Dear MAMC Members:

It is the time of year to hunker down and drink hot cocoa inside, layer up for winter activities outside; the planning and preparing for busier cemetery seasons, and renewing your Michigan Association of Municipal Cemeteries membership. We are excited to be back in Traverse City this year for our 2019 Conference!

Your Board continues to work diligently to strengthen the internal functions of the MAMC, working through such topics as: bylaws, officer succession/transitions, document retention, and various Board Member/Officer responsibilities from a legal/general standpoint. -In short, making sure we’re strong for the future and ready to grow as opportunities arise. Meanwhile, we’re striving to improve upon each conference, listen to our members and vendors, continue with what we’re doing well, and to present topics that are relevant and helpful to you, our members. In the three Board meetings we have between conferences, you might think the Board Members meet for the entire day….but they don’t! I am pleased to work with a group of people who are dedicated to the task, pleasant to work with, and have a variety of strengths that they are not reluctant to share. As such, we build together, so we can more effectively build you up.

The 2018 Conference brought forward the topic of cemetery foundations from an engineering perspective; and Cindy Dodge with Michigan Townships Association presented a multitude of information, much of it insightfully driven from the Funeral Director/cemetery relationship. Tom Borg led us on a trek of sharpening our tools -our skills- of service to our families, and we were able to get to know our fellow members a little better in the process. Finally, we wrapped up with a time to share and learn from each other to close out the conference. Having received direct positive feedback and having heard multiple conversations at conference tables on the topics presented, we trust you too have been able to use some of the information presented to think further and move your cemetery, or your service relative to your cemetery, in a positive direction.

A few items to update you on:

1) CONFERENCE DATE: If you missed it before, please mark your calendars now-- the 2019 MAMC Conference will be held August 14-16, 2019 at Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City.

2) BOARD MEMBER OPENING IN AUGUST: We will be looking for at least one new Board Member at this year’s conference. If you are interested, please let me know. Feel free to call or email me if you have questions.

3) CEMETERIAN OF THE YEAR: Each year we set out to recognize outstanding service and/or dedication from a member cemetery to their municipal cemetery/cemeteries. The 2018 award went to the Mark and Deb Cloud team from Porter Township! We are now accepting nominations for the 2019 “Cemeterian of the Year” award. Do you have a staff member that goes the extra mile to care for/represent/improve your cemetery? Please send your nominations by May 1, 2019 to Secretary/Treasurer Kirk Caithamer for consideration.

Looking forward to seeing you in August!

―Suzanne Rowland

MAMC President 2018/2019
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