

*Directors and Chapter Officers:* This newsletter is mailed to chapter presidents and secretaries.  
Please feel free to copy and distribute this newsletter to other chapter members.



# County Chapter Update

*News for and from Michigan Townships Association County Chapters* ❖ *November 2006*



**Plan to Join Over 1,500 Township Officials at the 2007 MTA Annual Educational Conference in Detroit!**

**Attend the MTA Conference and discover:**

- More than 50 educational classes, led by experts in their field, offering practical information and ideas, in a variety of learning formats.
- An inspiring Opening Session with keynoter Steven Ford, successful actor and son of former President Gerald Ford.
- The MTA Trade Expo, bringing you “new and improved” as well as “tried and trusted” products and services.
- The MTA Annual Banquet, featuring award presentations and the comedy entertainment of dueling pianists Michael and Amy.

**Reserve a hotel room for Conference by going online to: [www.grandconnection.com/mta2007](http://www.grandconnection.com/mta2007) OR fax your reservation to: (616) 825-6030.**

**Register for Conference by completing the registration form appearing on page 9 of the 2007 Conference Registration brochure, which appeared in the October issue of the *Michigan Township News*.**

**Questions? Call the MTA Education Center at (517) 321-6467.**

**Don't miss the MTA Trade Expo at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center January 23-26, 2007.**

**The 2007 MTA Trade Expo is THE place for township officials to learn about products and services to townships!**



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**Member Information Department  
Michigan Townships Association**

County Chapter Contact: Catherine Mullhaupt  
Phone: (517) 321-6467 Fax: (517) 321-8908  
Email: [catherine@michigantownships.org](mailto:catherine@michigantownships.org)

## Plan to Attend Upcoming MTA Educational Programs!

### **New Officials Training (9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)**

- December 11 Lansing Community College  
(West Campus), Lansing
- December 14 Treetops Resort, Gaylord

### ***Coming in February!***

### **Board of Review Training (1-4 p.m.)**

- February 5 Treetops Resort, Gaylord
- February 6 Holiday Inn, Alpena
- February 7 Tawas Bay Beach Resort, East Tawas
- February 8 Comfort Inn & Suites, Mt. Pleasant
- February 13 Hagerty Center at NMC, Traverse City
- February 14 McGuire's Resort, Cadillac
- February 15 Holiday Inn, Muskegon
- February 16 LCC West Campus, Lansing
- February 21 Thomas Edison Inn, Port Huron
- February 22 Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- February 26 Holiday Inn, Ann Arbor
- February 26 Best Western Franklin Inn, Houghton
- February 27 University Center at NMU, Marquette
- February 28 Little Bear East Arena, St. Ignace
- February 28 Dearth Community Center, Coldwater
- March 1 Van Buren Intermediate School District,  
Lawrence

**Visit the MTA Web site:  
[www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org),  
or call the MTA Education Center  
at (517) 321-6467  
for more information.**

**Be a County Chapter Ambassador:**

**Attend the MTA  
County Chapter Session  
at the 2007 Conference to  
Learn More!**



All County Chapter officers and members are invited to attend the **County Chapter Session** at the 2007 MTA Annual Educational Conference from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2007, in the Nicolet Room of the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

MTA Member Information Services staff will moderate as County Chapter members from around the state share their tips for successful and useful meetings. County Chapter Handbooks will be distributed.

## **Board of Review Appointments Due January 1**

The General Property Tax Act (MCL 211.28(1)) requires township boards to appoint members to the board of review. Each township board member should be considering nominations for the township's three-, six- or nine-member board of review.

Board of review members serve for two years, beginning at noon on January 1 of each odd-numbered year. Each member of the board must take the constitutional oath of office within 10 days after his or her appointment. The appointments must be made and the oath taken no later than January 10. The oath is kept on file by the township clerk.

MTA has scheduled numerous *Board of Review Training* workshops in February to assist supervisors and board of review members in learning about their duties.

### **Reminder: Alternate BOR Members May Now be Appointed**

Public Act 143 of 2006 amended MCL 211.28 to authorize a township board to appoint not more than two alternate members for the same term as regular members of the board of review. An alternate member may be called to perform the duties of a regular member of the board of review in the absence of a regular member. An alternate member may also be called to perform the duties of a regular member of the board of review for the purpose of reaching a decision when a regular member has abstained for reasons of conflict of interest.

# County Chapter Meeting Notes

**Please send your county chapter minutes, along with any stories or photos (prints or digital), to: Catherine Mullhaupt, MTA, P.O. Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908-0078, fax: (517) 321-8908, or email: catherine@michigantownships.org.**

## Alpena County

**October 16:** MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier presented a legislative update. Alpena County Medical Control Director Deb Fisher spoke on EMS rules, training, and equipment. The county senior citizen program contract extension, Hazardous Waste Day, and road projects were discussed.

**June 19:** MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier gave an update on NATaT and the SOS ballot proposal petition. Katherine Arnold from the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments gave a presentation on the Thunder Bay watershed. A proposed countywide mapping program, county parks, and dust control applications were discussed.

## Antrim County

**August 29:** MTA Legislative Liaison David Bertram spoke on the November ballot proposals.

## Bay County

**October 18:** Rep. Jeff Mayes, D-Bangor Township, spoke on proposed cable franchising legislation. Drain Commissioner Joseph Rivet gave a presentation on the Kawkawlin River restoration initiative and grant proposal. The Sheriff Department's road patrol contracts, the single business tax, and county economic development programs were discussed.

**April 19:** Sen. Jim Barcia, D-Bay City, spoke briefly on cable franchising legislation. Rep. Jeff Mayes, D-Bangor Township, attended. MTA has teamed up with Land Information Access Association to offer townships new website designs. Laura Ogar, director of the Bay County Department of Environmental Affairs & Community Development, spoke on farmland preservation. The chapter voted to support litigation challenging Phase II Urban Storm Water Discharge permits requirements.

## Berrien County

**July 27:** MTA Legislative Liaison Bill Anderson spoke on the proposed SOS and K-16 ballot proposals.

## Charlevoix County

**July 31:** MTA District 5 Director Charles Veneros reported on revenue sharing, the METRO Act, and the proposed SOS and K-16 ballot proposals. Assessing issues and a proposed county flyover mapping project were discussed.

**June 26:** MTA District 5 Director Charles Veneros spoke on the K-16 ballot proposal. Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer, R-Custer Township, spoke on zoning and local control. Drain Commissioner Mark Seelye discussed ordinances to control storm water run-off. Hayes Township Planning Commissioner Jim McMahan discussed local control for wind turbines.

## Cheboygan County

**September 28:** Traffic control, the county blight ordinance, and the recreation committee were discussed. Attorney Sharon Stack spoke on estate planning and trusts.

**August 31:** Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer, R-Custer Township, answered questions on assessing, revenue sharing, changes to board of review appeals, and the K-16 ballot proposal. A countywide tire cleanup plan, kennel licenses, and the county recreation plan were discussed.

**Please update your chapter information if it has changed. Thanks!**

County \_\_\_\_\_

President / Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

List the actual meeting dates for 2007/2008 or the day of the month (i.e., Third Wednesday of Jan., April, July, Oct.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail, fax or email the information above to Catherine Mullhaupt, MTA, P.O. Box 80078, Lansing, MI 48908-0078, Phone: (517) 321-6467, Fax: (517) 321-8908, Email: catherine@michigantownships.org.**

**July 27:** Barbara Cliff of Cheboygan Memorial Hospital spoke on the hospital's services and community wellness. The county GIS program, recreation plan and blight ordinance were discussed.

**June 29:** MTA District 5 Director Charles Veneros gave a legislative update. A proposed county blight ordinance was discussed.

### Chippewa County

**September 21:** County Commissioner Bernard La Joie gave an update on E. coli problems in the water off Sugar Island. Road projects and voting machines were discussed.

**March 16:** Road Commissioner Dirk Heckman reported on recent road projects that included 30 miles of reconstruction and 25 miles of blacktopping. Frank Sasso was nominated to represent townships on the annual Chippewa County Allocation Board.

### Delta County

**September 28:** Sheriff Gary Ballweg presented a report on remodeling or enlarging the jail. The chapter adopted resolutions opposing the K-16 and SOS ballot proposals.

**May 25:** USDA Rural Development representative Wendy Sexton discussed several programs for low-interest loans and grants.

**April 27:** MDOT representative Vince Bevins spoke on federal funding for roads.

**March 23:** Road Commissioner Roger VanDrese presented a new road commission budget procedure and reported on the amounts spent for local and primary roads and federal aid projects. Drain issues were discussed.

### Hillsdale County

**May 3:** Rep. Bruce Caswell, R-Adams Township, gave a legislative update. MTA Member Information Services Liaison Catherine Mullhaupt spoke on cemetery management.

## Got Pix?

This newsletter is for the chapters to use. It's not just for MTA to talk to you—it's for the chapters to talk to one another and keep MTA informed of what you're doing.

If you have information about a program you've conducted or activity your chapter has done, we'd like to include it in the *Update*.

We would also like to include photos when possible. Digital photos work best, but we can scan photos.

Contact Catherine Mullhaupt at MTA for more information.



### Ingham County

**October 25:** MTA District 20 Director Linda Towsley reported on plans for the 2007 MTA Annual Conference. Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Marian Township, spoke on the November ballot proposals.

**July 26:** MTA District 20 Director Linda Towsley reported on the 2006 NATaT Conference, 2007 MTA Annual Conference, and the new Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. A presentation was given on imaging solutions.

### Ionia County

**July 10:** MTA Member Information Services Director Evelyn David spoke on millage ballot language and presented a resource tool, "An Introduction to Township Millage Questions."

### Iosco County

**April 20:** MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill gave a presentation on fire department management.

### Isabella County

**October 24:** Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-Olive Township, and MTA District 12 Director George Grim spoke on the November ballot proposals. Interim Road Manager Fred Walkington discussed road funding responsibilities. The following officers were elected: Gary Todd, Wise Township, chairman; and Carol Green, Nottawa Township, secretary/treasurer.

### Kalkaska County

**August 16:** MTA District 6 Director William Gadwau reported on cable franchise legislation and the November ballot proposals. County Road Commissioner John Rogers spoke on future road projects and seasonal roads.

**July 17:** 46<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Janet Allen gave a presentation on the district court. Proposed cable franchising legislation, HAVA equipment for voting accessibility, and the Commission on Aging millage proposal were discussed.

**April 17:** County Road Commission Operations Manager John Rogers spoke on road project funding and planning, and proposed forming a township advisory board to plan future road improvements.

### Kalamazoo County

**August 23:** The chapter held its annual picnic at Bell's Brewery in Comstock Charter Township's commercial park. Bell's provided a plant tour. Local economic development projects, promoting business location in townships, and road projects were discussed. MTA Past President Patrick White and MTA Member Information Services Liaison Catherine Mullhaupt attended.

### Lapeer County

**August 15:** MTA District 21 Director Colleen Schwartz reported on MTA's legislative efforts. MTA Member Information Services Liaison Catherine Mullhaupt gave a presentation on meeting management.

**February 21:** MTA Legislative Liaison Bill Anderson gave a presentation on conditional rezoning.

### Leelanau County

**May 24:** MTA Legislative Liaison David Bertram gave a legislative update.

### Menominee County

**May 15:** MTA District 3 Director Leo Labre and MTA Legislative Liaison Bill Anderson attended. MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill spoke on state activities to evaluate assessing practices.

### Missaukee County

**April 27:** MTA Member Information Services Liaison Catherine Mullhaupt spoke on cemetery management.

### Montmorency County

**July 12:** The chapter held its annual picnic at Emerick Park in Hillman. The chapter awarded a scholarship to Cassie DeVos of Lewiston to attend Michigan State University.



*Montmorency County Chapter President Larry Pascador presented Michigan State University student Cassie DeVos with a chapter scholarship at the chapter's picnic in July.*

## Did You Know?

Each township board member elected in the November 7, 2006, election must take the oath of office before January 1, 2007, to qualify for office.

Even board members who were previously appointed to fill the same vacancy must take the oath again once the election is certified.

If a newly elected board member fails to take the oath, the position is vacant on January 1, but that person may be appointed to fill the vacancy.

### Muskegon County

**July 31:** MTA District 15 Director James Stover discussed plans for a Muskegon County bus to the 2007 MTA Annual Conference. Sen. Gerald VanWoerkom, R-Muskegon, reported on state avian flu preparations, the minimum wage increase, and regulation of phosphorous fertilizer. Dan Wiekkel from the LST-393 Preservation Association gave a presentation on the Landing Ship Tanks used in World War II and the LST exhibition at Muskegon Lake.

### Oakland County

**July 13:** MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill attended the chapter's annual picnic and spoke on the K-16 and SOS ballot proposals and cable franchising legislation.

### Otsego County

**May 16:** County Road Commissioner Mike Roper reported on the round-about construction on Livingston Boulevard, road projects, and speed limit legislation. Sheriff McBride spoke on the proposed jail project. Soil conservation district projects, the county master plan and private road ordinance, and the economic alliance I-75 road crossing project were discussed.

### Presque Isle County

**October 3:** MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier reported on state and national legislation. Rep. Matt Gillard, D-Alpena, attended. Drain Commissioner Charles Lyon reported on the Storm Water Management Plan. MTA Legislative Liaison Bill Anderson gave a legislative update, and County Clerk Sue Rhode reported on election issues. Road projects and a grant to purchase accident reconstruction software were discussed.

**June 27:** MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier reported on the Local Government Task Force and other legislative issues. Tax collection training sessions and document image scanning were discussed.

**April 4:** MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier reported on the 2006 MTA annual conference and introduced MTA District 5 Director Charlie Veneros. County Sheriff Terry Flewelling reported on the snowmobile and marine patrols. County Prosecutor Don McLennan reported on changes in his office. Natural gas rates were discussed.

### St. Clair County

**January 5:** MTA District 18 Director John Randolph, Rep. John Espinoza, D-Croswell, and MTA Legislative Liaison Tom Frazier attended the chapter's annual dinner meeting. Senior capitol correspondent Tim Skubick from the "Off the Record" television program spoke on the 2006 gubernatorial campaign.

### Saginaw County

**June 21:** MTA Legislative Liaison Tom Frazier attended the chapter's annual picnic.

### Tuscola County

**September 28:** MTA Legislative Liaison Bill Anderson spoke on the November ballot proposals.

**April 20:** MTA Member Information Services Director Evelyn David attended.



## Show Your Community Pride!



All Michigan townships and MTA County Chapters are invited to display their flags during the MTA Annual Educational Conference and participate in the **2007 Parade of Flags**, which will be held during the Conference Opening Session on Wednesday, January 24, 2007.

Each township must bring its own township flag, flagpole and flag stand. Additional details about the parade will be sent before Conference.

To register, simply e-mail your interest to [gloria@michigantownships.org](mailto:gloria@michigantownships.org).

Questions? Call MTA Communications Specialist Jenn Fiedler at (517) 321-6467, ext. 229.

## 2007 Threshold for Publishing Minutes is \$70 Million

MCL 41.72a requires a **general law** township to publish the township board minutes in a newspaper within 21 days after the board meeting if the township's taxable value is over a threshold that is annually indexed to inflation. The new threshold is released by the Michigan Department of Treasury by December 1 of each year. The threshold for 2007 is a taxable value of \$70 million.

A **general law** township that is required to publish must publish either the complete text of the minutes or a synopsis of the minutes prepared by the township clerk and approved by the supervisor.

Every **charter** township, regardless of its taxable value, must post and publish its board minutes or a synopsis, but "publication" can be either publication in a newspaper or the board may choose to post the minutes in five public places within the township or on the township's Web site and publish a small notice in the newspaper identifying where the minutes have been posted with seven days of posting. (MCL 42.8)