Letter from the President

Thank you to the membership of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks for giving me the honor of serving as your President for 2014-2015. I have found my involvement with the organization to be invaluable on both a personal and professional level, and very much value my service on the Board of Directors.

I welcome Mary Clark of Delta Township and Jeremy Howard of the City of Mount Pleasant to the Board; they will both be welcome additions. Congratulations to Lisa Hathaway and Jennifer (Christian) Venema on your reelection as Directors. And congratulations to Joe Bridgman on becoming First Vice-President, Sarah Bydalek on becoming Second Vice-President, and Susanne Courtade on becoming Third Vice-President.

Congratulations and welcome to Lanie McManus of Garfield Charter Township, who was appointed to fill the vacancy for the final year of Sue Courtade’s term as Director due to Sue’s election as Third Vice-President.

Thank you to my fellow board member, Carolyn Boersma, for her dedicated service as President and I look forward to working with her as she rounds out her Board service by serving as Immediate Past President.

Leaving the Board are Dan Kasunic, Tina Barton, and Judy Bigney. They have each made their mark on the organization and will be missed. I thank them for their service.

Board assignments for the coming year will be:

- Chris Swope, President
- Joe Bridgman, First Vice-President – Council of Election Officials Chair
- Sarah Bydalek, Second Vice-President – Legislative Committee Chair
- Susanne Courtade, Third Vice-President – Web Site & Newsletter
- Lisa Hathaway, Director – Membership & CMMC
- Jennifer Venema, Director – Conference Committee Chair
- Jeremy Howard, Director – Conference Committee Vice Chair
- Cherilynn Brown, Director – Ways & Means Chair/Public Relations/Historian
- Mary Clark, Director – Education Chair
- Lanie McManus, Director – Education Vice Chair
- Dawn Walker, Director – Secretary
- Betty Kennedy, Director – Treasurer

Again, thank you for the honor of serving as your President for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Chris Swope, CMMC/CMC
MAMC President
Chris.swope@lansingmi.gov

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Legislature on Summer Recess

Upon completion of the Fiscal Year 14-15 budgets, the Legislature recessed for the summer to focus on the impending primary and general election campaigns. Aside from a day in July and another day in August, the Legislature returns to regular sessions following the Labor Day holiday.

Prior to recessing, there were several bills of interest that were introduced:

**House Bill 5620**, introduced by Rep. Stacy Irwin Oakes, would make it a misdemeanor to knowingly provide false voting information to a registered voter. False information includes, but is not limited to, the date or time of an election, the location of a voting or polling location and the registration status of a voter. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Elections and Ethics.

**House Bill 5633**, introduced by Rep. Sarah Roberts, would permit the electronic submission of voter registration applications provided the person intending to register has a valid state identification card. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Elections and Ethics.

**House Bills 5634 and 5635**, introduced by Rep. David Knezek, the bills amend the Michigan Election Code to provide that MOVE ballots postmarked before election day and received before the results are certified by the appropriate board of canvassers must be tabulated and added to the results if the ballot was submitted in compliance with the Act. Additionally, the bills would permit MOVE ballots to be submitted electronically to the appropriate local clerk. Current law permits ballots to be transmitted electronically to the voter, but stipulates the voted ballot must be returned by mail. The bills were referred to the House Committee on Elections and Ethics.

**House Bill 5667**, introduced by Rep. Lisa Lyons, amends the Michigan Election Code to stipulate that the Secretary of State shall allow a county clerk in consultation with his or her local clerks to select the electronic voting system used within the county provided the voting system is the same type as the uniform voting system and has been certified by the Board of State Canvassers. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Elections and Ethics.

**House Bill 5693**, introduced by Rep. David Knezek, would require all elections where a statewide office, judicial office or legislative office appear on the ballot to be conducted as mail-in elections. The county clerk would have the option of converting a local election where a state candidate does not appear on the ballot to a mail-in election. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Elections and Ethics.

**Senate Bill 1008**, introduced by Sen. John Pappageorge, amends the Revised Judicature Act to provide that candidates for office have the same protection against slander, libel and defamation that he or she would have if they were not a candidate for elective office. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have on these bills or others that you are interested in knowing more about.

**MAMC Legislative Committee**

Sarah Bydalek, CMC  
City of Walker  
MAMC 2nd Vice President  
Legislative Committee Chair

The MAMC Legislative Committee meets monthly at Delta Township. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17th at 10:30 a.m. We will post our minutes to the MAMC website after each meeting.

We plan to send an email blast out to everyone when there are pending bills that members should be aware of. Please continue to check the MAMC website for updates to the “Matrix” and “List of MAMC Priorities” documents.

If anyone is interested in joining the MAMC Legislative Committee please contact Sarah Bydalek at sbydalek@ci.walker.mi.us or at (616) 791-6865.
Meet the New MAMC Board Members

Mary R. Clark, Delta Charter Township

Mary R Clark was elected to the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Board of Directors at the 15th Annual Summer Conference that was held in Grand Rapids from June 24-27, 2014. Mary was appointed Delta Charter Township Clerk in October 2011 to complete a vacated term and was then elected in November 2012. Prior to her appointment, she worked as Legislative Assistant in the Michigan House of Representatives 68th District where she worked on the Appropriations Committees for Higher Education, Community Colleges, and Community Health in addition to staffing the Capitol Caucus, Local Government Caucus and the Women's Caucus.

Mary has been a member of MAMC and IIMC since 2011 and graduated from the Michigan Municipal Clerks Institute in March of 2014. She has served on the MAMC Legislative Committee since 2012. A graduate of Illinois State University, Mary enjoys playing bridge, gardening and spending time with her five grandchildren. Mary will serve as the Education Director for MAMC, working on Institute, Summer Conference and Education Day.

Jeremy Howard, City of Mt. Pleasant

Jeremy Howard was elected to the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Board of Directors at the 15th Annual Summer Conference that was held in Grand Rapids from June 24-27, 2014. He is currently serving as the City Clerk and Information Technology Director for the City of Mt. Pleasant (population 26,000).

After attending Michigan State University and graduating from Central Michigan University, Jeremy started his work with the City of Mt. Pleasant in 2001 in the Information Technology Department. In 2008 when the city was looking for a new City Clerk Jeremy was asked to take on that role as well, and he now manages both departments for the city. Jeremy has been an active member of MAMC and IIMC since 2008 and graduated from the Michigan Municipal Clerks Institute in March of 2011. He is a regular attendee of both the Masters Academy and Summer Conference. He has also served on numerous MAMC committees including conference, education, and website selection and has taught several classes at the Clerk’s Institute, Master Academy, and Summer Conferences.

In his free time Jeremy enjoys spending time with his family including his wife, Nichole, and their three sons, Owen (15), Gideon (13), and Silas (11), who keep them very busy. Jeremy will be taking on the Director role of Conference Co-Chair for 2015 and is looking forward to working even more closely with the MAMC Board of Directors and the many member clerks in order to continue to make the organization stronger and offer opportunities for education, growth, and networking to all of the hard working clerks in Michigan.

Lanie McManus, Charter Township of Garfield

Lanie McManus, of The Charter Township of Garfield, was appointed to the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Board of Directors in July 2014. Lanie is currently serving as the Deputy Clerk for Garfield Township, a position that she has held for two years working under Clerk Kay Schumacher. Lanie began her professional career working for the Traverse City Area Public Schools. She worked for several years in the private sector before beginning her term as Deputy Clerk. Lanie is in her second year of Michigan Municipal Clerks Institute. Lanie is also an active member of the Grand Traverse County Clerks Association.

Lanie and her husband Joe have two children, Rachel (Josh Wagner) and Kyle as well as a granddaughter Lillian Grace Wagner, all of Traverse City. In her spare time Lanie enjoys gardening, baking and taking walks with her dogs, Lucy and Millie. Lanie serves as a Deacon at Immaculate Conception Church. Lanie is looking forward to serving on the Board of Directors as Co-Chair of Education and expanding her roles in the future.
2014 Conference Recap

Jennifer Venema
Caledonia Charter Township
MAMC Conference Chair

Thank you to all of the Clerks who joined us at the 2014 Annual MAMC Conference in Grand Rapids. This year’s conference was filled with inspiring speakers, great educational sessions, amazing food and wonderful entertainment. If there were classes that you were unable to attend, handouts from the breakout sessions are available on the MAMC website.

A giant THANK YOU to outgoing board members Judy Bigney, 2014 Conference Chair and Tina Barton, 2014 Education Chair. Our conference would not have been as successful as it was without the hard work and dedication of these two beautiful women.

Mark your calendars now for the 2015 Annual Conference at Mission Point on Mackinac Island, June 23-26. Jeremy and I are excited to begin planning that event and look forward to seeing you there!

Upcoming Events

August 20
Board of Directors Meeting
Delta Township Offices, Lansing

September 5
Northern Michigan Public Service Academy
Lakeview Arena, Marquette

September 11-12
MAMC Board Strategic Planning Session
Rockwell Lake Lodge, Luther

October 2-4
IIMC Region V Meeting
Cambria Suites, Uniontown, OH

October 15
Board of Directors Meeting
Delta Township Offices, Lansing

Jeremy Howard, CMC
City of Mt. Pleasant
MAMC Conference Co-Chair

IIMC Region V News!

Terri Kowal, Auburn Hills
Region V Director

The Ohio Clerks cordially invite you to attend the IIMC Region V Meeting on October 2-4, 2014, in “Union”town, Ohio. They are putting together a program that will offer a wealth of educational opportunities allowing you to earn up to 6.75 points toward your CMC/MMC designation, and 2 points toward your Michigan Clerk Certification.

The program will kick off on Thursday morning with an optional Athenian Dialogue. Thursday evening, the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association will host a “Meet and Greet” in the lobby of the Cambria Suites where you can fine-tune your networking skills with clerks from Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee.

Friday’s education sessions will include topics on leadership, development, and advice on how to manage multiple bosses. The fun continues Friday evening at Maize Valley Winery where you can join us for dinner, partake in wine tasting, catch-up with old friends in the beer garden, get lost in the 8-acre corn maize, hop on a wagon ride, take-in a pig race or watch a pumpkin cannon demonstration.

On Saturday morning we will begin with a Region V business meeting that will address important issues facing IIMC and Region V as well as highlight the 2015 IIMC Annual Conference in Hartford, CT. To wrap up the program, Region Directors, Terri Kowal and Lanaii Benne, will lead an educational session called crucial conversations, a roundtable discussion with veteran clerks.

For lodging accommodations, contact Cambria Suites Akron-Canton Airport at 330-899-1990. Be sure to make your reservations before September 17th to get the guaranteed rate of $99, plus tax, for one king bed and $119, plus tax, for two queen beds. Remember to identify yourself as being with OMCA/REGION V to obtain these discounted rates, which will be available Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights.

Region V Meetings provide a tremendous value for new and seasoned municipal clerks alike. It’s an opportunity to share experiences, network and participate in a great learning experience all while supporting IIMC’s mission to further “professionalism in local government through education.”

The registration form is available at www.iimc.com, linked to the MAMC website, or please contact Terri Kowal, MMC, your Region V Director at www.auburnhills.org or 248-370-9402.
Membership: 890 Members

MAMC continuously strives to improve your membership benefits. As a result, the number of members permitted to vote, debate, attend meetings and classes has now increased, as well as the frequency of legislative reporting. These changes were a combined effort of the membership and the Board of Directors to improve services and participation in our organization.

Membership benefits include free or reduced educational costs, legislative influence, forum discussion, networking, website, resources, MAMC Newsletter, and more. At the June conference, it was voted by the membership to amend Article III, Section 1. Active Members to permit all active members to make motions and vote on matters before the Association, which includes Clerk of the Year. Previously only one active member per governmental unit could make motions or vote.

Although legislation has always been a top priority, we believed there was room for improvement with respect to reporting to our membership. Our Lobbyist, Bill Zaagman, represents MAMC in Lansing with the guidance of the MAMC Board, CEO and Legislative Committees. You asked and the Board heard you! MAMC’s list of legislative priorities are now published on the website. As an added benefit, you will receive more frequent updates on the progress of priority legislation. Reports will be provided via email blast.

Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk (CMMC) Program: 80 Members Certified

MAMC celebrated the roll-out of the CMMC program at Free Education Day in February 2014. In five short months, a staggering eighty members have already become certified. Congratulations to all!

MAMC has developed a ground-breaking, state-wide certification program that we will continuously monitor, review, and strive to improve. Recently, the Guidelines and Application Form were further reviewed by the Board of Directors, and we found that two organizations had been inadvertently missed: the Michigan Municipal Treasurer’s Association and the International Institute of Municipal Clerk’s. As a result, these two organizations were added to the list of approved organizations to attain points under Miscellaneous Coursework. Further, it has been determined that two (2) points will be awarded for attending the upcoming IIMC Region V Meeting in Uniontown, OH, from October 2-4, 2014.

Have you applied for your CMMC? Go to: www.michiganclerks.org.
By-laws Amendments

Two By-laws Amendments were overwhelmingly adopted by our members during the Membership Meeting at our annual conference. The first amendment conveys voting rights to all Active Members of MAMC. In the past voting and debating rights were allowed to only one member per municipality. The second amendment adds the duties of coordinating the new Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk (CMMC) program to the position of the Membership Director and cleans up language to eliminate defunct programming.

Work will continue into 2015 to review the MAMC’s By-laws and identify areas where clarification is needed. Proposed amendments will be presented to the membership for consideration at our next membership meeting, scheduled to coincide with Free Education Day in February.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this amendment project, please contact Ways and Means Director, Cherilynn Brown.

2014 Clerk of the Year Award Winners

MAMC’s Clerk of the Year Awards celebrate excellence. Although we each come to our time-honored profession by a different path, once here we find among our fellow clerks kindred spirits who care passionately about their work, who are not satisfied with “good enough” but strive for the highest quality, who are excited to learn and stretch and grow. We are a group who believes that excellence is the only standard to which to aspire.

With a membership of over 890 municipal clerks who live the definition of excellence, it is a wonderful challenge to choose those who rise even higher and exemplify the very best of our profession to be our Clerks of the Year. This year the honor was bestowed upon:

Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk, City of Farmington Hills

Teresa Onica, Township Clerk, Atlas Township

Katie M. Cotey, Village Clerk, Village of Parma

The awards were presented by our 2012 and 2013 Clerks of the Year, and Secretary of State Ruth Johnson was also on-hand to recognize these outstanding clerks.

“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do.” ~ Aristotle

Teresa Onica accepts the 2014 Township Clerk of the Year Award from 2013 winner Barbara Pallotta

2012 Village Clerk of the Year winner Eileen Pulker presents Katie Cotie with her award

Pam Smith is presented with the 2014 City Clerk of the Year Award by 2013 winner Heidi Isakson of Wyoming
**MAMC 5K WALK/RUN WINNERS!**

This is a BIG thank you to all the participants and helpers at the 9th Annual 5K Walk/Run in Grand Rapids. We had 26 participate in the walk/run and the winners are:

**5K Run**
- 1st place, Charles Hitchcock from Code Publishing at 18:18 minutes
- 2nd place, Jeff McCray from Burnham & Flower Insurance at 18:21 minutes
- 3rd place, Leon Wright, Clerk of Van Buren Charter Township at 18:22 minutes

**5K Walk**
- 1st place Michael Sedlak, Clerk of Green Oak Township at 29:32 minutes
- 2nd place Sheila Meiste, Clerk of Heath Township at 32:00 minutes
- 3rd place, Kim Meltzer, Clerk from the Township of Clinton at 32:13 minutes

I hope you all had fun and I hope to see all of you and many more participations at the 10th Annual 5K Walk/Run on Mackinaw Island in 2015.

Please let me know if you would like to see an eight (8) mile run or a bike competition next year. We will try to make it happen if we get enough interest.

~Betty Kennedy, MAMC Treasurer

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**MAMC Website & Social Media**

**MAMC Website**

Michiganclerks.org provides information on upcoming educational opportunities, legislative updates, employment opportunities, scholarship applications for our educational institute/annual clerk conference and more!

It also allows members to ask questions or search through past questions/answers to topics of interest through the forum.

To view member only sections or post on the site, you must sign in. We are working on a “forgot password/username” reset button. It is still in the development stages so if you need assistance please contact MAMC at info@michiganclerks.org.

**MAMC Social Media**

Did you know that the MAMC has a facebook page? Visit us at: Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC)-OFFICIAL SITE.

It is our hope that this site will grow and be a venue to connect with others in the “clerking world” that we may only see a few times a year such as at Free Education Day or the Annual Clerks Conference. Join us!

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**Financial Report**

Betty Kennedy, MMC  
Village of North Branch  
MAMC Treasurer

**MAMC - Financial Report for June 2014**

**Bank Statement**

- Beginning Balance $157,975.29
- Deposits/Credits 5,269.00
- Interest 7.80
- Withdrawals 15,172.44

**Ending Balance**

- *Main Bank Account* $148,079.65
- *Investment Account* 25,000.00

**Total Funds** $173,079.65

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