

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.

# MTA MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION County Chapter Update

News for and from Michigan Townships Association County Chapters December 2007



## Receive the *County Chapter Update* by email

Interested? Send an email to: [tammie@michigantownships.org](mailto:tammie@michigantownships.org) with your name, township board title,

county chapter title, township and county. This process will verify your email address, and document your willingness to receive future *County Chapter Updates* by email from MTA.

## 2008 Annual Educational Conference Important Conference Dates & Reminders

The 55th Annual MTA Educational Conference & Expo, Jan. 8-11, 2008, at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center, is fast-approaching.

Here are some important reminders and deadlines:

- Friday, Dec. 7 was the last day to register for MTA's Annual Educational Conference & Expo in time to have a confirmation and credentials mailed to you. Attendees registering after Dec. 7 must pick up their credentials on-site at the MTA Registration Center. Remember that ALL registrants must stop by the MTA Registration Center to verify their attendance and pick up the delegate bag and program booklet.
- Wednesday, Dec. 19 is the last day to make a reservation at a discounted rate in one of the MTA hotel blocks. To make your housing reservation, visit [www.grandconnection.com/mta2008](http://www.grandconnection.com/mta2008) or refer to pages 9-10 in the registration brochure.



- There's still time to register your township to be part of the 2008 Parade of Flags, held Wednesday, Jan. 9, during the Conference's Opening Session! For more information on the Parade or to register, contact Jenn at 517-321-6467 or email [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org). Deadline to register is Friday, Dec. 21.
  - Remember, we are looking for photos of what makes YOUR township proud! A new business park? The annual 4th of July Parade? Show us your pride! Email photos to [evelyn@michigantownships.org](mailto:evelyn@michigantownships.org).
  - Township auditors and financial officers alike will benefit from the day-long Auditor Institute on Tuesday, Jan. 8, which provides an overview of current financial issues affecting Michigan townships. Registration forms can be found on page 19 of the Conference brochure.
  - Connect with fellow attorneys from around the state to discuss recent changes, opinions and other trends affecting township government. Registration forms for this full-day Legal Institute for Township Attorneys held Tuesday, Jan. 8, can be found on page 20 of the Conference brochure.
  - Individuals interested in attending the Assessors Renewal Session, held on Tuesday, Jan. 8, should pre-register with the State Assessors Board directly to reserve their spot in the meeting room. There is no charge to attend. Individuals must sign in and out of the class, and remain throughout the class to receive credit. To register, call (517) 373-8320.
  - Four Boardmanship credits can be earned by taking the TGA Class Establishing Linkages with the Community from 2 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9. For more information on this class and the Academy refer to page 12 of the Conference brochure.
  - Don't forget to bring the Conference postcard that you received this summer to the new MTA Booth to see if you're the lucky winner of a \$1,000 prize package! If you did not receive a postcard, contact [gloria@michigantownships.org](mailto:gloria@michigantownships.org) or call (517) 321-6467.
- Download the registration brochure at [www.michigantownships.org](http://www.michigantownships.org), or call (517) 321-6467.

## Exemption Threshold for Publishing

### Minutes: \$72 Million in 2008

On January 1, 2008, the taxable value threshold for exempting general law townships from the requirement to publish minutes will change from \$70 million to \$72 million. PA 465 of 1996 amended MCL 41.72a to annually increase the threshold for exempting general law townships from the requirement to publish township board meeting minutes within 21 days after the meeting. The new rate determined by the Department of Treasury's Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis is \$72 million, which is based on the inflation rate.

### Mark your calendar!



Attend the 2008 Annual NATaT Town Meeting  
The 2008 Annual NATaT Town Meeting in Washington D.C. is September 29-October 2. *A networking opportunity that you won't want to miss.*

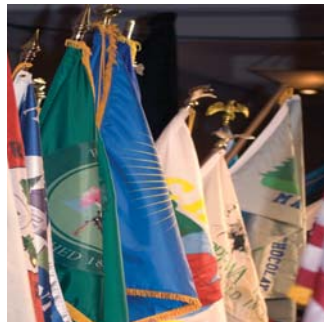
## Township Pride, Michigan Wide

Have you submitted your township pride photos?



*The 2007 holiday tree at the State Capitol in Lansing was harvested from Escanaba Township, Delta County. They are proud of their contribution to this year's holiday celebration.*

## Parade of Flags



All Michigan townships and MTA County Chapters are invited to display their flags during the MTA Annual Educational Conference and participate in the **2008 Parade of Flags**, which will be held during the Opening Session on Wed., Jan. 9, 2008.

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 email your interest to [jenn@michigantownships.org](mailto:jenn@michigantownships.org) or call Jenn Fiedler at (517) 321-6467, ext. 229.

## Plan to Attend Upcoming Educational Programs!

### 2008 Board of Review Training

- February 4:** Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- February 5:** Thomas Edison Inn, Port Huron
- February 6:** Courtyard by Marriott, Ann Arbor
- February 11:** McGuire's Resort, Cadillac
- February 12:** Prince Conference Center, Grand Rapids
- February 13:** Holiday Inn Express Conference Center, Okemos
- February 14:** Van Buren Intermediate School District, Lawrence
- February 19:** Treetops Resort, Gaylord
- February 20:** Holiday Inn, Alpena
- February 21:** Comfort Inn & Suites, Mt. Pleasant
- February 26:** University Center at NMU, Marquette
- February 27:** Little Bear East Arena, St. Ignace

### What is the pride of your township?

A new administration building? New playground equipment? How about a festival or fair that's held in your township? MTA wants to know.

**Submit your digital photos to:**  
[evelyn@michigantownships.org](mailto:evelyn@michigantownships.org)  
or

Evelyn David, MTA, P.O. Box 80078  
Lansing, MI 48908-0078  
(517) 321-6467

Digital photos work best, but we can also scan photos.

### Alpena County

**October 15:** MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier gave a legislative update. Wayne Seger, Mansfield and Associates, gave a special report on the Big Fish Environmental Aerobic Septage Processing Facility.

### Alcona County

**October 30:** MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier presented upcoming training opportunities and encouraged townships to buy Michigan-made products in support of the Michigan economy. MTA Legislative Liaison Tom Frazier presented information on the state budget crisis and the Michigan Presidential Primary.

### Antrim County

**August 28:** MTA District 6 Director Bill Gadwau provided a legislative update. County Equalization Director Robert Englebrecht gave a presentation on Headlee rollbacks and millages.

**October 23:** Wayne Seger, Mansfield & Associates, presented information on the changing rules and regulations surrounding septage storage and disposal.

### Bay County

**October 17:** Economic development, representation on the B.C.T.O.A., and homeland security were discussed.

### Charlevoix County

**August 27:** The chapter held its annual summer picnic.

**September 24:** The chapter held a roundtable determine their yearly calendar and to brainstorm ideas for 2008 speakers and presentations.

### Cheboygan County

**August 30:** Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer (R-Custer Twp.) gave an update on the budget crisis, HB 4780, tourism, revenue sharing and TB testing. He encourages townships to continue with intergovernmental cooperation.

**September 27:** MTA District 5 Director Charlie Veneros gave an update on HB 4780. Luke Houlton, Cheboygan County Road Commission manager, held a question and answer session regarding road issues. Mike Overton, Cheboygan County Administrator, spoke on recycling.

**October 25:** MTA District 5 Director Charlie Veneros discussed H.B. 5138 and intergovernmental cooperation. Mary Talaske, Cheboygan County Humane Society executive director, gave an update. New members Charles Haines, clerk, and Donna Soules, treasurer, of Walker Township; Colleen VanHuysen, clerk, and Judy Stevens, treasurer, of Forest Township, were introduced.

### Clinton County

**September 19:** Sen. Alan Cropsey (R-Olive Twp.) gave a legislative update. MTA District 20 Director Linda Towsley sought input regarding MTA District Meetings. MTA Member Information Liaison Catherine Mullhaupt presented information on lawful expenditures.

### Delta County

**September 27:** Thomas Carviou, Delta County Department of Building and Zoning, presented information regarding issuing permits to townships and the cost involved with zoning for townships.

**October 25:** MTA Member Information Specialist Cindy Davis provided an overview of MTA services.

**December 7:** The chapter held its annual Christmas meeting.

### Eaton County

**September 24:** MTA District 20 Director Linda Towsley presented information on the January 2008 Presidential Primary.

### Emmet County

**October 17:** MTA District 5 Director Charlie Veneros attended. The following officers were elected: Damien Henning, Littlefield Township, president; Joseph Mikolajek, Bliss Township, vice president; Dennis Keiser, Bear Creek Township, treasurer; Robert Sandford, West Traverse Township, secretary.

### Gladwin County

**August 27:** MTA District 13 Director Al Tew reported on the MTA Summer Legislative Conference. Dennis Carl, county commissioner, reported on 9-1-1 funding and the need to protect it, Mark Sohlden, road commission manager, gave a progress report on current and future road projects. Kerry Posey, City of Beaverton Manager, reported working on easements to start a water project. A resolution in support of Soil Conservation was passed.

### Grand Traverse County

**October 4:** Sherry Graves, Traverse City Record Eagle customer service representative, provided insight on advertising.

**November 7:** The chapter held its annual awards banquet.

### Gratiot County

**December 5:** Rep. Paul Opsommer (R-DeWitt) and MTA District 8 Director Doug Merchant attended. MTA Member Information Liaison Evelyn David provided an overview of MTA services. Rich VanderVeen of Mackinaw Power gave a presentation on wind power generation.

### Gogebic County

**July 24:** Brian Trekas, Grand View Health Systems, presented information about disaster preparedness. Two new road commissioners, Marvin LaGrew and Robert Orlich, were introduced.

**August 21:** Sheriff Larry Sanders reported on the upcoming November ballot jail funding issue, including the average cost to a property owner and how the money will be used.

**October 2:** David Hardie, county equalization director, provided an update on the Enbridge lawsuit.

### Kalamazoo County

**August 22:** MTA Life Member Patrick White attended. David Smith, Midlink Business Park president, gave a presentation on the revitalization of an old manufacturing building, as well as the group's other planning initiatives.

**November 8:** MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill attended the chapter's annual reception.

### Kalkaska County

**October 15:** The lack of enforcement of a junk ordinance, township representation on the county planning commission and zoning board, and HB 4780 were discussed.

### Kent County

**October 17:** MTA District 15 Director Jim Stover gave an update on the MTA Summer Legislative Forum and on cooperation between townships and neighboring jurisdictions. MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill spoke on HB 4780 and other legislative issue.

### Lapeer County

**September 22:** The chapter held its 38th annual awards banquet.

**October 23:** Mark Opra of Thumb Narcotics was guest speaker.

### Manistee County

**August 29:** Sheriff Dale Kowalkowski gave a brief update on the activities of the department. Other updates were provided by MSU Extension and Portage Lake Watershed Forever. County Commissioner Allen O'Shea reported on the need for recycling in Manistee County and a proposed Wind Energy Ordinance.

**September 26:** Tim Ervin, Manistee County Community Foundation President, presented information on developing a county recreation plan.

**October 24:** MSU Extension Director Elaine Bush announced an upcoming Tourism Conference. Other updates were provided by Portage Lake Watershed Forever, 9-1-1 and the Sheriff's Department.

### Midland County

**September 13:** Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Midland) reported on solid waste tipping fees and Canadian trash, dioxin level evaluations, competitive and renewable energy resources, and the state operating budget. MTA District 13 Director Al Tew reported on HBs 4780-4788. Scott Haines, the new Midland county clerk, spoke on upcoming elections and mandatory picture ID. Midland County Prosecuting Attorney Mike Carpenter reported on sentencing guidelines and how the Michigan Prison Re-entry Initiative (MPRI) will impact local jails.

### Montmorency County

**October 11:** MTA Member Information Liaison Catherine Mullhaupt gave a legislative update.

### Mecosta County

**October 22:** MTA Member Information Liaison Catherine Mullhaupt gave a presentation on FOIA compliance.

### Oakland County

**October 4:** The chapter hosted an insurance workshop.

### Oceana County

**October 25:** Local funeral directors gave a presentation on cemeteries in Oceana County.

### Ogemaw County

**October 11:** MTA Legislative Liaison David Bertram gave an update on the state budget and other legislative issues.

### Presque Isle County

**October 2:** MTA District 7 Director Ken Gauthier reported on the state budget and new taxes. County Commissioner Robert Shell announced the county commissioner's opposition to HB 4780.



*Rep. Paul Opsommer (R-DeWitt) speaks to members of the Gratiot County Chapter Dec. 5 at the Ithaca Community Center. Also in attendance were MTA District 16 Director Doug Merchant, and MTA Member Information Liaison Evelyn David. The meeting was hosted by Arcada Township.*

### Roscommon County

**September 25:** MTA District 10 Director Diane Randall gave a legislative update. Cable franchising, 9-1-1, funding to conservation districts, a chapter website, and recycling were discussed.

### Sanilac County

**August 20:** MTA Member Information Liaison Catherine Mullhaupt gave a presentation on the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act.

### Schoolcraft County

**October 24:** MTA Member Information Specialist Cindy Davis gave a presentation on MTA services. Sheriff Gary Maddox discussed blight issues.

### Shiawasee County

**October 2:** MTA Legislative Liaison David Bertram spoke on the state budget and other legislative items.

**November 7:** MTA Member Information Specialist Cindy Davis attended the annual holiday meeting.

### Van Buren County

**September 27:** MTA District 22 Director Linda Preston attended. MTA Member Information Liaison Evelyn David presented an overview of MTA services.