

The Michigan Assembly
General Assembly Meeting
Minutes



Date: March 11, 2025

General Assembly Meeting
Special Session

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Welcome

Opening Prayer (Amy Hunt)
Bivens Decision (Kenny Fisher)
Meeting Protocol (Kenny Fisher)

Coordinator Updates: Some people from the assembly will be interviewed for an outreach podcast on Thursday March 13, 2025 at noon with Tammy Healy.

GA 2025 Budget Discussion:

Opening statement from the Treasurer (Mark Steinke) (Recording 00:05:30)

After the opening statement (see attached), the floor was opened for any Assembly man or woman to present questions to Committee Chairs about their budgets presented at the GA business meeting on March 4th. Bundling recurring expenses across all committees where appropriate was suggested. (recording 00:08:10)

Report from the Banking Committee on data from March 4th GA business meeting

The spreadsheet of data compiled from the budget presentations on March 4th was shared at time stamp 00:16:25. The Banking Committee reviewed it earlier in the day to prioritize immediate needs and 60 days out. That shorter version of the spreadsheet is attached to these minutes.

Prioritizing GA budget needs

Hard drives and storage issues were discussed for all committees. (time stamp 00:26:40)
Discussion about itemized supplies and equipment highlighted (time stamp 00:33:45)

What is the will of the GA? Should Committee Chairs have a hard drive that can be passed on to the next Committee Chair? Are we going to continue to supply toner for the Michigan Assembly printer? Strategic decisions need to be made as we work through the process. Focus on committees that are doing the work to help the assembly grow. (time stamp 00:37:05)

It was determined that 2TB hard drives should be sufficient for most Committee Chairs; 6-10TB for the archivist.

Donations to the Assembly: anytime someone wants to donate something and specifies what it is for, the Assembly honors that.

Two proposals were requested from the Banking Committee for the GA business meeting on March 18, 2025

- First: Fast track immediate needs: printer toner, paper, stamps, seals, domains and hard drives
- Second: Longer term needs (time stamp 00:59:55)

Amazon Wish List proposal (time stamp 01:36:40 – voting in the chat)

- *Shall we create an Amazon Wish List for immediate Ink and Toner Needs so that people can donate directly and they can be purchased immediately?* YES or NO
- RESULTS from MAA: **YES = 20; NO = 0; Abstain = 0** **PASSED**

Minutes prepared by:
Linda Steinke
3/13/25

Attachments

- Opening statement from the Treasurer
- MGA Budget Immediate Needs and 60 days 03112025
- Zoom attendance
- GA Special Session Vote Count from the MAA
- Zoom Chat

Meeting Recording Link

- <https://rumble.com/v6qj0aa--0036-the-michigan-assembly-general-assembly-meeting-march-11-2025.html>

One of the top priorities of the Treasury is to make sure the GA operates effectively. So when we look at the budgets from the committees we should consider what they need to keep operating effectively.

I think we can all agree that to get the pillars established, we need growth. To grow efficiently I feel we need to have a strategic plan for that growth. Set some goals. Achieve these goals. Have a party! And move forward.

We are trying to eat an elephant, one bite at a time. But it seems we are all taking bites from different parts of the elephant. I feel strongly that we need a strategic plan or a path for growth. This is especially important going forward after we have satisfied our short-term committee needs. What should the priority of our spending be?

To function effectively as the Treasurer I need to know the will of the GA. Its also important to have a plan to help establish a funding process.

Earlier today, the Banking Committee determined that the Treasury should retain a minimum balance of \$500.00 on deposit between the accounts. We currently have approximately \$4800.00. After subtracting the minimum balance and the \$500 pay-it-forward, the remaining balance of \$3800.00 is available towards budget needs.

After the GA has prioritized the short-term committee budget needs, we can discuss the strategy for using the remaining funds for growth.

But 1st before we get into prioritizing budget needs. We will open it up to ask the committee chairs about their budgets.

**MICHIGAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Annual Budget Request 2025**

**PRIORITIZED BY THE BANKING COMMITTEE
Date: 03/11/2025**

| <u>Committees</u> | <u>Immediate Needs</u> | <u>Amount Requested</u> | <u>60 Days</u> | <u>Amount Requested</u> | <u>Rest of 2025</u> | <u>Amount Requested</u> |
|---|--|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Records</u> | Records/Archiving | | | | | |
| | Printing/Copying Supplies (4 cartridges + paper) | \$550.00 | Digital Archiving of Videos (hard drives) | \$200.00 | | |
| | Recording Secretary | | | | | |
| | RS Customized Stamps (\$60 each x 2) | \$120.00 | RS Embossed Seal, Insert Only (\$35 each x7) | \$245.00 | | |
| | New RS Care Package (\$65 each x 2) | \$130.00 | | | | |
| <u>Outreach/Freedom Guide/Orientation</u> | Business Cards | Not determined | Not determined | | | |
| <u>Ombudsman</u> | Business Cards | \$25.00 | Training | \$2,495.00 | | |
| | | | Canva (\$30/month) | \$30.00 | | |
| | | | Paper, folders and ink | \$30.00 | | |
| <u>Vetting</u> | None | \$0.00 | Background checks (2) | \$80.00 | | |
| <u>IT and Communications</u> | Domain Name | \$12.00 | Domain Names (June and July) | \$286.00 | Rest of 2025 | Forms plugins (July) \$399.00 |
| | Membership plug in | \$200.00 | | | | Backup hard drive \$200.00 |
| <u>Litigation</u> | Hard drives | \$450.00 | | | | |
| TOTAL | | \$1,777.00 | | | | |
| (before hard drives and business cards) | | (estimated) | | | | |

The Michigan Assembly - General Assembly Meeting.

03/11/2025 05:54:38 PM - 03/11/2025 08:52:02 PM

| Name (original name) | Duration |
|--|----------|
| *Richard Saroni - Kalamazoo, Michigan | 177 |
| *Jan Buzard | 178 |
| Betsy Dettloff | 5 |
| Bob *troy brown Wayne/Michigan | 173 |
| Eric | 24 |
| *Mary Klukowski© | 170 |
| Betsy | 98 |
| Alan Alcid 24-02902-LT | 55 |
| Shell'ey Gilbert- Muskegon County | 56 |
| *Dana Nixon on Michigan (Dana Nixon on Michigan) | 21 |
| Fire Tablet | 25 |
| *Michelle Gerard in Michigan | 129 |
| *Dana Nixon on Michigan | 124 |
| *Mark & *Linda Steinke on Michigan | 117 |
| *Rick Worden - Midland County | 115 |
| *Elsa Carpenter-Peck | 114 |
| *Amy Hunt, Kent County, Mich (State Coordinator) | 114 |
| *Mariana & *Michael Forrest | 114 |
| *Debra-Ann GarciaWagner | 111 |
| *Linda Marie Johnson - Macomb county | 111 |
| charlesraffoul | 110 |
| *Brent Alan Barth / Lenawee County (Brent Barth) | 109 |
| *Kenny Fisher/MAA | 110 |
| *James Wayne county Michigan | 69 |
| *Kimberly Watling - Ottawa Michigan ASN | 108 |
| *René McGuigan© | 103 |
| *Dolores & *Nigel (Dolores on Michigan) | 101 |
| iPhonehjeffbarth | 100 |
| Jim Northrup (Jim) | 78 |
| Carlos Durham | 33 |
| Asima: Z | 29 |
| richardmartin | 25 |

***Amy Hunt, Kent County, Mich (State Coordinator)** 8:46 PM

Shall we create an Amazon Wish List for immediate Ink and Toner Needs so that people can donate directly and they can be purchased immediately?

***Mariana & *Michael Forrest** to Everyone 8:46 PM

Mariana - Yes

***Elsa Carpenter-Peck** to Everyone 8:46 PM

Yes

***Mariana & *Michael Forrest** to Everyone 8:46 PM

Michael Yes

***Michelle Gerard in Michigan** to Everyone 8:46 PM

Yes

***Linda Marie Johnson - Macomb county** to Everyone 8:46 PM

yes

Bob *troy brown Wayne/Michigan to Everyone 8:46 PM

Yes

***Richard Saroni - Kalamazoo, Michigan** to Everyone 8:46 PM

Yes

***Jan Buzard** to Everyone 8:46 PM

yes

You to Everyone 8:46 PM

yes

***Brent Alan Barth / Lenawee County** to Everyone 8:46 PM

Yes

***Rick Worden - Midland County** to Everyone 8:46 PM

Yes

***Mark & *Linda Steinke on Michigan** to Everyone 8:46 PM

Mark yes

***Amy Hunt, Kent County, Mich (State Coordinator)** to Everyone 8:46 PM

Yes

***Mark & *Linda Steinke on Michigan** to Everyone 8:46 PM

Linda yes

***Kimberly Watling - Ottawa Michigan ASN** to Everyone 8:43 PM

Amazon... and yet, while this will help... these are the legitiment expenses of conducting business and must be worked out as the expenses with proper accounting to the GA. I know we know this, and we must be able to conduct business with the money we have and stop bleeding out the men and women while money is in the bank. I appreciate this bandaid, and remedying this quickly for proper flow. thank you

***Debra-Ann GarciaWagner** 8:45 PM

True, that is where we have tied our hand, but it see some thing can be voted on with out the benefit of a proposal.

***Mary Klukowski©** 8:46 PM

Yes

***Kimberly Watling - Ottawa Michigan ASN** to Everyone 8:46 PM

yes

***René McGuigan©** to Everyone 8:47 PM

yes

***Dana Nixon on Michigan** to Everyone 8:47 PM

yes

***Debra-Ann GarciaWagner** to Everyone 8:47 PM

Yes

***Michelle Gerard in Michigan** to Everyone 8:47 PM

Mary voted under a different message

charlesraffoul to Everyone 8:47 PM

Yes

***Amy Hunt, Kent County, Mich (State Coordinator)** 8:48 PM

VOTE END

01:13:27 *Kenny Fisher/MAA: Meeting Protocol

As men and women on the land and soil of Michigan, we are called to act in honor at all times. During this meeting we are all expected to abide by the following protocol:

- Everyone please mute your microphones now if they are not already. Keep them muted unless you are speaking.
- We will follow the meeting agenda. If you wish for a topic to be added to the agenda for a future meeting, please email the coordinator.
- Assembly members will have an opportunity to speak at the appropriate time. Use the raise hand function and wait to be called on. Once called upon you will have three (3) minutes.

01:13:48 *Kenny Fisher/MAA: - Please be polite and courteous while speaking and keep comments focused solely on the topic at hand. This General Assembly meeting is not the appropriate forum to discuss personal issues.

- General Assembly members are marked with an asterisk (*) before their name. Everyone else is a guest. Guests are welcome to observe but shall refrain from speaking and text chatting during these proceedings. An Outreach invitation will be offered at the end of the meeting.

01:13:50 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: Reacted to "

- Please be polit..." with ❤️

01:14:13 *Kenny Fisher/MAA: If anyone speaks out of turn or over three (3) minutes, strays off topic or does not follow the meeting protocol, the following will happen:

- 1st Offense - Marshal at Arms will mute your microphone and give a warning.
- 2nd Offense - Marshal at Arms will mute your microphone and disable your video. You will not be acknowledged to speak for the remainder of the meeting.
- 3rd Offense - Marshal at Arms will remove you from the meeting.
- The same protocol applies to the chat function. Keep chat appropriate, on topic and cordial. Inappropriate items include any files or attachments not directly on the agenda and discussed by voice.
- Offenses are counted as three total, whether by voice or chat.

- If these offenses happen for multiple meetings, a longer-term time-out may be issued.

01:27:00 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: I can zoom on my iPhone

01:37:03 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: I second that Amy

01:37:45 *Kimberly Watling - Ottawa Michigan ASN: Good Evening everyone. To our guest this evening, Welcome to The Michigan Assembly. In honor, Would everyone please correct their names to read as one's actual appellation properly, meaning please use your First and Last/Family name. thank you.

01:41:23 Jim Northrup: is there an organizagtional challange to using say google apps / mail and storage, or a comparable?

01:42:42 Jim Northrup: this sounds like a startup meeting from the 90's

01:43:47 *Debra-Ann GarciaWagner: Thanks Jim. The issue is the keeping of records separately from personal information on our respective computers, with the ease of return The Michigan Assembly property to the assembly.

01:44:36 *Kimberly Watling - Ottawa Michigan ASN: Replying to "is there an organiza..."

Good evening Jim. Welcome. We are actually in a business meeting now. You are welcome to stay and observe. However, for commenting we during this format of meeting require men and women to be declared assembly men or women. We are learning how to operate our land and soil government which doesn't come with a handbook so - it's bumpy because yes, we are starting up! Volunteers who have never met before!

01:46:33 Jim Northrup: Replying to "is there an organiza..."

i offer my availabilty and expereince launching startups offline and abstain further comments

01:46:51 *René McGuigan@: Reacted to "i offer my availabil..." with 👍

01:47:21 *Kimberly Watling - Ottawa Michigan ASN: Replying to "is there an organiza..."

@Jim That's awesome! Are you papered up? If not, let's get you with a Freedom Guide !

01:48:28 Jim Northrup: Reacted to "@Jim That's awesome!..." with 👍

01:50:26 *René McGuigan@: Replying to "is there an organiza..."

@Jim Northrup what part of Michigan are you from, if you don't mind me asking

01:51:51 *René McGuigan@: Replying to "is there an organiza..."

How did you hear about The Michigan Assembly?

01:51:55 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: Agreed

01:55:31 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: I would think recording secretaries would need a bigger hard drive too

01:57:51 Asima: Z: How about one drive or Google drive?

01:58:09 Asima: Z: Or the assembly own server?

01:58:30 *Amy Hunt, Kent County, Mich (State Coordinator): Our people's electronic records are kept by the LRO and by the Records Committee. All records are in PDF format. PDFs don't take up much space. The records for all ASNs on Michigan currently take up less than 5GB of space. 2TB would be PLENTY.

02:00:44 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: What about Bob whom is both recording secretary and litigation. Yes PDFs are compressed into smaller gigs and mbs

02:04:52 *Amy Hunt, Kent County, Mich (State Coordinator):
Replying to "What about Bob whom ..."

He is Litigation Committee chair, so would get a hard drive based on the current discussion.

02:05:19 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: Replying to "What about Bob whom ..."

Okay thank you Amy!!

02:06:44 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: Chromebooks work too

02:17:09 *Richard Saroni - Kalamazoo, Michigan: Jan, I am concerned about the use of external drives for RS's. In the past, mine would not be as efficient as a hard drive that is plugged directly internally. Do you have experience that the issue has changed ?

02:18:39 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: That's a great idea Nigel

02:18:44 *René McGuigan@: Agreed

02:19:21 *Jan Buzard: Replying to "Jan, I am concerned..."

My experience is at a job where they had a file server to save everybody's stuff on. Everybody was connected to the file server by ethernet cable. They were making backups of everything there. The problem is the money and people needed to do a file server.

02:19:32 *René McGuigan@: Great point!

02:20:26 charlesraffoul: Many good ideas , however, there might not be enough monies to meet the request for for future or emergency funding.

02:21:48 *Jan Buzard: Replying to "Jan, I am concerned..."

Also, USB is faster in newer computers. A lot of the hard drives seem to use old technology.

02:22:07 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: Reacted to "Also, USB is faster ..." with ❤️

02:26:07 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: That's probably what

happened to half of my documents on my flash drive

02:26:48 *Debra-Ann GarciaWagner: Reacted to "That's probably what..." with 🙏

02:27:50 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: If something goes wrong with the computer and you plug the hard drive in that can mess it up either way you look at it it's iffy

02:28:14 charlesraffoul: Hard drive 2T on amazon is 8 units for 576.00

02:28:16 *René McGuigan@: To that point I have a couple of flash drives that have puked out on me

02:28:37 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: Reacted to "To that point I have..." with ❤️

02:30:09 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: eBay is rather cheap for hard drives as well

02:31:19 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan:
<https://www.ebay.com/itm/203483369379>

02:41:16 *René McGuigan@: I think Bob is a priority right now. He has been struggling with items that are immediately in need

02:41:41 *René McGuigan@: Agreed that worked out well Amy!

02:44:34 *René McGuigan@: I don't have need for ink or paper. I have extra blue pens and red pens that I can give to another RS. Bob mentioned he would be in need of them. I am willing to share my Wishlist items to him

02:46:06 *René McGuigan@: As an RS I do not share the need

02:48:47 *Kimberly Watling - Ottawa Michigan ASN: Amazon... and yet, while this will help... these are the legitiment expenses of conducting business and must be worked out as the expenses with proper accounting to the GA. I know we know this, and we must be able to conduct business with the money we have and stop bleeding out the men and women while money is in the bank. I appreciate this bandaid, and remedying this quickly for proper flow. thank you

02:49:17 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: Correct Rene

02:49:27 *Kenny Fisher/MAA: Reacted to "Amazon... and yet, whi..." with 🙏

02:49:31 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: It wasn't answered

02:51:03 *Kimberly Watling - Ottawa Michigan ASN: perhaps we are being vetted ... how will we consider and manage money on behalf of our people? Are we greedy or are we good to our people?

02:51:10 *Debra-Ann GarciaWagner: Replying to "Amazon... and yet, whi..."

True, that is where we have tied our hand, but it see some thing can be voted on with out the benefit of a proposal.

02:51:17 Bob *troy brown Wayne/Michigan: Reacted to "perhaps we are being..." with ❤️

02:51:40 *Amy Hunt, Kent County, Mich (State Coordinator):
Shall we create an Amazon Wish List for immediate Ink and Toner Needs so

that people can donate directly and they can be purchased immediately?

02:51:51 *Mariana & *Michael Forrest: Mariana - Yes
02:51:55 *Elsa Carpenter-Peck: Yes
02:51:57 *Mariana & *Michael Forrest: Michael Yes
02:51:59 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: Yes
02:52:00 *Linda Marie Johnson - Macomb county: yes
02:52:01 Bob *troy brown Wayne/Michigan: Yes
02:52:02 *Richard Saroni - Kalamazoo, Michigan: Yes
02:52:05 *Jan Buzard: yes
02:52:05 *Brent Alan Barth / Lenawee County: Yes
02:52:05 *Kenny Fisher/MAA: yes
02:52:08 *Rick Worden - Midland County: Yes
02:52:08 *Mark & *Linda Steinke on Michigan: Mark yes
02:52:08 *Amy Hunt, Kent County, Mich (State Coordinator): Yes
02:52:11 *Mark & *Linda Steinke on Michigan: Linda yes
02:52:15 *Mary Klukowski@: Replying to "Amazon... and yet,
whi..."

Yes

02:52:15 *Kimberly Watling - Ottawa Michigan ASN: yes
02:52:23 *René McGuigan@: yes
02:52:31 *Dana Nixon on Michigan: yes
02:52:42 *Debra-Ann GarciaWagner: Yes
02:52:48 *Michelle Gerard in Michigan: Mary voted under a different
message
02:52:49 charlesraffoul: Yes
02:53:24 *Amy Hunt, Kent County, Mich (State Coordinator): VOTE
END