

## 2018 Annual Fall Meeting

MSTA held its Fall Meeting at Deerfield Township Hall in Mount Pleasant on October 13th with over 50 people in attendance, including 3 new members! Topics included a DEQ Update, presented by Greg Merricle from the DEQ, Roadside Inspections presented by Charlie Culton from the Michigan Center for Truck Safety, and Mick Natzel from General Agency Company talking to the audience about Cyber Security. Thank you, speakers, for presenting such important and relevant topics for our members.

In addition to the great topics presented by our speakers, we held the Fifth Annual Chili Cookoff during the meeting. People were asked to make chili and name their chili and bring for all to enjoy. A special thanks goes out to General Agency Company and Fabiano Brothers who supplied prizes for the first, second and third place winners.

**Congratulations to the following winners:**

- 1st place: Easy Eating Beef Chili donated by Julie and Dean Kreh
- 2nd place: White Chicken Chili donated by Kay Dubey
- 3rd place: Chicken Shit Chili donated by Randy Smith

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the Fifth Annual Chili Cookoff and to everyone who came to enjoy the food and attend the meeting. In addition, thanks to those of you who brought desserts and snacks to go with the chili.

Plan for another Chili Cookoff to take place next year at the Fall meeting!



## Introducing your 2018-2019 Board Members

Ralph Bailey  
Ray Daniels  
Ken Goike  
Joe Hall  
Mark Scott  
Chris Sloan

Dave Snyder  
Jason Spangle  
Rodrigo Meirelles  
Rick Throop  
Nick Sergeant

## 2019 Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference

# SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars  
For the 68th Michigan Onsite  
Wastewater Conference

January 8 – 10, 2019

Kellogg Center  
East Lansing, Michigan  
Hope to see everyone there!

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT:



I hope everyone had a good summer and it sounds like the folks I talked with had a good business season too. Our fall meeting at the Deerfield Township Hall in Mt. Pleasant that is sponsored by our friends at the General Agency was a big success. We had some interesting topics discussed by speakers whom volunteered their time to help us gain some CSE's. A big thank you to Mick of the General Agency and his staff. The chili cook off was big hit again with Dean Kreh taking first place. I didn't even place but it was all gone and man was I full. The desserts that folks brought were all good too. Thanks to all who contributed. I would also would like to thank our Executive Officer, Karlyn Wickham, for organizing the meeting for us and doing such an outstanding job.

We heard from members about the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority receiving facility having problems with a bug in their system and limiting disposal to the haulers in that area. This is a real burden to the pocket book of the haulers and maybe as important the health and welfare to the community in which these haulers service. Septage on top of ground due to a pump going down or failed system needs to be addressed by our professional haulers and will need a solution to this problem. This topic was brought up to Greg Miracle from the DEQ who did a presentation at the fall meeting. He is aware of the problem and was meeting with the facility leaders to see if there will be a resolution to this costly environmental problem in the very near future. The MSTA board will keep a tab on this and hope to push for a solution that won't cost our members or the septic tank users a lot of money.

The Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference is coming soon and the Conference committee is again working hard to put another good one on. We have our banquet at that time and planning to have some fun there with our 50/50 drawing, the raffle, give a ways, auction and food and drink. Our vendors are always generous with providing material to give and auction off. Mark your calendars for January 8th, 9th and 10th and I will see you there.

I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holidays!  
Submitted by: Dave W. Snyder (MSTA President)



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## MSTA Member Since 2013

## 2019 Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference

Please join us January 8-10, 2019 for the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference, an annual three-day educational conference for the industry including septic tank service providers/pumpers, portable toilet service companies, local public health, engineers, consultants, installation contractors and other interested parties. Participants will learn about the latest in onsite wastewater industry trends, regulatory changes, wastewater management options and the latest technologies. Organized as a joint venture by the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (MOWRA), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Michigan Environmental Health Association (MEHA), the Michigan Septic Tank Association (MSTA), the Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) and Michigan State University (MSU) to educate those involved in the onsite wastewater field.

### Wastewater Treatment - Evolving with Technology Program Schedule (subject to change)

**Tuesday 1/8/2019 – 6 CSE total for the day**  
**Registration starts at 7:45am**

	Track 1 – Lincoln Room	Track 2 - Auditorium	Track 3 – Rooms 104 A & B
8.30	DEQ Onsite Wastewater & Septage Programs Overview	Immunizations for Wastewater Professionals	<b>WORKSHOP</b>  Important Factors in Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Design  * Additional Fee
9.30	Local Health Department Resources for Training of New Staff	CDL Drug Testing and Recommended Training	
10:30	Michigan Criteria for Subsurface Sewage Disposal – Local Health Department Case Study	Proper Truck Inspections (Possible Trip Outside for Show and Tell)	
11:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30	Onsite Wastewater – Subdivision & Condominium Developments – Rule Review & Project Processing	Immunizations for Wastewater Professionals	<b>WORKSHOP (cont.)</b>  Important Factors in Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Design
1:30	Onsite Wastewater – Subdivision & Condominium Developments – Plan Review Exercise	CDL Drug Testing and Recommended Training	
2:30	Local Health Department/DEQ Case Study	Proper Truck Inspections (Possible Trip Outside for Show and Tell)	

In addition to the above schedule, MDEQ will have one-on-one meetings with those interested. Sign up for your 30-minute session when you arrive. There will also be a Mobile Truck Simulator located outside for viewing and demonstrations.

The exhibit hall will be open from 3:00 to 5:30 with a light buffet dinner provided by MOWRA and cash giveaways from the vendors.

**Wednesday 1/9/2019 – 6 CSE total for the day**  
**Registration starts at 7:45am**

8:30	Introduction – Big Ten Room		
8:35	Remote Monitoring and Management of Onsite Systems. Speaker TBA [Orengo Systems]		
10:00	Break		
10:15	Innovative Onsite Products Kelly Galloway [Engineering Technologies Canada Ltd. (ETC)]		
11:15	Break in Exhibit Hall		
12:00	Lunch		
	Track 1 - Lincoln Room	Track 2 - Auditorium	Track 3 - Rooms 104 A&B

*(continued on page 6)*

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**Association Meeting:**

The MSTA Annual Meeting will take place in the Auditorium at 3:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Social Hour:** Please make plans to attend the Social Hour in the Big Ten A starting at 5:30.

**MSTA Banquet:** The MSTA Banquet starts at 6:30, ticket required, and will include a raffle with some great prizes. See a list of prizes in this newsletter.

**Exhibits:** The exhibit room will be open most of the day, so please visit the vendors who help keep the cost of our conference down with their booth fees plus there will be cash giveaways in the afternoon.

1:00	How to Set a Septic Tank - Proper Septic Tank Installation	Pumper Stories	New Tools for Monitoring Onsite System Performance
2:00	Break in Exhibit Hall		
2:30	Site Preparation - Does & Don'ts - Panel Discussion	MDEQ Septage Program questions and answers	Remote Telemetry Panels

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**Thursday 1/10/2019 – 5.5 CSE total for the day**

**Registration starts at 7:45am**

	Roundtable Discussions – Big Ten Rooms		
8:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Health Care Reform Update</li> <li>2. Bidding Proposals for Septic System Installations</li> <li>3. Immunizations for Wastewater Professionals</li> <li>4. Processing Liquid Waste in the City &amp; the Country</li> <li>5. Choosing the Right Path for You &amp; Your Septic Business -Selling Your Septic Business</li> <li>6. Land Application Septage Management/Injection</li> <li>7. Regulatory Testing of Food Establishment Waste at your Land Application Site</li> <li>8. Sustaining and Managing Growth</li> <li>9. SepticSmart - Education Your Clients/Homeowners</li> <li>10. New Tools for Monitoring Onsite System Performance</li> <li>11. Meth Awareness - Identifying Hazards</li> <li>12. Remote Monitoring and Management of Onsite Systems</li> </ol>		
11:15	Break	Break	Break
	Track 1 – Lincoln Room	Track 2 - Auditorium	Track 3 – Outside
11:30	SepticSmart - Education Your Clients/Homeowners	Land Application Septage Management/Injection	Mobile Truck Simulator
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00	SepticSmart - Panel Discussion	Choosing the Right Path for You & Your Septic Business -Selling Your Septic Business	Mobile Truck Simulator
2:00		Statewide Sanitary Code	
3:00		Prize Drawing in Auditorium Must be Present to WIN	

(continued on page 8)

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The EZsnap Riser features click and lock technology eliminating the need for assembly tools, sealant/caulk, screws and hardware. The 24" diameter EZsnap Riser will be available in 2", 6" and 12" tall sections that nest together making for efficient storage and shipping.



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**Location:** The conference will be held at the Kellogg Center at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Harrison Road in East Lansing. The address is: 219 South Harrison, East Lansing 48824. The conference site features spacious meeting facility and excellent overnight accommodations. Parking in the ramp south of center is included in the registration.

**Exhibits:** With over 30 exhibitors in the hall, this will be an ideal place to exchange ideas and discuss new products &/or services. Representatives from all major suppliers will be present Tuesday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:30 and Wednesday from 8:30 to 4:00. Social hour on Wednesday will start at 5:30 in the exhibit hall in the north end of the Big Ten Hall.

**Registration:** Full Conference: \$150 per person (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)  
One-day Fee: \$65

Conference registration includes lunch and snacks at breaks. REGISTRATION for the conference is REQUIRED  
The registration deadline is December 8, 2018. There will be a \$15 late fee after December 8, 2018.  
After December 15, 2018 the late fee increases to \$25. Walk-ins will pay \$25 late fee.

**Lodging:** Arrangements have been made with the Kellogg Center for a special conference room rate of \$94 for a single or double, plus taxes. Lodging reservations must be received by December 8, 2018 to assure the room. After that date, rooms will be on a space available basis. Kellogg Center has great amenities including the excellent State Room restaurant and the Spartan Pub. Room reservations can be made by call 800-875-5090 or online at [www.kelloggcenter.com](http://www.kelloggcenter.com) using group code 1901ONSITE

**MSTA Banquet:** The annual Michigan Septic Tank Association Banquet will be held the evening of Wednesday January 9th at 6:30 and everyone is invited. Each current MSTA member is entitled to (2) discounted pre-registration tickets at \$10 each. Additional tickets for members and non-members will be \$30 each and can be purchased with registration. Please note MSTA members MUST reserve their discounted banquet tickets on the registration form. Please contact Karlyn Wickham at [executiveofficer.msta.biz@gmail.com](mailto:executiveofficer.msta.biz@gmail.com) if you need to check MSTA membership status.

**Continuing Septage Education:** Licensed Septic Haulers will have the opportunity to earn up to 17.5 continuing septage education credits at the 2019 conference. Obtaining 30 CSE hours is required by all haulers to meet the license renewal requirements. The Continuing Septage Education Enrollment is now included on the Conference Registration Flyer which will be mailed in November and posted on the MSTA website at [www.msta.biz](http://www.msta.biz). As with previous years, there will be no charge for CSE tracking for current MSTA members. The fee for non-members will be \$100 per day or \$300 for all three days. For more information, contact Karlyn Wickham at [executiveofficer.msta.biz@gmail.com](mailto:executiveofficer.msta.biz@gmail.com).

*Hope to see everyone there!!*

## **ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM DESIGN WORKSHOP**

**Tuesday, January 8 at 8:30am  
Kellogg Center, East Lansing**

The 2019 Onsite WW Conference will offer an all-day workshop on treatment system design. This workshop will cover many of the important factors that are important for those involved in the design, permitting and construction of onsite systems. It will be especially helpful for regulators, designers, contractors and even system maintenance providers. Topics on the agenda include:

- **Water movement through soils**
- **Septic tank construction, safety, and testing**
- **The basics of pumps and controls**
- **Pressure distribution design**
- **The use of flow equalization**
- **Benefits and types of advanced treatment systems**
- **Treatment of high-strength wastewater**
- **Nutrient removal and disinfection**

**COST:** You must pay the cost of the conference plus an additional \$25 to cover the cost of materials. Please bring your laptop. Certificates of Completion will be provided to those completing the workshop. To register, check the appropriate box on the registration page of this flyer.





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# How to Navigate the MSTA Website

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

### **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**

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 “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


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**LANSING Location:**

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Lansing, MI 48917  
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or 800-250-8533  
Fax: 517-371-5302

# MSTA Annual Raffle

## Tickets On Sale Now

We are happy to be hosting the 6th Annual Raffle at the MSTA Banquet during the 2019 Onsite Wastewater Conference in January. Below is a list of prizes you could win:

- 1st: **Henry Lone Ranger 308 or \$750 Cash**
- 2nd: **Ruger American Camo BM450 or \$450 Cash**
- 3rd: **Springfield XDS 9mm FDE or \$400 Cash**
- 4th: **Henry Silver Bay 22LR or \$400 Cash**
- 5th: **Weatherby PA-08 12ga Camo or \$300 Cash**
- 6th: **Ruger American 17 HMR Rimfire or \$200 Cash**
- 7th: **Traditions Back Stalker Camo or \$175 Cash**
- 8th: **Ruger LCP 380 or \$150 Cash**

**2019 Raffle Ticket Sponsor:**



Thank you to **PLUMMERS WASTE GROUP** for sponsoring the raffle tickets this year.

The 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 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

The Michigan Septic Tank Association prints and mails 4 newsletters each year to our 230+ members. Newsletter Advertisements not only help reduce the cost of this publication for the Michigan Septic Tank Association, but it also helps bring business to its advertisers.

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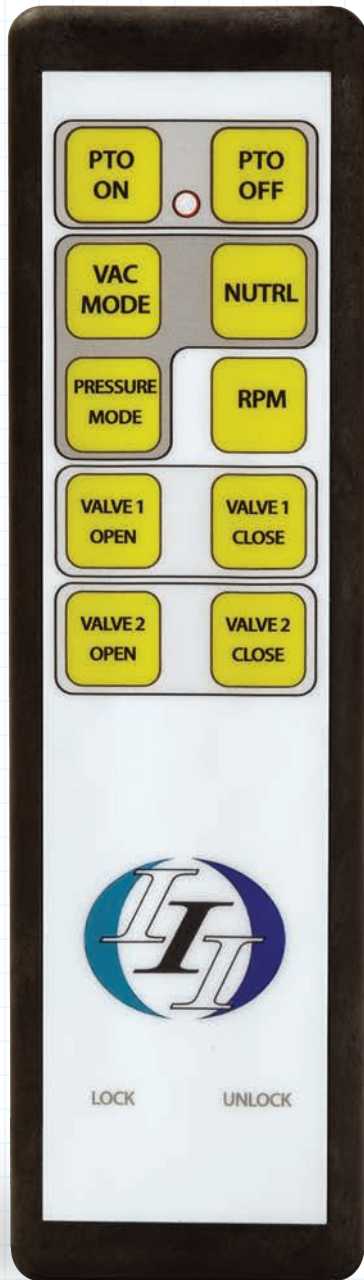
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The price for advertising is for all 4 newsletters in 2019. Please consider advertising in the 2019 MSTA Newsletters.

The first newsletter goes out in February. Your commitment and artwork is due by February 1, 2019. We appreciate your consideration and your support of MSTA members.



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# Legislative Report for MSTA

Judy Augenstein, Legislative Consultant

## October

This past summer, contractors represented by the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association (MITA) turned away members of the Operating Engineers 324 at road building job sites across the state. “This is a defensive lockout following months of disruptive, coercive and unlawful activities by the union”, Mike Nystrom, president of MITA said. He said, “The Operating Engineers have refused to meet since June 1 when their contract expired.”

In June, the Operating Engineers opted to go around MITA and negotiate labor arguments with the individual contractors represented by MITA. Nystrom contended the head of the union has simply authored a contract which was not negotiated with anyone and submitted it to the U.S. Department of Labor. Following a three hour road construction shutdown on I-96 waged by Operating Engineers picketers, MITA contractors agreed to the defensive lockout and MITA then informed the union by letter of action.

The Operating Engineers put the blame at MITA’s feet, arguing the association is endangering hundreds of road work projects across the state with its hostile plan for involuntary layoffs. “This involuntary layoff of the dedicated men and women rebuilding our roads and bridges is a hostile act by the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association” said Dan McKernan, spokesman for Operating Engineers 324. “Millions of drivers are about to pay the price of MITA’s short-sighted greed as road projects are turned over to untrained workers to go unfinished. The next time you’re stuck in a traffic jam on I-75 or blow out a tire on I-96 you can thank MITA for not valuing your time or safety.” The operating engineers argue that their 15,000 members have worked through the summer despite some MITA contractors’ refusal to sign a contract.

Nystrom said the industry offered the union a five year contract that would have resulted in a 14 percent wage increase in the Operating Engineers wage of \$55.67 an hour. “Not all projects are going to shut down”, Nystrom said. “This is a situation where many projects will continue with other trades. It’s only operating engineers being locked out. Laborers, cement layers and other workers will continue to work.”

A frustrated Governor Rick Snyder recently announced that the Michigan National Guard could be brought in to help finish work on high traffic stretches of freeway. Mike Nystrom, VP of MITA, which represents the contractors in the dispute with Operating Engineers Local 324, is in talks with the military and it might be possible that members of the Michigan National Guard could be at work on construction sites. Governor Snyder commented that the development would be unprecedented in Michigan and possibly the nation. The contractors have the heavy equipment and the National Guard has the heavy equipment operators said Snyder. The spokesman for Local 324 said the idea of using the National Guard is ridiculous. Though skilled, National Guard members don’t have the necessary experience in freeway construction and should not be expected to intervene in a labor dispute, Local 324 spokesman Dan McKernan said.

Once Governor Snyder announced the possibility of bringing in the Michigan National Guard to work on road projects, MITA representing the contractors and The Operating Engineers Local 324 representing union members now have a tentative agreement to continue working without a contract through the 2018 construction season. The two groups have agreed to mediation through the winter. The breakthrough came after the Snyder administration stepped up pressure on both sides telling contractors they could face monetary damages for late completion of projects and telling the union the governor was considering bringing in machine operators from the Michigan National Guard to resume work, which could still happen.

## November

As you walk around the Capitol area you will see signs for the Michigan Association of Chiropractors, The Country Road Association, the Michigan Manufacturers Association, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Small business Association of Michigan, the UAW, the Corrections Officers Association and many other advocacy group offices as Lansing

*(continued on page 16)*

# DON'T WASTE IT

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## **The treatment process**

Organic compounds have what digester bacteria need to produce methane rich biogas. That which would otherwise stink is what is converted to biogas. This gas will serve as a fuel engines connected to generators. Power and heat is produced. The digester also breaks down nutrients in the waste to a form that can be used to grow crops, often corn, hay and grass for animal feed.

*(continued from page 14)*

is the center of government and the Legislature in Michigan. Nearly every industry in the state has an association that is represented by their employee lobbyist or a contract lobbyist. Downtown Lansing is full of association and advocacy groups because a headquarters near the Capitol allows easy access to legislators, state officials and staff who set budgets, write policy and legislation and draft regulations.

The number of lobbyists has steadily increased since 1998 when there were 2,202 lobbyists and lobbying agencies registered in Michigan. In 2017 there were 2,954 registered lobbyists. Total lobbyist spending in 2007 was \$31.2 million and in 2017 \$39.4 million. The biggest lobby House in Michigan spent more than \$1.6 million on lobbying last year, according to campaign finance records. The advocacy/lobbying world has grown since the state adopted term limits for state legislators in 1998. Lobbyists have to work harder to teach new rounds of politicians about their causes and to build good working relationships with new legislators/staff in a short amount of time which is crucial to doing a good job. Credibility is the only thing a lobbyist has to sell a government official.

If you have ever called your state representative, state senator or your city councilman and asked him/her to do anything by way of public policy you have “lobbied”. The difference is that if you get paid to advocate or ask an elected official to do something you have to register under the Lobby Registration Act. Groups hire lobbyists because they need to activate the political system. Our job is to educate legislators and government officials about clients and their issues. The legislative process may seem frustrating and disappointing and can be complex. The lobbyist is the middle person between the client and legislators who provide credibility, thus open doors that might otherwise remain closed. Effective lobbying is achieved through credibility which can only be earned and is the key element in getting a client’s story told and supported. The five basic elements to lobbying are fact finding, monitoring, lobbying, credibility and access.

The Michigan political scene has heated to a boiling point. Campaigning and campaign ads have gone over the top. The race for governor between Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing and Bill Schuette, R-Midland is getting closer, but Gretchen Whitmer appears to still be in the lead.

New polling indicates possible tossups in certain legislative races.....

Kelly Rossman-McKinney, the Democratic 24th Senate District nominee, is leading against Republican Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Potterville. Public relations professional Kelly is leading with both men and women and independents.

In the Upper Peninsula’s 38th Senate District, Rep. Scott Dianda, D-Calumet is in a dead heat with Republican Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan.

The traditionally Republican 10th Senate District competition, where newcomer Michael MacDonald (R) is running against Rep. Henry Yanez, D-Sterling Heights, is in a dead heat.

A toss up in Oakland County between Mallory McMorrow (D) and Senator Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy is in play. Some Republican Oakland County and Macomb County seats are in jeopardy this election cycle.

A toss up in Grand Rapids between Rep. Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids and Rep. Chris Afendoulis, R-Grand Rapids for the Kent county Senate seat is also in play.

It is important that you exercise your American liberty by voting Election Day. Just do it!

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# 2018 FALL MSTA MEETING



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Our friends at the MDEQ would like us to pass on some information about reminding your community about the importance of maintaining a proper septic system. There are postcards on the MSTA website that can be printed and sent to your customers. These are great quality postcards with awesome messages about the importance of maintaining a proper septic system. You can find these by going to [www.msta.biz](http://www.msta.biz) and clicking on “Resources” and then on “Septic Postcards”.

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## 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.

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