Greetings Everyone,

I was recently elected as President of our Association at our yearly summer conference which was held in Lansing, MI on June 14-16, and I am honored to be serving in this role as your president for 2016/2017.

Our annual conference in Lansing was another success with great educational classes and fond memories.

MAMC has been very busy with rolling out a Michigan Certification (CMMC) and is now beginning to re-certify members for their annual certification.

We are already getting started on 2017 Educational opportunities in Michigan, including MAMC Institute on March 12-17, 2017, Master Classes on March 21-23, 2017 and our 2017 Michigan Summer Conference which will be held in Kalamazoo, MI on June 19-23, 2017 and the theme will be “Roaring 20’s”.

You will also want to mark your calendars for an amazing IIMC Conference which will be held in Montreal Canada on May 21-24, 2017. Please mark your calendars now so you can be part of all of these great educational opportunities.

We will all have a busy fall this year with the Presidential Election. With that said, I would like to focus on the Importance of the following: PACE: Positive, Attitude, Changes, Everything.

We all strive to do the best job we possibly can. With this General Election fast approaching us, we all need to take the opportunity to take a relaxing break. With that in mind, I hope each and every one of you is able to enjoy some time off before September.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any MAMC questions, I am here to serve and help in any way which I can.

Sarah Bydalek, CMMC/CMC
MAMC President
sbydalek@ci.walker.mi.us
Meet New MAMC Board Member
Rob Crawford

Rob Crawford was elected to the MAMC Board of Directors at the MAMC Summer Conference to a two year term. Rob has been the Fort Gratiot Township Clerk since January 2002. He is currently the Secretary of the St Clair County Association of Clerks’ and the President of the County Chapter of the MTA. Prior to him becoming the township clerk he served as township trustee for ten years.

Rob was honored as a 2013 MAMC Township Clerk of the Year. He has the designation of a Certified Municipal Clerk from IIMC and has recently re-certified as a Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk by MAMC.

Rob and his wife Barb celebrate their 42nd wedding anniversary the day after the August Primary. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren. Rob and Barb enjoy gardening and RV camping. The cold Michigan months Rob shares the basement with Barb. She works on her quilting and he works on his basement model railroad and building boats. The railroad depicts the local trains that ran in the Port Huron/Fort Gratiot area in the mid 1950’s. The boats he builds are competitive model sailboats sailed in model sailboat regattas.

Rob reminds clerks as we face the challenges of the November Election to take a few moments for yourself. Don’t let the demands of the election control your every moment. Make sure you use a moment to enjoy something for yourself. Doing so will allow you to re-charge and plan for accomplishing the next challenge.

2016 Conference

A big thank you to all of the attendees of the 2016 Capital Stampede Conference held at the Lansing Center and Radisson! I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the 5k walk/run, golf outing, and President’ Dinner this year. The wide variety of classes provided, seemed to have something for everyone! Please take the time to complete the conference survey that was emailed to all attendees if you have not already done so. We appreciate all of the feedback we receive to make each conference the best it can be.

The Conference Committee will be getting started soon with the planning of the 2017 Conference at the Radisson in downtown Kalamazoo from June 19th through June 23rd with the theme of “The Roaring 20’s”. Ideas are already brewing in our minds to make it a fun and educational experience! Make sure you save the date.

If you would like to be a part of the Conference Committee, please submit an application by August 20, 2016. Applications can be found on the MAMC website at: http://www.michiganclerks.org/Portals/0/Documents/Committee_Application_-_MAMC.pdf.

Financial Report

Lanie McManus
Garfield Charter Township
MAMC Treasurer


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The Clerk of the Year Awards celebrate the best of the best. Nominated by peers, co-workers, mayors, managers and supervisors, each candidate for these prestigious awards is an influential leader with an impressive history of accomplishments.

**2016 City Clerk of the Year**
**Tina Barton, City of Rochester Hills**

Tina Barton has 26 years of experience in county and local government service. Tina served as Deputy Clerk in Bloomfield Twp. before being appointed City Clerk of Rochester Hills in 2013.

Tina is actively involved in the Oakland County Clerks Association, MAMC, and the IIMC, and has her CMC, MMC and CMMC certifications. She has served the clerking community as a member of the QVF Refresh Committee, a member of the MAMC Board of Directors, a frequent instructor at the MAMC Clerks Institute, a community outreach speaker on the topic of voting for local high schools and universities, and by testifying in Lansing regarding election equipment.

Some of Tina’s most recent accomplishments include appearing as a guest speaker at the Illinois Public Service Institute; being the first female to graduate from the US Customs and Border Protection Citizen Academy; graduating from Leadership Oakland; and achieving record sales of cemetery lots. Tina feels with every great accomplishment you must acknowledge that no ONE individual is responsible for the success - in order for a team to rise to the top, you need leadership that believes in them, supports them, and guides them.

**2016 Township Clerk of the Year**
**Susanne Courtade, East Bay Charter Township**

Susanne Courtade has been the Clerk for East Bay Charter Township for ten years, and, having obtained her CMC and CMMC certifications, is working on her MMC. In addition to Sue’s many duties as Clerk, her role in the Township encompasses finance, human resources, payroll, accounts payable and accounting. Under Sue’s leadership the Township converted to electronic board packets, and was an early adopter of the Electronic Poll Book as a pilot program participant. A member of the MAMC Board of Directors since 2011, Sue has served as 2nd Vice President, Legislative Chair and Secretary. She is active in the Grand Traverse County Association of Municipal Clerks, having served as President, Vice President and Secretary, and also serves as District 8 Director of the Michigan Townships Association. Sue is an appointee to the committee determining the next generation of voting equipment.

Sue feels she is shameless in promoting education of all municipal clerks. “We can best serve others if we have the knowledge and tools to learn ourselves.”

**2016 Village Clerk of the Year**
**Tina Sauve, Village of Metamora**

Tina Sauve, started her municipal career as the appointed Deputy Clerk in June 2002, was subsequently appointed as Clerk in August 2002, and was elected as Clerk of the Village of Metamora in 2004. She obtained her CMC certification in 2012, and will be applying for her CMMC while working towards her MMC.

Tina participates in several associations including the Lapeer County Municipal Clerks, currently the Vice Chair, and is a member of MAMC and IIMC. Tina is also active in community organizations, serving as Secretary of the Metamora Fire Department Auxiliary, and is a local elementary cheerleading coach.

While serving as Clerk, Tina has organized bands for summer concerts in the park, organizes the annual community tree lighting, helps with other local events, was a key leader in remodeling the village office and meeting room, and researched the early payoff of sewer loans resulting in savings for the village and its residents.

Tina received the David Porter Jr. Humanitarian Service Award in 2015 for her service to the citizens of Metamora, awarded by community members for outstanding service.

We congratulate these clerks who exemplify the highest standards of our profession.

Anna Perales, CMMC, CMC
MAMC Ways and Means Director
Did you know –

Currently, before a vendor can prepare election programming, all municipalities within a county must have entered their election information into the portal. Programming is done on a county-wide basis. Therefore, it is in the best interest of election administrators to input election information into the portal as soon as possible. Completing portal entries on a timely basis enables programming to be completed earlier, which allows Clerks the ability to test absent voter ballots prior to mailing, as well as distribute tested absent voter ballots to voters earlier.

Membership: 909 Members

The Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks provides opportunities for our members to increase their knowledge or matters pertaining to the Clerk’s profession. We strive to provide opportunities to improve skills, challenge minds, and hone professional attributes. Our mission is to encourage continuous education through training, education, and networking.

As stated by Larry “Nick” Nicholson, PhD, at MAMC’s 2016 Master Academy, he stated, “We are made up of three things: training, education, and experiences.” The similarities between MAMC’s mission and Dr. Nicholson’s philosophy are identical. Maintaining an active membership in MAMC will continue to provide the opportunities to grow in our profession; however the benefits do not stop there. MAMC reaches out even further by providing answers to questions through resources provided on the website and forum.

Your membership also provides the means for our organization to continue to stay abreast of legislation that regulates the multitude of responsibilities managed by municipal Clerks. Imagine having to take time away from other duties of your office in order to keep an eye on Lansing with respect pending legislation relating to Election Law, Freedom of Information Act, and Finance just to name a few. MAMC Board of Directors supports our CEO and Legislative Committees, as well as our Lobbyist, Bill Zaagman, of Government Consulting Services, Inc., (GCSI) who keep a watchful eye on Lansing for us. They call for action from the membership when needed, compile and provide feedback, and report on legislative movement.

MAMC is here to support you. If you have any suggestions on how membership can better serve you, I would like to hear from you at lhathaway@gpwmi.us.

“We are made up of three things: training, education, and experiences.”
Larry “Nick” Nicholson, PhD
Leadership and Ethics Expert
Speaker - MAMC Masters Academy March 2016

Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk Program:

Michigan Clerks have realized the value of MAMC’s CMMC program. The “CMMC” credentials adorned with your name validates the importance you place on education. It affirms your commitment to professionally and accurately administer laws and establish processes and procedures that validate you as a Clerk and permits your office to run smoothly while providing quality customer service.

Those Clerks whose certification expires on December 31, 2016, have already begun submitting their applications and documentation to recertify. Outlined below are a few tips to help ensure a smooth recertification:

• 20 points are required to recertify (2 points for 6 hours of education, 1 point for 3 hours, etc.);
• Provide proof of having attended education classes by including:
  ▷ A certificate of attendance from the organization that identifies the amount of time you were in class;
  ▷ If a certificate is not available, a signed letter on letterhead from the organization that confirms your attendance and identifies the speaker’s name, course name, and number of hours the class was attended;
When submitting credits from the Bureau of Elections, provide a transcript that is available on E-Learning; which includes date, course name, and the amount of time to complete coursework;

Helpful hints to print a transcript from E-Learning that includes Training Hours:
1. Log into E-Learning: My Transcript/Options/Run Transcript Report/Select Range (input)/Include Training Detail Information/Click – Training Hours button/Run Report.
2. Set page Layout:
3. Orientation: Landscape
4. Scale: 65%
5. Print

Note: Course registration materials alone will not earn credit.

219 MAMC Members Certified!

Aimee Bloom - City of Saline
Sam Boelke - Armada Township
Nancy C. Conzelman - Charter Twp. of Plymouth
Brian Scott Fairbrother - Shelby Township
MaryAnn Gieraltowski - City of Hazel Park
Sally D. Guyon - Putnam Township
Sandra Hilty - Green Oak Charter Township
Dana Hughes - City of Ecorse
Carrie J. Humble - Putnam Township
Brian Jackson - City of Lansing
Lana Jaggi - Village of Mackinaw City
Christine Krawczyk - Charter Twp. of Washington
Diane LaPlante - Erie Township
Jessica Manley - Village of Lake Isabella

Susan McCullough - Charter Township of Oxford
Ann McInerney - Wayland Township
Robyn McKenna - Muskegon Charter Township
Ann D. Oakes - Muskegon Charter Township
Heather Pefley - City of Manistee
Pamela L. Przybyla - Milford Township
Cris Rariden - Grand Blanc Township
Linda Ruwersma - Eureka Charter Township
Romona Sanchez - City of Madison Heights
Jacqueline Shamus - Canton Township
Mary Steflja - City of Southfield
Cheryl A. Stewart - City of Troy
Jean Wahlfield - Alpine Township

Congratulations! MAMC Board of Directors

Reward yourself. Apply for your CMMC today.

Remember . . .

• The deadline to apply credits toward CMMC received from graduating the Michigan Municipal Clerk’s Institute prior to the 2015 class is December 31, 2016.
• CMMC recipients who first certified in 2014 will expire December 31, 2016.

Members will be notified in writing whether an application is approved or placed on hold pending receipt of additional supporting documentation.

Apply for membership, certification or recertification at www.michiganclerks.org.
Governor, Legislature Set Aside $5M for Voting Equipment

With another $5 million set aside by the Governor and the Legislature for new voting equipment, the total available so far is $40 million in state funds. This includes the $30 million in remaining HAVA funds set aside by the Secretary of State and the $5 million appropriated last year when the Legislature eliminated straight ticket voting. What remains unknown at this time is how much money we need based on the bids submitted by the three vendors who qualified. Once the state completes its negotiations with the vendors, we will have a clear picture of how much additional funding, if any, is needed. Also unknown at this time is how much locals and counties may be expected to bring to the table in the form of a local match. It is possible the Legislature could appropriate all funds necessary to cover the cost of new equipment. However, in discussions with officials within the Governor's office, it has been expressed that the Governor believes that local units of government should share in this cost. For months, the Secretary of State has been advising locals to be prepared by setting aside funds for the new equipment. I'll keep you informed as developments occur.

Primary Would Move to June Under Proposed Bills

Prior to recessing for the summer, Rep. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) introduced a series of bills (HBs 5744-5747) to move the August primary election date to June. The other bills in the package eliminate the May date and establish a March election. In total, the bills, would establish three annual election dates of March, June and November. They were referred to the House Committee on Elections.

Vignettes Eliminated Under Bills

Bills were introduced to clean-up an oversight created when the Legislature eliminated straight-ticket voting last winter. House Bills 5723 and 5724 were introduced to strike language requiring ballots to be printed with the party vignettes. The vignettes helped voters easily identify which party they were voting straight-ticket. With the elimination of straight-ticket voting, the vignettes are no longer appropriate, yet statute still requires that they be printed on the ballot. Unfortunately, the Legislature broke for the summer before passing the bills. This means that any fix to this issue is unlikely to occur prior to the printing of the November ballots. The bills were referred to the House Committee on Elections.

Governor signs bill limiting signature gathering to 180-days

Before adjourning for the summer, the Legislature sent a bill to the Governor clarifying petition 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. MILegalize, a ballot question committee formed to decriminalize recreational marijuana use, petitioned the BSC in January to create a process permitting use of signatures outside of the 180-day window. The BSC did not act on the request and the group is now suing the state over the new law. Public Act 142 of 2016 only applies to the petitions of statewide ballot questions.

House Democrats Unveil “Voter’s Bill of Rights”

State Representatives Gretchen Driskell (D-Saline) and Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) introduced House Joint Resolution PP, which would expand absentee voting, among other things. The constitutional measure, dubbed the “Voter’s Bill of Rights,” would allow for unrestricted absentee voting for all voters, require early voting up to 15 days in advance of an election at the clerk’s office, automatic voter registration upon issuance of a state ID or state driver’s license and protects the rights of overseas military members to receive absentee ballots at least 45 days prior to the election. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Elections and requires a two-thirds majority in each chamber to place the measure before the voters.
Are you interested in serving on the CEO committee? Please consider joining us as we enter into another busy legislative and election year! Regular speakers are Bill Zaagman our lobbyist from GCSI, Chris Thomas, and Sally Williams both from the BOE.

The CEO Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:15 AM at the Delta Charter Township Hall in Lansing. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

Applications are being accepted now for all committees and can be found on our website: michiganclerks.org.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions!
Sue Courtade CMMC/CMC

MAMC will continue to share Legislative news with you as we receive it. Watch for urgent Mail Chimps and emails. Check out our website and face book 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 thru 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.legislatiure.mi.gov

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

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**Education Update**

We had a great Summer Conference with some new exciting presenters. The evaluations indicated a high level of satisfaction from the attendees. Listed below are the dates for next year's educational opportunities. Mark your calendar now.

- Clerks Institute - March 12-17, 2017
- Masters Academy - March 21-23, 2017
- Summer Conference - June 19-23, 2017

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**MAMC Website & Social Media**

Keep up to date with the latest MAMC information and educational opportunities by frequenting our website at www.michiganclerks.org. There are several great tools to help you network with other clerks, including the forum and the directory. Speaking of networking, be sure to “like” our Facebook page Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) – Official Site. This is a great place to ask questions and share information with other clerks.