Letter from the President

Strategic Planning

The Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks recently held our second annual day-long Strategic Planning Session. The Board discussed issues and goals in depth – something we just don’t have time to do during Board meetings.

First, we looked at what we accomplished since last year’s Strategic Planning Session. Among our key accomplishments was contracting for professional administrative services. This helps us with the day-to-day work of planning and conducting our annual conference, education sessions, quarterly newsletters and maintaining the membership database. Another major accomplishment was our membership drive. Our new strategy, with additional mailings and a new MAMC branding campaign, grew our membership to over 900!

This year, our major goals include improving our web site. The MAMC web site will get more than a face lift, becoming a much more dynamic site with more user interaction. Members will someday be able to see all the classes they’ve attended and how many credits they’ve earned toward their CMC or MMC right from the web site.

With our growing membership, we must also reach out and interact with members on a regional level. We will still offer our annual education conference, Institute and master classes, but will also offer regional educational sessions and County Chapter round tables.

The Strategic Planning session has proved to be a valuable tool, helping us focus on the “big picture” and long-term success of our Association.

MAMC Chapter Outreach

MAMC President Evan Hope would like to visit as many county chapter clerk associations as possible to meet with you and discuss what’s happening with MAMC. Call Evan at 517-268-3007 or email evan.hope@delhitownship.com to schedule a visit.

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Capitol Update

House, Senate Elections Committees Announced

The full composition of House and Senate committees were announced early in January 2011. The Senate Committee on Local Government and Elections will have jurisdiction over most elections-related legislation. The committee is chaired by Senator Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc). Senator Robertson is a 20-year public servant, having served in the House and at the local level. He can be reached at 517/373-1636. Other Committee Members:

Goeff Hansen, Vice-Chair (R-Hart);
Jack Brandenburg (R-Harrison Twp); and,
Coleman Young (D-Detroit).

The Committee on Redistricting and Elections will have primary jurisdiction of elections-related legislation in the House. Second-term Representative Pete Lund (R-Shelby Township) was appointed chair of the panel. Representative Lund, who previously served on the Macomb County Commission and is a small business owner, can be reached at 517/373-0843. Other Committee Members:

Ed McBroom, Vice-Chair, (R-Vulcan);
Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy);
Paul Scott (R-Grand Blanc);
Sharon Tyler (R-Niles);
Rick Outman (R-Six Lakes);
Barb Byrum (D-Onondaga);
David Nathan (D-Detroit); and,
Woodrow Stanley (D-Flint).

Bill Introductions of Interest

House Bill 4005: Introduced by Rep. Kurt Keise (R-Northville Township) would move school elections to the even-year November election date.

House Bill 4108: Introduced by Rep. George Darany (D-Dearborn) permits a person who registers by mail to present photo identification at any clerk’s office for purpose of voting absentee first time.

Senate Bill 49: Introduced by Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren) would permit voters to vote absentee without reason.

Senate Bill 76: Introduced by Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren) would allow for the electronic submission of a voter registration form at the Secretary of State’s website.

Senate Bill 88: Introduced by Sen. Tory Rocca (R-Sterling Heights) would require the name of the organization compensating individuals to circulate ballot petitions on the front of the petition.

Snyder Releases “Balance Sheet”

Governor Snyder released what he is calling a “plain language” balance sheet to better help the public understand the totality of the fiscal crisis the State is facing. As an accountant, Governor Snyder has complained that the current financial statements are difficult for even trained professionals to understand.

He has also called on local units of government to follow his lead and release their own “plain language” financial statements to make their current financial status clear to residents. The 2011 Citizen’s Guide to Michigan’s Financial Health can be viewed at www.michigan.gov/snyder.

Bills Eliminate ‘Gun-Free’ Zones, Local Gun Boards

Under legislation proposed by Senator Mike Green (R-Mayville), residents with a concealed pistol license (CPL) would now be permitted to carry their weapons in places currently prohibited. Current law prohibits carrying
concealed weapons in places such as churches, hospitals, schools, bars, arenas and casinos.

Senate Bill 59, also introduced by Sen. Green, would eliminate the local gun boards and move all processing of CPLs to the Secretary of State presumably through the branch office system. The bills were referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee along with two companion bills.

**MML Responds to Snyder’s Call for “Cooperation”**

During the State of the State last month, Governor Snyder called on local units of government to help him identify “best practices” utilized by locals that can be used as models across the state. He indicated a desire to incentivize—possibly through revenue sharing—locals to share and consolidate more services where cost savings can be had. He will lay out his vision in this area during a special message to the Legislature later in February.

In testimony before the House Local, Urban and Regional Affairs Committee, representatives of the Michigan Municipal League laid out their wish list and asked lawmakers to pass legislation so that locals can better cooperate. Their wish list included:

- More local or regional tax and revenue options
- Changes to the Urban Cooperation Act to permit new negotiations on wages when combining services
- Changes to Public Act 312 to recognize a community’s ability to pay
- Moving property tax collections to once per year, in July
- Allow communities to publish legal notices online
- Permit use of inmates for work crews.

**Sunday Sales, Part Deux**

In testimony before the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee, Liquor Control Commissioner Nida Samona told members that legislation to fix glitches with Sunday sales will be introduced soon. The glitch is the piece of the law (Public Act 213 of 2010) that does not permit municipalities to opt out of the early morning sales.

During debate last year, it was understood that communities would be permitted to opt out of the 7 a.m. to noon sales. Currently, however, communities wishing to prohibit Sunday morning sales must opt out of all day Sunday sales. According to Samona, 88 communities opted out of Sunday sales, but 3,500 permits were issued, raising $4.3 million for the state.

To this end, Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) authored Senate Bill 100 that would clearly permit municipalities to opt-out of the Sunday morning alcohol sales between the hours of 7 a.m. and noon.

Under SB 100, the mechanism to opt out of Sunday morning sales would be a resolution of the Council. Communities could also opt-out of all-day Sunday sales (7 a.m. to 2 a.m.) by adopting a resolution.

As drafted, the bill also permits any opt-out resolutions adopted prior to the effective date of this amendatory Act (either 7 a.m. to noon or 7 a.m. to 2 a.m.) to remain in effect. The bill was referred to the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee.

Contact the author:
Bill Zaagman
Governmental Consultant Services, Inc.
517.484.6216
email: zaagman.w@gcsionline.com
Legislative Report

This year will be interesting as there are so many new players in Lansing. Our new Governor is focused on the economy and we don’t yet have a pulse on where he stands on election issues. The Redistricting and Election Committees in the House and Senate will focus primarily on redistricting for most of the year, after the Census numbers are released in March/April. Secretary Johnson is also establishing her agenda.

So, what are we going to do? Sit and wait for things to happen? Certainly not! **Now is the time for you to make a significant contact with your Representative and Senator.** Let them know what issues are important to you and that you will be a resource for them when they have questions about election bills.

The Legislative Committee recently met and reviewed areas of agreement. Here are a few of our priorities:

- Any clerk can register voters anywhere in the State,
- Any voter can register anywhere in the State
- Printing ballot instructions on ballot stub or in voting booths
- No Reason Absentee Voting*

At the end of 2010, one piece of legislation we supported was signed into law. Public Act 334 moves the school district election coordinating committee review from two year intervals to four year intervals, beginning in January, 2013.

* **Spoiler Alert** No reason absentee voting will be difficult to pass this session, but we will keep it as a priority and continue to promote it.

2011 Clerk of the Year Call for Nominations

It is that time of the year again! The MAMC Board and the Clerk of the Year Committee has issued a “call for nominations” for the annual Clerk of the Year awards for City, Township and Village candidates.

Each nominating committee, using established criteria described in the nomination information, select a maximum of five candidates for placement on the Clerk of the Year ballot and the MAMC member Clerks vote the ballot to determine the awards. The awards will be presented at the MAMC Conference to be held at Shanty Creek in June.

Visit the MAMC website – Clerk of the Year category, or contact Sue Hillebrand at PH: 248-662-0491; email: shillebrand@twp.northville.mi.us for additional information or if you have any questions.

Nomination criteria and the official nomination form can be found on the MAMC website at: www.michiganclerks.org.

Nominations for 2011 Clerk of the Year are due Friday, March 4, 2011.
Conferences & Elections

Call for Nominations—2011 MAMC Board of Director Positions

Looking for a fun and rewarding experience with a great Association? MAMC is it! Complete an application from the MAMC Board Members page on our website at www.michiganclerks.org.

The following MAMC Board positions will be on the June 2011 ballot at the Conference in Shanty Creek:

- 3rd Vice President (City/Village) - one year term that typically advances to 2nd VP
- 2 City/Village Directors - each for 2-year terms (one currently the Treasurer’s position)
- 2 Township Directors - each for 2-year terms

To find out more about serving on the MAMC Board, please feel free to contact any current or past Board member. The Bylaws are on the website if you would like to review them for details.

Submit your application by February 16, 2011 to:

Todd M. Blake, Immediate Past President
City of Fremont
101 E. Main Street
Fremont, MI 49412
231.924.2101

Financial Report

December 2010 Bank Statement

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The Education Committee welcomes Holly Brandt, Milford Township Clerk, Sue Courtade, East Bay Charter Township Clerk, and Pam Mazich, Groveland Township Clerk. In planning your educational opportunities for the year, the Committee values the input of MAMC members. Even if you don’t have time to serve on the Committee, please submit suggestions for class topics.

Our Annual Free Education Day has been scheduled for Monday, April 25 at the Lansing Center. Watch the website for more information.

Scholarships are still available for this year’s Michigan Municipal Clerks Institute being held March 13 – 18 at the Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn and Conference Center. Applications are available on the website. Deadline is February 14.

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

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

Kathleen McLean, CMC, Township of Oceola
Jolene Upchurch, CMC, Township of Erie
Ann Vollrath, CMC, City of Houghton

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

Todd M. Blake, MMC City of Fremont
Laura Broski, MMC, City of Birmingham
Janet M. Roncelli, MMC, Bloomfield Township

Please join IIMC and MAMC in congratulating our newest CMCs and MMCs!
Event Calendar

Future MAMC Conference Sites
2011 Shanty Creek, Bellaire
2012 Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City
2013 Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth

2011
March 4, 2011.
2011 Clerk of the Year Nominations Due

March 8 – 10
MAMC Master Academy
Comfort Inn Hotel and Conference Center
Mount Pleasant

March 13 – 18
MMCI Institute
Comfort Inn Hotel and Conference Center
Mount Pleasant

April 25
MAMC Annual Free Education Day
The Lansing Center
Lansing

May 8-12
International Institute of Municipal Clerks
Annual Conference
Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee

June 21
Clerking 101
or
Masters Class
Shanty Creek Resort
Bellaire

2012
May 20-24
International Institute of Municipal Clerks Annual Conference
Portland, Oregon

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

June 22-24
MAMC Annual Conference
Shanty Creek Resort
Bellaire
In-depth planning is beginning for the 2011 MAMC Annual Education Conference scheduled for Tuesday, June 21st through Friday, June 24th at the Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan. As is our goal every year, the Conference Committee hopes to provide a wide range of educational opportunities in an environment that promotes socialization, networking and an enjoyable learning experience.

Pre-conference offerings on Tuesday, June 21 include: Masters Class or Clerking 101. Each of these additional full-day classes is offered for an extra fee. Class fees include instruction, materials, breaks and lunch!

Other conference activities will include: 6th Annual 5K Fun Run / Walk; MAMC Board of Directors election; vendor booth decorating competition; MAMC Golf Outing; Silent Auction; Hospitality Suite; Vendor Displays; Door Prizes; and of course networking. Watch for more information on the MAMC website as details become available.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Conference, please contact us: Chris Swope - Chair, cswope@lansingmi.gov 517-483-4131 or Lisa Hathaway - Co-Chair, lhathaway@gpwmi.us 313-343-2447. We look forward to seeing you at Shanty Creek, where you can expect to increase your “Star Power.”

At Shanty Creek, You Have Our Undivided Attention

Guests of Shanty Creek Resorts discover the true meaning of serenity at the Lakeview Hotel & Conference Center’s Spa. Choose from an array of indulgent treatments and spa packages. Our staff of trained professionals will deliver a comforting spa experience guaranteed to rejuvenate your mind, body and spirit.

Resort guests also have complimentary access to our Fitness Center, which includes the use of Nautilus weight equipment, free weights, cardio equipment, dry sauna, steam room, whirlpool, showers and locker rooms.

Summer in northern Michigan — between Traverse City, Petoskey and Gaylord, Shanty Creek’s backyard is Michigan’s playground! For every reason families choose northern Michigan for vacation getaways, Shanty Creek is in the middle of it all.