Letter from the President

This is my final newsletter article as President, and I would like to say, it has been an honor serving as President of an organization that has a strong belief in education, participation and excellence in all aspects of all of the different jobs we do. I have a deep appreciation for everyone’s commitment to excellence.

I would also like to thank the MAMC Board for all of the work they have done, with a special thanks to Joe Bridgman who with his commitment to his community, the job as 3rd Vice President and a Master Municipal Clerk, lost his re-election and could not complete his term with the MAMC. He worked up until November, even though he knew that he lost in the August Primary.

The Board has continued to work towards our Strategic Plan as we continue to work to provide interesting educational opportunities, provide support for Institute and Masters Classes and in bringing fresh ideas for this year’s Conference.

One other topic to be aware of is the suggestion that the association change the by-laws to allow for Directors on the Board to serve longer than the current term limits in place, serving a maximum of two elected terms. This proposal allows for more continuity of Directors as they serve the association and I would ask that you support this proposal on your ballot.

See you all at summer conference.
Spring brings new Election Laws
As the signs of spring begin popping across the state, so too, do a number of new election law changes signed late last year. These changes were not given immediate effect by the Legislature; therefore, they became effective on March 28, 2013. Public Act 523 of 2012 addresses the following issues:

- **Absentee Voters to Show ID**
  Voters applying for an absentee ballot at the clerk’s office will be required to show photo ID. However, if a voter applies in-person without ID and does not present ID upon returning the ballot or returns the ballot by mail, the ballot shall be processed as a challenged ballot under MCL 168.727. The photo ID requirement does not apply to a voter who applies for an absentee ballot by mail.

- **Citizens to Show ID when Registering to Vote In-person**
  Under MCL 168.497C, a person registering to vote at a branch office or a clerk’s office will be required to show acceptable photo identification or sign an affidavit of identity.

- **Voter Applications**
  Applications to vote will be modified to add a statement where the voter affirms his or her United States citizenship by signing the application. The voter will not be required to check a box affirming citizenship. Similar affirmative statements are incorporated into the absentee voter applications along with a new statement on citizenship added to the “warning” statements.

- **Some MOVE Ballots to be Accepted Longer**
  Clerks who miss the 45-day MOVE deadline will be ordered to accept those ballots after the Election Day deadline. Under new provisions to MCL 168.759A, the Secretary of State is required to order local clerks to accept MOVE ballots for a total number of days equal to the number of days the 45-day deadline was missed. For example, if a local clerk sends MOVE ballots 40 days prior to the election, the Secretary of State is required to order the local clerk to accept MOVE ballots for an additional five days beyond the deadline.

- **September Village Elections Eliminated**
  Villages are no longer permitted to hold September elections. Those currently with a September date, must hold their elections at the even-November election date moving forward. Under the existing provisions of MCL 168.644g, the terms of sitting officers are automatically extended until November 2014. Terms are not permitted to be shortened, only extended.

- **Education Offices Reordered on Ballot**
  Two education offices are re-ordered on the non-partisan portion of the ballot. Community college trustees and ISD board members now appear immediately following judges of the district court and before city officers.

- **Cities Can Opt to Even-November Elections**
  Cities may move their governing body elections to the even-year election date. The governing body of any city desiring to move to the even-November date must hold a hearing and adopt a resolution in compliance with MCL 168.642. Under MCL 168.321, a city is permitted to move its election by adopting a resolution in compliance with MCL 168.642 regardless of any charter provision to the contrary.

- **Clerks Required to Track Voters without ID**
  Local clerks are required to report to the county clerk, within 7 days following an election, the number of affidavits of identity signed by voters under MCL 168.523(2). County clerks have an additional 7 days to compile a county-wide report and transmit it to the Secretary of State.

- **Ballot Coaching Notice**
  The Secretary of State is required to develop a poster explaining ballot coaching and indicating that it is an illegal activity. The poster is required to be prominently displayed for a period of 45 days before each election at each residential care facility in the state.

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Capitol Update continued

All of the changes can be viewed at www.michiganlegislature.org. Click on “Public Act (Signed Bills) which appears on the left column. Enter “523” in the appropriate box and be sure “2012” appears in the box below. Click on either the PDF or text icons appearing next to “Public Act.”

House Committee Moves Ballot Deadline Bills
Several bills moving the deadline to call for certain local ballot questions were reported from the House Elections & Ethics Committee. As introduced, House Bills 4393- 4397 would have moved several of the deadlines to call for a local ballot question from 70 days to the fifteenth Tuesday before the election—a 35 day increase. However, the Michigan Townships Association and other groups representing local governments objected to 15 weeks. Representatives from the MTA argued that the increase to 15 weeks would have effectively prohibited them from holding consecutive millage elections if the first one failed. In the spirit of compromise, MAMC agreed to amendments which moved the deadline to the twelfth Tuesday before the election. With the amendments, the bills were unanimously reported from committee. The House is expected to move the bills in the coming weeks. Similar bills were introduced last session moving the deadline to twelve weeks passed the House and were not taken up in the Senate.

House Passes Bills to Eliminate Local Canvassing Boards
The House unanimously passed legislation to eliminate township and city boards of election canvassers and transfer any remaining responsibility and functions to the board of county canvassers. House Bills 4168–4171, supported by MAMC, were introductions from previous sessions. The bills were referred to the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee where they are expected to be taken up in the near future.

House Passes County Commissioner Vacancy Bill
Legislation to cancel a special election for a county commission vacancy that occurs in the odd-year passed the House 75-35 last month. House Bill 4307, introduced by Rep. Lisa Lyons (R-Alto), amends the Michigan Election Code to allow for a county commission vacancy occurring in the odd-year to be filled by appointment rather than by special election. The bill, a reintroduction from last session, was supported by MAMC. The bill was referred to the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee where it is expected to be taken up in the near future.

Membership

Lisa Kay Hathaway, MMC
City of Grosse Pointe Woods
Membership Chair

The Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks is 863 members strong for 2013, which has increased from 833 in 2012. If you know of a non-member Clerk, Deputy Clerk, or Assistant who would benefit from our Association's good works including education, legislative involvement, networking, and resources, please encourage them to join at http://www.michiganclerks.org/about/membership.aspx. Membership includes Free Education Day, reduced rates to attend MAMC conferences and educational sessions, unlimited access to the www.michiganclerks.org website that includes valuable members-only resources such as the forum, and much, much more.

Financial Report

Betty Kennedy, MMC
Village of North Branch
Treasurer

MAMC - Financial Report for March 2013

Bank Statement
Beginning Balance $191,704.03
Deposits/Credits  6,284.25
Interest  9.61
Withdrawals  32,468.27

Ending Balance
*Main Bank Account  165,529.62

Total Funds  $165,529.62
We all know THE CLERK IS RIGHT!

Well, we will see how many of you are “Right” during our Clerking Feud game! Our guest speaker, trainer, corporate entertainer Tim Cusack will host this fun game based on the TV game show Family Feud at our opening session on Wednesday. As a public speaker, Tim has entertained and touched thousands over 25 years of speaking, training, and working with some of the largest organizations and corporations in the world. From the classroom to the boardroom, Tim creates an interactive, inclusive experience that is unique to each audience. He isn’t married to a script—his keynotes and seminars are humorous and participatory. Connecting organizations one individual at a time, Tim has the rare ability to relate to large groups of people on a personal level. Tim speaks to the human side of the workplace.

Conference will once again be in Frankenmuth at the Bavarian Inn & Hotel on June 18th through the 21st. We have planned some fun exciting changes for you.

Golf Outing on Tuesday evening, 5K Walk/Run on Wednesday morning and ZUMBA! offered on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Games will be played during lunch and before each of the educational classes with a chance to win prizes! Play the Hollywood Vendor card game during our Vendor Showcase Showdown and throughout the time the vendor booths are open and get a chance to win a FREE 2014 MAMC Conference registration!

The Clerk of the Year banquet has been combined with the Presidents dinner on Thursday night to give you a free night Wednesday to explore downtown Frankenmuth and check out the popular Birch Run Premium Outlets!

Conference Registrations were mailed out early April. Make sure you get yours turned in by June 3rd! If you didn't get one or you have misplaced it you can print another copy at the MAMC Website at www.michiganclerks.org.

Reminder:
Check the MAMC website the first week of May for Clerk of the Year ballots. And don’t forget to vote for Clerk of the Year!

MAMC 5K WALK/RUN

Get out those walking and running shoes and join us for the 8th Annual MAMC 5K Walk/Run at the June Conference held in Frankenmuth, Michigan, on Wednesday, June 19th, 2013 at 7 a.m. This is a 3.1 mile walk/run. Your registration fee includes a t-shirt, refreshments and lots of EXERCISE. Awards and prizes will be given out.

Don’t forget to mark the box and SIZE of your T-shirt on the MAMC Conference Registration form.

See you there!

Betty L. Kennedy, MAMC Director
Scholarships for the Annual Conference are still available, but the deadline to apply is fast approaching. Applications are due no later than **Monday, May 13**. To qualify you must be a member of both IIMC and MAMC, a full time Clerk or Deputy Clerk, and you must be able to confirm that your municipality denied you the funds to attend. MAMC is only able to award one Conference scholarship per member.

Contact Cherilynn Brown at 248-546-2381 or cbrown@ferndalemi.gov today for an application. The application is also available on-line at www.michiganclerks.org under the “Education” tab.

The 14th Annual Conference, June 18-21, 2013, in Frankenmuth is shaping up to be an excellent educational opportunity for our members. We have panel discussions planned for smaller communities that will address all the different hats you wear, classes on our core duties like FOIA and the Open Meetings Act, liquor licensing, notary essentials, electronic records standards and best practices, and basic election administration. We also have exciting personal and professional development classes planned to give you the tools to be the best you can be.

Conference is an excellent time to take advantage of the opportunity to earn additional points by attending one of the pre-conference sessions on Tuesday, June 18. Clerking 101 is a full-day class designed for newer clerks. Led by Maryanne Cornelius, City of Novi, Susan Nasser, Village of Oxford, and Janet Santos, City of Saginaw, formerly of Bangor Township, this class provides information on a clerk’s basic duties, is an invaluable resource and affords 1.5 education points toward CMC/MMC certification. Master Academy is a full-day class intended for more experienced clerks, which affords 3 education points toward CMC/MMC certification. “For Adults Only” is the title of this workshop led by Bill Diedrich, based on his book “Adults at Work”. Mr. Diedrich describes the subject this way, “Imagine if people at work owned their behavior and refused to blame or complain. Imagine if everyone was self reflective and understood their impact on others. How powerful and successful would your workplace be. There is an “inner adult” in each of us. Rather than bringing out the inner child we would be better off cultivating our inner adult.”

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**Event Calendar**

2013

**May 19 - 23**
International Institute of Municipal Clerks Annual Conference
Atlantic City, New Jersey

**June 18**
Clerking 101 or Masters Class
Bavarian Inn
Frankenmuth

**June 19 - 21**
MAMC Annual Conference
Bavarian Inn
Frankenmuth

**June 21**
MAMC Board Meeting/Elections
Bavarian Inn
Frankenmuth

**August 23**
MAMC Board Retreat