



We Need Your Survey

Several weeks ago we began the process of conducting a survey of all our regional elected officials. The survey is being conducted by Dr. John Risely of the Johnson Center at Grand Valley State University. If you check your old email, the survey arrived from John Risely on April 18th. He is still receiving a small number of the surveys each week.

Please review your past email folder and submit the survey as soon as possible. We need to insure that the survey is representative of our members and therefore the higher the return rate the better.

If you have questions or can not find the survey in your email folder, please feel free to contact Dr. Risely at riselyj@gvsu.edu

Have a Safe Memorial Day!



Reserve Your

Quarterly Luncheon Tickets

for

July 9th with Lt. Gov. Calley

Price: \$25.00 per person

RSVP to Gayle at mccrathg@gvmc.org

Region Wide Training Exchange

We are working on our Strategic Initiative of Developing a Region Wide Training Exchange. On our website located at gvmc.org you will find along the left side of the home page a link to our calendar. Our GVMC Calendar has been updated to include training sessions being conducted by our partner organizations like MML and MTA. We are working with both of these partners to promote increased training in our region and have offered our facilities for their use.

Focus On Cooperation

COLLABORATION WORK GROUP

In the fall of 2011, the Community Collaboration Work Group (CCWG) was devised as a subgroup of the Collaboration/Cooperation Subcommittee of the Kent County Board of Commissioners. Members of this work group include representatives from the Kent County Board of Commissioners, Grand Rapids City Commission, Kent County townships, Kent County cities, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, The Right Place, Inc., and the Non-Profit sector, plus experts in constitutional/municipal law and economics. This 13-member board has been meeting regularly since January 2012 to examine if the three "C's" (collaboration, cooperation

or consolidation) can improve the three "E's" (efficiency, effectiveness and economic development). The overall goal is good government and good governance. While the municipalities located in Kent County are, by all accounts, far ahead of other areas in Michigan in this area, the belief is that additional opportunities may exist and should be explored.

Utilizing the unique perspectives and expertise of this set of diverse stakeholders within Kent County, the group is reviewing (i) the historical underpinning of the three primary municipal structures (townships, cities and the county), (ii) existing collaborative efforts, (iii) the primary areas of governmental service and how these areas are currently handled among the various municipalities, and (iv) other pertinent information such as the recent legislative changes that are intended to enhance collaborative efforts. Subject matter experts are being invited to attend meetings to address specific areas being reviewed. The work group intends to complete its meetings within a year, and then issue a report outlining its work, findings and recommendations in the first part of 2013.

Jim Saalfeld

Kent County Commissioner

Work Group Chair

**Please Email Your Community's
Programs and Ideas for
Cooperation!**