



# PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE

## 2026 MTA Annual Educational Conference & Expo

April 20-23 | Grand Traverse Resort

Registration opens Jan. 5





## Join MTA this April as we embark on the 'Pathway to the Future'

Michigan's 1,240 townships are forging ahead with purpose—strengthening communities through collaboration, innovation and action. By working together, communities are better equipped to **address challenges, seize opportunities** and **drive lasting progress**. Through a shared commitment to growth and improvement, we can **build a strong, connected future**.

Gather with fellow township officials on this **pathway to education, networking and connection** at MTA's 2026 Conference & Expo, held April 20-23 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme Township (Grand Traverse Co.). Nowhere else will you find an event of this magnitude and value for all who serve Michigan's townships. We welcome you to **join us for three extraordinary days** that include a lineup of **more than 50 educational sessions** on topics selected to inspire you and improve your public service and your community, plus **Michigan's largest municipal expo** with 100-plus local government vendors and invaluable time to **network with your township peers**.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

Registration begins **Jan. 5**; housing opens **Jan. 27**.

# schedule at a glance

## Day 1

Monday, April 20

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Assessors Renewal: Leadership by Design*
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Defining Your Township's Land Use Future* (F-102)  
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	Understanding Assessing Basics*
9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Mapping the Money: Strengthening and Streamlining Financial Oversight* 
9:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.	Legal Institute for Township Attorneys*
11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.	MTA Registration Center, Ticket Xchange & Friends of MTA (PAC) Booth Open <i>Registration items sponsored by BS&amp;A Software, Inc., Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC, Foster, Swift, Collins &amp; Smith, PC, Hartleb Agency and Rosati, Schultz, Joppich &amp; Amtsuechler, PC; Ticket Xchange sponsored by webuildfun; novelty ribbons sponsored by Hubbell, Roth &amp; Clark, Inc.</i>
5-6 p.m.	Volunteer Reception <i>(by invitation only; RSVP required) Sponsored by Miller Canfield</i>
8-11:30 p.m.	“3-D” Welcome Reception at McGee’s 72 <i>Sponsored by Bendzinski &amp; Co., Municipal Finance Advisors</i>

## Day 2

Tuesday, April 21

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	MTA Registration Center & Ticket Xchange Open <i>Registration items sponsored by BS&amp;A Software, Inc., Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC, Foster, Swift, Collins &amp; Smith, PC, Hartleb Agency and Rosati, Schultz, Joppich &amp; Amtsuechler, PC; Ticket Xchange sponsored by webuildfun; novelty ribbons sponsored by Hubbell, Roth &amp; Clark, Inc.</i>
8-9 a.m.	Complimentary breakfast for all attendees & guests <i>Sponsored by Polimorphic</i>
9-10:15 a.m.	Opening Session <i>Sponsored by DTE; coffee service sponsored by Michigan CLASS</i>
10:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m.	MTA Expo, Bookstore & Friends of MTA (PAC) Booth Open
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Township Business Solution Sessions 
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.	TGA Graduate “Class of 2026” Luncheon  <i>(by invitation only; RSVP required)</i>
1-2:15 p.m.	Concurrent Educational Sessions
2:45-4 p.m.	Concurrent Educational Sessions
4-5:30 p.m.	Evening in the Expo Reception
7-10 p.m.	Par-Plan Fun Night at the Kentucky Derby <i>Sponsored by Michigan Township Participating Plan</i>

## Day 3

Wednesday, April 22

7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	MTA Registration Center and Ticket Xchange Open <i>Registration items sponsored by BS&amp;A Software, Inc., Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC, Foster, Swift, Collins &amp; Smith, PC, Hartleb Agency and Rosati, Schultz, Joppich &amp; Amtsuechler, PC; Ticket Xchange sponsored by webuildfun; novelty ribbons sponsored by Hubbell, Roth &amp; Clark, Inc.</i>
7:30-8:30 a.m.	Complimentary breakfast for all attendees & guests, <i>sponsored by Consumers Energy</i>
8:30-9:45 a.m.	General Session, featuring keynote address by Greg Bennick <i>Sponsored in part by Consumers Energy; coffee service sponsored by Michigan CLASS</i>
9:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	MTA Expo, Bookstore & Friends of MTA (PAC) Booth Open
10:30-11:45 a.m.	Concurrent Educational Sessions
11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.	Complimentary grab-and-go lunch in the Expo <i>(free for ALL attendees &amp; guests!) Sponsored in part by Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman &amp; Koches, PC and Great Lakes Recreation; lunch beverage sponsored by Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.</i>
1:15-2:30 p.m.	Concurrent Educational Sessions
3-4:15 p.m.	Concurrent Educational Sessions
6:30-9 p.m.	MTA Banquet <i>Entertainment sponsored in part by Acrisure; caricatures sponsored by Rehmann</i>
9-11 p.m.	Afterglow Reception <i>Sponsored by Acrisure</i>

## Day 4

Thursday, April 23

\*Additional fee and pre-registration required.

Schedule subject to change.

# conference highlights

## Opening Session | Tuesday, April 21

We'll start the Conference on an inspiring and reflective note with our Opening Session. Join us as the MTA family gathers together to remember and honor our late 2025 MTA President **Harold Koviak**, whose wisdom and guidance inspired the **Pathway to the Future** theme for this week.

After honoring Harold's lifetime of service to townships and unwavering dedication to MTA and its members, we'll continue this motivational morning with the always-moving presentation of colors and Township Parade of Flags, and recognize the Township Governance Academy graduating class of 2026 and inaugural Red Book Ready program recipients.

Attendees will also hear from MTA leadership, including **Kevin Beeson**, who has assumed the 2025 Association presidency, and Executive Director **Tom Hickson** on how township leaders can work together with vision and determination to help set their community, region and our state on the **Pathway to the Future**.



Our Opening Session will honor MTA's late president, and friend, Harold Koviak.



Beeson

Hickson

*Sponsored by* **DTE**

*Coffee service sponsored by* **Michigan CLASS**

## MTA Expo | Tuesday, April 21 & Wednesday, April 22

Michigan's largest municipal exposition offers a one-stop shop of township vendors and suppliers that can help you realize opportunities to provide even better programs, systems and services for your community. No where else will you find such a wide assortment of companies serving townships—from attorneys to engineering firms, software companies to environmental services—all there to help you discover ways to run your township more efficiently.



Don't miss the MTA Bookstore, where you'll find nearly two dozen publications geared exclusively to township government *and* save 15% off *all* MTA books! Stop by the Friends of MTA Booth, and learn more about how your contributions can help MTA support legislators who value township government.

On Tuesday from 4 to 5:30 p.m., enjoy an **Evening in the Expo Reception**—a casual networking opportunity with additional time to connect with exhibitors, who will have complimentary drink tickets to give to attendees. (*Cash bars will also be available.*)

*Directional floor graphics sponsored by*



**Sponsors**

*(as of Dec. 18, 2025)*

**Platinum**



**TRAVERSE city TOURISM**

**Gold**



**polimorphic**



**STG**  
Custom Websites  
Aerial Drone Video  
Document Management

## Evening events include:

### "3-D" Welcome Reception | Monday, April 20

Enjoy Desserts, Drinks & Dancing at McGee's 72.

*Sponsored by* **Bendzinski & Co.**  
MUNICIPAL FINANCE ADVISORS  
A MICHIGAN FIRM WORKING FOR MICHIGAN

### Par-Plan Fun Night at the Kentucky Derby | Tuesday, April 21

We're off to the races! Don your finest derby wear (don't forget your hat!) and be transported to Churchill Downs, for an evening of horse racing-themed games—and a little friendly competition (plus beverages and hors d'oeuvres). Will you find yourself in the winner's circle?

*Sponsored by* **MI Par Plan**

### Afterglow Reception | Wednesday, April 22

Keep the night going with music, drinks and dancing following the MTA Banquet.

*Sponsored by* **ACRISURE**

### There IS such a thing as a free lunch!

On Wednesday, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., **ALL** attendees and guests can head to the MTA Expo to pick up a complimentary boxed lunch, including sandwich, chips and beverage. (That means every meal on Wednesday is included with full-Conference and guest registrations! Lunch is also included for Wednesday-only registrants.) Enjoy your free lunch at seating in the Expo and take time to visit with exhibitors. *Thank you to lunch sponsors Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC and Great Lakes Recreation, and lunch beverage sponsor Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.*

## General Session | Wednesday, April 22

Leading a township is a lot like a juggling act—multiple priorities flying, new challenges popping up and the day-to-day responsibilities that never stop coming. Drawing on the conference theme, **Pathway to the Future**, this year's keynote speaker **Greg Bennick** explores how consistency, cohesion and a shared commitment to your township can help your board stay balanced without dropping the ball. Bennick demonstrates how steady, intentional teamwork transforms challenges into opportunities and small, consistent actions turn emerging trends into real progress. Discover practical, forward-thinking strategies that make the path ahead feel exciting and achievable. Expect an energizing mix of insight, humor and hands-on inspiration designed to help local leaders move their service, and their township, forward confidently—together—on the **Pathway to the Future**.

*Sponsored in part by* 

*Coffee service sponsored by* 



## MTA Banquet | Wednesday, April 22

Gather together for an evening of camaraderie and entertainment at MTA's Annual Banquet, featuring a delicious dinner—and the company of more than 1,000 dedicated local officials and guests. We'll honor important individuals who have made significant contributions to the Association and townships, including the year's recipient of the "Spirit of MTA" award. Then, get ready to laugh, gasp and cheer as **Ivan Pecel** takes the stage, blending laugh-out-loud comedy with jaw-dropping juggling to create one unforgettable evening of entertainment.

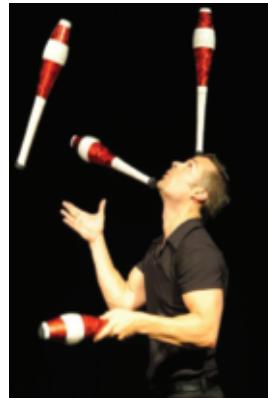
*NOTE: The MTA Banquet is included with full-Conference and guest registrations only. Additional tickets may be purchased using the registration form on page 10. Pre-select your seat on-site at the Ticket Xchange. Those with special dietary needs should contact Kristin at (517) 321-6467, ext. 230 or [kristin@michigantownships.org](mailto:kristin@michigantownships.org) at least two weeks before Conference.*

*Banquet entertainment sponsored in part by*



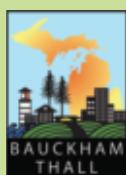
*Caricatures sponsored by* 

*Ticket Xchange sponsored by* 



## MTA Annual Meeting | Thursday, April 23

Take part in the final, but critically important, event of the Conference—our Annual Meeting. The business meeting for the Association, this morning event is your opportunity to help guide MTA's future direction, as delegates cast their vote on proposed policies to be included in MTA's 2026 Policy Platform (*only elected officials from member townships may vote*). In addition, attendees will participate in the installation of the 2026 MTA president and officers, and honor those officials who helped lead and shape the Association.



**HARTLEB**  
AGENCY INSURANCE WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH

**MILLER  
CANFIELD**

**NELSON  
GRANITE**

**Rehmann**

**Start your mornings off right—and keep up your energy throughout the day!**

Before heading in to the Opening Session on Tuesday and General Session on Wednesday, all attendees and guests can enjoy complimentary light breakfast and coffee (*sponsored by Polymorphic and Consumers Energy*). We'll also have coffee during the Opening and General Sessions (*sponsored by Michigan CLASS*), and you can enjoy an extra pick-me-up with complimentary coffee available into the afternoon both days (*courtesy of The Mannik & Smith Group*).

## More bang for your buck

This year's Conference offers even more value for attendees, with **complimentary breakfast on both Tuesday and Wednesday AND lunch on Wednesday!** You'll also be able to enjoy food and beverages at numerous events throughout the week, including:

- Drinks and desserts at the "3-D Welcoming Reception" on April 20, *sponsored by Bendzinski & Co., Municipal Finance Advisors*
- Select Business Solution Sessions, held over the lunch hour on April 21, include refreshments or lunch, courtesy of MTA Allied Service Providers
- Complimentary coffee during the Opening and General Sessions on April 21 and April 22, *sponsored by Michigan CLASS*, and throughout the morning and into the afternoon both days, *courtesy of The Mannik & Smith Group*
- Complimentary drink tickets available from vendors at the Evening in the Expo Reception on April 21
- Heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks at Par Plan Fun Night on April 21, *sponsored by Michigan Township Participating Plan*
- Breakfast for all attendees and guests before the Opening Session on April 21, *sponsored by Polymorphic*, and before the General Session on April 22, *sponsored by Consumers Energy*
- **NEW!** This year, we are thrilled to offer lunch for **EVERY** attendee and guest on Wednesday in the Expo, *sponsored in part by Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC and Great Lakes Recreation, and lunch beverage sponsored by Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.*
- A three-course meal at the banquet on April 22 (*One banquet ticket is included with full Conference and guest registrations. Purchase additional tickets on the registration form or on-site.*)
- Complimentary beverages at the Afterglow Reception following the banquet, *sponsored by Acrisure*

 **CARLISLE WORTMAN**  
ASSOCIATES, INC.

 **HRC**  
HUBBELL, ROTH & CLARK, INC  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS SINCE 1915



**weBUILDFUN**

**Silver**

**Bronze**

# general information

**Attire**—Business casual dress is appropriate for all events. Due to fluctuations in room temperature, MTA encourages you to bring a sweater or jacket for your comfort.

**Cancellations & Substitutions**—A Conference registration may be transferred to another individual from the same township or converted to Conference On-Demand access (if made by April 6, switch to on-demand access will receive refund of registration fee difference). Refund of the registration fee, less a \$25 administrative fee, will be made if written notice of cancellation is received by March 23. Written cancellation requests received from March 24 through April 6 will be subject to an administrative fee equal to one-half of the registration fee. Conference “no shows” or those who cancel after April 6 will be converted to Conference On-Demand access. No refunds will be given without extenuating circumstances. Hotel cancellation policies vary; see your reservation confirmation for details.

**Confirmation & Credentials**—A confirmation will be emailed upon registration (check your spam or junk mail folder if it does not arrive in your inbox). If you do not receive a confirmation within 48 hours of registering, email [education@michigantownships.org](mailto:education@michigantownships.org). To add or update your email address, email [database@michigantownships.org](mailto:database@michigantownships.org). The registration confirmation includes a personalized housing code that allows you to reserve a hotel room in MTA Conference room blocks at discounted rates. The housing website opens for attendees at 9 a.m. on **Jan. 27**. See pages 6-8 for details on reserving your hotel room. All attendees will receive an important “Know Before You Go” email approximately one week before the Conference with helpful event details and information.

**Optional Activities**—Pre-Conference educational events held on April 20 may be added to your Conference registration or purchased separately. Admission to the MTA Banquet on April 22 is included with main-Conference and guest registrations ONLY. Additional banquet tickets may be purchased while registering (see page 10) and on-site.

**Parking & Shuttle Service**—Parking is available free of charge at the Grand Traverse Resort and all hotels with MTA room blocks. Complimentary shuttle service (*sponsored in part by Traverse City Tourism*) will be provided to/from the resort and hotels with MTA room blocks during peak times Monday evening through Wednesday evening. Note that shuttle service will *not* run on Thursday. Details will be available on [michigantownships.org/conference](http://michigantownships.org/conference) and in “Know Before You Go” information emailed to attendees prior to the event.

**Photography Release**—By registering for this event, attendees grant permission to MTA to utilize their image or likeness to promote MTA and our events. Attendees waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product(s), copy or other matter that may be used in connection therewith or the use to which it may be applied.

**Registration**—Conference registration opens **Jan. 5**. Attendees MUST register prior to booking your hotel room. Your confirmation will contain your personalized housing code, which is required to book your hotel room in MTA room blocks. Housing reservations open at 9 a.m. on Jan. 27. See pages 6-8 for additional information.

All attendees must check in at MTA Registration in the Tower Lobby (Lower Level) on Monday from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There, you can pick up your registration materials (including credentials, bag and on-site program), purchase banquet tickets and get details on MTA Conference events.

**Registration Rates**—Registration rates for Conference delegates and their guests appear on page 10. Registrations must be faxed, postmarked or made online by March 23, 2026, to receive early-bird rates. For registrations received after March 23 but before April 6, regular rates apply. Registrations received after April 7 are subject to late registration rates.

**Conference On-Demand**: Can't make it in person? Purchase our “Conference On-Demand” package, which includes access to recordings of the Opening Session, General Session and Annual Meeting, and 10 select educational sessions, plus digital handouts, exhibitor information and discounted rates on MTA book orders. Recordings will be available following the event, and those who purchase will have one year to watch (and learn!). Note that sessions will *not* be live-streamed, and access is to recordings only. In-person Conference attendees can get even more education by adding on the “Conference On-Demand” package for just \$50! See page 11 for details.

**Main Conference**: Includes Tuesday and Wednesday educational sessions, Bendzinski’s “3-D” Welcome Reception, Opening Session, General Session, Expo, Par Plan Fun Night, MTA Banquet and Acrisure’s Afterglow Reception.

**Pre-Conference classes**: Includes that session’s handouts and meal(s). Additional fees are required; see page 12 for session descriptions. Rates appear on the registration form on page 10.

**Single-day only**: Includes that day’s educational sessions, meals, Opening or General Session, and Expo.

**Guest**: Includes admission to Bendzinski’s “3-D” Welcome Reception, Opening Session, General Session, Expo, Par Plan Fun Night, MTA Banquet and Acrisure’s Afterglow Reception. Registered guests may also use MTA shuttle service. *Note: Guests cannot attend any educational sessions or pre-Conference classes unless registered as an attendee.*

**Special Needs**—Attendees with special dietary or accessibility needs should notify Kristin at (517) 321-6467, ext 230 or email [kristin@michigantownships.org](mailto:kristin@michigantownships.org) at least two weeks prior to Conference.

**Ticket Xchange**—Select your seat for the MTA Banquet at the Ticket Xchange (*sponsored by webuildfun*), located near MTA Registration on Monday, or in the Governors’ Hall lobby Tuesday and Wednesday.

# Getting to the Grand Traverse Resort

**From Detroit area:** Take I-75 north until you reach M-72 at Grayling (exit 254). Travel west on M-72 approximately 40 miles through Kalkaska into Acme Township. Turn right (north) onto U.S. 31 and drive a half-mile. The resort will be on the east (right) side of the road.

**From Lansing area:** Take U.S. 127 north, merging onto I-75. Take exit 254 at Grayling for M-72 west. Travel west on M-72 approximately 40 miles through Kalkaska into Acme Township. Turn right (north) onto U.S. 31 and drive a half-mile. The resort will be on the east (right) side of the road.

**From southwest Michigan:** Take I-94 to U.S. 131. Travel north to M-72 in Kalkaska. Go west on M-72 approximately 15 miles. Go north on U.S. 31 about a half-mile. The resort will be on the east (right) side of the road.

**From northern Michigan/the Upper Peninsula:** Take I-75 south to the U.S. 31 exit (toward Petoskey/Charlevoix). Continue to follow U.S. 31 south. The resort will be on the east (left) side of the road.



## Come for the Conference, stay for the weekend

More than just the host for MTA's 2026 Annual Conference, the Traverse City region has so much to enjoy and experience in the springtime. Why not extend your stay, and take advantage of all that this northern Michigan playground has to offer? Come for the MTA Conference and stay a little while to see why *USA Today* called Traverse City one of the "10 Best Small Towns in America."

Hotels with MTA room blocks may extend discounted rates for Conference attendees who wish to spend a little more time in the Grand Traverse area. You must contact your hotel directly to add additional nights to your stay; extended reservations cannot be made via the MTA Housing Bureau.

## Housing Reservations Procedures

### *Hotel reservations open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 27.*

More than 800 rooms have been reserved for attendees at the Grand Traverse Resort and other area hotels. Each hotel offers unique amenities, free parking and discounted rates, and many offer additional perks like free breakfast and free WiFi! To reserve your hotel room in MTA's Conference room block, you must first register as a Conference attendee. This allows registrants priority access to rooms, and prevents filling the most desired hotels with "just in case" bookings for individuals who later opt not to attend. Your Conference registration confirmation contains your personalized housing code allowing one room per code. **IMPORTANT: All registration and housing confirmations will come from MTA or our housing bureau, Grand Connection; any third-party emails are fraudulent.**

For the fastest service and most up-to-date hotel availability, make your reservation online at [grandconnection.com/mta2026](http://grandconnection.com/mta2026). Here's how it works:

- 1) Register for the Conference, beginning Jan. 5, online at [michigantownships.org](http://michigantownships.org) or send in your Conference registration form with payment via fax or mail.
- 2) Look for your confirmation email, which contains your personalized housing code. (Allow two to three business days after receipt for processing of faxed or mailed forms.)
- 3) Beginning Jan. 27 at 9 a.m., visit [grandconnection.com/mta2026](http://grandconnection.com/mta2026), select "Conference Attendee," then enter your last name and personalized housing code to reserve your room online. You may also fax or mail completed forms to the MTA Housing Bureau (online reservations via the housing bureau are recommended for best availability). **NOTE:** Forms received without a housing code will **NOT** be processed. Housing forms received before 9 a.m. on Jan. 27 will not be processed until after 10 a.m. that day. (See housing reservation form on page 8 for additional instructions.)

### Housing Confirmation

The MTA Housing Bureau will provide a confirmation of your hotel reservation. Those booking via MTA's secure housing website, [grandconnection.com/mta2026](http://grandconnection.com/mta2026), will receive an instant email confirmation; allow up to two weeks for faxed or mailed reservation forms. A complete mailing address, phone number and credit card to guarantee the room are required to process housing requests. Most hotels allow pre-payment by check; instructions will be provided on your hotel confirmation. *Do NOT send checks to MTA or the housing bureau; checks must be sent directly to your confirmed hotel.*

### Housing Changes & Cancellations

All hotel cancellations and changes on or before April 15, 2026, must be made in writing by mail, fax or email to the MTA Housing Bureau, or visit [grandconnection.com/mta2026](http://grandconnection.com/mta2026) and select the "Change Hotel" option. Confirmation of your revision(s) will be sent to you within one week. If you do not receive confirmation, call the MTA Housing Bureau at (616) 785-6027, ext. 34. After April 15, cancellations or changes should be made directly with your hotel. Cancellation policies vary; see your reservation confirmation for details. Late cancellations or early departures may result in penalties.

**IMPORTANT:** If you do not show up for the first night of your reservation, your entire reservation will be cancelled and you will be charged a cancellation fee in accordance with your assigned hotel's policy. Please see your hotel confirmation for details.

**REMEMBER:** Make your reservations by March 26, 2026, to ensure availability and discounted rates.

**NOTE:** A three-night minimum stay is required at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa.

# where to stay

## Host hotel: Grand Traverse Resort

### 100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd., Acme Township

The Grand Traverse Resort offers spectacular service, diverse accommodations and a warm "up north" atmosphere that will make you feel right at home. Amenities include: in-room coffee, five restaurants and lounges, free WiFi, room service, gallery of shops, business center, indoor pool/hot tub and water playground, spa and fitness center.

#### THREE-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY REQUIRED

*Cancel by March 27 to avoid a \$25 fee; cancellations made less than 72 hours prior to arrival may incur additional fees.*

**Check-in:** 4 p.m.

**Check-out:** 11 a.m.

**Parking:** Complimentary self-parking; valet parking available (currently \$15/night)



#### Available room types & rates

*(Rates are per night, plus taxes and resort fee)*

**Hotel or Tower:** \$171\*

**Studio condo:** \$155

**One-bedroom condo:** \$191

**Two-bedroom condo:** \$225

**Three-bedroom condo:** \$265

**Four-bedroom condo:** \$415

**Five-bedroom condo:** \$615

*Resort fee is \$18.95 per room per night. Current taxes are 5% local assessment and 6% state sales tax.*

*\*Additional charge for triple/quad occupancy.*



## Additional Options

### Sleep Inn & Suites, 5520 U.S. 31 North., Traverse City

*1.5 miles to Grand Traverse Resort; free shuttle provided*

**Rate:** \$112 (king or 2 queens) or \$122 (king suite)

**Check-in:** 4 p.m. **Check-out:** 11 a.m.

**Amenities include:** free on-site parking, WiFi and hot breakfast buffet; in-room coffee; fitness room; indoor pool/whirlpool; and microwave/fridge in select rooms.

*Cancel by April 17 to avoid penalty.*

### Cherry Tree Inn & Suites, 2345 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City

*3.2 miles to Grand Traverse Resort; free shuttle provided*

**Rates:** \$122-\$152\* + \$15/night resort fee (king or 2 queens)

**Check-in:** 4 p.m. **Check-out:** 11 a.m.

**Amenities Include:** free parking, WiFi and hot breakfast; in-room coffee; kitchenettes in most rooms; heated indoor pool/whirlpool; fitness room; 24-hour front desk; and Sweet Shoppe.

*\*Additional charge for triple/quad occupancy.*

*Cancel at least 72 hours prior to arrival date to avoid penalty.*

### Pointes North, 2211 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City

*3.4 miles to Grand Traverse Resort; free shuttle provided*

**Rate:** \$139 + 5% service fee (king or 2 queens)

**Check-in:** 4 p.m. **Check-out:** 11 a.m.

**Amenities include:** free parking, WiFi and continental breakfast; mini-fridge/microwave; and in-room coffee.

*Cancel by April 17 to avoid penalty.*

### Avid Hotel, 1942 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City

*3.8 miles to Grand Traverse Resort; free shuttle provided*

**Rate:** \$117 (king or 2 queens)

**Check-in:** 3 p.m. **Check-out:** 11 a.m.

**Amenities include:** Just opened in 2024, offers simple, modern rooms; free on-site parking, WiFi and hot breakfast; 24-hour free coffee in lobby; 24-hour market; fitness room; heated indoor pool; and business center.

*Cancel at least 24 hours prior to arrival date to avoid penalty.*

### For up-to-date hotel availability, visit [grandconnection.com/mta2026](http://grandconnection.com/mta2026).

Make your reservations by March 26, 2026, to ensure availability and discounted rates.

### ParkShore Resort, 1401 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City

*4.3 miles to Grand Traverse Resort; free shuttle provided*

**Rate:** \$92.99-\$112.99\* + 4% resort fee (king or 2 queens)

**Check-in:** 4 p.m. **Check-out:** 11 a.m.

**Amenities include:** free on-site parking, WiFi and continental breakfast; in-room coffee; mini-fridge; heated indoor pool/whirlpool; room service available; and on-site restaurant/lounge.

*Cancel at least 48 hours prior to arrival date to avoid penalty.*

*\*Additional 3.5% fee if using a credit card for payment.*

### Baywatch Resort, 1529 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City

*4.5 miles to Grand Traverse Resort; free shuttle provided*

**Rate:** \$98 + 7% resort fee (king or 2 kings)

**Check-in:** 4 p.m. **Check-out:** 11 a.m.

**Amenities include:** free parking, WiFi and breakfast; in-room coffee; mini-fridge/microwave; fitness center; and business center. Pet-free and smoke-free, including outdoor areas.

*Cancel at least 72 hours prior to arrival date to avoid penalty. Early departure fees may also apply.*

### Hampton Inn, 1000 U.S. 31, Traverse City

*4.6 miles to Grand Traverse Resort; free shuttle provided*

**Rate:** \$132

**Check-in:** 3 p.m. **Check-out:** 11 a.m.

**Amenities include:** free parking, WiFi and hot breakfast; in-room coffee; indoor pool and fitness center; and business center.

*Cancel at least 48 hours prior to arrival to avoid a penalty.*

*Note: All rates are for single/double occupancy; additional guests in the room may incur an extra fee (varies by hotel).*

*Rates shown are per night, and do not include local/state taxes or resort fees where applicable. Current taxes include 5% local assessment and 6% state sales tax, applicable at all hotels. For additional details on room types available, visit [michigantownships.org/conference](http://michigantownships.org/conference) (click on "Housing" under "General Information").*

# housing reservation form

## Guest Information (Please use one form per room.)

ARRIVAL DATE

DEPARTURE DATE

NAME

TOWNSHIP

COUNTY

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

DAYTIME PHONE

EMAIL

CHECK HERE IF TAX EXEMPT

## Housing Code

To register for housing, you must first register for the Conference and receive a personalized housing code (enter below). Forms sent without a housing code will NOT be processed. See page 6 for details.

Housing code: \_\_\_\_\_

## Accommodations

Please indicate hotel name and type of room requested (see page 7 for hotel details):

1st choice hotel: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd choice hotel: \_\_\_\_\_

3rd choice hotel: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of additional guests in room: \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests (barrier-free, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

*Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests. You will be notified in advance if your request cannot be accommodated. For suite reservations, contact kristin@michigantownships.org or call (517) 321-6467, ext. 230.*

## State Sales Tax Exemption

All guests must pay 5% local taxes. To be eligible for state sales tax exemption, you must:

- (1) Check the "tax exempt" box in the Guest Information section above.
- (2) Complete the Michigan Sales & Use Tax Certificate on page 9, and provide upon check-in. (If sending payment to the hotel prior to the Conference, include a completed certificate with payment.)
- (3) Pay your hotel expenses by township check or township credit card.

## Room Guarantee Method

A credit card is required to guarantee your reservation. No charges will be posted to the card until check-in. See individual hotel policies if you plan to pre-pay by township check or credit card. **Note:** A charge may be applied for reservations cancelled without proper notice or for early departures.

MasterCard  VISA  Discover  American Express  Check here if this is a township credit card.

Card Number

Expiration Date

CSV (3-digit code)

Print Cardholder's Name

Signature

**Housing opens at 9 a.m. on Jan. 27**

**Save time, register online at:**  
[grandconnection.com/mta2026](http://grandconnection.com/mta2026)

**Or, fax your completed form to:**  
(616) 600-4499

*(NOTE: Submitting a form more than once or using more than one method could result in a double booking.)*

## Housing Questions:

Grand Connection

(616) 785-6027, ext. 34  
(8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays)

*Note: No reservations will be taken by phone.*

**REMEMBER: Make your reservations by March 26, 2026, to ensure availability and discounted rates.**

## Payment Details

Guests will be asked to provide a credit card at check-in for incidentals at most hotels; some may accept a cash deposit. Contact your assigned hotel directly for details.

For those pre-paying by township check, checks must be received at most hotels least three days prior to your arrival date, but not before April 2, 2026. Some hotels require checks 7-14 days prior to arrival; please see your hotel confirmation for details.

**Note:** All guest name(s) should be provided on the stub to ensure payment is applied to the correct reservation(s), and your tax exemption form should be included with the check, if paying with township funds.

Cancellation policies vary by hotel; check your confirmation details to avoid a penalty. Early departures may also incur a fee.

If you do not show up for the first night of your reservation, your entire reservation will be cancelled and **you will be charged a cancellation fee, which varies by hotel.** Please double check your confirmation to ensure your arrival and departure dates are correct.

**NOTE:** Housing forms received prior to Jan. 27 at 9 a.m. will NOT be processed until after 10 a.m. that day.

**ALL forms must include a housing code.**

# Michigan Sales and Use Tax Certificate of Exemption

This exemption claim should be completed by the purchaser, provided to the seller, and is not valid unless the information in all four sections is complete. Do not send a copy to Treasury unless one is requested.

## SECTION 1: TYPE OF PURCHASE

Check one of the following:

A. One-Time Purchase

Order or Invoice Number: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Blanket Certificate

Expiration Date (maximum of four years): \_\_\_\_\_

B. Blanket Certificate. Recurring Business Relationship

The purchaser completing this form hereby claims exemption from tax on the purchase of tangible personal property or services purchased from the seller named below. This claim is based upon: the purchaser's proposed use of the property or services; OR the purchaser's exempt status.

Seller's Name and Address

## SECTION 2: ITEMS COVERED BY THIS CERTIFICATE

Check one of the following:

1.  All items purchased.

2.  Limited to the following items: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 3: BASIS FOR EXEMPTION CLAIM

Check one of the following:

1.  For Lease. Purchaser will lease the property and elects to pay tax based on rental receipts. Enter sales tax license or use tax registration number: \_\_\_\_\_

2.  For Resale at Retail. Enter Sales Tax License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3.  Direct Pay - Authorized to pay use tax on qualified transactions directly to Michigan Treasury under account number: \_\_\_\_\_

**The following exemptions DO NOT require the purchaser to provide a number:**

4.  Agricultural Production. Enter percentage: \_\_\_\_\_ %

5.  Government Entity (U.S. or its instrumentalities, State of Michigan or its political subdivisions), Nonprofit School, Nonprofit Hospital, Church or House of Religious Worship (circle type of organization)

6.  Contractor (provide *Michigan Sales and Use Tax Contractor Eligibility Statement* (Form 3520)).

7.  For Resale at Wholesale.

8.  Industrial Processing. Enter percentage: \_\_\_\_\_ %

9.  Nonprofit Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(19) Exempt Organization.

10.  Nonprofit Organization with an authorized letter issued by Michigan Department of Treasury prior to July 17, 1998 (sales tax) or June 13, 1994 (use tax).

11.  Rolling Stock purchased by an Interstate Motor Carrier.

12.  Other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 4: CERTIFICATION

*I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the information on this certificate is true, that I have consulted the statutes, administrative rules and other sources of law applicable to my exemption, and that I have exercised reasonable care in assuring that my claim of exemption is valid under Michigan law. In the event this claim is disallowed, I accept full responsibility for the payment of tax, penalty and any accrued interest, including, if necessary, reimbursement to the vendor for tax and accrued interest.*

Business Name		Type of Business (see codes on page 2)
Business Address		City, State, ZIP Code
Business Telephone Number (include area code)		Name (Print or Type)
Signature	Title	Date Signed

# conference registration form

REGISTER EARLY  
AND SAVE \$\$\$

Save time! Register online at  
[michigantownships.org](http://michigantownships.org)

## Registrant Information (Please photocopy this form to register additional attendees.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NICKNAME FOR BADGE \_\_\_\_\_  
 TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ TOWNSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPECIAL NEEDS (DIETARY, ACCESSIBILITY, OTHER) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Options	Early-bird rate (by March 23)	Regular rate (March 24-April 6)	Late rate (after April 6)	Subtotal
<b>Main Conference—Attendee</b> (Tuesday, April 21-Thursday, April 23) Registrants can add Conference On-Demand for just \$50! See "Additional Options" below.	\$400	\$425	\$475	
<b>Conference On-Demand only</b> Access to recordings of 10 educational sessions and three main-stage events.	\$150	\$150	\$150	
<b>Pre-Conference sessions</b> (Monday, April 20) Select session:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Assessor's Renewal (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)	\$100	\$125	\$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> Defining Your Township's Land Use Future (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)	\$125	\$150	\$175	
<input type="checkbox"/> Understanding Assessing Basics (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)	\$125	\$150	\$175	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mapping the Money (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)	\$125	\$150	\$175	
<b>Single-day only</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, April 21 only <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, April 22 only <i>(Does NOT include banquet ticket)</i>	\$215	\$240	\$290	
<b>Legal Institute for Township Attorneys</b> (Monday, April 20, 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.)	\$246	\$271	\$321	
<b>Guest registration</b> (April 20-23; includes banquet ticket) Guest name: _____	\$92	\$92	\$112	
Additional Options				
Extra banquet ticket <i>(ticket included with main Conference &amp; registered guests ONLY)</i>	\$76	\$76	\$96	
Conference On-Demand add-on (for registered Conference attendees only) Access to 13 recorded sessions! See page 11 for more details.	\$50	\$50	\$50	
Rates shown are for member registrations made online, or postmarked, faxed or emailed, by deadline. Non-members, contact MTA for rates. PLEASE NOTE: Guests may NOT attend any educational sessions unless registered as an attendee. See page 5 for registration rate descriptions.				
<i>Note: It is the position of MTA Legal Counsel that only elected and appointed township officials and personnel registration and fees can be paid for with township funds. Township checks/credit cards CANNOT be used to pay guest fees.</i>				TOTAL: _____

## Payment Information

Check enclosed; check # \_\_\_\_\_ OR  Credit card (MasterCard or VISA)  Invoice township (MTA members **ONLY**)  
(Make checks payable to MTA.)

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CSV (3-digit code) \_\_\_\_\_

Print Card Holder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed forms to MTA, P.O. Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908, email [rebecca@michigantownships.org](mailto:rebecca@michigantownships.org), or fax to (517) 321-8908.

Register online (starting Jan. 5) at [michigantownships.org](http://michigantownships.org). Need registration assistance? Contact (517) 321-6467, ext. 226.

# conference on-demand

Can't spare the time or make the date? Prefer the convenience of online learning from your home or office? You can still get the inspiration and key education with our **Conference On-Demand package**! We're recording the most popular portions of our Conference, which will be available following the event, so you can watch and learn at your convenience. This includes recorded access to **10 educational sessions** (plus digital handouts!) and the **three main-stage events** to watch on-demand for one year after purchase (recordings will be available in May). Please note that sessions will *not* be live-streamed. Turn to page 10 to register today and we'll email you all the details on availability and how to access the recordings.

This valuable package also **allows in-person attendees to get even more education**! If you're planning to attend but already know you can't possibly catch every session that interests you, you can purchase the Conference On-Demand add-on for just \$50.

**From the Main Stage** (see pages 3-4 for descriptions; look for the )

Opening Session, General Session and Annual Meeting

**Key Breakout Sessions** (see pages 13-18 for descriptions; look for the )

We're recording 10 sessions covering timely township topics, so you'll get the important education and information that you need, when it fits your schedule.

## Sessions\* include:

- Building a Better Community Now
- AI: Helpful or Headache?
- FOIA in the Digital Age
- It's Not IF You'll be Hacked, It's When
- Mind the Gaps: Where Audits End and Board Oversight Begins
- Principles of Plain-Language Documents
- The Power of Partnership: Driving Local Growth
- Situational Awareness: Recognizing Dangerous Behavior
- The Missing Pieces: Completing Your State Reporting Requirements
- Zoning Strategies for Affordable Housing

*\*Subject to change.*

Session recording assistance  
provided by



## Questions about Conference?

Call MTA at (517) 321-6467 and use the extensions listed below or email:

### Registration information/changes

Rebecca Popoff..... Ext. 226 or [rebecca@michigantownships.org](mailto:rebecca@michigantownships.org)

### Housing, special needs & volunteers

Kristin Kratky ..... Ext. 230 or [kristin@michigantownships.org](mailto:kristin@michigantownships.org)  
For questions related to hotel reservations, call (616) 785-6027, ext. 34.

### Educational sessions

Shelley Cardenas ..... Ext. 251 or [shelley@michigantownships.org](mailto:shelley@michigantownships.org)

### Expo & sponsorship

Ashley Maher..... Ext. 254 or [ashley@michigantownships.org](mailto:ashley@michigantownships.org)

### Parade of Flags

Jenn Fiedler..... Ext. 229 or [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org)

### Conference On-Demand & Conference app (app sponsored by WM)

Dawson Bishop ..... Ext. 241 or [dawson@michigantownships.org](mailto:dawson@michigantownships.org)



**The Conference On-Demand package also includes:**

### Discounts on MTA publications—

Browse the nearly two dozen publications geared exclusively to township government in the online MTA Store, and save up 15% on MTA books when you order before July 31!

**MTA Expo info**—Receive a listing (including contact information) of MTA Expo vendors who can offer tools and services to streamline programs, systems and services within your community. From attorneys to engineering firms, software companies to environmental services, these vendors are available to help you discover ways to run your township more efficiently.

Stay connected during the Conference, with complimentary WiFi, sponsored by



## Volunteers needed!

Would you like to get more involved in the 2026 MTA Annual Educational Conference, while also providing a service to your colleagues? MTA is seeking township officials to serve as sergeant-at-arms (SAA), ambassadors and other roles during the Conference.

For more information or to volunteer, visit [michigantownships.org](http://michigantownships.org)/conference and click on the "Volunteer" link. Details will be sent to interested individuals in February.

# pre-conference classes

Separate registration fees apply. Register for pre-Conference sessions using the registration form on page 10. Room locations and event details will be provided in a "Know Before You Go" email sent prior to the event.

## Monday, April 20

### Excellence in Governance

MTA's Township Governance Academy (TGA) goes beyond board meetings and budgets, enhancing your leadership skills and motivating you to take on the challenges and opportunities unique to those serving as township public servants. Regardless of your position with the township or amount of experience, the Academy will move you to a higher level of performance and make your service to your community more effective—and more rewarding. You don't have to be enrolled in TGA to attend the pre-Conference class (*described below*). If you decide to enroll within six months after this class, credit will be applied retroactively.



### 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Defining Your Township's Land Use Future



F-102—6 credits; includes continental breakfast and lunch

What do you value in your community? What threatens those qualities you value and how can you protect it? In this session, attendees will learn about issues that must be confronted if your township's planning efforts are to be successful. Review the role that the township board and your community play, and discover strategies for making effective land use decisions that will benefit your community well into the future. You'll discover how to balance property rights with public interest, and get a better understanding of when, why and how your master plan should be reevaluated. Examine the purpose, process and legal requirements of your township's master plan, and walk away with insights into a broad range of day-to-day and emerging land use issues.

*Speakers:* Catherine Kaufman, Seth Koches and Michael Bila, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC

### 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Assessors Renewal:

### Leadership by Design

*Includes continental breakfast*

**Approved by the State Tax Commission (STC) for four hours of assessors elective credit**

Just as the Mackinac Bridge rose from vision, planning and precise engineering, effective assessment administration is built on strong leadership and intentional design. Using the Mighty Mac as a guiding metaphor, this course ties timeless leadership principles with real-world responsibilities to help you span challenges, connect communities and create a solid structure that will endure. Explore how to rely on your "support cables"—advisors, peers and partners—to steady your office through changing times while staying within legal and ethical boundaries. And like the bridge's rigorous maintenance program, you'll learn preventative practices to keep your assessment operations strong and resilient.

*Speaker:* Shila Kiander, Michigan Advanced Assessing Officer, Director, Mecosta County Equalization

### 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Understanding Assessing Basics

*Includes continental breakfast and lunch*

**Satisfies STC training requirement for all uncertified assessing support staff**

This class ensures your assessing team meets the biennial training requirement for all noncertified staff (those who engage in assessment roll development, field work or provide assessment roll information to the public) and prepares your township to pass the state's assessment roll audit. Get an in-depth review of assessing fundamentals and enhance your understanding of the functions of the assessing office to ensure your township's assessing process runs smoothly. Explore valuation concepts, taxable and assessed value, board of review, equalization and more.

*Speakers:* Will Gast, Education Coordinator, Property Services Division, Michigan Department of Treasury; and Jocelyn Isenberg, STC Executive Director

### 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Mapping the Money: Strengthening and Streamlining Financial Oversight



*Includes continental breakfast and lunch*

Learn practical strategies for strengthening internal controls, spotting inefficiencies and uncovering opportunities for improvement. We'll start with the fundamentals of process mapping—a structured, visual technique that helps you clearly see how your financial operations actually flow. This allows you to identify every step and decision point, and quickly recognize potential risks, control gaps and areas ripe for streamlining. It's an eye-opening tool every township should have in its toolbox. We'll walk through real-world scenarios and practical examples showing how townships are using this process to improve accuracy, accountability and efficiency. In the afternoon, apply what you've learned to your own township processes. You'll leave with practical tools, clear next steps and a customized process map—ready to share with staff and board members alike.

*Speakers:* Heather Farmer, CGFM, Senior Manager; Rod Taylor, Senior Governmental Consultant; and Bethany Verble, CPA, CFE, CBPA, Senior Manager, Maner Costerisan, PC

### 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

### Legal Institute for Township Attorneys

*Includes continental breakfast and lunch*

Connect with fellow municipal attorneys from across the state to discuss changes, updates and other trends affecting township government. MTA's annual Legal Institute is the premier educational event for attorneys who serve Michigan's townships. Your attendance keeps you informed on legal news and changes that impact your local government clients. Register on page 10; detailed registration materials will be mailed in January and available at michigantownships.org.

*Moderator:* Rob Thall, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC

# educational sessions

Our educational sessions are designed for township elected and appointed officials and your entire township team, from communities of all sizes, to enhance your knowledge, skills and effectiveness as a leader, regardless of your level of experience. Topics address statutory duties, and a variety of concepts, trends and current issues in township government. Sessions that are part of the Conference On-Demand package are denoted with a  (session recording assistance provided by Shumaker Technology Group). Sessions with a  fulfill requirements in MTA's Red Book Ready program.

Schedule is subject to change. Consult your program on-site for the final schedule.

## Tuesday, April 21

### Business Solution Sessions

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

*These sessions, presented by MTA Allied Service Providers, provide information about various aspects of products and services available to assist townships.*



### Total Client Solutions

From all forms of insurance to cybersecurity, payroll, mortgages and more, Acrisure has the expertise, experience and advanced technology to help you find the right solutions to conquer what's next. Learn available solutions for all your township's business needs.



*Speakers: Megan West, Client Advisor, Public Entity Practice Group, and Jack Schmitz, Client Advisor, Employee Benefits & TPA Sales, Acrisure*

### Powering Michigan's Future: Approaching Data Center Growth

Learn about Michigan's  energy future, the impact of data centers and load growth, and the investments shaping a more resilient grid. Gain insights on how Consumers Energy is preparing to power continued growth, the emerging landscape of data centers and AI—and what it means for energy demand, strategic investments to modernize the grid and enhance reliability, and practical ways your township and its residents can reduce costs and meet energy-savings goals.

*Speaker: Lauren Snyder, Senior Vice President and Chief Customer & Growth Officer, Consumers Energy*

### What Would Your Board Do?

#### Interactive Township Case Studies

In this session, you'll step into the role of a township board and run a fictional township through a year's worth of real-world decisions.



Municipal attorneys will guide you through commonly faced case studies—controversial rezoning requests, heated public comment, sensitive employee issues and broad Freedom of Information Act requests. You'll vote on what your board would do, see how your choices stack up against other officials, and then find out how those decisions line up with Michigan law and best practices. Leave with concrete ideas and strategies you can bring back to your next meeting.

*Speakers: Municipal attorneys from Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC*

### Does the Township Need to Act? Hot Legal Topics Facing Townships in 2026

Gain a practical perspective on some of the hottest topics facing townships, including wind and solar energy, the latest on zoning, land use and other issues that may arise. *While anyone may attend this session, snacks are provided to the first 100 who RSVP to jleuvoy@fosterswift.com.*



*Speaker: Michael Homier, Shareholder, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, PC*

### Communicating Your Holistic Retirement Package

Explore how employers can design and promote comprehensive retirement benefits to attract, retain and support employees throughout their careers. Learn how to benchmark township offerings, communicate value effectively, and leverage tools like total compensation statements and pre-boarding practices.

*Speakers: Representatives from Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan*



### Inspect Your Playground Like a Pro!

Everything you need to know to keep your playground safe. Gain instruction on performing proper playground maintenance and inspections, specific do's and don'ts on how inspections should be conducted,



what to look for and how not to make bad maintenance decisions.

*Speaker: Lori Burton, Senior Risk Control Field Representative, Michigan Township Participating Plan*

### Data In or Data Out?

Data centers are the new **Mika Meyers** novel land use popping up throughout the Midwest, including in Michigan. Is your community ready for them? And what are the considerations involved with evaluating this land use? Learn about the regulations your township should consider adopting to address this new wave of development.

*Speaker: Attorney from Mika Meyers*

### Concurrent Educational Sessions

1 to 2:15 p.m.

### Beyond Minutes and the Money

This session is designed to help township clerks and treasurers navigate today's trends and empower you with practical tools and insights to lead effectively in today's changing township environment. We'll review key governance and compliance issues, share best practices and explore leadership trends that go beyond daily tasks to focus on the bigger picture of township success.

*Speakers: Judy Bigney, Liaison, and Shelly Schneider, Associate, MTA Member Information Services Department*

### Crystal Ball Conversations: Aligning Dollars with Dreams

Peer into the future of your township! Are your spending decisions shaping the community you—and your residents—truly want? Get a crystal ball view of your township's priorities and rethink where your resources are going so you can spend smarter. You'll walk away with fresh insights, a clearer vision and a more intentional approach to building a community people are proud to call home.

*Speaker: Cindy Dodge, Owner, LOR Consulting*

## Hot Issues for Township Fire Departments

Providing emergency and fire protection services for your community may be one of the more complicated (and critical) services your township provides. This session brings clarity to the challenges that come with protecting your township and your firefighters. Gain insights into the latest training requirements and certifications, and explore strategies for prioritizing physical and mental health. You'll also learn methods for building and maintaining a strong team of dedicated firefighters.

*Speaker:* State Fire Marshal Thomas Hughes, Bureau of Fire Services, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

## Insights from Inside the Capitol

Join MTA's Government Relations team for a timely and engaging update on what's ahead in 2026—from the governor's agenda and legislative leadership to MTA's top priorities—as well as an inside view of the political landscape. Explore the latest conversations at the Capitol on critical issues affecting your township, including property tax reform, revenue sharing, economic development, election and more. Gain insight into emerging challenges, how the 2026 election year will shape legislative outcomes, and what these developments mean for your community and residents. You'll also learn how your voice and experiences can help influence policy decisions impacting townships across the state.

*Speakers:* MTA Government Relations Staff

## It's Not IF You'll be Hacked, It's When

Cybersecurity isn't just an IT issue, it's a leadership challenge. In today's world, bad actors don't need hacking expertise, they can wreak havoc with basic tools, bad intent and a willingness to commit a crime. Your township needs more than firewalls—you need a plan. Learn how a little planning goes a long way and walk away with insights to guide your community through the chaos with composure and confidence.

*Speaker:* Josh Cook, Partner, Data Privacy and Security Practice Group, Prince Lobel

## Mind the Gaps: Where Audits End and Board Oversight Begins

Fraud prevention starts at the top, and your township board plays a pivotal role in setting the tone. While audits are important, they don't catch every risk. We'll break down the board's responsibilities,

where audits help (and don't), and key policy best practices to strengthen internal controls. Leave with actionable steps to enhance oversight, recognize red flags and foster a culture of accountability.

*Speakers:* Tyler Baker, CPA, Senior Manager, and Bethany Verble, CPA, CFE, CBPA, Senior Manager, Maner Costerisan, PC

## Powering Forward: A Guide to Renewable Energy Projects

Explore the latest developments in renewable energy, including how Public Act 233 of 2023 continues to reshape the siting of large projects. MTA Legal Counsel will break down MTA's sample workable ordinances, providing real-world examples and practical advice for what works and what to watch for as you regulate in your community.

*Speakers:* Rob Thall and Seth Koches, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC

## Structural Integrity: Best Practices in Assessment Administration

A well-run assessing department is the backbone of fair, efficient local government. Learn how to streamline processes that ensure accuracy and transparency in your township's property assessments. From policies and procedures to communications and deadlines, we'll review practical concepts for strengthening your township's assessing team.

*Speaker:* Shila Kiander, MAAO, Director, Mecosta County Equalization

## The Perfectly Imperfect Leader

Leadership is messy, challenging and often feels like you're making it up as you go. The pressure to have all the answers and appear flawless is exhausting—and impossible. Perfection doesn't inspire people, authenticity does. Learn how to embrace your imperfections and expand your influence and confidence. Together, we'll explore how authenticity beats perfection and help you turn curiosity into courage to expand your impact.

*Speaker:* Shaina Lane, PCC, CEC, CPCC, Speaker, Author, Coach

## The Policy Blueprint for Reducing Township Risk

Clear policies and procedures are the backbone of safe operations and regulatory compliance. They strengthen decision-making, reduce risk and support effective emergency response. We'll use practical, real-world examples from the places where risk likes to hide—

special events, emergency services and general operations—to help you develop guidelines that work. Walk away with tools to protect your township from financial loss, reputational harm and potential legal headaches.

*Speaker:* Patrick Nelson, Risk Control Operations Lead, Michigan Township Participating Plan

## Concurrent educational sessions

2:45 to 4 p.m.

## BS&A Payroll Efficiencies

Managing payroll in a municipal setting can be complex, but BS&A's payroll module makes the process more accurate and efficient. Discover key efficiencies including automated time sheet imports, direct general ledger posting, built-in tax filing and streamlined benefit tracking. You'll learn how to reduce duplicate entries, minimize manual calculations and improve compliance while still maintaining detailed audit trails and reporting for your township needs.

*Speakers:* Angie Ginebaugh, Associate, Maner Costerisan, PC; and a representative from Human Resource Management Services

## Building Your Bench: Bringing New People into the Game

Struggling to bring new people—or any young faces or voices—into your township programs? You're in good company. Many townships wrestle with getting fresh energy onto their township team. Join us for a few practical ideas that could spark involvement and open the door to the next generation. You'll even hear from a fresh face about what pulled her in—and what your township can do to make getting involved irresistible.

*Speakers:* Michael Selden, MTA Director of Member Information Services; and Rachel Crowther, Trustee, Courtland Township (Kent Co.)

## Is Your Township #NSFW? Employment Law Issues in the Social Media Age

Facebook and TikTok and OnlyFans—oh my! Online platforms like these are increasingly being used by employees to share content, express opinions and even earn extra income, both on and off duty. Get up-to-speed on the latest issues facing municipal employers and what you can do to keep your policies current and your township protected.

*Speaker:* Heather Sumner, Attorney, Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsuechler, PC

## Power Plays: PA 233 Lessons from the Field

Public Act 233 of 2023 has reshaped how townships plan and permit utility-scale renewable energy projects. Don't miss this discussion weighing the pros and cons of different pathways. From permitting options to project proposals and technologies, we'll review what works and what doesn't. You'll learn practical lessons to help your township choose the best path for its renewable energy future.

**Panelists:** Tom Hammond, Trustee and Planning Commission Liaison, Saline Township (Washtenaw Co.); Catherine Kaufman, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC; Madeleine Krol, Clean Energy Land Use Specialist, University of Michigan Center for Empowering Communities; and John Lazet, Supervisor, Vevay Township (Ingham Co.)

## Protecting Inland Lakes and Natural Shorelines

Dive into the tools that keep Michigan's inland lakes healthy and wade through key regulations, protection strategies and best practices for local officials. This session highlights essential approaches for watershed management, planning, zoning and financing to ensure clean, vibrant lakes—now and for generations to come.

**Speakers:** Jo Latimore, PhD, Director, MSU Extension Center for Lakes and Streams, Senior Academic Specialist, Aquatic Ecology and Outreach, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University; and Mary Reilly, AICP, Government and Community Vitality Educator, MSU Extension

## QuickBooks Hacks & High-Fives

Ready to level up your QuickBooks game? Don't miss this lively panel of seasoned super-users as they spill their favorite shortcuts, time-savers and "why didn't I know that?" tricks. This upbeat, collaborative session invites QuickBooks users of all levels to swap tips, share laughs and discover smarter ways to handle township finances. Come for the hacks—stay for the helpful (and fun) conversation!

**Moderator:** Cindy Dodge, Owner, LOR Consulting

## Situational Awareness:

### Recognizing Dangerous Behavior

In an era of evolving threats, staying alert isn't optional, it's essential. This practical, eye-opening session will sharpen your ability to read your surroundings and

recognize concerning behaviors before they escalate. Explore environmental risks in township fieldwork—such as walking on or through private property—as well as at community events like farmers markets and festivals. We'll also offer insights into potential threats in and around your township hall.

**Speaker:** Mike Wierenga, Co-founder, Two The Rescue, LLC

## The Leadership Ripple: Small Stones, Big Waves

In municipal leadership, it's often the quiet, consistent actions—not just the major decisions—that create the greatest impact. Explore how everyday behaviors of local leaders shape culture, trust and community well-being. Through real-world examples and practical takeaways, The Leadership Ripple invites municipal leaders to recognize their unique power to influence lasting change—one small, intentional act at a time.

**Speaker:** Marilynn Semonick, Chief Exploration Officer, The Success Studio

## The Power of Partnership:

### Driving Local Growth

Learn how township officials can use collaborative tools to create vibrant economic corridors. This session will explore practical tools like downtown development authorities and tax increment financing, tackle common cooperation hurdles, and provide you with strategies to foster growth while maintaining your local identity.

**Speakers:** Seth Koches and Rob Thall, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC

## Wait, Where Does It Say That? Laws, Rules and Online Resources

AI can only get you so far, but Michigan townships are truly unique, and the information you need on what your township may and must do is based in Michigan and federal laws and rules. In a real-life "pathway to the future," the old wall of law books has been replaced by online resources to help townships understand the laws and state agency rules that provide and govern township authority, and to help you better understand your specific township's finances and operations. This informative session will tour a variety of state, federal and other helpful websites and online tools.

**Speaker:** Catherine Mullhaupt, MTA Staff Attorney

## Wednesday, April 22

### Concurrent educational sessions

10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

## Budget Like a Pro: Practical Tips and Tools

Budgeting isn't just about balancing numbers—it's about aligning resources, priorities and transparency to serve your community. This session will walk through township budgeting requirements and best practices, then introduce some budgeting software that will simplify the process, improve accuracy and enhance decision-making.

Attendees will leave with both a roadmap for effective budgeting and a hands-on look at technology that makes it easier.

**Speakers:** Rod Taylor, Senior Governmental Consultant, Maner Costerisan, PC; and Nick Cousino, Accounting Technician, Delhi Charter Township (Ingham Co.)

## Building a Better Community Now

What you envision for your township's future won't happen by accident, it's built step by step and decision by decision. Building on the concepts outlined in his Conference keynote, Greg Bennick explores how leading with consistency brings authenticity to your work and momentum to your goals. He'll show you how to keep your eye on mission critical and resist the allure of distraction. Come ready to be inspired, laugh a little and leave with a few new tricks to keep juggling all your township's priorities in the air and your future goals firmly within reach.



**Speaker:** 2026 MTA Conference Keynoter Greg Bennick

## Effective & Efficient Code Enforcement

Townships can enforce ordinances through violation letters, notices and citations. Regardless of the method, code enforcement can become costly and time consuming. Looking for tips on making code enforcement less demanding on your time and budget? Don't miss this review on how to initiate enforcement cases, the evidence needed to prosecute the violation and the role an ordinance enforcement officer can play in the process.

**Speakers:** Jacob Witte and David Szymanski, Attorneys, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC; and Doug Kuhlman, Zoning Administrator & Code Compliance Officer

## Fields of Opportunity:

### Agritourism & the Right to Farm Act

As agritourism grows, townships are seeing increased demand for local flavors and unique on-farm experiences. This session will provide an in-depth look at the Right to Farm Act and how it governs farm events, farmers markets, wedding barns and more. We will also break down important new legal developments affecting townships.

*Speakers:* Catherine Kaufman and Michael Bila, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC

### Firehouse Rules: Employment Law for Paid On-Call Firefighters

Many townships utilize paid on-call firefighters to manage fire suppression in a cost-effective manner while opening opportunity for valuable service to the community. Paid on-call firefighters create a unique set of challenges in employment law, including questions about whether they are volunteers or employees, how and when to pay them, and the application of the Earned Sick Time Act. Join us as we discuss the ins and outs of working with paid on-call firefighters.

*Speakers:* Chad Karsten and Thomas Forgione, Attorneys, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

### FOIA in the Digital Age

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has gone high-tech—and so have the questions that come with it. This refresher breaks down how the FOIA has been amended and how court decisions provide guidance to navigate today's digital FOIA landscape. Explore electronic records from the impact of electronic requests to secure ways to share digital records, including what retention and fee calculations look like in a world of inboxes and cloud folders. Plus, pick up practical tips for handling those repeated or supersized FOIA requests.

*Speaker:* Kathryn Zoller Stegink, Attorney, Mika Meyers

### Legal Lessons Learned the Hard Way

Every township makes mistakes—but some are more costly than others, leading to stressed officials, angry residents and tense meetings. Review common municipal missteps and misunderstood rules, and get practical tips for staying

vigilant and turning down the heat when tensions run high during meetings. Walk away better prepared to prevent small issues from becoming big problems.

*Speaker:* Seth Koches, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC

### Retrofitting Strategies to Build Your Tax Base

No matter where your community is on the spectrum of age of development, there is more opportunity than you might think to encourage investment that can increase your community's quality of life, housing opportunity and tax base. Townships throughout Michigan are creating strategies to retrofit areas where development has already occurred to preserve the rural spaces that residents value and optimize investments in infrastructure. We'll examine the efforts of Plainfield Charter and Ada Townships (Kent Co.) and Oshtemo Charter Township (Kalamazoo Co.) to strategically guide growth in a way that builds value and supports township services, reduces sprawl and provides for the lifecycle needs of residents.

*Speaker:* Suzanne Schulz, FAICP, Practice Leader, Progressive Companies

### Sharing the Pipes: A Neighborly Look at Regional Infrastructure

Think of regional infrastructure as a big neighborhood project—everyone wants clean water, reliable sewer service and room to grow, but the real magic happens when communities decide how to share. Learn how communities in northwest lower Michigan are teaming up across boundaries. We'll explore the range of Michigan Act 425 Agreements for infrastructure expansion, analyze patterns within opportunity zones and discuss the impact for economic development.

*Speakers:* Robert Carson, AICP, Regional Director of Community Development, and Zach Vega, AICP, Community Planner, Networks Northwest

### Concurrent educational sessions

1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

### Access Granted: What You Need to Know about New ADA Website Requirements

The deadline is approaching to implement new rules on making your website compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A

professional website developer and MTA Legal Counsel break down what it means to make a website "accessible" and just how costly it can be to ignore the new rules. Learn best practices and simple, actionable steps to ensure compliance by the 2026-2027 deadlines.

*Speakers:* Michael Bila, Attorney, Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC; and Kyle Shumaker, President, Shumaker Technology Group

### Behind Closed Doors: What Your Board Needs to Know About the Evolving OMA

Closed sessions can be one of the most confusing—and scrutinized—parts of the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Don't miss this practical overview of the act, with a focus on when—and how—a public body may properly enter closed session. We'll walk through the most common closed-session scenarios, frequent compliance pitfalls and real-world examples that can trigger public criticism or legal challenge. Walk away with concrete guidance to conduct meetings confidently, protect attorney-client communications and maintain public trust.

*Speaker:* Alexandra Page, Attorney, Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsuechler, PC

### Elections Update

Step into the latest election landscape with a clear, concise briefing from the state Bureau of Elections. This annual session cuts through the noise to deliver what's new, what's changing and what you need to know right now. Get expert guidance, practical insights and answers to your most pressing questions. Walk away informed, confident and ready for the year ahead.

*Speaker:* Kristi Dougan, Training and Elections Assistance Section Manager, Michigan Bureau of Elections, Michigan Department of State

### Holding the Tension When We Disagree

Disagreements are inevitable, it's how we handle them that make the difference. Explore practical strategies for keeping discussion on track when opinions clash. Learn techniques for staying calm and communicating clearly when tensions run high. Walk away with tools to turn conflict into collaboration.

*Speaker:* Susan Radwan, Owner, Leading Edge Mentoring

## Millages: Understanding How Property Taxes Fund Your Township

Townships are primarily funded by property taxes, including general law voted or allocated operating millage or charter township millage, as well as extra-voted millages for lawful township purposes. Whether you are in a large or small general law or charter township, you need to understand how your property taxes work—from how to use property taxes along with other lawful options for funding township programs and services. *All* township board members are involved in making strategic choices for funding the township's budget; join us for a discussion of the factors you need to consider.

*Speaker:* Catherine Mullhaupt, MTA Staff Attorney

## The Missing Pieces: Completing Your State Reporting Requirements

Get a comprehensive overview of the additional state reporting requirements that must be completed alongside your township's annual financial statements, including the essential F-65 report. You'll learn about each required state report, their purposes, deadlines, and how to properly prepare and submit them to ensure compliance with the state.

*Speakers:* Heather Farmer, CGFM, Senior Manager, and Adam Frost, Manager, Maner Costerisan, PC

## Updating and Maintaining Your Township's Water and Sewer Infrastructure

This informative session combines the financial expertise of both municipal advisors and bond counsel. We'll begin by demonstrating how utility rate studies can offer insights into your township's water and wastewater improvement costs and provide tips for rate management and capital spending, including the impact of Michigan's Lead and Copper Rule. A discussion on options for financing lead service line replacement and infrastructure improvements, including USDA Rural Development and the State Revolving Fund, rounds out the session.

*Speakers:* Steven Mann, Attorney, Miller Canfield; and Andy Campbell, CPA, Municipal Financial Advisor, Bendzinski & Co.

## Wage and Hour Basics: Getting Pay Right, Every Time

Although most townships process payroll “the way it's always been done,” it may not be right! Learn when you must pay employees (including paid on-call staff!), what the basic requirements of minimum wage and overtime calculations are, when compensatory or flex time can be utilized (safely!) and much more from employment law experts.

*Speakers:* Helen “Lizzie” Mills and Kayla Seger, Attorneys, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

## What Changes Are Proposed for the MTA Policy Platform

With input from fellow township members across the state, learn about the proposed 2026 Policy Platform from a panel of MTA directors who serve on the MTA Legislative Policy Platform Committee. Committee chairs will discuss the proposed changes and receive feedback from members attending. This session will allow you to learn the rationale behind the proposed changes as well as get questions addressed prior to the Annual Meeting, where the proposed policy platform will be formally adopted.

*Speakers:* Members of the MTA Board of Directors and MTA Government Relations Staff

## Zoning Strategies for Affordable Housing

Discover strategies for expanding your township's housing options without sacrificing local character. We'll review practical zoning approaches that align with your township's size and infrastructure, and offer insights into crafting ordinances that encourage housing diversity and support affordability while thoughtfully addressing common concerns. We'll explore proven approaches—such as accessory dwelling units, lot-size flexibility and mixed-use districts—along with solutions like brownfield housing amendments, community land trusts and land banks.

*Speaker:* Wayne Beyea, JD, AICP, and Trent Cunningham, Attorneys, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

## Concurrent educational sessions

3 to 4:15 p.m.

## AI: Helpful or Headache?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the talk of the town, but how do you know when AI is helpful and when it might land you in hot water? Join MTA Legal Counsel as we explore the good, the bad and the downright tricky sides of using AI. We'll review pros, cons, common pitfalls and practical strategies for managing AI-generated submissions from residents and using AI to improve your township. You'll walk away practical do's and don'ts, guardrails to protect your township and a clearer view of whether AI fits your situation.

*Speaker:* Michael Bila, Attorney, Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC

## A Sign of the Times: How Does Your Sign Ordinance Stack Up?

As businesses look for new ways to stand out and residents get more creative with expressing their views, communities are seeing bigger, brighter and more creative signs than ever before. How do you decide what's allowed within your township's borders? We'll help you navigate the new court cases that make trying to formulate a constitutional sign ordinance and enforcement program a moving target. Don't miss this review of the latest legal guidelines when it comes to commercial and residential signs.

*Speaker:* Matthew Zalewski, Attorney, Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsuechler, PC

## Community Approach to Crisis Intervention

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs are community-based efforts that bring together law enforcement, mental health professionals and advocates along with other partners to improve community response to mental health crises. How can your township help strengthen these partnerships and improve crisis response in your community? Join us and find out! Learn about the development of foundational elements necessary for true crisis response reform and how it can help your community.

*Speakers:* Kevin Fischer, Executive Director, and April Switala, Director of Programs, Crisis Intervention Team International, Michigan

## Funding Township Roads

Learn what options are available to your township to fund and finance road improvements. Explore funding through road millages, special assessments and voter-approved bonds. The options, and benefits, of partnering with your road commission will also be discussed.

*Speaker:* Steven Mann, Attorney, Miller Canfield

## Future-ready Board

Is your board prepared for today's challenges and tomorrow's risks and opportunities? Learn strategies for assessing risk, fostering teamwork and developing governance practices that promote resilience, innovation and long-term success. Walk away with practical tools to ensure your board is not just prepared for the future—it's shaping it.

*Speaker:* Susan Radwan, Owner, Leading Edge Mentoring

## Is it Fun Accounting or Fund Accounting? Why Can't it Be Both!

Review the fundamentals of fund accounting, which is used to ensure

transparency, accountability and legal compliance. Join us as we break down the different types of funds and the five categories of fund balance to explain how revenues and expenditures are recognized. You'll gain a deeper understanding of government accounting, including how to read your township's financial reports, ask the right questions and make informed fiscal decisions.

*Speakers:* Angie Ginebaugh, Associate, and Heather Farmer, CGFM, Senior Manager, Maner Costerisan, PC

## Managing Civil Rights Complaints

Both the public and your township employees have the right to file complaints against your township for perceived violations of civil rights. These can range wildly from a complaint from a resident about law enforcement interactions to a township employees' concerns about how they've been treated at the township. Learn basic complaint management to best position the township to avoid and, if necessary, respond to these investigations and

survive the administrative agency processes.

*Speakers:* Helen "Lizzie" Mills and Chad Karsten, Attorneys, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes PLC

## Principles of Plain-Language Documents

Cut through the clutter! This session will help you sharpen your plain-language skills so your contracts, policies and ordinances say what you mean. We'll share practical techniques for saying more with less, and making documents concise, enforceable and easy to understand. You'll walk away ready to simplify complex clauses, avoid common pitfalls and reduce misinterpretation before it begins.

*Speaker:* Laura Genovich, Attorney, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, PC

# Join the Parade!



**The Township Parade of Flags will kick off MTA's 2026 Annual Conference's Opening Session on Tuesday, April 21.**

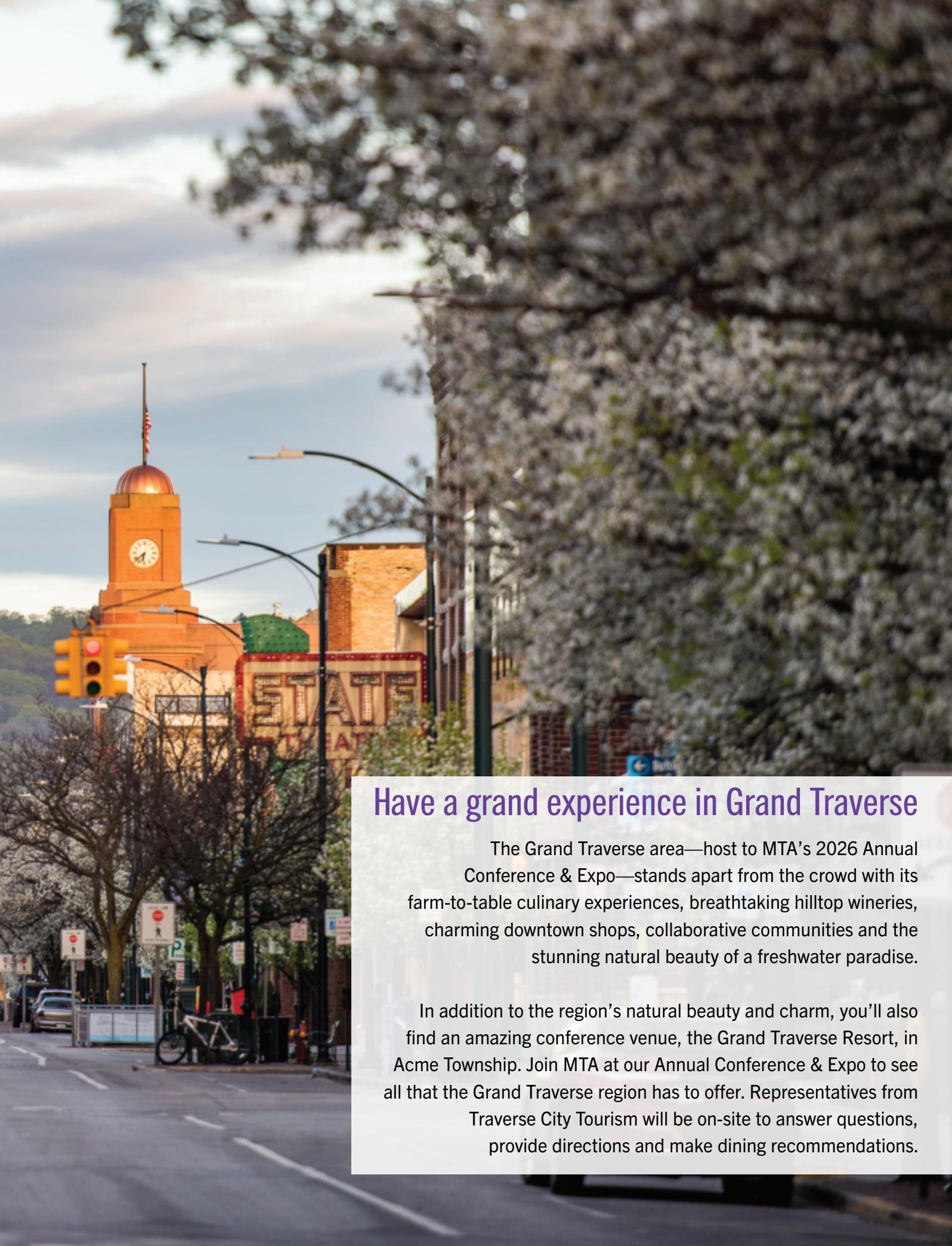
Register today to take part in the Parade—what some attendees call “the most inspirational part of the Conference!” To register, email your interest to [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org) or fax this form to (517) 321-8908 by April 6, 2026. Information and instructions will be emailed to all Parade participants prior to Conference.

Township/County \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact Jenn Fiedler at [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org) or (517) 321-6467, ext. 229.



## Have a grand experience in Grand Traverse

The Grand Traverse area—host to MTA's 2026 Annual Conference & Expo—stands apart from the crowd with its farm-to-table culinary experiences, breathtaking hilltop wineries, charming downtown shops, collaborative communities and the stunning natural beauty of a freshwater paradise.

In addition to the region's natural beauty and charm, you'll also find an amazing conference venue, the Grand Traverse Resort, in Acme Township. Join MTA at our Annual Conference & Expo to see all that the Grand Traverse region has to offer. Representatives from Traverse City Tourism will be on-site to answer questions, provide directions and make dining recommendations.