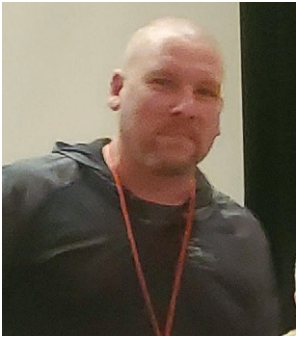


## From the President



**Rick Throop**  
*MSTA President*

As summer of 2021 quickly passes, I hope all of you are having a prosperous summer and that the stresses that come from that are manageable. There has not been much going on with the association in the recent months, but that is nothing unusual for summer months.

MSTA is currently planning our fall board meeting, which will be on October 16th. We would like to thank Randy Smith for offering

up his facility at Canadian Lakes. We are currently working on getting credits approved and agenda together. We are planning for this meeting to be completely in person but one never knows what is going to happen in the meantime.

In the rapidly approaching future we will have our annual Michigan On-site Wastewater Conference at the Kellogg center at MSU. We are hopeful that the conference will go as usual, in person, however we are also looking at other options for members if this does not happen. We will keep you informed on details on the conference via email as they become available to us. The current dates planned for the conference are January 11th thru the 13th.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for their patience with MSTA during all this craziness. The spring meeting was a bit difficult, having both in person and virtual attending, for me personally and I truly hope we don't have to do that again. I continue to pray that this will all pass soon and we can all return to our normal way of living. I wish everyone the best with the remainder of this busy summer and that you all remain healthy.

Thank You,  
**Rick Throop**  
*MSTA President*

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# From The Executive Officer

## MSTA BOARD ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Soon it will be time again to nominate individuals who you feel would make a great board member. If you have someone in mind, please reach out to them to see if they would be interested before submitting their name to MSTA. If YOU are interested, please nominate yourself for a position on the board. Here's how the nomination process works:

- MSTA Board Members serve a two-year term
- The term starts in January at the Annual Meeting during the MI Onsite WW Conference
- Each year some of these positions expire and need to be re-filled by new or existing Board Members
- You must be a paid member to sit on the board and you must be the "primary" member for your organization. Additional members (employees in your company) cannot be a board member. If you are nominating someone, be sure they are a paid member of MSTA and are the primary member for their organization. Contact MSTA at [executiveofficer@msta.biz](mailto:executiveofficer@msta.biz) to find out if the person you nominate is in good membership standing and is the primary member.
- In the fall, all members will be emailed an electronic survey to be given the opportunity to nominate someone to the board. If you do not have an email address, call MSTA at 989-808-8648 to tell us who you would like to nominate.
- Nominating someone doesn't mean they are automatically on the board. A final list of nominees will be emailed to the membership and they will be asked to vote for people to fill the open positions.
- Your votes will be tallied and the new board members will be confirmed and announced to the membership in late fall.
- The Executive Directors are determined next. The Executive Directors are the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions are only voted on by the Board of Directors and not by the full membership.
- The newly elected Board of Directors will have their first meeting in January at the MI Onsite WW Conference.

We hope that you will consider running for or nominating someone to run for the Board of Directors for the 2022-2023 calendar year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of the current board members or Karlyn Wickham, Executive Officer of MSTA. All contact email addresses and phone numbers can be found on the MSTA Website at [www.msta.biz](http://www.msta.biz).



**Karlyn Wickham**  
*MSTA Executive Officer*



**President**

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Esch's Septic Service Inc.  
751 N Mt Tom Road  
Mio, MI 48647  
Phone: 989-848-2391  
Email: eschsepticllc@gmail.com

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## **MSTA Fall Meeting**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021**  
**HIGHLAND HAUS AT CANADIAN**  
**LAKES - STANDWOOD MI**

Thank you to Randy Smith from Randy's Plumbing and Portables for hosting the MSTA members for our Annual Fall Meeting. The meeting will be held at Highland Haus at Canadian Lakes in Stanwood, Michigan. Further details will be posted on the MSTA Website at [www.msta.biz](http://www.msta.biz).

Hope to see everyone there!



## Tickets On Sale Now

We are happy to be hosting the 9th Annual Raffle at the MSTA Banquet during the 2022 Onsite Wastewater Conference on Wednesday, January 12. Below is a list of prizes you could win:

- 1st:** Savage Haymaker 450 Bushmaster or \$750 Cash
- 2nd:** Springfield Hellcat (Blk Synthetic) 9mm or \$450 Cash
- 3rd:** Weatherby Element Semi Auto (Syn.) 12 gauge or \$400 Cash
- 4th:** TriStar Setter O/U 12 gauge or \$350 Cash

- 5th:** Thompson Center Compass 6.5 Creedmore or \$300 Cash
- 6th:** Ruger 10/22 Wood/Blue 22 LR or \$200 Cash
- 7th:** Stevens 301 Single Shot Camo Turkey 20 gauge or \$175 Cash
- 8th:** Ruger Wrangler Revolver (Burnt Bronze) 22 LR or \$150 Cash

### 2022 Raffle Ticket Sponsor: Golden Circle Advisors

Thank you to Golden Circle Advisors for sponsoring the raffle tickets!

Tickets are 3 for \$25 and you do not have to be present to win. They would make a good present for the deer hunters on your Christmas list or just for yourself! Contact Chris Sloan if you want to purchase 10 or more tickets. Call Chris at 989-845-6280 right away as the tickets will go quickly. If there are any left, they will be available for purchase at the conference.

Sincerely,  
MSTA Raffle Committee

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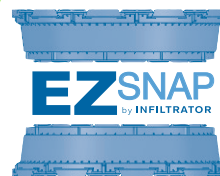


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# 70TH MICHIGAN ONSITE WASTEWATER CONFERENCE

Please mark your calendar for January 11-13, 2022 (Tuesday – Thursday) for the 70th Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference. The conference will be held once again at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, MI. As you all know, the 2021 conference had to be cancelled but we are hopeful that the 2022 conference will still take place.

The Michigan Onsite WW Conference is a great time to learn more about our industry. You have the opportunity to rub shoulders with suppliers, regulators, colleagues, competitors, friends, and educators. Furthermore, this GREAT educational opportunity is offered at a time of year most onsite professionals are not as busy.

Arrangements are being made for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) [formally known as the MDEQ] accreditation of the conference sessions to count toward continuing education credit hours required for EGLE licensed septage haulers.

Vendor Booths are planning to be open Tuesday afternoon and through most the day Wednesday. Please contact Dan Milan, onsite wastewater vice-chair and vendor coordinator at 800-756-4526, if you are interested in a booth this year.

Some of the topics discussed at the previous planning meetings for possible inclusion in the 2022 conference are:

- Regulatory Structure for Sanitary and Non-Sanitary WW
- Michigan History of Onsite WW
- High water levels on Great Lakes
- Funding for Onsite WW
- SepticSmart
- Septic Tank Inspection
- High Strength WW Treatment and Reuse
- Sewage Dewatering
- EGLE Question & Answer Session
- EGLE Onsite Wastewater Program Sessions
- And much more.....

It is the intent of these annual wastewater conferences, organized as a joint venture by the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (MOWRA), the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) with the Michigan Environmental Health Association (MEHA), the Michigan Septic Tank Association (MSTA), and Michigan State University (MSU), to educate people involved in the onsite wastewater field.

So, if you want an educated approach to competing in your industry this is an excellent opportunity for you and your employees. There will be more on the conference in the winter newsletter. Hope to see each of you there!

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## Walter Carl Steuer

MAY 26, 1938 - APRIL 14, 2021

Walter Carl Steuer, age 82, of Traverse City passed away April 14, 2021. Walter was the owner of Walter Steuer Pumping Service from 1970 – 2011. Walter graciously wanted contributions to be made in his honor to the Michigan Septic Tank Association. We would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for your generous contribution in Walter’s honor:

Claude and Rosie Ockest	Family of Bill and Muriel Zaulek, Agnes Zaulek Clark
National Vacuum Equipment	Lori Hurlbut
Voilet Yack	Jeff Steuer
Mark and Ann Smith	

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## Thank you to our 2021 PAC Fund Donors

Stephanie Uphoff	Judy Augenstein
Darrell Butler	Larry & Toni Spies
Mark Scott	

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. 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 Michigan.

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.*

Best regards,  
MSTA PAC Committee



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# HOW TO NAVIGATE THE MSTA WEBSITE

[www.msta.org](http://www.msta.org)



**Karlyn Wickham**

*MSTA Executive Officer*

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

1. Log into your account on [www.msta.biz](http://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](http://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](http://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

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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”
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# Legislative Report

## Report # 1

The Unlock Michigan petition initiative is one step closer to repealing the 1945 emergency powers law Governor Gretchen Whitmer relied on during the pandemic after the Senate approved it today.

The Senate vote was along strict party lines, 20-15, with all Republicans in favor and all Democrats present voting no.

Under the petition, the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945. The law used by Ms. Whitmer to keep Michigan under a state of emergency last year during the height of the pandemic would be repealed.

While the law was ruled unconstitutional by the Michigan Supreme Court last October, proponents of the measure want it repealed from law entirely. The initiative petition now goes to the House. It is not yet clear when it will vote.

Democratic senators spoke against the initiative, with Sen. Rosemary Bayer (D-Beverly Hills) questioning why the Legislature would seek to hobble their own governor's state of emergency powers.

"This is about our ability to react to pandemics and disasters in the future ... This is not a vote I'm willing to take on behalf of the people who sent me here, to protect our democracy, and create a better, healthier future for them and their families," she said.

Sen. Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia) also charged that the move was rooted in sexism, noting: "I don't think it's happenstance that we're voting to strip the second woman to hold Michigan's top job of the power granted to her by Michigan law."

Others speaking against Unlock included Sen. Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak), Sen. Erika Geiss (D-Taylor) and Sen. Curtis Hertel (D-East Lansing).

"As we stand here at this very moment, with very few public health orders left, the actions we take today will not amount to unlocking anything," Mr. Hertel said. "The reason we stand here today with such a positive outlook on

the horizon for Michigan is because the people of Michigan did the right thing. ... The people of Michigan unlocked Michigan."

Speaking in favor of the move were Sen. Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte) and Sen. Jim Runestad (R-White Lake), the former of whom emphasized the petition derived from the will of the people. Further, he pointed to the fact the law has already been repealed by the Supreme Court, making any arguments for or against it unimportant.

"You want to talk about issues that are moot and no longer important? A number of my colleagues on the other side spoke in opposition to this and said they were going to vote no on this initiative today for a law that has already determined to be unconstitutional by our Supreme Court," Mr. Barrett said.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake), also speaking in favor of the petition, said in remarks of his own the measure "doesn't take power away, it just reassess where power belongs."

Should the petition pass in the House as well, the repeal would take effect 91 days after the Legislature adjourns sine die in December (Senate Democrats denied the measure immediate effect).

## Report #2

Recently, at a Jackson Republican Party event, retired Detroit Police Chief James Craig discussed his path toward becoming a Republican and his desire to open the party to voters across the state, but stopped short of declaring his candidacy to seek the GOP nomination for governor.

Mr. Craig, if he declares, would be the highest profile candidate in a handful of lesser-knowns who have declared a desire to run against Governor Gretchen Whitmer as she seeks reelection in 2022. While he is heavily expected to run and has hinted at a potential campaign since he stepped down as Detroit Police Chief, he has not done so yet. Craig commented "The truth is, I've been a Republican for many years now, but I am proud to stand here on this hallowed

*(continued on page 16)*



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*(continued from page 14)*

ground where our party changed the course of history for the better and declare my proud membership in our great party.

As the event's special guest, Mr. Craig detailed his life as a police officer, his upbringing in the city of Detroit and – more specifically – how those experiences led him to become a member of the Republican Party. He also took aim at several Democrats aside from Ms. Whitmer, like California U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters and U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Detroit.

Among several revelations and epiphanies shared about his shift to the Republican Party, Mr. Craig repeatedly took aim Ms. Waters – a routine soft target for Republicans who received scrutiny as she called for the impeachment of former President Donald Trump. Mr. Craig noted that the congresswoman was disrespectful to him and other Black officers when he worked with the Los Angeles Police Department during the height of unrest following the Rodney King incident in the early 1990s.

Mr. Craig was then the president of the Oscar Joel Bryant Foundation, he said, an all-Black police association. Recounting a meeting he had with Ms. Waters where she made what he called "vile remarks" about his Black brethren with the LAPD, Mr. Craig said it was a watershed moment for his continued shift to the political right.

"I quickly ended the meeting that was designed to explore solutions in improving relations in the African American community," he said. "It dawned on me then how could this elected leader, a Democrat who we believed represented us, stoop to such a low level. Recognizing that she did not speak for all Democrats, I again reflected on my own party affiliation."

The transition became more complete, he added, when he became the chief of police for the city of Portland, Maine. It was there that Mr. Craig had the responsibility of approving concealed pistol licenses, forcing him to reflect on gun rights and concealed carry's effect on potentially reducing violent crimes – a common GOP talking point.

"Soon enough, I found myself on the cover of NRA Magazine and even in opposition with (former President Barack Obama) in the media over the issue of gun rights and the impact on crime," he said, just after flashing his

concealed pistol nestled in a belt holster and stating that he carries everywhere he goes. His study of history, Mr. Craig said, further pushed him into the Republican Party even as he held non-political leadership posts.

With the rise of Mr. Trump – whom Mr. Craig said he voted for twice – and his sharp rhetoric on Democratic-run urban enclaves and their handling of civil rights uprisings throughout the whole of his presidency, the retired chief said he too saw riots across America with "Democratic leadership ... allowing their cities to riot, to burn, to fail."

"I could not imagine allowing that to occur in the city I grew up in, the city I love, the city of Detroit," he said. "And so, I did what any good strong leader should do: work to solve the problem. In utilizing what I learned as a leader in cities across this country from Portland to Cincinnati to Los Angeles in the Rodney King nightmare, we stepped up. We brought people together. First you find common ground, then you reach consensus, and then you solve the problem." Those actions, Mr. Craig said, "kept Detroit calm, kept Detroit safe, protected the rebirth of the city and communities across southeast Michigan could rest well knowing that we were working together."

Mr. Craig said he would be talking to residents statewide about voting Republican as a leader in the party. He also spoke about defeating Ms. Whitmer, although still not announcing his potential candidacy. "I offer to help lead our Republican Party into areas that haven't historically voted Republican, and show that we are all among friends and there are no enemies when it comes to Michigan's future," he said. "I am going to say that over and over again, across this state, in Detroit, in Flint, in Grand Rapids, in Traverse City and in Marquette."

Speaking about Ms. Whitmer and her now-defunct coronavirus pandemic restrictions – with opposition to those restrictions a rallying cry for conservatives across the state and nation – Mr. Craig said that defeating her in 2022 would lead to a brighter future for the state. "Please listen to me today, Governor Whitmer: America isn't a monarchy. We aren't ruled by kings and queens. We ended that back in 1776," he said. "And like we told the kings and queens back in 1776, we are going to decide our future as a free people, not ruled by royal decree, but instead by decisions made at the ballot box."

*(continued on page 18)*





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Attending the speech were more than 100 spectators and various Michigan GOP leaders, such as party chairman Ron Weiser, its co-chair Meshawn Maddock, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and several other Michigan legislators. Afterward, Mr. Weiser said he liked the potential candidate's willingness to reflect on the issues that affected him and how they changed his viewpoints. When asked about Mr. Craig being a potential frontrunner, and what it would mean for the party to have a Black candidate for the state's highest elected office, Mr. Weiser said it would be a testament to the growth of the party in the wake of the Trump presidency. "I think it better reflects the diversity of our party than what many people talk about," Mr. Weiser said. "Certainly, there are many on both sides of the aisle who would be supporting him if he chooses to run."



**Judy Augenstein**  
*Legislative Consultant*

716 E. Scott St  
Grandledge, MI 48837  
Phone 517-242-2186  
Fax 517-627-2186  
JaugensteinGee@juno.com



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## MSTA PAC Update

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