composed of the County Park and Recreation Administrators.”

The resolution noted that MACo "does hereby recognize the value of the County Parks and Recreation Administrators in county government." The resolution was approved by the membership at the December 9, 1977 Annual Business Meeting, along with the inclusion of two other new affiliates: environmental health directors and engineers.

### **Environmental Health Officers**

Local environmental health directors requested affiliate status about the same time as county parks and recreation officials. With little discussion, they became an affiliate organization of MACo at the December 1977 Annual Meeting with the two other groups as mentioned above. The resolution noted that it was the "desire of MACo to expand its program to include other county activities as a means of providing an effective and good government." The Environmental Health group's objective was to "foster and to improve working relationships among all agencies, organizations and individuals having a responsibility for environmental health protection in the State of Maryland in order that the interest of the public be served."

### **County Engineers**

Although county engineers were the seventh organization to be granted affiliate status, they were the oldest existing organization of all of the affiliates. As far back as 1953, "road engineers and public works officials" met in Frederick County to form the County Engineers Association of Maryland (CEAM). The organization proposed to "raise the technical standards of public service by exchanging ideas and discussing shared problems in county engineering."

In 1969, then Frederick County Commissioner Wally Hutton, suggested that the County Engineers be "asked to relinquish their independent status and become an affiliate organization" at the Board's June 18 meeting. When Executive Secretary Murnane contacted the group, they did indeed indicate an interest in becoming an affiliate.

It was not until seven years later, on June 9, 1977, that the Board again discussed the matter, this time considering the engineers' request with that of two other groups, Parks and Recreation, and Personnel and Labor Relations. Personnel and Labor Relations were not granted status. At the December 9, 1977 Annual Meeting, the County Engineers' Association of Maryland became MACo's seventh affiliate organization.

### **Human Services Administrators**

Social services directors approached MACo about affiliate status, and were granted that status by the membership at the January 1987 Annual Meeting. The affiliate was known as the Maryland Association of Local Social Service Directors in the revised bylaws of the Association.

At the August 22, 1987 Summer Annual Meeting, the membership approved a name change for the group to the Maryland Association of Human Service Administrators. Their declared purpose was to "foster and improve working relations among agencies, organizations and individuals having a responsibility for human services in the State of Maryland so that the interest of the public will be served."

## **Correctional Administrators**

Executive Director Sanudo reported to the Board on June 9, 1989 that John W. Welch, Jr., Director and Warden of the Wicomico County Department of Corrections, had requested that the Maryland Correctional Administrative Association become an affiliate. The Board discussed combining Sheriffs and Correctional Officers as one affiliate. Supporting eight affiliates, the Board addressed concerns about increased costs and the staff burden of adding more affiliate groups at their June 1989 meeting. It was decided that only the Correctional Administrators should be given affiliate status at that time. The purpose of the group was to "improve public safety by promoting the best interest of county and city correctional facilities in Maryland."

## **Area Agencies on Aging (M4A)**

At a June 1988 Board meeting, Prince George's County Council member and Board member Frank Casula requested that the Board "look into the feasibility of establishing an aging affiliate" at the Board's June 24, 1988 meeting, but it was not until 1990 that a formal request for affiliate status was made by the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging. The Board approved the request for a proposed bylaws revision subject to membership approval at the Summer Conference. The Board further directed Executive Director Sanudo to draft guidelines for the "process of affiliate status" to augment the bylaws section permitting affiliate status. Those guidelines were approved at the Board's January 30, 1991 meeting, noting the process, as well as the criteria, for approving an organization for affiliate status.

The Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging (M4A) became MACo's tenth affiliate in August 1991 at the Summer Annual Conference Business Meeting. The organization would "serve as a visible and effective advocate for the elderly within jurisdictions in Maryland."

## **Affiliate Sessions at Conferences**

As affiliate organizations were added to MACo's organizational structure, they had an increasing influence on conference program content. Initially each affiliate held its own program during the winter and summer conferences geared only to their individual members. However, as more affiliate organizations were added to MACo's structure, it became apparent that facility meeting space limitations required a change in the structure of their program. It was also felt that the affiliate sessions provided valuable information that would be beneficial to other county officials, especially elected officials. Thus, the conferences evolved to offer two affiliate-sponsored sessions for each affiliate. As the conferences have grown and meeting space concerns continue to prevail, emphasis is now placed on sessions sponsored by multiple affiliates.

## **Requests for Affiliate Status**

Through the years, various county government professional groups have approached MACo requesting affiliate status. Human Service Directors, Aging Directors, and Citizen Planners informally expressed interest in becoming affiliates during the time Tee O'Connor served as Executive Director. In discussing such requests the Board of Directors repeatedly indicated that they did not want to approve additional affiliates. Beginning in 1989, while debating the addition of the Corrections Affiliate organization, the Board questioned the staff's ability to handle the

workload created by additional affiliates, and the expense created by each new affiliate. It was determined that adding more affiliates could create such an undue burden.

At their February 1, 1991 meeting, the Board denied a request from the Maryland Council of Community Health Nurse Directors to become an affiliate organization. The Board instead determined that “the Nursing Directors should interface with the Health Directors’ Affiliate rather than create another affiliate.”

In 1996 a motion was passed including “a direction for MACo to urge the Administrators’ Affiliate to include Human Resources Directors as a ‘sub affiliate,’ and to urge the group [Human Resources] to request sub-affiliate status. The motion . . . carried unanimously.”

The agendas and style of each of the ten affiliates today are as diverse as the members themselves. Some collect dues, others do not; some meet monthly, others meet only when an important issue surfaces. They provide a base of technical expertise from which MACo staff draws to understand and develop legislative policy. Often individual affiliate members are called upon to testify on behalf of MACo before General Assembly Committees on bills of critical concern to county government. MACo, in turn, provides affiliates with a strong, solid legislative voice in Annapolis.