



Annual Conference Recap

Officials Learn How to Meet New Challenges

More than 1,500 elected and appointed township officials and employees stepped up to the challenge and tackled three-and-a-half days of classes, networking activities and fun at MTA's 2005 Annual Educational Conference, held January 25-28, at the Marriott Renaissance Center in Detroit.

By all accounts one of MTA's best Conferences, attendees were treated to more than 50 educational workshops, a 120-booth Trade Expo, special pre-Conference seminars, and even a concert by BeatleMania Live!

A Busy Week from Day One

Following a Tuesday packed with seminars for newly elected officials, and township attorneys, auditors and assessors, as well as a Township Governance Academy class, the Conference officially kicked off Wednesday, January 26 with a motivating Opening Session.

Following the presentation of colors and 2005 Parade of Flags, **Brad VanHaitsma** welcomed attendees and guests—including more than 400 newly

elected officials—and reflected on his year as 2004 MTA president and the challenges that lay ahead for townships. VanHaitsma also discussed the issue of regionalized government, receiving resounding applause after he challenged all township officials “to be ready and willing to step up to the plate to protect and enhance strong township government, or risk having it diminished, eroded or losing it all together.

“MTA is *all* of us, so get more involved, and take a more active role in the future of township government.”

MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill followed up on VanHaitsma's speech, noting that the Conference's theme, “Townships: Leaders Meeting New Challenges,” was by no means selected by accident. “We see a lot of challenges and opportunities ahead of us—some of the greatest challenges that townships and local government have faced in 25 to 50 years,” he

said, also mentioning the concept of regionalized government, as well as the state's continuing fiscal crisis.

Merrill pointed out MTA's successes over the past year, including influence on more than 650 legislative bills in 2004. “We have the seeds of success right here in this room,” he said. “With every challenge, there is always an opportunity. I cannot be more optimistic about the future than I am today, with all this energy, enthusiasm and creativity that we can tap into. You are MTA, and you are going to be part of our success.”

Motivational humorist Dr. Charles Petty reflected on his own life and recounted stories from his experiences while sharing with the audience one important lesson: “What's the most important gift you can bring to your township, and to your family? A healthy you—mentally, physically, spiritually, emotionally, relationally.



“Don’t play at what you do. If your residents are good enough to elect you, and trust you with their lives, give them your best efforts. That’s called integrity.”

The inaugural class of Township Governance Academy graduates was also recognized during the Opening Session (see page 18).

A Flurry of Activity

Attendees made the most of the remainder of the week, packing into workshops, and meeting with old and new friends during breaks and in the evenings.

Along with the educational sessions—on timely topics including *Anticipating What Your Township Needs Tomorrow* and *Time Management for Today’s Township Official*—a highlight of this year’s Conference was the 20th anniversary celebration of platinum sponsor Michigan Township Participating Plan, which hosted a BeatleMania Live! con-

cert that had attendees flashing back to the ‘60s and dancing in the aisles.

The 2005 Trade Expo remained a popular fixture, boasting many new exhibitors anxious to meet with attendees. This year’s Featured County MTA Chapter was Oakland County, which filled their booth with giveaways showcasing their diverse communities.

The Annual Banquet was both an elegant and fun-filled affair, with attendees, guests and some special legislative guests enjoying a four-course meal, before turning their attention to the awards portion of the evening. **Maxine McClelland**, 2003 MTA president, received the Past President Award, while **Neil West** became an MTA life member. Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Midland) was presented with MTA’s 2004 “Legislator of the Year” award, recognizing his efforts on behalf of local government. Five “Excellence in Township Government” awards were also presented, hon-

oring the efforts and projects of local governments from around the state (see pages 19-20).

The evening wrapped up with a “Rock N’ Oldies” review performed by Phil Dirt & the Dozers, who had attendees clapping and singing along to hits from the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s.

The week concluded with the adoption of MTA’s 2005 Legislative Policy Platform (see pages 7-11) at the MTA Annual Meeting on Friday morning. Terms of office for the 25 district directors, elected at Thursday’s caucus elections, began at the meeting. MTA President Don Hilton and other MTA officers were also elected during the Annual Meeting (turn to pages 21-24 to meet the entire MTA Board).

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year’s Conference, January 24-27, 2006, at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids! ■

Getting to Know Don Hilton, Sr. MTA's 2005 President



*"It's not about you." MTA's newly inducted president **Don Hilton** lives by this statement in his life and his role as supervisor of **Gaines Charter Township** (Kent Co.). With a firm belief that serving township government is a great responsibility, one that must be faced with honesty and integrity, Hilton encourages each of Michigan's 6,542 township officials—whether newly elected or a veteran official—to remember those words as well.*

As MTA's new leader, Hilton urges the membership to resolve to make the voice of township government stronger than it has ever been before. During 2005, he intends to build on the strong foundation already in place and strive to make MTA the greatest group of leaders meeting new challenges in the state of Michigan, while representing the interests and needs of township residents.

First elected to the MTA Board in 1996, Hilton succeeds 2004 MTA President Brad VanHaitsma. Hilton recently spoke with Michigan Township News' staff about his beginnings in local government and his thoughts on the future of townships.

How did you become involved in township government?

I became involved in township government around 1957 when the planning commission was first formed. One of the township board trustees took a liking to me because of my involvement in Future Farmers of America and 4-H. He told the supervisor he should encourage me to become involved. I agreed and was appointed to the commission soon after.

It wasn't very long after I was appointed chair of commission that I was automatically appointed to serve on the zoning board of appeals. I remained chair of the planning commission, was later elected chair of the ZBA and served in both capacities until I ran for supervisor in 1992.

How do you stay passionate and energetic about your work in township government, and on the MTA Board of Directors?

I firmly believe the Lord gave me a gift of vision. What I mean by that is, once a thought enters my mind, I can oftentimes see the ending, while not fully understanding how everything will come together that will take me to that ending. Energy drives my passion to meet the goal I believe in and helps me steer others to that end as well.

I find it a bit more difficult as an MTA director to not be directly involved in the

daily activities, but I believe that my love for the workings of township government and the opportunities that it offers the residents of this state helps me to work toward preserving the viability of MTA and grassroots government in a way that was envisioned by Thomas Jefferson for future generations.

What is the most effective way to connect with our membership?

I feel that connecting with the members is an ongoing task. I am concerned that many who are elected to office are not aware that there is an organization like MTA at their fingertips with the capabilities to train, lobby, provide legal assistance and much more. Connecting with our members will require building on the techniques currently being used, and using ever-changing technology to bring our members together and keeping them more unified.

We also must continually keep in mind that, because of the population difference with townships ranging less than 100 to more than 90,000 residents, we can't use a one-size-fits-all approach.

How can we engage the public in the efforts of township government?

It is easier to engage the public when something is happening that they dislike than when things are moving smoothly

along. Inviting their participation on committees, visioning sessions or asking for responses through newsletters or surveys, and maintaining an up-to-date Web site are excellent ways to increase investment. It is vital that they know you appreciate their time and input.

Many different groups have joined together to fight additional budget cuts during the past couple of years. How do we maintain this momentum and cooperation?

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, a group with which I am involved, has



Brad VanHaitsma shares some presidential insights with **Don Hilton** at the 2005 Annual Meeting in Detroit.



At the MTA Annual Meeting, 2004 President Brad VanHaitsma affixes the president pin on Don Hilton.

long been discussing the state's deficit. The chair of the Kent County Commission commented that now that the Legislature and the governor have been able to segregate counties away from cities, villages and townships, we have fewer people at the table to fight for revenue sharing. We have lost the counties in this fight, and I anticipate this will be a problem.

The discretionary funds for townships have already been limited and many will say, "What's in this for me? I've already lost it." We are going to have to pick our battles in other areas and join together and maintain momentum, so that when the current revenue sharing formula sunsets we can fight to make sure we are included in the new plan.

Personal Profile:

Family: Married to Lynn for 48 years. Four children: Don Jr., Sheryl, Howard and Scott; and six grandchildren.

Community Involvement: Member of Kentwood Community church, and member of numerous boards and committees, including the United Growth Coalition, Gaines Parks and Recreation Committee and Kent County Supervisors Association. Hilton is also chair of the Cutlerville Fire Authority and Dutton Fire Commission. (For more, turn to page 21)

A "Day in the Life" of Don Hilton: "My normal day starts around 5 a.m. I am in the office by 8:00 a.m., and first check and respond to e-mail and voice mail, then meet with staff. I typically have to attend at least one meeting each day. I generally leave the office around 4:30 p.m., and have a minimum of one evening meeting a week. At home, I work on my farm and care for my own large lawn. I also own a development, which includes numerous lots, and enjoy mowing the common areas and keeping unsold lots trimmed. My wife and family can usually tell how much stress I am under by how many times I mow the grass or plow the snow each week!"



Don & Lynn Hilton

What issues will the Association and members face in the upcoming year?

Township government has been under attack before, and we are under attack again. We hear the wolves talking consolidation, reduction, redistricting and elimination of townships. Many of us already cooperate with neighboring townships and cities with various types of agreements and have done so for many years. I think we will continue to deal with annexation/detachment and recall. It seems like we almost get these issues through the legislative process and then one or two people—such as with the mobile home legislation—hold up the process. Then during the next legislative session we have to start all over again.

We can't stop pushing these issues or let our guard down. We must continue to be heard.

After your term as president concludes, what would you like the membership to remember about you?

Nothing. All I want [to do] is to further the MTA organization. The most important thing is to remember what the Board as a whole accomplishes during the next year.

MTA thanks the following sponsors for helping "Leaders Meet New Challenges" at the MTA Annual Educational Conference, January 24-28, 2005.

Platinum

Burnham & Flower
INSURANCE GROUP

Burnham & Flower Insurance Group
Kalamazoo



Detroit Metro Convention
& Visitors Bureau

Marriott

DETROIT
AT THE RENAISSANCE CENTER

Marriott Detroit at the
Renaissance Center



Michigan Township Participating Plan
Auburn Hills

Gold



DTE Energy
Detroit

Silver



BS&A Software
East Lansing

MBIA

Capital Strength. Triple-A Performance.

MBIA Asset Management Group
Ann Arbor

Bronze

Bendzinski & Co.,
Municipal Finance Advisors, Detroit
FundBalance, Ann Arbor
International Transmission Company,
Novi
LSL Planning, Inc., Royal Oak
Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, PLC,
Detroit
Prein&Newhof, Grand Rapids
Selective Insurance, Columbus, OH
Wightman & Associates, Inc.,
Benton Harbor

Five Townships Honored for 'Excellence in Township Government'



The success of any association is dependent upon the success of its members. At MTA, we recognize that township government has thrived because of the courage, commitment and vision of township boards throughout the state. To reward and highlight the outstanding achievement of dedicated townships, MTA created the "Excellence in Township Government" awards program in 2003.

Applications for the 2004 awards were accepted in seven categories: Boardsmanship, Constituent Communications, Fiscal Management, Human Resources Management, Land Use, Community Services and Intergovernmental Relations. Awards were given in four of the seven categories.

The winners of the second annual award program were announced to more than 1,800 township officials and guests attending the Annual Banquet during the Association's 52nd Annual Educational Conference in Detroit.

Addison, Orion Charter and Oxford Charter Townships "North Oakland Transportation Authority"



(L-R) Oxford Township Supervisor Bill Dunn, Addison Township Trustee John Sutphin, Oxford Charter Township Trustee Patricia Fitchena, Orion Charter Township Supervisor Jerry Dywasuk, Addison Charter Township Supervisor Robert Koski and Addison Township Trustee Dan Alberty.

EXCELLENCE IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The North Oakland Transportation Authority (NOTA) is a government unit that provides free transportation to senior citizens, mentally and physically disabled individuals, and welfare-to-work clients living in **Oxford Charter Township** and Village, **Addison Township**, Leonard Village, **Orion Charter Town-**

ship and the Village of Lake Orion—all of which are located in predominately rural northern Oakland County.

Given there is no public transportation in these six townships and villages, NOTA has become a crucial and necessary service for residents who would otherwise have no means of transportation.

"NOTA has provided a lifeline to people with transportation needs by giving them an opportunity to do the things they need to, but that they couldn't do before," noted NOTA Director and Oxford Charter Township Trustee **Pat Fitchena**.

Meridian Charter Township "Meridian Township Greenspace Plan"

EXCELLENCE IN LAND USE

The **Meridian Charter Township** (Ingham Co.) Greenspace Plan grew out of township residents' wishes to protect the area's natural resources while accommodating new development. The plan is the result of several years of community input and planning, culminating in an effort that reflects the unique ecological, cultural and recreational resources of the township. It brings together three key elements: a network of key ecological corridors, preservation of scenic roadways, and provision of walking and bicycling links.

It is hoped the plan will serve as the means for property owners, citizens and local officials to work together to develop a network of greenspaces throughout the township.

"I am pleased that our unique plan has been recognized by MTA and hope other townships will benefit from the awareness that preserving greenspaces is possible when planned, sustainable growth occurs," commented Meridian Charter Township Supervisor **Susan McGillicuddy**.



(L-R) Meridian Charter Township Trustee Julie Brixie and Supervisor Susan McGillicuddy with MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill.

Plymouth Charter Township
"2004 Plymouth Township Calendar"

EXCELLENCE IN
CONSTITUENT
COMMUNICATIONS

In 2001, **Plymouth Charter Township** (Wayne Co.) officials decided to issue an annual calendar to provide needed information for residents. Since that time, the township has strived to include more information in response to citizen inquiries. The 9-inch by 12-inch calendar includes such items as board and planning commission meeting dates, brief descriptions of township departments, frequently asked questions, a fold-out map and street directory, e-mail and Web site addresses for local, county, state and federal officials, a senior citizen's page, and a quick reference guide.

According to the award entry, photographs are used "to capture the essence of Plymouth Township," and show township residents all of the positive things about the area in which they live.

"It is always flattering to receive recognition from your peers, and we do appreciate this award for our hard work and efforts," said Plymouth Charter Township Supervisor **Richard Reaume**. "Our annual township calendar is a single source of township information and phone numbers. Pertinent information is contained on each month's grid with ample room for residents to fill in their own appointments, making this a useful resource as well as a working calendar."



(L-R) **Plymouth Charter Township Supervisor Richard Reaume and MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill.**

Alpine, Cannon, Courtland and Plainfield Charter
Townships, and the City of Rockford
"North Kent Sewer Authority"

EXCELLENCE IN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS

The North Kent Sewer Authority was organized in 1997 in response to changing demands of the sewer-serving agencies providing transport, maintenance and treatment services. Five communities created the authority to address the present and future wastewater needs of the area. The officials involved have learned the strong lesson that when they are willing to work together, explore new technology, hire quality professional support, talk about their concerns and goals, and always work for the betterment of their communities, outstanding accomplishments are achievable.

"Faced with over \$15 million in sewer repairs and replacement costs in our county-operated joint sewer collection system, five communities formed this authority to take the first in a series of steps to collectively address a problem and to eventually take control over a vital part of our public infrastructure," noted **Plainfield Charter Township** (Kent Co.) Manager **Robert Homan**. "Facing all of these issues in a cooperative spirit with common interests has been an exhilarating and rewarding experience."



(L-R) **MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill and Plainfield Charter Township Manager Robert Homan.**

Independence Charter Township
"Lunch Plus Program"

EXCELLENCE IN
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The Lunch Plus Program is based on providing personal enrichment for the employees of **Independence Charter Township** (Oakland Co.). It is a learning opportunity, scheduled into the workday, in which all employees can be included, regardless of experience, education or position. The mission of this lunchtime educational program has been to have each person achieve a higher standard of achievement with interesting, practical workshops, which translates into better service to the community.

"This is a tremendous honor for the township. We owe a great deal of this honor to the creative insight of the township's former clerk **Joan McCrary**," noted township Clerk **Shelagh VanderVeen**.



(L-R) **Independence Charter Township Clerk Shelagh VanderVeen and former Clerk Joan McCrary with MTA's Executive Director Larry Merrill.**

Would you like to see
your township
recognized for
'Excellence in
Township Government'?
Watch for an application
for the
2005 awards program
in the August 2005
issue of
*Michigan Township
News.*

Some 65 Township Flags Celebrated the 2005 Parade of Flags



Officials from 65 townships and 32 counties proudly waved their township flags during the 2005 Parade of Flags, kicking off the Conference's Opening Session on an inspirational and patriotic note.

Led by MTA Immediate Past President **Maxine McClelland, Big Rapids Township** (Mecosta Co.) supervisor, the parade filled the stage, following the presentation of colors by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

MTA would like to express its appreciation to each township that participated in the parade. Each flag is unique and expresses the individuality and character of the respective township. The hard work that goes into creating a township flag is appreciated by all who attended the Conference.

Thank you 2005 Parade of Flags participants!

Allegan County Otsego Township	Kalamazoo County Oshtemo Charter Township Richland Township	Newaygo County Croton Township
Alpena County Alpena Township	Kent County Ada Township Alpine Township Plainfield Charter Township	Oakland County Commerce Charter Township Highland Charter Township Milford Charter Township Oxford Charter Township
Bay County Hampton Charter Township Garfield Township Williams Charter Township	Lapeer County Metamora Township Oregon Township	Ottawa County Allendale Charter Township Georgetown Charter Township Zeeland Charter Township
Berrien County Lake Charter Township Lincoln Charter Township	Livingston County Brighton Charter Township Hartland Township	Roscommon County Gerrish Township
Chippewa County Kinross Charter Township	Macomb County Chesterfield Township Macomb Township	Saginaw County Buena Vista Charter Township James Township Jonesfield Township St. Charles Township
Delta County Escanaba Township	Manistee County Manistee Township	Sanilac County Bridgehampton Township Worth Township
Eaton County Hamlin Township Windsor Charter Township	Mason County Pere Marquette Charter Township	St. Clair County China Charter Township East China Charter Township Cottrellville Township
Genesee County Flushing Charter Township	Midland County Edenville Township Homer Township Ingersoll Township Mt. Haley Township	Tuscola County Arbela Township Millington Township
Ingham County Aurelius Township Leroy Township Leslie Township	Monroe County Exeter Township La Salle Township	Wayne County Brownstown Charter Township
Ionia County Sebewa Township	Montmorency County Loud Township	
Iosco County Plainfield Township	Muskegon County Cedar Creek Township Fruitland Township Muskegon Charter Township	
Isabella County Broomfield Township Chippewa Township	Newaygo County Big Prairie Township	
Kalamazoo County Kalamazoo Charter Township		

First TGA Graduating Class Honored at MTA Conference



January 26 was graduation day for 13 individuals who were recognized for completing MTA's Township Governance Academy (TGA). These graduates earned their TGA credential in less than 18 months to become the first graduating class from the Academy.

The graduates received their TGA certificates and lapel pins at the Opening Session of MTA's 52nd Annual Educational Conference in Detroit. MTA Executive Director Larry Merrill congratulated the graduates on their accomplishments, noting the time commitment each one made by attending TGA courses and applying concepts that they learned to their own townships.

To earn the TGA credential, candidates must complete approximately 45 hours of coursework by attending 12 classes, half in the area of Boardmanship and half in Foundations coursework. TGA also requires candidates to earn electives credits by attending MTA educational events or completing assessment quizzes in the *Michigan Township News*. After attending each class, candidates are asked to take a concept discussed in the course and develop a short or long-term project. Candidates also must complete a final project to earn their TGA credential.

Congratulations to our 2005 graduates! ■



The graduates are (pictured, left to right): Pamela Achatz, clerk, Hillman Township (Montmorency Co.); Paula Blumm, deputy treasurer, Lowell Charter Township (Kent Co.); Maxine Brink, clerk, Mills Township (Midland Co.); Deanna Burns, deputy supervisor, Oxford Charter Township (Oakland Co.); Sidney Grinnell, supervisor, Perry Township (Shiawassee Co.); Mary Ellen Keel, clerk, Ingersoll Township (Midland Co.); Joanne Marcetti, supervisor, Grand Haven Charter Township (Ottawa Co.); Diane Misze, trustee, Dalton Township (Muskegon Co.); Karen Northrop, treasurer, Arcadia Township (Lapeer Co.); Thomas Paige, supervisor, Williams Charter Township (Bay Co.); Daryl Peterson, former supervisor, Hillman Township (Montmorency Co.); and Linda Towsley, clerk, Windsor Charter Township (Eaton Co.). Not pictured: Robert Crawford, clerk, Fort Gratiot Charter Township (St. Clair Co.)

Introducing MTA's 2005 Board of Directors

Elected by the membership at MTA's Annual Educational Conference in Detroit on January 28, these new officers, directors and past presidents are committed to helping township officials serve their townships more effectively as they promote MTA's mission of supporting township government in Michigan.

MTA district directors serve a four-year term on the MTA Board. Their role is to:

- ◆ *Act as a liaison between the membership and the MTA Board and staff*
- ◆ *Assist in formulating Association policies and supporting legislation that positively promotes township government*
- ◆ *Seek input, ideas and areas of concern from members*
- ◆ *Attend county chapter meetings in their district to report the policies and positions adopted by the MTA Board. At MTA Board meetings, directors report on member ideas. This two-way communication is the key to successfully meeting the needs of all members statewide.*

Take this opportunity to locate your district director on the following pages, and get to know him or her on a first-name basis. Your director is your voice on the MTA Board. We look forward to hearing from you!

2005 MTA Executive Committee



**Don R. Hilton, Sr., President
Supervisor, Gaines Charter Township
(Kent Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 1996
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1992
- ◆ Gaines Charter Township Planning Commission member, 30 years; chairman, 20 years
- ◆ Gaines Charter Township Zoning Board of

Appeals chairman, 20 years

- ◆ Grand Valley Metro Council vice chair
- ◆ Kent County fire commissioner
- ◆ Grand Rapids Area Transportation Authority member

**Arlene E. Hill, First Vice President
Clerk, Chocoley Charter Township
(Marquette Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 1993
- ◆ Elected clerk in 1986; Forsyth Township clerk for six years; deputy clerk for two years
- ◆ Michigan Association of Clerks president, 1999
- ◆ Marquette County MTA Chapter past president
- ◆ Marquette County Central Dispatch Policy board past president
- ◆ Named 1999 Chocoley Township "Citizen of the Year"
- ◆ Named 2000 Michigan "Township Clerk of the Year"
- ◆ Organizer of Marquette County Clerks Association
- ◆ Northern Michigan Educational Advisory Commission secretary



**Larry T. Rutledge, Second Vice
President
Supervisor, LaSalle Township
(Monroe Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 1996
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1988; clerk, 1984-1988; trustee, 1980-1984; treasurer, 1975-1978
- ◆ Monroe County MTA Chapter president;

past vice president, treasurer and secretary

- ◆ Monroe County Supervisors Association chairman, 1996-present
- ◆ Monroe County Central Dispatch Authority board member
- ◆ LaSalle Township Planning Commission member, 1973-1988
- ◆ Monroe County Planning Commission, 1982-1988

**Gary Cramer, Treasurer
Supervisor, Kalamazoo Charter
Township (Kalamazoo Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 1999
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1996; trustee, 1980-1996
- ◆ Kalamazoo County MTA Chapter president, 1999; vice president, 1998
- ◆ Kalamazoo Charter Township fire commissioner, 1995-present; planning commissioner, 1980-1996
- ◆ Kalamazoo Charter Township Policy and Administration Committee member, 1996-present
- ◆ Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study vice chair, 1996-present
- ◆ Coalition for Urban Redevelopment, 1996-present
- ◆ Kalamazoo Regional Water & Wastewater Commission chair, 1999-present
- ◆ Community Action Board member, 1996-present
- ◆ Recipient of National Association of Towns and Townships Leadership Award, 2001



**Colleen Schwartz, Secretary
Clerk, Milford Charter Township
(Oakland Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2001
- ◆ Elected clerk in 1996; deputy clerk, 1977-1996
- ◆ Named 2002 "Township Clerk of the Year"
- ◆ Received Master Municipal Clerk title, 2003
- ◆ Michigan Association of Clerks president, 2000-2001

**Brad VanHaitsma,
Immediate Past President
Supervisor, Clam Union Township
(Missaukee Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 1990
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1996; clerk, 1980-1996
- ◆ Missaukee County MTA Chapter president, 1991-present
- ◆ Former Northern Michigan Christian school board member



District 1 Director

Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon Counties

**Debbie Maki, Supervisor
Elm River Township (Houghton Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 2004
- ◆ Range Lions Club member, 1989-present
- ◆ Elm River Township School Board president, 1993-1999

District 2 Director

Baraga, Dickinson, Iron and Marquette Counties

**Denny Olson, Supervisor
Breitung Charter Township
(Dickinson Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 2003
- ◆ Michigan Association of Timbermen member, 1987-present
- ◆ Michigan/Wisconsin Timber Producers, 1988-present
- ◆ Michigan Timbermen award recipient, 1988
- ◆ Michigan Forest Resource Alliance member, during the late '80s and 2004-2005

**District 3 Director**

Alger, Delta and Menominee Counties

**P. Leo Labre, Treasurer
Spalding Township (Menominee Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected treasurer in 2003; supervisor, 1992-2000
- ◆ Powers Spalding Water Authority member for 12 years; chair for five years
- ◆ Lions Club member, including four terms as president, 1970, 1980, 1992 and 2003; zone chair, 1971 and 2003; cabinet member, 1972-2003
- ◆ Recipient of Wal-Mart's 1994 "Outstanding Public Official" Award
- ◆ PTA President, 1969

District 4 Director

Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac and Schoolcraft Counties

**Jason Oberle, Supervisor
Kinross Charter Township
(Chippewa Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 2004
- ◆ Chippewa County MTA Chapter member since 2004
- ◆ Kinross Booster member, 2004-2005
- ◆ Chippewa County Economic Development Commission member, 2004-2005

**District 5 Director**

Charlevoix, Cheboygan and Emmet Counties

**Charles Veneros, Treasurer
Aloha Township (Cheboygan Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected treasurer in 1996
- ◆ Cheboygan County Road Commission liaison, 2003-present
- ◆ Hawks to Mackinac City Rails-to-Trails Council member
- ◆ Cheboygan County Rails-to-Trails Advisory Council treasurer
- ◆ Cheboygan River-Lower Black River Watershed Steering Committee member

District 6 Director

Antrim, Crawford, Kalkaska and Otsego Counties

**Kim Schmidt, Supervisor
Torch Lake Township (Antrim Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2001
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1992
- ◆ Torch Lake Township assessor since 1995
- ◆ Central Lake Chamber of Commerce president, 1989-1991
- ◆ Scoutmaster for Central Lake Boy Scouts, 1992-1999
- ◆ Honorable discharge, US Navy, 1974-1978

**District 7 Director**

Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda and Presque Isle Counties

**Ken Gauthier, Supervisor
Sanborn Township (Alpena Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1986
- ◆ Sanborn Township Zoning Board of Appeals member, 1979-present
- ◆ Alpena County MTA Chapter, secretary-treasurer, 1990-1993; vice chair, 1994-1996; chair, 1997-2000, 2001-2002
- ◆ Alpena County Senior Citizens Council, 2000-present

District 8 Director

Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Manistee Counties

**Doug Mansfield, Supervisor
Union Township (Grand Traverse Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1995; trustee, 1993-1995
- ◆ Appointed to township planning commission in 1991; chair 1991-1993
- ◆ Grand Traverse County MTA Chapter member, 1993-present
- ◆ County Board of Public Works chair, 2001-present
- ◆ Rural Fire Board member, 1995-present



District 9 Director

Clare, Missaukee, Osceola and Wexford Counties

**Steven Ebels, Clerk
Clam Union Township (Missaukee Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1997
- ◆ Assistant fire chief, 1984-1996; volunteer firefighter, 1976-present
- ◆ Church council vice president

District 10 Director

Arenac, Iosco, Ogemaw and Roscommon Counties

**Diane F. Randall, Supervisor
Roscommon Township (Roscommon Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Appointed supervisor in 1997
- ◆ Level II assessor since 2002
- ◆ Roscommon County MTA Chapter secretary, 1999-present
- ◆ Houghton Lake Sewer Authority chair, 1997-present
- ◆ Houghton Lake Building Authority member, 1997-present
- ◆ Houghton Lake Ambulance Authority member, 2004-present
- ◆ Roscommon County Economic Development Board member, 2001-present

**District 11 Director**

Lake, Mason and Oceana Counties

**Eugene Jorissen, Supervisor
Pere Marquette Charter Township
(Mason Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Appointed supervisor in 1995
- ◆ Mason County MTA Chapter chair, 1997-1999
- ◆ Mason County Board of Commissioners

for 10 years

- ◆ Mason County Economic Development Committee vice chair
- ◆ Mason County Department of Public Works vice chair

District 12 Director

Isabella, Mecosta and Newaygo Counties

**George Grim, Supervisor
Chippewa Township (Isabella Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1984
- ◆ Isabella County MTA Chapter secretary-treasurer, 1990-1994; chair, 1994-2002
- ◆ Former Shepherd Village council member and president
- ◆ Former Chamber of Commerce president
- ◆ 2000 Shepherd "Citizen of the Year" Award recipient

**District 13 Director**

Bay, Gladwin and Midland Counties

**Al Tew, Treasurer
Homer Township (Midland Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2001
- ◆ Elected treasurer in 1988
- ◆ Midland County MTA Chapter treasurer, 1991-2003
- ◆ Midland County Treasurers Association chair
- ◆ Wage Commission member, 1983-1988
- ◆ Named 2002 Midland County "Township Official of the Year"

District 14 Director

Huron and Tuscola Counties

**William Renn, Supervisor
Chandler Township (Huron Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2001
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1990
- ◆ Huron County MTA Chapter chair, 1994-1996
- ◆ Cross Lutheran Church member
- ◆ Cross School Board member, 1980-1988

**District 15 Director**

Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa Counties

**James Stover, Treasurer
Plainfield Charter Township (Kent Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005; previously served as former District 15 director, 1994-1996
- ◆ Elected treasurer in 1998
- ◆ Niles Township trustee, 1974-1978; treasurer, 1978-1996
- ◆ Kent County MTA Chapter vice chair, 2002-present; secretary, 2000-2002
- ◆ Berrien County MTA Chapter chair, 1994-1996
- ◆ 2nd Congregational United Church of Christ treasurer, 2001-present

District 16 Director

Gratiot, Ionia and Montcalm Counties

**Mary Price, Trustee
Danby Township (Ionia Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected trustee in 1992
- ◆ Ionia County MTA Chapter treasurer, 2000-present
- ◆ Danby Township Zoning Board of Appeals member, 2001-present

**District 17 Director**

Genesee, Saginaw and Shiawassee Counties

**Joanne Boehler, Treasurer
James Township (Saginaw Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected treasurer in 1996; deputy treasurer, 1976-1996
- ◆ Saginaw Area Local Treasurers Association co-founder and treasurer

District 18 Director

Sanilac and St. Clair Counties

**John Randolph, Supervisor
East China Charter Township (St. Clair Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 2000; trustee, 1994-2000
- ◆ St. Clair County MTA Chapter vice president, 2005; president, 2003-2004
- ◆ East China Planning Commission chair, and Zoning Board of Appeals chair, 1987-1993
- ◆ St. Clair County Road Commission member, 1973-2002
- ◆ St. Clair County Supervisors Association secretary/treasurer, 2001-2003

District 19 Director

Allegan, Barry and Kalamazoo Counties

Gary Cramer, Supervisor**Kalamazoo Charter Township (Kalamazoo Co.)***Also serves as MTA treasurer (see page 19)***District 20 Director**

Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties

Linda Towsley, Clerk**Windsor Charter Township (Eaton Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 1997
- ◆ Appointed clerk in 1988; deputy clerk for one year
- ◆ Eaton County MTA Chapter secretary/treasurer, 1996-1997; president 2003-2004
- ◆ Capital Area Municipal Clerks director; past president and past vice president
- ◆ Former Windsor Charter Township elections inspector

**District 21 Director**

Lapeer, Macomb and Oakland Counties

Colleen Schwartz, Clerk**Milford Charter Township (Oakland Co.)***Also serves as MTA secretary (see page 19)***District 22 Director**

Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties

**Linda Preston, Supervisor
Pokagon Township (Cass Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 2004; clerk, 1984-2004
- ◆ Cass County MTA Chapter treasurer, 1985-1993
- ◆ Southwest Michigan Commission, 1999-present
- ◆ Michigan Area Regions, 2004-present
- ◆ 4-H Leader, 1978-present

District 23 Director

Branch, Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties

Cynthia Sink, Clerk**Marshall Township (Calhoun Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 2005
- ◆ Elected clerk in 1992
- ◆ Calhoun County MTA Chapter secretary-treasurer, 2000-2002
- ◆ Calhoun County Clerks Association secretary-treasurer, present; president, 2004; director, 2002-2003
- ◆ Marshall Area Development Association, 1996-present
- ◆ Certified municipal clerk, 2003; entry-level master municipal clerk, 2004

**District 24 Director**

Hillsdale, Jackson and Lenawee Counties

**Randi Holthouse, Clerk
Spring Arbor Township (Jackson Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 1998
- ◆ Elected clerk in 1997
- ◆ Spring Arbor Township Park Committee chair, 1998-current
- ◆ Jackson County Parks Association charter member; treasurer, 1999-2001
- ◆ Jackson County Parks & Recreation commissioner, 2000-present; vice chair, 2002; chair 2003 and 2004
- ◆ Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks member
- ◆ Jackson County Municipal Clerks Association member; president, 1999-2001; secretary, 1998

District 25 Director

Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties

Larry Rutledge, Supervisor**LaSalle Township (Monroe Co.)***Also serves as MTA second vice president (see page 19)***MTA Past Presidents****Grayden D. Slowins, Trustee
Sebewa Township (Ionia Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 1989, president, 2001
- ◆ Elected trustee in 2000; clerk in 1968
- ◆ Sebewa Township Justice of the Peace, 1963-1968
- ◆ Ionia County MTA Chapter past chairman, vice chairman, treasurer and secretary
- ◆ Ionia Community Mental Health board member, 1987-1991
- ◆ Ionia County 911 Central Dispatch board member, 1991-1997
- ◆ Lakewood Adult Education board member, 1976-1980
- ◆ Sebewa Center school board, 1961-1965

**Patrick L. White, Supervisor
Pavilion Township (Kalamazoo Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 1993, president, 2002
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1981; trustee for five months
- ◆ Kalamazoo County MTA Chapter past president and vice president

**Maxine McClelland, Supervisor
Big Rapids Township (Mecosta Co.)**

- ◆ Elected to MTA Board in 1987, president, 2003
- ◆ Elected supervisor in 1980; clerk, 1972-1980; deputy clerk, 1970-1972
- ◆ Mecosta County MTA Chapter past president and secretary
- ◆ Michigan Assessors Association past president
- ◆ Mecosta County Development Corporation secretary/treasurer and member, 25 years
- ◆ Former Mecosta County Planning Commission chair and member
- ◆ Former Mecosta County Parks Commission member
- ◆ Big Rapids Township volunteer firefighter

