

## PAR-PLAN CONTINUES TO PROVIDE MEMBER EDUCATION SUPPORT

1000 W. Midland Road  
Auburn, Michigan 48326

**Williams**  
Charter Township

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March 4, 2008

Michigan Township Participating Plan  
1700 Opdyke Court  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Dear Par Plan:

I recently had the opportunity to complete Michigan State University Extension's Citizen Planner Program courtesy of the Michigan Township Participating Plan. Thank you for providing the funding for me to complete this course.

Several of our Planning Commissioners and I participated in, and earned a certificate of completion in, the Citizen Planner Program. The Citizen Planner Program expanded our knowledge of land use planning regulation, tools and techniques available, and provided a networking environment for sharing how to work through difficult development issues.

I highly recommend the Citizen Planner Program for local appointed and elected officials that are responsible for planning and zoning decisions. The Citizen Planner Program provides useful tools, techniques, and information that compliment a local planning official's own knowledge and experiences. Planning decisions based on sound planning techniques and information result in good, solid decisions that can withstand the occasional legal challenge of a dissenting citizen or property owner.

As you know, local Planning Commissioners and elected officials are faced with the difficult task of making decisions that are becoming more complex. I am proud to state that we are fortunate to have local folks here in Williams Charter Township that are willing to serve as planning commissioners, are very capable in analyzing complex development proposals, and are able to make sound planning decisions.

Thank you again for providing my enrollment fee for the Citizen Planner Program. I highly recommend this program to other township officials.

Respectfully,

*Tom Paige*  
Thomas Paige  
Williams Township Supervisor

Back in January 2003 the Par-Plan elected to offer tuition reimbursement to Par-Plan members registered for the Citizen Planner Program offered through Michigan State University Extension.

The Plan continues to offer the reimbursement scholarship to be paid to the participating entity upon one of its Planning Commissioners, Zoning Board Members or Board Members successfully completing the core sessions.

To find out how your can receive reimbursement for one of your members completing the course please contact Rita Evans, Michigan Township Participating Plan-248-371-3657.



# THE PAR-PLAN NEWS

### Par- Plan News Editorial Staff:

- Pat Mead**-Benzonia Township  
Benzie County
- John Buckhout**-Kalamazoo Township  
Kalamazoo County
- Jon Sherwood**-Beaverton Township  
Gladwin County

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The Par-Plan News is published by the Michigan Township Participating Plan's Program Administrator:

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### NOTICE OF QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**The Michigan Township Participating Plan's quarterly board of directors meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Plan's administrative offices located at 1700 Opdyke Court, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326.**

**The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and will include business reports from the administrator, program service providers and the plan's committee reports.**

## Meet Your Risk Manager

*Bob Bucko, Michigan Community Underwriters*  
586-532-9830

*Upon completion of his M.B.A. at Drake University in 1979, Bob entered the insurance industry as part of the Executive Intern program at the Insurance Company of North America (INA). After his 9 month internship in the regional office in Kalamazoo, Bob was promoted to Senior Underwriter in Troy, Michigan and was responsible for target market programs. In 1981, Bob began his career in sales and marketing by joining a Michigan agency responsible for the creation of a municipal insurance program. After the insurance crisis of 1984, Bob joined the Michigan Township Participating Plan in September and*



*joined Michigan Community Underwriters as a risk manager. Along with John Gandolfi, Bob is responsible for the sales and marketing of the Par Plan in the counties of Monroe, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties. In 1988, Bob's duties were expanded with his appointment as risk manager for the Stevenson Company in the counties of Lapeer, Genesee and Shiawassee.*

*In 1987, Bob and the program administrators of the Michigan Township Participating Plan created the American Fraternal Agency. Its sole purpose was to provide a risk management program for local veteran and fraternal organizations across the state of Michigan. Today, over 350 organizations have chosen this program.*

*Today, Bob resides in Washington Township with his wife Carol. They have 3 sons: Steven, Rob and Anthony. In addition to their charitable activities, Bob and his family enjoy weekends in Northern Michigan. Bob's hobbies include golf and softball.*

**MTPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Term: July 1, 2007 through  
June 30, 2008

**ZONE 1**

Paul Lehto  
Calumet Township  
(906) 337-2410

**ZONE 2**

Marvin Besteman, Jr.  
Vice Chairman  
Kinross Charter Township  
(906) 485-5381

**ZONE 3**

Pat Mead  
Secretary  
Benzonia Township  
(231) 882-4411

**ZONE 4**

Terry Wright  
Grayling Township  
(989) 348-4361

**ZONE 5**

Jim Beelen  
Chairman  
Allendale Charter Township  
(616) 895-6295

**ZONE 6**

Jon Sherwood  
Beaverton Township  
(989) 465-9176

**ZONE 7**

John Jones  
Ira Township  
(586) 725-0263

**ZONE 8**

John Buckhout  
Charter Township of Kalamazoo  
(269) 381-8080

**ZONE 9**

William Bamber  
Oceola Township  
(517) 546-3259



**Par-Plan Attends 2008 Annual MTA Educational Conference**

The 55<sup>th</sup> annual MTA conference is over and we are pleased to say the Michigan Township Participating Plan was once again a very active participant contributing to the success of the conference.

Although attendance was down due to municipal budget constraints, the Par-Plan Exhibit Booth was a flurry of activity as usual with those attending. The Plan's Administrators, Regional Risk Managers and member services were available to discuss the program's operations and benefits to municipalities.

Wednesday during the MTA Opening session the Par-Plan was recognized by the MTA for their continued support of this annual conference. Chairman, Jim Beelen and Program Administrator, Rick Donaldson was presented with a certification of donation made to the Robinson Scholarship Fund.

The highlights continued with our Motown Revue Fun Night. A great success in entertaining conference attendees with sounds that originated in Detroit. Entertainers took us back in time with the sounds from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Fun was the theme of the night that had everyone dancing in the isles.

On Thursday, Midwest Claims Service, Claims Administrator for the Par-Plan Program presented a business solutions workshop covering the topics of the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. Attendees of this workshop participated in a question and answer session and received very valuable information on the vital facts on how to be compliant with these topics.

As in the past the Par-Plan continues to be an active contributor in partnering with the MTA to bring our members the resources needed to help public officials build stronger communities for their residents.

***Congratulations***  
*Don Green, Supervisor, Milford Charter Township, Oakland County was the winner of the Par-Plan TV door prize.*

**Michigan Township Participating Plan Board of Directors Elections**

During the next several months, member representatives will be electing Zone Representatives to serve on the Par-Plan Board of Directors. This year Zones 1, 4 & 7 are up for regular election with representatives serving three-year terms. Zones up for election consist of the following counties.

- Zone 1:** Menominee, Dickinson, Iron, Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, Baraga, Marquette and Keweenaw
- Zone 4:** Antrim, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco and Arenac
- Zone 7:** Macomb, St. Clair, Lapeer, Genesee, Tuscola, Sanilac and Huron

Each member of the Par-Plan should designate a person to serve as the Member Representative. Only Member Representatives are eligible to serve on the Par-Plan Board of Directors. In order to confirm nominations the Member Representative is required to provide a Resolution Affirming Membership in the Michigan Township Participating Plan as Member Representative.

According to the MTPP Bylaws: Member shall mean a local unit of government participating in the Michigan Township Participating Plan. And most important, Member Representative shall mean the Member representative to the Par-Plan. A Member Representative must be an elected official of the unit of government that is a member of the Par-Plan. If the unit of government does not have elected officials, a member of the Board of that unit of government may be its Member Representative to the Par-Plan.

Appointed officials such as City Managers, Township Superintendents or DPW Superintendents are not eligible. Units of government that would not have elected officials might be fire authorities, water authorities and library boards.

If you are uncertain of your eligibility to run for the Zone Representative or procedures to vote, please contact the Chairman of the Election Committee, John Jones at (586) 725-0263, or the Par-Plan office at (800) 783-1370.

The election committee has set the following election timetables:

- April 3rd      Nomination forms mailed to zone members
- May 6th        Nomination forms must be postmarked to receive consideration
- May 30th      Election ballots mailed to all zone members
- June 20th     Election ballots must be postmarked to receive consideration
- June 27th     Election ballots counted
- July 17th      Michigan Township Participating Plan Annual Business Meeting

The winner is selected based upon the highest number of votes received. Elected positions will be for three-year terms and will require elected Directors to attend at least (4) four board meetings per year in addition to committee activities.

You will be receiving your nomination form in the mail the first week in April. If you wish your nominations form to receive consideration, please return the form before May 6th to the Michigan Township Participating Plan, 1700 Opdyke Court, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326.

Sincerely  
PAR-PLAN ELECTION COMMITTEE