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**M C M A**

**MICHIGAN CITY  
MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

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Ann Arbor, MI 48106  
734/662-3246  
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**PRESIDENT:**

**SPENCER R. NEBEL**  
Sault Ste. Marie

**PRESIDENT-ELECT:**

**GEORGE J. STRAND**  
Lapeer

**IMMEDIATE**

**PAST PRESIDENT:**

**PAUL L. PRESTON JR.**  
Mount Pleasant

**DIRECTORS:**

**ALEX R. ALLIE**  
Huntington Woods  
**RANDALL D. BYRNE**  
Grand Blanc  
**MELINDA R. CARLTON**  
Kent County  
**PATRICK G. GREVE**  
Auburn Hills  
**GERALD M. HOMMINGA**  
White Hall  
**RICHARD I. LEWIS**  
Traverse City  
**D. WAYNE O'NEAL**  
Clawson  
**WARREN D. RENANDO**  
Jackson

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

**JOHN A. O'KEEFE**  
Michigan Municipal League

# The Manager

The official newsletter of the Michigan City Management Association

December 1998

## Soaring Eagle Resort Site of 1999 Winter Institute

Reported by Frank Walsh, St. Joseph

The 1999 Winter Institute, scheduled for January 27-29 in Mount Pleasant, promises to be an outstanding program that will educate, inform and entertain attendees.

The Institute will be held at the Soaring Eagle Resort, which is owned and run by the Saginaw-Chippewa tribe, a sovereign nation.

Mount Pleasant City Manager Paul Preston and Assistant City Manager Kathy Grinzinger will act as hosts of the annual event. Key-note speaker on Thursday will be

Bill Marohn, Vice Chairman of the Whirlpool Corporation. Mr. Marohn will be joined by Doug Rothwell, CEO of Michigan Jobs Commission, to speak about site selection and what companies are looking for.

The Whirlpool Corporation has revenues of \$11.5 billion per year, with 45,000 employees worldwide. The company's world headquarters are located in the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph region.

Another topic of interest to city administrators will be discussed in a session about developing a city cable system that can compete

*Continued, see Winter Institute, page 4.*

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## '98 Summer Workshop a Resounding Success

by Alan G. Vanderberg, South Haven

The lure of Mackinac Island and a great weather forecast (thanks to Jimmie Hanes Jr.) led to the third highest attendance ever at an MCMA Summer Workshop.

The program kicked off with the second annual pre-conference ICMA University Workshop, "Getting Things Done Through Creativity." The pre-conference session was ably led by George Barbour Jr., West Coast Director, ICMA and was well spoken

of by participants. Kudos to the Professional Development Committee for another great session!

Ms. Shirley Poertner was the speaker for the Thursday and Friday morning general sessions. She gave an informative presentation with a lot of audience discussion and participation in various exercises—How many shades of green can you name? Participants also completed personal creativity profiles that helped to target

*Continued, see Summer Workshop, page 4.*

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## President's Message

by Spencer R. Nebel, City Manager,  
Sault Ste. Marie, and President, MCMA

As you are aware, in August 1998, John O'Keefe's position as Association Director of the Michigan Municipal League was eliminated as part of an organizational restructuring implemented by MML Executive Director George Goodman. This change has had a direct impact on MCMA since John has served as our Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Director in his capacity with the Michigan Municipal League.

As an association made up of managers and assistant managers who serve as "at will" employees to our communities, we are familiar with the personal difficulties that transition creates for both the manager and their families. The MCMA Board of Directors and members have expressed their concerns and support to John and Mary Ellen as they sort through the various issues that need to be addressed as part of job transition.

The MCMA Board met during the MML Convention at Traverse City to discuss the direction that the Association should head as a result of the MML reorganization. The Board requested that the President appoint a task force made up of Board members and several Past Presidents of the Association to consider the various options that the Board could pursue as it relates to the MCMA Executive Director/Secretary/Treasurer's position.

I appointed the past four MCMA Presidents, Paul Preston (Mt. Pleasant), Tom Markus (Birmingham), Eric DeLong (Grand Rapids), and Karl Tomion (Midland), along with Past President Jack Patriarche, to serve with the Board on this special task force. Executive Director John O'Keefe also participated in these

discussions.

The task force reviewed several facts regarding the position of Executive Director/Secretary/Treasurer. It is important to note that the Executive Director position is established and appointed by the MCMA Board of Directors, while the Secretary/Treasurer's position is called for in our Association's bylaws and is included in the slate of officers nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the membership at the annual meeting.

Furthermore, as an affiliate organization of the Michigan Municipal League, staff support for this position has been provided at no cost to the Association by the League. As you may be aware, this relationship dates back to 1930, when our Association was first created. A League staff member has served in this capacity for our Association since that time.

The task force very strongly supported continued close ties with the Michigan Municipal League. This relationship has certainly been instrumental in making MCMA one of the premiere state associations which are affiliated with ICMA in the country. Task force members with experiences from other states especially emphasized this matter. Furthermore, our close affiliation with the MML has certainly provided significant benefits to the League as well. Typically, one-third of the MML Board of Directors are made up of city managers. This cannot be said of the other affiliate groups with the MML, such as the city attorneys, city clerks, etc.

Finally, MML Executive Director George Goodman indicated that the League is willing to continue the type of relationship

that has been in place since 1930 by providing a staff person to continue serving in the capacity of Secretary/Treasurer at no cost to our Association.

The MCMA Board of Directors met in regular session on November 13, following the task force meeting. The Directors considered a letter of immediate resignation from John O'Keefe from the position of Executive Director/Secretary/Treasurer of MCMA. As an alternative position, John indicated that he would be willing to continue in his position as Executive Director/Secretary/Treasurer until the end of his current term, which expires in January 1999; he would then step down from those positions and not seek reelection. After considering these options, the Board approved a motion by unanimous vote requesting that John O'Keefe continue in this position until the end of his term.

The Board also appointed a committee consisting of the President-Elect, President and Past President to discuss with MML Executive Director George Goodman which staff members would be available to serve as support staff from the League to our Association during this next year. Furthermore, the Board also indicated that during the course of 1999, the new Board should examine its relationship with MML and review what other associations or educational institutions the Association may also benefit by having some sort of affiliation with. This will be an important challenge for the new Board of Directors and President-Elect George Strand, but I am sure that they are fully up to this task.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our thanks to John

*Continued, see President's Message, page 3.*

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# ICMA Briefs

## Earley Elected to ICMA Executive Board

Deputy Ingham County Controller was elected to a three-year term on the executive board of the International City/County Management Association.



Earley

Mr. Earley is one of 17 vice-presidents, three of whom are elected from the eight-state Midwest region of the U.S.

Mr. Earley began his career with Ingham County in 1993 when he was hired as budget director. He was promoted to deputy controller for administrative services and budget in 1995. He is an active member of the National

Association of County Administrators, the Government Officers Association and the National Forum for Black Public Administrators.

"I am honored and humbled by this vote of confidence from my colleagues, all of whom are leaders in their own right," Mr. Earley said. "I look forward to serving the membership and tackling the many tough issues we face in public management which impact quality of life in our communities today, and as we enter the new millennium."

Officers elected to the 1998-99 Executive Board were installed in October, at the association's annual conference in Orlando, Florida.

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## President's Message (continued)

O'Keefe for the services he has provided as the Associate Director of the MML to the MCMA over many years. We do wish John and Mary Ellen the best as they pursue new options in their future.

In other news, D. Wayne O'Neal and the MCMA Winter Institute Planning Committee have planned an outstanding conference which will take place in Mount Pleasant, January 26-29, 1999. This year's conference theme is Innovation, Communication and Leadership. I would encourage everyone to attend this important training opportunity.

Work has been continuing on the development of a Web page for MCMA. Committee Chairperson Bill Ross (Auburn Hills) has indicated that the Web page will be on-line after the first of the year. This will be an effective tool to improve communications with our membership.

I would like to thank President-Elect George Strand (who served on the 1998 ICMA Conference Planning Committee) and Executive Director John O'Keefe for their efforts in planning the annual "Michigan Night" dinner during this year's ICMA Convention in Orlando. It was a very fun and enjoyable evening at the Adventurer's Club on Pleasure Island.

I look forward to seeing you in Mount Pleasant for the annual winter conference in the New Year.

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# MCMA Briefs

## MCMA selects Wollenweber to run for ICMA vice president in 1999

Under an agreement negotiated by Tom Markus (Birmingham), a rotational schedule for nomination of ICMA vice presidential candidates within the Midwest region puts Michigan in line for the 1999 slate.



Mark Wollenweber, St. Clair Shores city manager, has been identified as an ideal candidate to represent Michigan (and the Midwest region) in this capacity.

Wollenweber's public service career began as a City Council Urban Corps Intern for the City of Detroit in 1970, and all of his service has been within the State of Michigan. He has served as city

manager of St. Clair Shores since 1990, and prior positions included stints with the City of Huntington Woods, City of Plymouth, City of Westland, and the Michigan Municipal League. Additionally, Wollenweber has been active in both MCMA and ICMA, serving on various committees within each organization.

Wollenweber received a Masters of Arts in Urban Affairs from the University of Detroit in 1972. In 1994 he attended the JFK State and Local Government Program for Senior Executives at Harvard University. He was voted City Manager of the Year in 1982 and presented with the Michigan Municipal League Special Award of Merit in 1991.

## NOTICE

MCMA members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in *The Manager*. Written, phoned or faxed information should be sent to:

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# Back page news & Calendar

## Regional Managers Groups

**WATCH THIS SPOT**  
for the latest information  
on regional manager groups.

### BORDER BANDITS

Hillsdale/Branch/Jackson/Calhoun Counties.  
Contact: Maurice Evans, CM, Marshall.

### DOWNRIVER

Breakfast meetings held 2nd Thursday of  
the month in Riverview. Contact: Bob Elliott,  
CM, Riverview.

### GENESEE COUNTY

Genesee County—meetings held last Friday of  
the month. Contact: Mike Cain, CM, Fenton.

### LAKE AREA

Macomb County, parts of St. Clair County  
and the Grosse Pointe area—lunch meetings  
held 3rd Thursday, every other month.  
Contact: Brian Vick, AA, Grosse Pointe.

### MID-MICHIGAN CITY/COUNTY

Contact: Steven Stilwell, CM, Big Rapids.

### MIDDLE OF THE MITTEN

Lansing metro area—meetings held 1st  
Thursday of the month. Contact: Theodore J.  
Staton, CM, East Lansing.

### NORTHERN MICHIGAN L.P.

Bi-monthly meetings. Contact: Richard  
Lewis, CM, Traverse City.

### OAKLAND COUNTY

Meetings held 1st Wednesday of the  
month, excluding July and August.  
Contact: Frank Lauhoff, CM, Farmington.

### SAGINAW COUNTY

Saginaw County—meetings held last  
Friday of the month. Contact: Ron Lee,  
Saginaw Township Manager.

### SOUTHEAST

Wayne/Washtenaw/Lenawee/Monroe  
Counties—meetings held 3rd Wednesday  
of the month. Contact: Jim Wonacott, VM,  
Blissfield.

### SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Berrien/Kalamazoo/St. Joseph/Cass/Van  
Buren Counties—meetings held 3rd  
Wednesday of the month. Contact: Frank  
Walsh, CM, St. Joseph.

### THUMB NUTS

Thumb area—meetings held three times  
each year. Contact: Charlie Graham, CM,  
Frankenmuth.

### U.P.

Meetings held twice each year. Contact: John  
Korhonen, CM, Ishpeming.

### WEST MICHIGAN

Holland/Ludington/Portland—lunch  
meetings held in Grand Rapids, 3rd Wednes-  
day of each month, except July and August.  
Contact: Pauline Luben, ACM, Hudsonville.

## Calendar

### 1999

#### January

- 27-29** MCMA Winter Institute  
Soaring Eagle Resort,  
Mount Pleasant

#### March

- 17** MML Legislative Conference  
Lansing Center

#### July

- 28-30** MCMA Summer Workshop  
Sylvan Treetops Resort,  
Gaylord

### WinterInsitute (continued from page 1)

with the local cable company. The  
City of Coldwater will present a  
program based on their cable TV  
success.

The closing breakfast will be  
include an electronic voting ses-  
sion. Members will use a device to  
answer “yes” and “no” questions  
designed to determine the typical  
make-up of the group. The results  
will identify the characteristics of  
city managers in Michigan.

Be sure to join us January 27-29  
in Mount Pleasant when MCMA  
members come together to learn  
and have a good time!

### Summer Workshop (continued from page 1)

whether a person had the attributes of  
a Creator, Advancer, Refiner, Executor  
or Facilitator. Poertner’s presentation  
ended Friday morning with a “brain  
mapping” session for generation of  
1999 Summer Workshop ideas for  
Curtis Holt and the 1999 Summer  
Workshop Committee to consider.

On Thursday afternoon, more than  
30 managers and spouses attended a  
short session entitled “Creative  
Investment Strategies.” Mark Dixon of  
Plante and Moran presented an  
informative program on short-term  
and long-term personal investment  
strategies. John McCann of ICMA-RC  
provided information on the 401  
Executive Plan.

Mission Point was an excellent  
host and worked extra hard to

provide interesting and fun activi-  
ties for children in the Teddy Bear  
Club and the Discovery Club. The  
Southwest cookout was well at-  
tended and the food outstanding.

Many thanks to the Summer  
Workshop Committee members who  
worked diligently to make the event a  
success. John O’Keefe also provided  
much assistance to pull the event off.  
The MCMA Board financial goal for  
the Summer Workshop was exceeded  
as the event netted more than \$7,500.  
Member surveys were quite positive  
and have been turned over to next  
year’s committee for review. On behalf  
of the 1998 Summer Workshop  
Committee, I thank you for attending  
and helping to make the event fun and  
profitable.