

A Year Ahead in MTA Ed(ucation)

We're excited to share what educational offerings we have in store for you in 2024 so that you—and your entire township team—can plan ahead.



To help you budget accordingly, early-bird registration rates are included below. Rates are per person, and increase by \$25 three weeks prior to event date and another \$25 one week out. Details, descriptions and registration materials will be included in *Township Focus*, mailed to every township and available on MTA's website, www.michigantownships.org (under the "Learning" tab) as event dates near.

Now You Know

MTA's Monthly Webinar Series

Make the most of your lunch break with MTA's lunchtime learning series, *Now You Know*.



These live one-hour webinars provide timely updates, insights from our experts and a chance to get your questions answered in real time. Join us live the day of or watch a recorded version later. *Rate: \$25/session*

Turn to page 9 for a list of 2024 topics. Townships with a subscription to **MTA Online** at the **Premium** level can watch every episode for **FREE** with no limit on participants.

January

MTA's Capital Conference

Learn the latest on legislative issues impacting townships. From ongoing debates regarding local authority, to new issues driven by changing winds based on election results. This event offers a direct line to lawmakers, state departments and MTA policy experts to help you best serve your constituents. Be an advocate for township government when you join us at the **Lansing Center on Jan. 23**. Turn to the inside back cover of this issue for all the details.

February

Board of Review Training

MTA is offering both online and in-person *Board of Review Training* at 11 locations throughout the state! We're hosting two classes, one approved by the State Tax Commission to satisfy the PA 660 biennial training mandate AND one for those who have already met the requirements and are ready to dive deeper into common trouble spots, hot topics and other issues encountered by boards of review.

Rate: \$100/person

See page 27 for more information, including a registration form.

April

MTA's Annual Conference & Expo

Our signature event, returning to the **Grand Traverse Resort on April 22-25**, connects you with municipal experts, inspiring speakers and nearly 1,000 of your fellow officials. You can choose from 50 timely township topics at sessions crafted to keep you on top of the changes, requirements and expectations of today's local leaders. Our expo features more than 100 municipal vendors offering services that can help you improve your community. We've also got pre-Conference classes geared for your township assessor, attorney and every member of your township team.

The registration brochure appears in **this issue** of *Township Focus*, as well as at www.michigantownships.org, and includes all the details, including class descriptions, event highlights, registration and housing information.



May

The ABCs of ZBAs

This afternoon class explores the unique function of the zoning board of appeals (ZBA) within your township. You won't want to miss this review of its authority, duties and roles, including use of alternates and warning signs that a conflict of interest might exist. Classes will be held in Frankenmuth, Gaylord and Battle Creek.

Rate: \$100/person

June

Election Prep & Primer

MTA can help ensure your township is ready for the August primary and November general election. This afternoon class will get you up to speed on a wide variety of election issues. From Proposal 2 changes to checklists and time management tips, we'll even help you troubleshoot those nagging Election Day issues. Held in six locations around the state.

Rate: \$100/person

July

U.P. Summit

MTA is packing up our resources, publications and municipal experts and bringing them to the Island Resort in Harris (west of Escanaba) for two full days of education! Join us for a session, a day or both days, based on your areas of interest. *Save the dates (July 23-24)* and watch for more details soon!

Rates vary based on sessions chosen.

August

Hot Topics in Planning & Zoning

This ever-popular evening class identifies emerging issues in planning and zoning. It's a must for planning commissioners, township board members and zoning administrators. Join us as we dig into the latest hot-button land use and zoning issues. Classes will be held in Gaylord, Frankenmuth and Lawrence.

Rate: \$100/person

Summer Academy



Township Governance Academy

Have you heard of MTA's Township Governance Academy (TGA)? This premier learning curriculum, designed with the township leaders in mind, helps you hone your leadership skills, providing techniques and strategies to enhance decision-making for the benefit of your community. Summer sessions, held Aug. 1-2 include *Creating a Vision for Your Township*, *Linking with the Community* and *Strategic Planning*.

Rates are \$100 per classes; register for all three for \$267

September

Emerging Issues in Emergency Services

MTA can help your township turn down the heat on the hot issues facing your fire department and emergency services personnel. This annual, full-day event will be held at the **Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth on Sept. 10** and—new this year, a second location—the **Evergreen Resort in Cadillac on Sept. 12**.

Rate: \$125/person

October

On the Road Regional Meetings

MTA travels the state every other year for this regional meeting series bringing YOU the inside scoop on issues impacting your township. Each event features an insightful legislative update, a mini-expo with township vendors, and breakout sessions on timely topics relevant to each and every township. Join your fellow officials, MTA staff and municipal experts from across the state. Dates and locations will be announced soon.

Rate: \$125/person

November

Online Learning Sale

MTA is thankful that you turn to us for your educational needs. Each November, we offer a half-off "Give Thanks" webcast sale on nearly every offering in our Online Learning Center (<https://learn.michigantownships.org>). You'll have up to a year to watch (and rewatch!) your selections. *Want to make online learning available to your entire township team for one low annual rate? Learn more about our online subscription plans at <https://bit.ly/MITwpsOnline>*

Treasurers' Guide to Tax Collection

Get an overview of the tax collection process—from preparation of the tax bill through summer and winter taxes, all the way to accounting for (and disbursement of) collections. This full-day deep dive will be held at four locations around the state. Rate: \$125/person

December

New Officials Training

MTA is here to help those new to township government (or those changing office) get up to speed on their roles and responsibilities. Training offers invaluable insights into the "hows and whys" of township government and explores the duties and responsibilities of a township board. This full-day event will be held at 13 locations around the state.

Rate: \$149/person