



Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

The Public Recorder

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MARCH 2014

From the President, Nancy M. Blackmer

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Local town election season is upon us – I just finished with my election. We had three contestants for one seat on the Board of Selectmen, but our voter turnout was just 14%. The day after the election, I read comments on Facebook from people that they did not know the election was the day before. They said if they had known, they would have voted. We were accused of trying to hide things and also that we do the same thing when it is time for town meetings. Comment was also made that the town puts things on the town meeting warrant that should be voted on a ballot. It is the same story – it is the town's fault that they did not know about something. The legislature has included early voting in the election bill and while that is for state and federal elections only, will that really help increase voter turnout? I just saw an article that said in states that have early voting there has not been an increase in voter turnout. We will have to wait and see what ends up being voted.

Plans are underway for our conference in June. It will be held at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel on June 11-13. The Education Committee is always looking for suggestions for classes to offer at our conferences. If there is something you would like offered, contact one of the members of the Committee to let them know.

The Nominating Committee is looking for people to serve the Association as members of the E-Board. If you are interested in serving this great organization, contact Tedi Eaton in Needham for more details. If

you are interested in serving on one of our other committees, please contact me at townclerk@townoforange.org and let me know what you would like to help with. Some of the many committees we have are Budget Committee, CMMC Certification/ Examination Board, Clerk's Manual Committee, Education Committee, Legislative Committee, Scholarship Committee, Social Secretary, and Communications Committee. It is because of the willingness of Clerks to serve that our Association continues to be able to offer all that we do. I thank everyone who has ever served the MTCA for their work.

MTCA CONFERENCES

MTCA SUMMER CONFERENCE

Sea Crest Beach Resort

N. Falmouth, MA

June 11 - 13, 2014

NEACTC CONFERENCE

Sheraton Harborside Hotel

Portsmouth, NH

November 19—21, 2014

BEACON HILL REPORT

by Thomas Joyce, Esq.

Importantly, the Elections Conference Committee has yet to resolve the differences between the two greatly divergent versions passed by each branch. The six-member committee chaired by Representative Jamie Murphy of Weymouth and Senator Barry Finegold of Andover has been communicating but has not yet officially met. However, I expect them to meet this week. I have been meeting with each member and expressing our strong preference for the House version, H3788.

Over the past month there has been little legislative activity of immediate concern to the MTCA. Last week the Constitutional Convention met but immediately recessed to meet again in July. You may recall there are a few petitions, the one filed by Senate President Therese Murray in particular, relating to allowing no excuse absentee voting. A Constitutional amendment initially requires two successive affirmative votes of the General Court meeting in successive biennial sessions. This means 4 years before this could become law if approved.

It has been election season as you are all well aware. Many of you are involved in the numerous special elections to fill vacancies of resigning members of the

legislature. With the announcement last week of yet another House member resigning, it is questionable if enough time is allowed to call for another special election to fill that seat, or whether it will remain vacant until January.

With the many legislative vacancies created, mostly in the House, there is a number of leadership and chairmanships open to be filled. The Speaker has announced that he will be addressing them shortly. Many Representatives have argued for him to wait until next year due to formal sessions ending July 31st in this election year. I will be watching closely as this develops.

One thing I will be monitoring this week is the Joint Committees on Beacon Hill that are required, pursuant to Joint Rule 10, to report all bills out of their respective committees by the third Wednesday in March. We can expect thousands of bills to deluge the House and Senate Clerks. The Election Laws Committee has nearly 300 bills to act upon.

In closing, I hope to have good news to report on the Elections Conference Committee shortly. Surely that would make for a very nice spring for us all!

OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

OCPF is offering training for city and town party committees

OCPF has scheduled several regional campaign finance seminars for city and town local party committees.

The training includes instructions on fundraising and spending, how and when to file campaign finance reports and how a local party committee can work with candidates. If you think your local party committees can benefit from the regional seminars, please let their officers know the dates and places below.

April 15, 6 p.m., **Lenox** Public Library, 18 Main St.

April 22, 6:30 p.m., **Peabody** West Branch Library,

603 Lowell St.

April 24, 6:30 p.m., **Chelmsford** Public Library, 25 Boston Road

April 28, 6 p.m., **Taunton** Public Library, 12 Pleasant St.

April 30, 6:30 p.m., **Marlborough** Public Library, 35 W. Main St.

May 6, 6:15 p.m., Jones Library, **Amherst**, 43 Amity St.

May 13, 6 p.m., **Barnstable** Sturgis Library, 3090 Main St.

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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 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014:

President – Nancy M. Blackmer, CMC/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*

Secretary – Marie Y. Ryan, CMMC, Town of
Great Barrington, *Berkshire County*

(Term of Office July 1, 2014 – June 30,
2014 – second of possible five years)

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

Current E-Board members whose
terms are expiring represent

Hampden, Norfolk, and Franklin
Counties.

If you are interested in serving on the MTCA
Executive Board, please submit a letter of interest by
March 20, 2014 to the Nominating Committee.

Thank you,
Jane Hibbert, Yarmouth
Nancy Morrison, West Bridgewater
Lynn Sibley, Whately
Kaari Mai Tari, Westford
Tedi Eaton, Needham
Andrew T. Dowd, 1st VP, Northborough
MTCA 2014 Nominating Committee

OCPF continued from Page 2

Questions and Answers

Here are a few issues raised by city and town clerks
recently, and our answers.

Will municipal candidates be able to use OCPF's new
Web-based Reporter system? **Yes. When the new
system is launched this summer, a local candidate
can voluntarily contact OCPF for an ID and pass-
word. Campaign finance reports can then be
printed, signed and filed at city or town hall (clerks
can also take reports by e-mail or fax).**

Are clerks required to post "zero" reports on the mu-

nicipal website that are filed by candidates who don't
raise or spend money? **No, but we recommend post-
ing all reports. In our experience, it confuses the
public viewer when some reports are posted and
others are not displayed.**

Are all incumbents required to file pre-election and 30
-day-after campaign finance reports for the town elec-
tions this year, even if they are not on the ballot? **Fil-
ing is required for candidates who appear on the
ballot, or write-in candidates who raise and spend
money. If an incumbent is not on the ballot, he or
she will file one report covering the entire year,
due Jan. 20, 2015.**

2014 NEW ENGLAND MUNICIPAL CLERK INSTITUTE & ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

1. The Executive Board shall determine, annually, the amount of scholarship monies to be allocated. Scholarships are only for those applicants who have been denied funds from their municipalities.
 2. The Joint Scholarship Committee shall consist of a committee made up of members appointed by the President of the New England Association of City & Town Clerks and the Chair of the NEMCI & Academy Board of Directors.
 3. Scholarship money from both sources shall be combined and allocated to applicants as agreed by the committee, with the exception of funds specifically earmarked and in the possession of the New England Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy Board of Directors.
 4. The NEACTC President appoints a Joint Scholarship Chairman to serve for three years.
 5. Scholarships shall be awarded to students attending the New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy.
 6. Scholarship awards will be limited to one person per office with the Clerk having first preference.
 7. Applicant must be a Municipal Clerk or Deputy/Assistant Clerk.
 8. The Joint Scholarship Committee will give priority to first year Institute students.
 9. An applicant must be a current member of his or her state association.
 10. An applicant must have been a member of the NEACTC for over one year.
 11. Applicant shall disclose at time of application they have applied for IIMC funds.
 12. An applicant must have requested funds from his/her municipality and include a letter of denial for such funds.
-
1. Applicants should (after denial from municipality) send this application to their state association for funding. A reason for denial or explanation must accompany this application in order to be considered.
 2. Deadline to file applications with the State Scholarship Chair is **April 8, 2014**.
 3. Joint Scholarship Chair will notify the applicant, the Treasurer of the NEACTC, and the Treasurer of the NEMCI & Academy by April 30, 2014.
-

Joint Scholarship Chairperson

(Joint Scholarship Chairperson refers to the person responsible for awarding scholarship funds from NEACTC and NEMCI and does not imply joint responsibility with another person. This is a three year appointment)

NH: Joanne Linxweiler, PO Box 309, 47 Chester Road, Auburn, NH 03032
Phone: 603-483-2281 Fax: 603-483-0518 townclerk@townofauburnnh.com

State Scholarship Chairpersons

CT: Virginia (Ginger) Salisbury, 501 Main Street, Southbury, CT 06488-2295
Phone: 203-262-0657 Fax: 203-264-9762 townclerk@southbury-ct.gov

MA: Andrew T. Dowd, 63 Main Street, Northborough, MA 01532
Phone: 508-393-5001 Fax: 508-393-6996 adowd@town.northborough.MA.US

NH: Joanne Linxweiler, PO Box 309, 47 Chester Road, Auburn, NH 03032
Phone: 603-483-2281 Fax: 603-483-0518 townclerk@townofauburnnh.com

RI: Michelle Hardy, 137 Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02860 Phone: 401-728-0500 mhardy@pawtucketri.com

VT: Pattie McCoy MMC, 9 Main Street Ste 2, Poultney, VT 05764 Phone: 802-287-5761 poultneytownclerk@comcast.net

ME: Ruth A. Lyons, 100 Main Street, Topsham, ME 04086 Phone: 207-373-5091 rlyons@topshammaine.com

State Association
New England Association of City & Town Clerks
New England Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. I am a Deputy or Municipal Clerk.	_____	_____
2. I am the only applicant from my municipality.	_____	_____
3. I have been denied all or partial funding from my municipality And I am enclosing the <u>letter of denial</u>	_____	_____
4. I am a member in good standing of my state association.	_____	_____
5. I am a dues-paying member of the New England Association	_____	_____

If you have answered **YES** to all of the above, you may apply for financial assistance. If you have answered **NO** to any of the above, you must include a letter of explanation stating why you have not complied with the above criteria

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ FAX _____

JOB TITLE/TOWN _____ POPULATION _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

I am applying for financial assistance for the New England Municipal Clerks Institute Year _____ or Academy Course _____

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$ _____

If Academy student, the year you graduated from the Institute:

My Municipality will pay \$ _____

I have _____ have not _____ applied to IIMC for scholarship funds. IIMC will pay \$ _____

Return this application, letter of denial and any necessary letter of explanation to Andrew T. Dowd, Scholarship Chair, 63 Main Street Northborough, MA 01532 by March 28, 2014.

**** Check with your State Scholarship Chair to see if you need additional paperwork****

FOR USE BY STATE SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR ONLY:

Date received: _____ Date action taken: _____

Amount awarded: _____ **OR:** Reason for denial _____

*****After state action, State Scholarship Chair should forward to NEACTC Joint Chair by April 8, 2014*****

FOR USE BY NEACTC/NEMCI JOINT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR ONLY:

Date received: _____ Date action taken: _____

Amount awarded: _____ **OR:** Reason for denial _____

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Western Mass. City & Town Clerks Association

ANNUAL PICNIC

at



Friday, August 1, 2014

Please note that this is a change of date due to scheduling of the pavilion.

More details to follow

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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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First Vice-President

Andrew T. Dowd, CMC/CMMC, Northborough

Second Vice-President

Jeremy P. Gillis, MMC/CMMC, Easton

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