



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

FROM: Rich Noll, 2008-09 MCMA President

All in all there are several items on which the board and I wish to update you.

2009 MCMA Spring Conference -- Mark your calendars for April 22-24 for the 2009 MCMA Spring Conference. It will be located at the Lake of the Ozarks/Lodge of the Four Seasons.. Your Board is working hard on developing a program for the upcoming conference and we hope to finalize plans at our September Board Meeting. If you have suggestions for conference programs/presentations, please let me know. It will be appreciated very much.

MCMA and Girls State -- Thanks to the efforts of Mark Randall, MCMA was able to get the attention of the Girls State organizers and persuaded them to include the Council-Manager form of Government in their program. However, getting this done is going to need some assistance from our membership. We need some volunteers to serve on a task group that will provide Girls State with the necessary information and assistance, and this could include some participation in the Girls State event, to put this program together. Please give serious consideration to this, and the participation of our female managers and assistants will be all the more appreciated. I'll have additional information in my follow-up note. In case you're wondering, Mark made the same overtures to Boy's State, but either he was not as persuasive in his sales pitch or that organization is even more set in its ways than Girls State. Mark can tell the story better than I can.

Illinois (ILCMA) Collaboration -- Mark and I both participated in the ICMA Regional Summit in Minneapolis this past March, and we had the good fortune of sitting down at a table with Jim Norris, the former Gladstone City Manager who is now an officer in the Illinois Association. Evenually the entire Illinois contingent joined us, and we had a very productive meeting. I think the best part of this was expressing our joint desire to be more collaboraitve in our activities, and we have two immediate outcomes that should mutually benefit both associations.

Shared Range Rider -- Some of you may recall Hank Sinda from his days as the City Manager in St. Charles. Hank has now retired and is again living in St. Charles. Among the many communities that Hank served was Collinsville, IL. He had expressed an interest in serving as a

range rider for Western Illinois, and ILCMA asked us if it would be beneficial to us for him to also serve eastern Missouri. At its June board meeting, your MCMA Board unanimously agreed to this proposal, so Hank will soon be serving eastern Missouri as its range rider.

2009 ICMA Conference Reception -- One of the other outcomes of our collaborative efforts is that we will be having a joint reception with ILCMA at this year's ICMA Conference. This should be a fun event as the reception will also be honoring Dave Limardi, the incoming ICMA President who is the City Manager in Highland Park, IL. The KUCIMATs will also be participating in this reception as Dave Limardi is a KUCIMA (As a Mizzou MPA, the urge for an editorial comment here is pretty great, but I'll resist). The time of the reception will be a little different. **It will be an after dinner reception beginning at 8:30 and concluding at 10:30.** Hotel Shuttles will run until 10:30 that evening to accommodate this and other events. The location of the reception will be the Convention Center, and more specifically it will be in the pre-function space near exhibit hall A and meeting rooms E 10 and 11. Please wear your name badges. I will also probably need to recruit a few of you to help me monitor the entrance areas to identify MCMA members, but having your badges will help you get two free drink tickets. There will also be snacks and possibly light desserts.

Benefits of ICMA Membership -- This was a topic of discussion at the ICMA Midwest Summit in March and it was also a topic of some lively discussion at the MCMA Board meeting in June. You can expect this to be our lunch time discussion topic at the Winter Workshop in Columbia, and I will be having lunch with one of our ICMA Regional Vice-Presidents, Michael Baker, in Richmond to also discuss this topic. In the mean time, I would appreciate receiving any comments you wish to make. ICMA wishes to increase its membership and is urging the state associations to encourage its members who are not ICMA members to join ICMA. (About half of MCMA members are not ICMA members, and I would particularly appreciate the thoughts of non-ICMA members on this subject but all are encouraged to comment). In our discussions at the Midwest Summit and at the Board meeting, the general consensus was that while there are things that ICMA does well, but membership is expensive, the conference is expensive, and services of ICMA, particularly to smaller communities can be lacking. It also appears that state associations, such as MCMA, serve the needs of these managers better and more economically. What I would like to know is if you are dissatisfied with ICMA, and particularly if you are not a member of ICMA, what makes you dissatisfied/why are you not a member, and what would make ICMA more attractive to you. From anyone who wishes to comment, I'd like to know what could ICMA do that would make it better and more responsive to your needs and those of other municipal managers. I'd also like to hear about positive experiences and other positive points of ICMA membership. We will discuss this further in Columbia, but if you care to share some thoughts with me between now and the ICMA Conference, please do so.

MCMA Needs You -- Unfortunately, I was unable to express this to you personally at this past spring's MCMA Conference, but I did note it in my letter to all of you who were able to attend. There are a variety ways to involve yourself in your state association. In addition to serving on the Board, there are various committees and ad hoc task groups, like the Girls State task group, that need your participation. I truly believe that the more involvement our members have in the actual functioning and work of MCMA the better our association will be. To that end, we need some volunteers to serve on the 2009 nominating committee and the Jay T. Bell Award

Committee. Identifying candidates for the Board (and don't hesitate to volunteer to be a candidate for the Board -- that certainly makes the work of the nominating committee easier) and selecting our annual recipient of the Jay T Bell Award, are among the valuable ways you can be of service to your professional state association. Please let me know of your interest as soon as possible.

Kathleen Mansfield Scholarship -- We have been disappointed by the few applications that have been received for this scholarship. Your Board members are contacting representatives of the Colleges and Universities in Missouri with accredited Public Administration/Affairs programs and are seeking their input on what would make this scholarship more attractive. I hope to be able to report to you at the Winter Workshop on the outcome of this effort.

ICMA 2016 -- If you have not heard, Missouri will be hosting the ICMA Conference in 2016. The host city is Kansas City. A formal Host Committee has not yet been formed and I have not yet received information on selection of a host committee, but if you are interested in serving on the Host Committee please let me know, and if at all possible, your request will be accommodated. I should have more information on this in September after the conference in Richmond. I do want to let you know that at its meeting in June, your Board authorized a \$10,000 contribution to Host Committee fund raising efforts. Likewise, I was informed that KACM (Kansas Association of City Managers) has also pledged \$10,000 to the effort. KACM leadership worked collaboratively with us in securing the conference for Missouri in 2016. If any of you are aware of firms that would likely be interested in contributing to Host Committee efforts or sponsoring a host committee activity, please let me know. I have had some correspondence with the folks serving on the Host Committee for the Milwaukee Conference in 2011, and their advice has been to start these efforts early. We are committed to raise \$300,000 for this conference, but that figure could be reduced to \$250,000 if Kansas City is successful in its efforts to build a Convention headquarters hotel adjacent to the convention center before 2016.

I will be following-up with you soon with additional information and filling in the blanks in the information provided above. I'm looking forward to seeing those of you will be attending the ICMA Conference in Richmond. For those of you not attending, I hope you can attend the Winter Workshop in Columbia. In the mean time, if you have questions concerns or comments you wish to share, please let me know.

Thanks!