



MLGMA

<http://www.mlgma.org>

Michigan Local Government Management Association

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Fall 2009

Note from the President

By Theodore J. Staton, 2009 MLGMA President

Dear Colleagues,

To say that this past year has moved at warp speed almost seems an understatement. Perhaps this is due to the unprecedented economic, fiscal and political volatility that has gripped Michigan or perhaps it is simply that time seems to go by much faster as we get older. My guess is a little bit of both.

I began the year with enthusiasm and an ambitious agenda for this organization. Immediate Past President Ed Koryzno provided excellent guidance in the transition and I must also thank former President Richard Watkins who led the 2007 effort to develop a five-year strategic plan for MLGMA. This plan has served as an important roadmap for advancing key initiatives, while providing mechanisms for reporting and accountability. Through the outstanding work of MLGMA's 12 committees, we have accomplished a great deal in 2009. What impresses me most with our membership is that we continue to persevere and to be innovative. While "putting out fires," we nonetheless recognize the importance of moving forward with a vision of sustainability for our communities.

I'd like to share two highlights of the past six months. In early October, we appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to consider challenges related to revenue sharing and structure, and to work with the MML on engaging the public on these issues. Membership on this committee is diverse, in terms of type of governmental unit and geographic location, and time has been reserved during the 2010 Winter Institute for an update on their progress. We were also able to coordinate coaching sessions with Mary Jo Asmus and Ed Everett during the MML Annual Convention. This was initiated as a result of a session that took place during the 2009 Winter Institute and, I am pleased to report, will be a component of the 2010 Winter Institute.

Despite the turbulent year we've endured in Michigan, I will end my term as MLGMA president with even more enthusiasm about our organization than I had as the year began. Ours is a distinguished membership with many years of experience (more than some of us care to count) with a demonstrated will to rise to whatever challenges come our way. I would also like to offer a few words of encouragement to the "next gen" managers who've chosen careers in professional management during these interesting times. Don't ever forget that we are all here to support one another for the betterment of our communities and our profession.

I would also like to thank Jane Bruck, who stepped in midway through planning of the 2009 Summer Institute and did a splendid job. Thanks as well to Heather Van Poucker who provided assistance throughout the year and especially to our Secretary-Treasurer, Colleen Layton. Our relationship with the MML is one of MLGMA's most important assets.

Lastly, I would like to thank the MLGMA Board of Directors for all its support and hard work over the past year. It has been an honor and a privilege to lead this very thoughtful group and as an organization, we've accomplished a great deal in 2009. But we've more to do and I have absolute faith that we'll continue our important work under the able leadership of President-Elect Al Vanderberg, to whom I enthusiastically "pass the torch." I look forward to seeing you all in February!

Respectfully submitted,
Theodore J. Staton
2009 MLGMA President

Northern Michigan Manager is One “Cool Joe”

By Mark D. Slown, City Manager, Rogers City, MI



JOE DUFF

Joseph P. Duff has served four communities since starting as Village Manager-Clerk in Mattawan, Michigan in January 1985. He has improved each community and learned much along the way. At the City of Gaylord, his present community since 1998, Joe’s leadership has resulted in successful private development and community infrastructure worth \$95,000,000 – way cool!

Joe’s education was excellent preparation for the municipal manager profession. With a B.A. from MSU, an M.A. in Public Administration, University of Detroit, and additional course work, Joe had all the tools to succeed; it is his friendliness and affability that really set him apart.

As Manager-Clerk in Mattawan, Joe learned the hands-on basics of local government: utility billing, payroll, elections, budget preparation, contract negotiation, department administration, and communicating with the public. Joe showed his ability early, winning grants and establishing a revolving loan fund.

From 1987 to 1994, Joe moved “up north” to The Village of Mackinaw City – a very special place known for its historical significance, tourism, and awesome views. With a census population less than 1,000, the summer population swells to 20,000 on any given day from June to August as tourists flock to see the bridge, the straits, the islands, and other attractions. Here, Joe accomplished major projects including construction of a wastewater treatment plant, marina and waterfront development, and streetscape improvements.

From 1994 to 1998, Joe served as Village Administrator, Archbold, Ohio. This municipality of about 4,000 people, located in northwest Ohio, provided all services, and included a 28 square mile utility service area outside of corporation limits. Joe’s accomplishments were focused on residential subdivision improvements, street reconstruction, a new Fire Hall, drafting a new City Charter, construction of a new industrial park, and utility systems improvements.

Once again, Joe moved north to a multi-faceted city that boasts 27 championship golf courses, two downhill ski areas, world-class resorts, and a regional hub for commercial and industrial growth. The “Alpine Village” with unique Swiss architectural styling, Gaylord is a full service community with 45 employees and annual budget of \$12.5 million. Joe’s leadership has resulted in remarkable achievements including a new industrial park, improved parks and trails, new commercial development, infrastructure redevelopment, three successful millage campaigns, new utility service and operations facilities, and a beautiful new City Hall.

Joking about up north and cool aside, Joe’s many achievements both at Gaylord and across the length of his career are amazing. Yet Joe is most unassuming. When Joe hosts the Northern Michigan Managers monthly luncheon at “The Sugar Bowl Restaurant,” he never boasts about his many accomplishments. Joe is always ready to help a fellow manager with listening ears and good advice. It has been said that emulation is the sincerest form of flattery: I want to be like cool Joe!



MLGMA “NEXT GEN” GROUP By Nate Geinzer and Derrick Kozicki

Younger members of MLGMA have expressed an interest in forming an MLGMA “Next Gen” group. As part of this effort, these members have met informally for dinner at the last two MLGMA conferences and these gatherings have been well attended. Next Gen members representing municipalities from all areas of the state came to these gatherings to get to know each other, share experiences, and seek advice from one another. Additionally, those who were able to attend decided that it would be great to hold a state-wide Next Gen event where we could get to together and discuss formally creating an MLGMA “Next Gen” group. Some of the goals of this group would include: 1) promoting the council-manager form of government to younger people; 2) holding professional development and social networking events; 3) exploring ways that “Next Gen” members can be more active within MLGMA; and 4) better utilizing all the resources that MLGMA and its members have to offer.

We would like to gauge the interest in holding an event sometime in December or January on a Saturday for MLGMA members who consider themselves “Next Gen.” The agenda will include social networking with your peers and a work session to discuss the framework of an MLGMA Next Gen group.

If you would be interested in attending, please email dkozicki@ci.rochester.mi.us to give us your contact information and we will send you the hyperlink to a website where you can let us know what Saturday is best for you. The event would be held in the central location of Lansing.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either of us:

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ECONOMY, ENERGY & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Michigan Local Government Management Association

In partnership with the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association

2010 Annual Winter Institute

February 2 to 5, 2010

Amway Grand Plaza — Grand Rapids, Michigan

Please E-mail
Articles of Interest
for the
Manager to
Steve Brock at
sbrock@
fhgov.com

Join local Michigan government leaders for educational sessions on a variety of topics, including:

- Entrepreneurship – Creating Wealth Within a Community
- Planning for Fiscal Sustainability During Difficult Times
- Assuring Leadership Sustainability
- Importance of Parks & Recreation to Local Economies
- Using Twitter to Engage your Audience
- Measuring Quality of Life
- Improving Asset Management
- Teambuilding and Leadership
- Collaborating Grants
- Energy Concepts and Strategies for the Next Decade
- The Business Case for Going Green
- Citizens Research Council
- Dealing with Zombie Developments



Registration is going on now!
For more information, visit MGLMA.ORG