There's No Place like HOME!

We are all so fortunate to live in this great State of Michigan!

I hope that you were able to attend the MAMC Roaring 20’s conference in Kalamazoo. It was filled with high level education, charismatic speakers, informative vendors, great networking, and it was all held in such a beautiful facility. I can’t say enough about how proud I am to be a part of this amazing organization.

A big shout out of “Thanks” goes out to Sarah Bydalek for her leadership and dedication as she transitions to Immediate Past President. Under her direction, we have set the foundation by creating hard documents explaining in detail the many duties and roles that each director position is responsible for. These documents will easily be handed off to the incoming director when roles change. As a working board, knowing what your responsibilities are can be half the battle.

Board members will be expanding on Roles and Expectations at their Strategic Planning Retreat held in Northport, MI this fall.

Thank you also to Joe Bridgman, as he assumes membership in the esteemed PP’s (Past Presidents rank) and to Leon Wright for his service to the board.

Welcome to our new Board Members Adam Wit, Clerk of Harrison Charter Township and Pam Smith, Clerk of City of Farmington Hills. Their roles will be Vice-Chair of the Conference Committee and Secretary, respectively. I look forward to working with both of you!

Your MAMC Board of Directors for 2017-18:

- 1st Vice-President, Dan Kasunic CMMC/MMC-Council of Election Officials Committee
- 2nd Vice-President, Jennifer Venema CMMC/CMC-Legislative Committee
- 3rd Vice-President, Jeremy Howard CMMC/CMC-Website & Newsletter
- Education Chair, Mary Clark CMMC
- Education Vice-Chair, Rob Crawford CMMC/CMC
- Conference Chair, Holly Thompson CMMC/MMC
- Conference Vice-Chair, Adam Wit CMMC/CMC
- Treasurer, Lanie McManus CMMC
- Ways and Means (Media relations)/COTY, Anna Perales CMMC/CMC
- Membership/CMMC, Lisa Hathaway CMMC/MMC
- Secretary, Pam Smith CMMC/MMC
- Immediate Past President, Sarah Bydalek CMMC/MMC

Save the dates and plan now to make sure that your budget will allow you to attend as many of the first rate educational programs MAMC has to offer:

- March 11-16, 2018 Basic Institute
- March 20-22, 2018 Master Academy
- April TBD, 2018 Free Education Day
- May 20-23, 2018 IIMC Annual Conference held in Norfolk, Virginia

And last, but not least: June 19-22, 2018 MAMC Annual Conference in my own backyard (almost), at the Grand Traverse Resort in beautiful Acme, Michigan. Please join me to celebrate “There's No Place like HOME”.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your President. I look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Susanne M. Courtade CMMC/CMC
MAMC President, scourtade@eastbaytwp.org
Meet New MAMC Board Members
Adam Wit and Pam Smith

When I started as a clerk, I had already been in local government for eight years, so I thought I knew what a clerk did. It did not take long to see that I was only scratching the surface. I knew I needed to learn and fast. MAMC and all of its clerks were there for me to give me the knowledge, tips and guidance that I needed.

While I know many of you, let me introduce myself to the rest. I have lived in Harrison Township for over 30 years. I attended Michigan State, earning a degree in history, and then attended Oakland University, earning a Master of Public Administration degree. I have worked for Harrison Township for over twelve years, the first eight years as Deputy Supervisor and the last four as Clerk. Professionally, I served as president of the Macomb County Clerks Association and am currently a board member for Macomb County Michigan Townships Association Chapter.

My wife Sarah and I have been married for seven years and have a two year old son with another boy due at the end of August. We spend a lot of the time outdoors, whether hiking, playing sports or boating on Lake St. Clair. We enjoy traveling, especially camping throughout the state. If you have a state park in your community, odds are we have been there!

I am excited and honored to serve you as a director for MAMC. I will be serving as Conference Vice Chair, so please let me know if you have any thoughts on how we can improve this great event! Thank you for this amazing opportunity.

Adam Wit, CMMC/CMC
Charter Township of Harrison

My career in government and in the City Clerk’s Office began nearly 28 years ago in Farmington Hills as a recording secretary to our Planning Commission. Since that time I worked my way up within the City Clerk’s Office to this point in my career as City Clerk. I was appointed City Clerk in June, 2011 and have appreciated every opportunity provided to me by my previous supervisor and the support of staff along the way. I really grew up working in Farmington Hills and could not have asked for better mentors, guidance or a better work experience.

I earned both my CMMC and MMC and have served MAMC through participation on various committees in the past. I served on the Board for the Oakland County Clerks Association and currently serve on the Forms Committee created by the State Bureau of Elections.

I live in White Lake with my husband Derick and two children Alexa, 22, and Landen, 12. I grew up in that area since I was 4 years old. My family enjoys baseball, golf, snowboarding and our annual family vacations usually to some place warm!

Working with other Michigan Clerks has been a great experience with the way that we share ideas and information to better our profession. I am looking forward to serving as Secretary to the Board and truly appreciate this opportunity.

Pam Smith, CMMC/MMC
City of Farmington Hills

MAMC Website & Social Media

REMINDER: There is so much information at your fingertips in regards to the MAMC website, forum, newsletter, directory and much more. Please make sure you take advantage of all of the information and resources that are provided as part of your membership.

As always you can email questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns to me at jhoward@mt-pleasant.org.

Jeremy Howard, CMMC/CMC
City of Mt. Pleasant
MAMC 3rd Vice President
Newsletter/Website Chair
The Clerk of the Year Awards celebrated the best of the best at the Radisson in Kalamazoo on June 21, 2017. Nominated by peers, coworkers, mayors, managers and supervisors, each candidate for these prestigious awards is an influential leader with an impressive history of accomplishments. Secretary of State Johnson joined in presenting the awards.

**2017 City Clerk of the Year**
Benjamin Marentette, CMMC/MMC
Clerk for the City of Traverse City

Award was presented and accepted by Tina Barton on Ben’s behalf as he was unable to attend.

Benjamin Marentette has worked for the City of Traverse City for 16 ½ years, 6 of them as the City Clerk and 11 as the Deputy City Clerk. He was nominated by Kristine Bosley of the Human Resources Department of the City of Traverse City. Benjamin loves public service and is a key member of the city’s leadership team, who works to engage all facets of the community in city decisions. Benjamin holds the Master Municipal Clerk designation, the highest-level professional designation for City Clerks in the world, and has earned a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in finance and leadership.

Benjamin is called upon by various organizations in the community to assist with strategic issues, is proud to serve as a professional public administrator and has recently attended Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program.

He has a soft spot for the elderly and those with medical complications, volunteering in a number of areas to boost their spirits and increase the quality of care received by those more vulnerable.

“My gratitude for being selected by my peers -- I absolutely love being a professional City Clerk and cherish the family of clerks around the state and do everything I can to highlight the stature of what we do. I’m in great company when I look at the others who have been selected for this prestigious award - and it’s many of the fellow clerks, deputies and professionals who serve in the Clerk’s office that I’ve learned from over the years. I stand on everyone’s shoulders. It’s much easier to shine and do great things when you have a great team backing you up – and this award really belongs to my office -- I’m grateful for the professionalism, dedication, drive and love for public service. They make me better. My team consists of Deputy City Clerk Katie Zeits, Administrative Specialist Katy Garavaglia and Licensing and Election Specialist Kim Lautner.”

**2017 Village Clerk of the Year**
Elizabeth (Beth) Grohman, CMMC/CMC
Clerk for the Village of Lexington

Beth’s career with the Village of Lexington began in 2001; she started her employment as the Secretary and Accounts Receivable Clerk. In 2009, she was appointed Village Clerk. Beth brought with her 8 years of municipal experience working in Account Receivable and other municipal duties including assisting the Zoning Administrator, Accounts Receivable, Small Claims filing, Billings for Cemetery, Water and Sewer samples, Water Tower Antenna Rentals and outside the Village Water Sales.

Beth participates in the Sanilac County Clerk’s Association, the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) and the International Institute of Municipal Clerk’s (IIMC). Beth has attended all Basic Institute Classes and currently attends the Master Academy Classes. She obtained her CMMC Certification along with her IIMC Certification.

Beth enjoys her job and promotes her position as Clerk by informing the Village Council and the Public of all the training and information she has obtained at various meetings and educational opportunities.

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

Anna Perales, CMMC/CMC
MAMC Ways and Means Director
As noted by the numbers, the Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk’s re-certification program is qualifying Michigan Clerks in leaps and bounds. During processing of the first round of re-certification, applications have been received requesting credit for coursework that had not been pre-approved. After consideration, the Executive Committee has qualified the following additional miscellaneous coursework:

- Federal Emergency Management Association
- Ed2go Educational Learning
- Coursework topics from any organization:
  - Freedom of Information Act;
  - Labor Law;
  - Planning/Zoning;
  - Serving as a trainer.

A maximum number of six (6) points out of the required twenty (20) points may be awarded under the miscellaneous category; two of which may be attained through online courses. Once coursework is complete, a certificate identifying the course name, organization presenting and education hours completed must be submitted with the application form. Supporting documents such as agendas, travel vouchers and meeting minutes will not be accepted. Most organizations will provide such a document upon request should they not be automatically issued.

The good news is for those of you who attend Michigan Township Association (MTA) educational classes, MAMC and MTA have combined efforts to provide our members an easier way of applying credit toward recertification. MTA has agreed to email certificates of completion to their attendees, and will be providing a sign-in sheet that will be circulated in the morning and again at the end of the day. Two signatures will be required in order to receive a certificate. Beginning with the Township Clerks’ Professional Development Retreat in July, MTA certificates will be issued and provide you with all of the information you need to substantiate attendance at their education venues in order to receive credit toward your CMMC. It will no longer be necessary to call and request a certificate.

The State Bureau of Elections also provides an excellent means of reporting completed coursework through their eLearning Center. There are various styles of transcripts that can be obtained from the site, however for purposes of obtaining CMMC renewal, the required transcript includes the number of training hours. For your convenience, the “how to” is provided below:

- Log into Michigan Elections eLearning Center/Transcript/Options/Run transcript report/select date range/Advanced/click Training Hours button

Haven’t renewed your CMMC or Membership?

If you have not renewed your Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk certification or annual membership, please take a moment to share your reason why. Your MAMC Board of Directors is always reviewing the quality of our programs and membership benefits, and we are constantly striving to improve our association and expand upon the services we provide. Please email your comments to lhathaway@gpwmi.us.

Financial Report

Lanie McManus, CMMC
Garfield Charter Township
MAMC Treasurer


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A big thank you to all attendees of the 2017 Roaring 20’s Conference held at the Kalamazoo Radisson! I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the Bell's Brewery Reception, 5k walk/run, Vendor Showcase and President/Clerk of the Year Dinner.

I hope you also enjoyed the conference mobile app. We had over 90% participation with the app and so many positive comments! Be sure to go back and check out all of those photos posted from Conference as well as download any handouts you may have missed!

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. If you loved our Kalamazoo location and set up, remember we will be back there for our 2019 MAMC Conference.

Planning is already getting started for the 2018 MAMC Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan (just outside of Traverse City) from June 19th through June 22nd with the theme of “There’s No Place Like Home”. Ideas are already brewing in our minds to make it another fun and educational experience. Make sure you save the date!
Governor signs bills eliminating vignettes

Bills to eliminate party vignettes from the ballot were signed into law by Governor Snyder. The bills, House Bills 4177 and 4178, were introduced by Rep. Hank Vaupel (R-Howell) and Rep Ned Canfield (R-Sebewaing) strike the requirement that party “vignettes” appear on the ballot. They are now Public Acts 114 and 115 of 2017 and take effect October 23, 2017. The bills were sought to address concerns raised by many clerks after the Legislature eliminated straight-ticket voting, but did not strike the requirement that party vignettes appear on the ballot.

House to look at recount bill this fall

Senate Bill 290 which increased the per precinct cost of a recount for certain recounts. Under the bill, the fee is at $250/precinct if the candidate requesting the recount lost by a margin of greater than 5 percent. This bill passed the Senate and awaiting action in the House Committee.

MAMC Priorities Introduced

A number of bills sought by the MAMC have been introduced and are awaiting committee hearings. Those bills include:

Senate Bill 117: Secure No Reason Absentee Voting: Introduced by Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City), the bill allows any voter to apply for an absentee ballot by presenting photo identification in the clerk's office. The bill was referred to the Senate Elections and Government Reform Committee. We are expecting a House version of this bill to be introduced as well.

House Bill 4459: Introduced by Rep. Mike Webber (R-Rochester), the bill permits any clerk to remove the “must vote in person” flag for a first-time voter upon presentation of photo ID in the clerk's office. The bill was referred to the House Elections and Ethics Committee, where we are hopeful for a committee hearing this fall.

House Bill 4700: Introduced by Rep. Jim Lilly (R-Grand Haven), the bill makes two changes to precinct delegate process. First, the bill moves the filing deadline for precinct delegate write-in candidate to 4:00 p.m. on the second Friday before the election. This is the same deadline as every other office. Secondly, the bill transfers the responsibility of certifying the precinct delegate election results from the precinct inspectors to the county clerk. The bill was referred to the House Elections and Ethics Committee, where we are hopeful for a committee hearing this fall.

House Bill 4671: Introduced by Rep. Mike Webber (R-Rochester), the bill permits local clerks to enter into a voluntary collaboration agreements with county clerks, other local clerks or the Bureau of Elections. The bill is left intentionally open-ended and permits the agreements to be as broad or as narrow as the participating clerks determine. For example, a local clerk could contract with a county clerk to perform the street index maintenance, send absentee ballots, MOVE ballots or other election-related duties. This is a reintroduction of a bill from a couple of sessions ago. The bill was referred to the House Elections and Ethics Committee, where we are hopeful for a committee hearing this fall.

House Bill 4734: Introduced by Rep. Jeremy Moss (R-Southfield), the bill makes miscellaneous changes to the county election commissions and the county canvass process. The bill was referred to the House Elections and Ethics Committee, where we are hopeful for a committee hearing this fall.
As everyone is aware, June marks changes to the Board, and Dan and Jennifer have moved up to First Vice President and Second Vice President. These positions include the responsibilities of Chair of the CEO (Council of Elected Officials) and Chair of the Legislative Committee. It is also the time to sign-up for both committees. The CEO committee is a combination of municipal clerks and county clerks discussing with the state and our lobbyist the direction our organization needs to take. The Legislative committee is composed of municipal clerks who monitor and help initiate changes or additions in legislation on all pending or proposed legislation that pertains to the responsibilities or functions of the municipal clerk.

If anyone is interested in being on these committees and can attend the meetings that are normally on the third Wednesday of the month, CEO Committee at 9:00 am, followed by the Legislative Committee at 11:00, please complete the application on the web-site. If you would prefer to be on the Legislative Committee, CEO Committee or both make sure to indicate it on the application. We have made some head way on the MAMC priority list and will continue to work towards the items still to be discussed.

Welcome Robert (Rob) Crawford, Fort Gratiot Township, as the new Vice Chair of the Education Committee; I am thrilled to have Rob on the Team! Hopefully everyone found the educational opportunities at summer conference worthwhile. A great variety of subject matter was offered and we had nearly 60 members participate in the IIMC Education hours opportunity.

With new election equipment looming – and front and center for some of you – we are partnering with the Bureau of Elections to offer a special edition of Free Education Day – Fall 2017. Our focus will be on transitioning to new equipment and all the pieces and parts that go along with it. It WILL NOT be training specific to any of the three vendors, but rather “OK this is a really full plate of changes, what all is included and where should I start”.

We are excited to be working with Sally Williams as the new Election Director for the Bureau. We will absolutely miss Chris Thomas but are happy to be in such good hands with Sally.

This special training is our goal but it is not confirmed so stay tuned. Please watch the MAMC website and mail chimp for more information as it becomes available.

Also mark your calendars for Institute 2018, March 11th through March 16th. Masters 2018 will be March 20th through the 22nd.