

## Over 1,500 Members Strong

The Michigan Township Participating Plan was formed in April 1985 to provide a stable market for governmental entities who, up to then, were paying exorbitant prices for limited coverage, or in some cases, were being forced to go without coverage in key areas. While traditional insurance providers were reluctant to underwrite public entities for many reasons including diversity of operations and the lack of risk control techniques, the Par-Plan stepped in to provide affordable, tailored property and casualty coverages to small and medium sized Michigan public entities. After nearly 25 years and well over 1,500 satisfied member municipalities, you know why joining the Par-Plan is the right choice. If you're not already a member, call us today at 800.783.1370 or visit our website at [www.theparplan.com](http://www.theparplan.com)

## Membership Has Its Privileges

### PAR-PLAN ATTENDS MTA FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS

The Par-Plan Regional Risk Managers participate in the MTA's district meetings tours. Our Risk Managers set up a display area and were available to meet with the Par-Plan members attending. This was perfect opportunity to discuss any questions and concerns a member might have regarding our program's tailored insurance coverage.

If you were not able to attend any of the district meetings and have questions regarding your township needs, please feel free to call your area risk manager below.

Bamberger Insurance Agency  
Norm Bamberger  
350 St. Andrews Road, Suite 210  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
(989) 799-3898

Michigan Community Underwriters  
John Gandolfi  
48597 Hayes  
Shelby Township, MI  
(586) 532-9830

Stevenson Group / AFA  
Bob Bucko  
48597 Hayes  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-9830

Western Insurance Agency  
Tom Bliesner  
6672 Stadium Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(800) 968-8888

Liberty Group, Inc.  
Greg Dziewicki  
6672 Stadium Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(800) 456-1910

MCM Group  
Kevin Decker  
10528 Shaver Rd.  
Portage, MI 49024  
(269) 327-6262

### NOTICE OF MTPP QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



All Par-Plan members are welcome to attend.

The next scheduled Par-Plan Board of Directors meeting is October 17, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. This meeting will be held in the Osprey Room in the Garland Center of the Garland Resort located at 4700 North Red Oak Road in Lewiston, Michigan.



# THE PAR-PLAN NEWS

### MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP PARTICIPATING PLAN ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OVERVIEW



The annual business meeting of the Michigan Township Participating Plan Board of Directors was held on Thursday July 17, 2008 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. All nine

Zone Directors were present at the meeting along with the Par-Plan service providers, reinsurers, risk managers and special guests; Larry Merrill, Executive Director and Gary Cramer, President of the Michigan Townships Association.

Detail reports of the Plan's service providers; Rick Donaldson, Administrator, Rita Evans, Risk Control, Jim Youngblood, Claims, Tom Parachini, Legal Counsel and Pat Gregory, Accounting presented reports highlighting activities over the past year and goals for 2009. In addition the following committee Chairpersons made their annual reports to the board and membership present:

Executive/Reinsurance Committee: James Beelen  
Election / By-Laws Committee: John Jones  
Budget / Finance Committee: Paul Lehto  
Newsletter Committee: Patricia Mead  
Convention / Annual Meeting Committee: Marve Besteman, Jr.

As Michigan's largest PA 138 entity, with membership now exceeding 1500 members, we encourage our membership to attend our quarterly and annual meetings. Our member-elected board of directors are public officials and know the coverage needs of public entities. Membership and participation in the Plan gives everyone an active voice in the quality of services, coverages and future of their municipalities.

Remember an active voice is the one that's heard.

#### 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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**MTPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Term: July 1, 2008 through  
June 30, 2009

**ZONE 1**  
Paul Lehto  
Calumet Charter Township  
(906) 337-2410

**ZONE 2**  
Marvin Besteman, Jr.  
Chairman  
Kinross Charter Township  
(906) 485-5381

**ZONE 3**  
Pat Mead  
Benzonia Township  
(231) 882-4411

**ZONE 4**  
Terry Wright  
Charter Township of Grayling  
(989) 348-4361

**ZONE 5**  
Jim Beelen  
Allendale Charter Township  
(616) 895-6295

**ZONE 6**  
Jon Sherwood  
Beaverton Township  
(989) 465-9176

**ZONE 7**  
Kenneth Brown  
City of Brown City  
(810) 346-3068

**ZONE 8**  
John Buckhout  
Secretary  
Charter Township of Kalamazoo  
(269) 381-8080

**ZONE 9**  
William Bamber  
Vice Chairman  
Oceola Township  
(517) 546-3259



**MTPP 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ELECTION RESULTS**

**In April of 2008 the MTPP Election Committee began the process for electing Zone Representatives to serve on the Par-Plan Board of Directors. This year Zones 1, 4, and 7 were up for regular election. Winning representatives were elected to serve a three year term on the board. Election results for the respective zones were as follows:**

- Zone 1      Paul Lehto    Incumbent  
Supervisor, Calumet Charter Township  
Houghton County**
- Zone 4      Terry Wright    Incumbent  
Supervisor, Grayling Township  
Crawford County**
- Zone 7      Ken Brown      Council Member  
City of Brown City  
Sanilac County**

**The above directors are your representatives for the following counties. If you should have any questions concerning the Par-Plan program please feel free to call and speak with them.**

- 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, and Arenac**
- Zone 7:      Macomb, St. Clair, Lapeer, Genesee, Tuscola,  
Sanilac, and Huron**

*Have you ever wondered?*



**How many zoning claims does the Par-Plan have each year and how many go to trial?**

*The Par-Plan has developed a number of educational and training aids to help minimize their exposures to zoning claims. In addition the Par-Plan is a sponsor of the land use educational program at Michigan State University to further help Municipalities. The results have been excellent, lowering the average number of zoning claims filed against the Par-Plan members to less than 100 per year. Even better news is that over 90% of those claims result in a resolution between the municipality and the plaintiff. Proof that having the proper master plan, zoning education and training in zoning issues is the best prevention available.*



Your Risk Manager and his Team (from left to right)  
John Ryan, Aylssa Medd, Tom Bliesner, Sandy Warnemuede and Joe Hunt

**Thomas Bliesner**  
**Western Insurance Agency**  
**6672 Stadium Drive**  
**Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009**  
**269-342-1472**

Tom grew up in Blissfield, MI and attended Lenawee Public Schools. After graduating in 1989 from Western Michigan University with a Bachelors Degree in Finance/Business Administration and Minor in Economics, he remained in Kalamazoo where he became involved in the municipal insurance industry. In 1998 he purchased John Ryan's agency where he has worked hard toward his goals of expansion.

The agency has taken off with plans to diversify into several areas; one area is a property appraisal service. Our agency's number one goal is to provide the best service possible, search the market for the best coverage and affordability and become our client's source for their insurance needs. Our agency has grown and we have expanded to prepare for the future.

Tom resides on Eagle Lake in Texas Charter Township with his wife, Colleen. They have three children, Kip, Kash and Erica. While he enjoys the lake life, he is also sharing his love for sports with his sons. He is thrilled to coach his son's little league team where he emphasizes a love for the game, working on skills and learning to play fair, which is the same values he brings to the leadership of his agency.



**Paul Olson**  
**Municipal Underwriters of Michigan**  
**935 Robin Hood Lane**  
**Grayling, Michigan 49738**  
**(989)-348-6391**

Paul grew up in Mio, Michigan and attended the Mio AuSable Schools. After graduating from Michigan State University with a BS in Education in 1981, he began his sales career in advertising.

In 1986 he purchased a partnership in Municipal Underwriters of Michigan and began his insurance career devoting all of his efforts in the Municipal Insurance arena. Since 1986 Municipal Underwriters has grown to service over 400 governmental agencies in northern Michigan. Paul has always taken great pride in customer service and professionalism which is the hallmark of any fine insurance agency. Paul would like to thank all of his clients for their support of the Michigan Township Participating Plans insurance program over the past 23 years.

Today, Paul resides in Grayling Michigan with his wife Corrine. They have 4 sons and 1 daughter: Erik, Scot, Bill, Michael and Sarah. Paul and Corrine spend as much time as possible with each other and enjoy traveling to see their family. Paul's hobbies include golf and just relaxing at home.