Letter from the President

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your President. The MAMC has provided me with answers to many questions, training, professional development and great friendships over the past 12 years during my tenure as a Township Clerk. I hope you all have experienced the same great benefits of membership in the MAMC.

I ask that you reach out to your fellow Clerks who may not be members. Share with them the many benefits you receive as a member and encourage them to join. My goal for 2011 is to reach the 1,000 member mark. With your help I know we can do it.

I’d be happy to join you at one of your county or local Clerks Association meetings to share the many benefits that come with membership in the MAMC and update your members on MAMC activities. Call me at 517-268-3007 or email me at evan.hope@delhitownship.com if I could be of help. I’d like to visit as many of the county and local clerk associations as I can.

I’m looking forward to the great things we’ll accomplish this year. Your dedicated and talented Board of Directors and Past Presidents strive to move the MAMC forward. And they make my job a lot easier!

Welcome Sue Courtade

The MAMC Board of Directors recently appointed Sue Courtade to fill a vacancy on the MAMC Board. Sue is the Clerk for the Charter Township of East Bay in Grand Traverse County. She has served as their Clerk since 2006 and is also a CMAE Level II Assessor. Sue previously assisted the MAMC as a member of the conference committee. Sue will serve as the MAMC Secretary. Please welcome Sue Courtade to the MAMC Board. We know she will serve you well!

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Legislative Report

Most of the work of the Legislature of late has revolved around the budget that has to be approved by October 1. Many policy bills have been slowed because of work on the budget and legislative session breaks. It seems that much won’t be moving until after the Election. The Legislative Committee is gearing up for the Lame Duck session following the election. We will be monitoring our issues closely and let you know if we need testimony on bills.

One bill that has moved is Senate Bill 1126. The bill would change the school district coordinating committee from every 2 years to every 4 years. The bill has passed the Senate and has been moved out of the House Ethics and Elections Committee with minor amendments. It is anticipated that this bill will pass the House.

Another set of bills we are monitoring closely are in the House Judiciary Committee dealing with legal postings. They are Bills 5845, 5847, 5848, 5853, 5916 and 5917. Several clerks testified in May in favor of these bills. The Committee will most likely take up these bills after the election.

If you want to keep up to date on what is going on legislatively, you should click on www.michiganlegislature.org. On this site you can view every bill and its analysis, check when a Committee meeting is scheduled, or even see what bills an individual legislator has sponsored. You can also search the Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL). This website is a powerful tool that every clerk’s office should be utilizing.

Bill Activity

SB 1094-1095
Sen. Cameron Brown and Sen. Michelle McManus
Moves candidate filing deadline for local offices to bring into compliance with making AV ballots available at least 45 days before any elections (Technical amendments needed to implement the military and overseas voters requirements.)
Public Act 43 and 44 of 2010

HB 5279
Establishes procedures for sending an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas voter a ballot via mail OR electronically at least 45 days before any election. Permits a voter referenced above to return the ballot electronically.
Public Act 50 of 2010

HB 5530 - PASSED PA 51 2010
Rep. Jennifer Haase
Requires that AV ballots be delivered to the county clerks at least 47 days before ANY election.
Public Act 51 of 2010
Bill Activity, cont.

SBs 129-130, 455
Sen. Cameron Brown
Addresses canvassing procedures for multi-county school district elections; the county having the greatest portion of the school district certifies the election and the other county clerks certify and transmit the portion from their county. Public Acts 52, 53, & 55 of 2010

HB 4367
Rep. Woodrow Stanley
No reason absentee voting.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Government Operations and Reform

HB 4993
Rep. Tim Melton
Permit residents to register to vote at any clerk’s office
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 4383
Rep. Tom Pearce
Permit a mail registered voter to show ID to any clerk in order to vote AV their first time.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 4261, HB 4337
Pre-registers 16 year olds to vote.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 4539-4540
Rep. Lesia Liss
Creates procedures to permit residents to register to vote electronically.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

HB 4821
Rep. Dan Scripps
Increases recount petition cost to $25/precinct; requires additional deposit of $125/precinct when the vote is within 50 votes or .05 percent, whichever is greater.
Passed House, in Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight

SB 751-756
Eliminates annual school elections on any date and eliminates the May date as an option for school elections. Requires schools to select one of three dates: Even August, Even November or Odd November. Eliminates August date for schools in counties with a population of greater than 750,000.
Passed Senate, in House Committee on Ethics and Elections

SB 692-695
Sen. Cameron Brown and Sen. Wayne Kuipers
Amends the Michigan Election Code to make it a felony to provide or receive valuable consideration for voting or refraining from voting or registering to vote, or refraining from registering. Prohibits a local clerk from registering a person to vote if the clerk knew or had good reason to believe the person was not a resident and a qualified elector. Requires a local clerk to forward to the county prosecutor the voter registration application of a person who attempted to register to vote if the clerk knew or had good reason to believe the person was not a qualified elector. Make it a felony for a person to register to vote if he or she knew or had good reason to believe that he or she was not a qualified elector. Prescribes a felony penalty for knowingly submitting a fraudulent or forged voter registration application to the Secretary of State or a local clerk.
Passed Senate, in House Committee on Ethics and Elections

SB 999
Sen. Michelle McManus
Provides for penalties for submitting a false or fraudulent voter registration application.
Passed Senate, in House Committee on Ethics and Elections

SB 937
Sen. Michelle McManus
Permits cities and villages to establish and hold even-year elections by resolution of the governing body.
In Senate Committee awaiting a hearing

SB 1126
Sen. Michelle McManus
Moves school coordinating committees from every two years to every four years beginning January 1, 2012.
In Senate Committee awaiting a hearing
2011 Conferences & Elections

As Immediate Past President, I will serve as Chair of the Past President’s Committee. This group is responsible for securing locations for annual MAMC Conferences and conducting annual elections of the MAMC Board of Directors each June.

Conference Site Selection

The Committee is currently seeking proposals from potential venues that can accommodate MAMC Conference needs. We also seek to alternate locations amongst the various regions of the state (north/south/east/west/middle.) The Committee will review proposals and visit sites to ensure conference needs can be met and that venues are affordable for the membership.

Conference sites are secured three years in advance, so we’re currently planning for 2014. Secured sites already are:

- 2011 Shanty Creek, Bellaire
- 2012 Great Wolfe Lodge, Traverse City
- 2013 Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth

2011 Board Elections

Next Spring, you will start seeing information on the Annual Board Member Election. There is always an opening on the Board in June and sometimes more than one. If you’ve been thinking about serving, now is the time to get involved in the Association and volunteer to work on a committee. This is an excellent way to become familiar with MAMC’s goals and objectives, while enhancing your own professionalism.

Serving on the MAMC Board has been rewarding and I’m honored to be serving with Past President Committee members Dana Muscott, Janet Santos, Terri Kowal, Tonni Bartholomew and Sandra Abrams Kress.

— Todd Blake, City of Fremont
2010 Clerks of the Year

Congratulations to
Todd Blake, City Clerk of the Year
Joel Hondorp, Township Clerk of the Year
Sheri Kesterke, Village Clerk of the Year

The Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks is proud to honor our colleagues!

The 2010 MAMC Clerks of the Year were honored at the annual conference at the Soaring Eagle Conference Center in Mt. Pleasant on June 23rd. Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land was the guest speaker at the banquet and assisted with the award presentations.

The City Clerk of the Year was presented to Todd Blake who is the Clerk for the City of Fremont. Most of you know Todd who served as the association’s President from June 2009 to June 2010. Todd has been actively involved on the MAMC Board since 2004 in numerous positions in addition to his involvement in his community and the Newaygo County Clerk’s Association.

The Township Clerk of the Year was presented to Joel Hondorp who is the Clerk for Byron Township and who is also active on the MAMC Board; presently serving as the 1st Vice President. Previously, Joel served as Director of Education and Conference for MAMC and holds numerous positions of leadership in Kent County.

The Village Clerk of the Year was Sheri Kesterke from the Village of Berrien Springs. Sheri was unable to attend the conference because of a previous and very important trip to represent the United States, with her husband, during the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War ceremonies, in Korea.

Please join me in congratulating these Clerks on being elected the 2010 MAMC Clerks of the Year.

MAMC President Evan Hope extends Congratulations to our fellow Clerks who have worked hard to attain CMC and MMC designation through their continued professional development.

The following individuals earned the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC):

Marilyn Haley, CMC, City of Madison Heights
Sherry K. Powell, CMC, City of Grant
Michelle E. Wright, CMC, City of Manistee

The following individuals earned the prestigious Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC):

Christina P. Bacon, MMC, City of Vassar
Gladys M. Bybee, MMC, City of Buchanan
Pamela Mazich, MMC, Groveland Township

Please join IIMC and MAMC in congratulating our newest CMCs and MMCs!
Education Committee Report

Michigan hosted the IIMC Region V Annual Meeting in September at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth. “Educkationfest” offered municipal clerks from Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and Michigan an excellent opportunity to network, attend classes and earn points toward CMC and MMC certification.

A pre-conference Master Academy class, Thriving on Change and Responding to Communities in Crisis, was attended by 35 clerks. Presented by Paddy Laske of CARE’s WorkLife Solutions, the class received excellent evaluations from participants. Two educational sessions, Write to the Top and The ART of Professionalism, were offered for the 77 conference attendees.

Forty clerks registered for our first post-conference Athenian Dialogue. This new endeavor was well received. Athenian Dialogues explore leadership principles and practices, drawing on the insights contained in a book that all participants have read. The book chosen for this Dialogue was We Band of Angels by Elizabeth M. Norman. It describes the true story of the struggles of a group of American Army and Navy nurses who served in the Philippine Islands in 1941; by August 1942, they were prisoners in the Japanese Bataan internment camp. Participants shared experiences and understanding and discussed the relevance of the author’s ideas to their public leadership role.

With the MAMC Annual Conference and the Region V meeting behind us, it’s time for the Education Committee to start planning for 2011. A committee meeting will be scheduled for November, after the General Election. We will be working on securing excellent speakers on topics of interest to the membership for a three-day Master Academy in March, our annual free education day in April, and June Master Class and Conference.

We have initiated discussions with Lew and Mary Bender, our Michigan Municipal Clerks Institute (MMCI) Directors, about offering the Master Class and other conference education sessions through the Institute. This is an IIMC requirement for obtaining one (1) point for every 2 hours of instruction, rather than the standard one (1) point for every 4 hours of instruction.

Mark your calendars now!
Master Academy – March 8 – 10
MMCI Institute – March 13 – 18
Both programs will be held in Mount Pleasant at the Comfort Inn Hotel and Conference Center.
Financial Report

September 2010
Bank Statement
Beginning Balance                       $54,554.28
Deposits/Credits                             9,581.00
Interest                                                  16.67
Withdrawals                                 14,383.59

Ending Balance
*Main Bank Account                  49,768.36
*Investment Account                  89,968.14
Total Funds                                 $139,732.50

Membership

Membership Renewal is Coming!

Mark your calendar to continue “STAR” status in your community. Renew your MAMC membership for 2011. Membership renewal forms will be mailed to each jurisdiction after the November election. The 2011 Membership Form will be posted to the MAMC website at that time, so that you can download and print additional forms as needed for your office. The due date for 2011 dues is January 31, 2011. A late fee of $15.00 will be added after January 31, 2011.

Continue to enjoy the many benefits of MAMC membership: Professional Educational Programs, Listserv Networking, Membership Mentoring, a Dynamic Summer Educational Conference, Legislative Lobbying on important professional issues, and positive Partnerships with the State of Michigan Bureau of Elections.

Look for the membership application in the mail or the website in mid-November. www.michiganclerks.org
Last year, the MAMC Board conducted our first Strategic Planning Session. This session allowed the board to spend an entire day discussing various issues and goals in depth. This is something we were never able to do at regular board meetings. Regular board meetings allow just enough time to conduct our routine business and hear progress reports from committees.

I’m following Past-President Todd Blake’s lead and continuing what will hopefully become a tradition – an annual MAMC Strategic Planning Session. Our second annual session will take place in November. We’ll discuss the many goals we’ve accomplished that we set last year and set new ones for this year.

Most of the goals we set, whether it be attaining professional support staff, improving communications or revising policies came as suggestions from you – our members. The Board continues to discuss the suggestions we hear from you. Our strategic planning focuses on what our members want and how we can better serve the membership. Please continue to share your ideas or comments with me or any member of our board. We want to hear from you!

— Evan Hope, MAMC President
evahope@delhitownship.com