

MLGMA

<http://www.mlgma.org>

MICHIGAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT

THOMAS J. WIECZOREK
Ionia

PRESIDENT-ELECT

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Grand Blanc

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ICMA State Liaison Officer

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DANIEL P. GILMARTIN
Michigan Municipal League

The Manager

The official newsletter of the Michigan Local Government Management Association

Affiliated with the Michigan Municipal League

Spring 2005

2005 MLGMA Board of Directors Reflect and Plan

by Thomas J. Wieczorek, Ionia City
Manager; 2005 MLGMA President

January's meeting of the Michigan Local Government Management Association Board of Directors always means a set of "firsts." It is the first meeting of the new board; first opportunity to reflect on goals and objectives for the coming year; and first opportunity to see what was accomplished during the prior year.

2004 President Michael Herman and the board left big shoes to fill for the current board of directors. Much was accomplished during the 2004 term, most importantly an increase in the fund balance enabling us to continue the accomplishments of the organization. The books on the 2004 year reflect that nearly \$14,500 was added to the fund balance of the organization—which was needed after many years of slow decline. Final numbers are still being compiled but it appears that revenues will total \$111,089 for the year with corresponding expenditures of \$96,589. It means that tuition assistance and other MLGMA programs can continue for this year with plans to increase the fund balance so as to keep the organization healthy for coming years.

The new budget, \$112,295 in revenues and \$100,480 in expenses, is predicated on dues

remaining the same and no additional members. However, the board set a goal of at least seven new members during the year which should help the bottom line. The summer conference is again slated to reflect no financial gain for the organization with revenues and expenses evenly matched. The 2005 Winter Institute was projected slightly lower because of financial restraints of our membership communities and higher costs because of the venue. We should have final numbers in the next few weeks.

Unfortunately, when the budget is passed for the organization, the largest fund generator is pretty much in place. The new budget is passed at the conclusion of the winter conference—one of the largest single fund generators that we have!

In other business, the board:

- Acknowledged the committee assignments, year end reports, and goals and objectives for the coming year.
- Approved the development of the early intervention project with the Michigan Municipal League designed to help members and their communities during times of change and conflict.

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President's Message

by Thomas J. Wieczorek, Ionia City Manager; 2005 MLGMA President

Local governments face unprecedented challenges this year. Federal funds are drying up due to ever increasing deficits, and states are being asked to pick up many of these federal responsibilities yet are still trying to recover from the recession. It has fallen on local government to shoulder the burden, to find the solution, to lead the way in many cases.

What does one do? We have to REACH!

Often times local government managers feel like the "Tidy Bowl" man of yesteryear commercials. We find ourselves alone in a boat in rough waters. It is in those times that we need to reach—up, in, and out—utilizing the vast experience and knowledge that is the Michigan Local Government Management Association.

Our first charge for the coming year is building a solid base, which means membership. It may not sound like a flashy task, but it will take the efforts of all local government managers to identify people who could and should be part of this organization. The flash will come in the form of seven new members being added to our rolls during the coming year. I would ask that you look around at surrounding communities—townships, villages, cities, and counties—and take the time to contact people you

know not to be members of our organization. Invite them to join; invite them to the regional lunches. Help welcome them into the association.

While seven MLGMA members may seem possible, it will be harder to accomplish the next part of that membership challenge: to find and encourage seven new members to ICMA. The membership dues of ICMA are greater than that of MLGMA—there is no getting around that point. However, if you have never been active in ICMA or not taken a look at the wide array of educational programs they offer, make this the year that you do! This year affords an opportunity for many to attend the ICMA annual conference to be held in Minneapolis in the fall. If you have never attended, perhaps this will be the year that provides you that chance.

It is easy to acknowledge that budget cuts force us to cut training and travel. It is expected. However, at the same time we must keep ourselves current on issues that affect our communities or that will soon affect our communities. We can no longer do things "the way we always have." Rather, we have to look around and find new, cost-effective and efficient ways of doing the job our citizens have come to expect. I think it can be a "Catch-22" at times because local government managers, by and large, have been so creative with doing things with less. Our wage

scales are lower than most schools, states, and other governments. Our cost of government is the most affordable. And what people do pay in taxes stays in their home community. There is no aid to foreign governments from local revenues.

If our larger communities find themselves challenged, imagine the battle smaller members face. It is important for us to help them reach and find solutions to problems that, in many cases, have been effectively and efficiently dealt with by our larger members. We have to reach across in many instances and link up to find answers to today's problem.

Our summer and winter conference committees are working hard to deliver a product that meets the needs of our members. If you have an idea or thought for topics, please feel free to contact the chair persons of each committee. We want our two educational gatherings to offer the enhancements you seek but we can't do it in a vacuum. It takes feedback for the committees to help all of our membership reach the next level in professional development.

We offer many other opportunities to "Reach Up," including our annual colloquium at the Michigan Municipal League Annual Conference, helping students through internship programs and college partnerships, meeting with other professional groups of the

President's Message—*continued*

MML such as police chiefs, fire chiefs, public works and legal. Many of our members come from these disciplines and it is important that we help them reach up in furthering their membership to our organization. Many will be the leaders of tomorrow; we need to make sure we continue to play a vital role in their career development.

I butchered the Latin phrase, "Nemo dat quod non habet" at the winter conference. It simply means that "One cannot give what one does not have." In these past few years of financial crisis mismanagement at the state level (which was in turn passed down the chain to local government), our members find themselves burning out.

As I looked about the room at the annual luncheon, I noticed that many shared the same hair color as I (or should it be lack of hair color?). We will see many of our members leave, and so it is important for us to give back to the new men and women joining our organization.

Internships are not only a good way to do this, but they may also stretch dollars in a community while accomplishing a necessary task. We have been working hard to develop relationships with Michigan universities; take the time to make this the year of the intern!

One also cannot give when one is burned out. We have tried to make the summer conference a little less "mind

scorching." Rather, we have tried to allot time to spend with families and with each other. When you are working 80 hours per week, you have to have time to unwind and refresh. While we are looking to include many pertinent and timely issues, we also want to make sure that there is some time to network. City Managers (and I have found myself doing this) tend to think that we cannot afford to take a shorter and easier time for the summer conference. Rather, we cannot afford not to! Make sure that in these trying times that you leave time for yourself and those that you love, because it is all too easy to neglect both.

Lastly, we need to reach out. Our participation in the National Civics Institute program is a model for many other states to follow. I believe we need to commend the efforts of our committee that brought this necessary and well-done program to fruition.

But you might notice they have set their sights on another goal: to bring the program from the high school into the elementary and junior high. We are reaching out to build the leaders of tomorrow: the mayors, the council members, the township boards, the county commissioners. Perhaps those who follow will be better versed in the operations and functions of local government.

We are also working with the Michigan Municipal League on

a pilot program to assist managers and communities who find themselves at odds. The process needs to start, in many cases, during the search process. The community needs to understand what it is doing when moving to professional management and the changes that will take place.

They and the new manager need to understand each other's roles and responsibilities and there needs to be opportunity for mentoring during the "honeymoon." If problems do arise, we need mayors, council members, and managers who can provide assistance to working through problems that may or may not be anyone's fault.

Many times it lies with traditions and progress being at odds with each other. The experienced intervention teams may help communities sail through those rough waters.

So let's REACH—up, out, and in! But it all starts and ends with you!

DEADLINE

MLGMA members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in *The Manager*. Please submit all copy for the June 2005 issue to the editor, Sue Lee, [leeford@comcast.net] by Monday, May 2, 2005.

MLGMA News

Following are the 2005 committee appointments.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Scott Huebler, Chair, Whitehall
Randall Byrne, Grand Blanc
Patrick Donahue, Wade Trim
John French, Montague
Fred Geuder, Harbor Springs
Tod Mowery, Sturgis
Steve Powers, Marquette County
Dennis Stepke, North Muskegon
Russell Taylor, Thomas Township
Jennifer Tubbs-Sims, Watertown Charter Township

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Michael Young, Chair, Rockford
Ray Anderson, Norway
Richard Dunnill, Bridgeport Charter Township
Jason Eppler, DeWitt
Precia Garland, Cadillac
Don Hoyt, Litchfield
Tori Kelly, Standish
Dale Martin, Linden
Patrick McGinnis, Grand Haven
Brian Murphy, Troy
Clay Pearson, Novi
Jakki Sidge, Goodrich
Cathy VanderMeulen, Walker
Christopher Wren, Fenton
David White, East Jordan
Chris Yonker, Fremont

ETHICS

Karl Tomion, Chair, Midland
Pat DiGiovanni, Kalamazoo
Jason Eppler, DeWitt
Roger Fraser, Ann Arbor
Fred Gueder, Harbor Springs
Ken Hibl, Clare
Ronald Lee, Saginaw Charter Township
Richard Lewis, Traverse City
Tom Markus, Birmingham
Mark Meyers, Norton Shores
David Murphy, Caro
Spencer Nebel, Sault Ste. Marie
Jerry Richards, Meridian Charter Township
Dennis Stark, Charlotte
Peter Stalker, Cadillac

MANAGERS IN TRANSITION

Mark Wollenweber, Chair, Grosse Pointe Woods
James Hock, Co-Chair, Oak Park
Don Beavers, Constantine
Joe Bippus, Three Rivers
Reid Charles, Mt. Morris
Richard Dunhill, Bridgeport Charter Township
Roger Elkins, Evart
Charlie Graham, Frankenmuth
Steve Guile, Beaverton
Robert Homan, Plainfield Township
Thomas Hoover, Royal Oak
Ron Lee, Saginaw Charter Township
Steve Sobers, Big Rapids
Randolph Terronez, Clare County
Chris Wilson, Algonac

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Amy McEwan, Chair, Delta Charter Township
Richard Watkins, Vice Chair, Delta Charter Township
Alex Allie, Huntington Woods
Dennis Bow, Flushing
Paul Brake, Meridian Charter Township
Jack Duso, Midland
George Freeman, Reed City
Precia Garland, Cadillac
Jean Golden, East Lansing
Darcy Long, In Transition
Amy McEwan, Delta Charter Township
Steve Sobers, Big Rapids
Jennifer Tubbs-Sims, Watertown Charter Township

NOMINATING

Michael Herman, Chair, Albion
Randall Byrne, Grand Blanc
Daryl Delabbio, Kent County
Kathie Grinzinger, Mount Pleasant
Curtis Holt, Wyoming
Spencer Nebel, Sault Ste. Marie
Tom Wieczorek, Ionia

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Randy Altimus, Chair, Eastpointe
Ray Anderson, Norway
Peter Auger, Davison
Randall Byrne, Grand Blanc
Jack Duso, Midland
Tori Kelly, Standish
Tim Klunder, Zeeland

Jeffery Lawson, Mackinaw City
Darcy Long, In Transition
Lynn Markland, Durand
John Marquart, Iron Mountain
Mark Meyers, Norton Shores
Michael Mitchell, Jonesville
Phillip Moore, Alma
Scott Patton, Washtenaw County
Paul Preston, Mount Pleasant
Michael Senyko, Fenton
Lee Slaughter, Muskegon
Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County
Mark Vanderpool, Sterling Heights

PUBLIC POLICY

Ted Staton, Chair, East Lansing
Ray Anderson, Norway
Robert Belleman, Bay City
Todd Campbell, Sturgis
Randy Debruine, Belding
Eric DeLong, Grand Rapids
Pat DiGiovanni, Kalamazoo
Gordon Gallagher, Saugatuck
Curtis Holt, Wyoming
Thomas Hoover, Royal Oak
Tim Klunder, Zeeland
Ed Koryzno, Ypsilanti
Jeffrey Lawson, Mackinaw
Jan Lazar, Highland Park
Richard Lewis, Traverse City
Phillip Moore, Alma
Jerry Richards, Meridian Charter Township
William Ross, Jackson
Michael Senyko, Fenton
John Shay, Ludington
Don Stypula, Grand Valley Metro Council

SMALL COMMUNITIES

John Szerlag, Troy
David Thayer, Lexington
Karl Tomion, Midland
Tom Wieczorek, Ionia
Chris Wilson, Algonac
Amy Planck, Chair, Imlay City
Sherry Ball, Pleasant Ridge
Don Beavers, Constantine
Joe Bippus, Three Rivers
Michael Cain, Boyne City
Bill Cousins, Kalkaska
Mitchell Deisch, Manistee
Richard Dunnill, Bridgeport Charter Township

Roger Elkins, Ewart
 George Freeman, Reed City
 Charlie Graham, Frankenmuth
 Steve Guile, Beaverton
 Ken Hibl, Clare
 Clinton Holmes, Brown City
 Don Hoyt, Litchfield
 Heath Kaplan, Capac
 Tori Kelly, Standish
 Marc Levis, New Baltimore
 Cheri Lutz, Schoolcraft
 John Marquart, Iron Mountain
 Michael Mitchell, Jonesville
 David Murphy, Caro
 Larry Nielsen, Bangor
 Bradley Noeldner, Paw Paw
 Rolland Olney, Leslie
 Bob Peterson, Elk Rapids
 Keith Riesberg, Roosevelt Park
 Arthur Sciorra, Cassopolis
 John Shay, Ludington
 Arthur Shufflebarger, Milford
 Jakki Sidge, Goodrich
 David Thayer, Lexington
 JoAnne VanTassel, Lake Orion
 Tim Wolff, Lake Isabella
 James Wonacott, Blissfield
 Paul Zelenak, Ortonville
 Eric Zuzga, Quincy

2005 SUMMER WORKSHOP

Jason Eppler, Chair, DeWitt
 Michael Cain, Boyne City
 Roger Fraser, Ann Arbor
 Tori Kelly, Standish
 Lou LaPonsie, Sandusky
 Larry Nielson, Bangor
 Lynn Markland, Durand
 Amy McEwan, Delta Charter Township

Wayne O'Neal, Eastpointe
 John Shay, Ludington
 Arthur Shufflebarger, Milford
 Russ Taylor, Thomas Township

2006 SUMMER WORKSHOP

Brian Murphy, Chair, Troy
 Randy DeBruine, Belding
 Roger Fraser, Ann Arbor
 Jon Lynch, Midland
 Tod Mowery, Sturgis
 Larry Nielsen, Bangor
 Bob Peterson, Elk Rapids
 Arthur Shufflebarger, Milford
 Jakki Sidge, Goodrich
 Russell Taylor, Thomas Township
 Barbara VanDuren, Wyoming
 Gary Word, Northville

2005 WINTER INSTITUTE

Dennis Bow, Chair, Flushing
 Ryan Cotton, Spring Lake
 Pat McGinnis, Grand Haven
 Frank Walsh, St. Joseph
 Brian Donovan, East Grand Rapids
 Michael Mitchell, Jonesville
 Keith Riesberg, Roosevelt Park
 Deborah Kimble, Saginaw
 Wayne Wiley, Battle Creek
 Paul Zelenak, Ortonville
 Pamela Antil, Ann Arbor
 Randall Byrne, Grand Blanc
 Gregory Sundstrom, Grand Rapids
 Jan Lazar, Highland Park

2006 WINTER INSTITUTE

Frank Walsh, Chair, St. Joseph
 Steve Guile, Beaverton
 Jan Lazar, Highland Park
 Jon Lynch, Midland

2005 MLGMA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The remaining 2005 MLGMA Board meeting times and locations are listed below. Please send agenda items, correspondence, etc. at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting, to 2005 MLGMA President, Tom Wiczorek [e-mail: tom@city.ionia.mi.us or Fax: 616-527-0810].

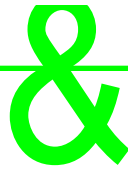
- **Friday, April 15, 2005**
10 a.m.–Noon, MML
Lansing
- **Tuesday, July 26, 2005**
6:30– 8:30 p.m., Garland
Resort, Lewiston
- **Thursday, Sept. 22, 2005**
8:00–9:30 a.m., Amway
Grand Plaza, Grand
Rapids
- **Friday, Nov. 18, 2005**
10 a.m.–Noon, MML
Lansing

Lynn Markland, Durand
 Dale Martin, Linden
 David Murphy, Caro
 Bradley Noeldner, Paw Paw
 Rolland Olney, Leslie
 Scott Patton, Washtenaw County
 Keith Riesberg, Roosevelt Park
 Paul Zelenak, Ortonville

2005 MML Regional Meeting Dates

<u>APRIL</u>		<u>MAY</u>		<u>JUNE</u>	
April 28	Region 4 Standish	May 6	Region 3 Grandville	June 8-10	Region 7 Ishpeming
April 29	Region 2 Decatur	May 12	Region 1 Dearborn		
		May 18	Region 5 Harbor Beach		
		May 20	Region 6 Charlevoix		

Back page news



Calendar

Regional Managers Groups

BORDER BANDITS

Hillsdale/Branch/Calhoun Counties. *Contact:* Bill Stewart, CM, Coldwater.

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 Hibel, 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:* Carolyn Lehr, CM, Keego Harbor.

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:* John Siira, CM, Wakefield.

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:* Ken Krombeen CM, Grandville.

Calendar

2005

July

- 26- MLGMA Summer Workshop
- 29 Garland Resort, Lewiston

September

- 20- MML Annual Conference
- 23 Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids

2006

January/February

- 31- MLGMA Winter Training Institute
- 3 Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo



Please note MLGMA Board of Directors Meetings and MML Regional Meeting Dates on page 5.

Board of Directors, *continued from page 1*

- Supported the expansion of The Civics Institute curriculum to include elementary and junior high students. The high school program brought commendations to the committee from the board.
- Accepted the development of a new membership brochure that can be used to recruit new members to the organization.
- Approved the goal of promoting the use of interns and providing opportunities to mentor college students interested in careers in local government.
- Established and supported

the Public Policy Committee goal of active representation of local government in discussions with the legislature involving the future look of local government.

- Supported the concept of the Midwest Rotation Agreement allowing a different state to put forth a candidate for the Board of Directors of ICMA. The rotation agreement is not recognized by the ICMA because under established by-laws, they must accept applications from all interested parties with interviews conducted by the ICMA board and nomination of the candidate felt best qualified.

However, it was felt the agreement was in the best interests of the Midwest Region states to field candidates they select.

- Approved a goal of seven new members to MLGMA and ICMA for 2005.
- Established the Michigan Municipal League headquarters as the location for a repository of historical information on MLGMA. Records had, in the past, been boxed and shipped from president to president. This provides a permanent home for historical records and information on the organization.