

(Draft) Minutes
MAMC Membership Update Meeting
January 8, 2008
MTA Conference

The meeting was officially opened at 9:30 a.m. by First Vice President, Ann Ulrich who welcomed the clerks in attendance and introduced Betty Kennedy, MAMC Treasurer and Sue Hillebrand, Director of Ways & Means. Ann explained that the MAMC President, Dana Muscott could not be at today's meeting and she would be giving Dana's report.

On behalf of President Dana Muscott – Dana extends her thanks to the membership for allowing her to attend the Region V meeting. She wants to pass along that IIMC is working closely with our Directors to address the education issues to obtain a CMC or MMC. They have had multiple meetings regarding this matter and assured us that issues will be resolved soon.

Ann gave a brief outline of the CEO and Legislative Committee's work, when they meet and announced the names of the members serving on the committee. Ann introduced Betty Kennedy, Treasurer; and Betty handed out the current treasurer's report and asked if there were any questions. Betty gave the Past President's report and the Membership Director's Report. Sue Hillebrand, Director of Ways & Means gave her report next and reminded the clerks attending today's meeting of the deadline to nominate a City, Township or Village candidate for Clerk of the Year. She reviewed the criteria and outlined the process.

Sue reminded clerks to take advantage of the MAMC's listserv, and suggested that members not "reply to all" when responding to listserv emails, unless you wish ALL members to receive your response. She mentioned the annual summer conference in June at Crystal Mountain and that it was two weeks earlier than previous year's conferences. She further encouraged members to take advantage of the educational opportunities that MAMC offers and that the MAMC has scholarship opportunities that can be researched on the MAMC website.

Tom Frazier, one of the lobbyists for MTA, was introduced by Ann and asked to update clerks on what is going on in Lansing. He discussed the upcoming elections, school election dates, specifically HB 4507. Tom informed the audience that MTA has not played an active role in election issues because they have an elections committee working on election issues.

Mr. Frazier discussed early voting legislation and said this is not new to MTA and that the proposals to combine early voting with no reason absentee were gaining momentum, but part time clerks have raised valid concerns. This bill passed in the House, but failed in the Senate.

Mr. Bill Zaagman arrived at 10:10 a.m. and Ann introduced and welcomed Bill to the meeting.

Mr. Zaagman explained the current political party make-up of the House and Senate and that Senator Michele McManus is the chair of the Elections/Ethics Committee until 2010 and Representative Marc Corriveau chairs the same committee for the House until December 2008. He believes that lawmakers resist making drastic changes to election laws in a big election year. As evidence of this, NO election bills made it to the Governor's desk in 2007.

Mr. Zaagman advised clerks of ways to communicate with lawmakers to have the most impact on their decision making and encouraged all clerks to not only know who their lawmakers are, but how to reach them. He further recommended that every clerk arrange to meet their community's legislators and let them know what issues are important to you as a clerk.

He ended his presentation by suggesting that clerks watch the following, learn what each proposed bill's language contains and let your representatives know where you stand.

They are: HB 4507 – School Election Dates, 4048 – No reason Av, 4447 & 4448 different addresses permitted for registration (passed House, stuck in Senate) Michigan clerks widely opposed, 4553 Unsolicited AV applications – passed House, 4090 – in person AV voting – using tabulator, not out of committee.

First Vice President Ulrich opened the floor to questions and there was some further discussion on legislation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Sue Hillebrand, MAMC Director
Ways & Means