

# MLGMA

<http://www.mlgma.org>

## **MICHIGAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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# The Manager

The official newsletter of the Michigan Local Government Management Association

Affiliated with the Michigan Municipal League

June 2003

## Committee Reduces Fees for Summer Workshop

*by Frank L. Walsh, St. Joseph City  
Manager; Chair, 2003 Summer Workshop  
Planning Committee*

**O**n behalf of President Kathie Grinzinger and the 2003 Summer Conference Committee, I personally invite you to attend the annual Michigan Local Government Management Association (MLGMA) Summer Conference, to be held at Crystal Mountain Resort, July 22-25, 2003.

Our group has worked very hard over the past four months to come up with an interesting agenda—while at the same time reducing the cost of the conference in an attempt to attract managers who have never attended a summer conference. The Committee chose to reduce the registration fee from \$190 to \$75.

In order to accomplish the reduction we will not pay for speaker fees or comp rooms. Considering the tough economic times in Michigan and in our nation we considered “an affordable conference” the top priority for 2003. However, the reduction in cost will not affect the quality of our program.

The summer conference will feature you, our fellow members. During the conference, you will be treated to the best-case examples of what works right here in Michigan. Fellow managers will lead us through discussions involving Inter-Governmental Agreements, Health Care Cost Options, Executive Searches, Innovation in Local Government and the best and worst examples of employment agreements our state has to offer.

Mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend the conference on July 22-25. Our committee is very pleased with the agenda and the opportunity to offer a conference that most communities can afford.

Please contact me right away if you would like to participate in the conference agenda. My email is [walsh@sjcity.com](mailto:walsh@sjcity.com) or you can reach me by phone at (269) 983-5541.

I want to thank the Committee for their commitment to putting the conference together during such tough budgetary times. We did our best to offer you high quality at a low cost.

Join us at Crystal Mountain on July 22. You'll be glad you did!

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# MLGMA News

## K-12 Curriculum to be Piloted

*By Mike Young, Rockford City Manager*

**I**n the fall of 2003, the K-12 curriculum on local government as developed by the MLGMA, MML and Michigan Civics Institute will be piloted in 32 school districts throughout the State. The process of developing this curriculum has been a long journey and was only possible with the support of a number of individuals and organizations who are committed to local government education.

The journey began in 1997, when MCMA President Spence Nebel and the Board of Directors created the Community Education Committee. The MCMA Board of Directors established several goals for the committee to accomplish including the top priority of developing a curriculum on local government.

The committee began its process by cataloging what was being taught on local government within various school districts throughout the State of Michigan. This research verified the thought that very little was being taught on local government and much of what was being taught was erroneous or outdated.

The Community Education Committee expanded its effort to include a partnership with the Michigan Education Association (MEA), Michigan Township Association (MTA), Michigan Department of Education, and the Michigan Municipal League (MML). It was clear that there was a very strong commitment by all of these organizations to develop a curriculum on local government. However, there was an equal concern as to how we would be able to persuade various school districts throughout the State to add another curriculum to an already very busy school year.

While the discussions continued, the Community Education Committee began to develop an outline of all of the concepts/topics that should be included within any local government curriculum.

In the year 2000, the Michigan Department of Education modified its contents standards and benchmarks as part of the Michigan Education Assessment Program (M.E.A.P.) to include a very comprehensive component of the MEAP dealing with social studies. This was seen as our opportunity to encourage school districts to include local government education as part of their general civics instruction.

At the same time, the Michigan Municipal League, as part of their centennial celebration, established the Centennial Youth Committee chaired by Deputy Kent County Administrator, Al Vanderberg. This newly formed committee shared the mission of developing a local government curriculum, which added significant momentum to our effort.

The earlier outline as developed by the now MLGMA Community Education Committee was expanded into a "White Paper" to add significant narrative and historical perspective to the various topics and concepts that were believed to be important as part of any local government curriculum. Truth be known, Al Vanderberg for the most part single handedly developed this "White Paper" through countless hours of research and study. Now the task at hand was to convert the "White Paper" into a curriculum that could be easily utilized by social studies teachers and understood by elementary, middle and high school students.

Around this time, State Representative Doug Hart, created the Michigan Civics Institute, whose main focus was to develop a curriculum on state government. Al Vanderberg and I approached the Civics Institute and encouraged them to expand their effort to include a local government component. This idea was embraced by the Civics Institute and our partnership was again expanded.

In the summer of 2001, Al, myself, and other local government officials made presentations in Lansing to 15 curriculum writers on the relationship between state and local government. In the summer of 2002, similar presentations were made to another panel of writers on the various functions of local government. From this effort, the curriculum writers developed 15 units including 75 lessons on local government.

Prior to this effort coming to fruition, a comprehensive fund raising campaign was initiated to raise \$75,000 to fund the cost of the curriculum writers and the creation of the local government curriculum. The MLGMA was the first organization to contribute to this effort. The Education Committee and MML Centennial Youth Committee took a lead roll in soliciting the remainder of the funds needed to complete this project. Funds were received from the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Township Association, Michigan Association of Counties, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, the Fry Foundation, and several local foundations and private individuals.

That brings us to where we are today. All of the funds needed to write the curriculum have been raised and the curriculum has been developed and is available in a web-based format. As mentioned earlier in this article, the curriculum will be

piloted in thirty-two (32) school districts throughout the State of Michigan and we are looking to expand it to include every district within the State. I would like to personally thank Spence Nebel for initiating the creation of the Community Education Committee and all of the past and present MLGMA Board of Directors who have supported this work. This success could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of Al Vanderberg, Jeff Mueller from Lathrup Village, and State Representative Doug Hart. With this goal achieved, the Community Education Committee will continue to pursue the education of local government, and particularly the council-manager plan.

## Update: Land Use Leadership Council

### *Slow Going at the Outset*

*by Dan Gilmartin, MLGMA Secretary/  
Treasurer; MML Associate Director*

**A**fter three meetings of the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council, the group remains focused on the overarching question of creating a statewide vision for land use in Michigan. On a positive note, the consensus among council members is that creating and maintaining vibrant cities is paramount to Michigan's future. In a pre-meeting survey of the council members, "urban redevelopment" ranked as the # 1 consensus priority of the committee. A recent set of public hearings conducted by the council throughout Michigan showed that the general public agrees. Just exactly what recommendations the council will make to the Legislature and governor in order to achieve this goal remains to be seen.

Some of the other issues that the council will focus on include improving the municipal finance structure, protecting and enhancing Michigan's land based industries, providing incentives for communities to work together on planning and zoning issues, and preserving farmland and greenspaces. While it is still "up-in-the-air" as to whether the council will ultimately recommend broad policies or specific legislative fixes, you can expect that these issues will be featured in the council's final report.

I invite all members of MLGMA to visit the council's website at [www.michiganlanduse.org](http://www.michiganlanduse.org). The site contains valuable information for those who would like to track the workings of the committee. There is also a reference section where you can download resource materials on important land use topics.

## Listserve: Managementforum

*by Jack Duso, Midland City Manager*

**A**re you a Managementforum subscriber yet? If you are one of the 130 members of MLGMA who answered yes, then you already know the value of this incredible networking tool. If you aren't, then perhaps you might want to learn more about this email discussion list that many of your colleagues are using to enhance their local government management toolkit.

Managementforum is a confidential discussion list available only to members of MLGMA. It is a communication tool that offers its members the opportunity to post suggestions or questions by email to a large number of people at the same time. Similar to a forum or chat room, a subscriber sends an email message to one address, and

the message is automatically delivered via email to each subscriber of the list. Each reply to the original and subsequent email is delivered to all subscribers so that everyone on the list can see all of the responses. Additionally, an archive of all previously posted messages is available on the Internet.

Since its implementation in October 2000 many MLGMA members have reaped the benefits of participation in the Managementforum list. A recent example of how it has benefited several communities is the recently formed informal consortium of West Michigan municipalities who are renewing antenna leases with NPI Wireless. A single posting on Managementforum seeking information on how much other communities charge for antenna space on water towers led to the Cities of Hart, Montague, Newaygo, Scottville, White Cloud, Whitehall, Ludington and the Villages of Pentwater and Shelby banding together to approach NPI Wireless as a single body to negotiate the renewal of antenna licenses.

If you would like to subscribe to Managementforum, visit the MLGMA web site at [www.mlgma.org](http://www.mlgma.org) and click on the Listserv link. If you have any questions about the list, call 989-837-3302 or send an email to [jduso@midland-mi.org](mailto:jduso@midland-mi.org).

## TOWNSHIP MANAGERS

Please note: The MLGMA Winter Institutes in 2004 and 2005 will take place on the same dates as MTA's annual conference.

# ICMA News

## ICMA Midwest Region State Officers' Meeting

by Mike Herman, Albion City Manager

The ICMA Midwest Region State Officers' Meeting was held on April 3-4, 2003 at the DoubleTree O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois. There are eight states (Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa & Missouri) in the Midwest Region. Although there were several items on the agenda, the most controversial and time consuming was a discussion of the Rotation Agreement for the election of the three Vice President positions for the Midwest Region.

### Rotation Agreement

ICMA has a very open election process for the Vice President positions in each Region. Basically any Corporate Member who is currently working for a local government is eligible to serve as an ICMA Vice President. An ICMA member can get his or her name on the ballot by being nominated by the ICMA Nominating Committee or by submitting a petition with the signatures of 15 Corporate Members.

The nomination and election process endeavors to get the best qualified candidates on the Board as well as to insure reasonable geographic, gender, racial, and age representation. Obviously this is not an easy task to accomplish, especially with the desire to maintain an open election process. All of this further complicates the process for electing the Regional Vice Presidents.

Typically, state associations will recommend an individual to the ICMA Nominating Committee for consideration for a Vice President position. In some cases several or all states in a Region would submit

a candidate. There were times particularly in the Midwest Region when the competition between states and candidates became too aggressive and confrontational. Therefore in 1997, in order to try and calm down the situation and to provide a better opportunity for all states (particularly those with a small number of ICMA members) to have a Vice President from their state, the Midwest States entered into a Rotation Agreement. Under the terms of the Rotation Agreement, each state in the Region would have a designated year in which a candidate from their state would be recommended to the ICMA Nominating Committee to be the Vice President candidate for the Region. The Rotation Agreement did not guarantee that the recommended candidate would be selected by the ICMA Nominating Committee nor that he or she would be elected.

This past year 2002, the state of Wisconsin was the designated state for the Vice President candidate. However, the ICMA Nominating Committee did not select this candidate as its nominee. Unfortunately, the candidate and the Wisconsin state association did not complete a petition for the candidate and therefore his name did not appear on the official ICMA ballot. As a result the candidate from Wisconsin did not get elected. The ICMA Nominating Committees' recommended

candidate (who happened to be from Michigan) did get elected. Because of this situation, the Wisconsin state association cried "foul" and this set up the controversy at the recent Midwest Region State Officers' Meeting.

I won't report the play by play, as it was sometimes "ugly" but professional. We managers can be aggressive but civil in pressing our point of view. Two action items resulted from this discussion. The first is a recommendation to ICMA that the Regional Vice Presidents be elected on a regional basis rather than by all of the ICMA membership. On the surface this seems to be a reasonable request. Most of us are lucky if we know the candidates from our region let alone the candidates in other regions of the country. Each state association in the Region was asked to support this recommendation to ICMA.

The second action item involved continued support of the Rotation Agreement but with a one-time "slide" in the rotation schedule to let Wisconsin have the next slot in 2005. The Michigan Local Government Management Association (MLGMA) prior to the Midwest Region meeting had gone on record in support of the Rotation Agreement but did not support a change in the rotation schedule. See "New Rotation Schedule" for the new schedule if approved by all of the Midwest state associations.

### NEW ROTATION SCHEDULE

Vice President #1		Vice President #2		Vice President #3	
State	Year	State	Year	State	Year
No	1998	Michigan	1999	Missouri	2000
Rotation	2001	Illinois	2002	Wisconsin	2003
for this	2004	Wisconsin	2005	Minnesota	2006
Position	2007	Iowa	2008	Michigan	2009
	2010	Ohio	2011	Illinois	2012
	2013	Indiana	2014	Minnesota	2015

Under the old schedule Michigan would have been in the 2008 slot but under the one-time "slide" of the new agreement Michigan moved to 2009. This is a delay of one year in the rotation schedule as opposed to a two-year delay for some of the states. The new Rotation Agreement also makes it clear that it is the responsibility of the state association and the candidate to complete the petition process to insure that the candidate gets on the ICMA ballot in their designated rotation year.

### *Financing ICMA*

A task force has been set up by ICMA to review the ways in which the Association is funded and to see if changes are needed for future sustainability. The task force will be soliciting member input on concerns and suggestions regarding funding sources. The task force is being chaired by Tom Lundy, County Manager for Catawba County, North Carolina. The goal of the task force is to present a final report at the 2004 Annual Conference in San Diego. Information on task force progress will be provided in future issues of the ICMA Newsletter.

### *Voluntary Credentialing*

The Voluntary Credentialing project is nearing the first year for the first set of managers that were credentialed in May 2002. As part of the process these managers will have to complete the annual update to maintain their credentialed status. ICMA is encouraging state associations to assist with the credentialing process by promoting ICMA University Workshops at their state association conferences and

offering opportunities to take the Applied Knowledge Assessment.

### *Public Awareness Campaign*

In early 2002, ICMA launched its "Building Communities...It's No Small Chore" public awareness campaign (PAC) to increase public understanding of the value that professional city, town, and county management brings to our communities. As a key component of this program, ICMA developed a planning tool kit containing a number of materials that managers and their staffs can use to reach out to citizens, elected officials, etc. ICMA is interested in how the materials are being used as well as feedback on ways to improve the program. If you have input or questions, please contact Michele Frisby (202-962-3658; mfrisby@icma.org) at ICMA.

### *On-going ICMA Activities*

- Under the Next Generation Strategy efforts are underway to attract a more diverse group of people into the local government management profession. Also as part of this effort they want to develop and mentor interns and early-to-mid career professionals already in the field.
- Via a major effort to redesign and reorganize the Web site at ICMA.org, it is intended that ICMA will continue to be the authority on professional local government management.
- Efforts continue at ICMA to review the ways that the association connects with its members. The objective is to enhance personal connections between members and with the Association.

### *Governance & Reality*

The Illinois State Association raised a concern at the Midwest

meeting concerning communities that had previously been recognized by ICMA as a council-manager form of government but were not in reality following the requirements of their charter or state statute. At issue is the poor public image that can result from such a situation and how it could discredit the council-manager form of government. Presently ICMA does not have a process in place to review the council-manager structure unless the legal structure is formally changed. This issue also ties in with the goal to have qualified (credentialed managers) individuals in council-manager positions.

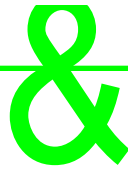
### *Meeting a Good Time*

Despite the hard work and controversial issues, the Midwest Region Officers' Meeting was a GOOD TIME! It provided an opportunity to meet other managers and discuss issues of importance to the management profession. Since it is a small group (12-18) setting, everyone can participate. If you get the chance to attend one of these Regional meetings, I would highly recommend you take advantage of the opportunity.

## DEADLINE

MLGMA members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in *The Manager*. Please submit all copy for the September 2003 issue to the editor, Sue Lee, [leeford598@aol.com] by Monday, August 4, 2003.

# Back page news



# Calendar

## Regional Managers Groups

### BORDER BANDITS

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

### GENESEE COUNTY

Genesee County—meetings held first Thursday of the month. *Contact:* Michael Senyko, 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.

### MIDDLE OF THE MITTEN

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

### MID-MICHIGAN CITY/COUNTY

Upper Central Lower Peninsula. *Contact:* Ken Hibl, CM, Clare.

### NORTHERN MICHIGAN L.P.

Meetings held 4th Thursday of the month. *Contact:* George Korthauer, CM, Petoskey.

### OAKLAND COUNTY

Meetings held 2nd Tuesday of the month, excluding July and August. *Contact:* Don Gross, CM, Southfield.

### SAGINAW COUNTY

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

### SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Wayne/Washtenaw/Lenawee/Monroe Counties—meetings held 3rd Wednesday of the month. *Contact:* George Brown, CM, Adrian.

### 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:* Spencer Nebel, CM, Sault Ste. Marie.

### WEST MICHIGAN

Kent/Muskegon/Ottawa Counties; Ludington/Portland areas—lunch meetings held in Grand Rapids, 3rd Wednesday of each month, except July and August. *Contact:* Mark C. Meyers, ACA, Norton Shores.

## Calendar

### 2003

#### *July*

- 22- MLGMA Summer Workshop
- 25 Crystal Mountain

#### *September*

- 17- MML Convention
- 19 Detroit
- 21- ICMA National Conference
- 24 Charlotte, NC

### 2004

#### *January*

- 27- MLGMA Winter Conference
- 30 Frankenmuth

#### *March*

- 24 MML Legislative Conference  
Lansing

## Retired City Managers to Hold 14th Annual Reunion

The 14th annual retired city managers' reunion will be hosted by Frank and Jane Gerstenecker on Wednesday, August 6, 2003, at 6626 Emerald Lake Drive, in Troy. The reunion has been hosted by Chairman Don Ziemke (Portage C.M.) for several years, and before that by the late Al Glassford (Albion C.M.). All retired city managers and partners are invited.

Announcements with directions should be received by those on last year's mailing list by mid-June. To be added to the mailing list, or for directions, telephone Frank and Jane at 248-879-0639.

Guests usually arrive around 10:30 a.m. Lunch is served about 12:30 p.m. Bring lawn chairs, a salad or other dish to pass, beverages of your choice and stories and pictures to share.

### Hosts

Frank & Jane Gerstenecker  
6625 Emerald Lake Drive  
Troy, MI 48085  
Phone: 248-879-0639

### Date & Time

Wednesday, August 6  
at 10:30 a.m.

### What to Bring

Lawn Chairs  
Dish to Pass  
Beverages of your choice