



## Jack Randolph: Leading MTA with a strong voice

Although townships in recent years have successfully fended off threats to transfer statutory duties to counties and helped to overcome the possibility of a potentially harmful Constitutional Convention, the work to preserve the government closest to the people is far from over.

And working at the forefront of that fight is MTA, and its Board of Directors, led by 2011 President **Jack Randolph**. Elected by the membership at the MTA Annual Meeting, held Jan. 28 in conjunction with the Annual Educational Conference & Expo in Grand Rapids, Randolph's first job was welcoming MTA's officers and three new District directors who were also elected at the Conference (*see pages 17 and 20*).

Randolph has been **East China Charter Township** (St. Clair Co.) supervisor since 2000, and has more than four decades of local government experience. He began serving on the township's planning commission and zoning board of appeals in 1970, and was township trustee from 1994 to 2000.

Randolph's commitment to—and expectations for—township government, and MTA, have never been higher.

"We must continue to keep townships strong and effective," said Randolph, who first joined the MTA Board in 2004. "MTA and townships must have a strong voice in state government."

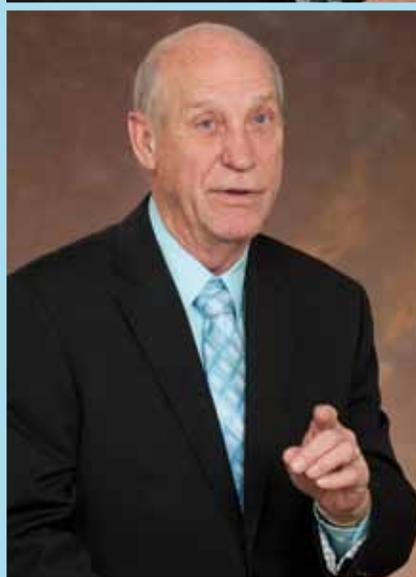
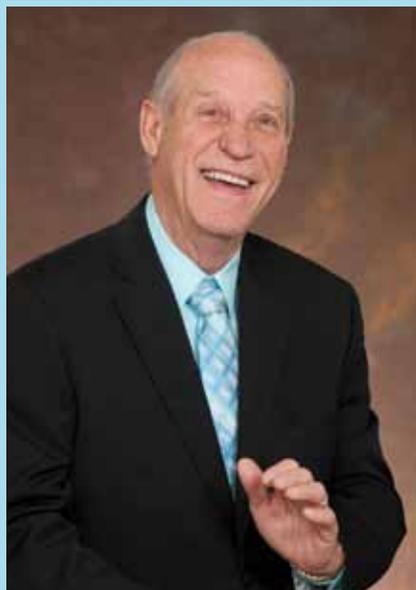
Randolph sees MTA as "the glue that binds

township government," he said, by providing incomparable educational programs and timely communications about legislative happenings and other township essentials, and representing townships with a strong, united voice to the state Legislature.

Randolph's sentiments are echoed by **Chandler Township** (Huron Co.) Supervisor **Bill Renn**, MTA's new first vice president. Renn said, "Our number one priority has—and always will be—our members and providing them with accurate and up-to-date information and the opportunity to expand their knowledge of township governance."

Looking ahead to the upcoming year, the Association's new leader aims to "maintain the high integrity of the Association, while also working closely with other associations to bring Michigan back to prosperity," Randolph said.

Added Renn, "This year, it is very important, with all the new faces in state government, that MTA—not only its staff and Board but also our entire membership—be involved in providing



2011 MTA President Jack Randolph (left) and First Vice President Bill Renn share a laugh at the Association's Annual Meeting in January.

accurate information and guidance as the state works its way back to prosperity!”

One cannot underestimate that impact that townships—which represent more than half of Michigan’s population—can play in rebuilding the state’s prosperity.

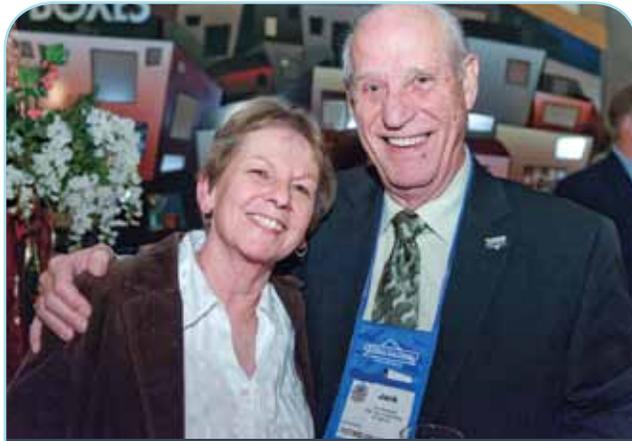
“We must uphold the values unique to township government, and I encourage township officials to work with citizens for positive changes that will enable our young people to stay and work in Michigan,” said Randolph. “We must create an environment that will attract business to relocate or to stay in townships.”

Engaging its citizenry is key not only to Michigan’s renaissance, but also is essential for the future of community leadership.

Townships can foster an active citizenry by “facilitating productive working relationships with citizens and business leaders for positive changes, and encouraging volunteerism, which will bring out citizens with leadership ability,” said Randolph.

Randolph also points to an ongoing MTA initiative, “Townships in the Classroom,” which encourages officials to visit local schools to educate students about township government, as another way to connect with the community. “Engage young people to involve them in township functions,” urged Randolph, who also suggests that officials invite and encourage residents to attend township board meetings.

Randolph counts local leaders among his personal heroes, saying that he is inspired by “the ordinary people who cope with adversity and hardship but continue to be a vital part of the community.” He credits his parents with fostering that admiration for his peers, noting that his parents “taught me to respect other people and never forget how blessed I am in many, many ways.”



**Randolph and wife Lois offered warm smiles and kind greetings throughout the Annual Conference.**

When Randolph first got involved in local government more than 40 years ago, his goal then—and now—was to improve the place he calls home. “I didn’t want to be part of the problem, I wanted to be part of the solution,” said Randolph, who also worked at the St. Clair County Road Commission for nearly 30 years. “I wanted to make my community a better place for me and my family to live and play.”

Those years of community service have well-prepared Randolph for his time leading the Association. “I try to do the best job possible and work with people for a set goal, and listen to and suggest ideas for the good of the whole,” he said.

Randolph intends to maintain that listening ear during his tenure as MTA president, and he plans to “be open to the suggestions and ideas of the District directors and the members of the Association, and lead the MTA directors in a way they may best serve their Districts,” he said.

In looking beyond this year at the helm of one of Michigan’s largest local government organizations, Randolph sees nothing but successes in the future for township government.

He said, “When I look to the future, I see a place where our children and grandchildren still have a voice at the local level of government, a place where citizens can still get answers to local issues, and a place where Thomas Jefferson’s dream is still alive and viable.” ■

## 2011 MTA Executive Committee



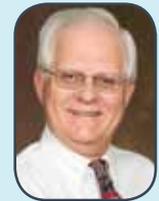
**Jack Randolph,  
President  
Supervisor, East China  
Charter Township  
(St. Clair Co.)**

**Bill Renn,  
First Vice President  
Supervisor, Chandler  
Township (Huron Co.)**



**Denny Olson,  
Second Vice  
President  
Supervisor, Breitung  
Charter Township  
(Dickinson Co.)**

**Eugene Jorissen,  
Treasurer  
Supervisor, Pere  
Marquette Charter  
Township (Mason Co.)**



**Linda Preston,  
Secretary  
Supervisor, Pokagon  
Township (Cass Co.)**

**Doug Merchant,  
Member-at-large  
Supervisor, Arcada  
Township (Gratiot Co.)**



**Linda Towsley,  
Immediate Past  
President  
Clerk, Windsor  
Charter Township  
(Eaton Co.)**

# MTA's 2011 Annual Conference & Expo *scrapbook*



Enjoying the Grand Rapids Public Museum at the Par Plan Night at the Museum



Kicking back with colleagues at the Bendzinki 3-D Pre-Conference festivities



More than 50 educational sessions to choose from



Time for questions and conversation



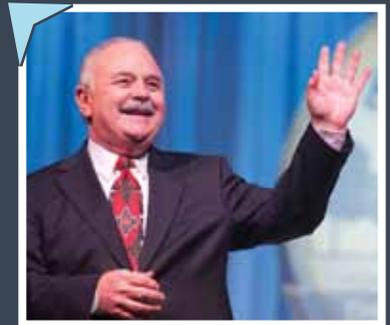
Networking time between sessions and events



Delving into local issues at the Round Table Discussion Groups



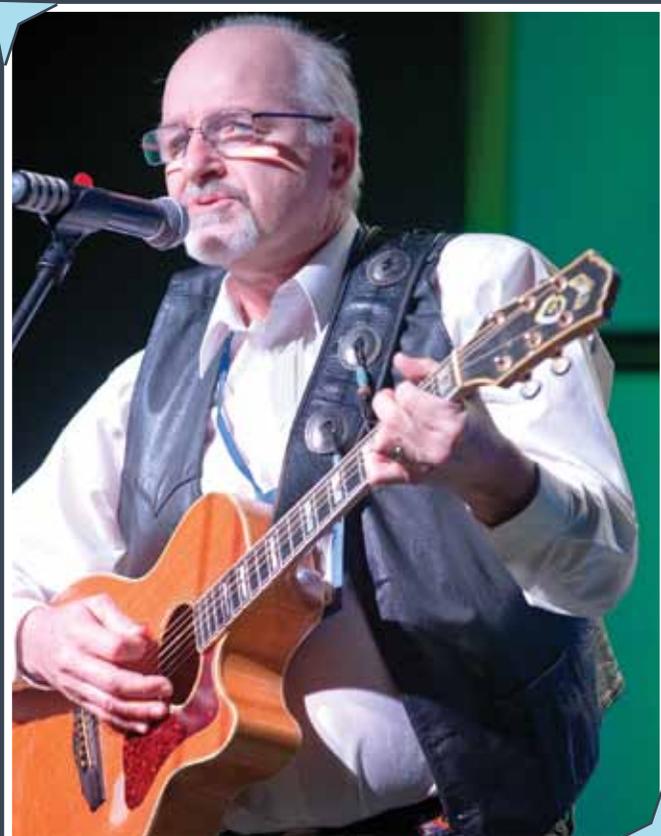
2010 MTA President Linda Towsley welcomed attendees at the Opening Session



Conference Keynote Bruce Wilkinson shared tips to inspire excellence among township officials and their community



The MTA Expo connected attendees with more than 130 vendors offering township solutions and services



Tuscarora Township (Cheboygan Co.) Supervisor Mike Ridley wowed Opening Session attendees with his original ode to our great state, "Michigan Man"

Conference photos by Trumpie Photography, Grand Ledge. To view or purchase photos, visit [www.trumpiephotography.com](http://www.trumpiephotography.com).



The MTA Networking Dinner allowed Conference goers the chance to mingle and dine in a casual setting



Dozens of guest speakers shared their knowledge and know-how throughout the week



Officials kicked up their heels at the Burnham & Flower Afterglow Gala



The new Détente Café offered full coffee service and the ideal spot for conversation

## Three new directors elected to MTA Board

Three new faces have joined the MTA Board, after being elected at caucus elections held during the MTA Annual Conference in Grand Rapids.

### PETER KLEIMAN, MTA DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR

**Harris Township** (Menominee Co.) Supervisor **Peter Kleiman** will represent Alger, Delta and Menominee Counties as director of MTA District 3. Kleiman became



**Kleiman**

supervisor in 1988, and has also served as township assessor for the past 18 years.

In addition to more than two decades as supervisor, Kleiman has served as president and vice president of the Menominee County MTA Chapter, and is the current chapter secretary. He is also a member of the Menominee County Farm Bureau, and has received eight times the five-star award for membership recruitment for Family Dairies USA, a dairy cooperative representing Midwestern family farmers.

As a local leader, Kleiman has worked hard to improve his community, and notes that among his most rewarding experiences serving in township government was the building of a new township hall and fire hall, along with the replacement of many bridges in Harris Township.

"I feel my years of involvement in local government have helped to develop a community that residents can be proud to live in, with improved schools, fire departments, roads and services," said Kleiman.

With more than two decades of experience serving on two area school boards, Kleiman knows that the importance of education doesn't diminish after one leaves school.

"I hope to bring more educational workshops to rural townships and the Upper Peninsula," said Kleiman of his goals as MTA director.

### DANIEL CLINE, MTA DISTRICT 13 DIRECTOR

Officials in Bay, Gladwin and Midland Counties have a new District 13 director, **Ingersoll Township** (Midland Co.) Supervisor **Daniel Cline**. Cline first began serving the township as planning commissioner in 1992, a position that he held until 2000, when he became township trustee. He has served as supervisor since 2007.



**Cline**

An active member of the Midland County community, Cline serves many area organizations, including as a board member of the American Red Cross Midland-Gladwin Chapter, director of Midland Tomorrow, Great Lakes Bay Regional Alliance and Midland County Economic Development Corporation, and member of the Midland Rotary Club, Midland County Bar Association and the Michigan State Bar. He is currently the first vice president of the Midland County MTA Chapter, and previously served as secretary.

Cline said that "helping our citizens to understand and work effectively with the governmental process" has been among his most rewarding experiences serving in local government.

He plans to continue that tradition of connection in his role as MTA director. "I have three goals as director," said Cline. "1) Continue MTA's strong educational programs for township officials; 2) help MTA advocate effectively with the governor and Legislature regarding the important role of the township governmental structure within our democracy; and 3) be an effective communicator between MTA and the township officials I am representing."

Cline continued, "Townships connect citizens with their government, and MTA connects townships with the greater state of Michigan."

### BILL DEATER, MTA DISTRICT 18 DIRECTOR

**Grant Township** (St. Clair Co.) Supervisor **Bill Deater** has been elected MTA District 18 director, representing officials in Sanilac and St. Clair Counties. Deater has been



**Deater**

supervisor since 2004, and has served on the township's board of review since 1999.

Honored as St. Clair County's Firefighter of the Year in 1998, Deater first began his service to the Grant Township Volunteer Fire Department 38 years ago. He has also served on the Grant Township Park Building Committee and Grant Township Building Committee, as well as the St. Clair County Homeland Security Board, as a representative to the county central dispatch and on the county supervisors association.

Deater sees his role in public office as one that allows him to educate residents—and improve the place that they call home. "I believe that the people of my township have given me a chance to make our township a better place to live and work by my listening to their everyday needs," he said. "I would like to see local government remain in place, and I will work diligently to preserve it."

Deater intends to bring that listening ear to his role on the MTA Board as well. He noted, "My goal as director is to help townships be better informed of new and current information that affects them as township officials."



## Parade of Flags offers inspirational Conference kick-off

Nearly 40 townships helped kick off the 58th Annual Educational Conference & Expo by participating in the 2011 Parade of Flags, during the Conference's Opening Session on Jan. 26. Thanks to each township that participated, and to **Georgetown Charter**

**Township** (Ottawa Co.) Supervisor **D. Dale Mohr**—who submitted the very first registration for the 2011 Conference—who led the parade with the MTA flag!

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|---|---|--|
| <b>Ada Township</b> (Kent Co.)                    | <b>Filer Charter Township</b> (Manistee Co.)      | <b>Mt. Morris Charter Township</b> (Genesee Co.) |
| <b>Alpena Township</b> (Alpena Co.)               | <b>Georgetown Charter Township</b> (Ottawa Co.)   | <b>Muskegon Charter Township</b> (Muskegon Co.)  |
| <b>Alpine Township</b> (Kent Co.)                 | <b>Homer Township</b> (Midland Co.)               | <b>Niles Charter Township</b> (Berrien Co.)      |
| <b>Breitung Charter Township</b> (Dickinson Co.)  | <b>Hope Township</b> (Barry Co.)                  | <b>Plainfield Charter Township</b> (Kent Co.)    |
| <b>Bridgheampton Township</b> (Sanilac Co.)       | <b>Hope Township</b> (Midland Co.)                | <b>Resort Township</b> (Emmet Co.)               |
| <b>Buena Vista Charter Township</b> (Saginaw Co.) | <b>Ingersoll Township</b> (Midland Co.)           | <b>Sebewa Township</b> (Ionia Co.)               |
| <b>Carrolton Township</b> (Saginaw Co.)           | <b>James Township</b> (Saginaw Co.)               | <b>Thomas Township</b> (Saginaw Co.)             |
| <b>China Charter Township</b> (St. Clair Co.)     | <b>Kalamazoo Charter Township</b> (Kalamazoo Co.) | <b>Vevay Township</b> (Ingham Co.)               |
| <b>Chippewa Township</b> (Isabella Co.)           | <b>Klacking Township</b> (Ogemaw Co.)             | <b>Victor Township</b> (Clinton Co.)             |
| <b>Croton Township</b> (Newaygo Co.)              | <b>Lincoln Charter Township</b> (Kalamazoo Co.)   | <b>Williams Charter Township</b> (Bay Co.)       |
| <b>Eagle Township</b> (Clinton Co.)               | <b>Macomb Township</b> (Macomb Co.)               | <b>Windsor Charter Township</b> (Eaton Co.)      |
| <b>Edenville Township</b> (Midland Co.)           | <b>Marion Township</b> (Livingston Co.)           | <b>Zeeland Charter Township</b> (Ottawa Co.)     |
| <b>Escanaba Township</b> (Delta Co.)              | <b>Morton Township</b> (Mecosta Co.)              |  |
| <b>Eureka Charter Township</b> (Montcalm Co.)     |   |  |



### Conference attendees give back, give blood

Nearly 100 lives were impacted by the dozens of township officials who donated life-saving blood during the MTA Blood Drive, held Jan. 26 at DeVos Place. Our special thanks go to everyone who participated in the blood drive, making the Red Cross venture a success for the second year in a row!

## 2011 Conference & Expo Sponsors

### Platinum



### Gold



### Silver



### Bronze

