



MLGMA

<http://www.mlgma.org>

MICHIGAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1487, Ann Arbor, MI 48106
Phone 734/662-3246 • Fax 734/662-8083

PRESIDENT

MICHAEL S. HERMAN
Albion

PRESIDENT-ELECT

THOMAS J. WIECZOREK
Ionia

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

KATHIE S. GRINZINGER
Mount Pleasant

DIRECTORS:

TERI A. ARBENOWSKE
Farmington Hills

JOSEPH P. DUFF
Gaylord

W. MICHAEL FREER
Roscommon

KENNETH D. KROMBEEN
Grandville

RONALD LEE
Saginaw Charter Township

JOSEPH H. MERUCCI
Clawson

PENNY S. OSIER
Ontonagon

WILLIAM H. NELSON JR.
Dowagiac

THEODORE J. STATON
East Lansing

SHANNON S. STUMBO-BELLERS
Ypsilanti

PATRICK K. SULLIVAN
Saint Clair

MICHAEL F. YOUNG
Rockford

EX-OFFICIO

JANE BAIS-DISESSA
Berkley; ICMA Midwest VP

BARBARA MOORE
ICMA

SECRETARY/TREASURER

DANIEL P. GILMARTIN
Michigan Municipal League

The Manager

The official newsletter of the Michigan Local Government Management Association

Affiliated with the Michigan Municipal League

June 2004

2004 Summer Workshop

Charting a Better Course

by Jeff L. Mueller, City of Lathrup Village,
Assistant City Administrator; Chair, 2004
Summer Workshop Planning Committee

On behalf of President Michael Herman and the 2004 Summer Conference Planning Committee, I would like to personally invite you to attend the Michigan Local Government Management Association (MLGMA) Summer Conference. Please join us at Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs, July 20-23, 2004.

Our committee has worked extremely hard to offer a high quality, low cost program that will be both educational and motivational in these uncertain times.

The registration fee has been kept low. Room rates are considerably less than in previous years and, once again, first time attendee's registration fees will be waived, in order to encourage attendance.

On Wednesday, the conference will kick off with Lew Bender. Lew conducted the program on generational differences at our Winter Institute in Frankenmuth. He was so well received that we are bringing him back to offer a program on "Subtle Aspects of Communication." Plan on attending, and bring your spouse or

significant other so they can say "I told you so!"

The Wednesday luncheon is sponsored by Varnum Riddering and will feature information provided by John Pestle on "Franchise Fees/Bolt Case."

After lunch we will get into the "sickness" which is Michigan's Financial Model. In order to keep our members from jumping off bridges, etc., some positive tips will be offered on "Alternative Service Delivery Models" and methods to communicate the need for new millage monies.

If all else fails there will be a session on assistance available from the Managers in Transition committee.

On a lighter note, Wednesday evening there will be a putt-putt golf outing at The Jungle. Attendees of every age are encouraged to participate. Awards will be presented at the Thursday night dinner.

Thursday will feature sessions on "Dealing with Negative People" and "Innovations in Municipal Leadership."

On Friday ICMA-RC will present a new program "Key Considerations in Retirement Planning."

continued on page 4

President's Message

by Michael S. Herman, Albion City
Manager; 2004 MLGMA President

Your MLGMA Board and Committees are hard at work as we complete the 1st quarter of our fiscal year. At our Board meeting on April 16, 2004 the audit for 2003 was reviewed and accepted from our auditors, Plante & Moran. During 2003 our unrestricted fund balance declined from \$58,348 to \$44,656. The auditors indicated that this was still a good fund balance for our organization; however, the Board is working hard to balance our revenues and expenses for 2004 so that the fund balance does not continue to decline.

The Awards committee chaired by **Scott Huebler** (Whitehall), is continuing its efforts to revise and improve the awards and recognition program. If you know of a manager who deserves special recognition for his or her efforts, please contact Scott via e-mail at huebler@cityofwhitehall.org.

The Managers In Transition (MIT) committee is exploring ways to become more proactive in providing early intervention for communities where the manager and council are having difficulties. An effort is also underway to update the MIT handbook. Please contact MIT Chair **Ed Koryzno** (ekoryzno@cityofypsilanti.com) if you know of a manager who may need assistance.

DEADLINE

MLGMA members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in *The Manager*. Please submit all copy for the Sept. 2004 issue to the editor, Sue Lee, [leeford@comcast.net] by Monday, August 2, 2004.

As an Association, we are also exploring ways to improve communication with the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) and the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC). Our goal is to encourage more use of professional managers in townships and counties and to encourage these managers to join MLGMA.

On behalf of the Association, I have confirmed the appointment of **Brian Murphy** (Beverly Hills), who volunteered as the MLGMA representative to the 2005 ICMA conference planning committee for the Minneapolis, MN conference. Please e-mail your suggestions to bmurphy@villagebeverlyhills.com.

The summer workshop at Boyne Highlands is fast approaching and Chair **Jeff Mueller** and his committee are promising another outstanding conference experience. I know budgets are tight, but during these stressful times networking with your fellow managers is very important. As in past years we will continue to waive the registration fees for managers in transition, and for first-time attendees.

The Public Policy committee, chaired by **Eric DeLong** (Grand Rapids) and working on behalf of the Association, continues to pursue changes to the process of handling uncapped properties under Proposal A and Headlee. Also of concern is the increasing number of communities in financial trouble and facing potential state receivership. There is a feeling that earlier intervention is needed, with the use of a professional manager to help turn things around.

I know that many of you are currently struggling to balance your 2004-2005 municipal budgets. There seems to be a general feeling that we are exploring new economic territory with the current

recession and funding problems at the state and local level. Many communities are having to rethink their priorities for providing services to their citizens.

These are stressful times and it is more important than ever that we come together to support one another. Please don't hesitate to reach out with support and encouragement to your neighboring managers and communities. Your Association stands ready to provide support whenever we can as you address the challenges facing your community.

Your Association is truly a sharing and caring organization. Please take advantage of the resources available to you as a member.

Our members' ethics and professionalism continue to be strong, and the need for professional management in our local communities is even more essential. For these reasons, I encourage all members to "Keep the Passion for the Profession."

2004 MLGMA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The three remaining 2004 MLGMA Board meeting times and locations are listed below. Please send Agenda items, correspondence, etc. at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting to MLGMA President, Mike Herman. [E-mail: citymanager@ci.albion.mi.us or Fax: 517-629-4168 .]

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Boyne Highlands
6:30- 8:30 p.m.

Friday, October 1, 2004

Mackinac Island
8:00-9:30 a.m.

Friday, November 12, 2004

MML Lansing
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

ICMA News

ICMA 90th Annual Conference Coming to San Diego in October

by Pamela Antil, City of Ann Arbor, and Richard Watkins, Delta Township; 2004 ICMA Conference Planning Committee Members

Bordered on the south by Mexico, on the west by the Pacific Ocean, and on the east by the Anza-Borrego Desert and the Laguna Mountains, San Diego County is home to 70 miles of beaches, 92 golf courses, multiple theme parks, and an abundance of arts, culture, and sporting activities. It is also the destination for the 2004 ICMA Annual Conference from October 17-20, 2004!

We are proud to have served on the 2004 Conference Planning Committee and to have had a hand in helping to create the educational tract for this year's ICMA Annual Conference. The Planning Committee met in San Diego last November and was able to see, first hand, all that San Diego has to offer as host of the Annual Conference. After much discussion and brainstorming to identify topics of interest to most of the membership, we created the following overall theme tracks for San Diego:

- Improving Public Confidence in Local Government
- Local/State Relations: "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling"
- Preparing the Next Generation
- Technology/Tech City
- Living a Balanced Life: Personal Issues Affecting Your Life Today

The Committee also developed sessions in three career tracks focusing on the professional

development needs of: (1) small community managers; (2) senior executives; and (3) assistant managers and non-CAOs. Several Michigan managers and assistants were suggested as potential speakers for various sessions and will be contacted by ICMA in the next couple of months if they are selected to speak at the Annual Conference.

San Diego County
is home to 70 miles of beaches, 92 golf courses, multiple theme parks, and an abundance of arts, culture, and sporting activities.
It is also the destination for the 2004 ICMA Annual Conference October 17-20, 2004!

In addition to the outstanding learning opportunities, the conference will offer a number of social and networking events. The San Diego Host Committee will kick off the

conference with a "Taste of San Diego" block party in the historic Gas Lamp District on Saturday evening. The "Endless Summer Welcoming Reception" at the San Diego Convention Center will follow on Sunday evening. State/alumni/affiliate receptions will move to Monday evening, rather than the traditional Tuesday evening. This change was made so the Host Committee could offer an optional social event on Tuesday evening—a reception on the newly decommissioned USS Midway aircraft carrier. Other planned activities will include a number of family and sporting activities and events.

The majority of the conference hotels are located within easy walking distance from both the Convention Center and the historic Gas Lamp District. The six conference hotels range in price from \$164 to \$229 for single occupancy and \$184 to \$259 for double occupancy. The housing forms for the Conference will be included in the ICMA Newsletter in late May, on-line at www.icma.org, and as an insert in the preliminary program.

We hope you will make plans to join us in sunny San Diego. As you can readily see, the ICMA Annual Conference will prove to be, in a word, *outstanding!*

For more information regarding speaking at the ICMA Conference sessions, please contact **Pam Antil** by e-mail at pantil@aol.com. Stay tuned for information regarding the Michigan Managers' dinner in San Diego!

