Letter from the President

Howdy!

This has been a quick year! Our Election season is off and running, and as I stated last time, I know it is sick, but I really do enjoy Elections, except the political side. My sincere hope is that your community will have the best Election season it has ever had.

We continue to monitor the Bureau of Elections (BOE) on the new voting equipment. As of right now the BOE has gotten the bids back and are working on getting them processed. The next step will be certification, then we all will have to start making decisions in which system we want to select. Our County Clerks, with our support, will have a big decision to make to ensure we have the best equipment and support. Remember, depending on the Legislature, we will have to put some local funds into our new equipment (ownership I guess).

Our upcoming “Capital Stampede” Conference should be a great opportunity for education and networking. Not to steal the Conference Committee’s thunder, but we have a national speaker, LaDonna Gatlin, starting us out with educational humor. We will also have some entertainment for the Clerk of the Year/President’s Dinner. We hope this year will be very memorable!

We must continue to educate our Boards, Commissions, and yes, the Legislature, on the importance of our positions as Municipal Clerks.

Magnanimous – great of mind, generous and forgiving.

Municipal Clerks/Deputy Clerks are generous and we must be forgiving. And no matter who says different, we are great of mind! Everyday we may come across folks who are smarter or more experienced than us, yet we know that we must use our magnanimous personality to overcome and do the right things.

Award – a prize or an honor to recognize exceptional service.

Our Clerk of the Year is a high award that we elect as a membership. These are our colleagues who we should take seriously. Their colleagues submitted them for this high honor and we should make sure we support them by voting.

Manage – to succeed in getting something done, to reach a goal.

We as Clerks manage our goals daily. If the general public, and management, knew all the issues we manage, well the word WOW comes to mind. Many of us have so many things going on in life that we forget to take a minute to just relax. We need to make sure we take time out for ourselves.

Confident – assured beyond doubt, self-reliant.

I have been privileged this year to meet so many of you; I just had to use the word confident. We may seem meek, but we are confident in our passion to do our jobs to the best of our ability.

Until next time, have a great and blessed day. Contact me with comments or suggestions.

~Joe Bridgman

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Are you ready for the Stampede?

The MAMC will be stampeding into the Lansing Radisson June 14-17 to enjoy a fun-filled, educational experience. Social events begin Tuesday night with the annual golf outing and continue on Wednesday morning with the 5K Walk/Run. Wednesday we will gather and embrace our humorous side as LaDonna Gatlin shares her simple remedy for when life happens...sometimes you just gotta’ laugh! Wednesday afternoon you are invited to join us at the Vendor Reception where you can enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks and then a night on your own to explore all Lansing has to offer. Excellent educational sessions continue on Thursday, followed by the President's/COTY dinner. We will end our stampede on Friday with a visit from Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, an elections update from Chris Thomas, and a legislative recap by Bill Zaagman.

Conference registration is now open. Registration materials are available on the MAMC website. Be sure to print off the Registration Information Packet, located on the conference page, for more information. Conference registration ends May 27, so don’t delay…register today!

We look forward to seeing you in Lansing!

Education Update

Spring time means education time for MAMC. The 2016 Clerk's Institute and Master Academy were once again well attended and contained great opportunities for Michigan Clerks to learn and network. This year we had around 130 in attendance for the Institute and almost 50 of those were 1st year participants. Master Academy was also well attended with around 75 attendees. Thank you to everyone who took time out of your schedule on a busy election year to attend.

Ongoing education and keeping up with changing laws is vital to our profession. Free Education Day was also a success. We had around 250 in attendance in Mt. Pleasant this year. We are always looking for feedback, so let us know what you thought of Institute and Masters as well as Free Education Day (Was the change in location a positive thing?).

Soon it will be time for Summer Conference, so the Education Chairs and Committee are working hard organizing the class schedules, topics and speakers. Scholarships are still available for Summer Conference if you or someone in your office qualifies. You can find the forms on the MAMC website and they can be returned to MAMC for consideration by the Board of Directors. We look forward to seeing you in Lansing for Summer Conference and more great education.

As always you can email questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns to us at jhoward@mt-pleasant.org and lmcmanus@garfield-twp.com.
2016 Slate of Candidates for MAMC Board of Directors

As Immediate Past President and Chair of the MAMC Nominating Committee, I am pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for the MAMC Board of Directors to be elected at our conference this summer.

President – City/Village – 1 position for 1 year term
Sarah Bydalek, City of Walker, Kent County

1st Vice President – Township – 1 position for 1 year term
Susanne Courtade, East Bay Charter Township, Grand Traverse County

2nd Vice President – City/Village – 1 position for 1 year term
Dan Kasunic, City of Kentwood, Kent County

3rd Vice President – Township – 1 position for 1 year term
Jennifer Venema, Caledonia Charter Township, Kent County

Director – City/Village – 2 positions for 2 year terms
Cynthia Bower, City of Taylor, Wayne County
Stephen French, City of Hillsdale, Hillsdale County
Lisa Hathaway, City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Wayne County
Jeremy Howard, City of Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County
Renee Wilson, City of Fenton, Genesee/Oakland Counties
Tema Lucero, City of Bay City, Bay County

Director – Township – 2 positions for 2 year terms
Mary Clark, Delta Charter Township, Eaton County
Robert Crawford, Fort Gratiot Charter Township, St. Clair County
Susan McCullough, Oxford Charter Township, Oakland County

It's great to see such a large pool of candidates interested in being part of this great organization! I wish them all well.

Members are reminded that voting will take place at the MAMC Summer Conference. Proxy ballots are allowed, and the Proxy Form are available at www.michiganclerks.org; the form must be submitted prior to the start of Opening Session at the conference.

Chris Swope, CMMC/CMC
Immediate Past President
Did you know –

*General Election Schedule #23 – Election Records* was amended and approved by the State Administrative Board on January 26, 2016?

Substantive changes include:

- #101 Transitory Correspondence: changed from EVT to ACT;
- #203 and #303 Applications to Vote: changed from ACT +2 to ACT +6 and now applies to all elections in accordance with MCL 168.811;
- #302 Application for Absentee Ballot: changed from ACT +2 to ACT +6;
- #305 Affidavit of Voter Unable to Meet Photo ID Requirements: changed from ACT +2 to ACT +6;

For a copy of the revised scheduled, go to [www.Michigan.gov](http://www.Michigan.gov) – Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget

**Membership: 892 Members as of April 2016**

If you are not yet a member, there is still time to join and save on registration fees for valuable education scheduled this June. Membership in the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks will save you up to $151 on your education fees alone. Here's how:

- Save $25 on summer Master Academy or $51 on Clerking 101 registration fees
- Save $100 on full summer Conference registration
- Qualify for a Conference scholarship

For an informational packet on all of the resources and benefits membership provides, email us at [info@michiganclerks.org](mailto:info@michiganclerks.org) or go to the website at [www.michiganclerks.org](http://www.michiganclerks.org).

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**192 MAMC Members Certified!**

The following Clerks have recently been awarded the prestigious designation of Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk. Congratulations to all!

*Katie Anderson - Charter Township of Northville*
*Kathy Berry - Charter Township of Chesterfield*
*Melissa J. Bliss - Three Rivers*
*Holly Brandt - Milford Charter Township*
*Angela Cole - Niles Charter Township*
*Kimberly Diefenbach - Dryden Township*
*Lonna M. Fisher - Village of Elkton*
*Allyson Holm - City of New Buffalo*
*Cyndee M. Jonseck - City of Port Huron*
*Linda Kingston - City of Clio*
*Catherine M. Kristian - Charter Township of Highland*
*Tema Lucero - City of Bay City*
*Diane Lyon - City of Clare*
*Lanie McManus - Charter Township of Garfield*
*Kathleen Novak - Auburn Hills*
*Mary Jo Pachla - City of Rochester Hills*
*Tina Sauve - Village of Metamora*
*Marshelle Stibitz - City of Norton Shores*
*Jennifer Stuart - City of Walled Lake*

**Congratulations!**

**MAMC Board of Directors**

Since Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk's Certified Michigan Municipal Clerks Program was rolled out in 2014, Clerks are realizing the value certification has brought to them professionally and personally. I am pleased to report that we've been receiving a great deal of comments and inquiries regarding certification. Whether it be a first time CMMC applicant or a CMMC looking to recertify, it is proven time and time again, Municipal Clerks across Michigan stay relevant through education and networking, which results in acknowledgment that comes in many forms. New and soon-to-be recertified CMCMCs are being acknowledged all across the State. Clerks are reporting...
having received kudos from their local legislative bodies and the media, as well as being rewarded by way of receiving a salary increase once certified. Needless to say, there is a great deal of satisfaction and respect that comes from recognition for a job well done, and the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks is here to help achieve your goals.

If you haven't already, now it's time to get out your “Me” folder! For those of you who have not yet applied, what are you waiting for? Time is running out to use some Institute credits to qualify.

... the deadline for applying credits received from graduating the 3-year Michigan Municipal Clerk’s Institute prior to the 2015 class is December 31, 2016. Make those years count, apply today.

For those of you getting ready to recertify, it would be wise to begin preparing now. The first certification expires on December 31st the third "year" from and including the year issued. (That means, those folks who certified for the first time in 2014 expire December 31, 2016.) Recertification will begin the full three-year cycle. This timeline was established to create one common expiration date, December 31, which is also the same date membership renewals are due.

Applicants applying for recertification may use educational hours earned any time during the first year of original certification. In other words, CMMCs who first applied in 2014 may use all coursework obtained in all twelve months of 2014. Total points for miscellaneous coursework cannot exceed 6 points, or 18 hours of education.

Also, when applying credits achieved from another organization other than MAMC, check the Miscellaneous category of the CMMC Guidelines to verify pre-approved organizations. MAMC’s Executive Committee will meet to review and approve or deny all applications containing miscellaneous coursework obtained from an organization that has not been pre-approved. By providing a fully completed and organized application along with supporting documentation, including certificates of completion or other substantiating records, you will assist to expedite the review process.

New! - the application has been divided into two separate forms: one for first time applicants and the other for recertification, and they can be found on the website. Feel free to contact me with questions concerning either of the application processes at lhathaway@gpwmi.us.

MAMC Website & Social Media

When submitting on our forum MAMC web site, please add your email address to help others who want to respond to your questions. Have suggestions for the Facebook page and the newsletter? - please email me. FYI, when you send a forum question it will not show up in your inbox, sorry, we are not able to change that.

Don’t forget to “like” our Facebook page: Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC)-OFFICAL SITE, this page was created for you to connect and share information with other Michigan Clerks, in a timely manner, and also can enjoy pictures and comments from other clerks.

Stay connected and stay informed. Feel free to contact me with questions, kasunicd@ci.kentwood.mi.us
Governor Proposes $10M for Voting Equipment

Governor Rick Snyder included $10 million in general fund money for new voting equipment in his 2016-17 fiscal year recommendation. In addition to the $10 million, the Governor is calling for a $5 million cost-share from local units of government. His budget recommendation did not specify how the $5 million is to be apportioned to locals. MAMC and MACC have formed an ad-hoc task force with the Bureau of Elections to discuss that very point and make recommendations on how the $5 million should be divided up, if a local share is ultimately required.

If the Legislature concurs with the Governor’s recommendation, a total of $45 million in state funds would be available for new equipment. The Secretary of State is setting aside $30 million in remaining HAVA funds in addition to the $5 million that was appropriated last year when the Legislature eliminated straight ticket voting. Including the $5 million in local match, there could be as much as $50 million for the new equipment.

Both the House and the Senate have reviewed the Governor’s budget recommendations and are currently acting on their own budgets. The House General Government Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Laura Cox (R-Livonia), cut the Governor’s recommendation by $5 million by only appropriating $5 million general fund and $5 million local share. The Senate General Government Subcommittee, chaired by Jim Stamas (R-Midland), kept the Governor’s $10 million general fund recommendation and, instead of a local match, transfers $5 million from the statutory revenue sharing funds to meet each local unit of government’s match. A $5 million reduction in statutory revenue sharing is a 1.5 percent reduction in that line item.

This is very early in the appropriations process. In the coming weeks, each chamber will pass their budget recommendations over to the other chamber. In the coming weeks, a clearer revenue picture will emerge and final agreements between the House, Senate and the Governor will be struck. At that point, subcommittee chairs will be given final budget targets and left to negotiate the specific spending priorities within each budget bill. I’ll keep you informed as developments occur.

House Waters Down Local “Gag” Provision

The House acted on legislation to loosen the impact of what many are calling a gag on local officials, introduced by Rep. Lisa Lyons. However, action in the Senate is uncertain as many in the Republican caucus want to see a full repeal of the troublesome language. Recall that in the waning hours of the last session day of 2015, the Legislature adopted and jammed a host of changes to the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. The provision in question effectively prohibited local bodies from using public resources for any communications relating to local ballot questions within 60 days prior to the scheduled election. Despite the outcry from local officials, Governor Snyder signed the bill (Public Act 269 of 2015) and, in signing it, asked the Legislature to clarify the language further. Prior law already prohibited use of public dollars for express advocacy for or against a local ballot question. However, the language of P.A. 269 seemingly muzzles local bodies further to the extent that they would be prevented from expending any resources to educate voters about what a ballot question does and its impact.

Local officials cried foul and filed suit in Federal court against P.A. 269. The judge granted an injunction prohibiting the state from enforcing the law. At this point, the Attorney General has filed an answer on behalf of the State. The Court will schedule a status conference in the next few weeks to set a schedule for the remaining briefing schedule. It appears that the AG’s office could be trying to drag the litigation out in hopes that the Legislature adopts a fix that resolves the constitutional issues from the lawsuit. If no “fix” is passed by the Legislature, the lawsuit would conclude by the end of May, most likely striking down the current law as unconstitutional. We have also learned that the AG’s office is attempting to negotiate a settlement with the plaintiffs that would establish a permanent injunction against the Secretary of State from enforcing that section of the law.

As of this writing, the injunction is in place and the section cannot be enforced. Stay tuned for updates.

Senate Moves to Clarify 180-day Limit on Signatures

A party-line vote in the Senate was enough to move legislation clarifying signatures older than 180-days on a statewide petition are not valid. Senate Bill 776 passed with only Republican votes and eliminates never used language which would have permitted the Board of State Canvassers (BSC) the ability to establish a process to rehabilitate signatures outside of 180 days. The House Elections Committee took testimony on the bill but has not yet acted on it. MILegalize, a ballot question committee formed to decriminalize recreational marijuana use and regulate its distribution and sale, petitioned the BSC in January to create a process permitting use of signatures outside of the 180-day window. The BSC has yet to act on the request. SB 776 would only apply to the petitions of statewide ballot questions.
Financial Report

Mary Clark, CMMC
Delta Township
MAMC Treasurer


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<th>Description</th>
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TOTAL FUNDS $227,217.97

MAMC will continue to share Legislative news with you as we receive it. Watch for urgent eblasts and emails. Check out our website and Facebook pages often. Much information will be shared on these pages. Please make sure your computer settings allow these various options so that you do not miss time sensitive information and requests for action.

You may want to sign up for the daily legislative updates through the Michigan Legislature Website. This is a free service once you create a membership account. You are able to customize your daily update to show information that you have an interest in. [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov)

The Legislative Committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month at Delta Township.

Clerk of the Year

Get your vote in now for Clerk of the Year! Please take a few minutes to vote for our Clerk of the Year candidates. The Clerk of the Year program is designed to honor municipal clerks who demonstrate the professional and personal qualities representing the best of our profession. Nominations are received from City and Village Managers, Township Supervisors, Mayors, Board Presidents, fellow Clerks and other municipal officials. Nominating Committees comprised of previous Clerk of the Year award winners review the nominations and select candidates based on:

- Years of experience as a municipal clerk;
- Demonstrated greater-than-average performance in the position;
- Active in county, state and national associations;
- Demonstrated interest in improving their professional and personal skills, and in the advancement of the profession;
- A record of contributing to the improvement of their community and the respect of community leaders.

Every MAMC member may vote in each of the three categories: City, Township, and Village. Please review the biography of each candidate at the MAMC website: [www.michiganclerks.org](http://www.michiganclerks.org). Then download the ballot, vote and mail it by May 11, 2016 to:

MAMC COTY BALLOT
110 N. Washington Square, Ste. 110A
Lansing, MI 48933

IMPORTANT: On the outside of your return envelope, please include your name, the name of your municipality and your municipality’s address. Without your name to match against our membership list, we will not be able to process your ballot. Clerk of the Year recipients will be announced during the President’s/Clerk of the Year dinner during the annual MAMC Conference in Lansing. If you have any questions regarding the Clerk of the Year process, please feel free to contact me at 517-655-2774 xt. 102.