



# THE PAR-PLAN NEWS

## Par- Plan News Editorial Staff:

**Pat Mead**-Benzonia Township  
Benzie County

**John Buckhout**-Kalamazoo Township  
Kalamazoo County

**Jon Sherwood**-Beaverton Township  
Gladwin County

**Bob Skrobola**-Pittsfield Township  
Washtenaw County

## In This Issue

Taser Policy .....	2
Directors Listing .....	2
Reinsurance Summary .....	3
Meeting Notice .....	3
Par-Plan Board Election .....	4
Ask Bob .....	4

The Par-Plan News is published by the Michigan Township Participating Plan's Program Administrator:

Kenrick Corporation  
1700 Opdyke Court  
Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326  
(248) 371-3100  
(248) 371-3069 Fax

All rights reserved.  
Although every effort to ensure the accuracy of information in this newsletter has been made, professional counsel should be sought before any action or decision is made based on material contained herein.

## Michigan Township Participating Plan Program Administration

Several Par-Plan members have recently asked for a brief overview as to how the internal administration of the program is handled. The Par-Plan contracts out several functions to outside organizations. Program accounting is handled by Follmer, Rudzewicz & Co. P.C. The program's legal services are handled by Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, and program actuarial service is handled by Mercer. The general program administration has been the responsibility of the Kenrick Corporation of Auburn Hills since the program's inception in 1985.

Over the years these firms have increased their involvement commensurate with the growth and success of the program. Kenrick Corporation has grown from two people to a current staff of 55 with almost half devoted to servicing the needs of our membership. Their duties include: Underwriting, Claims, Risk Control, Accounting, Reinsurance, Marketing, Advertising, and daily Program Administration.

The statewide Regional Risk Manager network provides the direct link with the membership. Their dedication to serving the needs of the Par-Plan is without a doubt one of the program's strongest assets. As we enter our 20th year of operation, this group of professionals have clearly gone beyond the call of duty to service to our members.

Your board of directors keeps a close eye on all of the Plan's contracted service providers through its quarterly Board meetings as well as through the eight standing subcommittees. This unified effort is certainly the keystone of the success the Par-Plan has enjoyed over the past 19 years. Thanks to everyone!

**Tasers The Law Enforcement Accessory of the Future**  
*By Chief Boyd Skellenger, Richfield Township, Genesee County and Member of the MTPP Law Enforcement Committee*

**The Law**

The State Legislature amended the Michigan Penal Code allowing peace officers to use an EMD (Electro-Muscular Disruption) device, thus giving police officers another non-lethal force option. Currently, local correction officers are not allowed to possess or use the EMD device. House Bill No. 5074 is attempting to amend MCLA 750.224a and allow local corrections officers to possess and use EMD devices. The Bill has passed the House of Representatives and is pending in the Senate.

The EMD device uses a high voltage low amperage shock to immobilize a subject by disrupting the signals from the brain to the muscles. Although the EMD device may temporarily paralyze a person or cause a state of confusion and disorientation, reportedly, there are no long-term affects and no affect on heart rhythm or pace makers.

Taser International Inc. has such a device called a "Taser". The Taser is an Electro-Muscular Disruption device that stuns and overrides the central nervous system causing uncontrollable contractions of the muscle tissue affecting both the sensory and motor nervous system resulting in incapacitation.

**The Advantages**

Other less lethal weapons work on pain compliance. Pain can be overcome by alcohol, drugs, EDPs, (Emotionally Disturbed Person) or by focused, combative individuals. Studies have shown that EMD devices provide a safer alternative than conventional tools such as chemical sprays, physical force, batons, stun guns and firearms. An EMD device will immobilize even a physically large subject. Studies have also shown that EMD devices decrease injuries to officers, as well as to subjects they were subduing, as compared to using other standard techniques.

As stated in the Legislative Analysis for House Bill 5074, Arguments for: "Nationwide, the use of electro-muscular disruption devices such as Taser have resulted in an 80 percent reduction in injuries to officers and a study of Taser use in Phoenix, Arizona, showed a 67 percent decrease in injuries to suspects. Based on committee testimony, use of Tasers by county jail personnel could significantly increase safety to both officers and inmates. The bill would merely correct what appears to be an oversight by specifically including local corrections officers who have written authorization by their county sheriff to possess and use EMD devices such as Tasers."

**Possible Savings**

Based on field results from agencies using Tasers, Taser International has calculated the following information for my agency. Assuming a 10-year period, with 8 full time officers, Richfield Township could realize: 1 (one) life saved, 40 injuries avoided, \$23,530 in averted liability savings, 95,000 in injury reduction savings.

**Policy**

Law enforcement agencies should have a written policy in place before allowing officers to carry a Taser. The policy should state the agencies position regarding the EMD device and provide employees with general guidelines addressing the issues associated with it.

***(For Sample Policy Resource-Contact the MTPP Risk Control Department at 800-536-7425)***

*(MTPP Law Enforcement Committee Members, Demonstrate the use of Taser. Left, Dave Peterson (Manistique), Center, Tony Lightfoot (Sault St. Marie), Right, Tom Clark (Holly) and Back, Boyd Skellenger (Richfield).*



**DIRECTORS**  
**Term: July 1, 2003**  
**Through June 30, 2004**

\*\*\*\*\*

ZONE 1  
Paul Lehto, Secretary  
Calumet Township  
(906) 337-2410

ZONE 2  
Marvin Besteman, Jr.  
Kinross Charter Township  
(906) 495-5381

ZONE 3  
Pat Mead  
Benzonia Township  
(231) 882-4411

ZONE 4  
Terry Wright  
Grayling Township  
(989) 348-4361

ZONE 5  
Jim Beelen  
Allendale Charter Township  
(616) 895-6295

ZONE 6  
Jon Sherwood  
Beaverton Township  
(989) 465-9176

ZONE 7  
John Jones  
Ira Township  
(586) 725-0263

ZONE 8  
John Buckhout, Vice Chairman  
Charter Township of Kalamazoo  
(269) 381-8080

ZONE 9  
Bob Skrobola, Chairman  
Pittsfield Township  
(734) 822-3112



## NOTICE OF QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

The next quarterly board of directors meeting of the Michigan Township Participating Plan is scheduled for Friday, April 23, 2004 and will begin at 9:30 am. This quarterly meeting is being hosted by Zone 4 Director, Terry Wright and will be held at the Grayling Township Hall– Crawford County, located at 2090 Viking Way, Grayling, Michigan.

### Program Reinsurance Summary

The Par-Plan is unique in the way it handles the risk of its membership. While operating under the enabling legislation known as Public Act 138, the plan does not operate as a risk bearing “Pool” as most other alternative programs in Michigan. Instead of holding all or a portion of the risk of the membership, the Par-Plan has always shifted that responsibility to outside commercial reinsurance companies. Your program is the only one operating under Public Act 138 that operates in this manner.

Due to the average cost of our memberships property and liability coverage being significantly lower than other larger or more diverse public entities, your board of directors decided in 1985 that the typical pooling structure would really not benefit the vast majority of townships in Michigan. They chose a concept presented to them by our current program administration firm, Kenrick Corporation. Their idea was to blend the benefits of commercial reinsurance security with the benefits of the buying power of the townships in Michigan to get the best combination of coverage, price, and focused service to the needs of the membership. The program would more accurately be referred to as a large purchasing group versus a pool. All of the risk of our 1500+ members is the responsibility of commercial reinsurance companies and not the program itself. These reinsurance treaties are negotiated in advance of any expiration date to provide the protection needs of our membership.

This approach has obviously been successful. At the end of 1985 the program had 243 members. Today we are proud to say that 1500+ public entities of which over 90% OF ALL TOWNSHIPS ARE CURRENT MEMBERS.

Thanks to everyone in making our program the #1 program of its type!!!

---

## Michigan Township Participating Plan Board of Directors Elections

During the next several months, member representatives will be electing Zone Representatives to serve on the Par-Plan Board of Directors. This year Zones 3, 6, & 9 are up for regular election with representatives serving three-year terms. Zones up for election consist of the following counties:

Zone 3: Emmet, Charlevoix, Leelanau, Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse  
Kalkaska, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee

Zone 6: Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Isabella, Midland, Bay,  
Gratiot, Saginaw, Clinton, Shiawassee

Zone 9: Ingham, Livingston, Jackson, Washtenaw, Wayne,  
Hillsdale, Lenawee, Monroe

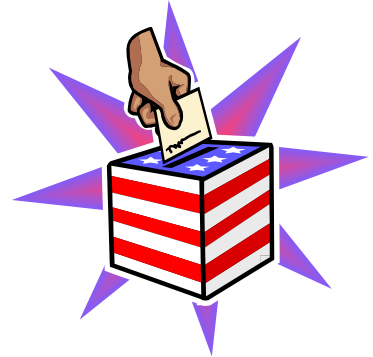
Each member of the Par-Plan should designate a person to serve as the Member Representative. Only Member Representatives are eligible to serve on the Par-Plan Board of Directors. After nominations are confirmed the Member Representative will be required to provide a Resolution Affirming Membership in the Michigan Township Participating Plan as Member Representative.

According to the MTPP Bylaws: Member shall mean a local unit of government participating in the Michigan Township Participating Plan. And most important, Member Representative shall mean the Member representation 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 of 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, water authorities and library boards.

If you are uncertain of your eligibility to run for the Zone Representative or procedure to vote, please contact the Chairman of the Election Committee, Joe Kreusel at (810) 765-5523, or the Par-Plan office at (800) 783-1370. The election committee has set the following election timetable:

April 5th	Nomination forms mailed to zone members
May 7th	Nomination forms must be postmarked to receive consideration
June 2nd	Election ballots mailed to all zone members
June 21st	Election ballots must be postmarked to receive consideration
June 28th	Election ballots counted
July 15th	Par-Plan Annual Business Meeting



The winner is selected based upon the highest number of votes received. Elected positions will be for three-year terms and will require elected Directors to attend at least (4) four board meetings per year in addition to committee activities.

You will be receiving a nomination form in the mail. If you wish your nomination form to receive consideration, please return the form before May 7th to the Michigan Township Participating Plan, 1700 Opdyke Court, Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326.

Sincerely  
PAR-PLAN ELECTION COMMITTEE

---



### ASK BOB!!

How many Public Official Bonds does the Par-Plan insure and what is the aggregate amount ???

**Par-Plan insures 5,876 people for an aggregate amount of \$50,375,000.00**

**WOW!!**

---