



Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

The Public Recorder

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From the President, Nancy M. Blackmer

I hope everyone survived the recent election – just think of it as preparing you for the election in November 2016, where I expect it will be much busier.

Many of us are busy working on plans for our winter conference. The Education Committee will meet later this month, the E-Board will meet at the beginning of December and we hope to have the brochure with registration information out to everyone at the beginning of December.

The winter conference will be held at the Devens Common Center on February 4-6, 2015. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. The address they gave us is 31 Andrews Parkway, Shirley, MA. They are officially in Harvard so if your GPS does not recognize the Shirley address, try Harvard. Let's hope for good weather.

The New England Conference Committee is working hard to raise money to help offset the cost of the conference when it is here in Massachusetts in 2016. If you attend our MTCA conferences, please try to bring a basket or other item to donate to the raffle. Please also support the raffles that this committee organizes. We will be hosting the conference in November 2016 and it will be held at the Omni Parker Hotel in Boston. Watch for more information as it gets closer. In the meantime, support the committee with their raffle efforts. As the conference gets closer, there may also be opportunities to help at the conference. If you are able to help at the conference, let

the fundraising committee know.

Last year, the E-Board approved a member recognition program. The committee for this is Debi Dami, Tedi Eaton, Sandra Burgess, Donna Hooper, and me. The application and information on the program will be on the MTCA website soon. If you know of a Town Clerk that deserves this award, watch for the information and submit their name.

The Nominating Committee will be looking for people to serve our association. If you are interested in serving, watch for the information on this. They will be looking for members for the E-Board as well as some of the offices. It is a great experience and a way that you can give back to our association. Any member of the association can serve on the E-Board. The Nominating Committee tries to get clerks from all the counties in the state.

I look forward to seeing many of you in February.

BEACON HILL REPORT

by Thomas Joyce, Esq.

Congratulations for once again conducting a seamless experience at the polls for Massachusetts voters recently! You are applauded for a job well done, the unsung heroes in the election process

Statewide, the voter turnout was a bit less than the forecast with approximately 54% of registered voters casting ballots. I suppose not too bad for a non-Presidential election year. However, I am always amazed that more people just do not vote.

In the marque race for Governor, Charlie Baker won by a 2% margin, just over 40,000 votes. A close race to be sure but as is often said a win is a win, particularly by a Republican given the small number of registered Republicans in the Commonwealth. I had to research back 50 years to find a smaller margin of victory for Governor. In 1964 John Volpe defeated Frank Bellotti by 27,000 votes. Interesting, given that two years earlier Volpe, as the then incumbent Governor, had lost to Endicott Peabody by a mere 5500 votes. In fact, recent history indicates Republicans usually win the "corner office" by relatively small margins. Bill Weld beat John Silber in 1990 by less than 75,000 votes (although in 1994 Weld beat democrat Mark Roosevelt by nearly a 70-30 percent margin!)

Governor Elect Baker deserves a lot of praise and credit for running a nearly flawless campaign. I am certain we wish him much success! I should also congratulate the tremendously successful campaigns run by political newcomer Maura Healey for Attorney General, Bill Galvin for State Secretary, Suzanne Bump for Auditor and Deb Goldberg for Treasurer. I wish them well also.

Perhaps closer to home in the Legislature, after a slew of special elections over the last eighteen months, seventy incumbent legislators faced challenges last week while there were 8 seats open. Two Republican Representatives won election to the upper chamber, Senators-elect Vinny deMacedo from Plymouth, who ran for the seat being vacated by Senate President Therese Murray and Ryan Fatman who beat longtime Democrat incumbent Richard Moore from Uxbridge. Additionally 2 Democrats, Rep. Anne Gobi from Spencer

and former Rep. Barbara L'Italien from Methuen won open Senate seats. In 2015 the Senate will be comprised of 34 Democrats and 6 Republicans.

Over in the House of Representatives as of today there will be 2 recounts. One in Democrat Rhonda Nyman's district, which includes Hanover and the other, is the open seat vacated by Democrat Rep. Michael Costello that includes Newburyport. Republicans very narrowly won both of those seats. Additionally, a Republican defeated Democrat Rep. Denise Andrews from Orange and won 5 open House seats as well. If those two elections withstand recounts the House will continue to hold a large Democratic majority; 125-35 (Republican net gain of 6 seats.)

While Governor Elect Baker is moving quickly to assemble his team House Speaker DeLeo and incoming Senate President Rosenberg will wait until the end of January or early February to announce their leadership teams.

Very exciting times lay ahead! As always, I will report new developments.

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving!



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

REGISTRY OF VITAL RECORDS & STATISTICS

To assist the user community in transitioning to the new process, the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics has offered weekly in-person Round Table Discussions and Demonstrations. Starting in November, the Registry will support in-person Discussion and Demonstration Sessions by request. The primary audiences are:

1. Medical Facilities staff; staff physicians and physicians with admitting privileges to discuss changes to the certification process and enrollment.
2. City and Town Clerks and Staff to demonstrate and answer questions regarding the amendment process.

Sessions for other communities can be accommodated. To request a session, please email vip@state.ma.us with suggested location(s), dates and times, intended audience, expected number of attendees and your contact information.

The Registry can offer the use of the large conference room in Dorchester for interested groups up to 30 that do not have a facility in which to meet.

GET TO KNOW THE MASS. TOWN CLERKS

Theodora K. Eaton “Tedi” - Town Clerk of Needham

Town/Population: Needham, MA - Population 31,288 (including 625 inactive voters) - Elected Town Clerk 1982; Also served as MTCA 1st VP, 2nd VP, President 2009-2011, Public Recorder Editor, Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, Commission to Qualify, Needham Exchange Club, Kalmaia Garden Club, Boston Open DanceSport.

Children/Grandchildren: My three sons—Ronnie, Jeff and Ted and then....Morgan, RJ, Brianna, Michael, Timmy Kasey, Kali, Matthew, Logan—and I have to mortgage the house at Christmastime!

What is your favorite food? Chicken & Spinach Walnut Ravioli!!!!

What is your favorite vacation spot? St. Maarten

Do you have any hobbies? Reading, Walking, Dancing, Traveling (haven't done much lately, but it's not over yet!!)

What is your favorite movie/TV Show? Not too much of a TV Fan

What is your favorite thing about your career? The thrill of conducting a well-run successful election and working with the public

What is your proudest accomplishment? I loved serving as the MTCA President and getting up enough nerve to participate in Dancing with the Needham Stars!!!



GET TO KNOW THE MASS. TOWN CLERKS

Joyce Green, Town Clerk of Hubbardston

Town/Population: Hubbardston, MA - Population 4,514 - Elected Town Clerk 2006-2013; Appointed Town Clerk 2013 - Present. Also a MTCA Executive Board member, Vice-President of Worcester County City & Town Clerks' Association and a Notary Public



Children/Grandchildren: Happily married for 36 years; 4 beautiful daughters ages 27, 26, 24, and 22; live on a farm and raise grass-fed beef and hay

What is your favorite food? Pasta, parmigiana, any sandwich with avocado in it, potato chips!

What is your favorite vacation spot? Part owner of a camp in Wolfeboro, NH but love the Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico) and Martha's Vineyard.

Do you have any hobbies? Reading, jigsaw puzzles, board games, enjoy dancing and singing

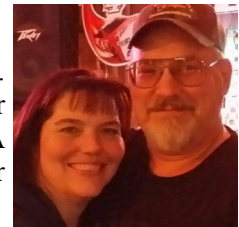
What is your favorite movie/TV Show? Don't go to the movies much; prefer a good comedy like Seinfeld or The Office if I have to watch TV; usually only turn on the TV to watch sports.

What is your favorite thing about your career? Helping people

What is your proudest accomplishment? In work, bringing more organization into the office and preserving our Town Records. Raising my beautiful family is my greatest personal accomplishment.

Nancy E. Burnham, CMMC - Town Clerk of Athol

Town/Population: Athol, MA - Population 11,584. Town Clerk, appointed in August 2006. Assistant Town Clerk from December 1988-August 1996. Also a Notary Public, Commissioner to Qualify, Justice of the Peace, MTCA Public Recorder Editor (April 2008-present), MTCA Communications Committee member, Member of Town Bylaw Review Committee, Charter Review Committee, and Memorial Building Committee.



Children/Grandchildren: A son, Christopher, age 29 who lives in California

What is your favorite food? Italian

What is your favorite vacation spot? Love the beach and being at our campground in New Hampshire

Do you have any hobbies? I play pool 3 nights a week and qualified twice in 2014 (April and August) to play in National tournaments in Las Vegas

What is your favorite movie/TV Show? When I have time to watch TV, I enjoy The Big Bang Theory and watching cooking shows.

What is your favorite thing about your career? Helping people and call me crazy but I love Elections!!

What is your proudest accomplishment? My son and earning my certification.

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- Mary-Ellen Lannon Town Clerk of Winchester

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