Hopefully everyone who had a November election survived and had a successful election. For the majority, it was the first time administering an election since the passage of Proposal 3 last year. I am glad that we were able to show the citizens of Michigan how capable we are as Clerks to adapt to change and implement the many new processes and procedures that went into effect.

As we move closer to 2020, the board is already planning and looking forward to bringing our members additional training and information. We are excited to be adding new opportunities as well as expanding and tweaking some existing programs. Myself and members of the MAMC Legislative Committee continue to work on the legislative priorities of the membership by regularly meeting with Representatives in Lansing and testifying at committee hearings. We are committed to continuing to move our members ideas and solutions forward through thoughtful legislation. We hope you will partner with us in this process by contacting your Representatives and letting them know your thoughts when important bills are being discussed.

I wish you all joy in the upcoming holiday season and look forward to working with you throughout 2020.

All the best,

Jeremy Howard, CMMC/CMC
MAMC President
EDUCATION PROGRAM CHANGES

Melanie D. Ryska, CMMC/CMC, City of Sterling Heights, Education Chair
JoAnne Kean, CMMC, Vevay Township, Education Vice Chair

Can you believe 2020 is just a few months away? With three elections looming, 2020 is going to be a very BUSY year! Remember, due to increased demand of clerks desiring to be certified, changes were made to our education programs:

1. Institute will be offered twice in March 2020. Both sessions will have the same curriculum, so you get to choose which week works best for you.

2. Already implemented in 2019, Clerking 101 2-Day Bootcamp, an extended version of the one-day that takes a deeper dive into the “how to” of clerking, will continue to be offered in 2020.

3. Master Academy will be offered the first week of December 2020, when the Presidential Election is over and you have a moment to breathe.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on classes or topics, please email mryska@sterling-heights.net or clerk@vevaytownship.org. Can’t wait to see you all in 2020!

Don’t forget about the MAMC Scholarship program!

- MAMC is committed to ensuring clerks have the opportunity to benefit from the great education it has to offer.
- Each MAMC Member who is a Clerk or full-time Deputy Clerk is allowed to receive one education scholarship and one conference scholarship in a lifetime.
- The education scholarship can be used for Institute, Master Academy or Clerking 101.
- The scholarship application can be found on michiganclerks.org.
- Remember only fully completed application packets will be considered.

NEWSLETTER REFRESH

Pam Smith, CMMC/MMC, City of Farmington Hills, Third Vice President, Newsletter/Website Chair

We will slowly be giving the Newsletter a new look!

Some ideas include:

- Incorporating FAQ’s from members that may be important to the time of year or perhaps pertinent to newly elected or appointed Clerks.
- Bulleting information for easier reading
- Providing for a fresh look

Website/Newsletter Contact: Pam Smith psmith@fhgov.com 248.871-2420
We are in the early planning stages for the 2020 MAMC Conference at the Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. We conducted a site visit to the Mission Point Resort in September and were super excited to see all of the updates and changes that have been made since we were there five years ago. Staff there were amazing to work with and we are greeted by friendly faces throughout the resort during our stay.

As we work through the details and try to make it a great event for everyone, we are also taking your feedback from last year’s Conference into account to help things go smoothly. We look forward to another great conference week that will be here before you know it!
2020 CLERK OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

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

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 January 31, 2020.

A maximum of five nominees in each category are chosen for placement on the ballot by a committee consisting of the previous 2019 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 2019 and must continue their membership in 2020.

The 2020 awards will be presented on Thursday, June 11, 2020 at the MAMC Annual Conference at Mission Point.

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.

MiPMC COMING SOON!

Jacqueline Beaudry, CMMC/MMC, City of Ann Arbor, Membership/CMMC Chair

The MAMC is excited to announce the upcoming rollout of the new Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks’ certification program:

MiPMC, the Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk!

MAMC Board members spent many hours over the last year discussing proposed changes to the CMMC program and how any changes to the program would best serve the membership, including members currently working on their CMMC, those preparing to recertify, and members who have already recertified. There was often confusion about the difference between the national CMC and our CMMC program and many questions were raised about the recertification process. The new Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk (MiPMC) certification will stand out not only with a new and different name, but also with a simplified process for certification, still focusing on continuing education, but without the rigorous recertification process.

IMPORTANT:

- Those members who are currently eligible to apply for their initial CMMC certification may still send in their materials and application for certification under the old program.
- For those members due to recertify, please continue to collect your certificates of attendance and training records until the new MiPMC program is formally rolled out. No need to send anything in at this time.
- We are not accepting recertification applications at this time.
- All CMMC’s will receive a new certificate with the new program name once it is rolled out.

Stay tuned for more details in an email coming to you soon!
WEBSITE UPDATE

Pam Smith, CMMC/MMC, City of Farmington Hills, Third Vice President, Newsletter/Website Chair

The Board is beginning the process to update the MAMC website! We hope to make the website better for our members by providing:

- An alternative to the current Forum that will be more user friendly
- An updated financial component to facilitate payments for membership, classes, etc.
- Easier navigation through the site
- Streamlining information for locating and updating
- A modern look and feel

Website/Newsletter Contact: Pam Smith psmith@fhgov.com 248.871-2420

Congratulations!

The following clerks have recently been awarded their designation of Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk. Congratulations!

- Nanette Walsh, Clerk/Treasurer, Cass City
- DeAnna Janssen, Clerk, Cooper Charter Township
- Thomas Broecker, Deputy Clerk, Charter Township of Fenton

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Financial Report

Lanie McManus, CMMC
Garfield Charter Township
MAMC Treasurer

Financial Report for September 30, 2019

Bank Statement
Beginning Balance $285,062.05
Deposits/Credits $6,780.94
Interest 0
Withdrawals $143,454.43
Ending Checking Balance $148,388.56
Ending Savings Balance $42,768.80
TOTAL FUNDS $191,157.36
Bill to Grant AVCB flexibility Introduced

Clerks may soon have greater flexibility and options in establishing absent voter counting boards under legislation introduced in the House. House Bill 5141, introduced by Representative Julie Calley (R-Portland), would allow for local clerks to establish a combined, single absentee voter counting board with other jurisdictions within the same county. In addition, a local clerk could also enter into an agreement with another local clerk or the county clerk to establish, process and count the absent voter ballots on behalf of that local clerk. The bill would grant the Bureau of Elections the authority establish the process and procedures necessary to implement an agreement. I expect a hearing on the bill in the coming weeks.

Rep. Bollin Drops Bills to Help Clerks

State Representative Ann Bollin (R-Brighton Township), a former township clerk, introduced legislation to allow for larger precincts and expand options for precinct locations. Specifically, House Bill 5031 amends the Michigan Election Law to expand the types of locations that could be used as polling places. Currently, publicly owned or controlled buildings are preferred polling locations with some limited opportunities to use buildings owned by tax-exempt organizations (such as places of worship) if publicly-owned buildings are not available or convenient. Additionally, housing facilities or complexes in which 150 or more people reside may be designated. Specifically, HB 5031 expands the ability to designate a privately-owned building as a polling location, unless the building is owned by a person that is a sponsor of a political committee or independent committee under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act.

House Bill 5032 House Bill amends the Michigan Election Law to increase the maximum number of electors allowed in a precinct from 2,999 to 5,000 and provide a process for any qualified elector to request to be placed on a permanent list to receive the application to vote absentee, regardless of jurisdiction. A voter’s presence on a list and their request to be on it would transfer with the voter to any jurisdiction in the state through the QVF designation process.

Finally, House Bill 5123 amends the Michigan Election Law to require every jurisdiction to establish an absent voter counting board. In addition, the bill changes the language to clarify that the processing and tallying of absent voter ballots must not occur before 7 a.m. on election day.

House Bills 5031 and 5032 had a hearing last week and are expected to be voted on at the next committee hearing. House Bill 5123 is expected to have a hearing in the coming weeks.

Senate to Act on MOVE Expansion

The Senate Elections and Government Reform Committee moved bills amending the Michigan Election Law to allow for active duty military voters stationed overseas to return their marked ballots electronically to the local clerk. Senate Bills 117 and 297 were introduced by Senators Ruth Johnson (R-Holly) and Paul Wojno (D-Warren), respectively. Under the bills that were reported, returning a marked ballot to the local clerk electronically is limited to members of the military who are on active duty overseas. Additionally, the marked ballots must be returned to the local clerk electronically is limited to members of the military who are on active duty overseas. Additionally, the marked ballots must be returned to the local clerk using the United States Department of Defense Common Access Card system and a federally issued email address. The bills were reported from Committee on a 4-0-1 vote. Sen. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan) passed on both bills. The Senate is expected to vote on the bills in the coming weeks.
Senate Moves Bills to Protect Addresses of Abuse Victims

The Senate unanimously passed legislation creating the “Address Confidentiality Program” within the Department of the Attorney General and would allow an individual to participate if he or she were a victim of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, or sexual assault, or risked physical harm if his or her address were disclosed. Participants would be required to be 18 years of age or older, an emancipated minor, the legal parent or guardian appointed by a court, or the guardian of a ward to apply for certification on behalf of himself or herself, or his or her minor or ward, as a participant in the Program.

Once approved for the program, each enrollee would be issued a designated mailing address at which the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB) would receive the participants' mail and be responsible for forwarding that mail to the participants actual mailing address. Each participant's permanent address would become confidential and could not be released. The term of the participation would be four years, unless canceled as provided under the proposed Act. The bills are Senate Bill 70 through Senate Bill 76. Specifically, Senate Bill 71 amends the Michigan Election Law and provides that a program participant's address is confidential and can't be released. The bill specifies that a Program participant's voter registration application would be confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. In addition, this bill provides that:

1. The Qualified Voter File would have to contain his or her unique ID number issued by the Attorney General.
2. Any poll list or poll book created for an election to include only the participant's name and a notation for the precinct election inspector to contact the city or township clerk.
3. A participant must vote by absent ballot while he or she was enrolled in the Program.
4. Require a city or township clerk who received an absent voter ballot application from a Program participant to mail a ballot to the participant at the designated address.

The bills were referred to the House Judiciary Committee where I expect hearings to begin later this winter.

Upcoming Events

- March 15-20, 2020 – Institute – Comfort Inn Conference Center, Mt. Pleasant
- March 22-27, 2020 – Institute (repeat curriculum) – Comfort Inn Conference Center, Mt. Pleasant
- June 8-12, 2020 – Conference – Mission Point, Mackinac Island
  - June 8-9, 2020 – Clerking 101 2-Day Bootcamp (pre-conference)
  - June 9, 2020 – Master Class (pre-conference)
- September 10, 2020 – Free Education Day (tentative)
- December 1-3, 2020 – Master Academy – Comfort Inn Conference Center, Mt. Pleasant