

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 ♦ January 2007

Join Us For the County Chapter Session at the 2007 MTA Annual Educational Conference

County Chapter members—and township officials interested in forming a County Chapter:

If you are attending the MTA Conference, you should plan to participate in the **County Chapter Session** from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, in the Nicolet Room on Level 5 of the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

County Chapter members will be encouraged to describe how they make their chapter meetings

successful and what keeps members coming back for more. Networking between chapters will also be encouraged.

Two copies of the County Chapter Handbook will be available for each chapter that sends a representative.

MTA Staff will discuss how MTA can provide speakers on various topics for chapter meetings and to answer questions on chapter administration.



**Member Information Department
Michigan Townships Association**

County Chapter Contact: Cindy Davis
Phone: (517) 321-6467 Fax: (517) 321-8908
Email: cindy@michigantownships.org

In the January/February
Michigan Township News magazine:

- Managing Growth in Your Township
 - MTA's 2007 Proposed Legislative Policy Platform
 - Behind the Scenes (Part II) with MTA's 2007 Conference Keynote, Steven Ford—Son of the Late President Gerald R. Ford
-

"Got MiDEAL?" If So, Let MTA Know!

Operated by the Department of Management and Budget, MiDEAL extends State of Michigan contracts to members. ("MiDEAL" stands for Michigan Delivering Extended Agreements Locally.)

If you currently participate in or have considered joining MiDEAL, please contact MTA Member Information Services Director Evelyn David at (517) 321-6467 or evelyn@michigantownships.org. MTA is evaluating the benefits to townships of all sizes, and your feedback is important. Have you ever investigated joining MiDEAL for purchasing products? If you are currently a member, how easy is it to use? What types of products have you used it to purchase? How much have you saved?

MiDEAL membership is open to any city, village, county, township, school district, intermediate school district, non-profit hospital, college, university, or community college.

A wide variety of state contracts are available to MiDEAL members. Benefits of membership are not limited to hard dollar savings on goods and services. Reduced costs, derived from improved specifications and increased price competition, as well as indirect savings can be realized. These indirect savings include eliminating administrative duplication by saving time and labor required to:

- Recruit and maintain a diverse pool of potential suppliers
- Process requisitions for bids
- Write and update specifications
- Research industries
- Take, read and evaluate bids
- Make awards
- Test products and samples

For more information on MiDEAL, visit the MiDEAL Web site at: www.michigan.gov/localgov/ or contact DMB Purchasing Operations at MiDeal@michigan.gov or (517) 335-0230.

IRS Announces 2007 Standard Mileage Rates

Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, the Internal Revenue Service 2007 optional standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 48.5 cents per mile for business miles driven;
- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service to a charitable organization.

The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 44.5 cents per mile for 2006. The new rate for medical and moving purposes compares to 18 cents in 2006. The primary reasons for the higher rates were higher prices for vehicles and fuel during the year ending in October.

Revenue Procedure 2006-49 contains additional information on these standard mileage rates. It is available at www.irs.gov.

Reminder: 2007 Threshold for Publishing Minutes is \$70 Million

MCL 41.72a requires a general law township to publish the township board minutes in a newspaper within 21 days after the board meeting if the township's taxable value is over a threshold that is annually indexed to inflation. The new threshold is released by the Michigan Department of Treasury by December 1 of each year. The threshold for 2007 is a taxable value of \$70 million.

A general law township that is required to publish must publish either the complete text of the minutes or a synopsis of the minutes prepared by the township clerk and approved by the supervisor.

Every charter township, regardless of its taxable value, must post and publish its board minutes or a synopsis, but "publication" can be either publication in a newspaper or the board may choose to post the minutes in five public places within the township or on the township's Web site and publish a small notice in the newspaper identifying where the minutes have been posted with seven days of posting. (MCL 42.8)