



# Massachusetts Town Clerks Association

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[Home](#) > Public Recordors

## Public Recordors

[Archive Public Recordors](#)

## President's Message

Well, all my Clerk friends, it has been an adventure for my first six months as President! First I want to thank everyone for their support and for all the volunteering that we all do to help each other. I know all of us are so busy in our own offices as well as in our personal lives but we ALL take the time to help whenever someone is in need of assistance and that makes me so proud to be part of this Association. So, again THANK YOU ALL!

The Executive Board has been busy working on cleaning up the wording in the By-laws, update the new software and getting ready for the next conference. The Education Committee has some great and very useful classes planned for February so I hope you can all attend. The Mentoring Committee has also been hard at work preparing for the next classes in January. These classes will be held in Franklin and Great Barrington both having the topic of Elections. Hopefully they will be helpful, especially to those newer clerks but also seasoned ones too.

Not too much to report in my short six months of watching over us all but I am honored to be in this position and if there is ever anything I can do to help you, please give me a call. Hope to see you all February 7-9, 2018 in Devens and Happy Holidays to you all!

## Beacon Hill Report

The Massachusetts Legislature concluded the 2017 formal sessions the third Wednesday in November, and will meet twice weekly in informal sessions until January. During these informal sessions, the House and Senate can take actions on bills, including enactment, as long as there is no objection.

Unfortunately, I need to report that notwithstanding the conclusion of formal sessions there has been tremendous political turmoil and intrigue over the last ten days. After shocking news broke alleging improprieties by the spouse of Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, Stan voluntarily resigned his role as President, and after ten hours of a legislative caucus, Senate Majority Leader Harriet L. Chandler of Worcester was unanimously elected as Acting President.

The Senate then instructed their Ethics Committee to undertake an investigation taking the unprecedented step of hiring an outside investigator to look into the matter. To be sure, this has put a dark cloud over the golden dome on Beacon Hill. Furthermore, not less than four Senators have taken the unusual step to announce their campaigns to be elected Senate President if Senator Rosenberg is not reelected to that post at the conclusion of the investigation. I should probably note that Attorney General Maura Healey and Suffolk County District Attorney Dan Conley have reportedly launched their own criminal investigations into Senator Rosenberg's spouse.

On a much brighter note, just last week, Auditor Bump has announced the beginning of her reelection campaign. She has been a good friend of the Association, always willing to discuss our concerns.

Also last week, in the special Senate election to replace former Senator Jennifer Flanagan, republican Fitchburg City Councilor Dean Tran won the special election besting the democratic candidate by more than 600 votes. When he is sworn in by Governor Charlie Baker the Senate will have seven republicans. Coincidentally, Representative elect Tran is the first Vietnamese American Senator in Massachusetts history, having fled Vietnam as a child.

On the legislative front, most joint committees including the Election Laws committee have heard all bills in their respective committees and by rule must report on them by the first Wednesday in February. I am working hard to ensure that any bills enacted by the legislature are in our interest and include matters important to the MTCA.

As reported before, Governor Charlie Baker has for the second time this year vetoed legislation creating Community Investment Districts. As passed, the proposed law would require Clerks to investigate and report on matters not within your purview.

With voter registration being actively discussed in the legislature, you may note that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has agreed to hear a case where the 20-day election registration cutoff has been held illegal by a lower court.

I will keep you updated as public policy issues progress. I wish all of you a very happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

## Clerk Recognition

- The following individual(s) has earned the prestigious

Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC ) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC):

**Diane C. Lockwood, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of Millville, MA**  
**Katherine M. Chretien, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of New Marlborough, MA.**

The CMC designation program is designed to enhance the job performance of the Clerk in small and large municipalities. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The program prepares the participants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerks by providing them with quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning. The program has been in existence since 1970 and has helped thousands of clerks in various municipalities.

Founded in 1947, IIMC is a professional association with more than 10,000 members in the US, Canada and 15 other countries. IIMC's primary goal is to actively promote the continuing education and professional development of municipal clerks through extensive education programs, certification, recertification, publications, networking, annual conferences and research. IIMC also engages in municipal research administration, enhances critical professional skill development and fosters a spirit of mutual assistance and good fellowship among municipal clerks around the globe. IIMC is governed by a 26-member Board of Directors. For more information please visit our website at [www.iimc.com](http://www.iimc.com) or contact us at [hq@iimc.com](mailto:hq@iimc.com) or 909-944-4162.

Sincerely,  
 Chris Shalby Executive Director

The following individual has earned the prestigious Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC):

**Laurence R. Pizer, MMC - Town Clerk - Town of Plymouth, MA.**

The MMC is one of the two professional designations granted by IIMC. To qualify for entrance into the Master Municipal Clerk Academy (MMCA), which prepares participants for achieving the MMC status, one must have earned the CMC designation. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The program prepares the participants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the Municipal Clerk by providing them with quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning.

The MMCA is an advanced continuing education program that prepares participants to perform more complex municipal duties. The program has an extensive and rigorous educational component, a professional and social contributions component, and a commitment to lifelong learning. The Academy members must demonstrate that they have actively pursued educational and professional activities and have remained informed of current socio-political, cultural, and economic issues that affect local governments and municipalities.

## Additional Information

The Attorney General Office's - Municipal Law Unit is pleased to announce a series of five (5) trainings to be conducted around the state in early 2018.

In this free educational course, staff of the Municipal Law Unit will train local town officials on the procedure for submitting town by-laws to the Attorney General for review pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32, and the process for amending zoning by-laws pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 5.

We encourage Town Clerks and staff, Town Planners, Planning Board members and staff, and any other local officials who may be interested, to attend. RSVP required (see below).

### DATES AND LOCATIONS:

**Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in STOCKBRIDGE, MA.** This training will take place at: Stockbridge Town Hall 50 Main Street Stockbridge, MA 01262

**Tuesday, January 23, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in ASHLAND, MA**

This training will take place at: Ashland Town Hall

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room - 2nd Floor 101 Main Street  
Ashland, MA 01721

**Tuesday, January 30, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in WAREHAM, MA.** This training will take place at: Wareham Free Library 59 Marion Road Wareham, MA 02571

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in BILLERICA, MA.** This training will take place at: Billerica Town Hall 365 Boston Road Billerica, MA 01821

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in DEERFIELD, MA.** This training will take place at: Deerfield Town Offices 8 Conway Street South Deerfield, MA 01373

RSVP: Please RSVP with your preferred location by email to Margaret Hurley, Director of the Municipal Law Unit, at: [margaret.hurley@state.ma.us](mailto:margaret.hurley@state.ma.us)

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