



## Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

# The Public Recorder

Volume 57, No. 97

DECEMBER 2013

### From the President, Nancy M. Blackmer

**M**erry Christmas to you, your family, and your staff.

great pride in our work and want to make sure everything runs smoothly.

H3772 passed recently and is now waiting for Senate approval. While there are parts of the bill that we may not like, I think the amendments that were approved make it more workable. When I first heard about the early voting, I was against having to have the polls set up for several days prior to the election and having to have it staffed with workers. For those who use schools for their elections, I thought there is no way the schools are going to allow this. Another problem was having to find workers for that many days. This alone would drain many of our budgets. I was glad to see that the early voting will be held in our offices and only during our regular business hours.

For small communities where the Clerk's office is only open one or two days or nights a week, this is a big help. I believe the original proposal would have required all offices to be open every day for eight hours, for two weeks. For towns that are closed on Friday, this would have been a problem as well. There are still many details to be worked out for this portion. I am also glad that they have limited it to two elections and then will review how things went. One of the comments I heard was that many states have early voting, however, as we know New England is not like most states – our local Town Clerks are in charge of running the elections. Outside of New England, most elections are run at the county level which could make running the early voting easier. We as Clerks take

Many parts of this new legislation are things we have been asking for, and if it passes the Senate, we will finally have these items. Like everything, we have to take the good with the bad, so I ask you to be patient and hopefully the details of the early voting will be worked out so that we can continue to run the elections as professionally as we always have.

For many of you, your local town election preparations have begun. My town election is March 3 and nomination papers are now available. Good luck to each of you, and “may the winners win big”. After the recent elections, there were several recounts, so I hope none of you have to deal with that. One of my first elections as Town Clerk resulted in a recount. While it is a very stressful time, this is just another time to show that we are professional and do our jobs correctly.

Our Winter Conference is fast approaching – February 5-7, 2014. Be sure to register online for your classes, send your registration fee to Barbara LaBombard, and if you are planning on staying at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, make sure you make your hotel reservations. The Education Committee has come up with some great classes. I look forward to seeing you in Sturbridge.

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## BEACON HILL REPORT

by Thomas Joyce, Esq.

All is relatively quiet at the State House. The Legislature completed formal sessions late into the evening on November 20<sup>th</sup> and is now meeting informally twice each week until early January. The Senate President just returned from Europe and Speaker DeLeo just came home from a trip to Israel. With our Chief Executive touring Japan and Hong Kong, we need not worry as our friend Secretary of State Galvin is in charge as acting Governor.

On December 5<sup>th</sup> the Senate Ways & Means Committee received the very favorable Elections Bill drafted by the Joint Committee on Election Laws and greatly improved upon by the expert guidance of House Chairman James Murphy. As approved by near unanimity in the House, the bill incorporates all of our concerns and endorses most of the MTCA legislative agenda.

This holiday season is a good time to think about contacting the members of the influential Senate Committee. It is imperative that we individually reach out and stress the need to endorse this very workable piece of legislation. To be clear the bill sets up a framework to favorably address the needs of legislators and the MTCA's core constituency, the Massachusetts voters. Indeed, legislators and clerks alike have much to gain by passage of House Bill 3788, a truly landmark proposal. Too much tinkering could damage the bill and make it impossible to implement.

The Senate Ways & Means Committee will be the first to act on House Bill 3788 so I am listing the member's names and hometown for your reference. Keep in mind, most Senate districts are much broader. They are:

Stephen Brewer of Barre, Chair  
Jennifer Flanagan of Leominster, Vice Chair  
Sal DiDomenico of Everett, Assistant Vice Chair  
Gale Candares of Wilbraham  
Ben Downing of Pittsfield  
Eileen Donoghue of Lowell  
Patricia Jehlen of Somerville  
Brian Joyce of Milton  
Thomas Kennedy of Brocton

Thomas Mcgee of Lynn  
Michael Moore of Millbury  
Anthony Petrucci of Boston  
Marc Pacheco of Taunton  
Michael Rush of West Roxbury  
James Timilty of Walpole  
Richard Ross of Wrentham  
Donald Humanson of Westfield

Kindly think about these people and if you, or a family member are familiar please contemplate asking them for favorable support. Joe Powers, Chairman of our Legislative Committee will be reaching out to you as the New Year approaches. In the interim please enjoy this joyous holiday season and may each of you experience a happy and healthy 2014!

### **MTCA CONFERENCES**

#### ***MTCA WINTER CONFERENCE***

Sturbridge Host Hotel  
Sturbridge, MA  
February 5 - 7, 2014

#### ***MTCA SUMMER CONFERENCE***

Sea Crest Beach Resort  
N. Falmouth, MA  
June 11 - 13, 2014

## REGISTRY OF VITAL RECORDS & STATISTICS

### **Item 1:**

The Registry of Vital Records and Statistics is pleased to announce that, as of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tony Sousa has been officially appointed as the new Registrar. Tony brings to the Registry a strong background in health administration, health data and operations. He comes to RVRS from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services where he was the Operations Manager for the Health Safety Net Office. In that capacity, he successfully migrated submission of health claims to the MassHealth system, while working closely with all internal and external stakeholders toward an effective implementation. His experience will be invaluable as the Department implements new electronic registration systems with the many vital records stakeholders.

Tony has over 15 years of experience managing operations, and also was a nursing home administrator for many years. He holds masters and undergraduate degrees in health care administration.

### **Item 2:**

Below you will find a list of upcoming webinars in preparation for the first quarter 2014 release of the VIP electronic death registration system. Also, please visit our new, easier, web page address for informational and educational updates: [www.mass.gov/dph/vip](http://www.mass.gov/dph/vip). The VIP Team also has a new, easier, email address for questions and support on VIP births and deaths: [vip@state.ma.us](mailto:vip@state.ma.us). Please add this email address to your "safe senders" list. The old email address will still work for a while, but please transition to the new one as soon as you can.

### **EDRS Clerk and Burial Agent Overview and Demonstration**

The VIP Team will provide an overview and demonstration of the new death module for Clerks and Burial Agents. If you have not yet attended an EDRS webinar we strongly urge you to try and do so soon. We will cover issuing permits; registering a record, amending a record; and printing.

Written questions may be submitted in advance or

during the meeting and we will try to answer all questions.

### **VIP EDRS Software Demonstration**

Please join us for a demonstration of the major features of the new EDRS. We will try to answer all questions at the end of the session as time permits. If you have questions about this webinar or would like to submit questions in advance, please email [vip@state.ma.us](mailto:vip@state.ma.us).

[Click Here to Register for the DEC 20, 2:00-3:30 PM Webinar](#)

### **Electronic Death Registration: Board of Health and Burial Agent Overview of Changes to Issuing Burial Permits in 2014**

The VIP team will provide an overview of the new EDRS and discuss opting in to the ePermit printing feature of the new EDRS, versus regular permit printing from the system and discuss various ways to implement online permitting and collect fees, when applicable.

Please send us your specific scenario and questions in the registration question fields so that we can address them in the presentation in advance or you can ask during the meeting and we will try to answer all questions. You can also email us at [vip@state.ma.us](mailto:vip@state.ma.us).

[Click Here to Register for the DEC 17, 9:00-10:30 AM Webinar](#)

## OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

### Year-end campaign finance report: Who files?

Who files the year-end campaign finance report (CPF M102 form)? That's a very common question this time of year, so the answer is worth repeating.

All **incumbent candidates** must file year-end reports, whether they were on the ballot in 2013 or not. Additionally, all **non-incumbents with an existing balance** or liabilities must file.

Ballot question committees that have not dissolved are also required to file.

The reports are due by Jan. 21, 2014. Please contact OCPF at 617-979-8300 with questions and have a very merry holiday season.

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## RETIREMENT

Westborough Town Clerk, Nancy Yendriga, is retiring on December 31<sup>st</sup>, after 20 years with the Town of Westborough.



You are invited to stop by and wish her well in her new adventure.

When: Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Between 9:00 am and Noon

Where: 45 West Main St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

In the Town Clerk's Office

(Above the Police Station)

### Need to know what MTCA classes you have taken?

Contact Database Coordinator:

**Katherine Ingram**  
Town Clerk  
20 Williams Street  
Longmeadow MA 01106  
413-565-4103



## *In Memoriam 2013*



*Franklin Fryer, Weymouth- 35 Years*



*George Lawler, Newburyport- 16 Years*



*Margaret Smith, New Marlborough-30 years*



*Kay McKim, Burlington-16 Years*



*Monte Basbas, Newton-11 Years*



*Shirley Page, Orange- 20 years*



***You give but little when you give of your possessions.  
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. – Kahil Gibran***

***Special thanks to Jeremy P. Gillis,  
Town Clerk of Easton,  
for providing this information.***



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*- Mary-Ellen Lannon Town Clerk of Winchester*

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# Newsletter of the MTCA

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## **The Public Recorder**

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Closing date for copy submission is the FIRST DAY of each month. All news, notes, clippings, meeting notices, and address corrections should be sent to Editor Nancy E. Burnham, 584 Main Street, Athol MA 01331

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