Fellow clerks,

I hope all those who were able to join us at the 2018 MAMC conference found it both informative and entertaining. I personally enjoyed speaking with many clerks, hearing their stories and little tidbits about themselves. Who knew there is an eighty years young still working in the Clerk’s Office and can keep up with most of us, or of the Clerk and Deputy who still came to the conference, but needed to leave early because two of their staff had quit. I learned that we all deal with trying situations but overcome them with the help of others. Having Sally Williams and her staff present during the conference was a great benefit for us and for those who did have a chance to meet with them to discuss their concerns. I enjoyed Sally’s presentation. Who knew you could give a power point presentation by holding up sheets of paper with one word on them? Who doesn’t enjoy going old school?

If you had a chance to listen to Chris Thomas regarding promote the vote, he also spoke about giving QVF Refresh time to get it right. He spoke of the QVF legacy being implemented and the challenges everyone faced back in 1996, although I was not a clerk then, the reminder of past implementation gave me reason to agree with him.

The Board of Directors are here for the membership and we will continue to work towards providing the education to better inform and improve our jobs.

Sincerely,

Dan Kasunic, CMMC/MMC
MAMC President
2018 Clerk of the Year Winners

2018 City Clerk of the Year
Holly Thompson, CMMC/CMC
Clerk for the City of Williamston

Holly Thompson has served in the City Clerk’s Office for the City of Williamston since 2000, serving as Deputy City Clerk from July 2000 until May 2009 when she was appointed City Clerk. She has earned both her Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) Certification and Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk (CMMC) Certification and was nominated by her Mayor, Tammy Gilroy, who stated that “Holly is a consummate professional and leader to her peers . . . she puts 100% effort into getting me what I need”.

Holly also serves as the Downtown Development Authority Director for Williamston, has served as President of the Williamston Area Chamber of Commerce and as Director for the Williamston ArtFest. Since 2011, Holly has served in various capacities for the Capital Area Municipal Clerks Association, including time as President; she has served on the MAMC Board of Directors since January 2015, and has been a member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks since 2000.

Holly describes some of her accomplishments in the position of Clerk as implementing new voting technology, a digital filing system, creating a social media policy and emergency procedures and finding efficient ways to connect with the boards and community. She also serves as the unofficial photographer for the City. Holly attended high school in Leslie, Michigan and has taken various professional development courses. She has a passion for our four-legged friends, spearheading a project in Ingham County that has built 20 dog houses for distribution throughout the community, as well as fundraiser management since 2009, and has earned 4 humanitarian awards from the Ingham County Animal Shelter.

And in her spare time is known to bake a pretty mean cupcake!

2018 Township Clerk of the Year
Jennifer Venema, CMMC/CMC
Clerk of Caledonia Charter Township

Jennifer has been the clerk for the Charter Township of Caledonia since February 2006. During this time her role as Clerk has evolved from, part time, being responsible for elections, maintaining the General Ledger including accounts payable and payroll, as well as overseeing 5 township cemeteries. Since 2008 when the office became full time, she took on the added responsibilities of Human Resources handling policy and procedure development, health benefits and retirement benefits; Information Technology Coordinator and Township Webmaster. She is the Facilities Management Coordinator managing all the properties, from overseeing the needed repairs to drafting RFP’s for various contracts. She is the point of contact for all tax abatements and serves as the FOIA Coordinator.

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2018 Village Clerk of the Year
Amy Salowitz
Clerk for the Village of Pinckney

Amy Salowitz started her municipal career as an appointed Village Clerk in November 2008. Village Council President Linda Lavey nominated Amy and states, “I want to express my highest respect for all who undertake the tough and usually thankless job of Village Clerk, especially on the Village level”. She stated that Amy provided the consistency and reliability that was much needed on the local level and “is the epitome of going above and beyond”.

Amy participates in different associations including the Livingston County Clerks Association, Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Amy is also active in several community organizations and was recruited by the Superintendent of Pinckney Community Schools to participate in a mentoring program called “Reaching Higher”, which assigns her to mentor selected middle school students over the course of the school year. She was also honored by the local Chamber of Commerce this year with the Distinguished Citizen of the Year award.

Amy continues to perform all of her statutory duties along with the ever growing list of responsibilities while serving as Clerk, she serves as the “Office Lead” while the Village of Pinckney currently does not have a Village Manager. Amy has also filled in as the Zoning Administrator while that person was on a leave and served as Accountant.
When Amy was asked her specific accomplishments in the position of Clerk, she realized that it was a pretty good list, including: bringing the Wreaths Across America Program to Pinckney honoring local veterans, Redevelopment Ready Certification for the Village, development of an office operation procedures manual, Active Shooter Training and developing a plan for office procedures and renovations related to that, digitized documents and working to build better internal department relationships for the Village and externally between the adjacent townships, schools, business/property owners, residents and chamber of commerce. Amy was humbled by the nomination from the Village Council President stating that her support of Amy’s efforts means more than she can say.

A big thank you to all attendees of the 2018 “There’s No Place Like Home” Conference held at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa in beautiful Grand Traverse County! I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the Welcome 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 94% participation with the app and over 3,000 attendee messages and social shares! 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. To access the app information from your computer, the URL is: https://event.crowdcompass.com/mamc2018.

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.

Planning is already getting started for the 2019 MAMC Conference at the Radisson in Kalamazoo, Michigan from June 18th through June 21st. Ideas are already brewing in our minds to make it another fun and educational experience. Make sure you save the date!
Meet the 2018-2019 Board of Directors

Dan Kasunic, CMMC/MMC
City of Kentwood
MAMC President

Dan Kasunic is the MAMC President for 2018-19. He has been the City Clerk for the City of Kentwood for the past 18 years. He has served on the board in the past and was previously President in 2012-13, along with being President and founding member of the Kentwood Friends of the Library for many years.

Jennifer Venema, CMMC/CMC
Caledonia Charter Township
1st Vice President
CEO Chair

Jennifer Venema has served on the MAMC Board as a Township Director since June 2013 and has held the positions of Education Vice Chair, Conference Vice Chair, Conference Chair, 3rd VP, 2nd VP and currently serves as the 1st Vice President. As the 1st Vice President it is her responsibility to assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in the event of his/her absence, to serve as the Liaison to the Michigan Secretary of State and the Bureau of Elections, as well as Chair the Council of Election Officials Committee. The Council of Election Officials (CEO) is a committee whose members are comprised of both local municipal clerks and County clerks. As the MAMC CEO Committee Chair, she serves as the Secretary of CEO for half the year and as the Chair of CEO the other half. The Council of Election Officials purpose is to address election related legislation and proposals affecting the responsibility of local municipal clerks and county clerks.

Jennifer has served the Charter Township of Caledonia (Kent County) as their Clerk since 2006. In addition to her role on the MAMC Board, she also serves as the Chair of the Kent County Fire Commission and as the Zone 5 Director of the Michigan Townships Participating Plan. Jennifer and her husband, Doug, have been married for five years and they have four children, Kail (24), Kendra (23), Zachary (20) and Brendan (17).

Conference Take-away: Leadership is not a title. A leader is anyone who cares and steps up.

Great leaders don’t set out to be a leader. They set out to make a difference. It’s never about the role, it’s always about the goal.

- Dr. Travis Bradberry

Jeremy Howard, CMMC/CMC
City of Mt. Pleasant
2nd Vice President
Legislative Chair

Jeremy Howard has worked for the City of Mt. Pleasant for 18 years in various capacities including Engineering, IT Director, Communications, and currently as the City Clerk/Risk Manager. He attended Michigan State University and graduated from Central Michigan University with a degree in Management Information Systems. Jeremy was appointed City Clerk in 2008 and has been a part of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Board of Directors since 2014. Jeremy has served as Conference Vice Chair, Education Chair, Conference Chair, 3rd Vice President (Newsletter, Website, and Social Media) and is currently the 2nd Vice President (Legislative).

Jeremy and his wife have been married for over 23 years and have three amazing boys (18, 16, 15) who they enjoy spending time with and watching them participate in high school and college activities.

Rob Crawford, CMMC/CMC
Fort Gratiot Township
3rd Vice President
Newsletter/Website Chair

Rob Crawford has been the Clerk of Fort Gratiot Charter Township since being appointed in 2002. Fort Gratiot is located on Lake Huron at the mouth of the St. Clair River and approximately 65 miles north of Detroit. Fort Gratiot is the second largest municipality in St. Clair County.

Rob is currently the 3rd Vice President of MAMC. The 3rd Vice President is responsible for the MAMC website and social media. Facebook is a new challenge being he does not have a personal Facebook page. He has served MAMC as Education Vice Chair, Secretary and was the 2013 township clerk of the year.

Rob and his wife Barb have 3 adult children, 7 grandchildren with the oldest just completing Navy boot camp. When not doing clerking stuff, Rob likes to build and sail model boats. He has sailed 3 times in the Soling Regatta Nationals and once in the Canadian Victoria Regatta National.

At conference, Rob learned that Commercial Driver Licenses are issued by the Department of Transportation. Medical or recreation use of marijuana by CDL driver is prohibited by federal law.

Stephanie McMillen, CMMC/CMC
City of Grand Rapids
MAMC Ways & Means/Media Relations Chair

Stephanie McMillen is currently serving as the Ways & Means Committee Chair/Public Relations/Historian as a Director on the MAMC Board.

Her career in public administration began 19 years ago and in that time she has served as the City Clerk for the City of Coopersville, Deputy Clerk for Plainfield Township, and most recently as the Deputy Clerk for the City of Grand Rapids. Stephanie is challenged with executing the day-to-day operations in the urgently paced and ever changing environment of the Grand Rapids Clerk’s Office. Working in the Clerk’s Office has granted her the opportunity to utilize the fundamentals and disciplines of public administration that she has acquired through my education and professional experiences. Stephanie works continuously to be progressive and provide the best and most informed service to our community. A top priority has always been to inform, educate and engage residents, especially the most marginalized of our
community, as it relates to our services and elections.

Stephanie has her CMC, CMMC, and is working on her MMC. She is an active member of the IIMC, MAMC, West Michigan Regional Clerks Association, and the Kent County Clerks Association.

Stephanie and her husband Ryan live in Rockford and have two adult sons. She enjoys spending time with her family, being active outside as much as possible, and volunteering with HQGR, which is a runaway and homeless youth drop-in center in Grand Rapids.

During the Masterclass, Stephanie learned the distinct difference between borrowed and earned influence as it relates to leadership. It is considered borrowed influence when people take you for your word and allow you to lead them. The assumption here is that your actions will align with your words. If they don’t, more than likely they will no longer view you as a leader. Earned influence is the result of your proven actions and people tend to view you as a leader; you “walk the talk.”

She is starting her 4th year as the MAMC Education Chair. Mary served as Treasurer 1 term in the middle of education. She holds a Bachelor’s in Secondary Education from Illinois State University but never taught in the traditional sense. Mary loves the topic selection process – and you as a MAMC member have a LOT of influence over those selections. The Education Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee work hard to be on the cutting edge of new issues Clerks are or might be facing and to solidify skills needed to accomplish our jobs in the best manner possible.

Melanie Ryska’s career in municipal government began in 2002 as an Election Assistant for the City of Hamtramck. Always willing to tackle a challenge, Melanie accepted the appointment of City Clerk in 2005. Although she left for a position as Deputy City Clerk in Grosse Pointe Woods, Melanie maintains her ties to Hamtramck as a Lieutenant with their police reserve unit. Melanie later joined Wayne County as the Assistant Director of Elections, broadening her knowledge of the law and strengthening her professional network. The City of Sterling Heights appointed Melanie to serve as their City Clerk in 2017.

Along the way, Melanie continued to enhance her professional background through certifications and accreditations. She received her CMC in 2009 and her initial CMMC in 2014. She is a member of IIMC, MAMC, serves as the Secretary of the Macomb County Clerks Association, and is the Former President of the Association of Wayne County Clerks. Melanie earned a psychology degree from the school that cannot beat MSU or win a second-class bowl game even though Harbaugh has 140 million reasons to do it; however, her saving grace is that she primarily attended the Dearborn campus. She expects to complete her Master’s Degree in 2020.

Melanie is dedicated to public service and appreciates the support and encouragement of her professional mentors, her colleagues, her staff, and especially, her family which includes her husband, Jason, and three children, Landon (11), MaKenzie (9), and Reid (6). She was appointed to fill a vacancy on the MAMC Board in January of 2018 and was elected to a two-year term in June 2018. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve the members of MAMC.
Meet the 2018-2019 Board of Directors cont.

Holly M. Thompson, CMMC/CMC
City of Williamston
Conference Chair

Holly Thompson, City Clerk of the City of Williamston was appointed as Clerk in 2009, but has served as Assistant, Deputy and Acting Clerk since 2000. She has been a member of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks and International Institute of Municipal Clerks since 2001. In addition to her work, she is the Director Conference Chair for the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, Treasurer of the Capitol Area Municipal Clerks Association, and Vice Chair of the Ingham County Animal Shelter Fund Board of Directors. She has received her Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation as well as being a Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk (CMMC). In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her husband at their cabin in Mesick, spoiling their four dogs, fishing, baking cupcakes, and volunteering by running fundraisers for the Ingham County Animal Shelter every year. Through her volunteerism she has earned four Humanitarian Awards, and a Community Impact Award as well as receiving the 2018 City Clerk of the Year award from the MAMC.

Adam Wit, CMMC/CMC
Charter Township of Harrison
Conference Vice Chair

Adam Wit grew up in Harrison Township and he and his wife Sarah now raise their two sons there. They spend a lot of the time outdoors, whether hiking, playing sports or boating on Lake St. Clair. Adam attended Michigan State, earning a degree in history, and then Oakland University, earning a Master of Public Administration degree. He has worked for Harrison Township for over thirteen years, the first eight years as Deputy Supervisor and the last 5 1/2 as Clerk. Adam has had the pleasure to serve on the MAMC Board for the last year as conference vice chair and is excited to continue in that role as they prepare for Kalamazoo next year.

Something Adam learned at Conference: The best resource is your fellow clerks!

Lanie McManus
Garfield Charter Township
Treasurer

Lanie McManus was appointed the Deputy Clerk of the Charter Township of Garfield in 2012. She was appointed Clerk in 2015 and then elected in 2016. The Charter Township of Garfield is located in Grand Traverse County and borders the City of Traverse City. Lanie is the treasurer of the Grand Traverse Clerk’s Association. She has been on the board of the MAMC for 4 years and has served as Co-chair of Education and as the Treasurer.

Susanne M. Courtade CMMC/MMC
Charter Township of East Bay
Immediate Past President

Being a director on the MAMC Board has been one of the highlights in Susanne’s professional Clerking career. She cherishes all the friendships and contacts made.

As the immediate Past President, she accepts the roll of working with the other Past Presidents on the committee to recommend future conference sites to the Board of Directors. Along with her fellow past presidents, they review all candidate applications to run for the board of directors and conduct the election if needed. The Past President provides the Oath of Office to the incoming officers. She is also charged with being on the IIMC Grand Rapids 2021 committee.

Susanne’s biggest takeaway from the 2018 Summer Conference is that there truly is “no place like home.”

Financial Report

Lanie McManus, CMMC
Garfield Charter Township
MAMC Treasurer

Financial Report for June 30, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank Statement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposits/Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
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<td>Withdrawals</td>
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<td>Ending Checking Balance</td>
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<td>Ending Savings Balance</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL FUNDS</td>
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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. You can find contact information for your legislators at: www.house.mi.gov and www.senate.mi.gov.

Committee Acts 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 move the bill, 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. It was hoped we could move the bill to the Governor’s desk before summer break, but that did not occur. There is a commitment to take the bill up before session adjourns at the end of December.

House Passes Change to Filing Fees

Prior to recessing for the summer break, the House took up and overwhelmingly passed legislation to make all filing fees non-refundable and—for the first time—establish a $100 filing fee for township offices. All offices continue to have a signature gathering option. The Senate is expected to take the bills up prior to the end of the year. They may also consider adjusting some fees for certain offices to inflation and perhaps ear-marking all filing fees to future voting equipment needs. The bills are HBs 4745-4750, 4809-4810, 4823 and Rep. Steve Marino (R-St. Clair Shores) is the lead sponsor.

New Public Acts of Interest

PA 121, 122 & 124: Amends various Acts to update correct citations and references back to the Michigan Election Law. (Effective 12/31/18)

PA 120, 123 & 125: Amended various sections of the Michigan Election Law to repeal obsolete sections and update obsolete language. (Effective 12/31/18)

PA 127 of 2018: Codifies the process for how a voter spoils his or her absentee ballot and is issued another one. (Effective 5/3/2018)

PA 126 of 2018: Codifies the current process utilized by the SOS to check QVF against the Social Security Death index. (Effective 5/3/2018)

PA 129 of 2018: Codifies current acceptable forms of photo identification for voting purposes. (Effective 5/3/2018)

PA 128 of 2018: Codifies State Supreme Court ruling on who is an “aggrieved” candidate for purposes of seeking a recount. (Effective 8/1/2018)

PA 130 of 2018: Establishes a $250 per precinct cost for recounts when the vote differential is greater than 5 percent. (Effective 8/1/2018)

P.A. 190 of 2018: Amends the Michigan Election Law to add the Libertarian party to the ballot instructions and changes the period of time that the county elections commission has to notify an officeholder of a recall petition from 24 hours to 3 business days.