



MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kalamazoo Charter Township Supervisor Elected MTA President

*Cooper Charter Township Supervisor Elected to MTA
Board*

Delta Charter Township, Mich.—Gary Cramer, supervisor of Kalamazoo Charter Township, was elected president of the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) Board of Directors at the Association's 55th Annual Educational Conference at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. Jeffrey Sorensen, supervisor of Cooper Charter Township, was also elected as the newest member to the MTA Board, representing District 19 (Allegan, Barry and Kalamazoo Counties).

"As president of the Michigan Townships Association, I am looking forward to advocating on behalf of all townships in the state of Michigan," Cramer said. "I believe that township government is effective and efficient, and I will continue to look forward to improving these qualities.

"Township government is fundamentally strong, and has a close connection to residents. I will continue to work to improve the excellent foundation of township government as we move further into the 21st century."

A supervisor since 2000, Sorensen is excited about his new position on the MTA Board, saying he is looking forward to working together with his fellow township officials to strengthen township government in Michigan.

"I am sincerely humbled to be elected to the position of District 19 Director," Sorensen said. "I hope to build a strong relationship with the townships in this district.

"It is my hope to continue to promote the interests of township officials and encourage ethical practices that uphold the traditions, values, and unique characteristics of township government and the people we serve. We are all a community and what affects one township affects us all."

Cramer was elected trustee of Kalamazoo Charter Township in 1980 and served in that position until 1996 when he was elected supervisor. He has served on the MTA Board of Directors since 1999.

A retired elementary school principal, Cramer has served as chair of the Kalamazoo Regional Water & Wastewater Commission, chair and vice chair of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, and is a member of a number of organizations, including the Kalamazoo Charter Township Policy and Administration Committee and the Northside Business Association. He is a member of the Western Michigan University Volunteer Hall of Fame and received the National Association of Towns and Townships Leadership Award in 2001. Cramer and his wife of 42 years, Jan, are both graduates of Western Michigan University and continue to actively support the school. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Prior to becoming supervisor, Sorensen served on the Cooper Charter Township fire department beginning in 1986. From 1988 through 2000, he served as the assistant fire chief.

In addition, Sorensen served as president of the Kalamazoo County Council of Government for 2006 and 2007. He has been a member of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study since 2000. He is the vice chair of the Kalamazoo Regional Water and Wastewater Commission, where he has served since 2000.

In 1996, Sorensen was awarded the Parchment Rotary Club Award for outstanding community service, and in 2004, he received the Outstanding Community Service Award for his contribution to Cooper Charter Township and the surrounding community for dedication to the Cooper Charter Township Fire Department. Sorensen and his wife, Annette, have been married for 26 years. They have two children.

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The Michigan Townships Association promotes the interests of 1,242 townships by fostering strong, vibrant communities; advocating legislation to meet 21st century challenges; developing knowledgeable, township officials and enthusiastic supporters of township government; and encouraging ethical practices of elected officials who uphold the traditions and unique characteristics of township government and the values of the people of Michigan.