

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.



County Chapter Update

News for and from Michigan Townships Association County Chapters ■ May 2007

Sign Up for Spring 2007 District Meetings

Attend the MTA meetings for Districts 1 through 13. These meetings offer a great opportunity to connect with fellow township officials in your area. Hear the latest news affecting your township, and get valuable education on timely topics. Discuss issues with MTA staff, visit with vendors and hear from experts in their field during our new "Around-the-Table" sessions.



Township officials share ideas at previous district meetings.

Spring District Meetings will Cover Districts 1-13:

May 15: Memorial Union at Michigan Technological University, Houghton (District 1)

May 16: Heirman Center at Bay de Noc Community College, Escanaba (Districts 2 & 3)

May 17: Cislser Center at Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie (District 4)

May 21: Civic Center, Alpena (District 7)

May 22: Treetops Resort & Conference Center, Gaylord (Districts 5 & 6)

May 23: Comfort Suites Lakeside, Houghton Lake (Districts 9 & 10)

May 24: Valley Plaza Great Hall & Convention Center, Midland (District 13)

May 30: Hagerty Center at Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City (District 8)

May 31: Holiday Inn, Big Rapids (Districts 11 & 12)

Member Information Department Michigan Townships Association

County Chapter Contact: Cindy Davis
Phone: (517) 321-6467 Fax: (517) 321-6140
Email: cindy@michigantownships.org



Strengthen Small Town Government.

The purpose of the National Association of Towns and Townships is to strengthen the effectiveness of small town government by educating lawmakers and public policy officials about how township governments operate and by advocating policies on their behalf. There has never been a more important time for government officials to take an active role at the national level to ensure that the needs of small communities are central to federal statutory, regulatory, funding and policy decisions.

County chapters can help by sponsoring a member to attend the upcoming conference in Washington, D.C. Registration cost and details can be found at www.natat.org.

SAVE THE DATE:

**NATaT's 2007
America's Town Meeting
September 5-6, 2007**

ANNOUNCEMENT!



2008 MTA Conference Date

Save the date! MTA's 55th Annual Educational Conference is scheduled for January 8-11, 2008, at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. This is earlier in January than usual, so be sure to mark your calendar.

Conference Theme:
Township Pride, Michigan Wide

Plan to Attend Upcoming MTA Educational Programs!

What You Need to Know About Personnel Policies, Hiring and Firing

- June 12 Little Bear East Arena, St. Ignace
- June 13 University Center at Northern Michigan University, Marquette
- June 14 Quality Inn, Houghton Lake
- June 19 Holiday Inn, Spring Lake
- June 20 Thomas Edison Inn, Port Huron

At Your Service: Meeting Township Needs

June 25 Comfort Inn & Suites, Mt. Pleasant

Contact the MTA Education Department for registration details at (517) 321-6467 or www.michigantownships.org/Edworkshops.asp

Spread the Word! MTA's Robinson Scholarship Now Available

Help ensure that today's youth become involved in local government tomorrow! Encourage students in your community to apply for MTA's 2007 Robert R. Robinson Memorial Scholarship by May 31, 2007.

Applicants must be a junior, senior or graduate student enrolled in a Michigan college or university and pursuing a career in local government administration. The following materials are required to apply: 1) letter of recommendation from a professor or instructor, 2) a copy of a resolution of support from a Michigan township board, and 3) a short essay on an important issue facing local government.



Students must submit application materials to: The Robert R. Robinson Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Michigan Townships Association, P.O. Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908-0078. To receive scholarship application information, visit www.michigantownships.org/rrrschol.asp or call MTA Public Affairs Liaison Jennifer Hoff at (517) 321-6467.



MTA is looking for five clerks who are located within one hour of Lansing to serve on a committee to volunteer to host a specialist from the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) who will inventory township records for the MTA township record retention schedule update.

Interested clerks should contact Cindy Davis at (517) 321-6467 or email cindy@michigantownships.org.

2007 Summer Legislative Forum

Plan ahead for the 2007 Summer Legislative Forum. This Forum is an important opportunity to meet with legislators and state officials to let them know the importance of township government.

August 8, 9, 10, 2007

Shanty Creek Resort & Club in Bellaire, MI

Early bird registration and a golf tournament are available on Wednesday. Forum sessions begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, and continue through noon on Friday.

For more information or to register, visit www.michigantownships.org/summerforum.asp or Contact MTA Legislative Administrative Coordinator Erma Linn at (517) 321-6467.



mt@-newswire

Makes Its Debut!

MTA E-News has changed! MTA's new electronic bulletin-based/Web-linked communications tool, mt@-newswire, launched at the end of March.

The *mt@-newswire* is a Web-linked means for members and other subscribers to obtain late-breaking news, action alerts, information that lends itself better to an electronic format rather than print, last-minute changes and reminders. It will relay timely, vital information about items that are more urgent in nature or that occur between publication dates of our other communications vehicles, such as the *Michigan Township News* or *Capitol Currents*.

mt@-newswire will be emailed on the first and third Tuesday of every month, except during January when we'll drop back to once during the month due to MTA Conference scheduling.

To view the latest issue of *mt@-newswire*, or to subscribe, visit www.michigantownships.org/enews.asp.

The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program uses the expertise of tribal, state, and local governments to improve the accuracy and completeness of the address list used to take the census.

Training workshops conducted by Census Bureau staff will provide "hands-on" experience using the LUCA program materials and the 2010 Census LUCA program user's guide. Contact Elisia L. Johnson, Census Data Coordinator, Library of Michigan (517) 373-2548.

United States™
**Census
2010**

Census data collection is important to townships as it can impact how funding is allocated to each township!

**PARTNERSHIPS
for
CHANGE**

Interjurisdictional Diplomacy Workshop for Land Use Planning and Community Development

This program will bring together local government leaders with local business leaders and leading citizens to discuss the barriers, benefits, and mechanics of interjurisdictional cooperation for land use planning and community development. The stakeholders will learn about the value and necessity of cooperation for economic development and how to apply the skills of diplomacy to build relationships for success in interjurisdictional planning.

Sessions will be held at the following locations:

- June 26 Horizons Conference Center, Saginaw
- June 27 Fetzer Center at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo
- June 28 Park Place Hotel, Traverse City

Contact the MTA Education Department for registration details at (517) 321-6467 or visit www.michigantownships.org/alltraining.asp

County Chapter Meeting Notes

Alcona County

January 30: MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier gave an update on current MTA issues. Guest speaker Diane Pippin spoke on archiving files and a database for records. Chapter officers were elected.

April 24: MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier spoke on MTA issues including staff changes, current and proposed legislation and MTA dues. County Road Commission Chairman Richard Karsen outlined the road projects slated for 2007. County Commissioner Carolyn Brummund reported on the State auditing Alcona County.



Red Cross Disaster Coordinator Evonne Cooke presenting at Alcona County Chapter meeting.

Alpena County

February 19: MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier spoke on current MTA issues. Chapter officers were elected. Ben Nowakowski, District Forester, spoke regarding his position and how it applies to private industry.

Antrim County

February 27: MTA District 5 Director Bill Gadwau gave an update on current MTA issues. Joe Meyers, Antrim County Associate Planner, spoke on the proposed Recycling Center in Antrim County.

Bay County

January 17: Sen. Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) attended. Chapter officers were elected. Lt. Harry Partridge provided information on the Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

April 18: Rep. Jeff Mayes (D-Bangor Charter Twp.) spoke on the state budget. Bay Future, Inc. President and CEO Fred Hollister gave a 2006 annual report.

Cheboygan County

October 26: MTA District 5 Director Charles Veneros spoke on CRAM and voting issues. Lee Riley, Supervisor of Beaver Creek Township, spoke on the tire cleanup for Crawford County.

December 7: Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Ronald Neuman gave a report on Chapter funds and announced upcoming meeting dates.

Chippewa County

October 19: Candidates for state representative Gary McDowell and Jay Dugan spoke about issues they would represent if elected.

January 18: Waste management and a countywide emergency services authority were discussed.

February 15: Future speakers, topics for speakers and township retirement plans were discussed.

March 15: MTA District 4 Director Jason Oberle reported on Michigan's deficit and how this may impact the future of townships. MTA Member Information Specialist Cindy Davis spoke on salaries and personnel issues.

Crawford County

March 10: Crawford County Economic Development Partnership Director Gaila Gilliland spoke on the confidentiality of inquiries to the EDP.

Delta County

October 26: County Commissioner Thomas Elegeert spoke on hiring a full-time sheriff to be on duty during court sessions.

January 25: Becky Vandermissen, Animal Control, presented information on the program and supplied sample ordinances.

February 22: City of Escanaba Police Captain Robert Berbohm spoke on emergency management.

March 22: Mark Kleikamp, MDOT, gave an update on replacing the bridge over the Escanaba River.

Eaton County

March 26: MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill spoke on legislation to place a moratorium on the "pop-up" of taxable value on sale of property and other governmental reforms that could impact townships.

Hillsdale County

April 4: MTA District 24 Director Randi Holthouse attended. MTA Member Information Services Liaison Evelyn David spoke on filling vacancies and holding closed sessions.

February 28: Leslie Township Treasurer Patty Wage and Leslie Township Clerk Sherry Feazel gave a presentation on the benefits of attending the MTA Township Governance Academy. Chapter officers were elected.

Ionia County

April 9: MTA Member Information Services Liaison Evelyn David answered questions about NATA. Road Commissioner Dorothy Pohl presented the annual road commission report.

Iron County

December 5: Iron County Clerk Joan Luhtanen spoke on the recent elections and County Treasurer Marcia Cornelia gave an update on once-a-year tax collection.

Kalkaska County

January 15: Junk vehicles, representation on the county planning commission, and the Kaliseum Recreation Center were discussed.

April 16: Representation on the county planning commission, Kalkaska County Traffic Safety Committee, and possible legislation that would abolish townships were discussed.

Lapeer County

February 20: MTA District 21 Director Colleen Schwartz spoke about MTA's Annual Conference dates for next year and TGA classes. Mark Opra of Thumb Narcotics reported on the unit.

April 17: Lapeer County Emergency Management Office Director Mary Stikeleather spoke on what communities should do in case of an emergency.

Lenawee County

January 15: Scott Dierks, Hydrologist and River Raisin Watershed Manager Plan Project Facilitator spoke on the watershed and the quality of River Raisin for boating, fishing, and drinking. Diana Cregar presented an update on the GIS system.

February 19: MTA District 24 Director Randi Holthouse gave an update on current MTA issues. Thomas VanWagner, USDA, presented a program on animal agriculture.

March 19: MTA District 24 Director Randi Holthouse gave an update on current MTA issues. County Commissioner Jack Branch reported on jail admissions, emergency management, and septic waste stations. County Road Commissioner Gregg Orrin spoke on frost law regulations and applying for exemptions.

April 16: MTA District 24 Director Randi Holthouse spoke on current MTA issues. County Commissioner, K.Z. Bolton reported on jail facility issues, equalization, and the Taylor Park shooting range. County Road Commissioner Gregg Orrin discussed construction estimates for the upcoming construction season and open positions at the Road Commission.

Manistee County

April 25: County Sheriff Dale Kowalkowski reported on grant funds received for a new marine law enforcement boat and other marine safety information.

Monroe County

February 20: 2007 MTA President Larry Rutledge was introduced and spoke briefly on MTA's goals, as well as a legislative update. Probate Judge Pamela Moskwa spoke on the Active Balanced Community Program in Monroe County.

Montcalm County

April 17: The Chapter held its annual banquet and auction. MTA District 16 Director Doug Merchant and MTA Member Information Services Liaison Evelyn David attended.



Pine Township Trustee Dorothy Jensen, Linda Hansen and Supervisor Ed Hansen enjoy a Hawaiian themed annual dinner at the Montcalm County Chapter meeting.

Oakland County

April 4: MTA Legislative Liaison Tom Frazier spoke on Storm Water Phase II permits and other current issues. MTA Life Member Ron Voorheis attended.

Oceana County

February 22: Rep. Goeff Hansen (R-Hart Twp.) gave an update on the state budget process.

Ogemaw County

September 14: MTA Legislative Liaison Tom Frazier spoke on election issues.

December 18: The chapter held its holiday dinner. MTA Director of Communications and Education Debra McGuire gave a legislative update and encouraged everyone to attend MTA's Annual Educational Conference.

Otsego County

March 20: MTA District 6 Director Bill Gadwau reported on the emergency preparedness plan. MSU Extension Director Phil Alexander spoke on upcoming activities.

Presque Isle County

January 2: County Clerk Sue Rhode spoke on the school board election, new voter cards, and requested any change in township officials be reported to her. Road Commission Supervisor Eric Rose reported on fuel tax increases and the list of road projects planned for 2007. County Extension Director Dave Glenn spoke on the new plat book.

April 3: MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier reported on current MTA issues. County Drain Commissioner Charles Lyon indicated that he is working on a stormwater management plan. County Board Commissioner Carl Altman gave an update on a new zoning ordinance and the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center.

Roscommon County

September 26: Crawford-Roscommon Recycling Household Hazardous Waste Coordinator Ron Nagy and Crawford-Roscommon Recycling Coordinator Barb Stauffer gave a report on the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off and various garbage collection contracts.

St. Clair County

January 11: The chapter held its annual dinner. MTA District 18 Director Jack Randolph and Rep. John Espinoza (D-Crosell) attended. MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill was guest speaker.

Saginaw County

December 13: MTA Legislative Liaison Bill Anderson attended the chapter's holiday dinner and spoke on cable franchising.

Schoolcraft County

April 26: Chapter officers were elected. Chapter President James Barr spoke on the need to schedule face-to-face meetings with senators and representatives and to call or email them concerning reforms that are purported to reduce state expenditures. Chapter Vice President Omer Doran reported on a grant opportunity to update the county master plan.



From left to right: Rep. John Espinoza (D-Crosell), Sen. Judson Gilbert (R-Clay Twp.), Chapter Secretary Pat Brozowski, Chapter President Bill Zweng, MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill, Chapter Vice President Mike Lauwers, MTA District 18 Director Jack Randolph, Rep. Phillip Pavlov (R-St. Clair Twp.).

The St. Clair County MTA Chapter held its annual dinner meeting on January 22, 2007 at Crystal Gardens in Marysville. Larry Merrill, MTA Executive Director, was the guest speaker. Two hundred twenty five township officials attended. Five U.S. Army soldiers presented and retired the colors. Township officials look forward to this special event for the purpose of exchanging ideas and to enhance the operations of their township. The Chapter also sponsors quarterly meetings hosted by volunteer townships with guest speakers. Current events associated with township government are the subject of discussion.

***Submitted by:
Pat Brozowski, Secretary/Treasurer
St. Clair County Chapter***