Letter from the President

MAMC Annual Conference

As we all gear up for another summer conference of education, prepare yourself for learning, networking and fun at the Soaring Eagle Resort in Mt. Pleasant. “Good Government” is the theme for this year’s conference, and there’s no better group of local government officials that could be chosen for such a subject!

The Conference has been thoroughly planned to provide a variety of sessions that will prove to be educational, thought provoking and entertaining. Elections, Office Management and Budgeting & Accounting will be of main focus this year. It’s always been a comfort to find that clerks share great camaraderie, willingness to improve their knowledge, and better their community. Not only do we learn from the sessions, but from networking with fellow clerks. You can be assured to find the Conference will be rewarding and it is apparent that the Conference Committee has worked hard at making it happen.

Strategic Plan Update

This past year, the Board adopted a Strategic Plan for the Association and has diligently addressed the goals and objectives within it. We’ve worked closely with Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and her staff at the Bureau of Elections to improve the Election process for voters and election officials in Michigan.

We’ve enhanced our membership services and outreach as well, and increased affordable opportunities for education. I really believe this Association is doing good things and is headed in the right direction.

I’d also like to announce MAMC’s recent decision to contract with GCSI Association Services. GCSI will help MAMC with administrative matters and coordination of conference and education sessions. The Board followed our Past Presidents Committee’s recommendation to obtain professional administrative assistance; this was one of MAMC’s top annual goals last year. We have entered this contractual relationship with great optimism and anticipation to improve our services to MAMC Members.

Thank you!

It has been an honor to serve as President of an organization that I strongly believe in and have been a part of since its inception. I offer my sincere appreciation to the membership and Board members who elected me to serve and put faith in my ability to lead. We have great clerks serving on the Board and Committees. All have worked hard and provided excellent guidance, with demonstrated desire and commitment to serve MAMC.

I’ve enjoyed my tenure as President this year, and am proud to turn the gavel over to the capable and eager leadership of Evan Hope, Delhi Township Clerk. What a great Association we have; it is my honor to serve with this group of elite professionals!
The MAMC Legislative Committee and Council of Election Officials typically meet each month to discuss priorities and legislative activity. Members are welcome to attend these meetings; dates and times are on the MAMC website calendar.

MAMC Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Joel Hondorp and Evan Hope, together with Committee members, regularly testify before various House and Senate Committees. MAMC has developed a very good relationship with legislators on these Committees and they seek our insights and suggestions. Our lobbyist, Bill Zaagman of Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. in Lansing, keeps us informed on developing legislation and the status of amendments.

We expect the House Committee to begin discussions very soon regarding SB 751-756, legislation that would eliminate the May election date and annual school elections. We believe these bills will pass the House of Representatives.

House Ethics & Elections
Kathy Angerer (D), Committee Chair, 55th District
Jennifer Haase (D), Majority Vice-Chair, 32nd District
Lisa Brown (D), 39th District
Marie Donigan (D), 26th District
Dan Scripps (D), 101st District
Dian Slavens (D), 21st District
Kim Meltzer (R), Minority Vice-Chair, 33rd District
Kenneth Kurtz (R), 58th District
Tom Pearce (R), 73rd District

Senate Campaign & Election Oversight
Michelle McManus (R), Chair, 35th District
Cameron Brown (R), Majority Vice-Chair, 16th District
Mark Jansen (R), 28th District
Gilda Jacobs (D), Minority Vice-Chair, 14th District
Dennis Olshove (D), 9th District

Bills have been introduced that would enable municipalities to publish legal notices on their official websites rather than in a newspaper. We expect the House Judiciary Committee to hear these bills in early May. We will update you as to the time and place of the hearing as information becomes available. We need your support for this legislation! Please plan to attend and show your support of these bills: HB5845, HB5847, HB5848, HB5853, HB5916, and HB5917.

Bill Activity
SB 1094-1095
Sen. Cameron Brown and Sen. Michelle McManus
Moves candidate filing deadline for local offices to bring into compliance with making AV ballots available at least 45 days before any elections (Technical amendments needed to implement the military and overseas voters requirements.)
Public Act 43 and 44 of 2010
HB 5279
Establishes procedures for sending an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas voter a ballot via mail OR electronically at least 45 days before any election. Permits a voter referenced above to return the ballot electronically.
Public Act 50 of 2010
HB 5530
Rep. Jennifer Haase
Requires that AV ballots be delivered to the county clerks at least 47 days before ANY election.
Public Act 51 of 2010
Bill Activity, cont.

SBs 129-130, 455
Sen. Cameron Brown
Addresses canvassing procedures for multi-county school district elections; the county having the greatest portion of the school district certifies the election and the other county clerks certify and transmit the portion from their county.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 4367
Rep. Woodrow Stanley
No reason absentee voting.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Government Operations and Reform

HB 4993
Rep. Tim Melton
Permit residents to register to vote at any clerk’s office.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 4383
Rep. Tom Pearce
Permit a mail registered voter to show ID to any clerk in order to vote AV their first time.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 4261, HB 4337
Pre-registers 16 year olds to vote.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 4539-4540
Rep. Lesia Liss
Creates procedures to permit residents to register to vote electronically.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 5456
Rep. Fred Miller
Establishes procedures for maintaining permanent AV lists.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 5560
Rep. Dian Slavens
Amends Sec. 644e by moving the filing deadline for odd November elections to the twelfth Tuesday before the odd November election date.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 4821
Rep. Dan Scripps
Increases recount petition cost to $25/precinct; requires additional deposit of $125/precinct when the vote is within 50 votes or .05 percent, whichever is greater.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

SB 751-756
Eliminates annual school elections on any date and eliminates the May date as an option for school elections. Requires schools to select one of three dates: Even August, Even November or Odd November. Eliminates August date for schools in counties with a population of greater than 750,000.
Passed Senate, in House Committee on Ethics and Elections

SB 692-695
Sen. Cameron Brown and Sen. Wayne Kuipers
Amends the Michigan Election Code to make it a felony to provide or receive valuable consideration for voting or refraining from voting or registering to vote, or refraining from registering. Prohibits a local clerk from registering a person to vote if the clerk knew or had good reason to believe the person was not a resident and a qualified elector. Requires a local clerk to forward to the county prosecutor the voter registration application of a person who attempted to register to vote if the clerk knew or had good reason to believe the person was not a qualified elector. Make it a felony for a person to register to vote if he or she knew or had good reason to believe that he or she was not a qualified elector. Prescribes a felony penalty for knowingly submitting a fraudulent or forged voter registration application to the Secretary of State or a local clerk.
Passed Senate, in House Committee on Ethics and Elections

SB 999
Sen. Michelle McManus
Provides for penalties for submitting a false or fraudulent voter registration application.
Passed Senate, in House Committee on Ethics and Elections

SB 937
Sen. Michelle McManus
Permits cities and villages to establish and hold even-year elections by resolution of the governing body.
In Senate Committee awaiting a hearing

SB 1126
Sen. Michelle McManus
Moves school coordinating committees from every two years to every four years beginning January 1, 2012.
In Senate Committee awaiting a hearing
THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROUDLY ANNOUNCES
2010 MAMC BOARD CANDIDATES

The Past Presidents Nomination Committee is pleased to announce the 2010 slate of officers. The following nominations have been forwarded to the MAMC Board:

1. Evan Hope, CMC – President (Township)
2. Joel Hondorp, CMC – First Vice-President (Township)
3. Dan Kasunic, CMC – Second Vice-President (City/Village)
4. H. Carolyn Boersma, CMC – Third Vice-President (Township)
5. Chris Swope, CMC – Director - (City/Village)
6. Joseph Bridgman, CMC – Director (Township)
7. Lisa Kay Hathaway, MMC– Director (City/Village)
8. Terry G. Bennett, CMC – Director (Township)
9. Open - Director (Township)

This slate will be presented to the MAMC General Membership for election at the Annual Conference to be held June 22-25, 2010, at Soaring Eagle Resort, Mt. Pleasant.

Pursuant to the Bylaws, nominations will also be taken from the floor.
REMINDER: Each member COMMUNITY shall be eligible to cast one vote. Proxy ballots for member communities not able to attend the Conference are available on the MAMC website at www.michiganclerks.org.

MAMC’s New Administrative Services

It is our pleasure to write to you as the new administrators working for the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks. We at Governmental Consultant Services Inc. - Association Services (GCSIAS) have been engaged to assist the MAMC Directors with their myriad responsibilities, including support for educational events, publications, and conference planning.

As the newest members of the MAMC team, we bring many years of experience in Association management. We look forward now to focusing on assisting your Officers and Directors in maintaining MAMC as the vital resource for clerks that you have come to expect.

Best Wishes for a very successful Election Year!

Theresa Lark
Co-Director

Tara Paksi
Co-Director
NOTICE to MEMBERSHIP:
CHANGE IN BY-LAWS

On June 11, 2008 the MAMC membership voted to approve a change in the by-laws from a 501 (c) 6 to a 501 (c) (3) organization. The designation was not granted to MAMC and this is notification to the membership that an amendment to the by-laws will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting, to be held in conjunction with the Annual Conference on June 23, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.. The amendment to be voted on is in Article IV, Section 12 of the MAMC By-Laws – change “501 (c) 3 to a 501 (c) (6)”.

Clerk of the Year

The committee was excited to receive 31 nominations for this year’s City, Township and Village Clerk of the Year Awards! We congratulate all of the nominated Clerks. The three nominating committees really had their work cut out for them this year and the following nominees are the candidates on the 2010 Clerk of the Year ballot:

**CITY CANDIDATES**

Todd Blake, Heidi Isakson, Dana Muscott, Jon Schneider and Kyle Stack.

**TOWNSHIP CANDIDATES**

Ann Bollin, Joel Hondorp, Pamela Mazich, Jeannie McCreery, and Mari Negro.

**VILLAGE CANDIDATES**

Betsy Brooks, Katie Cotey, Sheri Kesterke, Kathryn Murphy and Eileen Pulker.

We are pleased to announce that you can review each candidate’s biography on the MAMC website (www.michigan-clerks.org). You may also download and print the Clerk of the Year Ballot from the website. Each community is permitted one vote and the ballot must be returned in an envelope with your community’s return address.

For our members wishing to receive a paper ballot in the mail, send the request to Sue Hillebrand – phone 248-662-0491 or email: shillebrand@twp.northville.mi.us

The deadline for receiving the completed ballot is May 21, 2010.
Membership

MAMC membership is growing! We currently serve over 900 members. Thank you to all of our members for their commitment to our Association. The MAMC continues to work toward supporting membership benefits: Professional Education Programs; Listserv Networking; Membership Mentoring; Dynamic Summer Educational Conferences; Positive Partnerships with the State Bureau of Elections; and Legislative Lobbying on Important Clerk’s Professional Issues.

Speaking of membership services, the Board of the Directors of the MAMC in April passed a Listserv standing rule. This standing rule sets policy for the use of the listserv. The new policy is as follows:

Broadcasting Services, Electronic Communications & Listserv

The listserv is established to facilitate and encourage the free flow of information necessary to maintain an informed and engaged membership of the Michigan Municipal Association of Municipal Clerks. Use of the listserv is governed by the Listserv Code of Conduct:

Code of Conduct

The following conditions set forth the manner in which members are authorized to access and use the listserv created by the MAMC:

Term of Use

1. Using the MAMC listserv for commercial purposes or personal business, or use outside of the professional title or employment position held in the community for which you represent, or gain, is prohibited.

2. Use of the listserv in connection with contests, chain mail, junk email or “spam” is prohibited.

3. When posting to the listserv, be respectful, professional, and courteous. Defamatory, abusive, discriminatory, intimidating, profane and/or offensive language is prohibited.

4. The use of the listserv to falsely impersonate an individual, group, organization or entity is prohibited.

5. Users must determine whether it is necessary to post an answer to the entire list, or respond to the list member asking the information. In most cases, it is the responsibility of this person to compile the information and forward it to the person who additionally seeks the information requested. When in doubt, reply only to the sender and NOT TO ALL. If you seek the same information as the member posting the question, reply to the seeker and NOT TO ALL.

6. The MAMC does not support or reference the information on the listserv as accurate.

7. All information shared on the listserv must comply with all federal and State of Michigan statutes.

8. This policy may be modified without notice when it is deemed necessary and reasonable.

All members using the MAMC listserv are expected to comply with the policy as outlined in this Standing Rule. If there is a conflict between policy and use, the policy shall prevail.

The use of the listserv is a privilege of membership and not a right. MAMC may remove a user’s access to the listserv with or without notice if such were deemed to be a violation of the user’s policy, or is deemed detrimental to the mission or reputation of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

This standing rule became policy upon the vote of the MAMC Board of Directors on April 21, 2010.

Yours in Service;
Terry Bennett/ Membership Director.
Financial Report

March 2010

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Website Resources

Fellow Clerks,

I hope you are all aware of the resource section on our website. We would like to enlist your help in expanding and improving this resource. Please provide your suggestions for topics you would like to see discussed there. Our goal is to make this kind of a “one stop shopping” hub.

Please email me with your suggestions at kasunicd@ci.kentwood.mi.us

Dan Kasunic
Web Master
2010 Conferences

MAMC Annual Conference

We’re excited to bring you Good Government – We’re all in the game. The Conference Committee has been diligently working closely with the Education Committee to provide MAMC Members with a fun and educational conference experience at the Soaring Eagle Resort in Mount Pleasant, MI, June 22, 2010, through June 25, 2010. Attendees will have an opportunity to attend sessions supporting this year’s theme, Good Government – We’re all in the game, which will encompass elections, human resources, finance, and self-improvement. Don’t miss your opportunity to hear the panel of Secretary of State candidates discuss their platforms. You will also have an opportunity to meet the newly elected Clerks of the Year, your MAMC Board of Directors, and to network with new and seasoned Clerks from across our great State of Michigan.

Download Registration Materials from www.michiganclerks.org

Michigan to Host IIMC’s Region V Annual Meeting

MAMC is host to the 2010 Region V Meeting being held in Frankenmuth, Michigan, September 15 through September 17, 2010. Region V of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks consists of States of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee.

Details coming soon ...

Laissez les bons temps rouler! The President’s dinner theme is “masquerade” and masks will be provided... but you’ll have to bring your decorating ideas to jazz them up! Try to save your doubloons by putting your “game” face on for the mask decorating contest – and the winner will receive a free conference registration to next year’s conference. Attire is colorful and costumes are welcome.

You may also get your “game” on by signing up for the golf outing or the run/walk to benefit MAMC’s scholarship program.

And there’s more … much more.

Vous voir là-bas!

MAMC 5K/WALK/RUN

Come join us in Mount Pleasant during our Annual Conference for the 5th Annual 5K Walk/Run! Get an early (7 a.m.) start on Wednesday June 23, 2010 – you’ll be energized and ready for the rest of the day.

Remember – check the box on the conference registration form and note your size. Along with a cool t-shirt, awards will be given for 1st and 2nd place winners in both categories and prize drawings for participants.

See you There!!

Betty Kennedy, MAMC Treasurer