### EXECUTIVE BOARD:

- **PRESIDENT:** Zaira M. Maio  
- **VICE-PRESIDENT:** Mark D. Sherbow  
- **TREASURER:** David T. Elias  
- **RECORDING SECRETARY:** Judah Garber  
- **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Jon T. Ferrier

### BOARD MEMBERS:

- Martin B. Alvin  
- Elizabeth Belanger  
- Thomas G. Doetsch, Sr.  
- Deborah McNabb  
- Joseph T. Racey, Jr.

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### ***MARK YOUR CALENDARS***

#### 1999 R.A.M. BOARD MEETINGS

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<th>DATE</th>
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| 9-16-99   | 2:00 p.m. | 64th Annual State Bar Convention  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and Grand Center  
Grand Rapids |
| 10-20-99  | 10:45 a.m.| Lake Superior Room  
Michigan Historical Museum  
717 West Allegan  
Lansing |
| **DECEMBER** | **TO BE ANNOUNCED** | **HOLIDAY MEETING**  
**PLEASE FAX SUGGESTIONS TO ZAIRA MAIO**  
**BY 10-1-99 (810) 466-8701** |

#### 2000 RAM BOARD MEETINGS

- **FEBRUARY**  
  **TO BE ANNOUNCED**  
  Michigan Historical Museum  
  Lansing

- **APRIL**  
  **TO BE ANNOUNCED**  
  Michigan Historical Museum  
  Lansing

- **5-26-99**  
  **9:30 a.m.**  
  Waterfront Inn  
  Traverse City

#### 2000 SPRING TRAINING CONFERENCE

- **May 24, 25, 26, 2000**  
  Waterfront Inn  
  Traverse City
***WELCOME***

The Referees’ Association of Michigan welcomes the following new members:

Toni McAlhany 15th Judicial Circuit
Branch County

Alexander M. Cave 22nd Judicial Circuit
Washtenaw County

Michael Hand 6th Judicial Circuit
Oakland County

Charles J. Palmer 50th Judicial Circuit
Chippewa/Mackinaw Counties

Karen Transit 16th Judicial Circuit
Macomb County

Our 1999 membership has climbed to 126.

***DID YOU KNOW ???***

LOCAL:
MACOMB COUNTY: Macomb County Family Division Judge Pamela Gilbert O’Sullivan will preside over Michigan’s second juvenile drug court. Kalamazoo County’s juvenile drug court will serve as a model. Macomb County will receive $354,355 in grant money from the U.S. Dept. of Justice. The Court, scheduled to operate as early as August, will include an eligibility screening committee, a prosecutor, and family counselors. In addition, there will be a “mentoring component”. In Macomb County, of the approximately 500 juveniles who face drug charges, 35 will be admitted to the year long program. Some aspects of the court program involve group therapy, regular drug testing, individual counseling, incentives and punishment. In Kalamazoo County which started its juvenile court in 1998, 53 juveniles have entered the program. Of those, seven have graduated, eleven have been expelled, and the balance are still working toward completion.

OAKLAND COUNTY: A divorce-by-proxy case has been filed in Oakland County and assigned to Judge Gene Schnelz. Jon Houghton, on behalf of his sister, Joanne Houghton Keller, has filed a complaint for divorce against her husband. Joanne Keller was severely brain-damaged in an automobile accident. She has been semi-comatose since 1994. At stake is Ms. Keller’s personal estate worth between 1 and 1.5 million. Ms. Keller had filed two prior complaints; both were dismissed. At present, Mr. Keller has supervised visitation rights with his wife because of the family’s allegation of inappropriate touching.

STATE:
MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT: The Michigan Supreme Court is considering a proposed change which would eliminate the tender years exception to the hearsay rule in juvenile or family court cases. The proposed change would make the hearsay rule in family court conform to the criminal court standard. Referees who wish to comment on the proposed change may write the Supreme Court at: P.O. Box 30052,
Lansing, MI 48909. R.A.M. will submit a position paper authored by Martin Alvin, Thomas Doetsch, Jean Dohanyos, Jon Ferrier, and Joseph Racey.

***PRESIDENT’S LETTER***

Dear R.A.M. Members,

As my first year as President comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight our accomplishments as a professional association, give recognition to members of our association who have volunteered their time and talents for our benefit, and reflect upon our future.

In September 1998, Ramblin’ On, the Referees’ Association of Michigan’s “official” newsletter, made its debut. My thanks to Jean Dohanyos and Jon Ferrier who contributed interesting and thought-provoking articles for the December 1998 issue. As my second term begins, once again, I urge you to submit articles and/or your “thoughts” on an issue and share news/interesting developments in your county for inclusion in our newsletter. Feel free to include professional and/or personal announcements. As I have said before, I feel it is important for R.A.M. members to get to know each other, recognize each other’s achievements, and become familiar with the happenings and issues facing R.A.M. members throughout the state.

In October 1998, the Executive Board passed proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws of the Referees’ Association of Michigan. The amended Constitution and By-laws were filed with the State of Michigan.

With the assistance of Robert Martin and David Elias, the Referees’ Association of Michigan now has a complete file of Treasurer Reports from 1991 to present. My thanks to Bob and David. Because of their meticulous record keeping, I am confident the Referees’ Association of Michigan will weather out our current tax-exempt status/failure to file storm. Rest assured that I will keep our members posted with the most current weather condition – Just call me Doppler Maio.

With the assistance of our Recording Secretary Judah Garber, the majority of R.A.M. minutes from April 1991 to present have been preserved. Thanks to Judah for the many hours spent locating and organizing “lost” minutes in the history of R.A.M. The Association is still missing minutes from the following meetings:

May 21, 1991
December 12, 1991
April 1992
September 1993
February 10, 1994
May/June 1994

Please check your personal archives one more time!

It is with sadness that I accepted the resignation of Judah Garber as Recording Secretary. Judah will be temporarily relocating with his family to Palo Alto, California. Judah’s minutes have always been thorough, informative, and entertaining. Jean Dohanyos will be replacing Judah and I welcome her to the Executive Board of R.A.M. Thank you Judah for your many years of service to our R.A.M. members.
Deborah McNabb graciously agreed to chair the Wage, Benefits, Standards and Goals Committee of R.A.M. Each member of R.A.M. is indebted to Deborah for the countless hours she spent accumulating and organizing salary data. In its final form, the statewide referee salary survey will be an invaluable tool to any referee who will be involved in salary negotiations. My deepest gratitude and thanks to Deborah for her work on this committee.

Mark Sherbow, our vice-President, chaired the membership committee. A membership blitz occurred in March and our R.A.M. membership has increased from 112 to 126. There are 216 referees in Michigan – 58% are members of R.A.M. Mark single-handedly compiled the Family Court Directory which was mailed to each R.A.M. member in May. Once again, countless yours were spent compiling the information. In addition, Mark is a “rainmaker” for R.A.M. Mark secured funding for our conference and has been the number one “P.R.” person for R.A.M. This year Mark secured Philip Colista and the Honorable Thomas J. Zampino to speak at our 1999 Spring Training Conference. Those who attended the conference will attest that Judge Zampino’s presentation was outstanding. In addition, Mark attended the Domestic Violence Conference and Bench-Bar Conference on behalf of R.A.M. Thank you Mark for your dedicated service to R.A.M. – you make me look good.

Jon Ferrier graciously agreed to speak at our 1999 Spring Training Conference regarding Family Court. Jon is always generous with his mind and time. As chair of the Legislative Committee, Jon has reviewed and analyzed proposed Ct. Rule MCR 3.215 for R.A.M. A subcommittee has been formulated to review ethical rules concerning referees. Jon performs a task that would try the patience of a saint. Jon, and only Jon, is willing to review proposed legislation, strive to understand it, and attempt to explain it to our Executive Board in some coherent manner. Thank you for your invaluable assistance – you are a prince.

Martin Alvin secured Dr. Deborah Greening for our 1999 Spring Training Conference. He and Jon Ferrier are working on an article for the Family Law Journal regarding The Role of a Referee in a Unified Court System. As indicated previously, Marty, Jon, Tom Doetsch, Jean Dohanyos and Joe Racey will author a R.A.M. position paper on the proposed elimination of the tender years exception to the hearsay rule in family court matters. Without the fine minds and efforts of these members, “our voices” would not be heard. Thank you.

Phil Ingraham, our past-president, remains devoted to R.A.M. He served on the planning committee of the Bench-Bar Conference which was attended by Phil, Jon, Deborah, Mark, Art Spears, Doug Dok, Jean Dohanyos, Tom Doetsch, Suzanne Bolton, and Don Broderick. Thank you for representing R.A.M. at this conference.

Our 1999 Spring Training Conference held in Traverse City was attended by 53 members representing 23 counties. With the assistance of Mark Sherbow, David Elias, Martin Alvin, and Art Spears, the 1999 Spring Training Conference was a success. Once again, thanks to the conference committee.

The meticulous record-keeping and thriftiness of our treasurer, David Elias, has manifested in a treasury balance of $11,755.97 (before conference expenses are paid). Oh let’s face it – he’s down right cheap but we need his integrity and watchful Albanian eye to keep the rest of the Board on the straight and narrow path. Thank you David for the many trips to the bank, dues collection, maintenance of membership rolls, and all the other mundane but necessary tasks associated with being treasurer. Without your efforts in guarding “our money” we would cease to exist or, exist, but be broke.
Speaking of money, as President, I am requesting an increase in membership dues from $15 per yer to $25 per year. The Referees’ Association of Michigan is an association without a staff. Without the assistance of my secretary, Christine Holcomb, R.A.M. members would not receive their newsletters, there would not have been a Family Court Directory made available to R.A.M. members, or a Spring Training Conference Booklet. R.A.M. can be proud of. Ms. Holcomb assists Treasurer Elias in maintaining the membership rolls. For the most part, she volunteers her time and services. At this time, a special thanks to Christine who never says “no” and always performs each task with a smile.

As a professional organization we hope to grow. What services do you need as R.A.M. members? What services do you want as R.A.M. members? Should R.A.M. have a lobbyist? Should R.A.M. provide more C.L.E.? What is it that you want R.A.M. to do for you and how? What will it cost? Let me know. My fax number is: (810) 466-8701.

The success of our organization this past year is best explained by my parting thought:

**STRENGTH IS NOT ALWAYS IN NUMBERS BUT IN THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE.**

R.A.M. is blessed with an outstanding Executive Board. You have chosen wisely. Without their assistance, I could not serve you. Have a wonderful fun-filled summer. See you in September.

Warmest Regards,

Zaira M. Maio, President