

Directors and Chapter Officers: This newsletter is mailed to chapter presidents and secretaries.
Please feel free to copy and distribute this newsletter to other chapter members.

MTA County Chapter Update

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

News for and from Michigan Townships Association County Chapters October 2008

Plan to attend upcoming MTA educational programs!

Township Governance Academy Fall 2008 Weekender

Earn up to 16 Foundations and Boardsmanship credits over a two-day period in one location. All members are welcome to attend. It is not restricted to TGA enrollees.

Full Program: All four classes, materials & meals \$369 and
Single Sessions: \$109/session

Dates & Location

October 3 & 4: Grand Haven Waterfront Holiday Inn, Spring Lake

Practical Application of Michigan's Enabling Act An Evening Planning & Zoning Workshop

Dates & Locations

October 14: Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth

October 21: Holiday Inn, Battle Creek

October 22: Ramada Inn, Grayling

November 25: University Center at NMU, Marquette

Tax Collecting 101 A Guide for New Treasurers and Deputies

Dates & Locations

Saturday, Nov. 22:

Holiday Inn, Ann Arbor

Monday, Nov. 24:

Otsego Club Resort, Gaylord &

Fetzer Center at WMU, Kalamazoo

Tuesday, Nov. 25:

Comfort Suites, Mt. Pleasant &

University Center at NMU, Marquette

Early bird rate: \$89

For additional information on an MTA workshop, contact MTA Education and Communications Aide Gloria Huhn at (517) 321-6467, ext. 227 or gloria@michigantownships.org.

MTA-PAC has announced candidate endorsements for the general election

Visit the MTA Home page, www.michigantownships.org, or contact MTA Legislation Administrative Coordinator Erma Linn at (517) 321-6467, ext. 236, for a list of endorsed candidates.

There's still time. Reserve your county chapter hospitality suite today!

There are a limited number of suites available to rent during the MTA Annual Educational Conference & Expo, Jan. 27-30, 2009 in Detroit. Suites are available at the host hotel, Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, at discounted rates of \$279 plus tax, per night for a junior suite and \$319 plus tax, per night for a deluxe suite, so reserve your suite early.

For additional information or to make reservations, Contact MTA Education Coordinator Kristin Kratky at (517) 321-6467, ext. 230, or kristin@michigantownships.org.

NOTE: Do not contact the Detroit Marriott directly; the hotel staff is unable to assist you.

Visit the MTA Home page regularly at www.michigantownships.org, to view Headlines and Hot Topics. Currently:

- The long-awaited Township of Excellence application forms are now available! Visit the MTA homepage or contact MTA Public Affairs Liaison Jennifer Hoff at (517) 321-6467, ext. 247, or jennifer@michigantownships.org to receive the guidelines and application so your township can apply.
- Intergovernmental cooperation grant information is available from the Centers for Regional Excellence program. To learn more, visit www.michigan.gov/cre.
- A new records retention schedule for clerks' records has been approved. Visit the MTA Web site, www.michigantownships.org, or contact MTA Member Information Aide Tammie Underhill at (517) 321-6467, ext. 244, to receive a copy by mail or email.

MTA model Planning Commission Ordinances available

Under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act (MPEA), as of Sept. 1, 2008, all new township planning commissions must be created by ordinance, and a township that already had a planning commission must adopt an ordinance confirming the planning commission's establishment or conforming a pre-existing ordinance to the MPEA's requirements, no later than July 1, 2011. MTA staff and Legal Counsel have developed three model planning commission ordinances tailored to townships' needs. Visit MTA's Web page on "Transitioning to the New Michigan Planning Enabling Act," www.michigantownships.org/mpea.asp.

The 2009 Annual Educational Conference and Trade Expo is January 27-30 in Detroit

Plan to attend! Following an election year, the MTA urges newly elected officials and veteran township officials as well, to attend this spectacular event. There is always something to learn with the multitude of different breakout sessions. Endless educational opportunities will abound.



Conference registration begins Oct. 1. Registration and workshop information is in the October issue of *Michigan Township News*. Watch the mail for your copy.

Housing reservations begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at www.grandconnection.com/mta2009.

Does your township have a Web site?

There are more than 500 Michigan township web site listings on the MTA Web site at www.michigantownships.org/twpwebsites.asp, and we want to include all of them. Send your township Web site address to tammie@michigantownships.org.

Need a speaker at your next county chapter meeting?

When developing your next chapter meeting agenda, consider MIS staff as your guest speaker. We're available by appointment, to provide presentations tailored to your chapter's specific interests and needs. The Open Meetings Act, FOIA, public hearings, voting, ordinances, appointing boards and commissions, and cemetery management are only a few of the topics to consider.

Contact MTA Member Information Specialist Cindy Davis, (517) 321-6467, ext. 245, or cindy@michigantownships.org, for more information and to schedule a visit to your county chapter.

Do you need an article for your newsletter or Web site?

Do you have a township newsletter or Web site? Are you looking for material to include? MTA is offering, on a quarterly basis, newsletter material you may use in your township newsletter. Topics vary, depending on the time of year and current issues impacting township government.

The articles are a teaching tool written with the residents in mind—explaining a sometimes complicated issue in a way that's easier to understand.

If you are interested in receiving these quarterly newsletter articles, contact MTA Public Affairs Liaison Jennifer Hoff at (517) 321-6467, ext. 247, or jennifer@michigantownships.org.

MTA thanks you!

Thank you, clerks, for participating in MTA's 2008 Annual Salary Survey for fiscal years beginning January and April. For those townships who've yet to respond, a second request was mailed the week of September 22. Township clerks with a July fiscal year were mailed a survey at the same time.

The accuracy of the salary comparison reports depends on the data you provide. We couldn't do it without you. So please fill out the salary survey and return it at your earliest convenience.

Thank you, supervisors, for participating in MTA's Web Mapping Data survey. There are fewer than 200 townships that haven't responded, and we'd still like to hear from them. Contact MTA Member Information Liaison Evelyn David, (517) 321-6467, ext. 233, or evelyn@michigantownships.org, for more information or to obtain a survey.

Join the Parade of Township Flags

Has your township or MTA county chapter created a flag that represents the unique characteristics of your community? All Michigan townships and MTA County Chapters are invited to display their pride by participating in the 2009 Parade of Township Flags, which kicks off Opening Session at the MTA Annual Educational Conference, on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009.



Each township must bring its own township flag, flagpole and flag stand.

Sign up today and be part of what some attendees call "the most inspirational part of the week!" To register, contact MTA Communications Specialist Jenn Fiedler at (517) 321-6467, ext. 229, or jenn@michigantownships.org.

Did you know ... there are 1,242 townships in the state of Michigan?

- More than 50% of Michigan's population live in a township.
- Michigan is one of 20 states that have a form of township government.
- There are two types of townships in Michigan: general law and charter townships.

To learn more about the history of Michigan townships, visit the MTA Web site at www.michigantownships.org/whatisatwp.asp.

County Chapter Meeting Notes

Please send your county chapter minutes, along with any stories or photos (prints or digital), to: Tammie Underhill, Member Information Services Aide, P.O. Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908-0078, fax: (517) 321-6467 or tammie@michigantownships.org.

Alpena County

June 16: MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier announced upcoming MTA workshops and gave a legislative update. Rick Duell, NEMCOG Recycling, provided a recycling update. County commissioners provided an update on road projects. It was determined the Alpena County Chapter will sponsor one person from Maple Ridge township to attend the MTA Annual Educational Conference in January 2009.

Antrim County

June 24: MTA District 6 Director Bill Gadwau announced the 2009 MTA Annual Educational Conference will be in Detroit. The 2010 Conference will be in Grand Rapids.

Charlevoix County

June 30: County Drain Commissioner Marc Seelye reported on the proposed county storm water ordinance.

July 28: The chapter held a public forum for candidates in Charlevoix county. A Q & A session followed.

Cheboygan County

May 29: County Treasurer Linda Cronan discussed delinquent taxes and the foreclosure process. Road commissioner candidates introduced themselves. A millage for ambulance service in Cheboygan County was discussed.

Delta County

May 22: The county received a grant for brownfield clean-up, and intergovernmental cooperation on the project was discussed. Michigan Association of Counties Service Corporation Grant Coordinator Flo McCormack provided a handout and explained brownfield development clean-ups.

July 24: The chapter had a potluck dinner for their 25th annual picnic.

Eaton County

June: The chapter held a pig roast. County and state candidates attended. The chapter is sponsoring the attendance of three members to the NATaT Conference held in Washington, D.C., in September.

Huron County

June 18: Chapter dues were discussed. Huron County Emergency Services Director Burt Eichler reported on the Hazard Mitigation System and urged townships to adopt a cost recovery ordinance for hazardous materials clean-up. It was noted grants may be available for firefighter training for hazardous situations.

Ingham County

July 23: Following a pot luck dinner, MTA District 20 Director Linda Towsley gave a legislative update and provided information on the NATaT conference, fall district meetings and annual conference in January. The county budget, purchase of development rights millage proposal, and an administrative fee for local road funding were reported on.

Iron County

June 3: MSU Extension Director Julie Melchiori detailed her job duties and mentioned new projects in the county, including the newly opened Global Response North and Pine River Hardwoods state-of-the art sawmill. GIS specialist Ken Marshall, with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region, provided a demonstration on digital mapping. Chapter fees were approved.

Kalkaska County

July 21: County Commissioner Carroll Sexton spoke on the operation and financing of the county recreation complex. Chapter Secretary Don F. Darke, aged 81, will be retiring from township government. He and his wife have been married for 60 years. Congratulations and good luck Don!



Excelsior Township, Kalkaska County, Trustee Donald F. Darke and his wife Nova were married on December 18, 1948. They celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on June 21 in Excelsior Township. Darke is a member of the Kalkaska Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association, currently serving as secretary. In his years of service to local government, Don served on many committees, commissions and boards. And at the age of 81, Don is planning to retire. Thank you Don, for your commitment to the township form of government. Congratulations Don and Nova!

Lapeer County

June 17: Rep. John Stahl (R-Arcadia Twp.) provided an update on the state budget and revenue sharing. Candidates were introduced. An amount was approved to sponsor attendance to the NATaT conference in Washington, D.C. The evening's program included discussion of dog licenses, kennels and animal abuse.

Manistee County

June 25: Ken Falk, emergency management coordinator for the county, provided information on the Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact and offered a Q & A session. Solutions to curb landfill odors, BS&A tax collection software, soil erosion permits on county roads, a new recycling grant, new ATV/ORV ordinance legislation, decreasing federal SCENT funds, animal control ordinance, 911 millage and creating a joint construction code authority were discussed. MSU Extension Director Elaine Bush announced a citizen planner class beginning in September.

July 23: The county 911 millage renewal, an update on the recycling grant and the new ATV/ORV ordinance legislation allowing the use of certain parts of a roadway in northern Michigan counties were discussed. County Treasurer Russ Pomeroy reported working with township treasurers on the implementation of the BS&A tax collection software.

August 27: County Commissioner Glenn Lottie discussed the "Go Green" initiative for Manistee County. A household hazardous waste day was announced. Recycling and recycling funding were discussed.

Oscoda County

September 8: MTA Member Information Liaison Evelyn David attended the Chapter's annual picnic. She enjoyed good food and fellowship among members.

Presque Isle County

July 1: Following the chapter's annual picnic, MTA District 6 Director Ken Gauthier provided a legislative update and reported on the MTA Spring District Meetings. Candidates were introduced. Guest speaker Jeff DuPilka gave a presentation on alarm systems for advanced warning in severe weather conditions and said grants are available to help defray the cost of these systems.

Roscommon County

April 22: MTA District 10 Director Diane Randall reminded members of MTA district meetings in May and the free Webinar offered by MTA. The MTA survey for unfunded mandates was discussed. Wayne Seger of Big Fish Environmental provided material on a new aerobic septage processing facility. Household hazardous waste collection, county commissioners appointing road commissioners instead of the public election process, and recognition of deceased firefighters were discussion topics. The chapter members were given a tour and overview of Roscommon County Central Dispatch.

Schoolcraft County

July 29: Charlene Crosby, president of the Schoolcraft County Humane Society, reported on the society's operations, funding, and the need for an animal control ordinance in the county. Thompson Township Clerk and Manager of the Economic Development Corporation Laurie Jasmin addressed the issue of wind energy.

'Red Flag Rules' compliance deadline Nov. 1

Townships are subject to new federal identity theft prevention rules, referred to as the "Red Flag Rules," and some Michigan townships, including townships that maintain utility billing accounts, will be required to take steps to comply with those rules by November 1, 2008. Any township that maintains utility billing accounts, even through a third party, or maintains any continuing account that is designed to permit multiple payments--or any other account for which there is a reasonably foreseeable risk from identity theft--is required to implement a written Identity Theft Prevention Program to detect, prevent and mitigate identity theft in connection with those accounts. Contact MTA at (517) 321-6467 or visit MTA's Identity Theft Issues Web page, www.michigantownships.org/identitytheft_2.asp for more information and sample policies.

Please provide MTA with your chapter officers if they have changed.

The County Chapter Update is sent to the President or Chairperson and Secretary of your chapter.

Email your changes to tammie@michigantownships.org or fill out the information below and fax it to (517) 321-8908, or mail it to Tammie Underhill, MIS Aide, Michigan Townships Association, P.O. Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908.

COUNTY: _____

President/Chairperson:

Township _____

Position _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Secretary:

Township _____

Position _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

Please provide meeting dates or the day of the month your meetings are held (i.e., Third Wednesday of Jan., April, July, Oct.): _____
