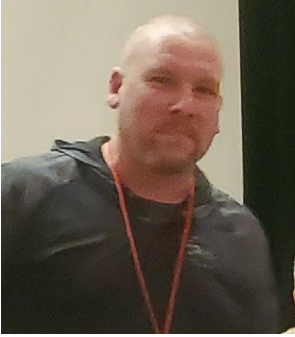


Spring 2021



From the President



Rick Throop
MSTA President

Well, it's finally over, 2020 is gone and 2021 has arrived. I hope the new year finds you all healthy and safe. Unfortunately, it seems not much is changing quick. I missed seeing everyone at the conference this year. Not having our annual banquet was disappointing as that is always an enjoyable time. There was however a few of us that did make a trip to Lansing the night that we would have had our banquet to draw tickets for the gun raffle. We were required by the State to do the raffle on the day and time stated on the ticket. I would like to thank Chris Sloan, Stephanie Powell, Randy Redmer and Tom Schunk for meeting me there to draw the tickets. I hope some of you were able to join us on the live stream as well. The drawing went very well, and I want to extend a big congratulations to all those who won!!!!

On another note, from that evening, as most of you know MSTA

receives a check from EMC every year. I would like to extend a big thank you to Mick Natzel from the General Insurance Agency for making the trip to Lansing as well. He presented us with the annual check in the amount of \$22,985.41. This is an amazing way for the association to make non-dues money. I encourage all members to give the General Insurance Agency a call and have them quote your insurance. I have been using them for years and always been happy with their services. Also, by being an MSTA member you receive some great benefits from them.

MSTA's spring meeting is coming up on April 24th and, as seems to be the normal lately, we don't now if it will be an in-person meeting or if we will again be virtual. The board is currently working on educational material and getting presenters for the meeting so we can provide credits to everyone either way. Hopefully, many of you will be able to attend.

Lastly, as we work thru the winter and look forward to warmer weather, I hope that all you are staying busy and profitable. I know the winter can bring a lighter workload so enjoy some down time with family and friends while reflecting on the previous year and what you need to do for your future.

Thank You,
Rick Throop
MSTA President



From The Executive Officer

2020 has brought many challenges to our small association, including the cancellation of the 2020 Spring Meeting last April and the cancellation of the 2021 Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference this past January. But, with every challenge, it brings new ideas and different ways to bring value and education to our members.

Last fall we held our first virtual meeting in place of what normally is an in-person meeting. The success of that was encouraging and told us that our members still want to learn about the latest in their field, even if they cannot do it in person. It also told us that our members are willing to meet the challenges of virtual learning when times require it.

We hope that the times of virtual learning for our members will not last much longer because we feel that nothing replaces face-to-face learning and networking with our peers. The networking is really where the true education lies. It is where you can ask the speaker or another member a pointed question and get a full out discussion and hopefully walk away with your much need answer or at least more knowledge than what you came in with. But the best part is that you have met someone in your field that you can reach out to when needed.

MSTA will continue to do our meetings in a manner that is safe for our members. Rest assured that we will open in-

person meetings as soon as we safely can and until then we will continue to offer virtual meetings to get you the credits toward your licensing requirements.

We are hopeful that the 2021 Spring meeting, scheduled for Saturday, April 24th will be able to be an in-person meeting. If so, it will be held in Traverse City at the National Vacuum Equipment Headquarters as it has been for the past several years. Email updates will be sent to you as we get closer to that date. Signup for the meeting will be on the MSTA website's homepage.

Thank you for your continued support of MSTA!



Karlyn Wickham
MSTA Executive Officer



MSTA Spring Board Meeting

Where: National Vacuum Equipment, Traverse City, or Virtually using ZOOM.

Date: Saturday, April 24, 2021

Time: To be determined

We hope to be able to have this meeting in person but if we cannot, it will be "virtual" on the same date. We will notify you by email to let you know as soon as we make that decision.



President

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 Romeo, MI 48095
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 Email: hrt01@hotmail.com

Vice President

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Secretary

STEPHANIE POWELL
 Portable Toilet Services LLC

Treasurer

DAVE SNYDER
 West MI Septic Sewer/Drain Service

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 Daniel's Septic Service
TOM SCHUNK
 County Wide Septic
CHRIS SLOAN
 Sloan's Septic Tank Service
TIM VANRHEE
 Kerkstra Septic Tank Cleaning
RANDY REDMER
 Michigan Waste and Environmental
 Services
RODRIGO MEIRELLES
 Williams and Bay Pumping Services



The MSTA Annual Raffle took place on a live virtual feed on January 13 at 8pm. It was held "outside" of the Kellogg Center on a mild winter evening, thank goodness. Many MSTA Board Members were present for the drawing.

Congratulations to the 2021 Raffle Winners!

1st place Ray Daniels
 2nd Place Brad Caskey
 3rd Place Tony Hakola
 4th Place Mark Scott
 5th Place Weston Sloan
 6th Place Mark Scott
 7th Place Joe Magner
 8th Place Rick Swartout

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2021

Time: 8:30

Start: 8:30 meeting begins

Call to order: Rick Throop

Roll Call: Stephanie Powell, secretary

Present: Rick, Jason, Stephanie, Dave, Randy, Tom, Karlyn, Chris, Ray

Not Present: Rodrigo, Ralph

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Rick Throop
Second: Jason Spangle
Motion Passes: Yes

Approval Meeting Minutes:

From: 12/9/2020
Motion: Jason Spangle
Second: Randy Redmer
Motion Passes: yes

Motion to pass 2021 Budget:

Rick Throop approved, Randy Redmer second, all in Favor, motion passes

Executive Officer Report:

Karlyn Wickham
Bank account \$42,346
Saving account \$ 156,248
Pac \$2428
221 Members, an increase of 11 member in 2020, lost 20 Member (those who did not pay dues)
Raffle Sales: \$5300 (increase overly) Raffle Cost: \$ 3500

Discussions:

1. Rick Throop sending thank you to all those who sent monies for PAC
2. Raffle – Being held 1/13/2021 8:00 pm live in parking lot of the Kellogg center: Attendees: Rick, Chris, Tom, Mic, Rodrigo, and Stephanie. *Winners:* Will be sent in a separate email than attached to these minutes for next meeting.
3. Mic Bringing Presenting Check from EMC \$22,985.11
 - 1.4M premiums written about 200K increase over LY
 - Nick will be reaching out to members who did not pay membership dues. As they will not receive discount pricing if they are no longer a member. Karlyn sending Mic the list of members.
 - Mic has 72-73 members in his book of business.
4. Website: needs revamping overall, Randy suggested we post what members benefits of MSTTA Membership. Other topics: pollution insurance etc. If everyone would please look at website review and have notes for next meeting.

SPRING MEETING:

1. Agenda was completed for 2021 Conference and is being used for 2022 conference.
We could pull a few topics for the spring meeting.
 2. Karlyn need to docs to DEQ to get approval for Credit hours, by March 15, 2021
 3. Will be zoom or in person yet to be decided. Location: Traverse City
 4. Karlyn sending out week of 1/18/21 topics for the board to pick 3 items for the meeting.
 5. Format: Round table/ Game style
- Follow up meetings to plan: Feb 1st, March 1st, March 22, April 5th all at 8:30am

Newsletter:

Julie will be interviewing current board members and owners. Mic will be writing article to be included.
Articles are due: 1/31/21, 5/5/21, 8/1/21 and 10/22/2021

Tim VanRhee, Stephanie Powell, and Randy Redmer are the 1st up for interview

Legislative Report:

Judy Augenstein

Not on call, will send out separate email if anything happens in Lansing. Currently nothing happening.

By Laws:

1. Will be worked on in separate conference calls with all board members.
2. Meetings are scheduled: Feb 3rd, March 3rd, March 24, April 7 all at 8:30am Please review the sections slated for each meeting.

Other Items:

Vicki Burgdorf unfortunately is not a member of MSTA, therefore unable to serve on the MSTA Board. Tim VanRhee is, and is happy to serve. Congrats and thanks to Tim! Welcome aboard. If you would like more information, please refer to email dated 1/15/2021 from the Executive Officer.

Meeting adjournment: Motion: Jason
Second: Ray

Meeting Adjourned: 9:13 am

2021 Raffle Winners

1st	Ray Daniels
2nd	Brad Caskey
3rd	Tony Hakola
4th	Mark Scott
5th	Weston Sloan
6th	Mark Scott
7th	Joe Magner
8th	Rick Swartout

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Eric and Patricia Schwartz	Mark and Jaimi Kent	Dave Snyder
Donald Bollinger	Mark Scott	Ray Daniels
Derek and Cynthia Evenhouse	Alan and Wendy Anglebrandt	Arthur Goodwin
	Darrell D. Butler, Jr.	

We want to remind everyone that we can only make our political efforts possible through the help of our membership donations to the MSTA PAC fund. With the help of Joe Hall's leadership in the past years we were able to successfully make several legislative changes that have strengthened our industry and organization. We hope to continue having a prominent voice in the capital by representing our member's ability to effectively conduct business in the State of Mich.

With that being said, we would like to encourage engagement from our general members and provide transparency to the use of our PAC dollars. If any members have specific pain points, they feel should be communicated, we are happy to review them at the PAC committee so we can properly plan how to address them with legislators. Additionally, any contributions are appreciated and begin to add up when considering the potential scale of our association. For example, if we have 150 of our members donate \$100, we have \$15,000 of fire power to move forward our initiatives and make sure our voice is heard in Lansing.

Please note that all PAC donations must come from personal checks and we can't accept checks written from business accounts.

Hello MSTA Members

I hope your 2021 is starting to shape up better than what 2020 ended. With the pandemic and political kibosh that went on and going on, it is hard to keep a pleasant attitude. But we are Americans and know we can put the effort to make it better. Just hold on it could be a tough road yet, we'll see.

We had an executive committee zoom meeting and was reminded that our newsletter article deadline is coming up. And of course, I wait till the last minute to put something together. Somethings will never change. I sat here with my fingers on the keyboard and thought what the hell do I talk about. Then it dawned on me how much I enjoyed reading about our member and friend, Paul Lawrence's, (All American Septic Service), spread in the last issue. I've known Paul for many years and didn't really know his story completely. So, I think this is a great idea to get to know our members. It was also mention at one of our meetings to maybe display an employee of your Company who works hard for you and is been a dedicated person within your Company. We do not have a big turnover of employees within our Company and we depend on each and every one of them to keep the ball rolling.

With that being said, if anyone would like to feature a member of your Company in MSTA newsletter we would be more than happy to put in an issue. You could contact anyone of us, but Julie Kreh, (DJ's Portable Toilet Rentals and Septic Service), is

been our editor for many years and does a great job in putting the newsletter together. She would be a good source for any questions. I hope you would consider doing this and help make our newsletter even better than it is. You can reach Julie at (jkreh@hotmail.com) or 989-375-4505.

In closing I wish you all good health and a great beginning to the 2021 year.



Dave W. Snyder
MSTA Treasurer

MSTA Member Spotlight

Today our spotlight is on Stephanie Powell of PTS (Portable Toilet Service). Stephanie is currently serving on the MSTA board of directors. Their company, which was founded in 2005, has been a MSTA member for approx. 14 years.

When asked about her business, Stephanie told us that her better ½ (Bob) actually owns the business. Bob, who is originally from Chicago, where many waste companies have a toilet division as they complement each other. Bob started his waste business at the young age of 18 years old. He moved to Michigan in 1999 and along with Stephanie's father started the waste business in 2001. Stephanie's father has since passed.

“Your guy was amazing yesterday. Showed up faster than expected and took great care of us. Thank you! - RT”

“Great Customer service. Willing to go the extra mile. Definitely will be a return customer. - J.L.”

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PTS/UPCO Waste has between 12 and 20 employees at any given time. PTS business is portable toilets and holding tanks. They are a unique business because they offer garbage removal and portable toilets. A one stop shopping for locations that use both services.

Stephanie and Bob have three boys, who pitch in when needed or not in school. During “The March 2020 shut down” all three boys had a crash course in what it is like to own a business. You get up, you go to work to keep the doors open. Owners do not get an option of staying home. The only option for is to keep moving, keep evolving.

When asked what Stephanie likes most about owning their own business, she replied ‘Hm, that is a loaded question. It depends on the day. Some days I’m not fond of owning a business, and other days I love seeing our trucks on the road, when I’m out and about. It gives you a sense of accomplishment.’



Stephanie can be found at PTS (Portable Toilet Service)
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www.dumpstersandtoilets.com

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Karlyn Wickham

MSTA Executive Officer

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE MSTA WEBSITE

www.msta.org

HOW TO LOG IN TO YOUR PERSONAL PORTAL OF THE MSTA WEBSITE

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. Follow the instructions on this email to log in.

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).

CHANGING CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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 “Membership Information” tab
4. Click on “change contact / profile”
5. Change your profile information
6. BE SURE TO PRESS SUBMIT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE

ADDING EMPLOYEES OR ADDITIONAL PEOPLE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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 “Membership Information” tab
4. Click on “additional individuals attached to this membership”
5. Click on “add an additional member”
6. Fill out the information about this member
7. Do this for every person you would like to add to your membership

MSTA Member Spotlight



Today's member spotlight is on Tim VanRhee. Tim is a new MSTA board member and comes to us from Kerkstra Septic Tank Cleaning Inc.

Kerkstra Septic Tank Cleaning is a business that began in 1962 and was bought by a family member in the early 80's. Tim came on board as the Company's first employee around 25 years ago and was a Partner for 12 of those years. In those 12 years Tim bought stock in the Company and in June of 2018 purchased Kerkstra Septic Tank Cleaning Inc.

Being an Owner of a growing business can be rewarding as well as frustrating. But Tim is incredibly pleased with the staff he has as they are all truly knowledgeable and reliable. The Kerkstra Septic Tank Cleaning Inc team is more than willing to go the extra mile to help their Customers. Being a business owner gives Tim the

freedom to make choices that will help his business and be a benefit to all my employees. With the help of his employees, he plans to make Kerkstra Septic Tank Cleaning Inc a successful business in Michigan.

Tim VanRhee can be found at Kerkstra Septic Tank Cleaning Inc
5324 Rich Street
Allendale, Michigan 49401
www.kerkstraservices.com





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Legislative Report

Report #1

House Republicans maintained control of the Michigan House of Representatives. The GOP maintains a 58-52 majority for the 2021-22 session, which is the same as the majority they held last session. Democrats were able to win two open seats previously held by term limited Republicans, but Republicans countered by defeating two Democratic incumbents.

Representative Jason Wentworth, R-Farwell is the new Speaker of the House for the 2021-22 session, Representative Donna Lasinski, D-Scio Township serves as the Democratic Minority Leader. Committee chairs and members will be released over the next few weeks. So far, we know Rep. Thomas Albert, R-Lowell will chair the House Appropriations Committee and Rep. James Lilly, R-Macatawa will chair a new House Rules & Competitiveness Committee.

In the Senate, two Republican Senators vacated the Senate to assume local offices, so the GOP Senate will temporarily stand at 20-16 until special elections are called by the Governor. Both seats are considered safe Republican seats. Various House members are considering running for the seat, which could temporarily reduce the House GOP majority as well as creating the need for more special elections.

The Senate was not up for re-election in November, as senators enjoy two 4-year terms, and the House is allowed three 2 year terms. The new legislature will be seated at noon on Wednesday, January 13.

The new chair of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Thomas Albert, R-Lowell, has stated he will NOT allocate federal funds to fight COVID until Governor Gretchen Whitmer “reopens the state”. Rep. Albert commented that “People are tired of our state government’s response to COVID hinging on one person. That is not how state government is supposed to operate. Enough is enough. I am counting on the governor to be a full partner with lawmakers as mandated by our Constitution.” Governor Whitmer’s response was basically that Rep. Albert is being political.....

Report # 2

Members of the House will be able to remotely participate in committee hearings this session, under new Standing Rules adopted today, but they won’t be able to vote by teleconference.

Rep. Ben FREDERICK (R-Owosso), who as Majority Floor Leader quarterbacked the new rules. said the change was being made to allow the Legislature’s work to continue safely during the age of COVID-19.

The committee chair will still have to attend hearings in-person, as will the clerk, but members will be able to take testimony remotely if they have to quarantine either because they’ve been exposed to coronavirus or have tested positive.

The rules specify that a member’s attendance virtually counts toward the formation of a quorum for that committee hearing, but would not allow remote voting. The new rules, approved in a voice vote today during the House’s first session of the term, also include a change in the committee line-up.

Gone is the Ways and Means Committee, which is being replaced with a Committee on Rules and Competitiveness. The new committee will have a slightly different scope and will address different sorts of topics, but it will be similar.

Rep. Jim LILLY (R-Park Twp.) was named chairman of the new Rules and Competitiveness Committee. A Committee on Workforce, Trades, and Talent has been added to list. Skilled trades and workforce development is a priority issue for the Republican House. The new committee will focus on educational options, areas of study for students looking for different career paths, people who need to get back into the job force and folks who might be looking for a career change.

Gov. Gretchen WHITMER said today she is not aware of any tangible threats to the Michigan Capitol, but said there’s a lot of “chatter” that law enforcement is monitoring. As a general matter, Whitmer said she doesn’t share the intricate details of security planning, but said the National Guard is in coordination with the Michigan State Police (MSP) and the Lansing Police Department and Ingham County Sheriff’s Department. “I can just say . . . we are prepared if something should arise,” she said during a press conference. She said the conversation has focused on a national level on demonstrations that could happen nationwide Sunday.

(continued on page 17)



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(continued from page 15)

Senate Majority Leader Mike SHIRKEY (R-Clarklake) said today he wants to have a conversation with the Capitol Commission about their decision to fence off the periphery of the Capitol without speaking with him first. The Capitol facilities crew is attempting to protect the Capitol building from damage in advance of a presumed Sunday protest. Shirkey said he understands that, but he's concerned about the message fencing off the front of the Capitol building will mean to residents.

"The Capitol Commission is not going to be manning the phones of our colleagues in the House and the Senate when they get calls from their constituents asking, 'Why is there a fence being put up?'" Shirkey said.

Asked if it was appropriate to erect the fence along the interior elliptical sidewalk around the east end of the Capitol, Shirkey said, "For the purpose of trying to prevent damage to the building? I would maintain that any damage that is contemplated by a pedestrian out there, a six-foot temporary fence probably doesn't suffice."

On other matters of Capitol security, Shirkey said "we will live by" the Capitol Commission's decision to ban the open carrying of firearms into the Capitol building, noting that he was a proponent of limiting them from the Senate gallery. As for banning concealed weapons into the Capitol, he said, "There will be no ban on concealed carry as far as I'm concerned."

Many legislators carry concealed weapons while at the Capitol for session and/or while in their offices, I doubt they will allow a ban on concealed weapons. Of course, Governor Whitmer supports banning all weapons in or around the Capitol complex.

The Senate should hold up all of the Governor's appointments until she has ended "punitive shutdowns" and opened up the economy, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Jim STAMAS (R-Midland) announced today. Stamas, whose family has owned the Pizza Sam's restaurant in Midland for years, said Michigan is one of handful of states that is banning indoor dining as a way to control the spread of COVID-19 and it's time the restrictions end.

Stamas' counterpart in the House – Appropriations Chair Tom ALBERT (R-Lowell), has suggested in recent days of withholding COVID-19 funds until more of the economy is open.

The Governor addressed these "threats" today and called them "dangerous" and "irresponsible," adding later that she's hopeful the Legislature won't block appointees "to things like the Child Abuse Neglect Prevention Board."

This session's first Senate bill is a second attempt to end any statewide public health orders after 28 days unless there's legislative approval to extend it.

Sen. Lana THEIS' (R-Brighton) SB 0001 is a repeat from last session's SB 1253, which the Governor vetoed Dec. 30. As illustrated in a press release from Theis, DHHS emergency health orders would only be valid for 28 days unless an extension request from the department's director is approved by a resolution from both the Senate and House.

"Unelected and unaccountable DHHS bureaucrats continue to implement freedom-restricting emergency orders that disrupt and threaten the livelihoods of hardworking Michiganders," Theis said in her press release. "Senate Bill 1 will ensure the people have a say in the matter, and I urge my colleagues' and the governor's support."

During the first Senate session of the year, Senate Democrats objected to the skipping over of SCR 0003, a concurrent resolution to condemn the "attempted coup" at the U.S. Capitol, and another measure that condemns the 11 GOP Senators who signed off on a letter requesting federal inquiries into the 2020 election.

Sen. Adam HOLLIER (D-Detroit) introduced SCR 0003 to do "three very simple things," which are to condemn the violence that occurred at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, affirm that Joe BIDEN was elected president and say that the Jan. 6 insurrection was "based in part on falsities, on rumors and conspiracy theories that started in Michigan."

The first week of the legislative session was bumpy to say the least between the Republicans and Governor Whitmer....

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Report #3

The security concerns around Michigan's Capitol during President Joe BIDEN's inaugural ended up being much about nothing. A couple dozen Michigan State Police and other officers circled the Capitol on foot and on bike and as many as 20 members of the media wandered around the front lawn looking for something to cover, while FOUR lonely protestors stood at the corner of Michigan and Capitol.

One propped up a message board about unborn Black baby lives mattering. Another was dressed in military fatigues and carrying an American flag in one hand and an AR 15 assault rifle in the other.

The third person was Raphael ADLEY of Lansing, who said he doesn't believe the election was valid and fair. He questions election officials being able to delete electronic poll book data and he doesn't trust "those voting machines." The fourth person was Larry CONRAD of Chesterfield Twp. who stood in the 20-something degree weather with an American flag to "support my country," "I don't think it's fair. I don't think it's right. I don't think Biden got them votes. That's why I'm out here," he said.

The FBI warned law enforcement that after the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol siege that they had received intelligence from an "identified armed group" calling for a storm on state, local and federal government courthouses.

A targeted date was allegedly this past Sunday, but only a few dozen protestors showed up amidst a throng of police and media. Meanwhile, the six-foot chain-linked fence remains around the front of the Capitol and ground floor windows of the Romney Building remain bordered up. So much for threats of Trump supporter storming the Capitol.....

The FBI arrested a Calumet man yesterday in connection with the riot at the U.S. Capitol earlier this month. FBI Special Agent Mara SCHNEIDER confirmed that Karl DRESCH is charged in connection with the riot on Jan. 6 at the Capitol. More than 120 people have been arrested on charges related to the riot, which left one Capitol police officer dead. One woman was fatally shot by a Capitol officer and three others died from apparent medical emergencies.

Today's inauguration of President Joe BIDEN was held outside of the U.S. Capitol today in honor of the nation's tradition. Governor Gretchen Whitmer attended the event along with her two adult daughters. Whitmer, a member of the new president's inaugural committee, said action was taken to make the event safe even if "it looked a little different than usual." Former President Donald TRUMP was not at the event, but Whitmer said she was glad former Vice President Mike PENCE was present.

The Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC) today called on Senate Majority Leader Mike SHIRKEY to resign due to his conversation with militia groups last year prior to one extremist group's foiled plot to kidnap Gov. Gretchen WHITMER.

Continuing a narrative kickstarted over the weekend by the progressive-leaning Michigan Advance, the DLCC said Shirkey's "fraternization" with militia groups in 2020 to help "improve their message" shows he is "not fit to hold elected office."

"Senator Shirkey has repeatedly refused to disavow these militias, even after they were linked to terrifying plots against our government," said DLCC President Jessica POST. "After what we saw happen in Washington, he has no choice but to resign." The Senate Majority Leader had walked out into a crowd of protestors and chatted with them during a protest against Whitmer's orders to close down Michigan.

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Whitmer commented, “I don’t know how to respond to the revelations that Shirkey has been meeting with militia groups to help them on their messages . . . What groups did he meet with? Were any of them involved in the plot to kidnap and murder me?” Shirkey has been mentioned as a potential gubernatorial challenger to Whitmer in 2022, although he has publicly expressed little interest in the prospect.

Another day of political drama....



Judy Augenstein,
Legislative Consultant



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Member Article Submission from Kimberly Lammott, Richmond Sanitary Service.

Kimberly wrote...

I have attached a cute little poem that was written by one of our customer's son's - Jon Gilbert. They usually rent a portable toilet from us for the summer months when family comes to their lake house - well with Covid last year they didn't rent a unit - so their son Jon wrote a Poem about missing "Oh Blue #2".

Oh Blue #2:

Oh Blue, oh Blue, where are you?
It's time for us to do number two

It's been a year already, my friend
I felt like the wait would never end

Now I'm here, but you are not
And I ate some food that hit the spot

You've always allowed me to let it all out
You've been so good to me no doubt

I'm searching for you, my dear oh Blue
I need to know, are you seeking me too?

We're still apart, I need you now!
I need to sit and unload, but how?

I kept up my end of our deal
Now think of how my bottom will feel!

If I can't spend time with you, Oh Blue
Then nobody else should get to too!

I don't like letting others share
what you and I have, it's just not fair

There are other ways to release my poo
But it's never the same without you Blue

Please come back, I need you here
these other potties are a pain in my rear!

2,000 miles on a plane I flew
For quality time, just me and you

I guess I'll hold on until that day
That we can be together, OK?

Goodbye for now, my little Blue hut
My mind can take it but not my butt

Please think of me, like I think of you
I can't wait till we meet again, oh Blue

*To Jon #2
With love from Jon #1*



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MSTA PAC Update

We are continuing to fight for legislative issues that benefit MSTAs 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.

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