

Connected

The Newsletter of the Miami Valley Educational Computer Association

New Faces, new services at MVECA

MVECA welcomes some new staff for FY06. Also in this issue: find out more about a new service we plan to offer - document imaging and management solution. All on page 8.

New Name, Same Location...

Effective July 1, 2005, Clinton-Fayette-Highland ESD will change its name to "Southern Ohio ESC."

SESSI GRANT

MVECA was awarded \$122,000 over the next two years to assist districts in the implementation of special education software. MVECA will be working in conjunction with Clark Co., Southern Ohio (Clinton-Fayette-Highland), and Greene Co. ESCs, to train and support the Student Services module (SSEM) of Progress Book. In order to assist districts during their training and implementation year, the MVECA Board has waived the fees for the SSEM module for the 2005-2006 school year for all MVECA member districts.

What's New?

New Website Permits

School-to-School Comparisons

A new website, SchoolMatters.com, allows parents, educators and policymakers to call up data on schools and districts nationwide and compare the information. The website contains millions of education snippets such as per pupil spending, student-teacher ratios,

and proficiency test scores, down to the school building level. Teacher salaries and benefit plans are also available for comparison. (See story on page 7.)

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What's New?

Document Management Solution

Jack Hudson of Hudson James, Inc. will be demonstrating their Document Management solution for districts interested in imaging and storing their files electronically. A workflow system is also a part of this solution. Details on page 8.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SOLUTION DEMO

Thurs., June 9 - 1:00-2:30 at MVECA

D³A²

If you have not heard about D³A² - ODE's newest effort to create a comprehensive and effective data management storage and retrieval system, you really need to check it out. The [Data-Driven Decisions for Academic Achievement](#) (D³A²) project is a long-term initiative focused on developing the capacity of educators to have systemic access to data and aligned resources to improve instruction and student achievement. Find out more about D³A² at ODE's website: http://www.ode.state.oh.us/Data_Exchange/ AND at the *Technology Standards Mtg at MVECA on May 26.*

What's New?

CORE

ODE recently launched CORE (Connected Ohio Record for Educators). Educators can now renew their licenses, look for teaching jobs, apply for certain kinds of funding, and complete some LPDC functions online. See page 8 for more information about CORE.

SchoolNet/OET Merger is Official

On July 1, 2005, e-tec will be a new agency comprised of the current SchoolNet and Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network. With the new name, new mission, and new director, e-tec hopes to emerge as a consolidated effort to "advance education and accelerate the learning of Ohioians through technology."

Student Services

Angle Crandall

Stacy Hurtt

Sandra Ingledue

Becky Nininger



With summer comes SIS cleanups and preparations for the 2005-06 school year. Below is an abbreviated SIS Yearend Checklist. The complete SIS Yearend Checklist can be found on MVECA's website by following the Student Services link and then clicking on the SIS information.

SIS Yearend Tasks Applicable to High Schools with Grades 9-12

- _____ Verify Final Marks (R703, Format 01)
- _____ Enter Exception Credits (IMAD)
- _____ Update COHI (B118)
- _____ Update RANK (B117)
- _____ Withdraw Any Active Early Graduates (STUD)
- _____ Produce/Print Transcripts and Cum Labels (R702 for Transcripts, R702 or R700 for Cum Labels)
- _____ Verify Graduating/Non-Graduating Seniors Attending Elsewhere (R101 for R Status Students in Grade 12)

SIS Yearend Tasks Applicable to Schools Housing Any Grade Levels

- _____ Verify Attendance (R319 from ABHI or R322 from ABSE)
- _____ Produce/Print Year-End Labels for Student Permanent Records
- _____ Re-Transfer and Re-Receive Students for 2005-06 School Year (B106 and B107)
- _____ Clear Attendance Letter Flags IF Using SIS to Generate Attendance Letters (B124)
- _____ Post Fee Payments and Produce/Print Student Fee Detail Report IF Using SIS to Record Fees (R109)
- _____ Add Terms/Reporting Periods for 2005-06 School Year (P301)
- _____ Add School Calendar(s) for 2005-06 School Year (P310) and Notify MVECA to Copy Calendar(s) to Additional Buildings as Needed

_____ Produce/Print Any SIS Yearend Reports that may be Needed or Useful (R101, R309, R500 for the Entire School Year, R500 for the Week Prior to October Count Week, R500 for October Count Week, R500 for the Week After October Count Week)

Please remember, additional SIS and EMIS detailed documentation can be found on MVECA's website by following the Student Services link found on the home page (www.mveca.org). Also, if you have any questions, you can contact us here at MVECA via email (hdesk@mveca.org) or phone (937-767-1468).

A couple other items to keep in mind are:

_____ If the 2004-05 master schedule has not been rolled over to the 2005-06 school year and that is needed, please submit the B110 batch job in SIS or send an email to hdesk@mveca.org requesting assistance with this.

_____ Those schools that print grade cards out of SIS will need to send the beginning dates and the ending dates of each marking period to MVECA for 2005-06 grade card formatting. Dates can be emailed to hdesk@mveca.org or mailed to MVECA, SIS Department, 330 East Enon Road, Yellow Springs, OH 45387, or faxed to 937-767-1793.

Most of our users are very familiar with the end-of-the-year procedures for SIS. All of our previous MVECA newsletters provide great reminders of tips and procedures for SIS. You can access all previous MVECA newsletters through our MVECA website at www.MVECA.org. Click on "MVECA NEWS".

DASL NEWS

After a brief pilot period in the fall with one district, we hope to begin training other MVECA districts for implementation of the new DASL software. Watch for more information and announcements in the late summer and fall about DASL implementation.

RECEPTION
for BECKY NININGER

FRIDAY, JUNE 10
2:30-3:30 at MVECA



Wow, the 04-05 school year has nearly ended! Listed below are a few of the end of the year closing recommendations for Progress Book. This document has been recently updated and can be viewed in its entirety by going to the Progress Book web site in the NEWS section located at www.mveca.org/progressbook .

End of year 04-05:

- * Teachers / administrators may wish to print or save a copy of any reports they would like to keep from Progress Book.
- *For buildings printing report cards out of Progress Book, you may wish to run an extra report card for each student to place in the student folders. Cumulative labels are not printed out of Progress Book.
- *Summer is the optimal time for our Progress Book team to work on new and existing report cards. If your report cards are printed out of Progress Book and you would like to make any changes, the changes should be sent to MVECA no later then June 1st.
- *If you are planning on producing report cards out of Progress Book for the first time next year, please send the desired template(s) and content information to MVECA no later then June 30th. High Schools and Middle Schools using Progress Book for the first time should contact MVECA at (937) 767-1468 or email us at progressbook@mveca.org to discuss setup requirements in the SIS and Progress Book areas to guarantee compatibility.

In addition to the end of the year document, the 05-06 "Required Setup Information" form is posted to the Progress Book web site. This document has been recently updated. The required setup form should be filled out and returned to MVECA no later than June 15th.

05-06 Beginning Year:

- *Please go to the Progress Book section of the MVECA web page and print out a copy of the "Required Setup Information" sheet. You may email or fax any information that should be updated in Progress Book such as mark type additions or deletions, 05-06 quarter beginning dates and interim ending dates, quarter and interim grade card entry dates . . . to my attention at: progressbook@mveca.org or fax it to (937) 767-1793.
- *We require a copy of your district and building calendars to setup for the 05-06 school year. Please email or fax the calendars to us no later than June 15th.

Upcoming Events:

- *We will apply both the Special Services and Progress Book upgrades in early June after schools are finished with final report card entries.
- *With the upgrades, teachers will notice some enhancements to both Progress Book and the Special Services Module. These enhancements will be posted to the Progress Book web site once the upgrades are completed.
- *When the Special Services Module upgrade is applied, all forms that have not already been finalized will be finalized or made "current". After the upgrade, if teachers wish to re-open them as "proposed" documents, they should "create from existing". The information on this is located on the Progress Book web site in the Special Services Section. The title is "Create New Forms from Existing Forms".
- *We have scheduled beginning level trainings for Progress Book in September at MVECA for new staff members. Please sign up using the training calendar link on the MVECA home page: www.mveca.org Due to the busy time at the start of any new school year, all trainings will be conducted at MVECA during most of August and all of September.

The Progress Book September training dates are as follows:

September 7	Elem	9-11:00 a.m.	HS	1-3:00 p.m.
September 9	HS	9-11:00 a.m.	Elem	1-3:00 p.m.
September 19	Elem	9-11:00 a.m.	HS	1-3:00 p.m.
September 21	HS	9-11:00 a.m.	Elem	1- 3:00 p.m.
September 23	Elem	9-11:00 a.m.	HS	1-3:00 p.m.



Would you like to schedule a presentation of Progress Book or Special Services in your district? If so, email us at progressbook@mveca.org and we will do our best to accommodate you.

SPECIAL NOTE: The beginning of the school year is when many elementary schools do their scheduling. Many changes are made throughout the scheduling process. Progress Book does not delete changes made in scheduling, but rather adds the new information into the teacher's grade book. Sometimes the changes create the need for some additional work on behalf of the teachers in "hiding" classes and students that were initially scheduled and then changed. MVECA would like to offer that elementary buildings who do this type of scheduling can hold off "data integration to Student Information Systems (SIS)" until most of the changes have been made – usually around the end of the 2nd week of school. What this would mean is that teachers could not use Progress Book for attendance, lunch counts and grade book entries until the integration is turned on and the system backs up to SIS in the nightly load. If your district has elementary buildings that would like to wait for the data integration, let us know and we will turn them on when you give us the go ahead that most of your scheduling is complete. If you have any questions about any of the information listed in this update or would like more information pertaining to Progress Book or the Special Services Module, please let us know.



EMIS UPDATE

FY2005 YEAREND EMIS

OPEN LAB SESSIONS

MVECA Student Services staff will be sponsoring open EMIS lab sessions to assist in verifying yearend data, reading and verifying ODE data verification reports, and answering your questions. Open lab sessions will be held on the following dates:

June 15	9:00-4:00	(lunch break 12-1)
June 22	1:00-4:00	(afternoon only)
July 6	9:00-4:00	(lunch break 12-1)
July 13	9:00-4:00	(lunch break 12-1)
July 20	9:00-4:00	(lunch break 12-1)

Please register for these sessions at:
www.mveca.org/www/training/registration_form.htm.
If users find these sessions helpful, additional open lab sessions may be scheduled for the fall.

FALL FY2006 ODE SCHOOL FINANCE/ EMIS SESSION - November 18, 2005

On Friday, November 18, 2005, MVECA will be partnering with two other DA sites - MDECA and WOCO - to sponsor workshops with Jim Degen, ODE School Finance Area Coordinator, on reporting and verifying EMIS data related to funding. Both treasurers and EMIS coordinators are invited. The sessions will take place at Wayne High School in Huber Heights, located at 5400 Chambersburg Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424. There will be two sessions, a morning session for traditional public districts, and an afternoon session for community schools.

AM- 8:30-11:30 (Public districts)
PM - 1:00-3:30 (Community Schools)

For those interested in staying for both sessions, lunch is on your own. Please register for one or both of these sessions at: www.mveca.org/www/training/registration_form.htm.



FISCAL UPDATE

USAS

Deb Dinnen

Updates to **Five Year Forecasts** are due by June 3, 2005. Forward any updates to fiscal@mveca.org for submission. All districts will be sent June 1st, regardless of if updates were made. Final processing of 05P at ODE is August 19, 2005.

APPROP can be used to load a spreadsheet that contains the **Next Year Proposed** budget. Any spreadsheet can be adapted to the format required for APPROP or ACCLOAD. Don't hesitate to send spreadsheets to fiscal@mveca.org!

Why write requisitions? **USASWEB** is a web-based application that just requires an updated version of Firefox, Netscape or Internet Explorer to create requisitions. It's as easy as 1-2-3. 1 - MVECA0 accounts created for requisitioners; 2- users logon to USASWEB with MVECA0 username and password and create the requisition; and 3- once approved, the Treasurer's Office converts req to purchase order.

USPS

We anticipate the release of **USPWEB** before summer's end. Biographical and attendance will be the first modules released. Watch for training dates this summer.

Fiscal year end approaches rapidly!! The following steps may prepare for smooth sailing:

1. Be certain to pay non-cash earnings to retiring/terminating employees with greater than \$50,000 Life Insurance before their final pay. Add an NC1 pay type in UPDCAL_CUR or UPDCAL_FUT.
2. Surcharge report will be useful to review in advance. The surcharge minimum level is \$27,400 for 04-05.
3. Run STRSAD as a PROJECTION only. At this time, you will verify that the correct certified staff will be included in the advance.

NEWCNT has an import option that can save time building new contracts. Existing spreadsheets can be modified using specific headers. Once the information is in NEWCNT, a spreadsheet can be created using Safari for a data source to merge into a Word document for custom Salary Notices.

Upcoming Fiscal Events

USPS Roundtable – Wednesday, May 25
Fiscal Year End Meeting – Thursday, June 9
SSWAT/EIEIO – Thursday, July 14



The 2004-2005 school year has been another productive year for videoconferencing. We have had more classroom experiences using videoconferencing than ever before. We have more teachers successfully meeting content standards by integrating videoconferencing into their curriculum than ever before. I think the most important aspect of this is that teachers are learning to do this on their own. Videoconferencing is becoming a natural part of how they teach. Several districts have expanded their videoconferencing capabilities by purchasing additional videoconferencing systems, thus reaching more teachers and students. Districts have taken the added steps of training their support personnel in videoconferencing support as well as VC Wizard use.

As you wind down toward the end of this school year keep next year in mind. As we have learned in the past, the best content and content providers are booked early in the year. Those of you that know what videoconferences you want to use next year would be wise to schedule them by the end of August. Most content providers open scheduling at the beginning of August. So, get in early for that COSI open heart surgery or your favorite Cleveland Museum of Art program. Remember to browse for new programs as most content providers are adding new content each year.

Finally, keep an eye out for improved content delivery. The State Distance Learning Coordinators are putting together a meeting with our content providers to discuss teaching techniques. It is our hope that with the guidance of educators, we can teach the content providers to deliver their information with an eye to pedagogy. This will allow you to more easily communicate with them and allow them to better deliver the content to your students.

**Sirsi Migration**

We now have two districts live on Sirsi with the third to be online before the end of May. To see the new features of the online catalog please visit our library website at <http://web2.mveca.org>. Select a school building from Northwestern, Cedarcliff or Sugarcreek. Check out the *Visual search*, and the *Reading Program* search.

Several districts have committed to working some over the summer so that they can be migrated by Fall 2005. I look forward to working with Yellow Springs, GCCC, Greenon and Miami Trace during the summer. The Sirsi Java-based client software is in testing and should be available in August. Then we will be able to move forward quickly with the districts that use MACs.

New Schools

Southeastern Local Schools has committed to bringing their Miamiview ES/MS library on-line. The Springfield Catholic schools are consolidating. Holy Trinity will close, but we will be adding St. Mary's in Urbana.

INFOhio Planning Conference

This year's INFOhio Planning Conference "Leading school libraries into the future" will be held in Mansfield at the NCOCC DAsite from June 15-17. We encourage you to attend because INFOhio is still a grass-roots effort. Please visit the planning conference webpage at <http://www.infohio.org/LibraryStaff/PlanConf2005/Summary2005.html> to learn more about it. The registration fee has been waived this year in hopes to attract more attendees. Online registration is available till May 31. Don't delay, register today.

Users Meeting

Like last year, our first users meeting will be in August right at the beginning of the year. We will pick a date before the end of the year so make sure to check your e-mail before leaving for the summer.



Technology News

Thor Sage

Scientific Research Points to the Need for Meaningful Technology Integration and Technology Standards

Researchers at the University of Munich recently conducted a study which analyzed the academic achievements and home backgrounds, with respect to educational technology, of 100,000 15-year-olds in 31 countries (http://ideas.repec.org/p/ces/ceswps/_1321.html). This study concluded that the less students used computers, at school and at home, the better they performed on international tests of literacy and mathematics. Additionally, the study concluded that students attending schools that were generously equipped with computers tended to do worse, presumably because computerized instruction was replacing more effective forms of teaching. Essentially, computers at home and school functioned more as distractions from learning than as valuable tools for greater academic achievement.

This data is certainly troubling for Ohio educators who have seen approximately 896 million dollars distributed by Ohio SchoolNet for educational technology since 1994, and many additional millions of local dollars expended in order to maintain technological assets. To make matters worse, in many schools today, study halls have been replaced by computer labs that offer students an all too welcome distraction from the school day. In some classrooms, students use free time by playing computer games instead of catching up on homework assignments. In other places, instruction has indeed been replaced by “drill and practice” software that may not help students to learn more than they would in a more traditional setting. While many teachers have found meaningful uses for technology and have managed to bring more enrichment activities into the curriculum, there are still not enough teachers that have embraced any clear vision of what educational technology should look like. In short, educators need to learn more about the appropriate use of technology in education. The Academic Content Standards for Technology provide a vision for education that will help us to avoid many of the pitfalls, but implementation of those standards has been slow or non-existent in many school districts.

All is not lost, however. The Center for Applied Research in Educational Technology (CARET) contends that “technology improves student performance when the application directly supports the curriculum objectives being assessed.” Additionally, improved student performance can be seen when the application of technology: provides opportunities for student collaboration, is integrated into the typical instruction day, adjusts for student ability, provides opportunities for students to design and implement projects that extend the curriculum, and is used in environments where teachers and administrators support the use of technology (<http://caret.iste.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=answers&QuestionID=1>). CARET, in making these assertions about educational technology, has utilized viable research data and publications that, at first look, seem to contradict the findings of the University of Munich researchers. But, upon closer examination, we can see that all of this data relating to educational technology tells us the same thing; if we don't have a clear educational plan for technology implementation, we can hurt kids.

For educators in Ohio, all of this means one thing. We must work harder than ever to make sure that the Academic Content Standards for Technology are effectively implemented in our schools. The Technology Standards will help teachers and administrators to understand what good technology integration looks like, and will help our massive technological investments to pay-off for kids. The Technology Standards were designed to avoid the possible negative impact of technology on teaching and learning. Hours upon hours of research and planning went into the development of the standards so that they could serve to help improve teaching and learning processes. Now, with the introduction of the University of Munich study, it is clear that there is data that shows both the positive and negative impacts that technology can have upon education. We have all the information, now it's up to us to make the technology work for, and not against us.

New Website Permits School-to-School Comparisons (continued from page 1)

Tom Houlihan, Council of Chief State School Officers, and a participant in the www.SchoolMatters.com project, says that the website also contains analytical tools to quantify the student-performance return that schools and districts get for the dollars they spend and the demographics they serve. "There are no easy solutions to fix the more challenging aspects facing our [education] system," Houlihan said. "SchoolMatters will provide the kind of advanced analytical tool that education leaders need to help them make the very difficult decisions they face."

The information comes at a particularly critical time, he continued, to provide educators with the tools and information they need to meet the ambitious goals of President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind law (NCLB).

School administrators can use the site to compare their districts to those with similar demographics or funding that out-perform their own schools on student proficiency tests. They could then contact higher performing schools to seek advice on increasing their own scores.

The website was created by Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services and funded by The Gates Foundation and The Broad Foundation. It is uncer-

The Hannah Legislative Report

Hannah is Ohio's most comprehensive daily legislative and government news report. This daily newsletter covers legislative committees, floor sessions, government activities, synopses of recent court decisions, and attorney general opinions. MVECA provides this subscription service via email to Superintendents and Treasurers of all member districts. If you are a superintendent or treasurer and are not receiving the Hannah Report daily by email, please let MVECA know.

TURNITIN.COM RENEWALS

The MCOECN VAR has reached an agreement with TURNITIN.COM that will permit Ohio school districts that have previously purchased TURNITIN.COM products and services through the MCOECN pricing agreement to be eligible for a 25% discount on their renewals. For questions or to determine eligibility for this discount agreement, please contact:
Raphaelle Calvin Sr Acct Rep. at Paradigms, LLC
1624 Franklin St., 7th floor, Oakland, CA 94612
866.816.5046 x298 toll free - 510.444.1952 fax

New email Retention Policy

The MVECA Board approved a policy to help with the problems of storage and disposal of old email on the MVECA server. Effective May 1, 2005:

- messages in the Newmail or Inbox folder, older than 120 days will be deleted weekly
- messages in the mail folder, older than 120 days will be deleted weekly
- messages in the outbox or Sent folders older than 120 days will be deleted weekly
- messages in the Wastebasket, Trash, Deleted folders will be deleted weekly

Any mail message that needs to be kept should be filed in a folder other than the ones listed above.

Pictures, files, reports and videos should be downloaded to the local computer and deleted from the mail folder.

JOIN M.O.R.E.

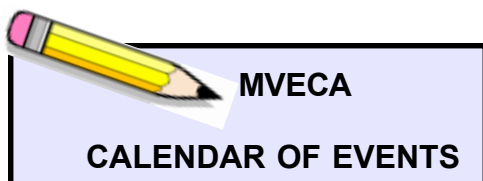
MultiLIS/Sirsi Schools - Now is the time to join MORE (Moving Ohio Resources Everywhere) for School Year 2005-06.

Start offering your students and teachers more books, more videos, and more resources. Information for INFOhio automated libraries to join can be found online at <http://www.infohio.org/librarystaff/more.html>. You must contact MVECA to start the sign-up process.

Mark your calendars because the submission deadline is June 10, 2005.

US Cargo delivery costs for next year are still being negotiated by the State Library of Ohio. Information will be posted on the MORE web site as soon as it is available: <http://www.moreforohio.org/delivery.html>. It is estimated that there will be 7% - 10% flat rate increase to the current pricing structure.

Turnitin.Com is a group of dedicated professionals working to stop the spread of Internet plagiarism and promote new technologies in education. The company's plagiarism prevention system is already utilized in a number of Ohio secondary schools, and this agreement provides additional cost-savings to schools desiring to utilize this service. Information regarding the limited-time discount agreement, and additional information relative to Turnitin.Com may be found at the following URL: <http://www.mcoecn.org/VAR/turnitin.htm>



Thurs., May 26 D3A2, Technology Standards mtg 10:00
 Mon., May 30 MVECA offices closed - MEMORIAL DAY

Thurs., June 9 Fiscal Year-end Meeting 9:00-noon
 Thurs., June 9 Document Management Demo 1:00
 Wed., June 15 EMIS Open Lab at MVECA 9:00-4:00
 Wed., June 22 EMIS Open Lab at MVECA 1:00-4:00

Mon., July 4 MVECA Offices Closed
 Wed., July 6 EMIS Open Lab 9:00-4:00
 Wed., July 13 EMIS Open Lab 9:00-4:00
 Thurs., July 14 Fiscal SSWAT/EIEIO 9:30-noon
 Wed., July 20 EMIS Open Lab 9:00-4:00

Wed., Sept. 7 Progress Bk Trng 9-11 Elem, 1-3 HS
 Fri., Sept. 9 Progress Bk Trng 9-11 HS, 1-3 Elem
 Mon., Sept. 19 Progress Bk Trng 9-11 Elem, 1-3 HS
 Wed., Sept. 21 Progress Bk Trng 9-11 HS, 1-3 Elem
 Fri., Sept. 23 Progress Bk Trng 9-11 Elem, 1-3 HS

**all meetings and trainings at MVECA, unless otherwise noted

You can register online for all MVECA events at:
www.mveca.org/www/training/registration_form.htm



Document Management Software

MVECA has been working with Hudson James, Inc. from Medina, Ohio to offer a document management solution for MVECA districts that would provide a means for districts to electronically capture, store, and manage every document generated or received by your districts - including paper, reports, forms, emails, application files, and web content. The system will integrate your existing applications and processes to create a single point of online access to all relevant information. Several MVECA districts have already expressed a desire to move forward with this venture.

If you want to learn more, please attend the next demo:

HUDSON JAMES DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DEMO
THURSDAY, JUNE 9
1:00-2:30 p.m. at MVECA

CORE (cont. from page 1)

This new application allows educators to complete their applications online and pay electronically using a credit card, making issuing educator licenses easier, faster and more efficient. While implementing this new system, ODE will still accept hard copy applications and payments by check in the mail. Teachers must set up a a SAFE account in order to access CORE. For more information, visit the CORE website at <http://core.ode.state.oh.us>.



LYNDA DAVIS JOINS STUDENT SERVICES TEAM

Lynda joins us from another DA Site where she has been supporting the McSIS software since 1997. Her official first day will be July 1. We are very pleased to have her join the Student Services staff at MVECA. She will be a great asset with McSIS and DASL, as we begin to train districts next winter in the new DASL software.



TOM FAULKNER JOINS FISCAL TEAM

MVECA wishes to welcome Tom Faulkner to the MVECA Fiscal staff. Tom has been Assistant Treasurer at Washington Court House schools since 2001. His interest in technology will allow him to support not only the fiscal software, but possibly other special projects that MVECA engages in. Tom will start on July 1.