Letter from the President

Happy New Year to Everyone. Hopefully everyone was able to relax a little and enjoy some down time. 2017 will be an exciting year, with the potential roll out of new election equipment.

Your MAMC Board is busy planning great classes for Free Education Day and the Annual Conference, not to mention the Region V meeting and Athenian Dialogue will be held at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids, MI on March 2-4, 2017.

Please make your reservation before it is too late, and if you haven’t been to a Region V meeting, this is your opportunity! Since it will be hosted in Grand Rapids, MI! It is a great opportunity to meet other clerk’s from Region V.

The IIMC Region V Meeting and has been approved by IIMC for the following points:

**Thursday, March 2, 2017**
- Athenian Dialogue – 3 CMC Education or 3 MMC Advanced Education points with completed learning assessment.

**IIMC Region V Meeting - Friday, March 3rd and Saturday, March 4th**
- Avoiding Burnout – 3 hours
- Empowering Leadership – 3 hours
- Crucial Conversations – 2 hours

Total hours possible = 8 hours
Total points possible = 2 CMC Education or 2 MMC Advanced Education points with completed learning assessment.

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

Sarah Bydalek, CMMC/MMC
MAMC President
sbydalek@walker.city

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With the holidays behind us it’s time to jump into our upcoming Education Events. Work is underway in earnest to finalize Free Education Day curriculum. The Bureau of Elections is presenting in the morning on the recent Presidential Recount, lessons learned and expect an update on the status of new election equipment. The afternoon session is still in the planning stages but will, as always, be a great educational session.

Summer conference is June 19th through the 23rd at the Radisson Center in Kalamazoo. Masters and Clerking 101 will be offered on Tuesday June 19th with the full conference kicking off on Wednesday. Thursday will offer several choices for breakout sessions. Watch your upcoming email for registration information.

We hope to see you all at the great opportunities offered by your MAMC Board!

2017 COTY Nomination Update

The Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) Board of Directors issued a call for nominations for the annual City, Township and Village Clerk of the year awards. There was an overwhelming response recognizing many clerks who perform above and beyond their requirements. The nomination deadline was January 13, 2017. The Clerk of the year review committees have been notified and will review the nominations in their own categories, City, Township, and Village Clerk. The names will be selected by the committees and placed on the ballot for your vote in each category. Voting is available at the Clerks’ Institute and Master Academy in March, Free Education Day in April and the Annual Conference in June. Additional details will be coming to you in February with the names of the candidates and bios. The nominees will be evaluated for placement on the ballot and will be addressed by the nominating committee according to the following criteria:

- Years of experience as a municipal clerk;
- Demonstration of above average performance in the position;
- Active in county / state / national associations;
- Interest in improving skills, and advancing the profession;
- Contributions to community and respect of community leaders.

All nominees must be current members of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks for 2017. I look forward to an exciting year and presenting the winners on June 22, 2017 in Kalamazoo…
Looking for a fun and rewarding way to serve the MAMC? This is it!

The MAMC Nominating Committee is taking applications for the following Board of Directors positions; these will be on the 2017 Ballot at the Annual Conference:

(1) Third Vice-President, one year term – 2017-2018
(1) Treasurer, two year term – 2017-2019
(3) Directors, two year term – 2017-2019

Applications should be submitted by mail or email to:

Joe Bridgman
Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks
120 N Washington Sq Ste 110A
Lansing, MI 48933-1609
E mail: jbridgman@hurontownship-mi.gov

Applications are available at www.michiganclerks.org

Deadline for submission is April 1, 2017.

Do you possess the following criteria? If so, this is what we look for in a Director.

▷ Years of experience as a municipal clerk or deputy;
▷ 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.
▷ Must be a member of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

What is a Director?
The directors of Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six (6) Directors.

Who is Eligible for office?
All directors must hold duly elected or appointed City, Village, Township, County Clerk or Deputy Clerk positions and must maintain active membership in Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks. A Clerk and Deputy Clerk employed by the same community may not hold office on the Board of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks at the same time.

For the office of Third Vice-President, the individual must have been an active member of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks for three years and served at least two years as a Director, Secretary, or Treasurer.

What makes up our Board?
Excluding the Past President, Officers will be comprised of an equal number of City/Village Clerks and Township/County Clerks. The positions of President, First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents shall consist of two City/Village Clerks and two Township/County Clerks. The six director positions shall consist of three City/Village Clerks and three Township/County Clerks.

What is my commitment?
The term of office for all directors shall begin at the close of the annual conference. The President, 1st VP, 2nd VP and 3rd VP shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. The Secretary, Treasurer, and six Directors shall serve two years or until their successors are elected.
Membership: 706
CMMC: 323

With the New Year brings opportunity for new beginnings. In 2005, although I just heard of it this year, the third Monday in January, or January 16, 2017 this year, is referred to as “Blue Monday.” Blue Monday acknowledges many people’s feelings of being down which are experienced this time of year and are caused by the dreariness of the weather outside, sadness people feel as they come down from their holiday-high, the realization of their holiday debt, and looking toward the far and distant summer. Since 2005, public relations specialists have been promoting events and devices at this time of year to overcome this sadness that are intended to improve our well-being, and unbeknownst to the MAMC forefathers, the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) was built on this very premise since inception.

MAMC is dedicated to chasing those blues away by improving your well-being through education, opportunities, and resources that are guaranteed to arm you with confidence and a feeling of security to perform as a municipal Clerk in Michigan. For nearly the first half of each year, MAMC provides events that benefit you in your career. From Education Day and Clerking 101 to Masters Academy, and from 3-year Clerk’s Institute to the annual conference. Added training sessions are also available to our members in the Upper Peninsula. Opportunities are yours to attend specifically designed education in a fun environment that are guaranteed to improve your well-being clear through until you reach the warmth of summer. And daily, from the convenience of your office, the website instantly provides resources at your fingertips such as the membership directory as well as the member-only forum for those times you want to reach out to a fellow Clerk when you have a question or have a simple inquiry. Taking advantage of all the amenities MAMC has to offer will encourage you to become a top-notch performer, excel as a leader, and provide opportunity to expand your network. MAMC is dedicated to improving your well-being and providing you with the self-confidence and security to improve your career performance.

And what better way to further enhance your well-being than through certification. The Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk’s (CMMC) program confirms and recognizes recipients for their dedication to education and self-improvement. Once attaining certification, displaying of the certificate substantiates your dedication to serving constituents, employers, and co-workers thereby further increasing your value by providing quality service to your community.

If you or someone you know who is responsible for performing Clerk duties and is not yet a member, the membership form is available on the website at http://www.michiganclerks.org/about/membership.aspx. The following membership categories are available:

1. Active Membership is available to active elected, appointed, or acting clerks or Deputy Clerks.
2. Associate Memberships is available to those connected with government in Michigan or a previous active member or business serving government.
3. Honorary Membership is determined by a vote of the Board of Directors.
4. Life Membership may be bestowed upon past-presidents of MAMC.

To improve your well-being in 2017, and beyond, dedicate yourself to actively participating in all the opportunities that the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerk’s has to offer. I’ll see you there.

Lisa Kay Hathaway, CMMC/MMC
Chair – Membership/CMMC Program
232 MAMC Members Certified!

Kristen Baxter - Marine City
Kimberly Bruner - City of Gladwin
Gladys Bybee - Buchanan City
Elaine Denton - Village of Middleville
Rhonda Galligan - City of Wyoming
Ruth Karnes - Plainfield Charter Township
Jamie McFarland - City of Bay City
Leticia Nielsen - Village of Sand Lake

Congratulations! MAMC Board of Directors

Feel the satisfaction. Apply for your CMMC today.
Apply for Membership or CMMC certification at www.michiganclerks.org.

MAMC Website & Social Media

As we begin a new year, this is a great time to make sure your information is up to date in the MAMC Website Directory. Please review your information and make any necessary adjustments to your name, title, email, phone number, address, etc. You can even upload a profile picture. It is simple and easy to make changes; just log into the MAMC website, click on the directory and look up your name. Click “Edit Profile” and you are on your way to making changes.

Did you know???
Did you know that you can search the Forum? Use the search function on the forum page to search a topic before you post a new question, as it may have been answered before.

Jennifer Venema, CMMC
Caledonia Charter Township
MAMC 3rd Vice President
Newsletter/Website Chair
End of Session Quiet for Election Issues

Despite a flurry of bill introductions over the summer and fall, the lame-duck session proved to be just that—lame—when it came to election-related bills. Despite efforts, no election bills made it to the Governor’s desk. Any bill not presented to the Governor died at the end of the year and must be reintroduced this session. A number of bills we were monitoring at the end of session died, including:

- HB 4724: Permits secure, no-reason absentee voting;
- HBs 5723-5724: Elimination of the straight-party voting “vignettes;”
- HBs 5744-5747: Moves the August primary to May
- HBs 6066-6068: Elimination of affidavit voting option and requires photo ID.

It is unclear at this time whether these bills will be reintroduced this session or not.

House Dems Introduce Voting “Reform” Bills

House Democrats introduced a number of election reform bills designed, in general, to make voting easier and requiring transparency for robocalls. House Bills 4033, 4034 and 4035 would permit no-reason absentee voting, without restriction, for all voters. House Bills 4037, 4038 and 4039 would automatically register to vote every person who applies for or renews a new driver’s license or ID. Someone not wishing to be automatically registered would have to state their objections in writing. An applicant would be required to attest that he or she is a U.S. citizen for the purposes of processing the voter registration. The bills do not permit the “pre-registration” of individuals less than 18 years of age. Finally, House Bill 4036 eliminates the loophole that allows robocalls to run without a disclaimer the 60 days before Election Day. All of the bills were referred to the House Elections & Ethics Committee.

Call for Legislative Initiatives

Do you have an idea for legislation? If so, the MAMC Legislative Committee and the Council of Elections Officials want to hear from you! We are seeking member input and ideas for legislation to pursue this session. For example, Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope proposed that we eliminate the requirement directing clerks to post the number of absent voter ballots returned at the clerk’s office by 8 a.m. on Election Day. Now is your chance to eliminate those nettlesome statutory requirements that don’t make sense anymore. Help us get rid of obsolete and unnecessary laws and regulations! Email your ideas to our lobbyist, Bill Zaagman, at Zaagman.w@gcsionline.com.

Financial Report

Lanie McManus
Garfield Charter Township
MAMC Treasurer


Bank Statement
Beginning Balance $161,263.37
Deposits/Credits 35,628.12
Interest 0
Withdrawals 18,605.25

Ending Balance Main Bank Account $178,286.24

TOTAL FUNDS $178,286.24
With the start of the new year, all items “fall off the table” and need to be re-introduced. With that said, the Legislative Committee along with the CEO have begun to discuss the priorities of Clerks and will discuss those priorities with the BOE. Our plan is to work with the new legislature to attempt to ensure the bills introduced, would have our preferences expressed to reflect the consensus of the Clerks.

As you may be aware a bill was introduced to change the ID requirements for registered voters on election day, but this also died prior to action being taken.