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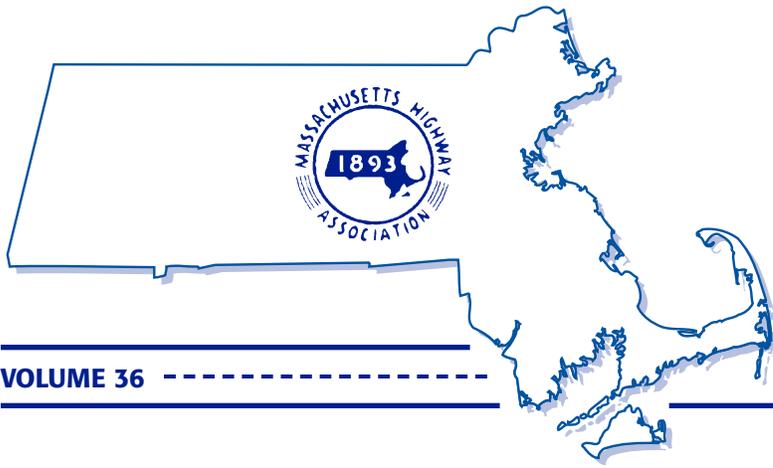
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2010

President's Message



Every year is a challenge and this year is no different. Demands are increasing, resources decreasing and

technologies changing. I always want to look forward and maintain a positive attitude as we face our challenges.

What's on the front line agenda for Mass Highway Association? Mass Highway Association's first challenge will be maintaining the association's current activities. We have a very successful meetings and events program. The equipment show is one such success. The second will be to continue to improve our website and make sure the membership is getting news that affects us all. Third is to get the Mutual Aid Bill implemented and assist MEMA in educating our membership about the importance and use of a new Resource Management System. We will hear more about this in the future.

Some of my pet peeves are the effectiveness of the trench law and the 10% municipal contracts that the State requires cities and towns to sign when doing State funded projects. We need to let our leaders know that there are problems with both of these issues. More change is needed. Our collective voices can at least open doors to have a dialogue about the good and bad in those or any other issues.

Continued on page 2

31st Annual Equipment Show Was a Great Success!

The 31st Annual MHA New England Public Works Expo was held on September 29 and 30 at the Wachusett Trade Center in Fitchburg. A total of 110 vendors and more than 1,300 attendees were at the two-day event coordinated by Chairman **Dave Capelle** and his committee.



Two long-time former MHA board members were honored at this year's Expo. Ray Payson and Gerry Daigle officially opened the Expo on Wednesday by cutting the ribbon and welcoming attendees.

Among the highlights of the event was the state finals of the Snow Plow Rodeo which opened the show on Wednesday morning. A total of 13 teams representing the county associations competed in the event, with the Town of Milford taking home the top prize, followed by Middleboro.

A barbecue lunch was held on both days of the show, with coffee and doughnuts provided compliments of Felix Marino Company. Bottled water was supplied each day, compliments of Highway Rehab Corp, Minuteman Truck, Chadwick BaRoss, Northeast STIHL and Northeast Nursery.

Many of the attendees also participated in the seminars, which included Hazard Communication/Right to Know Training Session, Hot In-Place Recycling, Full Depth Road Reclamation, Aerial Lift Safety, Retaining Wall Systems, Asphalt Recycling, Improving Public Facilities With Modern Composting Toilets, Keeping Up With the Curve at MDOT, Reading Material Data Sheets, Precast Concrete Buildings and Asphalt Recycling and Road Repairs.

Several of the vendors have already signed up for next year's show, according to Capelle.

"This year's show was another tremendous success," the Chairman said. "The show just gets bigger and better every year."

Mutual Aid Bill Signed Into Law

On July 27, Gov. Deval Patrick signed the "Municipal Relief" package, which establishes a statewide public works mutual aid agreement. The mutual aid assistance to be provided under this agreement shall include, but not be limited to, services related to public works, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities to prepare for, prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from public works incidents. Participation in the agreement would be at the local option by the municipal chief executive.

Continued on page 2

President's Message, cont'd

My fourth initiative is to promote the Scholarship Program. I had three (3) sons in college at the same time. I will be paying this bill for twenty-three (23) years — more invested in college tuition than my home. I know there is never enough financial aid.

Finally, we need to keep expanding our membership. Providing good resources to our members and continued networking will promote an even stronger and effective organization.

In conclusion, I want to thank all the vendors, consultants, and membership for their support. Quoting Henry Ford, *"Coming together is a beginning; Keeping together is progress; Working together is success."* As president of MHA, it has been a success working with all of you.

~ Ed Miga

New Positions

Charles "Chip" Dazelle was appointed Highway Superintendent in Huntington on July 1, replacing retiring superintendent **Wayne McKinney**.

Peter Marks was appointed Highway Superintendent in Sandisfield.

Vicki Vickrey Quiram was recently appointed Public Works Director for the Town of Westwood. Vicki has a civil engineering degree from the University of Texas at Austin and previously served as an Assistant Public Works Director for the City of Ventura, CA.

Mutual Aid Bill Signed Into Law, cont'd

The law provides for a statewide public works municipal mutual aid advisory committee to consist of the secretary of public safety and security or his designee, who shall serve as chair of the committee; and one (1) member appointed by the secretary of public safety and security from each of the following: the Massachusetts Highway Association; the New England Chapter of the American Public Works Association, who shall be a resident of the commonwealth; the New England Water Environment Association, who shall be a resident of the commonwealth; the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association; the Massachusetts Water Works Association; and the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

The advisory committee shall develop procedural plans, protocols and programs for intrastate and interstate cooperation to be used by public works agencies in response to a public works incident. The advisory committee shall be responsible for the administration and coordination of the state-wide mutual aid agreement. The advisory committee shall develop and make available to parties forms to facilitate requests for aid, including a form to track the movement of public works equipment and personnel.

The Massachusetts Highway Association has long advocated for a public works mutual aid law and has worked side-by-side with the Massachusetts Municipal Association to lobby the legislature. The MHA owes a big "thank you" to **Joe Welch** who has worked tirelessly to get this legislation passed.



Other Highlights of the "Municipal Relief" Package

When Gov. Deval Patrick signed the "Municipal Relief" package, it included two other relief items long requested by public works officials.

For state and local public construction contracts, the law increases the dollar threshold for requiring a payment or security bond. The state amount had been \$5,000 and the local amount \$2,000. The law increases the state and local amounts to \$25,000.

Procurement rules for small public construction projects: The law increases the maximum dollar amount for use of the "sound business practices" procurement process from contracts of less than \$5,000 to those under \$10,000.

Upcoming Events...

The Annual Joint Meeting of the Tri-County Highway Superintendents Association and MHA will take place on Tuesday, November 16 at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee. Come west for an excellent program and a good prime rib dinner.

The winter meeting of MHA will again be held at Lantana's in Randolph on Thursday, February 3, 2011. Take a break from winter and come to this popular meeting where we always have a good program and an excellent meal.

Bidding Basics...

Inspector General Gregory W. Sullivan has announced that his office is now offering an introductory online "Bidding Basics" course to individuals who may want an introduction to the rules applicable to the local procurement of supplies, services and real property.

The on-line training can be accessed at www.mass.gov/ig.

The office also maintains a procurement information telephone line for questions about the Uniform Procurement Law (M.G.L. c30B) and a confidential telephone hotline (800-322-1323) for reporting fraud, waste or abuse.



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Snow Plow Roadeo...

The state finals of the Snow Plow Roadeo was held on Wednesday, September 29 at the site of the 31st Annual MHA New England Public Works EXPO in Fitchburg. There were 13 teams entered from the regional highway associations in Massachusetts. Taking 1st place was Milford's team of **Jim Charvinski** and **Bill Palmer**. Capturing 2nd place was Middleboro's **Jeff Jenness** and **Dave Muse**. These individuals received cash prizes and trophies. All participants will receive jackets. This event is expanding each year with more regional associations holding events.



1st place winners: Milford's Jim Charvinski & Bill Palmer.



2nd place winners: Middleboro's Jeff Jenness & Dave Muse.

County Association News

■ Berkshire — Jerry Coppola

On June 18 Berkshire County held its 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. Donations were made to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in the amount of \$2,000 and to the Berkshire Humane Society for \$750.

At the August 26 meeting, three scholarships, totaling \$2,000, were announced.

Berkshire County held its annual Equipment Show and Picnic on September 17. For the first time in many years, a Snow Plow Roadeo was held with four teams entered. West Stockbridge took 1st place and Sheffield took 2nd. West Stockbridge went on to place 3rd out of 13 in the state finals held at the MHA Expo on September 29 in Fitchburg.

The Annual Business and Election of Officers meeting was held on October 28. Guest speakers were Berkshire County Sheriff-elect **Thomas Bowler** and **William Flynn** from the Berkshire County Retirement Board.

In Memoriam...

Joseph F. Casazza, 76, of Wakefield passed away on September 10. Joe retired in 2007 after 39 years as Commissioner of Public Works in Boston. Joe was a member of Mass Highway Association and longtime member and Chapter President of APWA in 1971 and National President of APWA in 1982.

On his retirement in 2007 from the City of Boston, Joe was honored when Boston named its DPW building on Frontage Rd. "The Joseph F. Casazza Public Works Facility."

Alan Sykes, retired Highway Superintendent of Lenox, passed away on September 18. Alan was a founding member of the Berkshire County/District #1 Highway Superintendents Association in 1979 and served as its first President.

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• NEWS ITEMS •

The next issue of the Newsletter will be published in the Spring. All news items should be emailed to Bill Elovirta, editor at bille@hughes.net, or given to your regional director for submission. To keep abreast of all legislative updates and upcoming events log on to our website at www.masshighway.org.

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