



## *Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association*

# *The Public Recorder*

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### From the President, Nancy M. Blackmer

I hope everyone had a great holiday. Most of us are in the midst of our annual census and dog licenses, from that we go into our annual town elections. In Orange, our annual election is held the first Monday in March so nomination papers have been returned and I will have a long election night as there are many open spots on the ballot – lots of write-ins to be counted. From elections we move into Certificates of Registration for flammable storage, and then town meetings. These are just a few of the tasks that demand our time.

Our winter conference is fast approaching. If you have not registered for the conference as well as you classes, please do so as soon as possible. The Education Committee is trying something different this time – they are offering the same classes in the morning and again in the afternoon. Please let them know how you like this, or if you don't, so they know how to plan for the summer conference. If you have suggestions for future classes, please also let them know that. Their goal is to offer a variety of classes so that there is something that will interest everyone.

Our summer conference will be held June 10-12 at Sea Crest. Mark you calendars and save those dates so that you can attend. I cannot guarantee that we

will have nice weather, but we always have a nice time and learn lots. Conferences are great opportunities to meet other clerks and pick up helpful hints on how to make our jobs easier. We also get the opportunity to “put a face to a name” for many of the state agencies we work with. Learning at our conferences does not occur just in the classes but around the lunch or dinner table. If you hear of a new clerk in your area, give them a call and invite them to attend with you.

The Nominating Committee will be sending out an appeal soon for members for the E-Board and officers. If you would like to serve our Association, please let them know you are interested. They try to get representation from all counties to serve on the Board. The size of your community does not matter – we currently have members from small one precinct communities to large multi-precinct communities. The E-Board meets on Wednesday before each conference begins and once in between each conference, for a total of six meetings each year.

## BEACON HILL REPORT

by Thomas Joyce, Esq.

Happy New Year! I begin 2015 by admitting that this year will not be quite as exciting as the last for the MTCA, purely from a public policy point of view. Now, I know that may sound a bit negative, but my purpose is to highlight the tremendous success we achieved in 2014 with the passage of the Election Reform law. No less than five of our major legislative goals secured passage as part of that landmark law!

Last year 458 bills out of approximately 7000 became law. In fact, during sparsely attended "informal sessions," after July 31, a whopping 249 initiatives were enacted and signed by Governor Patrick. I am pleased to report that the Governor's vital records surcharge proposal was not one of them. To be certain, as I have indicated before, it is critical that we closely scrutinize informal sessions.

The Legislature officially concluded the business of the 188<sup>th</sup> General Court on Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup> and convened the 189<sup>th</sup> General Court the following day. As expected, Senator Stan Rosenberg from Amherst was unanimously elected Senate President and Representative Robert DeLeo of Winthrop was unanimously elected Speaker of the House. His caucus unanimously elected Senator Bruce Tarr as Minority Leader as Representative Brad Jones over in the House was unanimously elected House Minority Leader.

Wednesday evening, January 7<sup>th</sup>, with much pomp and circumstance former Governor Patrick took his lone walk, departing the Statehouse through the front doors and walking down the stairs to Beacon Street. Although he officially remained Governor until the following day at noon, he followed recent tradition in leaving early, to give the incoming Chief Executive the limelight.

To even more ceremony, as tradition dictates, Charles Baker was sworn in as Governor by Senate President Rosenberg in the House of Representatives chamber at 12:30 PM on Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup>. Quite a grand display as history unfolded! If any of you get the chance four years hence to personally witness the occasion I implore you to do so. It is a real treat!

Now the work begins anew. Governor Charlie Baker will finish his fiscal 2016 budget proposal within a week and the big three, Baker, DeLeo, and Rosenberg will continue to actively explore ways to work together to address the budget deficit. Although the new Governor should enjoy a "honeymoon" period, the state's fiscal issues will take front and center.

Importantly, with the deadline looming, the 6 MTCA bills for this legislative session have been filed. They will not be referred to joint legislative committees for approximately 3 weeks. In fact, the committee chairs and various committee memberships have yet to be determined. The Senate President will probably name his leadership team at the end of next week while Speaker DeLeo will probably make his appointments a week or two thereafter. I will report to the executive and legislative committee's as soon as I know who the new committee chairs will be but will be sure to include them and the committee member's in my next report.

I look forward to the year ahead!

## MTCA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### MTCA Nominating Committee Seeks Applicants for MTCA Officers & Executive Board

The MTCA Nominating Committee is charged with the responsibility of nominating and presenting a slate of officers to the MTCA membership at the Annual Meeting in June that duly reflects representation of its membership (as stated in the MTCA Policies & Procedures). The Nominating Committee makes every effort to have statewide representation on the Executive Board.

The officers of the MTCA shall be President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the MTCA and shall hold office for one (1) year or until a successor is elected or appointed. Officers may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms in office with the exception of Secretary and Treasurer, who may serve no more than five (5) consecutive terms in office.

The following positions are open for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015:

**President** – Nancy M. Blackmer, MMC/  
CMMC, Town of Orange, *Franklin County*

**First Vice President** – Andrew T. Dowd,  
CMC, Town of Northborough, *Worcester County*

**Second Vice President** – Jeremy Gillis, MMC/  
CMC, Town of Easton, *Bristol County*

**Treasurer** – Robert E. Cutler, CMC/CMMC,  
Town of Foxborough, *Norfolk County*  
(Term of Office July 1, 2015 – June 30,  
2016 – fourth of possible five years)

**Secretary** – Marie Y. Ryan, CMMC, Town of  
Great Barrington, *Berkshire County*  
(Term of Office July 1, 2015 – June 30,  
2016 – third of possible five years)

Three members of the Executive Board each for a three-year term

Current E-Board members whose terms are expiring represent Bristol, Barnstable and Middlesex Counties.

If you are interested in serving as an officer or on the MTCA Executive Board, please submit a letter of interest by March 20, 2015 to the Nominating Committee.

Thank you,

Theodora K. Eaton, Needham  
Margaret R. Bonderenko, Mendon  
Wendy M. Houle, Sunderland  
Lynn Sibley, Whately  
Kaari Mai Tari, Westford  
Andrew T. Dowd, 1st VP, Northborough  
*MTCA 2015 Nominating Committee*

## MTCA MEETING

### October 2, 2014- Springfield Sheraton Hotel - 12 PM

- ♦ A quorum of voting members being present, President Nancy Blackmer called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM.

#### Secretary's Report

Jeremy Gillis made a motion to accept the minutes from the Association meeting from June 12, 2014 from Sea Crest Conference and it was seconded by Treasurer Robert Cutler. Minutes were unanimously approved.

#### Treasurer's Report - Bob Cutler

Treasurer Cutler presented his report and stated there were copies on each table. He noted that the budget and all the accounts are currently in good shape. On a motion by 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Gillis and seconded by the membership, the Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

**CMMC Awards** - President Blackmer introduced Barbara LaBombard who presented the clerks who have recently earned their CMMC certificate. They were:

Karin I. Foley from Phillipston, 1<sup>st</sup> Certification  
 Amy R. McDougall from Shirley, 1<sup>st</sup> Re-Certification  
 Elizabeth Markiewicz from Boxborough, 1<sup>st</sup> Re-Certification  
 Rosemary B. Harvell from Sudbury, 1<sup>st</sup> Re-Certification  
 Joseph F. Powers from Wellfleet, 1<sup>st</sup> Re-Certification

Tara M. Ward from Ashland, 2<sup>nd</sup> Re-Certification  
 Kaari Mai Tari from Westford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Re-Certification

Carol Mayer from Medfield, 3<sup>rd</sup> Re-Certification  
 Wendy Houle from Sunderland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Re-Certification

**New Clerks** – President Nancy Blackmer then introduced all the new clerks.

**Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump** – President Blackmer then introduced our speaker for the luncheon, State Auditor Suzanne Bump. Auditor Bump discussed public trust and pre-funding of spe-

cial elections. She also stated that the new online submission for costs should help speed up the refunds for the special elections. Then Auditor Bump discussed the unfunded mandates in Massachusetts.

#### President - Nancy Blackmer

President Blackmer thanked all the vendors for their attendance and asked the membership to support the raffles.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Andrew Dowd

1<sup>st</sup> VP Dowd stated that there were 3 scholarship applications for this conference. He reminded the members that there is money available for future conferences. Then he thanked all the vendors for attending the conference.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Jeremy Gillis

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Gillis thanked all the members and vendors for attending as well as the hotel for all their assistance.

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

Adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan, CMMC, CMC  
 MTCA Secretary

## GET TO KNOW THE MASS.TOWN CLERKS

### Diana L. Cooley - Town Clerk of Petersham

**Town/Population:** Petersham, MA—Population 1,333 - Elected Town Clerk July 1995. Also a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, Commissioner to Qualify, Petersham Lions Club, Petersham Branch Alliance and Full-Time Athol DPW Administrative Assistant since 1997.



**Children/Grandchildren:** Married to Police Chief Dana Cooley for 30 years in March. Children: Brandi, age 28; Shayna, age 26; and Adam, age 24. Grandchildren: Daisy, age 2 1/2; Savannah, age 2 1/2; and Delmar 6 weeks.

**What is your favorite food?** Homemade Chicken Nuggets (cheap date)

**What is your favorite vacation spot?** Maine

**Do you have any hobbies?** Quilting, Photography, Stained Glass, Reading

**What is your favorite movie/TV Show?** Blue Bloods - Christmas Vacation

**What is your favorite thing about your career?** The friends I have made during my years of service

**What is your proudest accomplishment?** My family, My home, My Years as Town Clerk. The results of my hobbies.



## MTCA CONFERENCES

### MTCA Winter Conference

**FEBRUARY 4 - 6, 2015**

*DEVENS COMMON CENTER*

*31 ANDREWS PKWY, SHIRLEY MA*

[www.devenscommoncenter.com](http://www.devenscommoncenter.com)

### MTCA SUMMER CONFERENCE

**JUNE 10 - 12, 2015**

*SEA CREST BEACH HOTEL*

*350 QUAKER ROAD, FALMOUTH MA*

[www.seacrestbeachhotel.com](http://www.seacrestbeachhotel.com)

### MTCA FALL CONFERENCE

**SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2015**

*SHERATON SPRINGFIELD MONARCH PLACE HOTEL*

*ONE MONARCH PLACE, SPRINGFIELD, MA*

[www.sheratonspringfield.com](http://www.sheratonspringfield.com)

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*- Mary-Ellen Lannon Town Clerk of Winchester*

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# Newsletter of the MTCA

584 Main Street  
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## **Massachusetts Town Clerks Association**

### **President**

Nancy M. Blackmer, MMC/CMMC, Orange

### **First Vice-President**

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### **Second Vice-President**

Jeremy P. Gillis, MMC/CMMC, Easton

### **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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