



Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks

Quarterly Newsletter | Winter 2021

Letter from the President



If you are like me, you are glad that 2020 is in the rearview mirror. While there were many positive things, the scale of human tragedy that occurred was unprecedented. For us as election officials, the skepticism of the security of our elections will impact us for many years to come. I spent the year promising my own residents a safe, secure, accurate election; I believe that occurred throughout the State of Michigan and indeed, the United States. Now as we enter 2021, it is time for us all to shift our sights to the future and what we can do to promote the professionalism and success of our chosen profession. Here are a few ways you can help:

Be active with MAMC

MAMC provides great opportunities for networking and education. As a member, please take full advantage! Make sure you attend as many of our events as you can. And use the Forum to ask for help when you need it. For that matter, use the Forum to share your unique ideas that can help other clerks!

Join your local clerk association

Across Michigan there are many local associations that also provide great ways to be involved. I know many of you are part-time clerks, so the shortened travel time and more regionally focused conversations can be of great benefit. Don't have a location association – start one, even if it's an informal get-together, it can benefit your region.

Attend IIMC Conference in Grand Rapids

This year the International Institute of Municipal Clerks will have its conference right here in our own back yard. What a great opportunity for you to see all they have to offer. There are also many opportunities still to get involved in helping to make this conference a success that makes Michigan shine.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

Learn about MAMC Legislative Priorities

At MAMC, we are reviewing and refining our “asks” from the State Legislature and the Secretary of State. You can help us and your own performance just by learning what we are advocating for and why. See a priority you don’t agree with? Please let us know and/or let us explain why we think it matters.

Advocate with your residents about our priorities

Once you know about our priorities, letting your residents know about them is a great way to help build support. An informed citizenry can be a great advocacy wing. And we want your communities’ voters to help guide local legislators to do the right thing.

Contact your legislators

As a local election official, your base of knowledge can be a powerful voice on our issues. And you don’t have to wait for a hot issue to make contact. Let your local legislators know you want them to contact you when an issue impacting elections or local government comes up. Offer to be a resource for them if they have any questions.

Share your knowledge with other clerks

We always have something we can learn from each other. I love to hear new and innovative ideas. I’m sure your neighboring jurisdictions and clerks across Michigan do too.

Build a relationship with your local media

Our local newspapers, TV stations, and other media outlets have a strong connection with our residents. Help them be advocates for what you believe in.

Talk about what went right and wrong in 2020

Hey, I have made mistakes and there are things I want to do better. There are also things we did for the first time in 2020 that I want to keep in place long into the future. Don’t be afraid to learn and change.

Talk about what you want to see in 2022

For the future, think about specifically you want to do differently. What changes in your actions, or state law, or Bureau of Elections processes would make 2022 the best it can be. Let’s get there together!

On an organizational note, MAMC is working to keep moving forward. We have had to reschedule many events to ensure the safety of our membership. We are looking forward to the time when we can all join together in person. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel and/or reschedule many in-person events. This Board is dedicated to the organization providing the best services we can in a safe manner and maintain a strong fiscal foothold. To assist with our continuity, we have transferred our day-to-day finances to GCSI Association Services, and shifted the Treasurer to an oversight role. We are in the midst of a major website overhaul which we will unveil in the coming months. To allow us as clerks to have more interactive and uninterrupted conversations, we have restricted our Facebook group to MAMC members only. We look forward to continuing to serve you.



Chris Swope, MiPMC/MMC
MAMC President

STILL DEBATING OVER MEMBERSHIP? IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US IN 2021!

Jackie Beaudry, MiPMC/MMC
Chair, Membership/MiPMC Program

2021 MAMC Membership applications are being received now. Thank you! As of January 2021, we have a total of 718 members and applications are still coming in daily and we hope to see that number continue to grow!

Do you know a fellow clerk or deputy clerk who is not yet a member?

Help MAMC spread the word about the benefits of membership to your colleagues and new clerks in your region. Many clerks were newly elected in 2020, making this a great time to reach out to those new clerks and get them connected.

MAMC provides an opportunity to be part of a strong organization that supports member interests, lobbies on behalf of clerks, and provides outstanding training and networking resources for members.

As our membership continues to grow, so will our organization as a whole. We look forward to welcoming new and returning members this year!

Member benefits include:

- Professional Education Programs
- Summer Conference
- Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk Certification Program
- Legislative Lobbying
- Professional Networking and Access to Online Forum
- Members Only Website Access
- AND MORE!

MiPMC UPDATE: ONLINE COURSEWORK

At the December Board meeting, an amendment to the MiPMC Education and Certification Guidelines was approved.

This change to the guidelines eliminated the previous restriction of a maximum of two (2) points achieved via online learning. Members may now apply any or all of the six (6) points allowed under the category of Miscellaneous Coursework to either in-person or online training.

We hope this change is helpful to our members, as we are all adapting to and working in a much more digital, remote world.

Look for updated application forms soon reflecting this change.



Congratulations to our first MiPMC Level 3 – Lisa Hathaway!

75TH ANNUAL IIMC CONFERENCE

Members of the MAMC have a great opportunity to attend an International Institute Of Municipal Clerks conference. I look forward to welcoming my fellow Michigan Clerks, Region V Clerks and Clerks from around the world to the great city of Grand Rapids. If you have never attended an IIMC Conference before, this is your best opportunity to participate in an incredible experience. Not only will you learn and partake in incredible education sessions, but you get to network with clerks from around the world. This also a convenient way to accumulate points toward your CMC and MMC designation. Learn from the comfort of your own state!

This is the third time that IIMC Conference has been in Michigan. The first time was in 1954 in Detroit and the last time was here in Grand Rapids in 1991. For those of you who know Grand Rapids, a lot has changed in 30 years. I can't wait for you to experience all Grand Rapids has to offer.

The theme for this conference is "Embrace the Rapids: Maneuvering in a Changing World." Little did we know last year when we picked the theme, how fitting it would be for today. As Clerks, we know the world is rapidly changing and we have a choice to either get out of the water or grab a paddle and embrace the rapids.

We are working hard to put together an incredible conference. On behalf of the City of Grand Rapids, I look forward to welcoming you to our great city.

So put on your life vest, grab a paddle, and let's go!

Joel H. Hondorp, Grand Rapids City Clerk
IIMC Host Committee



EDUCATION UPDATE

Melanie D. Ryska, MiPMC/CMC
Chair, Education Committee

Rachelle Enbody
Vice Chair, Education Committee

You did it – You survived 2020! Let's see if we can get back to some "normalcy."

Considering the current COVID rules pertaining to banquet centers which do not permit attendance at conferences of more than ten people from more than two different households, the Board has made the decision to move Institute to June. The new Institute dates are June 6-11, 2021 or June 13-18, 2021. We believe that June will provide our members with an opportunity for better engagement and outdoor activities. The Institute Facilitators will be reaching out to all members registered for Institute to assist with this transition.

The Board has also decided to hold an additional Free Education Day that will include our Annual Meeting and Board Elections. This event will be held virtually on June 3. This June event is in addition to the Free Ed scheduled for September.

Finally, even though we do not have a MAMC Conference this year, the Board wants to make sure that new Clerks have the opportunity to attend a Clerking 101 Boot Camp. Therefore, we are looking into holding a two day session along with the Free Education Day in September, more details to come.

There are a lot of great educational opportunities for all of our members in the near future! Please mark your calendars with these important dates!

If you would like to serve on the Education Committee, please visit the MAMC website for committee application. We look forward to a rewarding year with great educational opportunities!

2021 CALENDAR

IIMC Annual Conference

May 9-13, 2021

Grand Rapids, MI

Michigan is hosting the IIMC 75th Celebration
(more information can be found at iimc.com)

Annual Meeting, Board Elections, and Free Education Day

June 3, 2021

Virtual

(details to come)

Institute

June 6-11, 2021 OR June 13-18, 2021

Mt. Pleasant, MI

Clerking 101 Boot Camp

TBD (aiming for September 2021 – Frankenmuth)

Free Education Day

September 2021

Frankenmuth, MI

(details to come)

Master Academy

November 30 – December 2, 2021

Mt. Pleasant, MI

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE UPDATES

Adam Wit, MiPMC/CMC

3rd Vice President

Chair, Newsletter/Website

Social Media

We know Facebook has become a hotspot for the networking, questions and, yes, venting for a lot of our members. Make sure to join our private page so you have a safe area to talk with your peers. We want our Clerks to be able to ask the questions they have and get honest answers to best serve their constituents.

Website

The only thing missing when you visit our website is the sounds of the modem connecting. Earlier this month we held a kickoff meeting with the vendor that will be redesigning our MAMC website. The goal will be to update it to make the things important to our members, like education, legislation and chatting with our peers, accessible and easy to use.

If you have any feedback on what you want to see, please reach out to me at awit@harrison-township.org

CAPITOL UPDATE

Bill Zaagman
Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.
MAMC Lobbyist
zaagman.w@gcsionline.com



Governor Signs Bills Creating Address Confidentiality Program

Legislation establishing the “Address Confidentiality Program” within the Department of the Attorney General was signed by the Governor after overwhelmingly passing both the House and the Senate. The multi-bill package allows an individual to participate in the program if she or he were a victim of domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, or sexual assault, or risked physical harm if his or her address were disclosed. Participants must 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, an 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 to the public. The term of participation would be four years, unless canceled as provided under the law.

Of interest to the clerk community will be Senate Bill 71, which amends the Michigan Election Law and provides that a program participant's address is confidential and cannot be released to the public under any records request. The bill specifies that a program participant's voter registration application, QVF entry, and AV application are confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. In addition, the bill provides that:

1. The Qualified Voter File must contain the program participant's unique identification number issued by the Department of the Attorney General.
2. Any poll list or poll book created for an election must only include the program participant's name and a notation for the precinct election inspector to contact the city or township clerk on how to process the elector.
3. A local clerk who receives an absent voter ballot application from a program participant must mail the ballot to the participant at the designated mailing address provided to the program participant by the DTMB.

In addition, the law provides for changes to the AV application to allow for the entry of the program participant identification number in lieu of providing an address.

The bills were Senate Bills 70 through 76 and House Bills 5054 through 5058 and are now Public Acts 301 through 307 of 2020 and Public Acts 274 through 278 of 2020. The elections related changes can be found in Public Act 302 of 2020. The law takes effect 180 days from signature, which occurred December 29, 2020.

Rep. Bollin Named Elections Chair



Speaker Jason Wentworth (R-Clare) announced that he has named State Representative Ann Bollin (R-Brighton Township) chair of the House Elections Committee for the 2021-2021 Legislative Session. Bollin, a former township clerk, is entering her second term

in the state House and was active on introducing and shaping a number of elections issues during the last term.

In addition to Bollin being named chair, Speaker Wentworth named the following members to the committee:

- Rep. Pauline Wendzel (R- Watervliet)
- Rep. Julie Calley (R-Portland)
- Rep. Steven Johnson (R-Wayland)
- Rep. Graham Filler (R-DeWitt)
- Rep. Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth)
- Rep. Karen Whitsett (D-Detroit)

MOVE Bill Dies in Lame Duck

A last minute effort by Senate Democrats to force the Senate to enroll and transmit Senate Bill 117 to the Governor failed as the Republican-Majority allowed it to die. As introduced by Sen. Ruth Johnson (R-Holly),

the bill would have allowed active duty military serving overseas to return their MOVE ballots electronically to their local clerk using their government issued email address and submitted through what is called a Common Access Card issued by the United States Department of Defense. Others residing overseas, including spouses, were not permitted to return ballots electronically.

However, as part of the agreement to move pre-processing legislation, the Republican leaders agreed to expand the MOVE bill to include the spouses of active duty military serving overseas who were also residing overseas. Despite having agreement with the Republican leadership of the House and Senate, this change caused a kerfuffle with the bill sponsor, who, along with several other Republicans, removed their names from the bill. Despite passing the same day as SB 757, this bill was never enrolled or transmitted to the Governor for signature.

Financial Report

Lanie McManus, MiPMC
Garfield Charter Township
MAMC Treasurer

Financial Report for December 31, 2020

Bank Statement	
Beginning Balance	\$176,613.31
Deposits/Credits	\$29,481.95
Interest	0
Withdrawals	\$18,558.64
Ending Checking Balance	\$187,536.62
Ending Savings Balance	\$42,809.01
TOTAL FUNDS	\$230,345.63



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MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS