

# The Par Plan News

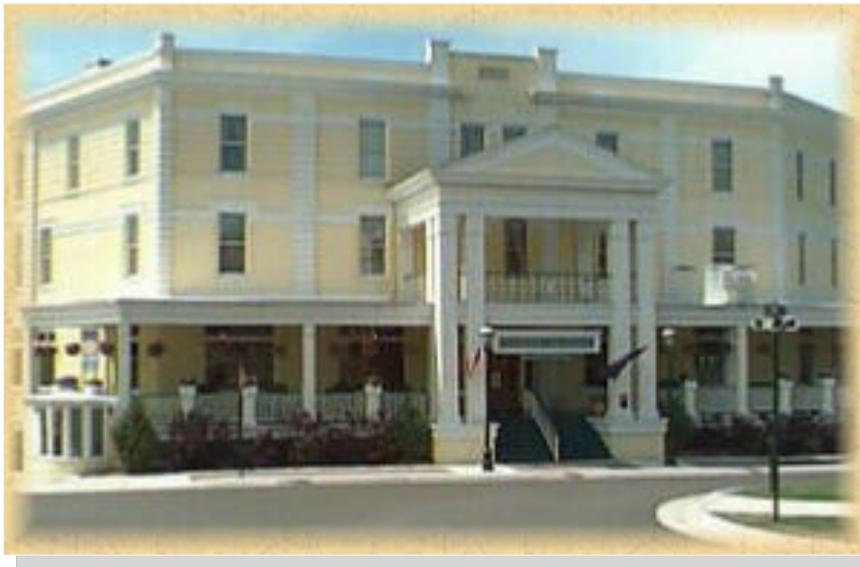
ISSUE 127  
June 2017



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## Michigan Township Participating Plan 32nd Annual and Quarterly Business Meetings



The annual business and quarterly meeting of the Michigan Township Participating Plan is being held at Stafford's Perry Hotel in Petoskey, Michigan on July 20th, 2017. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the annual business meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Reycraft Room on the lobby level.

The annual business and quarterly meetings of the Plan's are open meetings for members who are interested in the detailed activities of the program and it's outstanding committees that has transpired over the past twelve months. Additionally, the Par Plan service providers will present their annual reports outlining their activity on behalf of the program.

*Par Plan members are encouraged to attend*

**MTPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Zone 1  
Paul Lehto  
Calumet Township  
(906) 337-2410
- Zone 2  
Marvin Besteman, Jr.  
Kinross Charter Township  
(906) 495-5381
- Zone 3  
Glen Lile, Vice Chairman  
East Bay Charter Township  
(231) 947-8719
- Zone 4  
Joanne Donaldson  
Markey Township  
(989) 366-9614
- Zone 5  
**OPEN**
- Zone 6  
**OPEN**
- Zone 7  
William Walters  
City of Brown City  
(810) 346-2325
- Zone 8  
**OPEN**
- Zone 9  
William Bamber, Secretary  
Oceola Township  
(517) 546-3259

**Michigan Township Participating Plan  
UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION**



**O**n March 17th, 2017 election nomination forms were mailed to all Par Plan members in Zones 1, 4, and 7 for the regular election serving a three-year term and special elections in Zone 5 serving a one-year term and Zone 6 serving a two-year term. The winner is selected based upon the highest number of votes received. Elected Directors are required to attend at least (4) four board meetings per year in addition to committee meetings.

On May 12th, 2017 the Par Plan Election committee confirmed nomination forms and member resolution statements. The following candidates were confirmed to be placed on the election ballots.

**Zone 1:** Paul Lehto, incumbent director, Supervisor of Calumet Charter Township, Houghton County. Seeking re-election.

**Zone 4:** Joanne Donaldson, incumbent director, Supervisor of Markey Township, Roscommon County. Seeking re-election.  
Kathleen Vichunas, County Commissioner, Alcona County. Seeking election

**Zone 5:** Judy Maike, Supervisor, Everett Township, Newaygo County. Seeking election  
Joan Raap, Clerk, Egelston Township, Muskegon County. Seeking election  
Jennifer Venema, Clerk, Caledonia Township, Kent County. Seeking election  
Jack Hagedorn, Trustee, Plainfield Charter Township, Kent County. Seeking election

**Zone 6:** Gary Brandt, Trustee, Monitor Charter Township, Bay County. Seeking election.

**Zone 7:** William Walters, incumbent director and Council Member, City of Brown City, Sanilac County. Seeking re-election.

The following members in Zone 5 submitted names to serve as their entity member representative to the MTPP Program. The following were confirmed as such: Robert Deward, Supervisor of Gaines Charter Township, Kent County, Candy DeHann, Clerk of Jamestown Charter Township, Ottawa County and Josh Westgate, Supervisor of Wright Township, Ottawa County.

The Michigan Township Participating Plan is a tailored property and casualty risk management program developed to meet the needs of public entities. The Par Plan is a program controlled by public officials who understand the needs of local governments and the confined guidelines that governments have to work within.

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**The remaining election time table is as follows:**

- June 20th - Election ballots must be postmarked to receive consideration**
- June 30th - Committee meets to count ballots**
- July 1st - Par Plan Directors take office**
- July 20th - Par Plan Annual and Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting**



**Risk Alert !**

## Religious Accommodation in Arrest and Booking

Given today’s political climate, it is important to understand what is and is not permissible during arrest and booking. For example, it seems self evident that an arrestee’s face must be visible for a booking photo. But, what if that arrestee is a devout Muslim woman?

There are multiple bodies of law and statutes, both state and federal, that may impact civil liability. This article will focus on best practices tailored to the practical aspects of law enforcement.

The Michigan Secretary of State allows for photos wearing religious head coverings, but the face must be visible. In many religions, including Islam, women wear head coverings to promote modesty. They wear them in the presence of men to whom they are not related. Many other religious sects require men and women to wear religious coverings.

**Hijab:**  
head covering allowed



**Burka:**  
head covering not allowed

During a traffic stop, officers should ask whether the individual is willing to remove the garment or at least a portion of it covering the face. The officer should ask himself/herself, is it necessary to see the entire face to complete the traffic stop or can the identity of the person be verified in other ways. Where feasible, a female officer should be requested to complete the traffic stop.

Preceding transport, a pat down is permitted regardless of gender. However, if something is discovered under the covering that the officer believes is a weapon or contraband requiring a more intrusive search, a female officer should be summoned. Further, if an arrestee makes a sudden movement toward a pocket or under a piece of clothing, that area may be immediately searched for officer safety. Head coverings, if removed, should be returned for transport.

At booking, the arrestee wearing religious head covering should be searched by a member of the same sex. The search should be conducted with as much privacy as practical. The head covering can be removed for the booking photo, but the photo should be taken by a member of same sex outside the presence of the opposite sex if possible. After the booking photo is completed, the arrestee may put the head covering back on. Of course, there are exceptions - if for example, the arrestee is deemed a suicide threat or attempts to use the head covering as a weapon. If the suspect is being lodged, many jails/lockups have alternative materials for temporary head covering, including a Tyvek-like covering approved by local religious leaders.

After booking, the national trend is that a jail/lockup is considered an “institution” under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act so religious accommodation is required by law and must be made where “reasonable.” Many jails/lockups have outdated policies which prohibit “hats, veils, tunics, etc.” These need to be revised as they invite litigation. Again, alternative materials for temporary head coverings should be obtained and utilized. The bottom line is to implement a consistent and reasonable policy and document your decision and supporting reasons.

*Gus Morris is appointed counsel for the Michigan Township Participating Plan and specializes in Law Enforcement Liability.*

**Gus Morris -**  
**McGraw, Morris, P.C.**  
2075 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite 750  
Troy, Michigan (248) 502-2400  
[www.mcgrawmorris.com](http://www.mcgrawmorris.com)



## Par Plan Zone 8 Director and Chairman, Ron Reid retires May 31, 2017.

Ron Reid, Kalamazoo Township Supervisor announced his resignation after a nearly four-decade career in public service. Ron has lived in Kalamazoo County since 1972, serving 31 years on the county road commission and almost nine years in Kalamazoo Township government.

Reid was elected to the Michigan Township Participating Plan Board of Directors in 2008 and serve on many program committees and executive committee. Ron is retiring from his program career as Chairman of the Michigan Township Participating Plan.

"(We've) done great things and I'm very confident that the board will do more great things," Reid said. "We want to provide a good service for our insured members. We have accomplished a great deal, improving Par Plan services and programs, supported the municipal entities we serve and even found a little time for some fun.

Reid stated that he hadn't planned on retiring when he ran for re-election last year, but a recent "health crisis" in January and the upcoming retirement of his wife have changed his mind. "When you go through that you look at the most important things in life," Reid said.

As for Reid, he said he plans to move to Englewood, Ohio to live near his son and grandchildren.



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## Paul Olson, Principal of Michigan Community Underwriters of West Michigan, Inc. named *Agent of the Year*.

On April 12, 2017 Paul Olson received the honor of Agent of the Year from Tokio Marine HCC Public Risk Group representing the Michigan Township Participating Plan (MTPP).

"I am proud to be affiliated with a program that understands Public Official's needs, in providing comprehensive property and casualty coverage. My longevity is due to many factors - I enjoy working with public officials in Michigan and respond personally to all the public officials that I work with if they have questions and concerns. And we have developed a mutual trust," Olson said.

Paul has been representing the MTPP Insurance Program for over 31 years and works exclusively with Tokio Marine - HCC Public Risk Group, Administrator of the MTPP Program. "I work with a group of professionals that have become a wheel that rotates perfectly in unison and that is why this program can only be mirrored by competition, but never duplicated and that is what makes this program great."



Par Plan News Editorial Staff:  
Marvin Besteman, Jr. - Kinross Charter Township,  
Chippewa County  
Joanne Donaldson - Markey Township,  
Roscommon County  
Rita Evans - MTPP Program Administrator  
The Par Plan News is published by the Michigan  
Township Participating Plan's Program Administrator:  
Tokio Marine - HCC Public Risk Group  
1700 Opdyke Court  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
(248) 371-3100  
(248) 371-3069 Fax  
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Michigan Township Participating Plan  
C/O 1700 Opdyke Court  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
800-783-1370  
248-371-3100

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[www.theparplan.com](http://www.theparplan.com)