



Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

The Public Recorder

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Inside this issue:

Beacon Hill Report	2
CMMC Exam	2
IIMC - New Education Opportunities	3
MTCA Winter Conference	3
IIMC 2015 Annual Conference	4
Get to Know the Mass. Town Clerks	5
Vendor Ads	6-10

From the President, Nancy M. Blackmer

Great work on the recent conference held in Springfield. We had great attendance, great classes, and great food. All of your input has been taken into account for next year.

Our next conference will be held February 4-6, 2015 at the Devens Common Center, 31 Andrews Parkway, Shirley, MA. Information about this upcoming conference will be e-mailed in December. Registration and hotel reservations will be the same as our last conference – you will make your reservations with the hotel for your room and you will send your meal orders and conference registration to Barbara LaBombard. You also need to sign up for your classes using the online system (<http://www.prestogem.com/vo/mtca>).

Please pay attention to the deadlines for hotel reservations and class sign-ups. Unfortunately, the hotel reservation deadline is set by the hotel, not us. The class sign-up deadline is necessary so that we can assure enough space in each classroom. Please remember, if you did not sign up for a class, you should not attend that class. Many times the instructor brings handouts for the number that have registered. If you show up without registering, there may not be enough seats or handouts for you.

The election will be here before we know it. I hope everyone has a successful day. Don't forget to make your calls to AP – Dick Fleming will be mailing the necessary paperwork about a week before the election. AP supports our Association with a donation after the election based on the number of phone calls they receive from us. This is a long standing agreement made in the early 1990's. Also, don't forget to notify any other media organizations (local newspapers, radio stations, television stations, Reuters, etc.) that have requested the information.

IPSOS-Reuters made a donation to our association towards the cost of our conference. We appreciate their support. Without the support of our many vendors, we would not be able to provide the wonderful conferences. We thank each and every vendor for their continued support. Please take time while at the conference or when calling a vendor for information to thank them.

BEACON HILL REPORT

by Thomas Joyce, Esq.

As you know first hand, election season is upon us. Absentee ballots have been distributed and preparations are nearly complete to once again conduct a successful election process. Congratulations on continuing to do an exemplary job!

Although meeting twice weekly in informal sessions and passing numerous bills without objection, Beacon Hill leaders are consumed with re-election of their members. That is of paramount importance for the next two and one half weeks. Also, at center stage is the election of the five constitutional officers. The Governor's race is still too close to call, but polls indicate that Suzanne Bump and Bill Galvin are way ahead in their races and additionally, Maura Healey will be the new Attorney General and Deb Goldberg will be elected the new Treasurer.

In addition to the elections for public office, the ballot questions this year are sure to bring out voters. From

the casino repeal to the gas tax and mandatory sick time I suspect many voters have an opinion on these hot button issues. With the economy still struggling, the polls I have seen all show the number one concern is jobs. Many of this year's ballot questions in some way impact jobs and the benefits they provide. I think for the most part our next Governor will be the one the voter's believe can move our economy forward. It will be interesting to say the least.

Finally, one current item of legislative business affecting the MTCA is legislation providing for the collection of a surcharge on vital records to be deposited in a Secure Vital Records Registry. As I have reported, the Governor is pushing this policy and has included it in his final supplemental budget. I am pleased to report that the provision was not included in the House bill two weeks ago or in the Senate bill passed this week. I expect the differing versions to be compromised and sent to the Governor in the next week.

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.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS

New Education Opportunities

IIMC and the Education Department are proud to announce the launch of the new streamlined, all-inclusive, IIMC Online Learning Program!

We thank you for your patience while these course were being developed and look forward to receiving member feedback regarding your experience with the programs.

Two courses are currently available through Captus Press to assist with your professional development and certification needs. Each completed course qualifies for 1 CMC Education or 1 MMC Advanced Education point per 2 hours.

These courses are self-paced courses with no specific dates or times. Participants have 30 days from the time of registration to complete the program.

Additional courses will be added in the future.

Please click on the Education link on the IIMC website www.iimc.com in order to get started and receive more details regarding the courses. You will be redirected to the online learning portal. Please use the white tabs at the top of the portal to search the course catalog, register, log in to your course, and receive further general information.

All registrations and payments are done through Captus Press. IIMC is unable to accept payments for online course registrations.

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley DiB-lasi, Certification Manager.



MTCA WINTER CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 4 - 6, 2015

**DEVENS COMMON CENTER
31 ANDREWS PKWY, SHIRLEY MA 01434**

www.devenscommoncenter.com



IIMC 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

New -- 4-Day 2015 Annual Conference

The 2015 IIMC Annual Conference in Hartford, CT, promises to be great in a number of ways! The Conference still includes all of the excellent education programs and events that you're accustomed to, but in a condensed time frame.

Several years ago, IIMC's Board of Directors heard loud and clear from its members that while they love attending the Conference, being out of the office for five days was too long.

Starting in 2015, IIMC's Annual Conference will be reduced to four days instead of five, saving you time and money, but still providing you with all of the same outstanding education programs, networking opportunities, events and points you have come to expect and love from our Annual Conferences.

However, in reducing the number of days, IIMC did not reduce the number of education points offered or eliminate any food and beverage functions or events.

Below are answers to your questions regarding the format, costs of the conference, education program and points, and other information:

Q: What do I receive in a four-day conference?

A: Everything as before. The 2015 Conference will have 16 education hours for a possible total of 8 education points, same as in past years. There will be two general sessions; 35 concurrent education sessions; and the Saturday and Sunday Academies remain unchanged. We've also included some high demand items and added two more Athenian Dialogues for a total of four. All the other events remain intact including food and beverage functions, opening reception, opening

ceremony, all conference event, annual business meeting, and annual banquet.

Q: What are the benefits?

A: Plenty. We have compressed the days so as to remove a lot of the "downtime," meaning you get the same great conference program and education in one less day.

Q: How does this new conference format benefit me and other Delegates?

A: One less hotel night's costs and food, an average savings of \$250.00 per delegate, and one less day away from the office.

Q: What will it cost?

A: The Early Bird Delegate fee is \$575.00; however, other IIMC discounts still apply.

If Hartford is your first IIMC conference, you will have a wonderful experience attending the sessions, meeting colleagues from around the world and enjoying what the conference has to offer. If you're a conference veteran, then IIMC will be anxious to hear your views about the new 4-day format.

The 2015 Conference theme is "Seasons Change and So Do We." That is an appropriate theme that will reverberate throughout the Conference in more ways than one. We look forward to seeing you in Hartford, Connecticut in May 2015.



GET TO KNOW THE MASS. TOWN CLERKS

Andrew T. Dowd “Andy” CMC/CMMC - Town Clerk of Northborough—MTCA 1st Vice-President

Town/Population: Northborough, MA - Population 14,892 - Town Clerk since January 2004. Also a Notary Public, Justice of the Peace, Commissioner to Qualify, and Northborough Rotary President 2010-2011

Children/Grandchildren: 2 Sons -Alex age 18 and Jack age 16 and daughter Molly age 13.

What is your favorite food? Lobster

What is your favorite vacation spot? Maine

Do you have any hobbies? I LOVE cars!!

What is your favorite movie/TV Show? Chasing Classic Cars

What is your favorite thing about your career? Dealing with the Public (Really!!)

What is your proudest accomplishment? Besides becoming a father, becoming Town Clerk!



Dottie Powers, CMC/CMMC - Town Clerk of Westwood

Town/Population: Westwood, MA - Population 14,618. Town Clerk, elected in 2007, given Tenure in 2014 by voters. Also a Notary Public, Commissioner to Qualify, Justice of the Peace, MTCA E-Board Member, NECTC E-board member, Tri County Clerks Association Corresponding Secretary, Member of Town Bylaw Review Committee, Memorial Day Committee, Westwood Community Chest member, Chair of Westwood Neighbor Brigade Chapter

Children/Grandchildren: 5 Daughters , Kaityln -31, Annie -28, Ashley-26, Kara-24, Molly-21 and 2 Grandchildren: Isabella-2 & James-1

What is your favorite food? Italian

What is your favorite vacation spot? Vineyard Haven

Do you have any hobbies? Spin, Yoga, Baking

What is your favorite movie/TV Show? The Voice, Chicago Fire

What is your favorite thing about your career? Making my residents happy

What is your proudest accomplishment? Being elected to the position of Town Clerk and working hard to receive my certifications



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- Mary-Ellen Lannon Town Clerk of Winchester

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