

The Public Recorder



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Report of the President, Donna Hooper

Spring 2012 - New Opportunities

New life and vitality brought each year with the arrival of spring signals the start of town elections, town meeting, and more! Springtime is also the time during which communities experience a change in leadership, with some long-standing Town Clerks reaching the time for retirement.

Changes in our offices and staffing provide an opportunity to review and assess the way we have done business, opportunities for change, opportunities for collaboration, and opportunities to reach out and share knowledge and systems with others.

The ongoing 2012 election cycle generates much activity in the election arena. The March 19, 2012 'Clerk's Day on the Hill' provides a great opportunity to learn from current legislative leaders their views on many issues confronting communities and the municipal Clerks directly, as well as to provide an opportunity for each of us to have meaningful conversations with those legislators representing our communities.

With preparations underway for the June 6-8, 2012 MTCA conference at Seacrest, we continue to identify and seek to provide beneficial and interesting topics to enrich and strengthen our roles as Town Clerks. As our Association's year begins to wind down it, is a time for members to step forward in ways they deem they can best serve the MTCA, and their fellow Clerks, through giving of their time and expertise.

The March 19th 'Clerks' Day on the Hill' is a great opportunity to get energized, get connected, and get involved with the many issues we as municipal clerks will encounter over the upcoming months.

Now is the time to make plans to participate – on March 19th on 'the hill', and then again at the June 2012 conference. Happy Spring!

Donna Hooper

MTCA LOBBYIST REPORT – MARCH 2012

By Stephen Roche

2012 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

Like many of you, I was disappointed with a turnout of less than 8% on March 6th. I always tell folks, clerks are ready for every election, whether the turnout is 8% or 98%.

Certainly, the lack of a Democratic race had an effect on turnout but I thought the Republican race would be livelier, even though Mitt Romney had a clear advantage in Massachusetts.

ELECTION LAWS CHANGES ON THE WAY?

There was a report recently in the State House News Service that the Election Laws Committee is considering changes before the Fall elections. Obviously, this is of great concern to the MTCA. The suggested changes would range from early registration to audits.

MTCA Legislative Chair Larry Pizer sent a memorandum to all members of the Election Laws Committee immediately afterward in which he:

- Urged the Committee not make any changes so close to the State Primary Election
- Urged the Committee to adopt the MTCA's suggestion to create a Task Force to consider these and other election laws proposals; see **House 3115**
- Reminded them that some changes may be "local mandates", requiring state reimbursement

Larry's memo was also delivered to the House and Senate leaders and other legislative friends of the MTCA.

Add this to the list of issues to be discussed with your state legislators at the State House on March 19th.

2012 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

We are about to reach an important point in the 2011-2012 Legislative Session – Joint Rule 10 is March 21st.

Under the Joint Rules of the General Court, every bill has to receive a public hearing. In turn, every legislative committee must vote on each bill referred to the committee under Joint Rule 10. There are several options for the committees; they can:

- Approve the bill – Ought To Pass
- Disapprove the bill – Ought Not To Pass
- Amend the bill
- Redraft the bill
- Refer the proposal to another committee

The MTCA bills are all subject to this rule. It is a particularly busy time for us as we have dozens of reports coming out of various committees on a daily basis. It's also a stressful time as we push for favorable action on some bills and for negative action on others.

Action on budget, tax, controversial matters, and any matters requiring a roll-call vote must be concluded by the end of formal sessions at Midnight on July 31st.

FY2013 STATE BUDGET

After the Governor released his FY2013 budget plan on January 25th, the Legislature took control of the process. The House and Senate budget committee began joint hearings on the Governor's proposal – **House 2** – in February. The hearings were held across the state and concluded on March 9th.

We expect the House budget proposal to be released during April school vacation break with Senate action to follow in May.

A number of the Governor's budget proposals have generated opposition and House Speaker Bob DeLeo has promised that the House budget plan will not include any new taxes.

UPDATES ON OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN

- Election Laws Task Force bill – **House 3115**. No action since last report.
- Animal Control bill – **Senate 1033**. No action since last report.
- JP Fees – **House Docket 4190**. No action since report

MTCA "DAY ON THE HILL" – MARCH 19, 2012

Mark the date and plan to participate.

As you can see, we are facing a lot of pressure on Beacon Hill as we head toward Election Day.

We don't control the Election Laws Committee. We don't have a vote in that committee, or on the House or Senate Floor. That is why you need to talk to your state legislators, to influence their vote.

Whether you do that on March 19th, or tomorrow – do it. Tell them how any changes in an election year are unwelcome and ill advised.

It's not enough for you to merely rely on the MTCA Committee or its lobbyist – you need to get involved – now!



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 following positions are open:

Secretary for a one-year term.

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

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

If you are interested in serving as Secretary or a member of the Executive Board, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

Thank you,

Jane Hibbert, Yarmouth
Denise MacAloney, Westminster
Ellen Glidden, Barre
Nancy Morrison, West Bridgewater
Tedi Eaton, Needham
Nancy Blackmer, 1st VP, Orange
MTCA 2012 Nominating Committee



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What is the Alumni Academy?

Last year at the NEMCI exit interviews with the faculty, Sean Cullinane brought up the fact that we should offer an Alumni Academy. This would be a two-day session for clerks who graduated from NEMCI. This program was suggested as a draw to bring Clerks back to NEMCI. It would provide an educational and fun environment for classmates from your original graduating class to join together again at NEMCI. And, it would provide another great way for Clerks to continue to support our institution.

Carrying this a step further we came up with the Alumni golf shirt – so that those coming for the Alumni session or one of the Academy sessions could be a part of the kick off of this Alumni group.

ALSO the goal was to kick up this session a notch and include a couple of things over the two-day period that either have not been offered in a while or are totally new and challenging. The curriculum chair, the board of directors and the faculty worked together to bring to you for the first time Alumni Academy C. The classes will be held on Wednesday and Thursday so you can go to the party and the banquet (banquet is optional – classmates may choose to dine together that evening).

In this Alumni Academy you are getting two brand new things – one is a Leadership Dialogue on Lincoln in Leadership Executive Strategies – which is normally not offered during the regular week of Academy. This book has been highly recommended and is on the list for IIMC as far as Leadership Dialogues. The other brand new course is on Mobile Technology – Using Mobile Technology to Enhance Productivity (Ipad, desktops, e-readers, tablets and applications will be explored) so you can understand and utilize the new technology in your role of Town/City Clerk. Plus learn about your personality, or see if it is still the same, or different with Myers Briggs! A new and different two days of classes!

A big thank you to the NEMCI board who chose to go forward with Sean's idea and now they just need you to register...this class is limited to only 10 (due to the technology session) – I'm going to sign up, I am excited – anyone out there from the class of 1993? Come one, come all, come to NEMCI this summer, whether it is for Academy A, B or C or if you haven't been to the Institute – this is your year to do it!!! (PS – Also order a shirt now, forms on New England website.)

Find a classmate and come to Plymouth! – the registration forms and information should be on the website, this is a year to go!!!

Linda Hutchenrider/Past Chair



MASS. MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

Beginning in April, the Massachusetts Municipal Association will be reaching out to all of you for help in updating the town personnel information that will appear in the 2012-2013 edition of the Massachusetts Municipal Directory.

The emails will include a link to a password-protected website where you can enter personnel, job title and phone number changes that have taken effect over the past year in your community. Most of you will receive the email soon after your town elections take place.

This will be the fifth year that we've given you the option of updating the information online, rather than using a paper survey. The percentage of city and town clerks who make use of the online tool has risen each year, and is now above 90 percent. Many users find that the updates can be done quickly online. More than half of all clerks, however, have required at least one reminder phone call from the MMA in order to obtain the updates.

There are several reasons for this. In some instances, the initial email notification never reached the intended clerk, either because we had an incorrect address in our database or because of a spam filter. And the election season, of course, is a busy time for all of you, with information required by the Secretary of State's Office and the Division of Local Services.

But we do hope that each of you will help to ensure that the Massachusetts Municipal Directory provides the highest possible levels of accuracy and comprehensiveness. The publication is used not only by local and state officials but also by nonprofit and for-profit organizations. It can only be as good as the information that each of you provides.

If you were appointed or elected to your current position since last August, when the 2011-2012 Directory went to print, please send me an email (directory@mma.org) so that we can make sure you receive the link and username/password for the directory survey in a timely fashion this spring.

As always, thanks to all of you for your assistance.

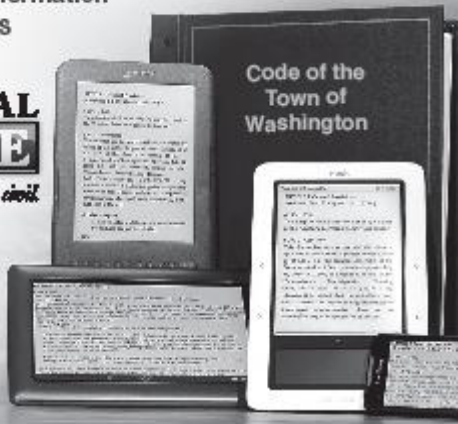
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MTCA CONFERENCE SCHEDULES

MTCA SUMMER CONFERENCE

June 6, 7 & 8, 2012
Sea Crest Beach Hotel
Falmouth, MA

NEW ENGLAND MUNICIPAL CLERKS' INSTITUTE & ACADEMY

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Plymouth, NH

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What are your Census forms missing?

IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENT
TOWN OF ANYTOWN ANNUAL CENSUS 2010

Please return forms to:
Town Clerk
Town of Anytown
123 Main Street
Anytown, US 01234
Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
For Assistance, call the Town Clerk at (800) 768-4321

General Laws of Anytown mandate an annual street listing of residents as of January 1 of each year. As part of this process, we are including information that is being maintained in the Commonwealth's Voter Registration Information System (VRIS).

Please update and correct the information provided by adding, deleting, or making changes to the printed information. Please sign and return form in the enclosed envelope within ten (10) days, even if no changes are necessary.

← If this address is incorrect, make corrections below:

RESIDENT ADDRESS: 543 SAMPLE LANE
SMITH HOUSEHOLD
OR CURRENT RESIDENT
543 SAMPLE LANE
ANYTOWN, US 01234

WARNING: FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THIS MAILING SHALL RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THE ACTIVE VOTING LIST AND MAY RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THE VOTER REGISTRATION ROLLS. (MGL Ch. 51, Sec. 4(c))

Phone #: (800) 132-4567

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
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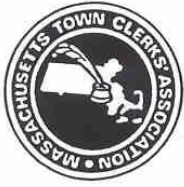
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Newsletter of the MTCA

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