

The Par Plan News

ISSUE 126
March 2017



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The MTA Educational Conference has moved to April of 2017. Hopefully this move will allow for nicer weather and a larger attendance. Par Plan will be in attendance supporting the MTA and attendees.

DON'T MISS US DURING THE MTA CONFERENCE
PAR PLAN PARTICIPATION DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 10-13, 2017
Lansing Center, Lansing Michigan

MTPP Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting.

The Michigan Township Participating Plans' April 2017 quarterly board meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. This meeting will take place at the Radisson Hotel Lansing at the Capitol (Downtown) in the Michigan Room. All Par Plan members are welcome to attend.

Par Plan Booth Location: Booth #119.

Stop by and visit with your regional Risk Manager (Agent) and enjoy an ice cream bar and discuss how we can better serve you and your entity needs. We will be at the exhibit hall on Tuesday, April 11 from 9:45 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. And then again on Wednesday, April 12, 9:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Par Plan Fun Night moves to Tuesday, April 11th, 2017. "MTPP - Public Officials Got Talent."

Why travel all the way to Hollywood for a chance at the golden ticket when you can join the Par Plan in Lansing for "Public Officials Got Talent"! That's right, Par Plan will be coming to you live from the Radisson Ballroom Tuesday, April 11th from 6-9 p.m. looking for the next big star. You will have the opportunity to perform in front of a live studio audience, participate in our live Karaoke and sing with the band, or challenge someone to a dance off, show us your talent and be judged by your peers. Three hours of non-stop fun and entertainment. Hor d'oeuvres and beverages provided.

Par Plan Business Solutions Session - "Top 3 Risk Management Actions for Public Entities." Wednesday, April 12, 2017 from noon until 1:00 p.m. - Ballroom 7

In this session you will be introduced to risk management techniques that will assist you in management planning, identification, analysis and action planning in controlling liabilities that often land a municipality in court. Presented by Dustin Drabek, MTPP Risk Control Representative.

MTPP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Zone 1

Paul Lehto
Calumet Township
(906) 337-2410

Zone 2

Marvin Besteman, Jr.
Kinross Charter Township
(906) 495-5381

Zone 3

Glen Lile, Vice Chairman
East Bay Charter Township
(231) 947-8719

Zone 4

Joanne Donaldson
Markey Township
(989) 366-9614

Zone 5

OPEN

Zone 6

OPEN

Zone 7

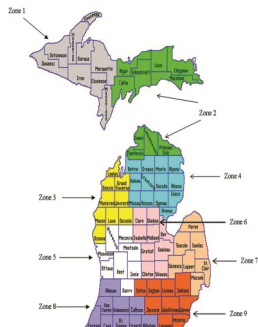
William Walters
City of Brown City
(810) 346-2325

Zone 8

Ronald Reid, Chairman
Kalamazoo Charter Township
(269) 381-8083

Zone 9

William Bamber, Secretary
Oceola Township
(517) 546-3259



**Michigan Township Participating Plan
UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION**



During the next several months, member representatives will be electing Zone Representatives to serve on the Par Plan Board of Directors. This year Zones 1, 4, 7 are up for regular election with representatives serving a three year term.

Zone 5 and 6 are up for special election with a representative for Zone 5 serving a one-year term and Zone 6 serving a two-year term. Zones up for election consist of the following counties:

Zone 1: Baraga, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon

Zone 4: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Crawford, Iosco, Kalkaska, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Roscommon

Zone 7: Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Macomb, Sanilac, St. Clair, Tuscola

Zone 5: One-year Term: Barry, Ionia, Kent, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ottawa

Zone 6: Two-year Term: Bay, Clare, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Shiawassee

Par Plan members of the above respective zones should designate a person to serve as their member representative. Only member representatives are eligible to serve on the Par Plan Board of Directors. A completed nomination form, candidate/conflict disclosure statement and resolution confirming membership are required to be submitted to participate in the Michigan Township Participating Plan's Board of Directors election.

According to the Par Plan Bylaws: Member shall mean a local unit of government participating in the Michigan Township Participating Plan. Member representative shall mean the member representative to the Par Plan. A member representative must be an elected official of the unit of government that is a member of the Par Plan. If the unit of government does not have elected officials, a member from the Board of that unit of government may be its member representative to the Par Plan.

Appointed officials such as City Managers, Township Superintendents or DPW Superintendents are not eligible. Units of government that would not have elected officials might be fire authorities and library boards.

If you are uncertain of your eligibility to run for the Zone Director or the procedure to vote, please contact William Walters, Chairman of the Election Committee at (810) 346-2043, or Rita Evans at the Par Plan office (800) 783-1370.

The winner is selected based upon the highest number of votes received. Elected Directors are required to attend at least (4) four board meetings per year in addition to committee meetings.

Look for a nomination form along with the election required documentation in the mail. If you wish your nomination form to receive consideration, please return the nomination form and all required documentation no later than May 5th to the Michigan Township Participating Plan, 1700 Opdyke Court, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326.

The election committee has set the following election timetable:

March 17th - Nomination and election forms mailed to zone members

May 5th - Nomination and election forms must be postmarked to receive consideration

May 12th - Nomination and election forms confirmed by committee

May 26th - Election ballots mailed to zone members

June 20th - Election ballots must be postmarked to receive consideration

June 26-29 - Committee meets to count ballots

July 1st - Par Plan Directors take office

July 20th - Par Plan Annual and Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

Bamberger Agency has merged with Duclos Agency effective 1/1/2017.

Co-owner/Agent, Dan Wortman (CPCU, CIC) will be working closely with Norm and Krystal providing you continued excellent service based on solid relationships and insurance knowledge. Dan is active in the community and a longtime volunteer Fire Fighter / EMT with Frankenmuth Fire Department. Dan states, "We are so fortunate to be working with Norm and Krystal, and together we will remain focused on providing you the excellent service you know, expect and trust. We work for you!" In addition, Dan is a long time board member with the Saginaw Home Builders Association, Great Lakes Bay – Michigan Works Workforce Development, Frankenmuth School Board and several other local boards where he is active on committees and interacting with local business, government and communities.

Since 1949, Duclos Agency is proud to be a local, independently owned insurance agency based on relationships and service, with strong community involvement. Offering professional depth, flexibility, and full service follow-through based on knowledge and experience. We are large enough to provide our clients with all their insurance needs without sacrificing our ability to pay close personal attention to them. Our seasoned, experienced and licensed staff of 16 professionals has the experience and knowledge to meet our customer service needs and expectations.

Finally, Dan comments, "I am very impressed with the Michigan Township Participating Plans broad coverage tailored for specific needs, loss control services to assist in loss prevention, and of course competitive pricing. All delivered with solid oversight and management between MTPP and Tokio Marine HCC, working with your local experienced agents. This is a proven combination for long-term, continued success in serving and meeting the needs of our local township communities. In addition, I have enjoyed meeting with many local township officials and staff over the last several months".

We can be reached at:
7531 Gratiot, Saginaw, MI 48609
800.448.5355
www.duclosagency.com

As pictured:

Krystal Irvine: KIrvine@duclosagency.com
Dan Wortman: dwortman@duclosagency.com
Norm Bamberger: NBamberger@duclosagency.com



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he Michigan Township Participating Plan Board of Directors is extremely pleased to advise our membership that the Plan will be accepting Risk Reduction Grant Requests beginning April 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017.

The MTPP, your property and casualty insurance provider, is a unique and proven member driven program providing tailored insurance coverage's to Michigan public entities. Established in 1985 and now in its 32nd year of operation, the program's board of directors, comprised of public officials just like you, continue to monitor the program to determine how and what can be done to help our membership maintain their long-term obligations to their communities.

Our Risk Reduction Grant Program (RRGP) further allows the Par Plan to continue to partner with its members and foster cooperation in an effective risk management and loss control program. The RRGF has been established to assist members in reducing specific risk exposures and to assist our members in their efforts of applying effective risk management techniques.

Its as easy as 1-2-3, visit us at www.theparplan.com select the RRGF grant button on the left side of the page and download the grant guidelines and frequently asked questions and begin your process. Our 12th cycle of grant applications will be accepted April 1, 2017. Applications may be forwarded to our office via e-mail at mtprrgp@kenrickcorp.com. Or mail to: Michigan Township Participating Plan—Risk Reduction Grant Program, Attention: Administrator, 1700 Opdyke Court, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326.

If you have further questions regarding the grant process, feel free to contact your Par Plan zone director located on page 2 of this publication, your local regional risk manager or the Par Plan administrative office at 248-371-3657 for further assistance.

Notifications of grant awards or non-award requests are expected to be made within sixty (60) days of your application due date. Members that receive grant awards will also be highlighted in the Par Plan newsletter in addition to the Par Plan website. To date the Par Plan has awarded over \$1.7 million in grants to municipalities insured through the program.

Visit us on the web
www.theparplan.com

PUBLIC PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY

By Rita Evans, MTPP Program Administrator

Are exposures hiding in your playground?

.....In the time it will take to read this article a child will be severely injured and admitted to an emergency room as a result of a playground-related accident.....It is estimated that each year over 200,000 such injuries occur....

In the time it will take you to read this article a child will be severely injured and admitted to an emergency room as a result of a playground related accident. It is estimated that each year over 200,000 such injuries occur and approximately twenty children will die from playground related injuries. (*National Playground Safety Institute*).

Summer will soon be in full swing and by now most entities are making the necessary preparations for the opening of your parks and playgrounds in your communities. Not only is this the time to make aesthetic changes such as painting, it is also the time to make your playground equipment safer by repairing and replacing worn and broken equipment.

There are many kinds of public playgrounds in use today as well as a wide variety of equipment available. The most recent trends are toward innovative play spaces that may include adventure and nature activities and splash pads. Although unique and unconventional equipment may be prevalent in some communities, many of us rely on the traditional swings, slides, spring animals, and climbing apparatus. No matter what type of playground equipment your community has, safety should be the main concern.

Children will use playground equipment in unpredictable ways, increasing the chance of injury. This article highlights equipment maintenance and the basic areas of exposure, as well as risk control techniques that will assist you in reducing the frequency and severity of playground accidents.

General hazards of playground equipment are:

Outdoor wood play structures can be damaged by the elements of weather over time and require annual maintenance, including:



Clean away dirt, cobwebs, and other debris. Sand any rough spots to remove splinters, followed by a coat of wood sealer to prevent water absorption which can cause cracking and splitting. Check fasteners (including nuts, bolts, and screws) periodically, and tighten any that are loose. Replace any rope that becomes rough or frayed over time. A good paint job will help in keeping the wood from rotting and falling apart.

Inadequate Fall Zone - A fall zone or use zone area under and around the playground equipment should be covered with protective surfacing material and extended a minimum of six feet in all directions from the edge of the stationary equipment.

For example, the fall zone at the bottom or exit area of the slide should extend six feet from the end of the slide for slides 4 feet or less in height. Swings would require a much greater area for the fall zone, and should extend two times the height or pivot of the swing hanger.

Protrusion & Entanglement Hazards - A protrusion hazard is a component or piece of hardware that might be capable of impaling or cutting a child if a child should fall against the hazard. Protrusions are also capable of catching strings or items of clothing that might be worn by the child.

Some protrusion and entanglement hazards include bolt ends extending out beyond the face of the nut, hardware that form a hook or leave a gap or space between components and open "S" type hooks.

Trip Hazards - Trip hazards are created by play structure components or items on the playground.

Exposed concrete footings, tree roots, tree stumps, rocks and abrupt changes in surface elevations are all common trip hazards that are often found in play environments.



Improper Protective Surfacing - The surface or ground under and around the playground should be soft enough to cushion a fall. Improper surfacing material under playground equipment is the leading cause of playground related injuries.

Acceptable surfaces that offer protection from falls are **hardwood fiber/mulch**, sand and pea gravel, synthetic or rubber tiles and mats. Surfaces must be maintained at a depth of twelve inches, be free of standing water and debris and not be allowed to become impacted.

Platforms with no Guardrails —Elevated surfaces such as platforms, ramps, and bridge ways should have guardrails that would prevent accidental falls.

Pinch, Crush, Shearing, and Sharp Edges - Components on the playground equipment should be inspected to make sure there are no sharp edges or points that could cut skin. Equipment should be checked to make sure there are no moving parts or mechanisms that might crush or pinch a child's finger.

In order for playgrounds to remain in "safe" condition a program of regular and frequent inspections and preventative maintenance must be present. There should be no missing, broken or worn-out components. All hardware should be secure. The wood, metal, or plastic should not show signs of fatigue or deterioration. All parts should be stable with no apparent signs of loosening and surfacing material must also be maintained.

A simple checklist that includes what hazard has been found, the date it was first observed and the date it was repaired will help you reduce the potential physical injury and liability hazard.



The Michigan Township Participating Plan Risk Control Service is available to assist you with additional resources regarding playground safety. Please contact us at 1-800-536-7425.

Marvin Besteman, Jr. - Kinross Charter Township, Chippewa County
Joanne Donaldson - Markey Township, Roscommon County
Rita Evans - MTPP Program Administrator

The Par Plan News is published by the Michigan Township Participating Plan

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