

# The Par Plan News

ISSUE 129

September 2018



Par Plan board honors exiting director, (Zone 2) **Marvin Besteman** for his 28 years of dedicated service.

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The annual business meeting of the Michigan Township Participating Board of Directors was held Thursday July 26, 2018 at the Treetops resort in Gaylord, Michigan. Present at the meeting were the Par Plan Board of Directors, Par Plan Service Providers, and special guests Larry Merrill, Executive Director of the MTA and Ken Gauthier, President of the MTA. Past directors, Don Hilton, and Jim Beelen were also present.

Detailed annual reports highlighting activities over the past year and goals for 2019 were presented by the Par Plan’s service providers; Jeff McCray Administrator, Rita Evans, Risk Control, Larry Miller, Claims, Pat Gregory, UHY Accounting, Michael Cho, Morgan Stanley, Chief Craig Miller, Chairman of the Par Plan Fire/EMS Committees, and Chief Rick Freeman, Chairman of the Par Plan Law Enforcement Committee.

In addition, the following Board Committee Chairpersons gave their annual reports to the board and the present membership.

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Budget—William Bamber               | Fund Investment—William Bamber |
| Election/Bylaws—William Walters     | Executive/Dividend—Glen Lile   |
| Newsletter—Gary Brandt              | Grant—William Walters          |
| Convention/Annual Meeting—Glen Lile |                                |

The following Directors were seated as officers:

- Glen Lile, Chairman, William Walters, Vice Chairman,  
Jennifer Venema, Secretary

The October quarterly Michigan Township Participating Plan, Board of Directors meeting is being held at the DoubleTree Hilton in Bay City, Michigan on October 26, 2018. The business meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Davidson Room.

The Board will also be participating in a workshop on October 25th, at 1:00 p.m. Although a quorum of the board will be present, no board action will be taken.

The Par Plan quarterly meeting is an open meeting for members who are interested in the detailed activities of the program and it’s committees that have transpired over the past months. Additionally, the Par Plan service providers will present their reports outlining their activity on behalf of the program.

*Par Plan members are encouraged to attend*

**Michigan Township Participating Plan—Board of Directors  
Quarterly Business Meeting—October 26, 2018  
DoubleTree Hilton, Bay City, Michigan**

**MTPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Zone 1**

Paul Lehto  
Calumet Township  
(906) 337-2410

**Zone 2**

Kathleen English  
Trout Lake Township  
(906) 569-3829

**Zone 3**

Glen Lile, Chairman  
East Bay Charter Township  
(231) 947-8719

**Zone 4**

**OPEN**

**Zone 5**

Jennifer Venema, Secretary  
Caledonia Township  
(616) 891-0070

**Zone 6**

Gary Brandt  
Monitor Charter Township  
(989) 684-3366

**Zone 7**

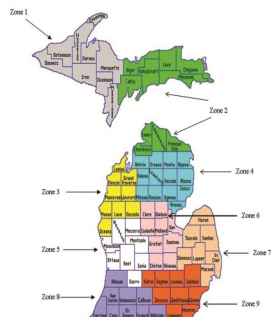
William Walters, Vice Chairman  
City of Brown City  
(810) 346-2325

**Zone 8**

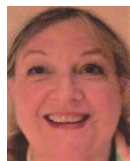
Linda Preston  
Pokagon Township  
(269) 422-1632

**Zone 9**

William Bamber  
Oceola Township  
(517) 546-3259



**Michigan Township Participating Plan  
Seats New Directors**



*Kathleen English— Zone 2 Director  
Clerk, Trout Lake Township—Chippewa County*

Kathleen was elected as the township Clerk in 2016, prior to this she was the assistant to the township clerk for (4) years. Kathleen has been a resident of Trout Lake Township for (25) years. For the past (3) years she has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club. She has served on several committees with the Michigan DNR and Hiawatha Federal Forest over the last (5) years). Kathleen was a Registered Nurse for the past (43) years, most recently leading the Perioperative Services Departments at various hospitals through out Michigan and Wisconsin.



*Linda Preston—Zone 8 Director  
Supervisor, Pokagon Township—Cass County*

Linda has been involved in local government since 1984. She was first elected Clerk to Pokagon Township, then in 2005 she was elected to the Supervisor position which she currently holds. Linda was elected to the MTA board of directors as District 22 Director in 2005 where she served on various committees and was selected to the Executive Committee where she held all offices including the MTA President in 2015. Linda has been involved in the Southwest Michigan Planning commission as Chairman, Vice Chair and the current Secretary, representing them on the Michigan Association of Regions, having served as Chair and Vice Chair of the association. In her community, Linda has been a 4-H leader for 40 years and oversees a 4-H club with 25 youth members and serves on the MSU-E advisory Council for District 13. She serves on the Cass County Habitat for Humanity Board, and the Advisory Board of The Old Rugged Cross Foundation. She is a Lay leader for her church and on the Administrative Council.

**Par Plan Board Officers & Committee Members  
July 2018 – June 2019**

**Executive - Dividend - Public Relations Committee**

Glen Lile, Chairman  
William Walters, Vice Chairperson  
Jennifer Venema, Secretary

**Budget & Finance Committee**

William Bamber, Chairman  
Paul Letho  
Linda Preston

**Election Policy & By-Laws Committee**

William Walters, Chairman  
Jennifer Venema  
Kathleen English

**Fund Investment Committee**

William Bamber, Chairman  
Gary Brandt  
Kathleen English

**Grant Committee**

William Walters, Chairman  
Glen Lile  
Gary Brandt

**Fire / EMS Committee**

Glen Lile, Board Liaison  
William Walters, Alternate Board Liaison

**Advertising & Newsletter Committee**

Gary Brandt, Chairman  
Linda Preston  
Kathleen English

**Law Enforcement Committee**

William Walters, Board Liaison  
Glen Lile, Alternate Board Liaison

**Convention & Annual Meeting Committee**

William Bamber, Chairman  
Jennifer Venema  
Linda Preston

The Michigan Township Participating Plan is a tailored property and casualty risk management insurance 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.



## Michigan Township Participating Plan Risk Reduction Grant Awardees 14th Grant Cycle April 1—May 31, 2018

Chelsea Area Construction Agency—Washtenaw County  
Chippewa Township—Mecosta County  
Clyde Township—St. Clair County  
Coldsprings Excelsior Fire & Rescue—Kalkaska County  
Coldsprings Township—Kalkaska County  
Gilford Township—Tuscola County  
Grand Traverse Metro Emergency —Grand Traverse County  
Grayling Recreation Authority— Crawford County  
Kalamazoo Charter Township—Kalamazoo County  
Liberty Township— Jackson County

Ontonagon Village Housing Comm.—Ontonagon County  
Park Township— Ottawa County  
Polkton Charter Township—Ottawa County  
Quincy Franklin Hancock Twp. Fire Dept.—Houghton County  
Roscommon Township— Roscommon County  
Taymouth Township Fire Dept.— Saginaw County  
Village of Lake Ann — Benzie County  
Village of Peck— Sanilac County  
Village of Vermontville—Eaton County  
Whitehall Township—Muskegon County

### MTPP Risk Reduction Grant Program Next Grant cycle opens October 1, 2018 - November 30, 2018

Visit us at [www.theparplan.com](http://www.theparplan.com) select the RRGP Grant tab on the left side of the page and download the grant guidelines and the frequently asked questions to begin the process. The deadline is November 30, 2018. Applications may be submitted to:

Michigan Township Participating Plan—Risk Reduction Grant Program  
Attention: Administrator  
1700 Opdyke Court  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Or e-mail your applications to: [mtpprrgp@tmhcc.com](mailto:mtpprrgp@tmhcc.com)

If you have any questions regarding the grant process, feel free to contact your Par Plan zone director, located on page 2 of this publication, your local regional risk manager, or the Par Plan administrative office at 248-371-3100 for further assistance.

### MTA 2018 Vendor Showcase

Come visit the Par Plan booth at the following locations. These vendor shows offer useful solutions for townships, through networking and information exchange, learn about the Par Plan products and services that are tailored to meet the needs of Michigan townships.

Oct. 2: Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth  
Oct. 3: Riverwalk Place Resort, Gladwin  
Oct. 9: Magnusson Franklin Square Inn, Houghton  
Oct. 10: Island Resort & Conference Center, Harris  
Oct. 11: Bay Mills Resort, Brimley  
Oct. 17: Fetzer Center at WMU, Kalamazoo

Oct. 18: Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center, Chelsea  
Oct. 22: Treetops Resort Conference Center, Gaylord  
Oct. 23: Ramada Inn, Alpena  
Oct. 29: Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville  
Oct. 30: Holiday Inn, Big Rapids

**Save the Date—The Par Plan will see you at the MTA Conference & Expo  
April 1st—4th, 2019 DeVos Place—Grand Rapids**

## We All Go Home: How Routine First Responder Physicals Can Help Save Your Department

Anyone who has worked in the fire, EMS, or law enforcement industries has heard the saying, “We All Go Home.” As a former firefighter, I remember hearing this phrase on a regimental basis. Now as a Risk Control representative I see and hear it at every site visit I conduct. I have heard the talk and I have seen the “literal” writing on the wall, “We All Go Home.”

For those in the fire service, we can all remember that scene in the movie Back Draft where Scott Glenn “Axe” is hanging above the flames and Kurt Russell “Bull” is clutching him and utters that epic line, “You Go... We Go.” You could see and feel the unwritten bond these guys had for the members of their department. If it’s “We All Go Home” or “You Go, We Go”, the sentiment is all the same; we came as a team and we are leaving as a team.

Yes, the Backdraft reference is quite dramatic. The odds of your department having a sentimental moment over a 4 story ledge fighting a chemical company fire are probably pretty slim. Many times the most deadly thing to a member of the emergency services is not that wall of flames, but a 8-10 ounce muscle in your chest; your heart. That’s right, studies have shown that with all the things that first responders run into on any given day it’s your own beating heart that could end your call; not a bullet, not a drunk driver, not even that wall of fire.

This is a critical issue that spans the entire industry. We have all read the headlines:

- Police Sergeant Suffers Sudden Cardiac Death While On Duty—Michigan
- Trainee Suffers Heart Attack During Fire Fighter Training and Dies—Michigan
- Pump Operator/Paramedic Suffers Sudden Cardiac Death After Physical Fitness Training – Texas

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), “Sudden death from a heart event is the most common cause of death among fire fighters and other first responders.” Further studies conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) and the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) suggest that items such a smoking, high blood pressure, cholesterol, and obesity contributed to the great majority of the line of duty deaths.

There are ways to help alleviate this issue in your Departments; ways to keep you and your entity from being a case study or a newspaper headline. The way to do this is by thinking proactively and conducting routine physicals.

Many fire departments are currently not doing physicals on their employees, when trying to justify the reasons of why a physical program is a good idea it inevitably comes down to cost. Let’s be honest, medical procedures can be expensive. The cost of healthcare is not going down. Departments can help fight the costs by roster selection and partnering with other neighboring Departments for a cost benefit; think of it as a buy one get one plan. Review your rosters and decide who are the individuals who perform the most strenuous activity; start with them first. You can work your way down the line as costs permit. Ask your local medical provider if they have discounts for first responders. Some provide discounts on certain procedures if there is a larger group being tested; coupling with another local Department. This could help financially, but also give you peace of mind that the neighboring department (s) you might mutual aid with are doing their due diligence as well.

Being a 24/7 service, your Department should be prepared any time of day to provide individuals who can perform the job. This means having a staff that is physically and mentally able to perform their service to their communities. The everyday fire or police chief will not be able to diagnose a heart condition, high cholesterol, or high blood pressure with a once-over visual inspection. This is why the medical physical is so vital; let the trained people who do this for a living help your department to continue doing what they do. When you review your rosters, ask yourselves, will your department be as productive to your community if we have unhealthy responders? Will you as a Chief or a Township Official feel confident that who you are overseeing is able to perform the rigors of the job safely?

In closing, we risk control representatives know your departments are doing their best, to be efficient, and provide a reliable service to your communities. This is why we recommend the medical physical program; so your Departments can be better prepared and operate more effectively. We have all heard the saying, “walk the walk ....talk the talk.” How will your Department address this phrase and truly emphasize “WE ALL GO HOME.”

The risk control department is here to assist you.

For more information on firefighter physicals please contact your local risk control representative.

By: Mike Morin, MTPP Sr. Risk Control Field Representative



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