Dedication

This second edition of The History of the Michigan Society of Planning Officials is dedicated to the leadership, participation and commitment of Donald Oakes.

DONALD OAKES 1900 - 1986

Don Oakes began his career in Alpena and served in several city positions prior to his appointment as City Manager in 1942. Within six years he proved to be "friendly" to planning by introducing a zoning ordinance and creating a planning department.

Don also successfully served as City Manager for the cities of Berley and Grand Rapids. In 1959 he established a consulting service and authored more than 15 city charts for numerous municipalities statewide.

As a state leader, Don served as Executive Director of the Citizens for Michigan Municipalities (CMMO) which led the effort to hold a constitutional convention in the 1960s. He cited his service with the organization as one of his greatest experiences, especially his associations with former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, former Secretary of State Richard Austin, Ambassador to China Leonard Woodcock and the late United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther.

Don, a past president of the Michigan Chapter of the International City Managers Association, received a Special Award of Merit from the Michigan Municipal League (MML) and the President’s Award from the Michigan Society of Planning Officials (MSPO) in 1974.

On the MSPO Board of Directors for 15 years, Don was the Society’s president from 1959-60. Following his tenure with MSPO, he continued to serve as liaison to MML and the Michigan Townships Association.

Don’s death in 1986 was a great loss to the State of Michigan as well as to MSPO and the organizations he served.

Credits

This second edition of The History of the Michigan Society of Planning Officials is based on the first edition published October 1, 1985, and the efforts of the history’s original author, City Planner Brad Leach, City Petoskey; Grants Administrator Helen S. Williams; Office Manager Patricia Zobl and Editor Anna Hampton.

In addition, special thanks to Librarian J.A. Jager, Lansing Public Library; Editor Judi Campbell, Michigan Municipal Review; Photo Editor Wayne Smith, Detroit News and Senior Editor Ruth Krack, Planning, American Planning Association (APA), for their assistance in locating and furnishing photographs and biographical data.

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By Helen S. Williams

Grants Administrator

Many changes occurred during the 10 years I served as executive director of MSPO. These changes reflect the growth and maturity of the organization as well as the growth and interest of its members in making wise, feasible decisions when planning for the future of their communities.

I have always been impressed by the dedication of lay planners and how much they want to learn about their responsibilities. As the organization’s commission and a zoning board of appeals member. Also, by the support of the local professional planners who encourage their member communities to join MSPO and take full advantage of the educational programs offered. The feedback from members about the Society’s programs has always been positive and has made working for MSPO an honor.

I was fortunate to be the executive director during a time of unprecedented growth in the organization. The reasons for this are many. However, I personally feel that much of it has to do with MSPO’s reputation as the organization that provides the best training in the art and science of planning for lay planners and elected officials.

These educational efforts take many different forms, including the spring, summer and fall series of training workshops, publications on planning, the annual conference and the MSPO Spring Conference and special workshops cosponsored with other organizations and universities as well as those recommended by local communities.

Great care was given in the development of all of these activities by the Board and Education Committee to assure that MSPO met our members’ needs because our members are the most important part of the Society.

When I was appointed executive director in 1985, MSPO moved with me to the Rochester area. As the organization expanded, the Society outgrew my one-room office home, in the beginning we worked part-time and used the secretarial services of a company in Rochester, seeking additional assistance when required. The editor of the Michigan Planner, Anna Hampton, began the same year I did and continues doing an outstanding job on the magazine, always striving for excellence. Energic Patricia Zobl joined MSPO as a part-time secretary eight years ago and was my right-hand person for almost all of that time. Pat’s duties included maintaining the membership records and correspondence.

As membership and activities continued to grow, my workload increased to a full-time position. Almost six years ago MSPO moved into a large conference in downtown Detroit. An adaptive reuse of a former movie theater into an attractive office and commercial building. The Society purchased another computer, additional filing cabinets and other necessary equipment. With the organization continuing to grow, additional part-time help was added, including a part-time bookkeeper.

The staff became employees of the Society in January of 1994. Six months later MSPO moved to a much larger office in the same building which had individual offices for new Executive Director David Downey, Grants Administrator Pat as office manager. David joined MSPO a little over a year ago as the Executive Director and has shown an enormous capacity to effectively manage his responsibilities.

Since 1991 MSPO has undertaken additional activities funded by grants received from a number of local, state and federal sources, as well as legislative bodies and stakeholder organizations which have agreed to extend considerable financial assistance to MSPO and the local planning profession.

Michigan Planner: A major research project focusing on land use changes in Michigan and the implications of these changes continues. This project was funded by the C.S. Mott and Frey Foundations with additional contributions from the League of Michigan Municipalities, the MDEQ, the Michigan Environmental Council, the Michigan Association of Counties and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

MDEQ, eleven working papers and a final report, Patterns on the Land: Our Choices-Our Future, were prepared for this project. A public opinion survey, 14 visioning workshops and a regional data base developed from a special survey sent to local communities statewide, a counterbalancing study, a videotape and a poster and map display were also prepared under this grant.

The collection of material relating to the last 20 to 30 years of land use decisions together in one set of working papers, and the synthesis of the data to reveal significant land use trends into a final report, is critical to sustaining Michigan’s future. I personally hope MSPO’s effort will initiate a serious dialogue between government, the public, business and other stakeholder organizations in the local and state planning professions. It is a vital, necessary activity.

In the first half of 1993 an excellent video, "Ground Management: A Question of Balance," was developed with financial assistance from the Coastal Zone Management Division, MDEQ, and the Americas Foundation. MSPO has received rave reviews on the video and now local Michigan communities have viewed or purchased it. I highly recommend it to anyone involved in planning.

The Directors of MSPO have brought considerable knowledge, energy, creative ideas and leadership to the organization during the past 10 years. With out their willingness to give 110 percent to their volunteer jobs as MSPO Board members, none of the above achievements would have been accomplished. It is my hope that MSPO’s next 50 years will be as fruitful as the first 50. I am very proud of MSPO’s legacy of excellence.

November 1995

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The material utilized in this publication has been selected by the Publications Committee whose membership includes: Timothy J. Doehlanty, Chair; Herman Yarger; Philip Zollner; Charles Hertling; William Hertling; David Downey; Executive Director. The Michigan Planner, published since 1985, is currently circulated to 4,000 readers.

For information on joining MSPO, write 414 Main Street, Suite 211, Rochester, MI 48307 or call 810-651-3383. Change of address notices also should be sent to the above address.
The History Of The Michigan Society of Planning Officials

by Brad Leach, AICP
Petoskey City Planner and MSPO Past President

The 1995 Michigan Society of Planning Officials (MSPO) Annual Conference marked 50 years of service. This is a distinguished term of service for any organization, but particularly for a Society with a volunteer Board of Directors and, more importantly, with participation from a membership largely consisting of "citizen planners" who donate their time and energies to shaping the future of their respective communities. MSPO, the largest state planning association in the country, is unique because of the tremendous participation of planning commissioners.

The services of MSPO have changed at various times over the past 50 years to meet the needs of its members and the statewide "community." In 1995 MSPO is providing interactive learning opportunities, such as the annual conference as well as the basic and advanced training workshops offered each year. MSPO also publishes News From MSPO and the only remaining successful magazine published by a state planning association, the Michigan Planner. These are unique accomplishments built upon the solid foundation created by everyone involved in the organization in the past and present.

Your participation in MSPO and in planning for your community is important to the future of our state. As you read and review the history of our organization, I hope you will feel a part of MSPO's unique tradition of citizen leadership for planning in Michigan.

Early Organizations

The origins of state planning associations began with the National Planning Conference formed in 1910 in the aftermath of the "City Beautiful" movement and 10 years prior to the first zoning ordinances. By the 1920s the Michigan Planning Conference was organized to bring together planning interests from around the state.

At that time there were an estimated 15-to-20 professional planners in Michigan and only the largest cities had planning commissioners, city planning staffs or zoning ordinances. However, the position of planning was strengthened in Michigan during this period by passage of the Zoning Enabling Act in 1921 and the success of defense of zoning in the United States Supreme Court in the case of Village of Euclid v. Ambler Realty Company in 1926.

The early Michigan Planning Conference was largely dominated by architects and landscape architects who emphasized the technical and design orientation of planning. However, apparently within the ranks of this early organization there was at least one member who thought planners should emerge from their "ivory towers" and involve the citizens of the state's communities in planning. Walter Blucher of Detroit advocated that the organization "educate lay planners" to bring planning into the political process and to involve those most affected by planning decisions. Mr. Blucher's ally in this effort was Harold Smith, the first paid director of the Michigan Municipal League (MML).

Unfortunately for Michigan, but fortunately for America, Walter Blucher left Detroit in 1936 to help found the American Society of Planning Officials (ASPO) and to serve as its director for 19 years. In 1937 Harold Smith left MML to become Governor Frank Murphy's budget director. Apparently their departure and the slow post-depression economy left Michigan temporarily without a state planning organization. However, to help fill some of this need, the State of Michigan did create a permanent state planning commission in 1937 with the passage of Act 128. The Michigan Planning Commission, a spin-off from the Roosevelt Administration's National Resources Board included, in its membership of 21, eight representatives from various state departments and two from the local government. Although hampered by lack of appropriations in 1939, the commission functioned for 10 years as liaison for all federal agencies and programs related to public works, as well as land and water control, including inventories of natural resources. In addition, it assisted in planning counties, towns and villages as well as in creating regional planning commissions to oversee rural areas. By 1945 many of the commission's objectives were accomplished and implemented by other state departments.

In 1947 the commission was abolished by Section 7 of Act 302 which created a state department of economic development.

Some of the members of that state commission, notably, Paul Reid, Director of the Detroit Regional Planning Commission, were instrumental through the Michigan Society of Municipal Planning Officials (MSPO), later MSPO in retaining interest in a planning organization at the state level. Apparently there were many individuals who assisted in that effort in those early days, such as Mr. Reid and Dwight C. Woodward, who were not officials of the Society.

During the 1940s, Planning Institutes were located in Flint, Grand Rapids and Detroit. However, these apparently were unsuccessful because by 1945 there was considerable clamoring for a new statewide organization.

The Founding of MSPO

As early as 1942 at MML meetings in Detroit, the need for a statewide planning organization was voiced by civic leaders. However, the effort was delayed by the nation's involvement in World War II. Others mentioned from this era who kept the effort going were Russell Koenig of Saginaw and City Attorney Dean Hudson of Royal Oak.

In 1943 a group of officials concerned about community planning in Michigan gathered at the Olds Hotel in Lansing for an organizational meeting, a sort of "smoke-filled" constitutional convention. It was attended by 37 officials from 13 Michigan cities and by 12 other officials for a combined total attendance of 49 officials. Unfortunately, the names of all present were not recorded.

Eventually this group, known as the Sponsoring Committee (see below), hammered out the framework for the association called the Michigan Society of Municipal Planning Officials (MSPO). The purpose of the new Society was:

1. To provide a means of exchanging information on the principles and practices of community planning.

2. To stimulate interest in and understandning of community planning and its objectives through education.

3. To further the interests and purposes of community planning throughout the state.

The 1945 Articles of Association restricted membership to planning commissioners and staffs of cities and villages. However, one year later the Articles were amended to permit the membership of "others interested in planning." The Articles also called for four yearly meetings of the Board of Directors and for one meeting a year for all members (the "annual" conference).

The first Board of Directors was elected in 1945 with staggered terms of office (see page 10). Nearly every one of the original members was immediately involved in the Society through working committees. MSPO became the seventh state planning association formed in the United States. Its 49 members included elected and appointed officials as well as professional planners, city managers, attorneys and civil engineers.

At the first annual MSPO Business Meeting on October 19, 1946, there were 62 members in attendance. President George F. Emery presided over the proceedings which were recorded in the Community Planning Annual of January 1, 1947. Within a year Margaret Whetpley of Dearborn was recruited to serve as secretary.

Sponsoring Committee

The following is a list of individuals who called together the MSPO Organizational meeting on October 6, 1945:

Russell O. Koenig, Chairman L.C. Whistler, Vice Chairman Ben H. Koenig, Secretary Frederick R. Stoner, President Floyd M. Jennings, Secretary S.H. Smith, Secretary Kenneth C. Welch, Treasurer Bernard DeVries, Treasurer Jack M. Mosier, Treasurer Victor G. Leyerle, Treasurer George F. Emery, Secretary

*The complete list of all founders is not available due to limited documentation.
and, in particular, to edit a new quarterly newsletter.

During 1947, 550 invitations mailed to encourage attendance at the annual meeting resulted in a final registration of 116. Permanent membership count was at 98 with 31 cities represented. The rapid growth in the organization reflected renewed interest in planning due to the post-war building and public works boom.

As early as 1948, MSMOPO began monitoring the level of statewide planning activity and the use of MML. The survey results showed, based upon a 60 percent return from 93 questionnaires, that there was a "widespread impetus toward planning since 1940 after too long a dormancy." At that time, cities in Michigan about 10,000 population were more likely to have master plans. Eighty-five percent of the cities had a planning agency, but only 64 percent had a master plan. The Board's conclusion was that too many zoning ordinances were being adopted without a master plan.

By 1949, MSMOPO's ranks had swelled to 130 from its initial membership in Ann Arbor that year featuring the parking structure as a new issue in medium-sized cities. Registration for the conference was one dollar and the dinner cost was $2.75 per person. MSMOPO also initiated "Board Refresher" at Pigeon River State Forest and Tippy Dam where Board members became acquainted and made preparations for the coming year.

MSMOPO initiates Lobbying

During the late 1940s, MSMOPO began to sponsor and advocate legislation. The Society boldly supported architectural review legislation for communities but was unable to find a sponsor. Other legislation sponsored addressed nonconforming uses, home rule provisions and blighted-area improvements. Jay Gibbs, City Manager for Ferndale, played an important role as liaison to MML which typically took the lead role in sponsoring legislation. The MSMOPO Legislative Committee also advocated basic changes to the City Zoning Enabling Act at a special session held in July.

The 1950 MSMOPO Annual Conference at Saginaw focused on a new technology, the use of aerial photography in planning. The annual conferences were beginning to include technical sessions for professional planners, workshops for everyone involved and the Annual Business Meeting. Conference proceedings were recorded and edited by volunteers. The Society's mimeographed newsletter provided an overview of the community planning activities statewide and included reviews of recent court cases pertaining to planning.

The 1951 newsletter featured an article on sign ordinances as a legal issue of growing concern among municipal members. The annual conference in October of that year held in Detroit had 111 registrants and offered a new program for spouses. However, the MSMOPO Board of Directors urged moving the conference to the next winter to eliminate unsuccessful head-to-head competition with college football games at "our two state institutions which are becoming nationally renowned football powers."

The 1952 conference held in Muskegon in April included workshop topics that would probably be well attended today:

"The Role of Planning Commissions in Promotion of Economic Activities"

"How Zoning Appeals Boards Can Contribute to Planning Objectives"

Speakers from the National Research Council Board and the National Recreation Association of Washington, D.C., were featured on the program. The MSMOPO published a pamphlet entitled "The Planner's Corner" in the Michigan Municipal Review in 1952. Milton Melser, President of Urban Planning Learning, Michigan State University, was the author. In that same year, the Michigan Organization of Professional Planners (MOPP) was organized to serve the needs of professional planners.

The Society Changes Its Name

On May 23, 1953, the MSMOPO Board of Directors acted to eliminate the term "Municipal" from the Society's name. The Articles of Association were amended to read "Michigan Society of Planning Officials" or MSPO. The change reflected the rapid suburbanization of Michigan. While smaller changes permitted regional planning commissioners to become "active" members, the doors were opened for full participation of planning commissions and staff from counties, townships and municipalities.

Collaboration between MSPO and the Michigan Chapter of the AIP also increased. In 1954, John Hyde, Associate Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Michigan, was advisor and liaison between the two associations. He led the effort to explore combining organizational functions and retaining the potential for a joint publication.

Another significant change was the introduction of regional meetings to serve particular areas of the state. These outreach meetings, particularly educational, were arranged to promote regional planning and to spread the word about MSPO opportunities. The first regional meeting was in Michigan City in 1955, following the fall conference in Saginaw through the efforts of Russ Koenig, Ray Mills and Jim Babcock.

That year continued to be busy for the Board. A planning "session" was arranged at the MML Annual Meeting. The MSPO Board also spent considerable time lobbying for improvements to zoning laws in both the state and federal legislation. City Councils within the city limits of Traverse City also included the MSPO's annual conference. Eighty registrants were recorded for that first summer conference, a level of attendance that has grown steadily ever since.

The move to institute planning in rural Michigan was underway. A regional meeting was sponsored in Marshall in response to local efforts to form a county planning commission. A broader effort was made to lobby for the proposed Township Planning Commission Act. The year 1956 ended with MSPO membership at a record high of 296.

Executive Secretary Named

In 1957 Harold Black became the first MSPO Executive Secretary and paid staff person. With 410 members and a growing number and range of Society activities, the Board decided that a paid staff was needed to deal with them. The Regional Planning Conference at Colbytall that year alone attracted 130 participants (only 50 to 100 were expected). Membership in MSPO climbed to 490 in 1958 through the efforts of committee Chairman Ray Mills. Annual dues for individuals were $8.30. Topics of interest to members were water quality management, downtown parking and industrial park development. Featured in the MSPO Newsletter was an article about Grand Haven merchants who established a temporary mall downtown. The experiment, called "Projection 60," was initiated by 59 merchants who raised $5,000 to place planters, shrubs and trees in the downtown area. Their goal was a permanent mall by 1960, but their efforts were consolidation later by the Kalamazoo Mall.

In 1960 MSPO worked toward forming a county planning commission in Hillsdale. This era became a period of outdoor recreational development, e.g., Land & Water Conservation Fund and the National-Offices of Metropolitan Planning Authority. The Society's membership was 85 percent planning commissions, 50 percent professional planners, city managers and engineers and 10 percent other interested officials and citizens.

MSPO Promotes Education

In 1960, the MSPO Board of Directors requested the American Society of Planning Officials (ASPO) in Chicago to begin an information exchange among state planning organizations. As the largest association in the nation and one of the most active, MSPO apparently took the lead. In the 1960 MSPO Board of Directors (seated from left) are: Jay L. Gibbs, President Bill G. Rowden, Secretary-Treasurer Alice E. Donnel, Vice-President Raymond J. (Barney) Trebluck, Back row (from left): Armin Roemer, Successor Harold Black, John L. Oakes and Jerry G. Mudd
In-House Reappraisal

During 1966-67 the MSPO Board of Directors was playing an increasing role in reassessing the form of its 20-year-old organization. The idea may have been triggered by the State Constitutional Convention then under the direction of Board member Donald Olesko, the editor of Governor George Romney’s Citizens for Michigan Committee. The Board of Directors was not a member of the Michigan Association of Reserve cities, but it was concerned that any changes to the highly successful organization be approached with caution.

In a stroke of insight and display of respect for experience, a committee of nine past presidents of MSPO was created. The group, focused on helping the Board and the Strato planning MSPO, was headed by Alice Donnet, the first woman president of the Society in 1965. She was joined by two who’d known the city’s leaders: Don Oakes, then president of the Society.

The 1963 MSPO Annual Conference held in the Hotel Hayes, Jackson

MSPO Names Editor

In December of 1964 the MSPO Board of Directors selected Lowell Plasterer to be the editor of its new publication, the Michigan Planning News. Shortly thereafter Mr. Plasterer coined a new slogan for the Society—"A Single Thorn Today for Both Peninsulas." He also collaborated with Frank Bennett to develop a logo showing the Michigan peninsula surrounded by the rays of the sun.

The Society continued its lobbying efforts in Lansing in 1965 and held its leadership and policy directives to the MSPO Boards. However, staff began to be increased and rationalized so that the Society’s operations and functions, a trend that continues today.

The MSPO Board also began taking a new approach to influencing planning at the state level. Instead of direct lobbying, the Society began to issue policy statements and technical papers. A resolution by the Board in 1969 initiated this approach by encouraging statewide development of regional planning commissions. This may have been a compromise effort in view of the State of Michigan’s reluctance to become involved in state planning.

At the 1970 MSPO Annual Conference in Ann Arbor, Harlan Hatcher of the University of Michigan reported on the new efforts of the institute and the City of Ann Arbor to recruit "high tech" clean industries to the Greater Ann Arbor Research Park. Six to eight years later the entire State of Michigan was talking about industrial diversifica-

City which efficiently combined the Planning, Urban Renewal, Code Enforcement and Housing Departments. In Jackson, the city and county created a combined City-County Planning Department. The newsletter was spreading the word about new ideas state-wide.

In fact, in 1968 The Michigan Planning News reported another experiment in southwest Michigan, Saugatuck. Saugatuck Township and Douglas were trying a new "regional planning commission" to coordinate their rural planning efforts. Regional issues were timely as demonstrated by the remarkable number of over 500 concerned officials for an MSPO-sponsored Subdivision plat Act Workshop at Michigan State University.

In all, the 1968-69 era of the Michigan Environmental Protection Act was a major milestone in the state’s history of land use planning.

MSPO members meet during the 1960 Fall Conference held at the Ojibway Hotel in Sault Ste Marie

land Use Planning Urged

From 1970-72 there was a wave of environmental planning legislation in Michigan, including the Shorelands Protection Act (1970), the Natural Rivers Act (1970) and the amendment to the Solid Waste Management Act of 1965 (1971). Yet, there remained a conscious lack of legislation to pull together the many issues related to land use planning in the state. MSPO recommended that the State of Michigan consolidate its existing land use laws.

In the fall of 1972 the MSPO Ar-
Marquette and 130 at Plymouth. A controversial topic of the time was the State of Michigan’s Adult Care Policy for placement of the institutionalized into group homes (superseding local zoning) in single-family neighborhoods. The MSPD Board of Directors went on record as opposing this “exception” to local zoning.

The 1977 MSPD conference theme was "Planning: Strategies for Energy Conservation," a reflection of the oil shortages. There were 235 registrants for the conference. MSPD presented the first Honor Awards and two distinguished planning projects, asthma and an out-of-state jury (see pages 26, 27, 28).

The 1978 MSPD Annual Conference in Traverse City featured Attorney General Frank Kelley as keynote speaker. The conference themes, "Money: The Reality of Planning," was appropriate in view of the multiple times of high interest rates and low economic activity. A new form of citizen activism was also prevalent, the tax limitation and rollback initiative. Eventually, the Headstart Amendment for tax limitation was enacted.

New Zoning Enabling Acts

The 1979 MSPD Annual Conference at Mackinac Island featured Lieutenant Governor Sherrill as keynote speaker and Senator Harry DeMoss, the President’s Award recipient. The conference site received rave reviews and a special hands-on tour was conducted by state park officials, illustrating various preservation techniques used on the island’s historic structures. An issue of The Michigan Planning News featured a review of economic development legislation and a special section about the intersection of Past President Donald Oakies entitled, "Organizer of Cities," as appeared in the Grand Rapids Press.

The major revisions to the enabling acts for counties, cities, villages, and townships monopolized most of The Michigan Planning News and the conference workshops during 1979-80. The enactment of this legislation heralded the successful completion of a four-year effort by a special gubernatorial committee which included a number of MSPD members.

The new legislation addressed zoning by local governments in a comprehensive manner. The new zoning enabling legislation also meant that MSPD needed to vigorously renew educational efforts to inform lay planners and planning professionals about the impact of the new laws.

MSPD Shifts To Education

The 1980 Board of Directors began a three-year process of examining the direction of services for MSPD. Newly appointed Executive Director Terry Juniors, the first woman selected for the position, worked with the Board to evaluate the Society’s role in Michigan planning circles.

In particular, the Board of Directors sought to fill the gaps in planning education, advisory services and technical assistance brought about by many major funding setbacks. There was concern especially for the elimination of federal "TANF" grants, state advisory services and discontinuation of educational assistance, including those offered by Michigan State University’s Institute for Community Development. The Board concluded that MSPD should play a renewed leadership role in the provision of those services.

By 1981 the Society began initiatives aimed at redirecting the organization’s efforts. While the national AIP and the ASPD merged, at this point, MSPD and the Michigan Chapter of the American Planning Association (MAPA, formerly the Michigan Chapter of the AIP) chose to remain separate. The development of Michigan MAPA began as: (1) sharing limited resources for more effective services and (2) developing capabilities to better distinguish the purposes behind each organization to avoid duplication.

Because MSPD had not been active with legislative matters for many years, the Board of Directors decided to undertake issues such as those of nonprofit educational organization to reduce operational expenses and to offer opportunities for tax-deductible gifts. In fact, as early as 1982 Anse Darnace advocated obtaining the designation for just such purposes. The Board encouraged MAPA to take up the responsibility for legislative monitoring and influence on behalf of the state’s planners. In addition to dividing responsibilities with MAPA, the Board looked at provision of joint services such as conferences and staff.

Michigan Planner Debuts

The year 1981 also marked the collaboration between MSPD and MAPA which came about with the unveiling of a new effort: the Michigan Planner magazine. This new, popular quarterly publication was the product of a long effort and it resulted in significant cooperation between MSPD and MAPA.

While the magazine was produced on a trial basis for two issues, it continued until 1988 and became an important permanent educational and communication tool for both MSPD and MAPA memberships. The magazine retained most of The Michigan Planning News features, however, it also increased the new concept of a single theme for each issue in a manner similar to the Michigan Assembly conference.

The 1982 annual conference featured keynote speaker Neil Peirce, a Washington Post columnist familiar with state and federal planning issues. Mr. Peirce discussed the impact of federal policy upon urban communities in various regions of the United States. A timely presentation was given by Joe Stewart of the Kellogg Company regarding the corporation’s efforts to encourage the merger of the township and city government in Battle Creek.

The annual conference was followed in 1983 with six Basic Training Workshops aimed at taking education to each region in the state for the benefit of planning commissioners and zoning boards of appeals members. While MSPD continued to maintain the outreach efforts begun in the 1950s, it also began providing lay planners with the background needed for improved decision making. The effort was a success when more than 550 attended the workshops.

MSPD also obtained its 501(c)3 tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. In particular, Past President John Donohue must be commended for voluntarily dealing with the paperwork and the bureaucratic process necessary to obtain the status for the Society.

In 1984 the Annual Conference was jointly sponsored by MSPD and the Northeastern Ontario Planning Conference. The conference event was held in the twin cities of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and Ontario. The keynote speakers for the conferences were held on both sides of the border with 400 in attendance focusing on the theme, "The H2O Edge: The Wise Use of Our Freshwater Resources."

That year, in addition to the basic planning conferences and zoning board of appeals programs, an advanced training workshop was initiated offering in-depth learning opportunities for both professional and lay planners. As a result attendance jumped to 1,400. Executive Director Mark Wyckoff worked with MSPD Board members Larry Kleingard, Helen Willis and Larry Libby in refining these programs.

The Society Marks 40 Years

In 1985 MSPD celebrated the 40th anniversary of its inception with a membership numbering 2,400. It included planning commissioners, zoning board of appeals members, realtors, professional planners, university students, professors, engineers, architects and lawyers. However, while the membership was broadly based, it was still made up of 80-85 percent planning and zoning commissioners. The members came from nearly every county in both peripheries and represented almost every level of planning from village, township, and city to county, regional and state levels of government.

In July Helen Willis resigned as president from the Board of Directors to become MSPD’s executive director.
MSPO Past Presidents (back row from left): Bernard DeVries, Muskegon (1969-70); Bill Rowden, Macomb County (1960-61); Walter Kalmbach, Saginaw (1965-66); Arnold Whitney, Lapeer (1972-73); Raymond Mills, Midland (1957-58); John Donohue, Farmington Hills (1962-63); Joseph Wasie, Nicaragua (1975-76); Keith Honey, East Lansing (1967-68). Front row: Laurence Kelising, Troy (1980-81); Philip Hathaway, Owosso (1985-86); Helen Willis, Oakland Township (1984-85); Bradley Loech, Petoskey (1983-84); Robert Bach, Traverse City (1973-74).

With her appointment, the Society's office was moved from Lansing to the Rochester area.

MSPO continued to offer the basic and advanced workshop programs in numerous locations around the state for the travel convenience of the planning commissioners, zoning boards of appeals members, elected officials and professionals.

Basic workshops gave a nuts and bolts background in planning legislation, case law and good planning practices. The advanced training workshops became more specialized with MSPO focusing on presenting a wide variety of subjects. Also, working in conjunction with other statewide organizations, the Society began offering special workshops on timely topics (see page 26).

In addition, the Society established the MSPO Advisory to provide a second and more timely means of communicating with the membership. Also, Anna Hampton succeeded Marleen Winer as editor of the Michigan Planner in 1991.

In the first edition of The Community Planning Process: A Guide for Planning Commissioners in Michigan was published. This popular guidebook, covering various aspects of local level planning issues, became a primer for new planning commissioners.

The 1987 annual conference, "Farms, Factories and Freeways: Managing Changes in Rural and Urban Communities," was held in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.

Keynote speaker Joel Barney, President, Infinity Limited, Inc., captured the interest of the conference participants with his topic, "Discovering the Future: The Business of Paradigms."

Surveying The Membership

The following year President Jim Hendrickson, with incoming President Rick Chapla and Membership Committee Chairperson Judy Johnson, decided to conduct a broader and more formal membership survey than had been utilized in previous years. It covered five topics:
- Evaluation of the MSPO conferences
- Evaluation of the basic training workshops
- Evaluation of MSPO publications
- The future of planning in Michigan
- Profiles of the questionnaire respondents

The Society received 2,930 responses representing 73.2 percent of the total membership. Among those responding to the survey, 52 percent were MSPO members for five years or more, and 26 percent were appointed officials.

The best news was that 90 percent of the survey respondents had been allocated a budget for planning activities and 81 percent had staff assistance. In addition, 79.7 percent rated the Michigan Planner as excellent.

For MSPO, 1986 also ushered in a tradition of publishing workbooks, such as the Site Planning Review, to accompany the advanced training workshop programs (see pages 30, 31).

In 1988 the first Planning Assembly, an overview of "Metropolitan Urban and Rural Planning Issues: Innovations and Accomplishments," was co-sponsored by MSPO, MAPA and the Urban Planning Programs of Michigan State University, Wayne State University and the University of Michigan with financial support from Michigan.

That summer MSPO authorized another survey, this time seeking future policy direction from the membership. The Oakland University Department of Political Science surveyed a representative random sample of 700 members. The response rate was 64.8 percent, or 454 returned surveys. Of those, 60 percent were from appointed officials.

The survey focused on two important questions:
- What type of involvement in public policy initiatives should MSPO have?
- What is the status of planning activity in respondents' communities?

Results indicated that 80 percent of respondents felt that MSPO should monitor legislation and report its status to members, while 64 percent believed that MSPO should analyze planning legislation and provide educational reports to legislators and other public officials. Some 57.5 percent felt that MSPO should adopt positions on certain legislative issues and make them known to state legislators.

With regard to the status of planning in MSPO-member communities, 95 percent of members represented by the sample had an adopted master plan. At that time the average year of the plan’s acceptance was 1975. Amendments to those plans were adopted by 56 percent of the respondents and 53 percent were in the process of amending them.

Grants Aid Education

The late 1980s and early 1990s were marked by MSPO’s greater efforts to obtain outside funding for major and specialized educational initiatives. The first of these began when MSPO met with state government agencies, universities and environmental educators regarding groundwater protection.

Planners Lillian Dean and Mark Wyckoff with Geology Professor David Laish of Michigan State University were in process of preparing a publication called, Community Planning and Zoning for Groundwater Protection in Michigan: A Guidebook for Local Officials. Since funds were unavailable to publish it, MSPO decided to seek underwriting.

With workload increasing because of additional grants and accelerated membership activity, MSPO’s office was moved to larger quarters in downtown Rochester.

In 1991 MSPO received a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation not only to publish the guidebook prepared earlier but to supplement it with regional groundwater workshops statewide. Seven workshops held in 1991 and 1992 attracted 600 participants. As a result, the guidebook was in such demand that MSPO authorized a second printing for distribution throughout the United States and Canada.

Annual conferences in 1990, 1991 and 1992 continued to draw participants from urban and rural communities as well as from the legal professions and allied industries. As a result, by year’s end membership rose to 5,819 and group participation reached an all-time high of 295.

During that timeframe, three guidebooks for the advanced training workshops were published, including the Community Planning Handbook: Tools and Techniques, which is now used as a textbook by several universities. In 1992 a supplement of 13 additional techniques were developed and published. Also, that year the News From MSPO replaced the Advisor.

Additionally, a Planning Assembly, "Housing Tomorrow’s Michigan: The Role for Planners," was co-sponsored with several associations and universities. Eight other co-sponsored workshops highlighted a variety of topics ranging from manufactured housing and historic preservation.

In 1993 MSPO received a second Kellogg Foundation grant in the amount of $200,000 for "County-Local Partnerships for Groundwater Protection: A Michigan Demonstration Project." Manistee, Ottawa and Saginaw counties, together with three local communities from each jurisdiction, participated in the two-year project.

The Trend Future Project

In 1994 the annual conference held in Grand Rapids featured State Rep. Leon Stille, Chair of the Republican Land Use Task Force,
of Land Use Planning that considers resources and the integrity of ecosystems and (2) degradation of urban environments.

In response, the Mott and Frey Foundations initiated joint meetings with other foundations to discuss how to assist the state in addressing these risks. The result was a three-to-five year strategic plan identifying up to 30 projects addressing land use issues. The C.S. Mott Foundation provided $200,000 and the Frey Foundation, $170,000 for an MSPO-sponsored "Trend Future Report" for the State of Michigan. The overall report was to be prepared by the Planning & Zoning Center, Inc. Additional tasks completed by other consultants included: (1) 14 visioning workshops; 2) planning and zoning survey of current local efforts; (3) public opinion survey of land use issues and 4) counterpoint case studies. Eleven working papers offered a comprehensive understanding of:

- Land Use Issues Identification
- Agricultural Trends
- Natural Resources and the Environment Trends
- Public Lands and Forestry Trends
- Tourism and Recreation Trends
- Transportation Trends
- Water, Sewer and Other Infrastructure Trends
- Jobs and the Built Environment Trends
- Demographic Trends
- Institutional Structure for Land Use Decision Making

As part of the project, the Society also conducted a statewide Planning and Zoning Survey, the first since 1979. Based on the results, a comprehensive database was developed as part of the Trend Future Project.

MSPO's 50th Year

MSPO's 50th Anniversary Conference entitled "Vision Equally Realty," was held at St. Ignace Resort Ltd. in Sutterville. Highlighting the festivities was the release of the Trend Future final report, Patterns on the Land in Michigan: Our Future. The report received widespread publicity for several of its most disturbing findings and issues, especially that:

- 940,000 acres of the state's farm lands were converted to other uses between 1982-92 and are declining at a rate of 2,300 acres per day.
- Much higher local taxes will be required to maintain infrastructure for the state's growing number of low-density development projects.
- Population will increase 11.8% from 1990 to 2020, but land areas occupied by urban development will increase by 83-87% per cent as a result of low-density development.

It is MSPO's hope that these and other findings in the Trend Future report will assist the State of Michigan's public officials and planners in setting the direction of the state's land use policies. Based on the data provided in the report, policymakers can now define and redeline Michigan's future by determining which trends should be promoted, which ones should be reversed and which ones should be allowed to continue.

In addition, a video, "Michigan's Last Frontier," produced as part of the Trend Future Project, was released at the fall conference. Earlier in the year, also in conjunction with the Trend Future Project, the Society conducted the first statewide Public Opinion Survey on Land Use.

With interest in land use issues rising, the Planning & Zoning Center, Inc. prepared a brochure entitled, Growth Management Tools, for the Coastal Zonal Management Program, MDEQ. The MSPO Board became interested in collaborating with the Program and the Center in producing a video illustrating the brochure's concepts which were based on the land use legislation introduced by Rep. Stille in 1994.

MSPO successfully obtained $370,000 from the Coastal Zonal Management Program and $180,000 from the American Foundation to Promote "Growth Management: A Question of Balance," Consumers Power was awarded the contract to prepare the video.

Also in 1995 substantial funds were obtained for the MSPO Community Planner's Memorial Scholarship Program, begun in 1990, with the distribution of The First Annual Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing. The successful event was developed under the leadership of David Downey who became MSPO's executive director. Helen Walls, who stepped down as executive director, assumed the title of grants administrator on a temporary basis.

A Tradition of Leadership

While MSPO has never been the only voice for good planning in Michigan, the Society's 50-year history demonstrates a tradition of leadership in planning education, collaboration and citizenship. The Society has been a bridge joining together state agencies, planning associations, professional planners and local citizen planners in the common interest of promoting good planning throughout the State of Michigan.

MSPO, with a membership of 4,073 has come to represent nearly every level of planning from village, city and township to county, regional and state levels of government. It is hoped that this review of the landmark history of MSPO will inspire all of our present and future members to nurture this tradition of citizen leadership for planning in Michigan.
A Legacy of Leadership

WALTER BLUCHER 1901 - 1989

Oral and written histories of MSPO give considerable credit to Walter Blucher as an early founder of state planning associations in Michigan. Apparently he was the first president of the Michigan Planning Conference, the forerunner of MSPO. In particular, Mr. Blucher emphasized educating lay planners through a planner's association. He departed the Michigan Planning Conference in 1934 to organize the American Society of Planning Officials (ASPO) which he led for 19 years. Mr. Blucher, formerly a planner for the City of Detroit from 1925 to 1934, organized the Southeastern Michigan Metropolitan Community Research Corporation in 1936. The corporation was intended to bring together the efforts of the Detroit Regional Planning Commission, later under Director Paul Reid, and the Inter-County Supervisors Committee, another Detroit metropolitan planning group. Mr. Blucher became a consultant in the Detroit area when he resigned from that position in 1962.

Mr. Blucher died at the age of 88 in Napa, California.

HAROLD D. SMITH 1899 - 1947

One of Walter Blucher's allies in Detroit who maintained a state planning association was Harold Smith. He became the first full-time staff member and Director of the Michigan Municipal League (MML) in 1927. Mr. Smith organized the League's new office, wrote the copy for the first Michigan Municipal Review, worked on the magazine layout and printed it, and delivered it to the post office. He was MML director until 1937 when he left to serve as budget director for Governor Frank Murphy. His departure was a blow to the early Michigan Planning Conference which he may have helped to shape as a service-oriented organization similar to MSPO today. Mr. Smith was selected by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to become director of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget where he served until 1946. He was then appointed vice president of the Reconstruction Finance Bank of Reconstruction and Development and shortly thereafter offered the presidency, which he declined. When Mr. Smith died, President Harry S. Truman said: "He was one of the ablest servants in public service. The country needs the services of men like Harold Smith."

The MSMPO Board 1946-1947

President: George F. Emery Planning Director Detroit

Vice Presidents: Floyd M. Jennings Planning Director Grand Rapids

Secretary-Treasurer: Fred G. Carroll Secretary Howell Planning Commission

Directors:
- Ralph L. Bauer Chair Traverse City Planning Commission
- J. Lee Brown Director Livonia Planning Commission
- George W. Francis Vice Chair Saginaw Planning Commission
- Jay F. Gibbs City Manager Member Fennville Planning Commission
- Victor G. Leyner Chair Lansing Planning Commission
- Margaret Whelpley Chair Dearborn Planning Commission

GEORGE F. EMERY 1900 - 1982

George Emery, the first President of MSPO, apparently exhibited considerable leadership during his term of service. He had degrees in civil engineering and in the law, in 1940 after serving as the Chief Building Inspector for the City of Detroit for 15 years, he was appointed Executive Secretary of the Detroit Planning Commission.

Mr. Emery was largely responsible for drafting Detroit's zoning ordinance and for completing the city's master land use plan. His efforts in the latter instance made it possible for Detroit to be one of the first cities in the country to qualify for federal redevelopment assistance. Mr. Emery also played an important role in preparing the legal foundation for planning in Michigan by helping to ready Act 334, the State of Michigan Rehabilitation Act of 1945.

Early newspaper coverage of Mr. Emery's efforts in Detroit indicate that many viewed him as "radical" in his efforts to improve the city. For example, one of his concepts was to establish a minimum width for residential lots. His response to the opposition was, "If we don't do it they'll probably be forced to do it 50 years from now and they'll wonder why someone wasn't bright enough to do it 10 years ago."

Fortunately, George F. Emery took the helm of MSPO in just the middle of the world of planning. He was elected as the Society's first president. He is credited with spearheading the 1945 effort to create a statewide association and in calling the first organizational meeting in September of that year.

Mr. Emery, who moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1952, died February 14, 1982, at the age of 82.

MSPO Past Presidents Laurence G. Kelsing (left) of Troy, James Hendricks (center) of Saginaw and Brad Leech of Petoskey at a recent annual conference

MSPO Presidents 1945-1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position - Representing</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position - Representing</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George F. Emery</td>
<td>Planning Director - Detroit</td>
<td>1945-48</td>
<td>Joseph O. Wase</td>
<td>Engineer Consultants, Inc.</td>
<td>1975-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>George W. Francis</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, Saginaw</td>
<td>1946-50</td>
<td>Thomas Haga</td>
<td>Director, GLS Region V</td>
<td>1977-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay F. Gibbs</td>
<td>City Manager, Farmdale</td>
<td>1950-52</td>
<td>Gerald Church</td>
<td>Central Michigan University, MI</td>
<td>1977-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Lee Brown*</td>
<td>Planning Director, Muskegon</td>
<td>1953-54</td>
<td>Raymond E. Straffon*</td>
<td>Planning Director, Detroit</td>
<td>1979-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor D. Carras*</td>
<td>City Engineer, Marshall</td>
<td>1954-56</td>
<td>Lawrence G. Kelsing</td>
<td>Planning Director, Troy</td>
<td>1980-81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armin Roemer</td>
<td>Assistant Planning Director, Detroit</td>
<td>1955-57</td>
<td>D. Gregory Main*</td>
<td>Director, CUPRD Regional Commission, Escanaba</td>
<td>1981-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raymond W. Mills</td>
<td>Planning Director, Midland</td>
<td>1957-58</td>
<td>John M. Donehue</td>
<td>Attorney, Farmington Hills</td>
<td>1982-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Glen A. Blackburn</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, Big Rapids</td>
<td>1958-59</td>
<td>Bradley F. Leoon</td>
<td>City Planner, Petoskey</td>
<td>1983-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Oslos</td>
<td>Management Consultant, Grand Rapids</td>
<td>1959-60</td>
<td>Helen S. Wilts***</td>
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<td>1984-85</td>
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<td>Bill G. Rowden</td>
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<td>Philip Hathaway***</td>
<td>Community Development Director, Detroit</td>
<td>1985-86</td>
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<td>Raymond A. Teibloos</td>
<td>Program Director, Michigan</td>
<td>1961-62</td>
<td>Ann Dever</td>
<td>Board of Commissioners</td>
<td>1986-87</td>
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<td>N. G. Damroese</td>
<td>County Planner, Battle Creek</td>
<td>1962-63</td>
<td>James Hendricks</td>
<td>ECCD Executive Director, City of Saugatuck, Michigan</td>
<td>1987-88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice E. Donnel</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, Coldwater</td>
<td>1963-64</td>
<td>Rick Chapla</td>
<td>Planning Director, City of Muskegon</td>
<td>1988-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>V. Doyle Singleton*</td>
<td>Planning Director, Bay Regional Planning Commission</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>James A. Visser</td>
<td>Michigan University, Lansing</td>
<td>1989-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Francis P. Bennett**</td>
<td>Head Planner, Detroit</td>
<td>1964-66</td>
<td>Judy Johnson</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, City of Novi</td>
<td>1990-91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Koelbach</td>
<td>Division Head, Planning Department, Saginaw</td>
<td>1966-67</td>
<td>Kurt Schindler</td>
<td>Planning Director, Novi</td>
<td>1991-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith Honey</td>
<td>Professor Urban Planning, Michigan State University, East Lansing</td>
<td>1967-68</td>
<td>Charles C. Resko*</td>
<td>Executive Director, Region 2 Planning Commission</td>
<td>1992-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernard DeVries</td>
<td>Architect, Muskegon</td>
<td>1969-70</td>
<td>Timothy Overholt*</td>
<td>Planning Director, Oakland County</td>
<td>1994-95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce C. Brown</td>
<td>Planning Director, Kalamazoo</td>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>** V. D. Carrs resigned October 1954, replaced by F. P. Bennett***</td>
<td>1997-98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arnold Whitney</td>
<td>City Manager, Lapeer</td>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>*** Helen Wiles resigned July 1, 1955 to become MSPO Executive Director, replaced by P. Hathaway*</td>
<td>1998-99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Bach</td>
<td>Goudey Fraser Association, Traverse City</td>
<td>1973-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Michael Coftk</td>
<td>Planning Director, East Lansing</td>
<td>1974-75</td>
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* J. Brown resigned November 1954, replaced by V. D. Carrs***
** V. D. Carrs resigned October 1954, replaced by F. P. Bennett***
*** Helen Wiles resigned July 1, 1955 to become MSPO Executive Director, replaced by P. Hathaway*
## MSPO Board Members 1945-1995

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position Representing</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wallace G. Arrowsmith</td>
<td>Village Manager, Wayne</td>
<td>1951-55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Bach</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
<td>1970-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Ebert</td>
<td>Planning Professor</td>
<td>1955-56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph Bauer*</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner</td>
<td>1945-49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles H. Prentice</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner</td>
<td>1955-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Larryd Stanek</td>
<td>Planning Director, Detroit Planning Commission</td>
<td>1954-57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myles Boylan</td>
<td>Planning Professor, Michigan State University</td>
<td>1973</td>
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<td>Bruce Brown</td>
<td>Planning Director, Midland</td>
<td>1962-68</td>
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<td>J. Lee Brown</td>
<td>Planning Director, Muskegon</td>
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<tr>
<td>F. Joseph Buckley</td>
<td>Exec. VP, Kalamazoo County Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victor D. Camp</td>
<td>City Engineer, Marshall</td>
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<td>Robert Carpenter</td>
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<td>Fred Carrell</td>
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<td>Gerald Church</td>
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<td>Claude Coates, Jr.</td>
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<td>Ronald DeMaggio</td>
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<td>1975</td>
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<td>R.C. Eastman</td>
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<td>Michael Gluesc</td>
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<td>1974-75</td>
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<td>Thomas Hagy</td>
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<td>1971-77</td>
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<td>Mrs. H. Loree Haney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floyd Jennings*</td>
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<td>1948-46</td>
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## Past Presidents Walter Kalmbach (left) of Saginaw and Arnold Whitney (center) of Lapeer with past Board member Karl Hosford of Lansing in 1974

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position Representing</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Karl Hosford</td>
<td>Planning Director, Saginaw</td>
<td>1952-56</td>
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<td>Russell Koeck</td>
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<td>Victor Levy*</td>
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<td>E. R. MacLaughlin</td>
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<td>Emil Meyer</td>
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<td>Martha McEly</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, Ferris</td>
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<td>Raymond Mills</td>
<td>Planning Director, Midland</td>
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<td>Jack Mosher</td>
<td>Planning Director, Flint</td>
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<td>Jerry G. Mulder</td>
<td>Engineer, Detroit Edison Co</td>
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<td>Donald Oakes</td>
<td>Management Consultant, Grand Rapids</td>
<td>1977-72</td>
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<td>Edwin Reynolds</td>
<td>Planning Director, Jackson</td>
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<td>Armin Roemer</td>
<td>Assistant Planning Director, Detroit Planning Commission</td>
<td>1954-57</td>
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<td>Bill G. Rowden</td>
<td>Planning Director, Macomb County</td>
<td>1957-66</td>
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<td>Dr. C. Shilling</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, Kalamazoo</td>
<td>1960-61</td>
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<td>Bernard Scholl</td>
<td>Head Planner, Detroit Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Montgomery Shepard</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, St. Joseph</td>
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<td>Roland Doyle Singleton</td>
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<td>Herbert Specker</td>
<td>Consumer Power Company, Jackson</td>
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<td>Frederick Storer*</td>
<td>Consulting Engineer, Detroit Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Director, Port Huron Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Raymond Triboulet</td>
<td>Program Director, Michigan Department of State Highways</td>
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<td>Joseph Wiesse</td>
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<td>Kenneth Welch</td>
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<td>Margaret Whelpley</td>
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<td>Arnold Whitney</td>
<td>City Manager, Lapeer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kari R. Hosford</td>
<td>Office of Land Use Programs, Michigan Attorney General</td>
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<td>Laurence Keating</td>
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<td>Edwin Lorenz</td>
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<td>D. Gregory Main</td>
<td>Director, CUPPDA</td>
<td>1978-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Knack</td>
<td>Planning Director, Grand Rapids</td>
<td>1978-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Pofford, Jr.</td>
<td>City Manager, Cadillac</td>
<td>1977-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elise Schrader</td>
<td>Chair, Saginaw Planning Commission</td>
<td>1978-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starr Silvestre</td>
<td>Planning Director, Battle Creek</td>
<td>1978-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark A. Wyckoff</td>
<td>Land Resources Division, Michigan DNR</td>
<td>1984-45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## MSPO Executive Secretaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position Representing</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deborah K. Schutt</td>
<td>Planner, Oakland County Planning Commission, Washtenaw County</td>
<td>1989-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Davis</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, Washtenaw County</td>
<td>1990-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynne E. Thomassen</td>
<td>Attorney, Kalamazoo</td>
<td>1990-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Doleclanti</td>
<td>Planning Director, Lapeer Township</td>
<td>1991**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Ellis</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, Williamston Township Planning Commission</td>
<td>1992-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen N. Casein</td>
<td>Planning Director, Clinton Charter Township Planning Commission</td>
<td>1993**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jozann Burgin</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, City of Bay City</td>
<td>1993-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Ketron</td>
<td>Director, City of Ferris Planning Commission</td>
<td>1993**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William C. Hartwag</td>
<td>Assistant Project &amp; Planning, NDC</td>
<td>1993**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce M. C. Pape</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, Isabella County Planning Commission</td>
<td>1994**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul J. Bilzman</td>
<td>Planning Commissioner, City of Farmington Hills Planning Commission</td>
<td>1995**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Original name on Board of Directors; Emeritus, Retired, and Emeritus were elected for three terms to 1968; Eberly, Cantwell and Stoner for two years to 1945 and Eberly, MacLaughlin and Stoner for one year to 1945. Funds resigned prior to the end of the first year. He was replaced by Francis who was appointed to serve until the end of the four-year election. Francis was re-elected in 1965-66 and resigned prior to the end of the year.

** Present Board Members

## MSPO Executive Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position Representing</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harold Black</td>
<td>Detroit Planning Commission</td>
<td>1957-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Honsanka</td>
<td>Wayne State University Planning Commission</td>
<td>1965-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silva Tomasi</td>
<td>Detroit Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission</td>
<td>1964-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce Brown</td>
<td>Senior Planner, East Lansing Planning Commission</td>
<td>1966-69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Executive Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position Representing</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ami Amrein</td>
<td>Retired, Detroit Planning Commission</td>
<td>1969-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl R. Hosford</td>
<td>Water Resources Planner, NDC</td>
<td>1970-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert A. Owen, Jr.</td>
<td>Senior Planner, Kent County Planning Commission</td>
<td>1976-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis P. Bennett</td>
<td>Senior Planner, Grosse Pointe Planning Commission</td>
<td>1977-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry L. Jurrens</td>
<td>Kent County Metropolitan Planning Commission</td>
<td>1978-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark A. Wyckoff</td>
<td>Planner and Editor, Planning &amp; Zoning News and President, Planning &amp; Zoning Commission, Inc.</td>
<td>1982-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen S. Willis</td>
<td>District Extension Leader, Cooperative Extension Services, Michigan State University</td>
<td>1985-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles C. Reisdor</td>
<td>Executive Director, Region 2 Planning Commission</td>
<td>1989-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Maltby</td>
<td>Planning Director, Midland Planning Commission</td>
<td>1989-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David T. Downey</td>
<td>Birmingham Planning Commission</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MSPO’s Annual Conferences and Meetings

“A conference is where you discover your problems are not unique, but shared by many people. It’s where you get a spiritual uplift by associating with many persons having similar interests and gradually lose the feeling that you alone are trying to improve living conditions for the citizens.”

Charles W. Barr
Past MSPO Board Member and Michigan State University Professor – 1964 Conference Proceedings

MSPO 1945 Organizational Meeting
Lansing, Olds Hotel (October 6)

This was the working meeting at which MSPO was formed. Thirty-seven officials from 13 cities were in attendance. Twelve other non-municipal planning officials attended for a total of 49 participants. Unfortunately, a complete list of participants is not available.

1946 Flint, Durant Hotel (October 13)
1947 Detroit, Fort Shelby Hotel (October 31-November 1)
1948 Grand Rapids, Pantlind Hotel (October 1-2)
1949 Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Union Hall (September 30-October 1)
1950 Saginaw, Bancroft Hotel (October 6-7)
1951 Detroit, Fort Shelby Hotel (September 31-October 22)
1952 Muskegon, Occidental Hotel (April 18-19)
1953 East Lansing, Michigan State College (May 22-23)
1954 Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Union Hall (April 2-3)

1955 MSPO Annual Planning Conference
Flint, Durant Hotel (May 5-7)
"Suburban Planning Problems"

The 1955 MSPO conference in Flint focused on problems of cities and rural areas in dealing with their new found neighbors: the suburbs. The impressive roster of conference speakers included: Architect Alden B. Dow of Midland; an International award winner; and Minoru Yamasaki, a prominent Detroit area architect, who each addressed: “Suburban Considerations in Planning.” The program also featured a speaker from the office of Victor Gruen (designer of Northland Mall in the late 1950s) who discussed the rapid arrival of suburban shopping centers.

1956 Detroit, Fort Shelby Hotel (April 20-21)
1956 Traverse City, Park Place Hotel (September 22-23)
1957 Grand Rapids, Pantlind Hotel (April 26-27)
1958 Rochester, Higbee Lake Resort (September 13-13) – “Who Will Protect Our Resort Country”
1958 Detroit, Fort Shelby Hotel (April 11-12) – “Highways"
1958 Marquette, Northland Hotel (September 19-20)
1959 Lansing, Olds Hotel (January 29-30) – “Planning for Prosperity”
1959 Sault Ste. Marie, Hotel Gilway (September 18-19)
1960 Alpena, Fletcher Hotel (September 16-17)
1961 Kalamazoo, Harlee Hotel (April 20-21) – “A Planning Challenge of the Sixties: The Expanding Community”
1961 Traverse City (October 12-13) – “Planning the Economic Growth of Our Resort Areas”
1962 Bay City, Worrenthal Hotel (May) – “Implementing the Plan: The Proof of Planning is in the Use Made of It”

1957 Conference - Grand Rapids

1987 Conference - Grand Rapids

left to right Row 1: Rochester Hills Planning Commission excites a Walking Tour of Grand Rapids – John Donohue answers a member’s question and old friends and fellow City Planning Commissioners Clayton Simp of Garden City and Helen Ross of Walled Lake meet at the annual banquet. Row 2: MSPO members absorbed in a workshop presentation: MSPO Board Member Judy Johnson of Novi with Novi City Manager Edward Kriewall, winner of the Community Administrator’s Award and MSPO Board Member Gloria Robinson of Detroit chats with City of Detroit Planning Commissioner Marsha Brunn. Row 3: Keynote speaker Joel Barker captivates the audience; members participate in the early-bird Non-Use Variance session and MSPO Board Member Maris Jenkins of Livingston County introduces a panel of speakers. Row 4: Vice President of Stroh’s Riverplace Development Gary Kreese accepts the President’s Award for Peter Stroh; City of Rochester Planning Commissioner and MML President Tom Worsh makes some questions a speaker; MSPO Board Member Phil Hathaway of Owosso introduces the panel while Project Manager of Main Street Greg Robinson looks on. Row 5: Barbara Usiecki of the Sault Ste. Marie Planning Department takes notes; Planning Consultant Andy Bowman makes a point with a workshop audience and newly elected MSPO President Jim Hendricks of Sault Ste. Marie accepts the gavel from retiring President Ann Dever of Midland.

Photos by Melissa Armstrong, Mark Wyckoff, Kristine Williams, Helen Willis and Anna Hampton.
1975 MSCO Annual Conference
Troy, Somerset Inn (October 2-4)
"Planning for the Environment in an Uncertain Economy"

The theme was addressed by keynote speaker, Ian McHarg, Landscape Architect and noted author of Design With Nature. State Representative William Ryan also discussed planning issues in Michigan. A balanced perspective for the conference was offered by the participation of Alfred A. Taubman, shopping center developer of Twelve Oaks, Lakeside and Briarwood Malls.

1976
Kalamazoo – "Planning in Practice"

1977
Boyle Mountain - "Planning Strategies for Energy Conservation"

1978
Traverse City, Park Plaza Hotel - "Monroe: The Reality of Planning"

1979
Mackinac Island, Grand Hotel - "Intergovernmental Relations"

1980
Alpina - "Planning in the 1980's: Prospects and Problems"

1981
Boyle Highlands - "The Economy and the Environment: Cooperation or Conflict?"

1982
Saginaw Civic Center - "Taking an Aim at Sprawl: Effective Urban and Rural Planning Tools."

1983
Hilton Shanty Creek - "Law and Resource Management"

1984 MSCO Annual Conference
Sault Ste. Marie (October 12-14)
"The H2O Edge: The Wise Use of Our Freshwater Resources"

The 1984 Conference was an "international" one in the "twin" cities of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Meetings were held on both sides of the border with an exciting exchange of ideas among Michigan and Ontario planners. Emphasis was placed on finding methods to protect our shared Great Lakes. One of the "unplanned" conference highlights was the Detroit Tigers' capture of the World Series, a feat last accomplished in 1984 coincidentally the date of the previous MSCO international conference at the "Soo" when the Tigers also won.

1985
Sugarbush Resort - "Adapting Planning to Changing Lifestyles: New Social and Recreational Realities"

1986
Boyle Falls, Boyle Mountain Lodge - "Regional, State, Local and Federal Planning Roles, Cooperation or Competition?"

1987
Grand Rapids, Amway Grand Plaza - "Change in Rural and Urban Communities"

1988
Bellaire, Shanty Creek Resort - "1981: A Planning Odyssey"

1989
Harbor Springs, Boyne Highlands - "Having it All: Finding the Common Ground Between Development and the Environment"

1990
Lansing, Radisson Hotel - "The Challenge of Planning: Watering Principles and Policies"

1991
Bellaire, Shanty Creek Resort - "Planning for Growth Management"

1992
Acme, Grand Traverse Resort - "Green, Clean, Useable and Diverse"

1993
Grand Rapids, Armway Grand Plaza - "Aging Communities: Creating Balance in Michigan's Communities"

1994
Bellaire, Shanty Creek Resort - "Vision Equals Reality"

Honorary and Life Members

*George F. Emery, Detroit (1954)
*J. Lee Brown, Muskegon (1956)

HONORARY MEMBERS
Charles Barr, East Lansing (1977)
Franz P. Bennett, Troy (1977)
Myke Boylan, East Lansing (1980)
Alfie E. Burgess, Superior, Montana (1979)
Bernard DeVries, Muskegon
Harney A. Hansen, Shelby Township (1964)
Walter Kalmbach, Saginaw (1983)
Russell Koenig, Saginaw (1977)
Victor Leyen, Lansing (1977)
Jerry Must, Oscoda, Florida (1977)
Emer E. Mueller, Warren
Donald Oakes, Grand Rapids (1979)
Armin Reinor, Detroit (1977)
Sem Shattles, Battle Creek (1963)
Harold O. Whitmore, Ann Arbor (1977)
Keith M. Honey, Williamson (1985)
Harold E. Rowe, Farmington Hills (1987)
Robert J. Stadler, Pontiac (1968)
Herald Weisman, Muskegon (1988)
Leif Jorgensen, Clinton Township (1989)
Margaret Carter, Charter Township of Chesterfield (1991)
Arnold Whitney, Laporte (1985)
Edward Hustick, Southfield (1992)
Leonard Hendrick, Auburn Hills (1992)
Allen Strieker, Saginaw Charter Township (1992)
Edward Kazeklo, Michigan Department of Transportation (1993)
Robert McMillan, Manistee County (1993)
Carl Goldschmidt, Michigan State University (1994)
John Twaas, Clinton Charter Township (1994)
Helen S. Wells, Rochester (1995)

Incoming MSCO President Deborah Shutt (left) with Life Award recipient Robert McMillan of Manistee County and Past President Kurt Schindler

* Discussed
**MSPO President’s Award**

"To recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to the field of planning."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Conference Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Jay F. Gibb, Former City Manager, Ferndale; Past MSPO President</td>
<td>Port Huron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Governor William G. Milliken</td>
<td>Traverse City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Paul Reid, Retired Director of Detroit Regional Planning Commission</td>
<td>Boyne Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Donald Oakes, Government Affairs Consultant; Past MSPO President</td>
<td>Boyne Highlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Philip D. Martin, State Representative</td>
<td>Troy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Prof. Charles W. Barr, Michigan State University, Urban Planning Program</td>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>No Award</td>
<td>Boyne Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Attorney General Frank Kelley</td>
<td>Mackinac Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>State Senator Harry DeMaso</td>
<td>Mackinac Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Armin Roemer, Retired City of Detroit Planning Director; Past MSPO President</td>
<td>Alpena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Frank Bennett, Retired Wayne County Planning Director; Past MSPO Executive Director; Past President</td>
<td>Boyne Highlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Edward H. Potthoff, Jr. (posthumous); Former City Manager Saginaw and Cadillac; Past MSPO Board Member</td>
<td>Saginaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Alice Donnal Burgess, Retired Coldwater Planning Commissioner, Past MSPO President</td>
<td>Bellaire - Shanty Creek - Sault Ste. Marie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Prof. Keith M. Hways, Michigan State University, Urban Planning Program; Past MSPO President</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**G. Mennen Williams, Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court (right) with the MSPO President’s Award and Howard Nyenhuis, City Manager of Grandville, with the Community Administrator’s Award conferred at the 1986 Annual Convention**

**MSPO Community Administrator’s Award**

This award was established posthumously in honor of Edward H. Potthoff, Jr., to recognize Michigan Community Administrators at all levels - city, village, county, regional - who have made significant positive contributions to comprehensive community planning in Michigan."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Conference Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Donald Ziemke, City Manager, Portage</td>
<td>Sugarbush Resort, Cedar Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Arnold Whitney, City Manager, Lapeer</td>
<td>Boyne Highlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Ilz M. Burns, Clerk, Lapeer Township</td>
<td>Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Howard Nyenhuis, City Manager, City of Grandville</td>
<td>Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Edward F. Kriewall, City Manager, City of Novi</td>
<td>Arrowhead Resort, Grand Rapids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Robert Block, Administrator, City of Southfield</td>
<td>Arrowhead Resort, Grand Rapids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Robert A. Warren, Mayor, City of Muskegon Heights</td>
<td>Arrowhead Resort, Grand Rapids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>J. Michael Dorman, City Manager, City of Walled Lake</td>
<td>Arrowhead Resort, Grand Rapids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>R. Ben Billas, City Manager, City of Manistee</td>
<td>Arrowhead Resort, Grand Rapids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Jerome R. Kispert, City Manager, City of Tecumseh</td>
<td>Arrowhead Resort, Grand Rapids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Dusane C. Beard, Administrator, Huron County Community Authority</td>
<td>Arrowhead Resort, Grand Rapids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>James D. Anczewicz, Director of Public Services, Plymouth Township</td>
<td>Arrowhead Resort, Grand Rapids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>David Ferber, Mayor, City of Allegan</td>
<td>Arrowhead Resort, Grand Rapids</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Helen S. Willis Community Planner Of The Year Award**

This award, established in 1994, was named in honor of Helen Willis for her major contributions to MSPO during her 10 years of service to the Society as executive director. It honors a city, township, county or regional planning/zoning commissioner or professional planner making significant, positive contributions to comprehensive community planning in Michigan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Conference Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>John J. Nagy, Planner, City of Dearborn</td>
<td>Bellaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Gordon Hayward, Planner, Peninsular Township</td>
<td>Bellaire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MSPO Community Planner’s Memorial Scholarship Program**

This award was established in 1994 in honor of six deceased planners whose names will long be remembered for their contributions to the field of planning: Francis F. Bennett, Charles A. Blessing, Thomas David Carey, Bernard DeVries, Michael T. Manore and William Deane Smith. Its purpose is to offer financial assistance to students majoring in urban and regional planning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Conference Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Tonya Holland, Michigan State University</td>
<td>Jocelyn Stittich, Michigan State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Michele Manning, Michigan State University</td>
<td>Jocelyn Stittich, Michigan State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**James Anulewicz, Director of Public Services for Plymouth Township, displays his MSPO Community Administrator’s Award to Board member Jozanne Bergen**
MSPO Honor Award Winners

The Michigan Society of Planning Officials instituted an Honor Awards Program in 1977 to "publicly recognize and honor meritorious projects/plans designed or implemented in Michigan." Since the program's inception there have been 59 award-winning projects or plans. The winners are selected by an out-of-state jury which judges each nominee on individual merit and not in competition with other entries. In 1982 the MSPO Honor Awards Program was used as a model for a similar program developed by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association.

1977

Project: Implementation of Master Plan for Residential Areas and for Recreation and the Preservation of Open Space
Client: City of Farmington Hills

Project: Michigan Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Guidelines
Planner: BJR, Inc.
Client: Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Project: MISHDA Housing for the Elderly Development Process
Planner: BJR, Inc.
Client: Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Lansing

Project: Michaway - A Country Club in the Country
Planner: Bills/Childs Associates, PC
Client: Bayley and Otsego Lake Townships, Otsego County

Project: Lapeer Central Business District Design Plan
Client: City of Lapeer

Project: Addison Oaks Park
Planner: Bills/Childs Associates, PC
Client: Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission

1978

Project: Plan It Again Sam
Planner: Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development
Client: City of East Lansing

Project: CED Environmental Design and Building Facade Study
Planner: Oakland County Division of Planning
Client: City of South Lyon

Project: Demographic Component of the Pinckney Community Schools Building and Site Bond Program
Planner: Gerald Luedtke and Associates, Inc.
Client: Pinckney Community Schools

Project: An Intensively Approach to Business Area Zoning
Planner: Gerald Luedtke and Associates, Inc.
Client: City of Laketown Village

1979

Project: Five Mile Road Corridor Plan
Client: Township of Redford

Project: Wayne County Community Development Block Grant Program

Gerald Luedtke, President of Gerald Luedtke and Associates, Inc., with an MSPO Honor Award presented to him in 1988 for the Core City Neighborhood Revitalization Plan by Board member Charles Reiderst

1980

Project: Planned Residential District Development
Planner: Roy J. Russell & Associates
Client: City of Berkley

Project: Program to Integrate Urban Design and Environmental Preservation into the Comprehensive Urban Planning Process
Planner: West Bloomfield Township Planning Department
Client: City of West Bloomfield Township

Project: St. Clair Flats Management Plan
Planner: Ayers, Lewis, Norris & May, Inc.
Client: Division of Land Resource Programs, Department of Natural Resources

1981

Project: The Monroe Comprehensive Coastal Zone Management Plan
Planner: Beckett Riedler Rankin, Inc.
Client: City of Monroe, Department of Community Development

Project: Livingston County: Strategies For Future Development
Client: Livingston County Office of County Planning

Project: The Michigan Coal Storage Study
Planner: Snow Environmental Group, Inc.
Client: Division of Land Resource Programs, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

1982

Project: Genesee County Small Town Historic Character Planner: Rick Neuman, Architect, Doug Kasabuske, Architect; Westby Beck, Urban Planner
Client: Genesee County Community Development Program/Michigan History Division, Michigan Department of State

Project: Northville-Elyria Village: Market Analysis and Site Planning for Adaptive Reuse of Surplus Public Lands and Facilities
Client: Northville Township/Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County

Project: The Linked Riverview Parks Project
Planner: Scherifl, Vogel, Merz, Cordonza - Architects, Landscape Architects, Planners
Client: City of Detroit Recreation Department/Division of Land Resource Programs, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Project: Planning for Multipurpose Resource Development on Surplus State Land
Client: City of Lapeer

Project: A Performance-Oriented Approach to Township Zoning
Planner: Snow Environmental Group, Inc.
Client: Bath Charter Township

Project: Visual Improvement Plan for Downriver Industry
Planner: Johnson, Johnson & Roy, Inc.
Client: Downriver Community Conference/Division of Land Resource Programs, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

1983

Project: West Oakland Groundwater Leadership Project
Planner: Lillian Dean
Client: East Michigan Environmental Action Council

Project: River Raisin Esplanade Waterfront Enhancement Project
Planner: John R. Isaco, Director, Department of Community Development
Client: City of Monroe

1984

Project: The Novi Storm Water Management Plan
Planner: JCK & Associates, Inc. of Clarkston/Novi Stormwater Management and Flood Control Committee
Client: City of Novi

Project: The City of Algonac
Client: City of Algonac

Project: Oakland County Commissioner's Manual
Planner: Oakland County Planning Division
Client: Oakland County

1985

No awards presented

1986

Project: Paint Creek Trail Recreation Plan
Planner: Lawrence S. Falardeau, RLA, Oakland County Planning Division
Client: Paint Creek Trailways Commission

1987

Project: West Bloomfield Ridge Subdivision
Planner: Millard-Webster Engineers, Auburn Hills/West Bloomfield Charter Township Planning Staff
Client: St. Hubert Development Corporation

Project: Marietta Lower Harbor Redevelopment Plan
Planner: Grove Associates, Kalamazoo
Client: City of Marquette

Project: Eastown Business Area Revitalization Plan and Implementation
Planner: City of Grand Rapids Planning Department/Eastown Business Association
Client: City of Grand Rapids

Project: Waterfront Plan/Project
Planner: The WBDC Group
Client: City of Ludington

1988

Project: Core City Neighborhood Revitalization Plan
Planner: Gerald Luedtke and Associates, Inc.
Client: Core City Neighborhoods, Inc.

Project: Site Design Guidebook
Planner: Richard Carlisle, PCPP
Client: City of Detroit

Project: 1696 and Woodward Master Urban Design/Development Plan
Planner: Oakland County Planning Division/Graphic House, Pontiac
Client: City of Royal Oak

1989

Project: City of Warren Policies Plan
Planner: Gerald Luedtke and Associates, Inc.
Client: City of Warren/City of Warren Planning Commission

Monroe County Planning Commission Director Royce Manski (center) displays a 1990 MSPO Honor Award for the Public Information Process-Monroe County Solid Waste Plan Project on behalf of his staff, Assistant Planner Dennis Ahonen (right) and Planner Robert Pevan
Basic And Advanced Workshops

Since 1985 the Society has conducted 62 basic workshops, more recently averaging five each year. In addition, 60 advanced workshops have been held covering the following topics:

1984 - Capturing Natural Resources
1985 - Planned Unit Development
1986 - Updating the Master Plan
1987 - Zoning Case Studies
1988 - Site Plan Review
1989 - Sign Regulations
1990 - Land Division and Access Controls
1991 - Tools and Techniques for Local Community Planning
1992 - Updating the Master Plan
1993 - Preparing a Growth Management Plan
1993 - Zoning Case Studies
1994 - Site Plan Review
1994 - Improving Community Appearance
1995 - Managing Traffic in Your Community

*On-site workshops held upon request.

**Cosponsored by MSPO, American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), MMAP, Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE)

Planning Assembly Program

The annual Planning Assembly is a one-day conference offering architects and planners—professional and citizen—the opportunity to hear national and state speakers present innovative approaches to planning. The following programs, introduced by MSPO and cosponsored with other professional organizations and universities, also received assistance from a corporate sponsor.

- Metropolitan, Urban and Rural Planning Issues: Innovations and Accomplishments
- The Financial Benefits of Regional Cooperation

Special Workshops

Since 1985 MSPO has presented and/or cosponsored a variety of one-day workshops to meet changing planning needs:

- Tools for Protecting Farmland in Michigan
- Manufactured Housing: Meeting Housing Needs in Your Community
- Planning and Zoning for Bed and Breakfast Businesses
- Planning and Zoning for Groundwater Protection
- Mastering the Master Plan
- Tools for Historic Preservation: A Michigan Sampler
- Quality in City Design

June
- July 1985
- February 9, 1989
- March 9, 1990
- May 22, 1990
- August 21, 1990
- June/July 1991
- October 1991
- March 20, 1992
- May 8, 9, 1992
- June 24, 1992

Cosponsored by: MMAP, MML, MIA, MMAP, Michigan Manufactured Housing Association, Michigan Mobile Home Commission

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Cosponsored by: MML, MSPO

Cosponsored by: MML, MSPO

Cosponsored by: MML, MSPO
MSPO Publications and Videos

1962
Career In Urban Planning
Cospromoted by MSPO and Michigan Chapter AIP

1964
The New Four Corners (Interchange Areas)
Jointly sponsored by Michigan State Highway Department, MSPO, Michigan Chapter AIP (accompanied by Michigan State Highway Department film)

1963-1964
Local Planning Commissioner's Handbook
Sponsored by Michigan State University Institute for Community Development, financed by MSPO and authored by Michigan Chapter AIP

1965
Michigan Laws Relating To Planning
Sponsored by Michigan State University Institute for Community Development, MSPO, MAPA and several state departments (fourth edition 1989)

1968
MSPO Junior Planning Commission Program
Developed in 1965 by Past MSPO President Anse Darnois of Battle Creek and demonstrated at the 1969 MSPO Annual Conference

1972
Planning for Gasoline Service Stations
Jointly sponsored by MSPO, Associated Petroleum Industries of Michigan and Michigan Chapter of AIP

1977
This Land Is Ours
Cospromoted by MSPO and the League of Women Voters

1979
Administrating Township Zoning:
Administrating County Zoning:
Administrating City & Village Zoning:
A Basic Guide For Citizens And Local Officials
Sponsored by MSPO, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service

1986
A guidebook for new planning commissioners covering the historical and legal basis for planning, the community planning process, major tools for implementing the community plan and key terms used in planning and zoning by Kenneth VerBurg, Michigan State University Community Development Program (fourth printing)

1988
Site Plan Review: A Guide for Planning And Zoning Commissions
Includes guidelines for reviewing ordinance language and checklist for conducting site plan review by Mark Wyckoff, Planning & Zoning Center, Inc.

1989
Sign Regulation: An Overview Of The Issues And Alternatives
Includes legal considerations, types of signs, basic approaches and principles for sign controls, ordinance components and variances by Mark Wyckoff, Planning & Zoning Center, Inc.

1989
Planning Commission Guidelines: By-Laws, Public Hearings And Conflict of Interest
Guidelines for structuring by-laws and conducting public hearings as well as gaining an understanding of conflict of interest issues by John Donohue, Kohl, Secret and Hampson; Larry Nix, WW Engineering & Science and Stanley Woodhouse, Community Planning and Management

1990
Land Division And Access Controls
Includes characteristics of land division and access control, existing regulatory tools and new techniques for developing a program to guide land development in an orderly, economic and efficient manner by Kristine Williams, Tim McCausley and Mark Wyckoff of Planning & Zoning Center, Inc.

1991
Community Planning and Zoning for Groundwater Protection in Michigan:
A Guidebook for Local Officials
Provides a process for developing a local groundwater protection strategy including sample ordinance language for implementing it by Lillian Dean and Mark Wyckoff of Planning & Zoning Center, Inc. (second printing)

Community Planning Handbook: Tools and Techniques for Guiding Community Change
Presents more than 80 tools and techniques designed to assist local planners in the decision-making process. Each technique includes: a description, legal basis, planning considerations, resources, advantages/disadvantages/limitations, extensive references and a case study by Planning & Zoning Center, Inc.

Additional Tools and Techniques for The Community Planning Handbook
Includes 13 new techniques on a variety of topics including zoning regulations and implication analysis techniques

1992
Workbook For Preparing Or Updating A Master Plan and/or Preparing A Growth Management Plan
Provides local communities with a methodology for analyzing the existing master plan and updating it as well as numerous checklists and worksheets by Planning & Zoning Center, Inc.

1994
Notebook For Improving Community Appearance
Covers the following topics: community character, visual issues, development guidelines, environmental protection, street design, circulation and lakes, utilities, volunteerism, legal considerations and sources for professional assistance

Evaluating Traffic Impact Studies:
A Recommended Practice
For Michigan Communities
Outlines when traffic impact studies should be required, what analyses to include, how to review and use the study and qualifications for preparing and reviewing the studies by Bradley K. Strader, AICP, and Peter C. Lamonier, PE

1995
Patterns On The Land: Our Choices - Our Future
Synthesizes key data, observations and findings documenting land use trends statewide in 11 working papers: Land Use; Identification, Agriculture, Public Lands and Forestry, Transportation, Sewer/Water and Other Infrastructure, Institutional Structure for Land Use Decision Making, Minerals, Jobs and the Built Environment, Tourism and Recreation, Demographics, Natural Resources/Environment prepared under contract by the Planning & Zoning Center, Inc., for MSPO with a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Frey Foundation

Videos - 1995
Growth Management: A Question of Balance produced by MSPO with funds from the Coastal Zone Management Division, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the Americana Foundation
The Last Frontier produced as part of the Trend Future Project

MSPO Communications

The Society began publishing a quarterly newsletter in 1947 through the efforts of its first editor, Margaret A.G. Whelbye. The newsletter, later the MSPO newsletter, covered timely planning events and issues from the beginning, such as interviews with the 1992 gubernatorial candidates. The MSPO Newsletter became The Michigan Planning News in 1964. In 1981 it was converted into the quarterly magazine, The Michigan Planner, and published jointly by MSPO and MAPA. That collaboration ended in 1988. In 1985 the Society also established the MSPO Advisor to provide a second and more timely means of communication. That publication became the News From MSPO in 1992.

- Newsletter
- MSPO Newsletter
- "Planner's Corner"
- "Viewpoint"

Additional coverage includes the Michigan Planner, Michigan Planner Newsletter and News From MSPO. The Planner's Corner appeared in the Michigan Municipal Review. Viewpoint was a short-lived publication.

Editors: The Michigan Planning News
Lowell Plasterer - 1964-69
Michigan Planner
Terry Jurgens and Mark Wyckoff, Co-Editors - 1981
Joe McElroy - 1981-82
Marlesea Winer - 1982-84
Anna Hamilton - 1984-96

*Prior to 1964 many MSPO members, including Board members, served as "volunteer" editors.
**Executive Directors were also editors of The Michigan Planning News 1970-91.
***The newsletter published two premier issues.

WWTW-VWUP-TV, Channels 9 & 10, in Traverse City interviewing President Timothy Dolehanty during the 1995 MSPO Annual Conference in Traverse City
MSPO Time Line

**MSPO Events**

- **1920s-30s** Michigan Planning Conference
- **1937-47** Michigan Planning Commission
- **10/6/45** Organizational meeting to create MSMPO Articles of Association drafted and adopted
- **10/19/46** MSMPO First Annual Business Meeting
- **1947** First quarterly newsletter in mimeographed form
- **1952** "Planner’s Corner" debuts in MML magazine Michigan Chapter of AIP organizes
- **10/23/53** MSMPO revises name to MSPO as suburbanization of Michigan begins
- **1954** First printed MSPO newsletter
- **1956** MSPO introduces summer conference
- **1957** First executive secretary
- **1961** MSPO initiates ASP/SPA Committee
- **1964** *The Michigan Planning News* debuts and names editor - adopts slogan and logo
- **1965** MSPO initiates Junior Planning Commissions Program
- **1966-67** Past Presidents’ Committee revises Articles of Association
- **1969** MSPO creates executive director position
- **1971** First Presidents’ Award
- **1977** First Honor Awards
- **1981** Michigan Planner debuts
- **1982** First Community Administrator’s Award
- **1983** MSPO obtains 501(c)3 tax exemption status First series of regional workshops
- **1984** Advanced regional training workshops debut
- **1985** First MSPO Advisor
- **1988** First Advanced Workshops’ guidebook
- **1989** First Planning Assembly Random sample surveys policy issues
- **1991** MSPO receives grant for groundwater workshops
- **1992** Governor releases Relative Risk Report *News From MSPO* replaces MSPO Advisor
- **1993** MSPO receives groundwater demonstration grant
- **1994** MSPO undertakes Michigan Trend Future Project MSPO conducts statewide Planning and Zoning Survey First Helen S. Willis Planner Of The Year Award First Community Planner’s Memorial Scholarship
- **1995** First Public Opinion Survey on land use issues MSPO produces two videos MSPO completes Trend Future Project First Annual Memorial Scholarship Golf Outing

**State & National Legislation Judicial Actions**

- **1921** City or Village Zoning Enabling Act for Michigan
- **1926** *Village of Euclid v Amber Realty Company*; U.S. Supreme Court upholds zoning measures
- **1931** Municipal Planning Act of Michigan
- **1943** County Rural Zoning Act Township Rural Zoning Acts Certificate of City Village Plat Acts
- **1945** Regional Planning Commissions Act County Planning Act of Michigan Blighted Areas Rehabilitation Act
- **1954** U.S. Housing Act (Urban Planning Assistance) “701” Grants
- **1957** Intercounty Committees Act Intermunicipality Committees Act
- **1959** Township Planning Act
- **1963** Industrial Development Revenue Bond Act of 1963
- **1965** Outdoor Recreation Act of Michigan State Housing – Authority Act (MSHDA)
- **1967** Subdivision Control Act
- **1968** Public Recreation Bonds Environmental Protection Act Shorelands Protection Act Natural Rivers Act Historic Districts, Sites & Structures Act
- **1972** Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act Wilderness and Natural Areas Act Farmland & Open Space Preservation Act Resource Recovery Act Kammer Trust Fund
- **1976** Significant amendments to three zoning enabling acts (PUD), SPR, Special Land Uses) Solid Waste Management Act, P.A. 641
- **1978** Hazardous Waste Management Act, P.A. 64 Tax Increment Finance Authority Act, P.A. 450 Right to Farm Act, P.A. 63
- **1992** Biological Diversity Conservation Act, P.A. 93