



MLGMA

<http://www.mlgma.org>

MICHIGAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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COLLEEN LAYTON
Michigan Municipal League

The Manager

The official newsletter of the Michigan Local Government Management Association

Affiliated with the Michigan Municipal League

December 2005

Winter Institute: *Surviving the Michigan Economy*

*By Frank Walsh, St. Joseph City
Manager; Chair, 2006 Winter Institute
Planning Committee*

On behalf of the 2006 Winter Institute Committee I want to personally invite you to be a part of the 2006 Michigan Local Government Management Association Institute in Kalamazoo. The conference will be held at the Radisson from January 24-27, 2006.

This year the committee has chosen to focus on jobs, revenue and the stress being placed on Michigan managers as we try to manage through the most difficult economic times many of us have ever seen. The theme of the 2006 conference is "Surviving the Michigan Economy." The keynote and concurrent sessions are still being planned but I can assure you the committee is working very hard to make this a great learning experience for all of us.

We are trying to arrange for a group activity on Thursday night as well as a prominent closing speaker on Friday morning. Other sessions will include fire accreditation, emergency management, ethics, managers in transition, community collaboration

and a keynote on a major local development planned in South-west Michigan.

The conference will also include the ICMA Pre-Conference Workshop on Tuesday afternoon followed by the Welcoming Mixer sponsored by R.W. Baird. Warren assures us a fun evening and lots of prizes for those who can attend the opening evening event.

I really appreciate the work of the committee and Colleen Layton from the Michigan Municipal League. Mark your calendars for January 24-27 and join us in Kalamazoo for a great MLGMA Winter Institute.

Committee Members

Randy Bryne, Grand Blanc

Thad Beard, Otsego

Erik Wilson, Plainwell

Scott Patton, Washtenaw County

Dale Martin, Linden

Lynn Markland, Durand

Jon Lynch, Midland

Adam Smith, St. Joseph

William Ross, Jackson

Rolland Olney, Leslie

President's Message

by Randall D. Byrne, Grand Blanc City Manager; MLGMA President

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Upper Peninsula City Managers fall meeting in the beautiful City of Menominee. A special thanks to all of the UP Managers for allowing me to participate in their meeting. I also want to thank John Siira, city manager of Wakefield for inviting me to the meeting.

If your regional city managers' group is planning a meeting in the near future please let me know. I am hoping to attend as many regional meetings as possible.

Sue Lee, who has put this newsletter together for a number of years has informed me that she will be moving to a warmer climate. This will be her last newsletter. So I want

to take this opportunity, on behalf of MLGMA, to wish her well and thank her for all her hard work that makes this newsletter a quality publication. Sue you will be missed!

A special thanks to Brian Murphy, ACM Troy, for his work as the Michigan representative on the 2005 ICMA Conference Planning Committee. He was also responsible for selecting the restaurant, Solara, for the Michigan Dinner. It was a great choice and everyone had a great dinner.

For those who attended the Minneapolis Convention, two Michigan Managers were recognized by ICMA as follows:

Kurt Kimball, city manager of Grand Rapids, received the Mark E Keane Award. This award is in honor of former ICMA Executive

Director Mark E. Keane and recognizes an outstanding local government administrator who has fostered representative democracy by enhancing the effectiveness of local government officials and by consistently initiating creative and successful programs.

Bill Nelson, city manager of Dowagiac, received the ICMA's Program Excellence Award for Intergovernmental Cooperation. This award recognizes outstanding programs developed out of cooperative action or strategic partnerships between government organizations with populations less than 10,000.

Congratulations to both Kurt and Bill.

In conclusion, if you need to reach me, phone 810-694-1118 or e-mail CityManager@CityofGrandBlanc.com.

ICMA News

ICMA Establishes Midwest VP Screening Process

By Jane Bais-DiSessa, ICMA-CM, Berkley City Manager, ICMA Vice President—Midwest Region

For an update on the latest actions approved by the ICMA Board at our annual conference in Minneapolis, or for specifics about the annual conference itself, please visit the ICMA website (ICMA.org) for details.

Since my appointment to the ICMA Board, the selection process which I followed was met with much objection by the Midwest Region. For one thing, I was not aware of the Midwest Rotation Agreement. I now know that the Rotation Agreement had been established to allow all Midwest states an opportunity to select their candidate without opposition from other members throughout our region.

For the past two years, the ICMA Nominating Committee has recommended an individual outside the terms of the Midwest Rotation Agreement.

In April of this year, there was much controversy concerning the process of electing Midwest VPs to the ICMA Executive Board. There was also a great deal of apprehension about the next VP selection (which occurred at the ICMA annual conference in Minneapolis last month). The State of Wisconsin (which has missed its "turn" twice), along with other Midwest states, was extremely unhappy with the selection process.

After much work and discussion, a new agreement called the Midwest Regional Vice President Screening Process was established. This new agreement has been signed by the presidents of all eight states in the Midwest Region.

Briefly the provisions of the document include: a rotation schedule with the states divided into two groups (IL, MI, and OH; and WI, MS, IN, MN, and IA). Each group, as well as the non-CEO group will be given certain years to submit candidates. A Regional Candidate Screening Committee will review interested candidates during the Annual Midwest Regional Meeting, and will forward, at a minimum, the names of two candidates to the ICMA Nominating Committee.

Other provisions in the agreement include: no state may succeed itself on the Board; and no state should be represented on the Board more than twice in any ten year period. The Illinois City/County Management Association has agreed to manage the process for the

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Awards and Recognition Committee Seeks Nominees

By Scott Huebler, Whitehall City Manager; Awards and Recognition Committee Chair

The Awards and Recognition Committee is seeking nominees for the Annual Excellence in Local Government and Special Recognition Awards. Nominations are open to all managers, assistants, and other association members.

Recipients will be honored during the Winter Institute, but you need not be present to win. The awards are intended to recognize achievements over the last year and not as a lifetime award.

Send nominations to Scott Huebler by mail at 405 Colby, Whitehall, 49461 or e-mail Huebler@cityofwhitehall.org no later than December 16th. No self-nominations please—but feel free to include two suite tickets to the 2006 Super Bowl in Detroit along with your nomination!

Internship Guidelines Available

The Small Communities Committee has developed a set of Internship Guidelines, which are designed for managers to use in finding and managing interns and internships. The Guidelines include a list of 10 universities in or adjacent to Michigan that offer MPA degrees (the primary source of interns for local governments), and point-of-contact for them. The guidelines also include practical tips and techniques that managers can use in developing and managing interns and internships.

To obtain a copy of the Internship Guidelines, contact the MML Library (Colleen Layton, Kim Cecola, or Mary Charles) at 734-662-3246 or info@mml.org; or by contacting Blissfield Village Administrator James Wonacott at 517-486-4347 or blissadm@cass.net.

Fundraising Drive for Local Government Curriculum

By Michael Young, Rockford City Manager; Community Education Committee Chair

Now that the high school curriculum has been completed and is being used throughout the state, the committee is ready to develop an elementary/middle school curriculum.

A comprehensive fundraising drive for this program is being initiated in cooperation with the Civics Institute. Completion of the fundraising is anticipated by spring 2006.

ICMA has pledged \$5,000 toward the project. Pledges from MTA and MLGMA in the amount of \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively, have also been received.

2006 Summer Workshop Plans Underway

By Brian Murphy, Troy ACM; 2006 Summer Workshop Committee Chair

The work of the Summer Workshop Planning Committee has teed up the ball and is in its backswing in developing the upcoming 2006 Summer Workshop. (Okay, I'll discontinue the golf references.) The theme for the conference is beginning to take shape and the program sessions are taking form.

The quality of the programming is unparalleled, thanks to the hard work of the committee. The committee members deserving thanks are: **Randy DeBruine, Roger Fraser, Jon Lynch, Robert Peterson, Jakki Sidge, Arthur Shuffebarger, Russell Taylor, Barbara VanDuren, and Gary Word.**

The program details will be the topic of the next article, as we firm up our keynote and concurrent session speakers. Yes, I said

concurrent session speakers. The committee is looking to strike a balance to provide additional training opportunities as well as provide adequate time and programming for personal and interpersonal development.

The conference will take place from July 25th-28th at Crystal Mountain Resort. MLGMA was last there a few years ago, but there have been a number of changes to the property since then. Members with children will be especially pleased with the improvements.

Park at Water's Edge is a one-acre, outdoor water playground that provides a splashing good time for kids of all ages looking to frolic in the northern Michigan summer sun. The highlight of this midwest water park is the 4,200 square-foot pool, which offers a water playground structure sure to keep the giggles rolling for hours. The park also features a 32-foot climbing wall, a sand play area and an outdoor hot tub.

Of course, the golf reigns supreme. Crystal Mountain offers an exceptional northern Michigan golf experience. With two distinctly different golf courses—both of which have received a four-star golf course rating from Golf Digest magazine—you're sure to find everything you expect from this premier northern Michigan golf resort. You'll be left eagerly anticipating your next round of golf at Crystal Mountain.

Go to www.crystallmountain.com for more details on the facilities and the property.

On behalf of the committee, I look forward to seeing you in Thompsonville this summer.

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 Tuesday of the month. *Contact:* Larry Nielsen, CM, Bangor.

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

2006

January

24- MLGMA Winter Training Institute
27 Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo

March

21- MML Legislative Conference
22 Lansing

July

25- MLGMA Summer Workshop
28 Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville

September

10- ICMA Convention
13 San Antonio, TX
27- MML Convention
30 Marquette

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region and the agreement is destined to be reviewed before the 2016 Annual Midwest Regional Meeting.

Improving the process was not easy, and the final document is not perfect (there are some caveats to the provisions to deal with specific situations); but it has the potential to

be successful. One more thing—it's important to note that this new agreement does not supersede the existing ICMA Bylaws. This means that the ICMA Nominating Committee does not have to agree to recommend the individuals submitted under this new process. As I said, it's not perfect—but it's a start.

This agreement is on the MLGMA website. Please take a minute or two to read through it. It will have an impact on you and the entire midwestern region.

As always, please let me know if there's anything that I can do to assist you with ICMA.

DEADLINE

MLGMA members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in *The Manager*. Please e-mail all copy for the March 2006 issue to westhead@mml.org by Wednesday, February 1, 2006.

So long, farewell...

By Sue Lee, Editor, The Manager, 1992-2005

It's been said that all good things must end. And so, after 14 years, your erstwhile editor is moving on.

By the time you read this issue, I will be ensconced in a new position in the warmer clime of Florida. However, I take with me many wonderful memories.

As I leave, I would like to commend members of MLGMA for your professionalism and willingness to serve. Keep up the good work!

And if you ever find yourself in central Florida, please contact me at the West Volusia Association of Realtors® (www.WestVolusiaRealtor.org). I'd love to hear from you!