

Too Much Education or Not?

At our annual meeting in Lansing a question was asked about lowering the thirty hour in five years for septage licensing. This question comes up every once in a while. As president of MSTA I feel obligated to follow up with a members request or at least research the membership about this issue. I would like to give some of the facts that I remember about how this was incorporated in to 2004 Public Act 381, which amended Part 117. We will refer this as Part 117.

Prior to the signing of "Part 117" in 2004 the DEQ was talking about eliminating the program. The interested organizations, including MSTA, was involved in saving the program and help come up with a solution to educate the violators that were hurting our profession and the Michigan environment. Improper hauling and disposal was being reported by DEQ and they were bringing large increase to our fees to the table. These were larger amounts than they are now. MSTA bargained in good faith with the other shareholders to the agreement of lowering the fees and get existing and new haulers educated with proper hauling, handling and disposing practices. They looked at other industries that required



Ray Luden, Jr. (PolyJohn Enterprises Corporation)



CSE's and came up with the thirty hours in a five year time frame that exist now.

It is hard to believe the recognition our industry has received from DEQ, legislators, and other septage related industry. We should be very proud of the industry we have become and should credit it from the professionalism we have strived to have in our businesses. The relationships we made, and usually through an education situation, is priceless. Over the years I have noticed the professionalism rise amongst my competitors. And the pricing issue has been more consistent than ever before. Even though we only haul our waste to a receiving station, I have seen the land disposal businesses finally realize the cost to dispose on their valuable land. I can remember asking a land applier what was their cost to dispose on their land. If it was their own land the answer was I don't know or it doesn't cost me anything. Not that answer anymore, they know.

When the requirement to have CSE's came along we didn't have many sources to obtain them. The Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference was the main source and still is. MSTA took the opportunity to help ourselves and found revenue to get some credit hours approved with classes at different venues and now get credit hours approved from DEQ for our meetings. The DEQ and MSTA have a great relationship and have made this venture very easy for our members to get those CSE's.

(continued on page 3)

MSTA Spring Board Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

Where: National Vacuum Equipment

Traverse City

Date: April 14, 2018

Time: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Registration and agenda coming soon. To register, go to: www.msta.biz

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2019 MSTA Raffle

Information coming soon for the

2019 MSTA Raffle

which takes place during the

MSTA Banquet

at the

Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference

to be held on

January 9, 2019.

Thank you to Plummers Waste Group for sponsoring the Raffle Tickets!







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(continued from page 1)

I know it sounds like I am in favor of current credit hours system and I am. I know if we open Part 117 to change the current language that the opportunity to change other things, like pricing, could be introduced by DEQ at that time. Once the door is open anything can walk in.

So please research how much you have gained from the current rules. Inconvenient, sometimes yes. Nobody likes too many rules, but when they can benefit you and your business it may be worth it.

MSTA will prepare a poll to see which direction you would like us go. And if the majority wants us to open that door we will venture that way. So have a great 2018 season, stay healthy and take time enjoy family and friends and stay tuned.

Submitted By: Dave W. Snyder (MSTA President)



Michigan Truck Safety Simulator



Michigan Truck Safety Simulator Worse Driver "Damn Cab"

Legislative Update:

On February 7 2018 the HB 4438 was brought up in the Natural Resources Committee in the Senate for testimony. Judy Augenstein requested MSTA to be there to give testimony on our nonsupport of this bill which would give farms exemption from Part 117 and be able to service and transport portable toilets without proper education and licensing.

Ralph Bailey from American Rentals, Randy Redmer from Kendall Septic and Pit Stop portables, Judy and I were there. Representative Barrett, who presented this bill, was first to introduce the bill with of course his support. We, Ralph, Randy and I, followed him against the bill. Representative Barrett gave a weak presentation of the bill in my opinion. With that being said, we did a great job to present the unfair, health hazard reasons this bill should die. Ralph and Randy knocked it out of the park and thanks again guys for being with us on this issue. We were followed by a spokesperson for the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, Eva Alvarez, and she was a nonsupport of the bill due to the possible health issues this could cause to the seasonal workers if portables are not service by a licensed portable restroom operator. Next was Sarah from the DEQ stating the previous nonsupport speakers pretty much covered the issues they see with HB 4438. They are going to work on some language with Representative Barrett. The last speaker was a gentleman representing Farm Bureau and of course in favor of the bill. I'm sorry I didn't get his name.

After wards we had a conversion with Eva representing the immigrants and farmworkers. She is very eager to work with us on this issue. We exchanged contacts and will stay in touch and may have a joint effort on defeating HB 4438. She was a surprise to us for being there and did a great presentation on short notice.

Please take the time to support the people representing you when we take time from our businesses to go to Lansing and notify your Senator. Let him know that you do not support HB 4438. Thank you.

Submitted by:

Dave W. Snyder (Legislative Committee spokesman)



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Oh – EXCUSE ME!



Busy!





Lincoln Room – Curtis Kuttnauer & Frederick Manuel (Golden Circle Advisors)



Dale Ladouceur (Planning Committee Member)



Getting your CSE Credits off from the MSTA Website

As you already know, we have a new website and database system to track your membership and CSE credits. The old website contained all your CSE Credits prior to August of 2017. If you don't have records of your credits prior to August 2017, you will not be able to get them by logging onto the website. Instead you will have to send an email to the address below to request a report of those.

The new website contains your CSE Credits from August 2017 through now. To get a record of the credits you received from the Fall 2017 meeting or the 2018 Michigan Onsite WW Conference, follow the steps below:

- 1. Log into your account on www.msta.biz If you do not remember your username /or password, click on "Forgot Your Password?" on the MSTA Homepage. You will receive an automatic email with instructions to get your username / password.
- 2. Once you are logged in, go to "My Membership Information"
- 3. Click on the "other information" tab
- 4. Click on "Prior Event Registrations"
- 5. Find the class you just attended and click on the symbol with the checkmark inside the square
- 6. A copy of your transcript will appear showing the credits you earned by going to the meeting
- 7. Print this page and keep it for your records to be turned into the DEQ when you renew your license.

Please save these instructions for future use. Please also save your username and password somewhere safe as well so that you can log onto the MSTA website again. By the way, your username and password can be changed to something you remember more easily by clicking on "Member Information / change username and password" (right next to the "other information" tab).

Thank You.

Karlyn Wickham MSTA Executive Officer executiveofficer.msta.biz@gmail.com



Room 103 - Dave Cotton (MDEQ)



Ebi Burutolu, Jeremy Hoeh, Matt Rockhold, Jeff Antil, Greg Merricle, & Rob Wolfe [MDEQ]





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What's new on the MSTA Website www.msta.org

We hope that you like the new MSTA Website! Below is some information on the *Resource Section* of the website:

Operational ByLaws – Take a look at the MSTA ByLaws which are the rules and guidelines by which MSTA operates

MDEQ approved CSE Classes – takes you to the State of Michigan website where you can see what classes have been approved for Continuing Septage Education

MDEQ – takes you to the State of Michigan's Septage section of the website

General Insurance Agency – Many of you have Business Owners Insurance from General Insurance Agency. This will take you directly to their website.

Michigan Truck Safety – this will take you directly to the Michigan Truck Safety website

Newsletters – view some past issues of the MSTA Newsletterexecutiveofficer.msta.biz@gmail.com



Tuesday Lunch -Big Ten Room



Big Ten Room – Commander and Chief Joel Kwiatkowski, R.S. (Bay County Health Dept.)





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Gasket to Gasket
Connection

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TECH SHEET

Work Comp Safety Program

EMCInsurance Companies

Insurance premiums and other indirect costs associated with workplace injuries can be a major budget concern for employers. One component in controlling these costs is a comprehensive employee safety program. In addition to the potential financial benefits, a well-designed safety program will assist in maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for employees, customers, and visitors.

A comprehensive work comp safety program should contain the following elements:

- Assess Risks and Needs—Work comp risk assessments should begin with a review of your workers' compensation losses to determine where improvements are needed most. Frequent and severe incidences should be the initial focus, followed by infrequent and less severe exposures.
- Establish and Communicate Management
 Commitment—Formal goals, objectives,
 responsibility, and accountability should be
 defined and communicated to ensure visible
 management involvement in the process.
- Form Joint Task Forces—Temporary work groups of employees from various departments should be established to further assess risks, develop ideas for improvements, and propose operational changes. Possible research topics may include ergonomics, slips and falls, and review of safety policies and procedures.
- Provide Training for All Supervisors and Managers—Training should include communicating the company's safety commitment, ensuring employees have proper skills to identify and eliminate potential hazards, and establishing on-going training to maintain long-term comprehension.

Conduct
 Regular
 Worksite
 Analyses—An
 initial worksite
 analysis will
 establish a
 baseline audit
 of existing
 hazards that
 can be used
 to measure



improvement after corrective actions have been taken. The evaluation of existing operational and environmental hazards should include a comparison to nationally recognized standards and basic concepts of workplace safety and health. The assessments should include employee input and appropriate management response.

Correction of Unsafe Conditions and Acts—A
method to provide timely review, response, and
follow-up on all identified safety deficiencies
should be developed and implemented. Affected
employees should be involved in solving safety
issues to the greatest extent possible.

Continued

(continued on page 21)



Dr. Ted Loudon receiving the first Bill Gregory Distinguished Service Award



Bill's widow Nancy Gregory, Ted Loudon and Bill Gregory's daughter Susan Pominvill



Special Guest - Therese Wheaton [Crystal Environmental]



Wednesday - Keynote Address - Chuck Cousino [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment]





Brian Bost (Walex Northeast / Regional Account Manager) aka MSTA Auctioneer



Electronic Reporting for Operation & Maintenance [Mike Stephens (SCS Systems, LLC) & Brooke Mueller (Famhost Business Solutions)]



Digital Site Plans for Managing Septic Systems – [David Nichol & Ken Curry (Amalgam LLC)]



How do you bid on Special Events and Contracts? What costs should you consider? [Lindy Boehme (CPACEX)]



Lincoln Room - Mike Rost [National Vacuum Equipment]



Inventory Management – [Brian Bannon (The Slate Pages LLC)]



Lincoln Room - Laura A. Campbell [Michigan Farm Bureau]

MSTA PAC Update

We are continuing to fight for legislative issues that benefit MSTA members.

Your donation to the PAC Fund will help tremendously in these efforts! If you would like to donate, a "personal check" (not a company check) should be made out to: MSTA PAC Fund.

Please mail your "personal check" to:

MSTA

1181 LaCosta Drive

DeWitt, MI 48820



Badge Stuffing Party – Monday Evening



Badge Stuffing Party – Monday Evening



Larry Stephens [MOWRA]



State Wide Sanitary Code Session - Panel
Angela Ayers [MDEQ]
Chuck Cousino [CO-DPH]
Tom Fountain [MALEHA]
Ken Goike [MSTA]
Larry Stephens [MOWRA]
Brian Westrin [Michigan Realtors]



Tuesday Lincoln Room - Charles J. Culton [Michigan Center for Truck Safety]

Legislative Report for MSTA

Judy Augenstein, Legislative Consultant

January 2018 Report

The Legislature completed the 2017 legislative year on December 28. Because we are in the middle of a two year session, all legislation that did not complete legislative action rolls over to the 2018 session.

Legislation speeding up the repeal of all driver responsibility fees and providing some level of forgiveness for outstanding fees was rolled over to the 2018 session. The House and Senate introduced identical bills with backing of top Democrats and Republicans that would forgive all of the \$637.1 million in outstanding fees for more than 300,000 drivers in the state. Governor Rick Snyder opposes the concept citing budget issues. The fees were implemented during the Governor Jennifer Granholm administration as one of many ways to fill a hole in the budget.

A revised set of municipal retirement system bills are on the desk of Governor Snyder awaiting his signature. The goal of the legislation is to move toward eliminating unfunded liabilities, which total about \$7.46 billion in unfunded pension liabilities and \$10.13 billion in retiree health care liabilities.

Legislation (HB 4406 & 4407) that would require educational instruction for students on the dangers of prescription Opioid drugs and a bill to make school districts and public school academies a model program of instruction on prescription Opioid abuse are on the desk of Governor Snyder awaiting his signature.

Legislation designed to provide students with more skilled trade education opportunities in an effort to close the skills gap was passed by the House and has moved to the Senate for further consideration. HB 4141 allows certain experts in their field to teach a skilled trade without a teaching certificate and requires some training in classroom management for those teachers. School groups oppose the bill. It is a priority of House and Senate Republicans to enact legislation to provide skill trades education before the end of the 2018 session.

HB 4644, sponsored by Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona, the multiple use permit, remains on the General Orders of the Senate and should finish legislative action in January. The bill creates a multiple use permit tailored after Wisconsin law to allow MDOT the authority to issue one permit to one power unit and allowing it to haul any trailer and equipment as long as they are within the dimensions and weight stated on the permit. Truckers will be able to show proof of permit electronically on devices such as cell phones or other appropriate electronic devices. The bill will save money, paperwork and time for companies owning multiple power units and smaller haulers will enjoy less paperwork and time efficiencies.

SB 97, remains on the House calendar for further action. The bill allows public private partnerships and is a key priority of Governor Rick Snyder. The bill would allow a public authority to issue bonds, notes or other obligations for the purposes of funding an eligible project and authorizes user fees for repayments of those obligation. The bill does NOT authorize a public authority to charge or collect tolls on a transportation project. Toll roads are a key point that kept the bills bottled up in committee by committee chair Rep. Triston Cole until specific language was added to specifically prohibit toll roads.

SB's 652, 653 & 654, legislation primarily sponsored by Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, has completed committee action and await action by the full Senate. The



Judy Augenstein Addresses Membership

(continued on page 23)



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Raffle Prize Winner

Have you ever wondered who on the first place prize in the MSTA Gun/money raffle, and what they won? Well this year the first place prize was awarded at the banquet to Kate Steider, of U.P. Septic and Waste Services. Kate chose to take the money. She decided to share with us, what she spent her money on. Thank you.



Kate, "Had a blast with the first place money.

Took a helicopter tour of NYC." Kate is the middle person.



Statue of Liberty with Ellis Island in the background from Kate's helicopter ride.



Internet Ideas for Promoting Your Sanitation Business Dervin Witmer [Dig-It Excavating, Inc.]



MSU Student Research Project Dr. Erin A. Dreelin [MSU] & MSU Students



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Hector Hernandez [First Class Dog Training]



Internet Ideas for Promoting Your Sanitation Business Dervin Witmer [Dig-It Excavating, Inc.]



Room 103 - Chuck Cousino [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment]



Auditorium - Ebi Burutolu [MDEQ]



Thursday Round Tables



MSTA Annual Meeting



Joel



MSTA Board



Jeanette M. Noechel & Greg Merricle [MDEQ] (Inappropriate Wastes for a Part 117 Hauler to Transport and Why



Homeowner Septic System Education: Program Impact and Future Partnerships [Terry Gibb (MSU)]

TECH SHEET

- Perform Effective Accident Investigations—
 Accident investigation teams should be
 established and trained to determine the
 root cause of each accident and to make
 recommendations to prevent recurrence. Effective
 accident investigations should not punish the
 employee involved in the accident, but instead
 should consider all the factors that may have
 contributed to the accident. The investigation
 teams should also make periodic reviews of
 accident trends as an additional means to focus
 their injury prevention efforts.
- Implement Claims Management—A claims management program should be implemented to assist all employees who suffer work-related injuries. This program should include designated or preferred physicians, case management, medical claims review, and a return-to-work policy. These components promote the earliest possible return-to-work for the employee and decreased workers' compensation costs for your company.

Work Comp Safety Program

• Perform Regular Analysis of Accomplishments and Needs—The investigation teams should report the status of activities, needs, and accomplishments to the appropriate management person(s) on a regular basis. This report should also discuss the costs/benefits of any recent changes. The status of operational changes and needs should be communicated to all employees, who should be encouraged to express their ideas on issues that affect workplace safety.



Where is everyone?



Ralph Baily trying to hide



Conference Ends - Joel Kwiatkowski passes out \$



Conference Ends -Joel Kwiatkowski passes out television door prize



Lincoln Room - Charles J. Culton



Lincoln Room - Mick Natzel Jr. (General Agency) John Martin & Paul Kilmer EMC Insurance



Michigan Truck Safety Simulator



Mike Stephens - Returning Grace at Lunch

(continued from page 16)

bills create the Environmental Rules Review Committee to oversee DEQ rule making, creates a Permit Appeal Panel and creates an Environmental Science Advisory board to advise the Governor on environmental policy.

HB 4438, sponsored by Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Potterville, legislation to allow farmers to provide and move porta johns from field to field remains bottled up in the Senate Natural Resources Committee as all members including Chair Casperson oppose the bill. It appears that since Rep. Tom Barrett will be engaged in a highly competitive primary race and if he survives the primary election he will have to face Kelly Rossman, D-GL in the general election. Rossman is a highly respected and successful public relations, company owner, has personal wealth and has the Democratic Party pouring tons of money into her campaign since this House seat is the number one seat democrats want to recapture next year. Therefore, after the first of the year, Rep. Barrett may change some of his legislative priorities in an effort to downsize his program of legislative work for the year, possibly HB 4438. We must be diligent in working to kill the bill and at the same time monitor how and what legislation Rep. Barrett puts priority on to stay on top of the issue.

Judy Augenstein 716 E. Scott St., Grand Ledge, MI 48837 Phone 517-242-2186 Fax 517-627-2186 JaugensteinGee@juno.com



Auditorium - Brian Bannon (The Slate Pages LLC) Ray Luden, Jr. (PolyJohn Enterprises Corporation)



Auditorium - MDEQ Septage Program Staff



Brian Bannon (The Slate Pages LLC)



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Rattee Septic
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