

We are thrilled to join our member officials in a celebration and return to in-person learning at our UP North Summit this September! Join us Sept. 13 and 14 at the Island Resort & Conference Center—located in Harris, just west of Escanaba—for this multiple-day event that brings together local leaders from across the state for excellent networking opportunities and premier educational programming.

## Practical techniques and valuable resources

The program is packed with informative sessions featuring topics relevant to the entire township board, and some tailored to the duties specific to your township board position. Take advantage of this learning opportunity and connect with others who can help make your role as a township official more fulfilling. It's an investment worth making!

## Exceptional value

Officials are encouraged to register for the full program to get the most out of this educational experience. Registration fees include all meals. Can't get away for more than one day? Single-day rates are also available.

## Educational sessions include:

### **Elections Update**

Don't miss this opportunity to hear directly from the state's Bureau of Elections staff on the hot issues in Michigan elections. Explore key topics and gain insights into the most common questions asked of the Bureau. Walk away with helpful tips for navigating your township's elections.  
*Speakers: Representatives from the Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections*

### **What Your Township Needs to Know About Solar Energy Facilities**

Learn your township's options when it comes to regulating solar energy facilities. We'll share lessons learned from the trenches in Escanaba Township including advantages, disadvantages and tips for addressing community concerns. You'll walk away armed with a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with solar facilities.

*Speaker: Terry Burkhart, Attorney, Burkhart, Lewandowski & Miller, PC*

### **You Paid What for What?**

Every board member must be familiar with the township's finances including required procedures and reporting. Get an overview of who does what, when and what backup documentation is necessary when it comes to preparing (and reviewing!) your board's financial reports. Learn more about lawful expenditures, annual financial reports and what to do when the board disagrees on expenditures.

*Speaker: Cindy Dodge, MTA's Member Information Services Liaison*

### **Sandbox Etiquette**

Maintaining your composure is not as easy as it sounds when dealing with negativity at public meetings, negative comments from community members and especially from your fellow board members. Get the tools, mindset and even the language to use to diffuse difficult situations and people. Take away tips for keeping your township (and your sandbox!) clean and maintaining a positive attitude in the face of negativity.

*Speaker: Michael Selden, MTA's Director of Member Information Services*

### **No One Left Inside**

When it comes to outdoor recreation opportunities, Michigan has so much offer! Outdoor recreation plays a vital role in your community's quality of life, leisure and health. It's also a big part of our state's economy. Gain insights into emerging trends and learn how you can recognize, evaluate and promote your community resources to elevate recreation opportunities in your township.

*Speaker: Brad Garmon, Director, Michigan Outdoor Recreation Industry Office*

### **Making the Most of Your Meetings**

Have you ever wondered why your meetings take too long or feel like they are unproductive? Do you have unruly citizens or board members on a regular basis? Are you struggling with what goes on the agenda and who gets to choose that anyway? Perhaps you felt compelled to go into closed session, but weren't certain you could? Did you know that both the township and you personally can be held liable for violating the Open Meetings Act? Learn how to get the most out of your meetings while keeping yourself—and your township—out of trouble!

*Speaker: Michael Selden*

### **Understanding Ordinances**

Ordinances are local laws enacted by your township board and enforced by your township. Zoning ordinances can help you retain (and steer) your township's character. Non-zoning ordinances assist in preventing community conflicts and complaints. Townships are not required to have either, but the right ones sure can make a difference! There are no advantages—and plenty of disadvantages—to having ordinances or provisions that you don't want or need. This overview of statutory authority for both zoning and non-zoning ordinances will help you understand and evaluate your township's ordinance needs.

*Speaker: Seth Koches, MTA Legal Counsel, Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC*

### **Fraud Prevention**

The details may vary but the scheme is often the same, and the headlines all too common. While incidents and their publicity-generating dollar totals may vary, the trust issues that follow remain. How can you develop oversight systems to protect your township? Come hear lessons learned from the voice of experience and get a handle on how your township can develop sound policies, procedures and internal controls for detecting and preventing fraud.

*Speakers: Mary Segalin, Clerk, Ironwood Charter Township (Gogebic Co.), and Cindy Dodge*

Sessions marked with the red book icon qualify for credit in MTA's new **Red Book Ready** learning series.

Enrollees also earn two elective credits just for attending the Summit.

Are you enrolled in MTA's **Township Governance Academy**? Join us at the Summit and earn four elective credits. No project required!



# Agenda

Eastern Standard Time

## SEPTEMBER 13

9:30 a.m.

Registration check-in,  
continental breakfast and  
Northern Market expo

10 a.m.

Welcome address

10:30 a.m.

Legislative panel

11:30 a.m.

Meet the exhibitors

Noon

Northern Market expo

12:30 p.m.—Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Concurrent sessions

- Elections Update
- Solar Energy Facilities

2:30 p.m.

Northern Market expo

3 p.m.

Concurrent sessions

- You Paid What for What?
- Sandbox Etiquette

4:30 p.m.

Legislative update

6:30 p.m.

Dinner and evening activity

## SEPTEMBER 14

8 a.m.

Registration and breakfast

9 a.m.

Marijuana in Michigan

10:30 a.m.

Concurrent sessions

- Making Meetings Work
- No One Left Inside

Noon—Lunch

1 p.m.

Concurrent sessions

- Understanding Ordinances
- Fraud Prevention

2:45 p.m.

What the Board Needs to Know  
About Assessing

4 p.m.—Adjourn

## Post-Summit Session

4 p.m.

Registration and dinner

5 to 8 p.m.

Cemetery Management

## Informative general sessions

Gather as a group for four informative sessions offering insights and information for today's townships.

On Monday morning, your local legislators will join us to offer their **legislative insights on what is happening in Lansing** and how it affects your township during a panel discussion. Later that afternoon, hear what's at the forefront and on the horizon for the balance of this legislative session, as well as tips for working with your state legislators from MTA's own Director of Government Relations, Judy Allen.

On Tuesday, we'll begin with an update from Andrew Brisbo, executive director of the Marijuana Regulatory Agency. You won't want to miss this discussion on **the township's role with marijuana in Michigan**. Our Closing Session digs into **the board's role when it comes to assessing**, as assessing expert Shila Kiander, Mecosta County equalization director and Michigan advanced assessing officer, teams up with MTA's own Cindy Dodge to help ensure your township's assessing measures up!

## Valuable networking

Don't miss this unique opportunity for northern Michigan township officials to gather for valuable education and networking. Your fellow officials know better than anyone the challenges you face!

## Northern Market expo

Designed to help you find providers of products and services that can help your township run more efficiently. Network with vendors, get your questions answered and you may even win a prize.

## Evening event

After a full day of intensive education, we know you'll be ready to get out of the classroom and into the great outdoors. Monday night's dinner features food, festivities and fun!

## Safety first

MTA is fully committed to offering a safe and comfortable learning environment. We will adhere to all current state and federal guidelines and facility rules during our in-person events. By registering you acknowledge your willingness to comply with applicable safety protocols during the event. Failure to comply may result in not being allowed to participate in this event.

## Post-Summit Session

**Tuesday, September 14**

**5 to 8 p.m. EST**

*(includes dinner served at 4 p.m.)*



### Cemetery Management

Township cemeteries provide a positive personal service to residents during a difficult time. Don't miss this review of the rules, regulations and many other important aspects of cemetery management and administration.

Join MTA Member Information Services Liaison Cindy Davis, a featured conference speaker for the Michigan Association of Municipal Cemeteries, as she digs into elements of green or natural burials and other options many conventional cemeteries are incorporating. Participants will:

- Review the legal obligations for cemeteries, including content and procedures for adopting a cemetery ordinance.
- Explore fees and other budgeting and financial aspects, including tips on dealing with special cemetery management issues.
- Examine the role of advisory committees, cemetery sextons and other caretakers, as well as the duties and responsibilities of the clerk and township board.

