After a close review of the COVID-19 health crisis, the Governor’s executive orders, and our membership survey results, the MMTA Board of Directors has had much thoughtful discussion leading to our unanimous decision to cancel the 2020 Annual Fall Conference.

While we remain fully committed to fulfilling our mission of quality education, the Board firmly agrees that our top priority is the health and safety of our membership. As most of us return to our workplaces under new requirements and protocols, we understand how complicated it will be to travel and be out of the office in the immediate future. Conference centers and hotels also face limitations under the new regulations for hosting large groups. In fact, we want to say thank you to all our partners for their cooperation and goodwill as we work together to find the best short- and long-term solutions. The 2021 Fall Conference will remain in Kalamazoo as scheduled, and we are working to have the 2022 conference return to Crystal Mountain.

Canceling Fall Conference affects many of our traditions and processes: Board elections, annual awards programs, certification recognition, and even the business of our annual meeting. The MMTA Board has voted to follow the example of our national organization, the Association of Public Treasurers of the U.S. and Canada (APT US&C) and many other state treasury organizations by maintaining our current board positions until we are able to have elections in 2021. Our bylaws state that both officers and directors “shall hold office until their successor has been elected and installed” (Article 6, Section 1 and Article 7, Section 1). Each board member has generously agreed to continue to serve in their current position an additional year.

Since public celebration is an important part of our annual awards, the Board agreed to suspend the 2020 PRIME Award and service awards until 2021. The Board understands the prestigious honor the awards represent and want to make sure we appropriately recognize our recipients.

While we closely monitor the effect of conference cancellations, we are pleased to report that MMTA remains in a strong financial position and is working to continue offering you training and education well into the future. The Professional Development Committee (PDC) is working to fast track online educational options, but we still plan on having Basic and Advanced Institutes in December and Winter Workshop in January.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this morning’s first-ever online MMTA Treasurer-to-Treasurer session. It was a wonderful exchange of ideas and really good to see and hear from so many of you — it was such a success that we plan on doing it monthly. We’ve also posted some materials on our homepage (MMTA-MI.org) regarding current events that were addressed in the online session today, so be sure to check our site for updates.

We will continue to communicate with our membership via email, Listserv, and our website, to keep you all informed and involved. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our Association Managers at info@MMTA-MI.org or at 989.820.8389.

Rande Listerman, MiCPT, CPFA, CPFIM
MMTA President
Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Pentwater