Strengthen Skills with Training, Tools at Annual Meeting

MMRMA recently launched online registration for our 2015 Annual Meeting, which will be held August 20–22 at the Grand Traverse Resort. This premier event will feature another outstanding program of education and connection.

This year's theme is MMRMA: Built Strong. Since its inception, this organization has evolved and grown continually stronger while meeting the changing needs of our membership. The Annual Meeting is a highlight of the calendar for MMRMA and our members.

Training for Excellence
Attendees will have the opportunity to learn new skills and insights. The Annual Meeting also offers time to interact and share successes, challenges, and solutions with your counterparts from across the state.

The pursuit of strength, both individual and organizational, is reflected in the exemplary lineup of presenters.

Build Yourself Up
When it comes to strength—of both character and teamwork—Coach Carter knows his stuff. His coaching methods and approach helped his high school basketball students excel not just on the court but in the classroom as well. His reputation led to a feature film about his unorthodox methods and their extraordinary effectiveness.

Carter headlines the opening session on Thursday with his formula for excellence and an explanation of why “Average is Just Not Good Enough.”

On Friday morning, Carter continues the conversation with a primer on “How to Visualize and Reach Your Goals.”

Leadership Matters
Steve Ford is the youngest son of former President Gerald Ford. Spending some of his formative years in the White House allowed Steve to learn about leadership up close, and his life and career have given him a unique perspective on the importance of character, service, and family.

In his Friday morning training segment, Ford talks about the traits and perspective it takes to be a strong, successful leader.

Cyber Threat Assessment
Curtis Levinson has spent his 25-year career focusing on cyber security, information governance, and continuity of operations. On Friday afternoon, his “Threat Assessment for Beginners” will feature an interactive presentation that will inform as it entertains.

Register now at mmrma.org. The deadline is July 31, so don't delay.
Throughout his career, Paul Mongiello has helped his employers improve their results and reputations, all while amassing a wealth of skills in underwriting, risk management, brokerage, and marketing.

His career has also given Paul the chance to expand his geographical horizons. Born and raised in New York State, he has since been based in California, Tennessee, and Missouri, to name a few.

Joining MMRMA
Now, Paul calls our favorite state, Michigan, home. In a way, joining MMRMA has brought his career back to its beginnings in government, this time at the municipal level.

“Municipal services relating to Corrections and Health Facilities are vital in today’s society.”

Projects and Priorities
While getting to know the membership and the team, Paul has helped shape various MMRMA initiatives and developments, including a Member Orientation Program and the addition of two new Risk Control Advisory Committees in the areas of Corrections and Health Facilities.

MMRMA has always capitalized on member participation to provide relevant training and resources, and these committees will continue in that tradition. “These services are of paramount importance to society today,” Paul observes.

A Bright Future
Paul majored in history in undergraduate school, so he recognizes the value of liberal arts education. Pools like MMRMA often focus on insurance and risk management majors in their recruitment efforts.

Mongiello is happy for the chance to give back to the public sector, which faces ever-evolving challenges and dwindling resources. Photo: Livonia City Hall

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MMDRMA Board Declares $2.8 Million Distribution to State Pool

by Michael Rhyner
Executive Director

BASED ON THE STATE POOL Committee’s recommendation, the Board of Directors has declared a distribution of $2.8 million in excess assets from the State Pool Loss Fund to renewing State Pool Members with one year or more of continuous MMRMA membership.

This distribution comes from the loss fund that State Pool Members use to jointly self-insure risk. This distribution is in addition to the State Pool’s $6.4 million portion of the MMRMA Net Asset Distribution earlier this year.

Each State Pool Member self-insures the first $50,000 of each casualty loss, including legal expenses. State Pool Members deposit money in a State Pool Loss Fund, administered by MMRMA, which then pays their self-insured losses up to the $50,000 self-insured retention (SIR).

Casualty losses in excess of the SIR are paid by MMRMA and its reinsurers. For property and auto physical damage coverage, State Pool Members can select deductibles as a means of retaining a portion of the risk. This structure has worked well, and MMRMA’s State Pool membership has grown to 252 public entities.

Outstanding Performance
A recent actuarial evaluation of the State Pool Loss Fund identified excess assets in the fund. This resulted from better than expected performance due to favorable loss experience and outstanding investment income. The State Pool Committee and Board of Directors subsequently acted to return excess assets State Pool Members.

The $2.8 million distribution will be allocated to current renewing State Pool Members using the same methodology MMRMA uses to allocate Net Asset Distributions to members. This methodology considers each State Pool Member’s:
> Continuous years of MMRMA membership
> Five-year loss experience in the State Pool Loss Fund
> Contributions made to the State Pool Loss Fund over the last five years.

Valuable Contributors
The State Pool plays an active role in MMRMA governance. State Pool Members elect a representative to serve on the MMRMA Board of Directors. The current designated State Pool seat on the Board is held by Kathy Revels from the City of Mason.

MMRMA’s Governance Policies also provide for a State Pool Committee, which is comprised of nine individuals appointed by the MMRMA Board Chair. Current State Pool Committee members are:
- Rick Cordonnier
  Shiawassee County Medical Care Facility
- Jeffery Lawson
  Cheboygan County
- Amy Sullivan
  City of Huntington Woods
- Susan Vander Pol
  Osceola County
- Mike Welsch
  AuSable Valley Community Mental Health
- Del Wensley
  Salem Township

The Pool Committee meets quarterly to review and discuss risk management issues and challenges facing smaller communities. At these meetings, Kathy Revels provides an update on Board activity. The committee also hears departmental status reports from MMRMA’s Executive Director, Finance Director, Director of Claims, and Director of Risk Management.

The State Pool Committee is extremely important to the success of MMRMA and its membership. It serves as a forum for direct input and representation from State Pool Members. The committee also provides a means to express the needs and issues unique to MMRMA’s smaller member entities.
Levinson is a cyber defense expert who has advised NATO, two U.S. Presidents, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Chief Justice of the United States.

Attendees at his presentation will participate in the conversation, hear about his vast experiences with cyber-terrorism, and learn valuable tools for making our world a safer place, starting with our communities.

The Faces of MMRMA
As a member-driven organization, MMRMA depends on the expertise and contributions of our members. By participating in our Annual Meeting and other MMRMA activities, member employees help keep us strong and thriving.

We look forward to seeing many of you in August. If you have questions about the event or your eligibility to attend the Annual Meeting, please contact your Member Representative. For more information or questions about registration, call Denise McGinn, at 517-333-3628 or send an email to associationg93@aol.com.

Michigan leads the nation in highbush blueberry production. More than 100 million pounds of the bountiful blue fruit are harvested commercially each year, starting in late June. At least 20 varieties are grown, mostly along the state’s west coast, where glacial soils produce the tastiest fruit.

Director of Risk Management, continued from page 2

Mongiello has helped respected insurers such as Allstate, USF&G, and AON improve their results and reputations.

Paul also enjoys cycling and spending time with his wife Deborah. Their two sons, Brian and Michael, live in Indiana, and the couple visits whenever they can to see their four grandchildren, including an infant granddaughter.

“I’d like to become an avid golfer again,” Paul says. Michigan certainly has a lot to offer in that regard, if not quite year-round. On the course and off, Paul’s move to Michigan and his new role promise a rewarding new chapter for both him and MMRMA.