

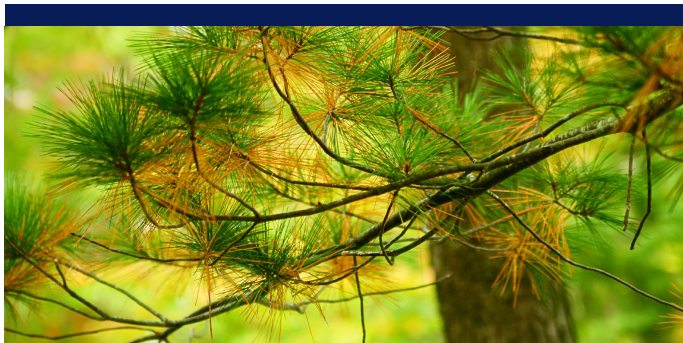
THE RISK JOURNAL

A PUBLICATION FOR MMRMA MEMBERS

APRIL 2009

Board of Directors Appoints Two New Members

MMRMA is pleased to welcome two more new members to the Board of Directors. At its February meeting, the Board appointed Doug Johnson to the vacant Individual Member At-Large seat and Triscia Pilchowski to the vacant Designated Township seat.



One of the state's fastest growing areas for many years, Otsego County counts among its many riches pristine pine forests and lakes, Michigan's first community fiber-optic network, and quality government services.



Doug Johnson
Otsego County became MMRMA's fourth

member in 1980. As an elected member of the Otsego County Board of Commissioners for 29 years, Doug Johnson knows first-hand the value MMRMA offers to Michigan municipalities.

"I have always been very proud of that partnership," he says. "MMRMA has been a leader in the pooling industry since day one."

Doug has served on MMRMA's Membership Committee for 18 years, and served as its chair since 1996. After many years helping to review applications for Risk Avoidance Program (RAP) grants and determine grant awards, he cites RAP as the kind of innovation he has admired from MMRMA and its Board of Directors.

"Risk control and cost containment are always priorities, but especially in these tough economic times," says Doug. "I am excited to be more involved in the leadership of MMRMA as it continues to provide outstanding products and services to members."



Triscia Pilchowski

Highland Township Supervisor since 2003, Triscia Pilchowski has learned a great deal from her association with MMRMA. "From years of attending training sessions, as well as serving on the Membership Committee, I have developed a keen interest in risk management, both in Highland Township and in my personal life," she says.

Triscia is eager to bring that enthusiasm to her new role on MMRMA's Board of Directors. "Because MMRMA is a member-driven organization, Board members must listen to and learn from the membership and each other," she says. "I look forward to working closely with the Board, staff, and members to help MMRMA achieve its vision."

With the contributions of Doug and Triscia, the Board of Directors will continue to provide outstanding leadership and to guide MMRMA in its ongoing commitment to the membership.



With a mix of farmland and more than 25 lakes, Highland Township has an abundance of natural resources that attract homeowners and recreation buffs alike.

Training and Communication Remain Paramount

IN MID-MARCH, I attended the spring conference of the Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRiP). This annual conference consistently provides valuable education on a host of timely issues that affect public entity pools. This year's topics included the impact of the worldwide financial crisis, Medicare second-payer statutory reporting requirements, and the financial health of the reinsurance industry, among many others.



Attendance at this year's event—255 guests from 54 pools across the nation—dipped slightly from prior years due to the hard-hitting economic conditions. Yet it struck me how very important it is to share information and knowledge in these difficult times. Through learning from others who share similar challenges and have developed innovative solutions, we are all better equipped to address the issues facing our organizations.

MMRMA's recent risk management workshop was another excellent opportunity for members to have face time with each other, as well as staff and service providers, for networking and training. We will continue to host this well-received workshop as well

A pilot project to evaluate the use of online risk control training is underway.

as the always successful Annual Meeting in August. These programs are reviewed and refined by our Events Planning Committee on an ongoing basis.

We also plan to use technology to augment these efforts. A pilot project to evaluate the use of online risk control training is underway. In addition, we are in the process of upgrading our website to provide additional content and to disseminate your quarterly reports and data. We are reaching out to myriad sources for contributions, including our members (see *sidebar*), staff, service providers, and insurance and risk management industry trade organizations and associations.

Watch for an upcoming member survey, through which we will strive to tailor our communication programs to best meet your needs. As these changes unfold, we will encourage members to receive more and more information electronically to expedite delivery and save on paper, printing, and postage expenses.

In challenging times, communication, education, and training are especially important. You can count on MMRMA to continue to provide these essential tools for its membership.



Call for Submissions

MMRMA thrives on the contributions of its members. The staff and Board of Directors are committed to providing the best coverage, resources, and training to the membership. Yet the expertise, knowledge base, and input of the membership are necessary in achieving those aims.

Another way in which the membership—as well as staff and service providers—can contribute to MMRMA's success is as content providers for our various publications, including our website, www.mmrma.org. Everyone associated with MMRMA is asked and encouraged to submit story ideas and newsworthy topics. You encounter such material every day in your communities, in talking with your associates, and via your daily reading of newspapers, websites, and professional publications.

If it relates to municipal risk management, property/liability coverage, or the challenges facing Michigan municipalities—anything your fellow MMRMA members would find useful—please forward the articles, links, and other materials to Tamara Christie, Communications Specialist, at the Livonia office or email tchristie@mmrma.org.



"Baseball is a lot like life. It's a day-to-day existence, full of ups and downs. You make the most of your opportunities in baseball as you do in life."
— Hall of Fame Broadcaster Ernie Harwell

Winter Workshop Headlined by One of the Greats

AS MICHIGAN INSTITUTIONS go, Ernie Harwell ranks up there with the best of them. At the Risk Management Workshop in Lansing last month, attendees had the chance to hear from the great baseball announcer, and it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

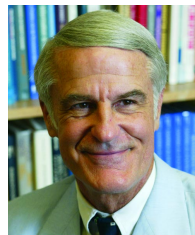
The 91-year-old Harwell was energetic and his distinctive voice enchanting. He became the voice of the Detroit Tigers in 1960, and he spent 31 years broadcasting from the corner of Michigan and Trumbull.

Harwell shared stories from his entire career and anecdotes about many of baseball's greats, including Ty Cobb, Al Kaline, and Jackie Robinson. Harwell named Robinson as one of his baseball heroes for breaking the color barrier, and moved the crowd when answering a question about the healing effects of the Tigers' 1968 World Series win on the City of Detroit.

Harwell was born in Georgia, but he now calls Michigan his home. He and his wife reside in Novi and plan to live out their days there.

As he recounted stories and recited verses, Harwell made abundantly clear his love of the game— and of life. Throughout his remarks, Harwell brought laughter, nostalgia, and more than a few tears to the MMRMA audience, who will surely never forget their time with the legendary broadcaster.

Other highlights of this year's risk management workshop included:



A discussion of the Michigan political landscape by Bill Ballenger, editor and publisher of *Inside Michigan Politics*. Ballenger, who the *Detroit News* called "Michigan's undisputed Crown Prince of Pundits," talked about potential

Republican and Democratic candidates for the 2010 gubernatorial election, the balance of power in Lansing, and the possible effects of recent changes in the Michigan Supreme Court.

A presentation on the next generation of insurance professionals by Donald

Tuski, president of Olivet College. Tuski gave an overview of The Risk Management and Insurance Center at Olivet, which *Risk Management* magazine named as "one of the 20 notable risk management programs in the world."



The program is yielding a new generation of graduates eager to work in the industry, and two seniors from the college shared their reasons for entering the program and their individual areas of interest. For more information, call 269.749.7626, email rmi@olivetcollege.edu or visit the Center's website: www.olivetcollege.edu/insurance.

Welcome New Committee Members



Michael Rhyner
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Michael Ellis
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Chuck Schwab
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The Risk Journal is published six times a year for members of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority. We welcome your feedback. To comment or suggest story ideas, please contact Tamara Christie, communications specialist, at 734 513-0300, 800 243-1324, or tchristie@mmrma.org.

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THE RECENT Board election and several retirements left a few vacancies on MMRMA's standing committees. At its February meeting, the Board of Directors made the following committee appointments:

Robert Spaman, City of Farmington Hills, was appointed to the Finance Committee.

Mari Beth Jelks, City of Grand Rapids, **Richard Reaume**, Plymouth Township

Supervisor, and **Peggy Koehler**, Huron County Clerk, were appointed to the Membership Committee.

Rick Minkin, Gogebic Community Mental Health Authority, and **Mike Welsch**, AuSable Valley Mental Health, were appointed to the State Pool Committee.

At its March 4 meeting, the Membership Committee elected a new chair,

Mary Anderson, Newaygo County, to replace Doug Johnson, who was appointed to the Board of Directors.

THE STATE POOL Committee also elected a new chair to replace Kathy Revels, who was elected to the Board of Directors. **Ron Beaton**, Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS), is the committee chair and **Anne Hart**, Shiawassee County Medical Care Facility, is vice chair.

Save on MMRMA-Sponsored Workshops

Firearms Proficiency

Enhances the skills of certified officers through classroom and hands-on skills instruction. Workshops include: MILO simulator, legal update, fundamentals of marksmanship, range training, and firearms safety. MICOLES approved in-service course.

Two sessions:
Mon.–Wed., April 27–29
Thurs., April 30–Friday, May 1

Canine and Handler Training

Covers tracking and trailing, executive protection, narcotic detection, building searches, felony stops, criminal apprehension, handler protection, explosive detection, and article searching.



Two sessions:
Mon.–Thurs., May 11–14
Mon.–Thurs., Sept. 14–17
Enrollment limited to 20. MMRMA pays 75% of the cost of this training. **MMRMA members pay only \$180** per attendee.

Tactical Encounters for Patrol Officers

This reality-based, live-fire and simunitions training covers both classroom and field scenarios. Firearms skills, mental mindset, patrol tactics, and building searches are covered in depth. P.A. 302 Approved course.

Spring/Summer Sessions

Monday–Wed., May 18–20
Thursday–Sat., May 21–23
Thursday–Sat., August 6–8

Fall Sessions

Monday–Wed., September 21–23
Thursday–Sat., September 24–26
MMRMA pays 75% of the cost of this training.

MMRMA members pay only \$150 per attendee.

Rapid Deployment to Active Shooter

The tactics used in this two-day course are more advanced than traditional diamond or quad formations currently taught. P.A. 302 Approved course.

Three sessions:

Mon.–Tues., October 12–13
Wed.–Thurs., October 14–15
Friday–Sat., October 16–17
MMRMA pays 50% of the cost of this training.

MMRMA members pay only \$80 per attendee.

All workshops are held at the Northern Michigan Law Enforcement Training Center in Camp Grayling, Michigan. To register: email Cara Kowal (ckowal@mmrma.org) or call 734 513-0300. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrations are not guaranteed until payment is received. For complete registration details, go to mmrma.org and click on Calendar.