



Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

The Public Recorder

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JANUARY 2014

From the President, Nancy M. Blackmer

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I hope you have all been able to keep warm and not had to deal with broken pipes. I also hope we are getting all this bad weather out of the way before our Sturbridge Conference. I look forward to seeing many of you at the conference. If you have not registered, please make sure you get your registration to Barbara LaBombard soon. Make sure you sign up for the classes as well – go to <http://www.prestogem.com/vo/mtca>. If you are staying at the Sturbridge Host Hotel, make sure you make your reservations with the hotel. The Education Committee has come up with some great classes.

I have had several new clerks ask me about the CMMC, CMC, and MMC so I would like to briefly explain these. CMMC is Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk. This certification is earned by attending classes at our conferences, college degrees you have earned, experience as a Town Clerk, along with several other areas, and by taking an exam. The exam is given twice a year and you must be a Town Clerk for at least three years before you can take it. CMC is Certified Municipal Clerk and MMC is Master Municipal Clerk. Both of these certifications are administered by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

In order to earn the CMC you must attend the three year Institute program at the New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy (NEMCI-A). Again, your experience and participation in your local and state associations help to earn the credit

you need to apply for the certification. The MMC requires further education and one place to receive this is by attending Academy classes at NEMCI-A. The process to apply for these various certifications is not hard, but it is time consuming. Any clerk who has waded through the paperwork will be glad to help you with this process. In the past, we have had a class at a conference that goes through all these certifications and what is needed for each one. If you are interested in earning any of them, watch for this class at a future conference.

Congratulations to all the clerks who have retired over the last several months. We thank you for your many years of service and you will be missed. Welcome to the new clerks who are replacing them. This is a great association and any of us are only a phone call or e-mail away.

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

BEACON HILL REPORT

by Thomas Joyce, Esq.

The legislature began 2014 quietly on the first Wednesday in January, huddled under the golden dome during a fierce snowstorm. The slow start accelerated with break neck speed on the 16th when the Senate debated and passed S1975, it's version of the elections bill. To say the bill as passed by the Senate is nearly impossible to implement, expensive, and the most far-reaching election laws initiative in the country may well prove to be an understatement. While it still includes provisions which the House adopted that we have long been advocating, Task Force, Cancellation Devices, Education of Election Officers, it also establishes some initiatives which the MTCA will have tremendous difficulty implementing in their current form.

Spearheaded by Senator Barry Finegold, the upper branch tacked on required election audits, pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds, Election Day voter registration, permanent voter registration for voters who move within the state and much expanded early voting to cover all state biennial elections. The bill requires an early election polling place to be open for 3 Saturday and Sunday hours in towns having 1 precinct and 10 hours if more than 1 precinct. Additionally, the Senate prohibits census non-filing as a reason for voter disqualification.

One of the few favorable provisions added during debate was an amendment to require the Commonwealth fund the hours for weekend offices that are required to be open. Another favorable amendment was doing away with the requirement for checkout tables. To be certain, these few provisions pale in comparison to the cumbersome changes the Senate endorsed.

At the conclusion of debate Senator Finegold stated, "this is a great bill strengthened by the amendments adopted." He said "with early voting and same day voter registration I think we are going to see a big increase in people participating and that's what we want in our democracy." He also cited other states dramatic increase in voter participation, naming California and Oregon in particular.

One huge caveat is that we live to fight another day. I have been assured that this bill along with the House passed election bill will be sent to a committee on conference to attempt to negotiate a compromise. While the House bill, H3788 demonstrated a practical and moderate approach to improving voter participation the Senate bill appears to be much more policy driven "as an all or nothing" approach to election reform.

In closing, I must say, that an objective observer of the Senate debate would be hard pressed to think of even one election reform the Senate failed to adopt. I assure you that along with the MTCA legislative committee I will be working tirelessly to convince the committee on conference to approve a bill that much more resembles the House version.

Business Meeting Seacrest Resort and Hotel June 5, 2013

Donna Hooper, President of the Massachusetts Town Clerk's Association, called the meeting to order at 12:45 PM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- The Business Meeting Minutes of the Fall 2012 Conference and the 2013 Winter Conference were unanimously accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT- Treasurer Robert Cutler's report was unanimously approved. The FY14 Budget as proposed by the Budget Committee was unanimously adopted.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT- Nancy Blackmer thanked all participating vendors and encouraged the Associations continued support of these vendors.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT- Andrew Dowd gave appreciation to the Seacrest Resort for their hosting the conference.

Business Meeting continued:

LEGISLATIVE AGENT UPDATE: Legislative Agent Thomas Joyce spoke on several issues in regards to our legislative agenda and reported all was stable at this time.

CERTIFICATION ADMINISTRATOR: Barbara LaBombard was called upon to present the following CMMC awards.

NEW CMMC'S:

Laura A. Gemme, Reading
Janet Orff Jacaruso, Hopedale

1st CMMC recertification:

Joan M. Wordell, Hudson
Sandra J. Burgess, Amherst
Nancy J. Yendriga, Westborough
Kelly A. McElreath, Upton
Doreen A. Cedrone, Northbridge
Andrew T. Dowd, Northborough

2nd CMMC recertification:

Margaret R. Bonderenko, Mendon
Beverly J. Litchfield, Wilbraham

3rd CMMC recertification:

Laurie Gibbons, Ludlow
Marianne E. Staples, Mansfield
Lorraine Murawski, Sturbridge
Barbara Stats, North Reading
Catherine Flanagan Stover, Nantucket

4th CMMC recertification:

Linda E. Hutchenrider, Barnstable
Naida L. Parker, Rochester
Richard M. Theroux, Agawam

5th CMMC recertification:

Theodora "Tedi" K. Eaton, Needham
Marion A. Mudge, Tisbury
Denise L. MacAloney, Westminster

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: President Hooper called upon Chair of the Nomination Committee, Tedi Eaton to present the committee's recommendations for MTCA Officers and Executive Board members:

For 2013-2014

PRESIDENT: Nancy Blackmer, Orange
1st Vice President: Andrew Dowd, Northborough
2nd Vice President: Jeremy P Gillis, Easton
Secretary: Marie Ryan, Great Barrington
Treasurer: Robert Cutler, Foxborough

Executive Board with Terms to Expire in June 2016:

Sharon George, Wilmington
Joyce Green, Hubbardston
Tara Wick, Plympton

By Voice Vote, the Slate as presented was duly voted by the membership of the MTCA.

President Hooper updated on all on the Grant that the MTCA, Gregor Trinkhaus Randall and Simmons College had submitted. It was noted the grant had been awarded and that Massachusetts will be a test case for the NHRPC. It will be a three year program with the first year dedicated to planning and topics.

President Hooper recognized and presented certificates of appreciation to the Communications committee for the work they have done over the past year in launching the new website.

President Hooper recognized and presented certificates of appreciation to the education committee, noting they are truly the "unsung heroes" of our conferences.

President Hooper thanked everyone involved with the conference, and all the members of the MTCA and MCCA for attending. She called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:29PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy P Gillis, MMC/CMMC
MTCA Secretary

Business Meeting Jiminey Peak, Hancock MA October 3, 2013

A quorum of voting members being present, President Nancy Blackmer called the meeting to order at 12:33 PM.

Secretary's Report

President Blackmer stated that Past Secretary Jeremy Gillis was not present and did not forward the minutes from the last Association meeting in Cape Cod so there is not report to approve at this time.

Treasurer's Report - Bob Cutler

Treasurer Cutler presented his report. He pointed out that on line 5705 that amount of \$24,000 was for the bill from Seacrest, Cape Cod that he did not receive until after July 1. He wanted to remind all the clerks to send in their dues if they have not done so yet. President Blackmer asked for a motion to approve the budget report, motioned granted and all were in favor.

CMMC Awards - President Blackmer introduced Denise MacAloney who presented the clerks who have recently earned their CMMC certificate. They were:

Katherine M. Chretien from New Marlborough, 1st Certification
Onorina Z. Maloney from Chelmsford, 1st Re-Certification
Barrie H. Clough from Dover, 2nd Re-Certification
Paula L. Roberts from Hardwick, 2nd Re-Certification
Janet A. Vallente from Harvard, 3rd Re-Certification

Onorina and Janet were not in attendance and will receive their awards by mail.

Legislative Update – President Nancy Blackmer

President Nancy Blackmer stated that the Legislative Agent, Tom Joyce had asked if he had to attend and at the time he asked there were no issues going on so she told him not to attend. However, since then the election bill had been progressing. She stated that the Bill #H3647 was in regards to the Election laws. The bill had 5 parts to it:

1. Online voter registration
2. Election Training for only the clerks and then they train staff
3. Cancellation Device
4. Study on Audits
5. Early Voting

Robert Cutler, Legislative Committee Member stated that Tom Joyce expects that there will not really be any changes and that the Bill is moving quickly. Many of the Clerks had many questions in regards to the Early Voting part of the Bill but Mr. Cutler said that there were many things to be worked out and he did not have the answers at this point yet.

Simmons College Project - President Blackmer stated that this project will not begin until July 2014.

1st Vice President Report – 1st VP Andrew Dowd reported that the Association awarded 3 scholarships for the Jiminey Peak Conference. He reminded the clerks to visit all the vendors throughout the day.

New Clerks – President asked that any new clerks to come up to the front and introduce themselves to the members. The following clerks came up:

Terri Iemolini from Stockbridge
Lydia Szych from Hatfield
Lynn Doyle from Carver

President Blackmer also reminded everyone to check out the basket raffle and the 50/50. She said this helps to support us for the 2016 Massachusetts New England City and Town Clerks Association Conference. Robert Cutler announced to the members that the 2016 New England Conference will be at the Omni Parker House in Boston.

President Blackmer asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Cutler made the motion, all in favor.

Adjourned at 12:54 PM.

OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

Raffles to Raise Money for Candidates or Political Committees? Not a Great Idea.

A town clerk recently called OCPF to ask whether a political committee could hold a raffle. It's a common question, especially for local party committees.

Based on advice from the Attorney General's office, our answer has always been no.

State law allows local election officials to issue permits to six specific types of organizations, and political committees are not listed in the statute and may not be issued permits, according to the Attorney General's office.

Please call our office at 617-979-8300 if you have questions on any campaign finance issue.

Campaign Finance Disclosure reports for Year-end 2013 are due Tuesday, Jan. 21.

OCPF will be available by phone to assist candidates and committees until 8 p.m. Tuesday for filing ques-

tions.

[Click here](#) for OCPF's instructional video on how depository committees file year-end reports. Depository candidates include statewide and county candidates, Governor's Council candidates and mayoral and city council candidates in Boston, Cambridge, Lowell, Springfield and Worcester. State parties are also in the depository system.

Non-depository candidates and committees also file year-end reports. These committees include legislative candidates, mayoral candidates in cities with populations of 40,000 to 100,000, PACs and independent expenditure PACs. Local party committees file with OCPF if they exceed \$100 in activity in 2013.

All other municipal candidates file on paper with their local election officials.

Please call OCPF at 617-979-8300 with questions.

REGISTRY OF VITAL RECORDS & STATISTICS

News from the RVRS:

DEATH menu option is still in pilot As a reminder, the Death menu option is still an early pilot version and is NOT to be used for real data at this time. RVRS is still targeting a late first quarter 2014 implementation of the electronic death system.

VIP Slowness We are researching reports of VIP being very slow. Please report incidences of extreme slowness to vip@state.ma.us and include the time it happened, how long, and what actions you were taking at that time (e.g., "clicked on Finish after registering").

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- Mary-Ellen Lannon Town Clerk of Winchester

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Newsletter of the MTCA

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Secretary

Marie Y. Ryan, CMC/CMMC, Great Barrington

Treasurer

Robert E. Cutler, Jr., CMC, Foxborough

Editor

Nancy E. Burnham, CMMC, Athol

The Public Recorder

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Phone: 978-249-4551

Email: townclerk@townofathol.org

Website: www.masstownclerks.org