

APPENDIX 12

THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS, INC.

Jack Gregory, Jr.

Organized in 1928, the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, Inc. (MAS) is a private 501(c)(6) corporation. The MAS began holding annual conventions shortly after organization and began publishing a monthly magazine, *Mississippi Supervisor*, in 1940.

MISSION

The stated mission of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors is “to advertise and bring into favorable notice the opportunities and resources of the various counties of the state; to promote the interest and general welfare of the state; to interchange ideas and to develop, as far as practicable, a uniform system of county government throughout the state; to maintain a statewide agency for the purpose of advancing the moral, financial and general welfare of the state, and the counties of the state; and to create and promote a feeling of fellowship, sympathy and understanding among and between the counties and the people of the State of Mississippi.”

OFFICE

The association is authorized, at the discretion of its executive committee, to maintain an office in the City of Jackson, Mississippi. It is headquartered two blocks north of the State Capitol, at 793 North President Street. The association’s “educational and administrative complex” is a modern facility that contains meeting space, offices, and a reception area. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., except state holidays and during MAS’s annual convention.

MEMBERSHIP

All duly elected members of county boards of supervisors are eligible for membership in the association. Member counties are assessed dues based on the county’s assessed value. Counties are authorized by Section 19-3-65 of the *Code* to pay these dues.

ORGANIZATION

Internally, the association functions through a structure that includes an executive, a legislative, and a nominating committee. Other committees may be formed by executive order as necessary.

Executive Committee

The executive committee has general management oversight over association activities. The committee is composed of 22 members – two (2) supervisors from each Planning and Development District (PDD) except the Southern PDD which, because of its size, has four (4) members. Eleven (11) members of the committee are selected at the annual PDD meetings and ratified at the annual convention. The other 11 members are nominated by the nominating committee and ratified at the annual convention.

Legislative Committee

The legislative committee, composed of 11 members, is responsible for the association's legislative agenda. Specifically, this committee determines what proposals will be presented to the full association for adoption. These proposals, after approval, become the legislative platform that is presented to the legislature for consideration. All members of the legislative committee are selected at the annual PDD meetings and ratified at the annual convention.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee, also composed of 11 members, selects supervisors to serve as general officers of the association. In addition, this committee nominates 11 members for the executive committee. All members of the nominating committee are selected at the annual PDD meetings and ratified at the annual convention.

FUNDING

In addition to the annual dues, association activities are funded by various fees and subscriptions. These include registration fees for educational meetings and conventions, fees for sponsoring various insurance programs, magazine subscriptions, advertising and investments.

MEETINGS

The association normally holds four meetings each year: the Midwinter Educational/Legislative Conference, the Planning and Development District Meetings, the Annual Conference, and the County Government Workshop. The meeting schedule may be expanded or curtailed, depending upon the needs of the association. In election years, a special Orientation Program for New Supervisors is conducted after the elections and prior to the newly-elected supervisors taking office.

Midwinter Educational/Legislative Conference

The Midwinter Educational/Legislative Conference is held in January, during the first few weeks of the legislative session. The primary purpose of this meeting is to provide educational sessions for supervisors. In addition, supervisors are provided an opportunity to meet with their

legislative delegation and discuss legislation affecting county government. The conference is highlighted by a reception honoring the members of the legislature and major state officials.

Planning and Development District Meetings

In the spring, regional meetings are held in each of the ten (10) Planning and Development Districts. During these meetings, supervisors are briefed on changes in state law affecting counties that occurred during the legislative session. In addition, supervisors select their representatives to the association's three standing committees. These selections are ratified at the annual convention.

Annual Convention

The annual convention, typically held during the month of July, is the association's most important meeting of the year. During the convention, all committees meet and conduct business. Any recommendations from these committees are subject to ratification at a general business session. In addition, a full education program covering a myriad of topics is presented.

County Government Workshop

A County Government Workshop, the final meeting of the year, is held in the fall. This meeting is devoted to education. Recognized experts in their respective fields present a wide range of topics important to county government.

STAFF

The association is authorized to employ the necessary staff to carry out its functions. Currently, the MAS has a staff of five (5) – an executive director, an assistant director, a meeting planner/office manager, a director of communications/editor, and a administrative/financial assistant, as follows:

Jack Gregory	Executive Director
Joel Yelverton	Assistant Executive Director
Martele Higgins	Meeting Planner/Office Manager
Pat Whitfield	Editor/Communications Specialist
Lori Langford	Administrative/Financial Assistant

For assistance, contact the MAS by telephone or e-mail or check out the MAS web site for more information.

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Web	www.ext.msstate.edu/mas

SERVICES

Educational Programs

Educational programs are planned by the MAS staff, the MAS Education Committee, and the Center for Governmental Technology in the Mississippi State University Extension Service, the “educational arm” of the MAS for some twenty-five (25). Educational programs are presented at each of the four regular meeting of the MAS and at special meetings called on an as-needed basis.

Legislative Services

Throughout the legislative session, the MAS staff tracks the more than 600 bills introduced each year, which affect county government. The MAS staff works with the members, committees, and leadership of the legislature to ensure an understanding of the effect of proposed legislation upon county government. Periodic reports and memorandums are distributed to update members on critical issues being debated at the state capitol. Other legislative-related services include the legislative reception, an online Legislative Bulletin Board, legislative action alerts, legislation summaries, research, and bill drafting.

Communications

Information management is critical in fulfilling the overall goals of the association. MAS staff members are dedicated to providing accurate and timely information to MAS members. This is accomplished through publications such as the MAS magazine, a public officials directory, a county officials index, a web site at www.ext.msstate.edu/mas, a “textbook” on county government for elementary school use, coverage of meetings of other county officials, information management for public officials, press releases, and research.