

Parking Spaces

Quarterly Newsletter Of The Michigan Parking Association

Upcoming Events



MPA Golf Outing

July 23 at Timber Ridge Golf Course
in Bath, Michigan

MPA Fall Conference

Detroit, Date TBD

For more information on events or to register online, visit: www.michigan-parkingassociation.org or feel free to call any MPA Board member.



www.MichiganParkingAssociation.org

President's Parking Space

by Jon Frederick, MPA President



The elections are finally over. With the final counts in, it is my pleasure to be able to thank all of you for giving me an additional opportunity to lead this fine organization for one more year.

On the heels of this historic Presidential election, it is great to know that as our new country leaders have the prospect to make huge differences for this great nation, the MPA board and all of us also have an opportunity to work together to enhance and move our association forward. I look ahead to working with the Board and to seeing all of our members at our events throughout the year. Thank you all for your support and willingness to help keep this organization great.

The Fall conference was another successful event. Unfortunately the weather wasn't as cooperative as expected. The cold and rain put a damper on the golf outing and on our planned outdoor fun, however we were able to persevere. The individuals who attended learned a lot, had fun and were able to network with others in a family like atmosphere. Thank you Nicole Vaness (Chair), Barbara Singleton (co-chair), Gil Rupp (co-chair), the city of Traverse City, the Park Place and Bay Shore hotels, our speakers and vendors, and all the volunteers and employees who helped do a fantastic job with the conference. A special thank you goes to Jake Carlton, President of the Ohio Parking Association, who joined us for the conference and gave his insight to how the OPA operates.

This year we have a lot to consider as an association including: What do we do to maintain our financial integrity? Do we change the dates of the conference, do we combine events, do we change our events formats? How do we better market our organization and bring on board new members. All of these items the board will begin working on immediately. The annual board retreat is scheduled for November 18th and the Board will start putting everything together for the next year and years to come. As members, please feel free to contact anyone of the board members to give us your thoughts to these or any other items that may help the organization.

Please don't forget to let your college students know about our \$1500.00 scholarship. This is a very exciting addition in benefits of the MPA and we want to see a well deserving student take advantage of it.

I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving, a terrific holiday season and a very prosperous new year.

2008 Fall Conference Wrap-Up

{ MPA Annual Fall Conference }
October 1-3, 2008, Traverse City, Michigan

A good laugh...

The following article was contributed to the September 1987 issue of the Readers Digest by Danny Key and was featured in the MPA newsletter that month. Hope you enjoy it!

Collision Course

One especially trying day, I was waiting to exit from a parking lot where a wooden gate would open when money was deposited. In front of me was a woman who pulled up to the box to deposit her dime. It slipped and fell to the pavement. Getting out of the car, she picked up the coin, got back into the car and then deposited it. She must have had some difficulty getting her car in the right gear, however, because the gate closed before she could exit.

She started over with another dime. This time she got out of her car, deposited the dime, got back into her car and started to go—in reverse! By the time she realized her error and corrected it, the gate had closed again. She began the whole process for the third time, depositing her dime from inside the car. But, once again, the dime came flying out of her hand onto the ground. Not wanting to be trapped in the parking lot forever, I got out of my car and asked if I could help. I picked up her dime, made sure she was all set to go forward and deposited the coin. And she, in anticipation and panic, took off as soon as I released the coin – not waiting for the gate to open.

I can still see her driving away, dragging the exit gate along with her!

The Michigan Parking Fall Conference began with a golf scramble at Spruce Run and was followed by the annual Exhibitor's Appreciation Reception. The team event was held inside due to the cool and rainy weather. The event planners assembled a choice selection of activities, however most enjoyed the time for R&R and opportunity to networking.

The conference began with opening remarks from the MPA President, Jon Frederick. Jon thanked the members of the host city, Gil Rupp, Nicole VanNess, Dave Malewitz and members of the City of Detroit staff Shawny DeBerry, Satina Maddox and Tanya Andrews for their help and support on a successful Fall Conference.

The MPA Fall Conference program theme was *Becoming Greener: Creating a Sustainable Future*. The following were the conference presentations:

- Jean Derenzy and Bryan Crough from the City of Traverse City shared several recent key projects that received Brownfield State Tax Credits.
- Becky Goodman provided a presentation related to the City of Petoskey's Courtesy Program and Cell Phone Technology.
- Gary Cudney, Carl Walker Inc., presented a presentation on Green Design for Parking Structures.
- Tim Lodge, with the City of Traverse City, presentation discussed Sustainable Surfaces. The group was able to take a field trip to the Parking Lot K to view one of the sustainable surface projects.
- Bob Gray and Chris Gauden of Xus Lighting gave a presentation on lighting.
- The group took a tour of Grand Traverse Commons. A state home for mentally ill persons that was converted into condos, retail and office space. The tour guide was Gill Rupp.
- Jake Carleton, President of the Ohio Parking Association, gave us an inside look into the 2009 Ohio Parking Convention. The Michigan Parking Association and Ohio Parking Association has had several conversations about combining association efforts with surrounding states.



The exhibitors that attended the conference included:

- Complus Data Innovations, Inc.
- IPS Group, Inc.
- MacKay Meters
- Parkeon
- Par-Kut
- T2 Systems, Inc.
- Transportation Equipment Sales Corp. (TESCO)

Each city present was asked to share what projects were taking shape in their respective city. There were representatives from Traverse City, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Lansing, and Grand Rapids that shared recent accomplishments and projects that are slated for consideration. Additionally, members were asked and encouraged to share suggestions on how to grow the MPA's membership. Some suggested ideas included:

- Market the benefits of being a MPA member
- Shorten the conference to one and a half days.
- Change the conference time of the year
- Combine the Spring and Fall Conferences
- Select a more central location
(people may be able to commute rather than stay in the hotel)
- Reduce registration fees for all
- Diversity of membership/attendees
- Membership challenged to recruit at least one new member

For the fall conference the vendor's fees were reduced and a discount for five or more people was carried over from last year's conference. Also, a MPA \$1,500 scholarship fund was created in 2007. However, there were no applications received in 2008 for the scholarship gift to be awarded.

A total of thirty four members and five exhibitors attended the MPA conference.



The results of the 2008 MPA Board Election were as follows:

Jon Frederick – President

Elaine M. Kellicut – Vice President

Shawny DeBerry – Secretary

Joe Morehouse – Treasurer

Bob Dietz – Member-at-large

Mark Erby – Member-at-large

Barbara Singleton – Member-at-large

Jeff Timar – Member-at-large

*Tanya Andrews-Means –
Member-at-large*

*John Jacobson – Associate
Member-at-large*

What were you doing in January 1986?

News from around the State: Michigan Parking Association Newsletter January 13, 1986

The University of Michigan Parking Operations Department is poised to open a new 1100 car facility for visitor and patient parking. The control system selected is the Amano auto-read fee computing system with an independent access control system for contract parkers. They will be incorporating a valet parking program to enhance the convenience of their patients.

Grand Rapids just opened the Campau Square parking garage. The construction cost of the 550 space facility was \$4.8 million.

As of January 1st, the City of Bay City replaced their downtown attended lots with a fully automated multi space parking machine called Dynameter. The city expects to realize a savings and therefore additional income of at least \$20,000 annually. The new system requires the customer to enter their parking space number and coins or currency into the machine. The machine issues a paper receipt upon request for proof of payment.

{ MPA BOARD }*President***Jon Frederick**

ah9818@wayne.edu

*Vice President***Elaine M. Kellicut**

ekellicu@ci.lansing.mi.us

*Secretary***Shawny L. DeBerry**

deberrys@mpdpo.ci.detroit.mi.us

*Treasurer***Joe Morehouse**

jmorehouse@a2dda.org

*Members at Large***Jeff Timar**

jeffT@trafficandsafety.com

Mark Erby

mark.erby@wcaa.us

Barbara Singleton

bsinglet@ci.grand-rapids.mi.us

Bob Dietz

bdietz@cityofjackson.org

Tanya Andrews

Tanya.Andrews@acs-inc.com

*Associate Member at Large***John Jacobson**

john.jacobson@walkerparking.com

{ IN THE NEWS }

The MPA has two legislative initiatives which they are working to have moved forward for legislative approval. The item that has the most impact on the financial outlook for municipalities is proposed legislation that will amend the Michigan Vehicle Code (Act 300 of 1949) to lower from six to three the number of parking violations a person can have outstanding before they are prevented from renewing their driver's license. At present, there has not been a bill introduced to address this change.

In the case of the City of Grand Rapids, the legislative change would allow them to address a backlog of over \$1,115,000 in fine revenue that can be used to support City operations. It also will increase our future parking fine revenues in excess of \$350,000 per year. The process takes advantage of modern technology that allows municipalities and the Secretary of State to electronically flag driver's records so parking fine collections can occur. In summary, the amendment we are proposing will allow the City to notify people with three parking violation notices that the person must answer or pay the parking fines within 10 days. If the person fails to answer or pay the fines, the Secretary of State's records are changed to reflect that the person failed to answer or pay the fines. The Secretary of State will not issue a license to the person or renew a license for the person until the person has paid the fines and a \$45 driver license clearance fee. (One third of the fee is remitted to the Secretary of State, one third to the juror compensation fund, and one third is retained by the local unit). The notice to the Secretary of State will occur on the same electronic network presently utilized by the 61st District Court.

The 61st District Court and the City of Grand Rapids generated \$837,736 in fine revenue over a nine year period ending in 2001 using this process at the six ticket threshold. We would like the number reduced to the three ticket threshold like is used in IL and PA so local municipalities can be more effective in their collection efforts.

The second initiative the MPA is pushing for legislation for is a vehicle registration hold, which will help facilitate the enforcement of local parking ordinances and state statutes related to parking throughout the state of Michigan. Our membership employ several options that are currently available including driver's license hold, but we continue to have large percentages of uncollected parking tickets. We have found that the driver's license hold to have a small effect on collection efforts, but it really only comes to bear every four to six years. It is our opinion that the State of Michigan should pass legislation that would not allow a citizen to register his/her vehicle if they owe outstanding parking tickets.

Michigan is one of the few states that does not afford this type of hold to the local municipalities. Not only does enforcement of the parking ordinance help to keep our vehicular and pedestrian traffic safe and ensure traffic flow, but it allows revenue to be collected to assist each municipality in servicing their constituents.



c/o City of Grand Rapids
PO Box 1968
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1968