



MLGMA

<http://www.mlgma.org>

**MICHIGAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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Michigan Municipal League

The Manager

The official newsletter of the Michigan Local Government Management Association

Affiliated with the Michigan Municipal League

December 2006

President's Message

By Randall D. Byrne, Grand Blanc City Administrator, 2006 MLGMA President

The MLGMA Board met on November 28th. One of the agenda items was the recent election results in several communities that negatively affect the council-manager form of government. In Charlevoix and in Hillsdale voters approved ballot proposals. In Inkster, voters rejected a proposal that would have reduced the city manager's authority.

In both Inkster and in Hillsdale, MLGMA was asked to financially support efforts to defeat ballot proposals. The Association spent five thousand dollars in Hillsdale and one thousand dollars in Inkster assisting the local groups who opposed these proposals. In addition, MLGMA worked closely with ICMA in these efforts. Bob O'Neill and the staff at ICMA need to be commended for the help and assistance that they provided to us.

The Board approved the drafting of a policy that will be used to help guide the Association in future ballot proposals that negatively affect the council-manager form of government. In addition, a line item will be established in the budget that will provide a funding source for future challenges. The Board also approved giving the

President the authority to spend up to five thousand dollars to defend the the council-manager form of government.

As I write this article, there are reports of another community that may be looking at abandoning the the council-manager form of government. If this community decides to move forward, our Association will work with ICMA to insure that the voters will hear our side of the issue. Finally, with Michigan's economic situation, we need to be prepared for more of these challenges in the future.

This is my last opportunity in this Newsletter to thank the Board for their help and assistance over the past eighteen months. Colleen Layton and the staff members of MML have done a wonderful job for the Association, and with their help and assistance, made this job much easier.

In conclusion, I want to thank all of you, my peers, for giving me the opportunity to serve you. This truly has been one of the highlights of my professional career. One that I will always remember.

I look forward to seeing you in Frankenmuth next month at the Winter Institute. I know that it will be one of the best ever, so plan on attending.

MLGMA News

2007 MLGMA Winter Institute

Peter E. Auger, Davison City Manager

Do you have a lot of questions?

Do you want some answers?

With recent events there have been a lot of questions floating in the management world.

- What strengths will Managers of the 21st century need?
- What do I need for my ICMA 360 Review?
- How do I transition from a smaller to a larger community?
- How do I get emergency management training/NIMS?

- Can we improve L.P. Cookingham's 23 Guidelines for City Managers?
- What are communities looking for in an executive search?
- Now that the election is over, what does it mean to us locally?
- What is it like to be called to serve in our current war against people who want us all dead?

You'll get all these answers and more at this year's Winter Institute in Frankenmuth.

But wait, there is more . . .

Have you ever been to an Oktoberfest event where you can network and bid on items like fishing charters, Red Wings and

Pistons tickets (and rumor has it Mike Senyko might give access to his Comerica Park suite)?

We have also expanded our vendor's reception and moved the event to the Black Forest Brew Haus where they are not only famous for their specialty brews but awesome food and atmosphere.

The Winter Institute committee has worked hard to expand your educational opportunities at this year's Institute so we hope you can take advantage of these few days to plant some ideas and grow some success.

I look forward to seeing you there!

ICMA University Workshop

Title: Lean Thinking – Just What the Government Needs

Time: April 20, 2007, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Location: Coldwater, Michigan

Description: Improving the performance of office and service processes will be the key to increased competitiveness and rising living standards in the next decade. While many pioneers in a wide range of service industries have already begun streamlining their factories and supply chains, the most successful approach has been Lean Thinking, originally pioneered by Toyota. This workshop brings together leading-edge examples of Lean Thinking in practice to help you begin the lean transformation of your organization. (Addresses ICMA University Practice Groups 5 (Quality Assurance) and 6 (Initiative, Risk Taking, Vision, Creativity, and Innovation))

Workshop Leader: Craig Rapp, Vice President, Springsted, Inc., St. Paul, Minnesota

Place: Henry L. Brown Municipal Building, One Grand Street, Coldwater, MI 49036

For questions or information on how to register, contact Julie Butler at jbutler@icma.org or 301-681-0660

FYI, Coldwater is just off I-69 very close to the Indiana Toll Road and the Ohio Turnpike.

ICMA Update

BARBARA S. BLUMENFIELD, Ph.D. ICMA SENIOR
MIDWEST VP

Greetings everyone! It's that time of year again – yes there was another ICMA Executive Board meeting! The recent meeting was held in Wichita, Kansas, home of Bill Buchanon, ICMA's President. Keep reading please!

As usual, there were a number of issues that the Board dealt with: membership, finances, the international community and unfortunately, several members that the Board had to deal with concerning their unethical conduct and violation of the Ethics Code.

I can't stress enough the need for continuing education on the Code of Ethics, for all members. Please, before you do something that might violate the code, or if you have a question about a particular activity, talk to someone – your colleagues, Range Riders, your state officers, any of the Midwest VPs, or ICMA's tremendous assets – Martha Perego and/or Beth Kellar.

With the exception of the ethics issues, you can read all about what transpired at www.icma.org, so check it out when you get the chance.

There ARE a couple of things I will talk about now though. First, just so you all know, after the first of the year, we'll be providing everyone with more details about membership and what the goals for the Midwest will be, by state. In 2007 the Midwest VPs will be focusing on not only attracting new members, but retaining members as well. Each and every one of us is important to ICMA and our profession. It's very important that we continue to maintain our strength in numbers for our own benefits – personally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Second, the Executive Board was fortunate to be able to meet with the 2006-2008 Strategic Planning Committee and brainstorm with them about issues of importance for the future of local government, the profession and the association.

There are approximately 50 members on the Strategic Planning Committee, 6 of whom are from the Midwest: Matt Fulton and Jamie Verbrugge from MN, Barry Burton and Julia Carroll from IL, Bob Layton from IA and Cheryl Hilvert from OH. The Midwest is well represented by these fine managers, so if you have any concerns about the strategic planning process or issues that you'd like addressed, please let one of them know (contact information is

available through the ICMA website's Who's Who, for any and all ICMA members).

It was a nice opportunity for the Board to work closely with the Strategic Planning Committee members, as a group, since the topics we discussed concern everyone. I believe the Board, as a whole, feels confident that the Committee will be successful in their endeavors and produce an updated Strategic Plan that will provide positive direction for the future. Good luck everyone!

Third, I wanted to let everyone know that ICMA is working on implementing electronic voting for the 2007 ballot – believe it or not! Staff is currently moving forward to implement an electronic voting 'option' for the upcoming election.

Here are the details:

- ICMA will be contracting with a third-party vendor, Votenet Solutions, Inc. to produce eBallot. ICMA will maintain control of the administration and creation of the ballot. There are 11 other national associations that utilize this company for voting tabulation purposes.
- Voters will be allowed to use regular mail or electronic voting.
- *The Newsletter* and *Management InSight* will be used to inform members about this new option.
- eBallot will offer the highest level of internet security available.
- A voter list provided by ICMA to Votenet will be loaded into the software to control any possibility of duplicate voting.
- The annual cost will be \$1,995, compared to approximately \$6,000 for printing and mailing ballots currently; and
- The use of canvassers, as required by the ICMA Constitution, will still be maintained.

Finally, and most importantly, PLEASE mark your calendars for March 22 and 23rd, 2007, the dates of the upcoming ICMA University Workshop Midwest and Regional Summit, to be held in beautiful, downtown Milwaukee, WI at the Wyndham Hotel! I know this is an early reminder, but this is a good time to think about it. This will not only be educational, but informative as well. It will also give you an

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 third Thursday, every other month. Contact: Brian Vick, AA, Grosse Pointe.

MIDDLE OF THE MITTEN

Lansing metro area – meetings held first 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 fourth Thursday of the month. Contact: George Korthauer, CM, Petoskey.

OAKLAND COUNTY

Meetings held second Tuesday of the month, excluding July and August. Contact: Scott Randall, CM, Auburn Hills.

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 third Wednesday of the month. Contact: Michael Steklac, CM, Chelsea.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Berrien/Kalamazoo/St. Joseph/Cass/Van Buren Counties – meetings held third 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, third Wednesday of each month, except July and August. Contact: Ken Krombeen CM, Grandville.

Calendar

2007

January

23-26 MLGMA
Winter Institute
Bavarian Inn
Frankenmuth

March

21 MML Legislative
Conference
Lansing

July

24-27 MLGMA
Summer Workshop
Treetops Resort
Gaylord

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opportunity to see where ICMA's 2011 Annual Conference will be held. So mark those calendars!

That's about it for now. As always, if you have any questions, issues, concerns or suggestions, please let Peter Herlofsky (MN), Mike Van Milligen (IA) or me know. We appreciate the opportunity to serve as your ICMA Regional Vice Presidents. On behalf of all three of us Happy Holidays everyone!