Letter from the President

I'd like to start out by saying thank you for allowing me to serve as your President this year. It has been an honor and privilege to be entrusted with leading this amazing organization and one that I will not ever forget! I began my service as a Director to this organization 8 years ago and boy, at times it seems like it was just yesterday!

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our Board members for their time and commitment to the MAMC. I am so proud to have had the chance to work with you all!

Sarah Bydalek, our immediate Past President for championing the vision to create a guidebook of the Roles and Responsibilities for each Director assignment. Having this document available will allow an easier transition to the duties as a Director.

Pam Smith, for filing the vacancy for City Director after the June 2017 Conference. Pam started out as Director Secretary and then was reassigned to Director of Ways and Means/ COTY in December. She does an amazing job and always has a smile through it all.

Melanie B. Ryska, for starting off 2018 as our newest Director Secretary. I appreciate how you are willing to always fill the need without being asked. Your addition to this Board is appreciated!

Lisa Hathaway, Membership/CMMC Director. Lisa has been the driving force in growing the Certified Michigan Municipal Clerks program. I admire your work ethic and passion. I don't think that I have ever worked with someone as dedicated as you are!

Lanie McManus, Director Treasurer and my carpool buddy. Thank you for waking up at o’dark-thirty to be on the road by 5:50 AM on Board Meeting days so that we can get to Lansing in time for a day filled with informational and legislative meetings before heading back north each night. I appreciate your friendship and company.

Holly Thompson, Conference Chair Director with many other hidden talents! Holly has a vision and an eye for detail not just in her clerking life but also as a photographer and cupcake designer extraordinaire!

Adam Wit, Conference Vice-Chair Director and master chef! You have a refreshing way of seeing thru the weeds and getting down to business. FYI-Next cooking challenge will be rigged so that I’m on YOUR team!

Mary Clark, Education Chair Director, my sounding board and blue stone & beach glass hunting buddy. I know that Mary will always tell me what I need to hear, not what I want to hear. As Education Chair, Mary's charting spreadsheet abilities are beyond amazing!

Rob Crawford, Education Vice-Chair Director. You are someone that gets the job done without a lot of noise. You are grounded in your beliefs and integrity. I am proud to work with you!

Jeremy Howard, 3rd Vice President in charge of Website, Newsletter and social media. Jeremy is an IT guru and could even be given the title of unofficial tour guide for all institute and master academy attendees!

Jennifer Venema, 2nd Vice President, Chair of the Legislative Committee and one amazing “word smyth”! I can always count on Jen to put into words the way my brain thinks things but can’t put them on paper in the right order!

Dan Kasunic, 1st Vice President and Chair of the Council of Elections Officials. I can always count on Dan to provide a little comedic relief in any given situation. I look forward to watching you lead in 2018-19!

We can't wait to see you all soon at our MAMC Summer Conference in beautiful Grand Traverse County. The amazing place where I can truly state: “There's No Place like HOME!”

Sincerely,

Susanne M. Courtade CMMC/MMC
MAMC President 2017-18
scourtade@eastbaytwp.org
The MAMC Summer Conference will be here before you know it, so make sure you get online to check out the information and registration materials available at http://www.michiganclerks.org/Events/SummerConference.aspx and then make sure to register online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-mamc-conference-registration-registration-43553302099.

Pre-conference sessions are being offered once again with Clerking 101 and a Master Class on Tuesday, June 19th. Then Tuesday night don’t miss a great networking opportunity with a welcome reception from 6pm-8pm in the pavilion tent in front of the Grand Traverse resort. Drinks and appetizers will be served. Please be sure to rsvp to the welcome reception while registering for the conference on Eventbrite!

On Wednesday, the morning will start with the opening session and MAMC meeting and Wednesday afternoon we are offering an educational session followed by the Vendor Showcase.

Thursday is going to be filled with education topics like

- Hands on Email
- ALICE
- Absent Voter Counting Boards
- Michigan Chart of Account Changes
- Mandatory Receiving Boards What? & How?
- Human Trafficking
- Marijuana in the Workplace
- Minutes and Agendas.

You will also have more time to check out the vendors and bid on fantastic items in the silent auction. Thursday night will be the Clerk of the Year/President's Dinner beginning at 6pm. Dress is either costume relating to the theme or semi-formal.

Friday is filled with more updates and information from Secretary of State, Ruth Johnson, Bureau of Elections, Sally Williams, and our MAMC Lobbyist, Bill Zaagman. The closing MAMC meeting will be held immediately afterwards.

Conference registration ends May 23, so don’t delay…register today!

We look forward to seeing you at the Grand Traverse Resort!

As always you can email questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns to us at cityclerk@williamston-mi.us and awit@harrison-township.org.
As Immediate Past President and Chair of the MAMC Nominating Committee, I am pleased to announce the following slate of candidates for MAMC Board of Directors to be elected at conference this summer.

2018 MAMC Board of Directors Slate of Candidates:

**President – City/Village – 1 Year Term**
Dan Kasunic, City of Kentwood, Kent County

**1st Vice President – Township – 1 Year Term**
Jennifer Venema, Caledonia Charter Township, Kent County

**2nd Vice President – City/Village – 1 Year Term**
Jeremy Howard, City of Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County

**3rd Vice President – Township – 1 Year Term**
Robert Crawford, Fort Gratiot Charter Township, St. Clair County

Director positions currently available:

**Director – City/Village – 2 Year Term (Vote for Two)**
Melanie Ryska, City of Sterling Heights, Macomb County
Pam Smith, City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County

**Director – City/Village – 1 Year Term (Vote for One)**
Stephanie McMillen, City of Grand Rapids, Kent County

**Director – Township – 2 Year Term (Vote for Two)**
Mary Clark, Delta Charter Township, Eaton County
Joanne Kean, Vevay Township, Ingham County

Voting will take place in person at the 2018 Summer Conference. Proxy ballots are allowed, for any members not able to attend conference. Proxy forms are available at www.michiganclerks.org; the form must be emailed to sbydalek@walker.city by 5:00 pm on **June 14, 2018**.

Sarah Bydalek, MMC/CMMC
Immediate Past President
Sunny bright days, beautiful blue waters, election preparations – wow I CANNOT wait til summer conference! As I write this looking at the potential for freezing rain again it is hard to believe sunny skies will come but I am ever hopeful.

Summer conference presents a wide, exciting array of educational opportunities. Master’s starts the week off on Tuesday, June 19th. Bernadette Johnson will present on how to survive all the change consuming our clerk world and on leadership complexities.

Clerking 101 will also be offered on Tuesday and is a wonderful opportunity for newer members of the Clerking profession to fill their tool box!

Wednesday’s educational session focuses on being a better communicator. If we learn to listen better, we can communicate better.

Thursday offers 12 different break-out sessions. Watch for several Election issue classes presented by Joe Rozelle, Tina Barton and others. Additionally, there is a class on Human Trafficking, Marijuana in the Workplace, Electronic Minutes & Agendas, Chart of Account Changes required by Michigan law, Randy Dean is back with hands-on sessions regarding managing your emails (bring your ipad or laptop!) and there will be a Critical Incident-Active Violence presentation.

We are confident you will walk away from conference with new skills, energy and knowledge!

IT’S TIME TO CAST YOUR VOTE FOR CLERK OF THE YEAR!!

Please take a few minutes to cast your vote for a fellow Clerk. 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. It is quick and easy to do electronically! Biographies and photos for all candidates can be found on the MAMC website at www.michiganclerks.org. Voting will close May 11, 2018 at 5pm with the winners being announced at the June, 2018 Summer Conference.

Ballots were sent out electronically on March 26, 2018. If you did not receive your ballot, please contact Pam Smith at psmith@fhgov.com.

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

SR31 and SR32 - Michigan Municipal Clerks Institute (MMCI) Scholarship and Conference Scholarship

These two standing rules were combined to clarify the scholarships available and outline criteria for all scholarships.

SR17– Event Registration/Cancellation/Extenuating Circumstances

The SR was amended to clarify registration cancellation deadlines for all conference or educational sessions and to provide for consideration of extenuating circumstances to be reviewed by the Board that have made it impossible for a member to attend a session for which they had registered but it is now past the deadline for a refund. If the members of the Board deem that there were extenuating circumstances, which may include the loss of a family member or serious illness or injury, a coupon may be issued for attendance at the same event in the future.
As of April 1, 2018, MAMC has 900 total members.

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

Kimberly Awrey - City of Gaylord
Matthew Baker - City of Mt. Pleasant
Bryan Friel - Grosse Ile Township
Kristine (Kris) Klassen - City of Auburn Hills
Richard LeBlanc - City of Westland
Michelle Mohney - Comstock Charter Township
Shelby Moss - City of Kalamazoo
Mary Mullison - City of Farmington
Maureen Brodie - City of Plymouth

Barbara J. Burke - City of Williamston
Tammy Goffnett - City of Coleman
Melinda McKay - City of Durand
Barbara Miller - Ferndale
Marci Poley-Kwiatkowski - City of Grandville
Lauren N. Skelly - City of Litchfield
Linda VanHouten - Oakfield Township
Kyle Whitney - City of Marquette

MAMC Website & Social Media

Jeremy Howard, CMMC/CMC
City of Mt. Pleasant
MAMC 3rd Vice President
Newsletter/Website Chair

MAMC is continuously striving to offer our members new and exciting ways to share and receive information with fellow clerks. The MAMC Website, Forums, and Facebook page are great places to get information from the MAMC Board and from other municipal clerks. With the BOE rolling out new equipment and the new QVF Refresh system, the forums are a great place to ask questions and get answers from other members. Also, as a member you can send your clerk department job postings to me as the 3rd VP and I will get them posted on the MAMC website for the duration of the posting for no cost to your municipality.

Website: www.michiganclerks.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/MichiganClerks/

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

Recount Fee Increase Clears Legislature

Green Party Presidential candidate Jill Stein’s statewide recount in 2016 inspired legislation to double the per precinct recount fee for a recount requested when the vote differential is greater than 5 percent or 75 votes, whichever is greater. The current fee of $125 per precinct would be doubled to $250 under the bill. The bill, Senate Bill 290 sponsored by Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc), was ordered enrolled for presentation to the Governor.

Another bill inspired by the failed Stein recount also cleared the Legislature and is on its way to the Governor’s desk. House Bill 5012, sponsored by Rep. Jim Lilly (R-Grand Haven), seeks to codify the state Supreme Court ruling which ended the Stein recount. Specifically, the bill clarifies that “aggrieved” candidates seeking a recount must also be able to allege a good-faith belief that, if not for the fraud, they would have had a reasonable chance of winning.

Election Law Clean Up Bills Off to Governor

Legislation cleaning up obsolete election law cleared both chambers and is on the way to the Governor’s desk. Senate Bills 809 through 814, sponsored by Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc), make general updates to obsolete language.

Legislature Moves to Codify SOS Guidance

The Legislature moved legislation to codify existing SOS guidance in several different areas. House Bill 5669, introduced by Rep. Aaron Miller (R-Three Rivers) amends the Michigan Election Law to specify types of picture identification that a person may present for various purposes under the Law, including applying to register to vote and voting. The bill essentially codifies existing guidance from the Bureau of Elections and makes no changes to what is an acceptable form of photo identification.

House Bill 5646, introduced by Rep. Julie Calley (R-Portland), amends the Election Law to require the Secretary of State to develop and use a process for comparing the State’s list of registered voters to the database of death records (Death Master File) kept by the U.S. Social Security Administration for the purpose of identifying and removing deceased voters. Additionally, the bill requires the SOS to participate in certain multistate voter registration verification programs or services to begin the process of removing voters who have left the state and registered to vote in another state.

Lastly, House Bill 5644, introduced by Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte) would codify the process for how a voter would spoil an absentee ballot and be issued a new absentee ballot. As with the other bills, this bill does not create new procedures for spoiling ballots, rather the bill seeks to codify the current process as provided by the Bureau of Elections.

All three bills were presented to the Governor for signature.

Clerks Push Back on Clerk ID Bill

Legislation expanding the prohibition on a clerk’s name from appearing ballot-related information was met with a chilly reception in the clerk community. Currently, the names of elected or appointed officials may not appear on any ballot-related material that is provided to voters which is defined as any material provided with an absent voter ballot, the absent voter instructions, the envelope in which the materials were sent, and the absent voter ballot return envelope. The bill expands that list to include absent voter ballot application and the materials provided with that application, including the return envelope. Additionally, House Bill 4414 adds to it that the material may not include any contact information for an elected or appointed official that includes any part of the official’s name, such as an email address.

A hearing was held on the bill back in March and a number of clerks attended the hearing to oppose the bill. The bill has not been taken up for a vote at this time.

Bills to Exempt Victim Addresses Move

Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault would have another tool to protect themselves under bills reported from the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bills, Senate Bills 655-657 and Senate Bills 954-956, create the Address Confidentiality Program to be housed at the Department of the Attorney General. Applicants approved to the program would be allowed to have their official address be a confidential address maintained by the Department of Technology, Management & Budget as opposed to their physical address. DTMB would be responsible for gathering the mail for program participants and sending it to the participant each day. The bills would also exempt the participant’s real addresses from FOIA release under a variety of areas, including voter rolls and jury lists.

Senate Bill 656, specifically amends the Michigan Election Law to exempt a program participant’s address from release under FOIA. Furthermore, if a voter were a program participant, the SOS is required to add the participant’s unique ID number issued by the Attorney General to their file. Again, the information contained in the QVF for that participant, including his or her unique ID number, would be confidential and not subject to disclosure under FOIA. However, the information contained in the QVF for a Program participant could be used by an election official during the normal course of his or her duties.

Lastly, any poll list or poll book created for or used at an election could contain only the participant’s name and a notation for the precinct election inspectors to contact the city or township clerk on how to process the elector who was a Program participant who chooses to vote in-person. However, the bill adds program participants to the list of individuals eligible to vote absentee.

Thirty seven other states have some form of a program. The bills now move on to the full Senate for action.
The MAMC Legislative Committee is responsible for addressing bills and proposals affecting the responsibility of Michigan's Municipal Clerks. With that as our charge, we wanted to make you aware of some bills that are moving through the Legislature.

**HB 4984** – Awaiting Committee Action – This bill would allow active duty military to return their MOVE ballot electronically if using a United States Military issued email address. We are working with Rep. Barrett, the bill sponsor, to expand this to include Department of State employees working overseas.

**HB 4459** – Awaiting a hearing – This bill would require a clerk that received a valid form of identification and who is not the clerk of the city or township where the elector is registered to vote to transmit to the clerk of the city or township where the elector is registered to vote a notice that the elector has satisfied the requirement to vote in person.

**HB 4700** – Awaiting Committee Action – This would move the certification of the precinct delegates elected to the County Clerk. It would also remove the provision allowing a precinct delegate write-in candidate to file in the precinct on Election Day.

**HB 4414** – Awaiting Committee Action - This bill would remove any contact information for an elected or appointed official from election related material including but not limited to an electronic email address. A substitute bill has been offered that would include voter ID cards. MAMC has officially opposed this bill.

**SB 0425-0429** – Passed Senate, in House Committee, referred to second reading – The bill package would add Section 509ii to Michigan Election Law to require the SOS to develop and maintain an electronic voter registration interface. Voters would be able to use the interface to submit an electronic voter registration application (Online Voter Registration).

You can follow the movement of these and other bills on the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov. The website will also allow you to request email notifications for specific committees. We would recommend you follow the House Elections and Ethics Committee and the Senate Elections and Government Reform Committee.

As bills move through the process, it is often necessary for us to reach out to our legislators to make our voices heard. Please remember to watch your emails for “Call for Action” notifications from the MAMC. It is crucial to reach out to our legislators on important legislation and make our voices heard.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed of legislation that affects Michigan's Municipal Clerks!

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**Financial Report for March 31, 2018**

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Upcoming Events

Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks
120 N. Washington Sq., Suite 110A
Lansing, MI 48933

Quarterly Newsletter

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS
WWW.MICHIGANCLERKS.ORG

June 19
MAMC Master Class & Clerking 101
Grand Traverse Resort - Acme

June 19-22
MAMC Annual Conference
Grand Traverse Resort - Acme

MAMC Master Class & Clerking 101