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# MCTA eNews

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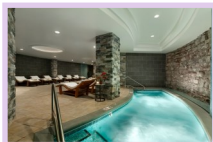
Hello, Treasurers -  
Welcome to MCTA eNews - Your quarterly snapshot  
of the latest association news and information to enjoy, share, and use!

## MCTA eNews

Fall 2014

### Have You Packed Yet? Conference Begins in 6 Days!

In just 6 days, you'll be engulfed in the splendor of The



Elms Resort and Spa, with pampering spa treatments, soaking tubs

and accommodating rooms. There's a café serving oven-hot pastries and blended coffees. There's seasonal Midwestern cuisine in the restaurant, and a tavern serving snacks and pub fare. You'll be surrounded by the rich history of Excelsior Springs. Oh, and you'll be expected to stay awake during the conference topics.

Actually, you'll find there won't be any difficulty with

focusing your attention on this year's conference speakers. They cover timely, interesting subjects. Representative Sandy Crawford will provide an update of state banking issues, and, if you're wondering whether lawmakers will override tax cuts or restore appropriations in next week's Veto Session, she'll weigh in on that as well. Attorney Paul Campo is looking forward to helping us fully understand Missouri's Sunshine Law. Campo said he will address "basic concepts as well as specific issues likely to confront Treasurers." Zobrio's John Quatto, who will dis-



Motivational  
Speaker Mark  
Mayfield

cuss cyber security, said he wanted to help MCTA members with "understanding how staying ahead of your technology will allow you to sleep at night." From the State Auditor's Office, Todd Schuler will fill us in on internal controls issues and how to handle those rascally county "slush" funds. And you will find our motivational speaker Mark Mayfield a real treat – he will help make our conference memorable with his proven ability to make people laugh while inspiring

us. Our very own treasurers will provide informative updates on legislative developments,

*(Continued on page 2)*

### You Might Find Excelsior Springs....well, Historical

You've come all the way to Excelsior Springs for MCTA's conference – do you want to enjoy some of the local historic sights? Put on your walking shoes...here's are a few of the sites worth seeing in Excelsior Springs' Historic District... Your actual destination, The Elms Hotel, is full of history. This Tudor revival style hotel

was built in 1912. In the past, gambling attracted a number of known "gangsters." Other important visitors included oil magnate Harry Sinclair, artist Thomas Hart Benton, and TV personality Dave Garroway, and President



Hall of Waters

Harry Truman spent the 1948 election night at the Elms. The Hall of Waters, a beautiful Art Deco ashlar limestone structure built in 1935, brought the healing, medicinal mineral waters from nearby

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Packed Yet? (continued)



Truman Oval Office

Hey, don't forget to bring your door prize! You can't win if you don't play!



### Gift Shopping!



(Continued from page 1)  
improvements to the association's website, as well as on important proposals like a much-needed legal fund, a MCTA group Facebook page, a New Treasurer Mentoring Program (volunteers be alert), a long-deserved dues increase, and something mysteriously dubbed "Finding NewMO." Between visits to the spa and tavern, you will enjoy a field trip to the Truman Presidential Library. Following their informative movie, the walking tour presents paintings, handicrafts, and memorabilia covering Harry and Bess Truman's life up to and including the White House years. President Truman's donation of his papers, totaling over 7 million pages, allows researchers access to Truman's early life and career in farming, business, military and local government official (he wasn't a county treasurer, but he certainly worked with one – he was a county commissioner!) This remarkable collection includes personal, family, and diary-like writings. Don't forget to check out the apparel and collectibles in their gift shop! Within walking distance in your spare time you can enjoy smoked meats at Wabash BBQ, or, a very short drive away is Ventana Gourmet



Grill (upscale casual), Ray's Lunch (think burgers), Ryan's Pizzeria, and the basement bistro at Willow Spring Mercantile (salads, croissants, and sandwiches). In nearby Liberty, enjoy Minsky's Pizza, wraps and bowls at Longboards, or, if you're feeling daring and cosmopolitan, enjoy a bit of France and NY City at Le Fou Frog in the River Market. So get ready to relax, learn, dine, and dance while all those emails pile up back at your office!



"I am so looking forward to this year's speakers and I'm bringing shoes for dancing!"

- Nadean Rice  
Madison County Treasurer



Wabash BBQ

## Profile: Boone County's Nicole Galloway



Nicole, husband Jon, Benjamin and William

**Years serving as County Treasurer:** "3 Years – began serving in April 2011"

**How I came to run for office:** "Elected to 4-year term in 2012 after being appointed by Gov. Nixon in April 2011"

**What I like most about being a treasurer:** "The opportunity to meet a variety of people I otherwise would not"

**Most difficult thing about being a treasurer:** "Protecting county services from the legislature"

**Favorite politician:** "Senator Claire McCaskill because she is a strong woman in politics"

**My favorite movie is:** "The Color Purple"

**Favorite book:** "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil"

**Favorite pastime:** "Running, spending time with family and playing with my two little boys"

**Most people don't know about me:** "I was a starter on the University of Missouri-Rolla soccer team"

**My family:** "My husband, Jon, and I have two boys – William will be three in November and Benjamin will be one in October"

## Are You Drowning in Spreadsheets?

By John Varadian, CPA

Back in 1983 Lotus 1-2-3 changed the world. Other spreadsheet programs, including VisiCalc, had been on the market for a few years, but Lotus fundamentally redefined how organizations managed their data. Microsoft Excel eventually came along and knocked 1-2-3 off its perch, but by then spreadsheets had become so ubiquitous that it is difficult to even remember what life was like before they became the standard.



Unfortunately, many organizations that still rely on Excel are drowning in spreadsheets. That's because the tools were invented so long ago that they really don't meet the needs of modern companies, let alone government agencies. They're just not getting the job done anymore.



So why are traditional spreadsheets a problem? One of the major flaws is that it is difficult to collaborate with them, meaning that in organizations with large numbers of employees or distributed workforces it is very easy to end up in "version-control hell." Simply put, requiring people to save and send files, and then make sure that they are using the most up-to-date information, is a real challenge. Spreadsheets were invented long before the Internet existed. There have been a number of attempts to fix their shortcomings, but even web-based tools such as GoogleDocs aren't really business-class offerings.

Another major problem is that they often require data to be input multiple times in multiple spreadsheets, which leads to human error that can be time-consuming and costly. It is also almost impossible to get by with just one: all of us know that users have to deal with large numbers spreadsheets working in concert - including having multiple windows open at the same time - so that people can bounce between the relevant documents to get the information they need.

So is it possible to get by without spreadsheets? The short answer is yes! A robust, integrated software platform allows people to get the advantages of working with spreadsheets - especially an orderly approach to cataloging in visualizing information - without the obvious shortcomings. A modern platform (one invented after the advent of the Internet, cloud computing, and distributed workforces that exist outside of the mainframe) can deliver the best of both worlds: the order and clarity of spreadsheets with the advantages of modern interfaces, robust business intelligence functionality, and the security and privacy that are not inherently part of most spreadsheets.

Getting away from spreadsheets is a major step, but the good news is that it does not have to be overly complicated. Any good fund accounting software product on the market today has automatic integration with spreadsheets, meaning that porting data into a new system is literally as simple as a push of a button. And to make it better, these systems can reconcile multiple versions of documents to help knowledge workers figure out which figures are correct. Once information is in the new system, it is easy for anyone who needs to create reports, gain visibility into financial data, and other team members to be able to access and work with the data they need to achieve their goals.

*John Varadian is the CEO of Zobrio ([www.zobrio.com](http://www.zobrio.com)), where he has worked since 1996. His experience includes accounting systems, project management, team leadership, system analysis, training and report writing. Previously he was an auditor and certified public accountant for a small public accounting firm. John received his Bachelor in Economics from the University of Illinois and his MBA from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.*



## Explore Historic Excelsior Springs (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

springs to this processing and



bottling facility. The Clay County State Bank, made of Bedford stone in 1894, was known as one of the most artistic bank buildings in Missouri and contains paintings

(reproductions) of "The Gleaners" and "The Angelus" and is now home of the Excelsior Springs Museum and Archives.

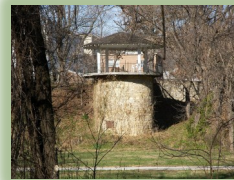


St. Luke's Episcopal Church, is an intact example of Gothic Revival, a style appropriate for the pastoral atmosphere of this resort city. In 1932, noted

Kansas City architect George M. Siemens designed the small

church. Local benefactor Major Bell arranged for a finely carved stone from the 15th century to be shipped from his parish church in England and it was incorporated into the interior wall on the west side of the nave.

Superior Well and Pagoda



The Superior Well and Pagoda was built by the J.C. Isley family for the Superior Spring. In 1912, the wooden framed pa-

goda was replaced by a stone pagoda which was later situated on top of a two story stone and concrete well enclosure. In 1982, the Superior Well and Pagoda was placed on the local landmarks register, it being the last remaining original spring

pagoda in town. Funds for the 1916 Carnegie Library came from a \$10,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation.

This one-story, three bay, brick Classical Revival building continued as a library until 1972 and now houses a non-profit organization.



## NACO Announces Promotion of eConnectDirect®



The National Association of Counties Financial Service Center (NACo FSC) has entered into an exclusive agreement with Multi-Bank Securities, Inc. (MBS) to promote their online investment platform, eConnectDirect®.

eConnectDirect provides access to the most robust Fixed Income Marketplace available in a no fee service. County

treasurers and finance employees

can immediately define and view a real-time inventory of offerings across most dealer institutions. Then, they are able to either conduct transactions in a single, streamlined session or review products with a MBS Account Executive. In late 2013 the FSC distributed a Request for Information to over a dozen national investment firms, forming a review committee of public investment officials to provide response analysis

and selection. After an extensive review process, MBS was selected for this program based on its history of integrity and the transformative potential of its proactive creation, eConnectDirect.

eConnectDirect puts the buyer in control. With this platform as their window to the market, public treasurers will better steward taxpayer resources, confidently buying and selling in a collaborative manner.



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eConnectDirect® was developed and designed by Multi-Bank Securities, Inc. (MBS) to support the ever-changing needs of the institutional client looking to create or enhance their bond or CD portfolio. eConnectDirect® delivers the necessary tools to manage and transact across thousands of fixed-income assets and to assist in actively monitoring your insurance coverage of federally insured CDs.

### Why eConnectDirect®?

eConnectDirect® offers you the new standard in online access to the following investment products:

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| eConnectDirect® CDs       | U.S. Agencies                    |
| DTC Eligible CDs          | Treasuries                       |
| • New Issue DTC Offerings | CRA Eligible Securities          |
| • Secondary DTC Offerings | Municipal Bonds                  |
| • Step-Coupon Offerings   | CMO & Mortgage Backed Securities |
| • Callable CD Offerings   | Corporate Bonds                  |

With eConnectDirect®, MBS provides you the customer support of a licensed representative along with access to the following tools and services:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| CD Insurance Scrub & User Defined Filters              | Free Safekeeping    |
| Easy Navigation across Multiple Products               | Portfolio Analytics |
| Third-Party Bank Ratings                               | Prime Brokerage     |
| Consolidated Portfolio Management Tools & Reports      | Accounting Services |
| Online Access to Statements, Balances, Confirms & More |                     |

Visit [www.econnectdirect.com](http://www.econnectdirect.com) to learn more about the platform that is helping institutional clients *make more money, on their money.*



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[tsaliba@mbssecurities.com](mailto:tsaliba@mbssecurities.com)

Jon Jury (888) • 537-3595  
[jjury@mbssecurities.com](mailto:jjury@mbssecurities.com)



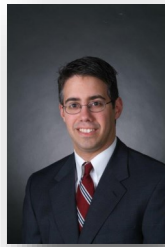
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## MCTA Fall Conference Key Speakers & Topics

***"I'm excited we have speakers who will be addressing many of the questions we often have in our county office."***

***- Sarah Jones  
Moniteau County  
Treasurer***



Paul Campo, attorney with Williams & Campo of Lee's Summit, will address the basic concepts of Missouri's Sunshine Law as well as specific issues likely to confront county treasurers.



John Quatto, Channel Manager for accounting software company Zobrio, will discuss cyber security - "understanding how staying ahead of your technology will allow you to sleep at night."



Representative Sandy Crawford will bring us up-to-date on banking issues and the General Assembly's current Veto Session. Rep. Sandy Crawford, a Republican, represents Dallas County and part of Laclede County (District 129) in the Missouri House of Representatives. She was elected to her first two-year term in November 2010.



Todd Schuler, Missouri State Auditor's Office, will provide insight into internal controls, useful information regarding various county funds (think "slush"), and the ins and outs of pesky unclaimed property.



Motivational Speaker Mark Mayfield will offer up "solid business wisdom" in a "brilliant comedic style." Mark is author of the popular book, Mom's Rules, a comedic yet poignant look at those things Mom said to us as kids, and he makes nearly 100 presentations annually to a wide variety of corporations, conventions, and trade associations. He has also been inducted into their "Speaker Hall of Fame."



The South Fork String Band will perform live music during the banquet and teach participants the fun of contra dancing. Contra dance features partnered couples dancing in two facing lines or in a group of four. Contra dance originates from English and French country dancing styles from the 1600's. Couples move up and down the two lines as the dance progresses switching partners along the way. Enjoy!



## MCTA eNews

P.O. Box 22  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Phone: 573.291.9995

Fax: 573.634.8257

Email: [epeters@colecounty.org](mailto:epeters@colecounty.org)

**Don't forget we're on the  
web! [motreasurers.org](http://motreasurers.org)**

**Hey, don't forget to bring your door prize! You can't win if you don't play!**



The purpose of the **Missouri County Treasurers' Association** is to bring about a closer and more cooperative relationship among Missouri's County Treasurers, and to afford opportunities for its members; to obtain a broader and more practical knowledge of the duties and powers of their offices; to study and discuss questions and laws relating to their offices; to thoroughly investigate any contemplated legislation that in any way affects the office of County Treasurer; and to strive at all times to give to the office of County Treasurer the high standing among the county offices of the State to which it belongs.

### Message from President Cheslik

The conference is just a few days away, and other than a few minor details we are ready to roll! I am looking forward to seeing each one of you and I hope you will enjoy the unique character of The Elms Hotel and Excelsior Springs.

Let's all plan on wearing our green MCTA polo shirts on Thursday. We are going on a "field trip" to the Truman Library on Thursday afternoon so wear comfortable shoes as well. In terms of banquet attire for Thursday night, everything from jeans to casual dress will be fine. I think many of you will want to try the "contra dancing" that will be taught, so dress comfortably and again, wear comfortable shoes.

Speaking of "contra dancing"... Imagine square dancing in a large group with a bit more formality. It is a lot of fun and the South Fork String Band does a great job of teaching the various dance steps to people of wide ranging abilities. Those of you who would rather watch will enjoy that as well. So, you can either dance or you can sit at your table, **but you can't dance on your table!!!** Did you hear that, Rick Renno?

There are a few issues that I would like each of you to consider before you arrive at the conference. The board has been talking about the necessity of a dues increase. Our current dues of \$300 are among the lowest of all the county associations, and while our association fund balance is solid at this time, it has been slowly decreasing the last several years. Also, in light of some of the legal situations in which some of our members have been involved, I asked Jim Platt to lead a Legal Fund Committee to explore the possibilities of creating an MCTA Legal Fund. This, of course, would need a funding source.

Jim will be presenting their ideas at the conference.

Finally, I would like to start a "Mentoring Program" where veteran treasurers would be available to help newly elected/appointed treasurers the moment they take office. I am hoping we can set this up regionally so an experienced treasurer can actually visit or be visited by the new treasurer without driving half way across the state. We will still be having new treasurer training in January, but I envision this as being more of a relationship where the new treasurer has a "go-to" person when issues or questions arise, as well as an immediate friend within the association. Please consider if you would like to help out in this manner. We will discuss this at the conference. Bring your thoughts and ideas to Excelsior Springs next week, and may God grant safe travels.



### Announcements

Oregon County Treasurer Kim Hollis's mother, Mildred Montgomery, passed away July 3rd. Please keep Kim and her family in your prayers.



Rod O'Connor, Dade County Collector/Treasurer, is currently recovering from surgery for kidney cancer. He will soon begin treatments for remaining cancer. Your prayers for his battle would be greatly appreciated.



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More than just an escape from everyday..  
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### *Dining*

88 at The Elms boasts a rustic American dining experience. Our menu is built around quality produce featuring seasonal, locally grown and procured ingredients, many from the grounds of The Elms.

### *Spa & Fitness*

The newly renovated Spa at the Elms offers a place you can spend your days in serenity with pampering spa treatments and a wide variety of amenities.



### *Guest Rooms*

The Elms Hotel and Spa offers the finest in accommodations from Signature Suites to classic guest rooms and everything in between. The Elms provides a renowned experience for all who visit.

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