Letter from the President

As I see the snow flying today, it is hard to believe your Board and committees are working feverishly on Spring and Summer programming. I am counting down the days to our Annual Conference in June at the Great Wolf Lodge. I know the Conference and Education Committees are putting together a fantastic conference. Also, the Institute and Master Academy in March are just around the corner.

Your Board of Directors has also been working hard on your behalf. The new website has been launched, and I hope you find it easy to navigate. If there is something you see that needs to be tweaked please let me or any other board member know.

In October we held our Third Annual Strategic Planning session with Lew Bender facilitating. The four major goals that came out of the Strategic Planning Session are:

1) Continuing Education and Michigan Certification
2) Rebranding and expanding awareness of MAMC
3) Website enhancements and on-line education
4) Increase membership and expand membership involvement

In getting to these goals we looked at the MAMC Roles and Mission, and we took a MAMC Vision Tour: in five years (2016) what should we look like and be.

Your Legislative Committee has also been working in the trenches in Lansing. A lot has been going on and our lobbyist Bill Zaagman with GCSI has been keeping us up to speed. We have provided testimony on a number of bills and have had a chance to sit down with committee chairs to work through our concerns with bills as they are drafted.

One of my goals this year was to attend county association meetings. I have attended meetings in Kent, Macomb, Oakland, Wayne and Saginaw. I am scheduled to attend the Capitol Area Clerks in the spring and hope to hit a couple more before my term is up in June.

Also, I put out a challenge for our members and myself to participate in the 5K Walk/Run at conference. My training was doing well until I injured my knee over the holidays. I am working on recuperating my knee and hopefully can get back on track.

Enjoy the rest of your winter and I look forward to seeing many of you during our spring and summer events.

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House Passes Legislation Restricting Use of Clerks Name

The House overwhelmingly passed legislation restricting an elections officials name from appearing on certain election-related materials. House Bills 4653 & 4656, introduced by Rep. Anthony Forlini (R-Harrison Township) prohibits the name of an appointed or elected elections official from appearing on “election-related” materials or temporarily in polling locations. The bill defines election-related materials as:

- Any material provided with an AV ballot;
- AV ballot instructions;
- An envelope used to mail to an AV ballot;
- An AV ballot return envelope.

The bill does not require that clerks destroy existing materials that may not be in conformance with the bill. Existing supplies could be used until they are exhausted. However, those materials could not be used in any election where the clerk also appears on the ballot as a candidate. As introduced, the MAMC was not able to support the bill because of its overly broad language. The MAMC worked with the bill sponsor to significantly improve the bill and clarify several areas. As a result, the MAMC was able to support the version that ultimately passed the House 106-0. The bill has not yet been considered for action in the Senate.

Governor Signs School Election Date Consolidation Legislation

Legislation moving all school elections to the even-year November election got the green light. House Bill 4005, introduced by Rep. Kurt Heise (R-Northville Township), now Public Act 233 of 2011, moves all school board elections to the even-year November election date effective January 1, 2012. As enacted, the bill provides no exemptions or grandfather for school districts that are currently on other dates.

House Passes a Number of MAMC Priorities

The Michigan House has steadily moved a number of elections bills that have been introduced at the request of the MAMC. Those bills include:

- **Filing Deadline Uniformity Bills**: 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. The bills all overwhelmingly passed the House and were referred to the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.
- **Removes Instructions from Ballot**: House Bill 4992, introduced by Rep. Eileen Kowall (R-White Lake), eliminates the requirement that the ballot marking instructions be printed on the ballot. Under the bill, ballot marking instructions must appear in each polling booth or compartment in a format prescribed by the Secretary of State. The bill passed the House 76-32 and was referred to the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.
- **Non-Partisan Ballot Placement**: House Bill 5127, introduced by Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan), reorders the ballot placement on the non-partisan portion of the ballot to place community college districts and intermediate school districts to above local school districts. The bill passed the House 90-16 and was referred to the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.
- **Poll Worker Residency**: House Bill 5119, introduced by Rep. Rick Outman (R-Six Lakes), eliminates the residency restrictions limiting poll workers to the county of their residence. The bill passed the House 104-2 and was referred to the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.

Secretary Johnson Introduces Package of Bills

The Legislature is considering a package of bills introduced at the request of Secretary of State Ruth Johnson. Bills were introduced in both the House and the Senate. The Senate package, which passed the Senate...
earlier this month, is Senate Bills 751-754 and addresses the following issues:

- Creation of an Inactive Voter File;
- Eliminates absent voter counting board as a separate precinct;
- Require ID to register to vote;
- Regulation of third-party voter registration drives;
- Greater Enforcement of existing Campaign Finance Laws; and,
- Requirements on formation of minor political parties.

The House Bills, which are still in the House Redistricting and Elections Committee addresses the following issues:

- Requires mandatory receiving boards;
- Procedures for the establishment of new political parties;
- Permits No-Reason AV in-person at the Clerk’s office with photo ID;
- Establishes random post-election audits which will be conducted by the bureau of elections;
- Requires that applications to vote be preserved for 6 years;
- Requires that clerks complete continuing education; and,
- Regulates the use of monies contributed to a candidate’s Legal Defense Fund.

Look for the House to move the their bills in the coming weeks and for both chambers to continue vetting the bills and move various pieces in the future.

**Senate Passes Omnibus Elections Bill**

Legislation making a myriad of changes to the election code was reported from the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee. Sponsored by Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc), chair of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee. Senate Bill 823 makes the following changes to the election code:

- Permits the 2012 State Conventions to be held as late as 58 days prior to election;
- In 2014, moves the filing deadline for candidates to the 15th week before the election and the 13th week before the election for precinct delegates;
- Clarifies procedures for filling vacancies for deceased or incapacitated candidates;
- Requires that proposals to amend the State Constitution be submitted to the MDOS prior to circulating petitions;
- In 2014 moves the filing of precinct delegate forms to the county clerk’s office.
- Removes a number of obsolete references;
- Creates the crime of impersonating an “elections official”; and,
- Prohibits a person who performs elections-related duties from receiving compensation to oppose/support efforts to pass/defeat a question or elect/defeat a candidate.

The MAMC was successful in removing a number of provisions which we could not support including:

- Providing for a second recount if the results from the first recount were different that the canvassed results;
- Restricting a permanent AV list to only those aged 60 or older.

For additional information on any of the bills mentioned in this story or other legislation of interest, please contact Bill Zaagman at 517/484-6216 or zaagman.w@gcsionline.com.
Hello fellow clerks,

The Legislature has been busy this past year. Not like in years past. The MAMC have been working with our lobbyist, Bill Zaagman, GCSI, to ensure that our concerns are addressed in any new legislation. We also have a new Secretary of State wanting to introduce many bills to address concerns she has raised. It has been an effort to make sure these new laws are not too cumbersome, and are practical.

One point in particular is Senate Bill 823 of 2011 which makes sweeping changes to elections on many levels. As we continue to work with the Legislature, the Legislative Committee and CEO have been able to address several points of concern. We feel certain that whatever changes are passed will be for the good of all concerned.

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2012 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 the 2012 Clerk of the Year are due March 5, 2012.
2012 Educational Opportunities

J. Cherilynn Tallman, CMC
City of Ferndale
Education Committee Chair

Joe Bridgeman, CMC
Charter Township of Plymouth
Education Committee Co-Chair

Cancellation Policy. The MAMC Board has revised the cancellation policy to allow refunds (less a $50.00 administration fee) up to 10 business days prior to an event. This policy is strictly enforced.

Points for Certification. MAMC must strictly abide by IIMC’s requirements for awarding educational points toward certification. IIMC rules specify the number of hours of instruction an applicant must attend to be eligible to receive certification points. Therefore attendance for the entire length of any educational session offered by MAMC will be required by a member in order to receive a certificate from MAMC. As Lew Bender would say, “butts in seats, people.”

Scholarships are available for the 2012 Annual Conference at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City. Every MAMC member is eligible for one Institute scholarship and one Conference scholarship. A conference scholarship covers the registration fee and those meals included as listed on the registration form. All other expenses, including lodging, are the responsibility of the attendee. Deadline to submit a scholarship application for Conference is Monday, May 14.

Michigan Municipal Clerks Institute, March 11-16, Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn and Conference Center
- Registration $600
- Room costs: $75 per night
- Points: 20 per year
- Deadline to register: February 27, 2012

Master Academy, March 20 – 22, Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn and Conference Center
You may choose to attend one day, two days, or all three days.
- Registration $150/day
- Room costs: $75 per night
- Points: 3 per day
- Deadline to register: March 6, 2012
**Registration packet for both Institute and Master Academy are available online.

Pre-Conference Master Class, June 19, Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City
- Registration: $150
- Room costs: $104-$134
- Points: 3

MAMC Annual Conference, June 20-22, Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City
- Registration: $250/members
- Room costs: $104 for basic suite to $124 for Wolf Den or Kid Kamp and $134 for Kid Kabin
- Points: 2 for attending Conference
**Contact Great Wolf Lodge at 1-866-962-9653 to make room reservations under Group Reservation #1612MAMC. The cut-off date for group rates is May 30, 2012.
MAMC 2012 Annual Conference

Lisa Hathaway, MMC
City of Grosse Pointe Woods
Conference Chair

Sarah Bydalek, CMC
City of Walker
Conference Co-Chair

Great Wolf Lodge
Traverse City, Michigan

“Go For the Gold”

The MAMC Conference Committee has been tirelessly preparing for the 2012 MAMC Annual Conference scheduled for Tuesday, June 19th through Friday, June 22, 2012 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City, Michigan. It is the Committee’s goal to challenge and inspire you by providing a marathon of educational and networking opportunities, determined to keep you in the spirit of this year’s theme, the Olympics.

Educational sessions are sure to build on your intellect. Tuesday’s pre-conference courses include Masters Class and Clerking 101. On Wednesday morning, classes will be conducted on Creating Test Decks and Charts and a QVF Refresher. These classes will be followed by the Opening Session featuring 1996 Gold Medalist Sheila Taormina! Then, we will finish the evening off with MAMC’s Clerk of the Year Awards.

Thursday’s session topics include a four-course elections track, Health & Wellness/Mind and Body, Emotional Intelligence, Anatomy of a Lawsuit, Creating Effective PowerPoint, Budgeting/Accounting, and Liquor Licenses. And the fun will continue with our Olympic President’s Dinner and entertainment!

Last but not least, Friday’s Closing Session will highlight 1984 Silver Medalist Judith Brown Clarke. Other conference activities will include the 7th Annual 5K Fun Walk/Run; Board of Directors election; Golf Outing; vendor booth decorating; silent auction, Hospitality Suite; Vendor Displays; door prizes, and other surprises you’ll have to see to believe!

Watch for more information in the mail, from the MAMC listserv, and on the website. If you have any questions regarding Conference, please contact us: Lisa Kay Hathaway ~ Chair, lhathaway@gpwmi.us or Sarah Bydalek ~ Co-Chair, sbydalek@ci.walker.mi.us. We look forward to seeing you at Great Wolf. On your marks, get set, GO! and be prepared to Leave with the Gold!

MAMC 5K WALK/RUN

Get out those walking and running shoes and join us for the 7th Annual MAMC Walk/Run at the June Conference held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City, Michigan, Wednesday, June 20th, 2012 at 7:00 a.m. This is a 3.1 mile walk/run. Your registration includes a t-shirt, refreshments and a lot of EXERCISE. Awards and prizes will be given out.

Remember our MAMC President has challenged each and everyone of us to join him in the 5K walk/run. Tricks and tips will be given to us by Sheila Taormina, an Olympic athlete from the United States, who has competed at four Olympics and was the first woman to qualify for the Olympics in three different sports (swimming, triathlon and modern pentathlon).

Don’t forget to mark the box and size of your t-shirt on the MAMC Conference Brochure along with the fee.

HURRY, DON’T WAIT, REGISTER EARLY!
Hope to see you there!
Betty Kennedy
Financial Report for December 2011

Beginning Balance                      $ 83,352.69
Deposits/Credits                              4,356.22
Interest                                                  13.58
Withdrawals                                     6,949.18

Ending Balance
*Main Bank Account                  80,773.31
*Investment Accounts                 52,359.50
Total Funds                                 $ 133,132.81

Event Calendar

2012

March 5
2012 Clerk of the Year Nominations Due

March 11 - 16
MMCI Institute
Comfort Inn Hotel and Conference Center
Mount Pleasant

March 20 - 22
MAMC Master Academy
Comfort Inn Hotel and Conference Center
Mount Pleasant

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

June 19
Clerking 101 or Masters Class
Great Wolf Lodge
Traverse City

June 20 - 22
MAMC Annual Conference
Great Wolf Lodge
Traverse City