I hope you all had a great summer. It is hard to believe school has started again and it’s getting darker earlier.

I want to take a moment to thank the Conference and Education Committees on their great work on the conference. I can’t wait to see what they pull off next year. If you have never attended a conference, you are missing a great opportunity to network with your fellow clerks and to increase your ability to better serve your community.

I am looking forward to hitting the road this fall to attend some County Association meetings. The best way for the Board to know what our members are looking for is to go to them. I hope to see many of you over the coming months.

Your Board of Directors will continue their Strategic Planning in October. This will be our third year of carving out a day to put our heads together to plan for the future of the MAMC. Some of the ideas from the last two sessions have already been put into practice. Others need some fine tuning before we proceed. I am sure we will identify additional ways to strengthen our organization.

The new website is continuing to take shape. We hope to unveil it later this year. The draft versions website that have been presented to the Board of Directors have a fresh look. The finished version will be more user friendly. Thank you to the Committee that has been working on this project.

On a more personal note, I offered a challenge that I would run the 5k at the conference next June. I did walk a 5k at the end of July, but have a long way to go to actually run. I hope you will accept my challenge and run as well.

If you have any questions or need to contact me, I am only a phone call or email away. You can reach me at 616-878-9104 or jhondorp@byrontownship.org.
Presidential Primary Set for Feb. 28

Legislation setting the 2012 Presidential Primary date skyrocketed through the Legislature and has been presented to the Governor. The bill, Senate Bill 584, introduced by Senator Randy Richardville (R-Monroe), sets Tuesday, February 28, 2012 and the state’s Presidential Primary date. The bill, not signed into law as of this writing, will be similar to the 2008 primary whereby voters will have to mark on the application to vote which party’s ballot they are requesting. Which party ballot each voter requested would be subject to freedom of information requests. In testimony before the House Redistricting and Elections Committee, officials from the Department of State’s Bureau of Elections estimated that the cost of the primary would run approximately $10 million, which has been already appropriated by the Legislature.

House Passes School Election Date Consolidation, Senate Poised to Act

The Michigan House recently passed legislation to move all school elections to the even-year November date by a margin of 72 to 36. House Bill 4005, introduced by Rep. Kurt Heise (R-Northville Township), moves all school board elections to the even-year November election date effective January 1, 2012. As passed the House, the bill provides no exemptions or grandfathers for schools currently on any other date. The bill is lodged in the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee where a hearing is expected in the coming weeks.

MAMC Priority Bills Introduced:

The MAMC Legislative Committee has been busy identifying legislative priorities for the current legislative session. A number of those priorities have already been introduced, including:

Elimination of Local Canvassing Boards: House Bill 4829-4831, introduced by Reps. Lisa Brown (D-West Bloomfield), Bill Rogers (R-Brighton) and Brad Jacobson (R-Oxford) amend the Michigan Election Code by eliminating use of local canvassing boards. Referred to the House Redistricting and Elections Committee.

Placement of Ballot Instructions: House Bill 4992, introduced by Rep. Eileen Kowall (R-White Lake) amends the Michigan Election Code by striking the requirement that ballot marking instructions be printed on the ballot and instead requires that each polling booth or compartment contain the ballot marking instructions as prescribed by the Secretary of State. Referred to the House Redistricting and Elections Committee.

Filing Deadline Uniformity: House Bills 4907 and HBs 4909-4912, introduced by Reps. Sharon Tyler (R-Niles), Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy), Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth) and Rep. Cindy Denby (R-Fowlerville) amend the Michigan Election Code and various other Acts to move the filing deadline for a variety of local ballot questions to the twelfth Tuesday before the election.

Other MAMC legislative priorities are in the drafting stages, but have not yet been introduced, including:

• Eliminating restrictions limiting poll workers to their county of residence.
• Move ballot placement of community college districts and intermediate school districts to above school districts.

Bill to Allow Township Candidates to Pay Filing Fee

Legislation was recently introduced to permit candidates for township offices to pay a $100 filing fee instead of gathering signatures and turning in nominating petitions. The bill, House Bill 4908 introduced by Rep. Kevin Cotter (R-Mt. Pleasant), was referred to the House Redistricting and Elections Committee where it has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

Contact the author:
517.484.6216
email: zaagman.w@gcsionline.com
In August, we met with our lobbyist and the Secretary of State’s Office to review Ruth Johnson’s legislative issues and to review the Clerks’ priorities. Secretary Johnson is working toward cleaning up Voter rolls. Because there are approximately 70,000 surrendered drivers’ licenses, Secretary of State Johnson would like to have MDOS send out follow up notifications to voters who have moved out of state. Currently, MDOS representatives notify the local clerk; the clerk’s office contacts the voter.

Other initiatives from the Secretary of State’s Office include:

- Amending absentee ballot sections of the Election Law to match the photo ID requirements for voting on Election Day.
- Requiring petition circulation activities to be subject to campaign finance reporting.
- Reviewing election laws to remove obsolete language, such as reference to lever machines.
- Continuing to work toward establishing receiving boards on Election Day,
- Pursuing more training and education for election officials, together with accountability standards, to ensure adherence to proper procedures.
- Greater disclosure from candidates and committees and enforcement for campaign finance laws.
- Proposal to establish a “No Reason Absentee Ballot” option for individuals who present proper identification to personally obtain their ballots in the clerk’s office.

Also of interest to our members, the Michigan House of Representatives recently passed a bill to move School Elections to the month of November in even years. MAMC will continue to discuss issues with the appropriate committees.
Membership

It is the time of year to begin planning for renewal of your MAMC membership. The application for membership, whether you are a new member or renewing, can be found on our website at: www.michiganclerks.org.

This is a spectacular year to be part of this Municipal Clerks organization. Membership offers opportunities to participate in professional educational programs, Listserv networking, membership mentoring, legislative lobbying on important issues, working in partnership with the State of Michigan Bureau of Elections, and a dynamic summer educational conference in June at Great Wolf Lodge.

In addition, MAMC will unveil a new website in 2012. It’s a new fresh look with updated materials; new services will be offered to our members. You will be able to pay for services online with PAYPAL. Additionally, we are designing an educational tracking program, a useful tool for CMC and MMC designations.

Our discussion forum/listserv will continue to facilitate vital communication and networking among our Members...and, yes, you will be able to maintain and update your own membership information as you change your email address, location of your public office facility, or change your phone number.

The Membership fee is due to be paid in full by January 31, 2012. A late fee will be added on after that date.

Yours in Service - Terry G. Bennett

Financial Report

August 2011 Bank Statement

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<th>Description</th>
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Clerk of the Year Program

In January, the MAMC board will place the “call for nomination” for the honor of being voted the 2012 MAMC City, Township and Village “Clerk of the Year”.

The nomination notice and the form to nominate a deserving Clerk can be found on the MAMC website beginning in January at: www.michiganclerks.org

The Clerks that are chosen for placement on the ballot are determined by the three nominating committees who carefully review each candidate’s credentials. The previous three Clerks of the Year in each one of the categories, serves as a member of the nominating committee.

When considering a Clerk for nomination, the following criteria are evaluated:

- Years of experience as a municipal clerk;
- Demonstrated greater-than-average performance
- Active in County, State and National associations
- Demonstrated interest in improving the profession
- Demonstrated interest in improving personal skills
- Demonstrated interest in the advancement of the profession
- A record of community contributions and the respect of community leaders
- Current (2012) member of the MAMC

The deadline to nominate 2012’candidates is March 5, 2012. The Clerks of the Year for 2012 will be honored at next year’s Conference in Traverse City on Wednesday, June 20th

Sue Hillebrand, COTY Chair
Charter Township of Northville
44405 Six Mile Road
Northville, MI 48168

Retirement Resolutions

If you know of an MAMC member Clerk or Deputy Clerk who is retiring or leaving the Clerking profession, the MAMC Board would like to recognize them with an appropriate Resolution.

The form to request a “Retirement Resolution” can be found on the MAMC website at www.michiganclerks.org

Direct requests to Sue Hillebrand at shillebrand@twp.northville.mi.us or fax to 248-348-9889.
Event Calendar

2012

February 1
Free Education Day
Lansing Center
Lansing

May 20-24
International Institute of Municipal Clerks Annual Conference
Portland, Oregon

June 19-22
MAMC Annual Conference
Great Wolf Lodge
Traverse City

MAMC Conference Sites
2012 Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City
2013 Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth