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**No July Recorder! Happy Summer! See you in August!**

**Report of the President # 12  
by Judy St. Croix**

As your President, I was privileged and honored to represent Massachusetts at the 60<sup>th</sup> IIMC Annual Conference held in "The Happiest Place on Earth," Anaheim, CA from May 14-19. This year's theme was "Leadership with Imagination! Education, Innovation, Progress." The roster of delegates totaled 1,125 with participants from all 50 States as well as Canada, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Denmark, Hungary, Israel, Nepal, Portugal, Scotland, South Africa, Taiwan, The Netherlands, United Emirates, and the United Kingdom. Also representing Massachusetts were Denise MacAloney, Westminster; James Mullen, Milton; Barbara Swann, Monterey; and Doreen Tremblay, Bedford.

The Conference officially opened on a Monday with the parade of flags. In most cases, the flag was carried by each state association president. Due to a scheduling conflict, I was unable to attend the rehearsal that took place on Mother's Day, and asked Mr. Mullen from Milton if he would due the honors. He graciously accepted and proudly carried the Massachusetts State Flag even though he had to get up verrrrrry early to do so. Thank you Jimmy!

There were two candidates vying for the office of Second Vice President of IIMC – Pattie McCoy from Poultney, Vermont and Dyanne C. Reese from Savannah, Georgia. MTCA supported Pattie and donated to her campaign but, after a great campaign effort, at an election held at the conference on May 18, Dyanne was elected.

I attended the State/Provincial/National Association President's Roundtable that proved to be very informative and interesting. It is fascinating, and you feel so important, to be able to sit in a room with many, many clerks from all over the World, some even in their native attire. The week continued with several outstanding custom-designed general session presentations with featured speakers who gave us new perspectives on being a leader in our profession. In summary, the highlights were:

"Plan, Brief, Execute, Debrief - Win" - the leader of the group was Anthony "AB" Bourke, a highly experienced F-16 fighter pilot who has flown in countries all over the world. He is President of Afterburner, Inc and has combined his combat experience in the business world. The message - you should work for the common goals you set for you and your organization. When a team works as one unit, is prepared, it can do anything and achieve any goal. If your goal did not go as you planned, debrief. Debriefing is critical to the organization's future goals.

"Leadership Jazz - Don't Step on the Rope" - the speaker was Dr. Walter C. Wright of the De Pree Leadership Center in Pasadena, CA. The message - we are roped together and it is important to know who you are roped with. Teams tie into the same rope and leaders serve the team.

"Leadership at 26,000 Feet" - the presenter was David Breashears who has lead twelve expeditions to Mount Everest. In telling the story of the now infamous 1996 tragedy on Mount Everest, Mr. Breashears dramatically recounted the vision, courage, and passion that led to his team reaching the summit, despite insurmountable odds. His multimedia presentation included breathtaking and rarely seen images from his IMAX Everest expedition. The leadership skills that he learned and applied to his twelve expeditions are: (1) know the world in which you lead (2) accept responsibility for your plans, your actions, and the consequences of your actions (3) keep your team focused and never let them lose sight of the primary objective (4) be willing to roll up your sleeves and work together with other team members (5) have conviction and vision and a belief in the mission (6) have the courage to embrace big ideas and big goals and have the willingness to take risks (7) believe in careful, thoughtful planning and select motivated, talented and ambitious team members (8) realize that one of your greatest strengths is knowing when to pause, when to turn around, or when to modify the plan.

“A Bend in the Road is not the End of the Road - 10 Positive Principles for Dealing with Change” - Joan Lunden, renowned reporter and TV personality. Her message was how to deal with change and still be able to find success.

“Communicating with Impact” - Patrick Donadio a certified speaking professional and coach. How do we communicate and why, very often, is the message we send not necessarily the same message that is received. You must capitalize on your strengths and minimize your weaknesses. You develop your communication skills by listening as well as speaking. Improved communications leads to enhanced relationships, less stress, and better service.

“Lessons in Leadership Learned from the Titanic” - by Jack White, City Attorney for the City of Anaheim, who has more than 30 years of research as a Titanic historian. The presentation focused on how you can learn from mistakes and improve your skills as government leaders.

- Anyone can be the captain if the ship never leaves the dock
- Just because the ship is big doesn't mean it can't sink
- Buying a ticket doesn't guarantee your destination
- Worry about more where you are going than how fast you will get there
- Disasters will happen - make sure your ship is prepared
- Small holes doom big ships
- Just because the band is playing doesn't mean it's time to dance
- Know where the lifeboats are before the water is up to your neck
- Know who is in charge
- Are you an iceberg or a lifeboat?

At the beginning of the presentation, delegates received a replica of a Titanic brochure that contained a number and the name and personal information of a passenger. We were told not to look inside until the conclusion of the session at which time we were instructed to see if our ticket number was followed by an asterisk. If so, we survived the disaster. If not, we went down with the ship. I survived.

The conference was not all work and the attendees enjoyed an evening in Disneyland, a New Orleans celebration at a restaurant in Downtown Disney, and some fun in the sun. I learned, I laughed, and I will lead with imagination as I begin my final term as your President. I thank the membership for your support that allowed me the opportunity to attend the conference.

**MTCA LOBBYIST REPORT – MAY 2006**  
**By Stephen Roche**

**HOME FROM WORCESTER**

I had the pleasure of attending the Democratic State Convention this past weekend as a delegate for Natick. It was a fairly interesting affair that featured a very well organized campaign by Deval Patrick for governor, a solid effort by Tim Murray for Lt. governor, and a 70% vote by the delegates for a combative Bill Galvin.

It looks like you will all be busy at the State Primary Election with strong Democratic candidates for governor, Lt. governor and secretary of state. Should be fun!

**ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION (EDR)**

June 7<sup>th</sup> is the date of the next large group meeting for the Task Force. During the past month a few of the subcommittees have met to discuss their particular assignments. At this point, we are not sure what, if any, findings and recommendations will be made this session.

Several clerks and I met in May with staff in the office of Rep. Demetrius Atsalis, the House Vice Chairman of the Election Laws Committee and the chairman of the Task Force's subcommittee on at-will absentee voting. We had a very good discussion that covered a number of the MTCA's concerns with unlimited absentee voting.

Here's a look at the outline that was developed by Mary Lou Murzyn and the MTCA members serving on this working group: Wendy Houle, Sally Hayden, and Kathy Nagle.

## Concerns re: Administration/Procedure/Costs

- Staffing – No Excuse Absentee Voting is designed to increase the number of absentee ballots. A conservative estimate is that the total would be triple or quadruple the present level. Clerks’ offices are insufficiently staffed to handle such an increase and finding and training additional staff for two or three weeks would be difficult. (For example, see attached procedures utilized in Kingston for both by mail and in-house absentee voting.)
- Processing ballots at the polls - considerable work required by poll workers to accurately record and process each ballot in a timely fashion. Would probably require additional poll workers to handle volumes. Delays in reporting election results are anticipated. Errors brought about by a more complicated process would open the results to question.
- In the alternative, will absentee ballots be processed and counted elsewhere? For example, will there be a central tabulation center in each community (i.e. Town Clerk’s office) or will there be a statewide tabulation center (Secretary of State’s office)?
- Postage costs are rising and each absentee ballot presently costs 63 cents to mail out. Who will pay for the additional postage costs? Likely local mandate.
- Will our local post offices be able to successfully receive and deliver hundreds or thousands of absentee ballots during an election cycle? Experience has shown that the mailing process leads to the loss of an uncertain percentage of ballots. What might happen with overlapping elections?
- At local elections as well as state elections, there will be additional costs for ballot printing to allow for more absentee ballots. Who will pay for the additional printing costs? How do you estimate the number of ballots required – both absentee and official?
- Errors made by voters on absentee voter applications can lead to disenfranchisement. Persons attempting to vote in person can frequently clear up questions about their status or their correct precinct on Election Day. That is generally not possible for absentee voters.
- How would same day voter registration and early voting impact no excuse absentee voting and Election Day preparation?
- Current deadline for absentee voting is noon the day before the election. What reasonable cut-off deadlines would need to be in place in order to allow for all aspects of Election Day preparation, including staffing issues and instruction, setting up polling locations and printing of voting lists?
- Extend reasons for absentee balloting to include hospice care and election workers.
- Value – We have seen no evidence that absentee voting will increase participation. The process to apply for and cast an absentee ballot is far more complicated than the process for voting in person. There is reason to believe that the complications will inhibit some potential voters.
- This process will impact the entire operation of the Town/City Clerks offices, since all other services provided by statute or otherwise must continue. Response time will be slow, and the impact to citizens needing documents from the Clerk will be hampered.

## FY 2007 STATE BUDGET

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>Governor</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>
Elections Division Administration and Expenses	\$5,337,343	\$5,337,343	\$5,337,343	\$3,676,775
Central Voter Registration	\$5,500,701	\$5,462,603	\$5,462,603	\$4,496,243
Information to Voters	\$1,201,161	\$1,201,161	\$1,201,161	\$583,744
US Census	-	\$100,000	-	-

The Senate approved its budget the week before Memorial Day Weekend – **Senate 3**. It was a quick debate with most of the 950 amendments rejected without debate in just a day and a half of discussion.

Two Senate budget amendments of note were offered by Sen. Stanley Rosenberg to develop a so-called “administrative record list” to replace the use of the annual census in preparing jury lists – see Amendments # 506 & #507. Both amendments were withdrawn prior to debate.

The differences in the House and Senate budgets will now be resolved by a six member conference committee. As you can see, there are no differences in the Secretary of State’s accounts.

**VITAL RECORDS & PUBLIC RECORDS LEGISLATION**

Larry Pizer and Mary Lou Murzyn joined me at a meeting at the State House last month with Alan Cote, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Secretary of State and the Supervisor of Public Records, and Michael Maresco, Assistant Secretary of State.

Initially, our conversation focused on the MTCA’s three vital records legislative proposals: **House 3642, House 3643 & House 3644**. As you may recall, we were able to get all three bills reported favorably from the Public Health Committee in March.

The biggest problem from the Secretary’s perspective is access for genealogists. But some hope emerged when Mr. Cote offered to reach out to the genealogists to advise them of our shared concerns with vital records in these times of increased concerns with identify fraud and national security.

Mr. Cote subsequently met, as promised, with the genealogists; their biggest concern with the MTCA bills is access to the record indices. But some progress has been made and Mr. Cote’s staff is in the process of drafting some new bill language that we hope will be acceptable to both sides.

Mary Lou, Larry and I are meeting on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, with our lead legislative sponsor for the vital records bills, Rep. Tom O’Brien, in Kingston to review and discuss the new draft(s) of the bills being prepared by the Supervisor’s staff.

Also discussed at the meeting with Mr. Cote and Mr. Maresco was **House 3483**, legislation entitled “An Act Relative to the Supervisor of Public Records; this bill was filed by Rep. Angelo Scaccia at the request of Secretary Galvin. As you may recall, we were able to have this bill sent to a “study” in March.

As with the vital records bills, our discussion was productive. We expressed our opinion that the bill was overly harsh towards local officials who may withhold records from disclosure in good faith. We also said that that the bill as drafted does not address the real objective of the proposal – the lack of enforcement of the Supervisor’s disclosure orders by the Attorney General’s Office.

Once again, Mr. Cote and his staff are working on a new draft of the bill in the hope that it will address the MTCA’s concerns with House 3483.

**BREAKING NEWS – POLL WORKERS, ETC.**

The word out of the State House is that the House may vote on Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, on **Senate 2277**. Here is a summary of the bill:

By the Joint Committee on Election Laws: Amends various provisions relative to the appointment of election officers; authorizes and regulates the appointment of election officers in the commonwealth; authorizes the appointment of up to two person of 16 or 17 years of age to said positions, provided they meet the articulated requirements; directs the secretary of state to provide a voters’ bill of rights in written form for posting at all polling places for each election; articulates the contents of same; directs said secretary to transmit to city and town clerks printed copies of the voters’ bill of rights.

This bill, a legislative priority for the League of Women Voters, was passed by the State Senate on November 16, 2005.

*That’s all for now - Hope to see many of you at the MTCA summer conference.*

<p><b>Massachusetts Town Clerk’s Association</b> <b>FY 2007 Membership Dues:</b> Invoices will be mailed following the June Conference. <b>Please be sure to return the invoice with your check <u>and</u> include your current email address.</b></p>
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**The Middlesex Town and City Clerk's Association Dues Notices  
will be e-mailed during the first week of June.  
Please contact Ann Click at [annc@hopkinton.org](mailto:annc@hopkinton.org)  
if you do not receive a notice by the middle of June. Thank you.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER....IMPORTANT REMINDER....IMPORTANT REMINDER....**

If any Clerk at any time has any suggestions for classes or speakers that you would like to see at a conference, please contact the President or either of the Vice Presidents. We know that many of you are taking classes or possibly hearing speakers that you feel would be of benefit to all of us. We want to hear about them. Please do not ask the speaker to come to a conference, leave that up to the President. Conferences are planned months in advance. To avoid embarrassment on anyone's part - the planning and organizing should be left up to the officers of the association. Please keep the ideas rolling in...we want to make this association your association and give you the classes that you want, and the speakers you want to hear. We just need to coordinate it...thanks.

**BARBARA A. SULLIVAN  
MATTAPOISETT TOWN CLERK**

Has been awarded the prestigious designation of "Certified Municipal Clerk" (CMC) from the IIMC for achieving its high educational, experience and service requirements.

Barbara has been employed by the Town of Mattapoisett since November 1990, where she serves in the position of Town Clerk.

Barbara has been a member of the IIMC since 2002 and she is a member of the Massachusetts Town Clerk's Association.

**In Memoriam**

Margaret E. Tavalone Bell  
Former Franklin Town Clerk  
Died April 19, 2006

Joanne M Holgate  
Former Chatham Town Clerk  
Died May 19, 2006

## Community Preservation Act Opportunity

By: Linda Hutchenrider/Town Clerk/Barnstable

Tonight the Town Council in my community will approve the first of two of my applications for money from the Community Preservation Act fund. They are going to approve over \$16,000 for a Laser Fiche program, scanner and other work associated with scanning many of the first books of Barnstable.

My second application has met with the approval of the CPA Committee as well. They will approve over \$70,000 for deacidification and binding of approximately 100 books for the town. In order to allow for a number of different projects to be funded, I have agreed to have about 25 books a year worked on. This will allow me the time to get the books scanned prior to the work being completed on them.

The point I am trying to make to everyone is – if your community has taken advantage of the CPA funding mechanism – please gather up your thoughts, get your estimates and present an application for the preservation of your historical records.

I've been in a Town Clerk's office since 1987 and we have never had the opportunity to get money for this most valued project. This is the time ladies and gentlemen to think about it and do something about it. Promote the act, get it passed, and then apply.

The Governor signed a bill on March 15 that amended the CPA. This bill did not have an emergency preamble so the effective date of the act is June 15.

*"An Act Relative to Community Preservation Funds.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

*Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of section 5 of chapter 44B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "sites", in line 44, the following words: and permit the use of funds for restoration of historic town documents and artifacts."*

The MTCA Legislator of the Year Award will be presented at our Sea Crest Conference to Representative Patricia A. Walrath, from Stow, for her effectiveness in supporting the passage of this special act.

There are many towns out there, and many clerks out there who have done the same thing that I have. They are getting money for the preservation of their records; and they are getting money to get the records scanned so that they can be researched easily and the original documents will not be further damaged.

Think about this – if you ever want to leave a legacy to your town – make the legacy the fact that you worked to preserve what is most important to your community, the written history.



## JULY

4<sup>th</sup>

Independence Day

22<sup>nd</sup>

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Day



## AUGUST

7<sup>th</sup>

Purple Heart Day

14<sup>th</sup>

Social Security Day

14<sup>th</sup>

Liberty Tree Day

Commemorating the first public shade tree planting in 1646.

26<sup>th</sup>

Susan B. Anthony Day- Campaigner for American woman suffrage.



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☎ 1-800-775-3107 ext. #2 for John W. Dresch, or # 5 for Jeff Gasparini

### MTCA & NEACT CONFERENCE SCHEDULES

2006 - 2007

MTCA FALL CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 4, 5, 6, 2006  
JIMINY PEAK, HANCOCK MA

MTCA WINTER CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 7, 8, 9, 2007  
STURBRIDGE HOST,  
STURBRIDGE, MA

NEACTC 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
WINTER CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 15, 16, 17, 2006  
THE MARRIOT, NEWPORT, RI

### MASSACHUSETTS

Official State Colors

Blue, Green & Cranberry (February 21, 2005)

Source: Massachusetts facts 8/1/05

**The Public Recorder**  
**Newsletter of the MTCA**

**1009 Main Street**  
**Tewksbury, MA 01876**



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