



Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

The Public Recorder

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DECEMBER 2014

From the President, Nancy M. Blackmer

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Beacon Hill Report | 2 |
| MTCA Scholarship | 2 |
| CMMC Exam | 3 |
| MTCA Conference Dates | 3 |
| OCPF | 4 |
| Town Clerk of the Year Award | 4 |
| In Memoriam | 5 |
| Vendor Ads | 6-9 |

Plans are underway for our Winter Conference – the Education Committee has some great classes lined up. The E-Board has also decided to change the format of our Conference. Instead of the update by State Officials on Friday morning, this will be on Thursday at lunch. On Friday morning, we will have another class. After the Winter Conference we will evaluate how this went, so please let us know your thoughts about this format.

If you want to attend the Winter Conference but your Town will not cover the cost, watch for the scholarship information. Scholarships are available to all members of the MTCA and cover the cost of the hotel, meals, and registration. Scholarship applications of questions should be directed to our 2nd Vice President, Andy Dowd.

I was able to attend the recent New England Conference. The New Hampshire Clerks did a great job. The classes were interesting and the location was nice as well. On Wednesday evening, we enjoyed a tour of the Red Hook Brewery followed by entertainment by comedian Juston McKinney. Next year the conference will be in Woodstock, Vermont. In 2016, Massachusetts will host the New England Conference. The committee is busy

raising money for this so please support them by bringing a basket for the raffle and by purchasing tickets at our conferences. The Conference Committee is hard at work planning this conference, if you would like to help, contact Bob Cutler to find out where you can help.

For Clerks interested in attending NEMCI&A, the dates will be July 11-17, 2015. Mark your calendar and watch for the information. If you have never attended, it is a great experience. Scholarships are available if your Town can not financially support you attending. Many of our County Associations provide the funds to support these scholarships. A big thank you to them for their support.

I want to take this time to wish you, your staff, and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BEACON HILL REPORT

by Thomas Joyce, Esq.

November and early December have proven to be the period for preparing transitions, not exclusively in the Governor's office but also in the Senate President's office as well. Soon to be elected Senate President, Stan Rosenberg has been busy filling critical staff positions as President Murray winds down her tenure as leader of that legislative branch. Meanwhile two closely watched state representative recounts have determined the defeat of Representative Rhonda Nyman (D) Hanover on the south shore while also confirming the election James Kelcourse (R) Amesbury up on the north shore.

The planning for Governor Elect Charles Baker inauguration has been in high gear. Governor Patrick has decided to take his long walk down the State House front steps on the evening of January 7th to make way for incoming Governor Baker to celebrate his swearing in unfettered with all the attendant pomp and circumstance on January 8th.

To be certain, Governor Elect Baker has already hit the ground running. Announcing names to half of his cabinet posts and traveling across the Commonwealth conducting a listening tour to better understand the concerns and issues of all its citizens. Assisting him will be his transition committee comprised of nearly two hundred people that will ultimately make initial recommendations on a whole host of subjects. His goal is to make state government work as efficiently and productively as possible. As a roll up your sleeves and dive in kind of person, it could be foolhardy to bet against him.

Not to be overlooked for a moment, Speaker Bob DeLeo is working tirelessly to finish this legislative session and get ready to announce his new Chairs and committee members at the end of January. Presently the most pressing issue is the fiscal 2015 budget projected shortfall, which could be as high as \$350,000,000. Governor Patrick has proposed his suggested resolution, which includes cutting local aid to towns and cities. Speaker DeLeo and his Ways & Means Chairman Brian Dempsey have publicly rejected any local aid cuts and are working day and night to cobble together an equitable resolution to put

the Commonwealth back on track fiscally before the new Governor assumes office. To complicate matters the bill will have to be acceptable to the entire membership of the House and Senate as one objection can stop the passage of legislation during informal sessions.

The MTCA legislative committee has been meeting and has formulated a legislative agenda approved by the Executive Board to be filed for consideration in the upcoming 2015/2016 biennial session of the General Court. The agenda consists of six bills. You will recall the vast majority of the agenda for last legislative session was enacted and became law.

Lastly, as I eagerly look forward to working with the Association for the next two years, I wish to thank you all for your confidence in me as your legislative counsel. May you all have a wonderful holiday season and healthy 2015!

MTCA CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP WINTER CONFERENCE DEVENS COMMON CENTER FEBRUARY 4-6, 2015

In August 2008 the MTCA Executive Board voted to create scholarship funding for the MTCA conferences for municipal clerks who may have trouble obtaining financing from their communities to attend the MTCA conferences. **This is completely separate from the NEMCI & A scholarships!**

The scholarship application and criteria is available on the Mass. Town Clerks' website www.masstownclerks.org. If you can meet the criteria and hope to attend the Winter Conference in February, please fill out the application and send it to **the MTCA Scholarship Chair** **Andy Dowd, 1st Vice President, 63 Main St., Northborough, MA 01532.**

MTCA CERTIFICATION EXAM (CMMC) IN JANUARY

The MTCA examination for Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk (CMMC) designation will be offered in January. Applications must be received by Administrator Barbara LaBombard by **DECEMBER 15th** for the January exam, which will be mailed between January 1st and January 7th.

Applicants must have at least **three years** experience as **Town Clerk** and must complete a minimum of six required courses sponsored by the MTCA.

The Administrator will verify the courses through the Education Committee. More information is available in the certification program brochure.

Completed exams must be postmarked no later than February 10th for the January exam. Applicants are strongly urged to return the completed answer sheets by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Applicants will be notified by mail of the results of

their exams by March 1st. A copy of the notification must be submitted with the application for MTCA certification. The notification of successful completion of the exam will be valid for one year and will have an expiration date printed on it. If an applicant is not certified within one year, the test must be repeated.

The passing score for the exam is 80. Applicants are advised that they will need access to an updated copy of the Massachusetts General Laws to complete the exam successfully.

A non-refundable fee of \$50.00, made payable to the MTCA, must be submitted with the application. This examination is offered twice yearly – during the months of January and July. Application forms for the examination are available at all MTCA conferences and from the administrator, Barbara LaBombard - (cityclerk@easthampton.org) or by calling 413-529-1460.



MTCA CONFERENCES

MTCA Winter Conference

FEBRUARY 4 - 6, 2015

DEVENS COMMON CENTER

31 ANDREWS PKWY, SHIRLEY MA

www.devenscommoncenter.com

MTCA SUMMER CONFERENCE

JUNE 10 - 12, 2015

SEA CREST BEACH HOTEL

350 QUAKER ROAD, FALMOUTH MA

www.seacrestbeachhotel.com

MTCA FALL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2015

SHERATON SPRINGFIELD MONARCH PLACE HOTEL

ONE MONARCH PLACE, SPRINGFIELD, MA

www.sheratonspringfield.com

OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

OCPF: Send year-end notices by e-mail

Due to the costs of printing and postage, we strongly encourage local election officials to collect e-mail addresses for candidates and committees for sending year-end filing information.

Our recommendation is to e-mail your candidates and provide links to forms and guides from the OCPF website.

Here's a list of information you can send to candidates to assist them with their year-end filing responsibilities:

CPF M102 Campaign Finance Report: [click here](#).

Sample Year-End Notification Letter: [click here](#).

Guide for Municipal Candidates: [click here](#).

The guide will be revised for 2015, but the link will remain the same.

Who will file the 2014 year-end report? **All incumbents** and any non-incumbents with balances or liabilities must file a year-end report, due by Jan. 20, 2015.

Please call our office with any questions at 617-979-8300, or by e-mail at jason.tait@state.ma.us. Happy holidays.

TOWN CLERK OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Massachusetts Town Clerks Association (MTCA) is pleased to announce the establishment of the "Town Clerk of the Year Award." This prestigious award will be presented to a Town Clerk who has been in the position for three years or more, is active with the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association, demonstrates professionalism in the position, is involved in the community, and/or has achieved a significant accomplishment over the past year.

The MTCA Awards Committee is soliciting nominations from Town Boards of Selectmen, Town Council, Town Managers, or their fellow clerks and the first Town Clerk of the Year Award will be bestowed on the winner at the Massachusetts Town Clerk's Association meeting in June 2015.

If you feel that your town clerk exemplifies the spirit and characteristics set forth by the prerequisites of this award, please list his/her accomplishments on the Town Clerk of the Year appli-

cation found at the following website: **mass-townclerks.org**. Please submit applications to Deborah Dami, Chairman, MTCA Awards Committee, 16 Great Neck Road North, Mashpee, MA 02649. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ms. Dami at 508-539-1400, ext. 8534.

Nominations are due no later than Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

Deborah Dami, MMC, CMMC

Mashpee Town Clerk

508.539.1400, Ext. 8534

508-776-6349 (cell)

In Memoriam 2014



Martha Whitche, Norwell- 9 years



Anna Brown, West Bridgewater-40 years



Ronald Adams, Bridgewater-38 years



Josephine R. Fusco, Salem



Susan A. Mellor, Blackstone- 25 Years



"Character is the only secure foundation of the state"

-Calvin Coolidge

*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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The Public Recorder

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