Letter from the President

Congratulations on getting through a busier than normal General Election and working through the change with straight party voting. We as clerks always work to find solutions to ever changing laws and situations. With that said, one of the items the Board, Legislative Committees and Council of Elected Officials will try to change will be to find additional facilities to use as polling locations. We would like your input in those types of location that currently cannot be used but you would like to use for the future. As many of you are aware schools are becoming less willing to have the municipalities use them and churches are not always in the places that we need locations.

The Board held its annual Strategic Planning Session with discussions about the challenges we face as clerks and how MAMC can continue to aid in those challenges. More will follow as we find solutions to those challenges.

Keep using the website, forums and Facebook to stay in touch with fellow clerks and on updates. I think we all agree the Forum was handy when providing information or guidance. All of these options are a benefit to being a member of the Michigan Clerk Association.

For those clerks who are newer in the job, please contact us if you would like us to match you up with a seasoned veteran, who can mentor you.

Please take the time to renew your membership to this great organization, whether large or a small community we all benefit in this organization.

Sincerely,

Dan Kasunic, CMMC/MMC
MAMC President
IT’S TIME TO RENEW!

2019 MAMC Membership Applications are now available on the MAMC website. Members, don’t forget that your membership expires as of December 31, 2018. Membership can be renewed through January 31, 2019 without penalty. Don’t wait, apply now!

New Clerks, this is the time for you to become a member too! You will not be disappointed with the benefits of networking with not only our area clerks but clerks state-wide. What a wealth of knowledge and information we can all share as part of this organization!

HONORARY AND LIFETIME MEMBERS

Congratulations to all new honorary and lifetime members! Just a reminder that you do not need to renew your membership each year, but we would request that you keep your contact information up-to-date on the MAMC website so you can continue to receive all of the benefits of your membership.

CMMC CERTIFICATION

Terms for Certified Michigan Municipal Clerks (CMMC) who certified in 2016 will expire as of December 31, 2018. Applications for recertification are available on the MAMC website. Please note that the following changes were made by the Board to the certification process and to the Education and Guideline requirements:

- The recertification fee was changed from $100 to $75
- The addition of up to four (4) experience points to be used towards certification (serving as an officer on a committee/association, teaching a class at a MAMC event such as conference, masters, etc.)
- The Director of Membership/CMMC has the authority to approve any miscellaneous coursework submitted or paperwork submitted towards experience points

If you are not yet CMMC certified, what are you waiting for? This is your opportunity to show how much you value enhancing and continuing your education in the profession. Visit the MAMC website for more information.
It’s 5 O’Clock Somewhere

We are in the early planning stages for the 2019 MAMC Conference at the lovely Kalamazoo Radisson. This venue was very popular in 2017 with its conveniences such as class room and activity rooms in close proximity, shops and restaurants located right inside the hotel, and a town with plenty to see and do.

Our tagline of “It’s 5 O’Clock Somewhere” will be a fun theme and will hopefully inspire you to make the most of your time after work is over. Relaxing and finding your “island” is so important for our well-being and productivity to be the best we can be both at work and at home. We look forward to another great conference week that will be here before you know it! Please mark your calendars for June 18th – 21st, 2019 at the Radisson in downtown Kalamazoo.

MAMC Website & Social Media

As many of you know, I am not a frequent social media participant, however, I am impressed with the sharing of knowledge and encouragement we have access to on MAMC Facebook as we prepared for the November Election.

Please remember, the website is a source to post employment opportunities, and the forum has listings for a number of topics. Don’t forget to sign in regularly and check these things out.

Please watch for the Winter Newsletter coming out in February 2019.
2019 Clerk of the Year Nominations

Please consider submitting a nomination for an outstanding Clerk from your city, township, or village to be considered for the 2019 Clerk of the Year Awards. The deadline for nomination is February 1, 2019.

- A maximum of five nominees in each category are chosen for placement on the ballot by a committee consisting of the previous 2018 Clerk of the Year winners based on the following criteria:
  - Years of experience as a municipal clerk;
  - Demonstration of greater-than-average performance in the position;
  - Involvement 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; and
  - Must be a member of the MAMC in 2018 and must continue their membership in 2019.

The 2019 awards will be presented on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at the MAMC Annual Conference at the Kalamazoo Radisson. The nomination form is available on the MAMC website http://www.michiganclerks.org or by contacting the Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Stephanie McMillen at smcmillen@grcity.us or 616.456.3015.

Updates to the MAMC Standing Rules

The following amendments to the Standing Rules have recently been approved by the Board and the full language can be found in the updated Standing Rules on the MAMC website.

SR-45 Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk Certification (CMMC) - SR-45 has been amended to include the following language “Applications for re-certifications containing miscellaneous coursework require review and approval by the Director of Membership/CMMC.” (June 18, 2018)

SR-07 Executive Board – SR-07 has been amended to remove the following language “The Executive Board of MAMC shall approve/deny additional courses/certifications submitted to qualify for CMMC recognition and recertification.” This amendment was predicated on the amendment to SR-45. (October 17, 2018)
Lots of educational opportunities await you in 2019. We start with Clerks Institute March 10-15. This year preference will be given to Clerks and Deputy Clerks. This fabulous week will be followed by Masters Academy March 19-21.

Free Education Day is moving this year – at least on the calendar. We will be back in Mt. Pleasant at Soaring Eagle September 12, 2019. We are hoping to get away from such a full spring calendar.

Summer Conference will be back at the Kalamazoo Radisson June 18-21. Clerking 101 and a Masters Academy will be offered on June 17th. We are working hard to repeat the wonderful presenters we had last year!

Last, but certainly still very important, the MAMC Board has approved changes to the application process for scholarships to any of the MAMC sponsored educational opportunities. Please watch the MAMC web site for the new form. Only ONE form will be used – applicants will choose the scholarship opportunity they are wishing to receive. Please remember only fully completed application packets will be considered.

We look to offer a variety of topics for the new as well as the experienced clerk. We hope you will share with us your ideas for training topics new or updated, please email us at mclark@deltami.gov or mryska@sterling-heights.net

We are looking forward to a great year!

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Financial Report

Lanie McManus, CMMC
Garfield Charter Township
MAMC Treasurer

Financial Report for September 30, 2018

Bank Statement
Beginning Balance $275,545.34
Deposits/Credits $10,513.25
Interest 0
Withdrawals $135,412.75
Ending Checking Balance $150,645.84
Ending Savings Balance $28,639.95
TOTAL FUNDS $179,285.79
House Moves On-Line Voter Reg Bills

Residents may soon be able to register to vote on-line through the Secretary of State website under legislation that overwhelmingly passed the House in September.

Senate Bills 425-429 and House Bills 5548-5549 require the Secretary of State to develop and implement an interface allowing residents to register to vote online. The interface would be required to do all of the following:

- Transmit the application to the qualified voter file.
- Interact with the files for driver’s licenses, enhanced driver’s licenses, official state personal ID cards, and enhanced state personal ID cards for authentication purposes.
- Authenticate the identity of an applicant under a process developed by the SOS that includes verifying the applicant’s date of birth, the last 4 digits of the applicant’s Social Security number, the applicant’s driver’s license or personal ID card (or enhanced driver’s license or enhanced personal ID card) number, and the name and eye color on the license or ID card.
- Require the applicant’s assent to submit an application electronically and to use his or her most recent digitized signature from an application for a driver’s license or personal ID card (or enhanced driver’s license or enhanced personal ID card).
- Issue a receipt to the applicant.

The bills also require the Secretary of State and the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget to utilize additional security measures that they deem appropriate to prevent unauthorized access.

Lastly, the bills require the Secretary of State to develop an electronic voter registration application, which may be used by those qualifying as electors who possess a state personal ID card or driver’s license or an enhanced version of either.

To prevent fraud, some limitations were included. For example, an individual could not use the interface to submit a voter application if he or she ordered a duplicate driver’s license, state personal ID card, enhanced driver’s license, or enhanced state personal ID card on the same day or submitted a change of address for one of those cards in the previous 10 days.

Additionally, an individual with an expired license or ID card could not use the interface. Also, a qualified voter who does not possess a state-issued driver’s license or identification card would not be permitted to use this interface to register to vote.

A person registering to vote using the interface is not considered an in-person registration. Therefore, the bills require a voter who registered to vote using the electronic application to vote in person and provide identification if that person had not previously voted in person in Michigan.

The Senate passed SBs 425-429 back in March and I expect action by the Senate later this year to resolve differences between the Senate and House versions of the bills.

House Moves Forgery Bills

Bills addressing election-related petition and forgery fraud passed the House with overwhelming support. The bills, House Bills 5992, 6107 and 6108 clarify Michigan Election Law to more clearly criminalize petition fraud and forgery of signatures to petitions. The bills establish misdemeanor penalties for instances of petition falsification and felony charges for an individual who forges multiple signatures on petitions. The bills are intended to correct oversights in the law,
which does not clearly identify these activities as crimes under either Act. The bills came about after a court ruling which determined that the Michigan Election Law included a penalty for forgery, the law itself did not define what constituted the offense. Accordingly, these bills seek to define the offense.

The bills have been transmitted to the Senate where they are expected to be referred to the Senate Elections & Government Reform Committee when the Senate reconvenes on November 8.

**Action Expected on Precinct Delegate Bill**

Legislation to reform the precinct delegate process cleared the House Elections and Ethics Committee before they adjourned for the summer. As introduced, House Bill 4700 would have eliminated the election-day write-in capability for precinct delegates and move certification of those races out of the precinct and to the county clerk’s office. However, in an effort to address concerns raised by the parties, sponsor Rep. Jim Lilly (R-Grand Haven), removed any changes to the write-in process and focused on moving the certification of precinct delegates out of the precinct and to the county clerk. There is a commitment by House leadership to take the bill up when the House returns after the election. I am still hopeful to get this bill enacted before the end of the year.

**Photo ID Requirement Still Lingering**

Although legislation to eliminate the affidavit of identity appears stalled in committee for the time being, it remains a threat until the end of the year. House Bill 6046, introduced by Rep. Klint Kesto (R-West Bloomfield), would essentially eliminate the affidavit of identity and require those without photo identification to vote a provisional ballot. Those voting a provisional ballot would be required to return to the clerk’s office within six days of the election to show valid photo identification in order for the ballot to be tabulated.

Upon introduction in May, there was much speculation that the bill would be taken up immediately. MAMC came out to strongly oppose the bill and has been encouraging clerks to contact their state Senate and state Representatives to urge them to oppose. Sources indicated that the swift outreach by clerks caused a slowing of the bill but that the bill is still being looked at and may be considered after the November election during the lame duck session.

Please keep up the pressure on your legislators! Your emails, calls and contacts made the difference in slowing this bill down. Stop them when they show up at your door, your office or your board or council meetings. Let them know the negative impact HB 6046 will have on your shared constituents. You can find contact information for your legislators at: www.house.mi.gov and www.senate.mi.gov.

**Legislation Proposes Changes to County Canvass**

The House passed legislation to make minor changes to the county election commissions and board of canvassers. Under the changes proposed in House Bill 4734, the county canvass would have to start no later than 9 a.m. on the Thursday following the election. The bill also specifies that the day and time of the canvass shall be set by the county clerk and will require the board of canvassers to report to the Secretary of State the number of out-of-balance precincts that could not be reconciled during the canvass process. Lastly, the bill eliminates language setting the compensation for canvassers in certain large counties. Under the change, the boards of commissioners would set the compensation.
Upcoming Events

March 10-15
MAMC Clerks Institute
Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center - Mt. Pleasant

March 19-21
MAMC Masters Academy
Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center - Mt. Pleasant

June 18
MAMC Preconference Masters & Clerking 101
Radisson Hotel - Kalamazoo

June 18-21
MAMC Annual Conference
Radisson Hotel - Kalamazoo

September 12
MAMC Free Education Day
Soaring Eagle - Mt. Pleasant

March 19-21
MAMC Masters Academy
Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center - Mt. Pleasant

March 10-15
MAMC Clerks Institute
Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center - Mt. Pleasant

MAMC Free Education Day
Soaring Eagle - Mt. Pleasant

MAMC Masters Academy
Comfort Inn Hotel & Conference Center - Mt. Pleasant

MAMC Preconference Masters & Clerking 101
Radisson Hotel - Kalamazoo

MAMC Annual Conference
Radisson Hotel - Kalamazoo

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MAMC Free Education Day
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