

The Public Recorder



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Report of the President, Theodora K. Eaton



It's Beginning To Feel A Lot Like Spring!

By Tedi Eaton

I'm beginning to think there will be a spring this year! The snow is definitely melting, the birds are beginning to chirp in the morning and there is something green spreading across the lawns. Daylight savings has finally arrived! Last year at this time, the Needham staff had just moved into our temporary location while the Needham Town Hall began renovations. In the next six months, we will begin packing again to move back in time to celebrate Needham's Tercentennial! However, in the meantime clerks are preparing for their town elections and town meetings, winding up their 2011 annual town census, and licensing those neighborhood dogs.

We are also awaiting the final federal 2010 census figures in order to redraw our precinct lines. Stay tuned..... Reprecincting is fast approaching. John Barr and David Paleogis have been providing precinct simulations across the Commonwealth. Total 2010 population counts will soon be released. Once municipalities receive their official numbers, they will need to update the simulation map and present the revised map to the Board of Selectmen for vote and approval. Once the revised map is approved, towns will need to submit official precinct maps, population information, legal precinct descriptions, and certified approval to the LEDRC through the Secretary of the Commonwealth by June 15, 2011.

Several clerks met with members of the members of the Registry of Vital Records in late February. The Electronic birth program is moving ahead with almost 800 records entered in February according to Karin Barrett. They are looking at several areas of concern including standardized paper, establishment of statewide fees and funding issues. Statewide issuance will require programming to make it available and, of course, that will require funding. The birthing program will eventually contain statewide records dating back to 1987.

As we move toward the summer conference, there are several openings on various boards and committees within the Massachusetts Town Clerk's Association and we are always looking for volunteers. Appointments are made in June and become effective on July 1st and the terms are from 1 to 3 years. There are openings on the following committees: Nominating Committee, Budget Committee,


CMMC Certification/Examination Board, the Scholarship Committee, the Clerk's Manual Committee, the By-Law/Policies Procedures Review Committee, and the Conference Committee. If you have a specialty or if you would like to get more involved, please give me a call at 781-455-7510 x 216 or email me at Teaton@needhamma.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!

Speaking of municipal clerks, congratulations are in order! Ann M. Quirk, CMC, Assistant Town Clerk of Yarmouth, has earned the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Please congratulate Ann the next time you see her!

The Executive Board and the Education Committees will be meeting this month to prepare for the MTCA and MCCA Joint Summer Conference at the Sea Crest Resort & Conference Center in Falmouth from June 8 – 10, 2011. If you have any suggestions or ideas for programs or entertainment, please let us know. Also, please contact me or Kathy Nagle, Wellesley Town Clerk, if you know of any new clerks. We would like to welcome them to our Association and offer any needed assistance. Kathy's telephone number is 781-431-1019 x 2250 and her email is knagle@wellesleyma.gov.

Happy Daylight Savings Time!



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MTCA LOBBYIST REPORT – MARCH 2011

By Stephen Roche

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES UNDER SEIGE?

As I write this report, battle lines are being drawn on Beacon Hill on municipal health insurance. On March 8th, the Public Service Committee will hear testimony on several proposals to revamp the process at the local level.

In one corner, we have unions representing thousands of municipal employees. In the other, we have the Governor and the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

The Patrick Administration is pushing a health insurance plan design proposal to require all cities and towns to either join the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) or come up with a program of equivalent value and cost by the start of FY2012.

The Governor's bill – **House 36** - also contains a mandate that cities and towns move eligible municipal retirees into Medicare. Many municipalities have not enrolled their eligible retirees in the federally-funded program, even though both the municipalities and retirees have contributed to the Medicare system. This move could save communities an estimated \$15-30 million annually according to the Administration.

Municipal employee unions disagree strongly that these savings will result from the Governor's plan! The unions will not yield their collective bargaining rights. 10 unions have joined together to form the "Public Employees' Municipal Health Coalition" to fight Governor Patrick and the MMA.

Members of the Coalition said state regulations must be changed to allow for the creation of savings accounts to mitigate expected increases in employee co-payments and deductibles, called for a ban on mid-year health insurance plan design changes at the state level, and want increased labor representation on the state commission that oversees health plans.

The Coalition is strongly opposed to the bill supported by the Massachusetts Municipal Association and several mayors. This proposal would allow municipal officials to act unilaterally in making plan design changes outside of the collective bargaining process without sharing savings with workers.

Battle lines are also being drawn around the Governor's proposal for Pension Reform – **House 35** - the Administration's Phase II pension reform legislation. The Governor argues that changes are needed to make the pension system "more fair and equitable for taxpayers and all state workers, while also making the system fiscally sustainable."

The Administration suggests that these reforms will save taxpayers an estimated \$2 billion over 30 years. So what does Pension Reform II call for – here are the major components:

- Cap Earnings for Purposes of Calculating Benefits
- Eliminate Section 10 Early Retirement Incentive for All Employees
- Pro-Rate Benefits Based on Employment History
- Anti-Spiking
- Increase "High 3" to "High 5"

- Increased Retirement Age

- Group 1 (elected officials and most general employees): Increase the retirement age to 60-67 from the current 55-65;
- Group 2 (employees with titles reflecting hazardous duties): Increase the retirement age to 55-62 from the current 55-60;
- Group 4 (firefighters, police officers, some corrections officers): Increase the retirement age to 50-57 from the current 45-55.

Of course, the devil is in the details of these proposals.

Have no doubt that the battle in Wisconsin and other states over public employee collective bargaining rights is fanning the flames of the debate on Beacon Hill.

MTCA BILLS

On March 4th, we hosted a meeting of the MTCA Legislative Committee at our offices on Beacon Hill. In addition to discussing the MTCA’s 2011-2012 Legislative Agenda, we covered a number of other issues affecting town clerks.

With respect to our package, we met later that day at the State House with the staff of the two chairs of the Joint Committee on Election Laws – Senator Barry Finegold and Representative Mike Moran. It was a good opportunity for us to discuss the MTCA’s bills and why we have filed them.

Here’s a quick look at our bills with sponsor information – if you see your state legislator listed as a sponsor, please be sure to thank him or her.

MTCA 2011-2012 Legislative Agenda			
House/Senate Bills	Lead Sponsors	Other Sponsors	Bill Contact Person
House Bill 1103 Elimination of Cancellation Device on Optical Scan Voting Machines	Representative Thomas Calter	Sen. James Eldridge, Rep. David Linsky, Rep. Alice Peisch, Rep. Benjamin Swan, Rep. Chris Walsh	Bob Cutler Joe Powers
Senate Bill 303 Elimination of Check-Out Tables	Senator Jamie Eldridge	Rep. David Linsky, Rep. Alice Peisch, Rep. Vinny deMacedo, Rep. Jay Kaufman, Rep. Steven Levy	Joyce Bradshaw
House Bill 1981 Amend Voter ID Law	Representative Alice Peisch	Rep. Chris Walsh, Rep. Joseph Wagner, Rep. David Linsky	Kathy Nagle
House Bill 1970 Street Lists	Representative Tackey Chan	Rep. David Linsky, Rep. Alice Peisch, Rep. Joseph Wagner, Rep. Gailanne Cariddi	Pat Ward Kathy Nagle
House Bill 3115 Election Laws Task Force	Representative Anne Gobi	Rep. Chris Walsh, Rep. Ellen Story, Rep. Alice Peisch, Rep. John Scibak, Rep. David Linsky, Rep. Vinny deMacedo	Bob Cutler


<p>House Bill 193 Special Election Money</p>	<p>Representative Sean Garballey</p>	<p>Rep. James Dwyer, Rep. Jennifer Benson, Rep. Steven Levy, Rep. David Linsky, Sen. Michael Moore, Rep. John Scibak, Rep. Cory Atkins, Sen. James Eldridge, Rep. Alice Peisch, Sen. Karen Spilka, Rep. Joseph Wagner, Sen. Gale Candaras, Rep. Stat Smith</p>	<p>Carole Marple</p>
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THE MASSACHUSETTS PIRATE PARTY – REALLY???

When I heard that the State Secretary had approved this new party, I immediately went to Google to learn more. The first few hits came up with sites for information on “Pirate Party & Treasure Hunts” – really. So what can I say, we now have a political party that encourages eye patches. What’s next, the Bandit Party where masks are allowed. OK, I went too far on that one, I know!

This will be interesting!





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 - Cemetery Recording and Burial Transit Permit searches
- Business Licensing-dba/Certificates searches, renewals and applications
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DIVISION OF OPEN GOVERNMENT**

The Attorney General's Division of Open Government will be pleased to announce that it will conduct seven regional educational forums on the Open Meeting Law during the months of March, April, May and June.

The next forums will occur on March 23rd in Dracut at Harmony Hall from 6:00-8:30 p.m. and April 6th in Bridgewater at Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School from 6:00-8:30 p.m. The forums are free of charge. Members of public bodies, municipal officials, and members of the public are all encouraged to attend. For additional information and to register for an upcoming forum, please visit the Attorney General's website at www.mass.gov/ago/openmeeting.



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OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN & POLITICAL FINANCE

Campaign finance non-filers can be referred to OCPF

By Jason Tait

You've mailed notices, made phone calls and sent e-mails, but one or two candidates still refuse to file their campaign finance reports. Meanwhile, you're posting reports to the town website from other candidates, and they're asking why their opponents aren't complying with the campaign finance law.

What do you do? This is a frequent question asked by municipal clerks.

The answer: The campaign finance law allows local election officials to refer non-filers to OCPF, after following a few steps.

The campaign finance law requires clerks to send notices to non-filers. The notice must indicate that the candidate has 10 days to file the required report or the candidate will be referred to OCPF and will be subject to civil penalties. Please include the fine amounts of \$25 a day up to \$5,000.

Candidates who don't file within 10 days can be referred to OCPF.

The OCPF memo concerning this issue is M-94-07. Sample referral letters are attached to the memo, which is available on-line at <http://www.ocpf.net/legaldoc/M-94-07.pdf>. The referral to OCPF should include the pre-filing notice (if any), the 10-day notification letter, the portion of the ballot containing the candidate's name, if applicable, and the candidate's statement of organization (CPF M101). If a candidate is filing a Jan. 20th report, please include a copy of the front page of the most recent report.

After referral, please contact OCPF in writing when a delinquent report is filed with your office so the fine total can be determined. Fines stop accruing once a candidate files his or her report.

We realize you're busy with elections, etc., so please feel free to contact us at 617-979-8300 if you need help with campaign finance issues.



**New England Municipal Clerk Institute & Academy
@ Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH
July 16-22, 2011
2011 Scholarship Application Procedures**

By Donna Hooper, MTCA Scholarship Chair

The 2011 New England Municipal Clerk Institute & Academy returns July 16-22, 2011 to Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH. 2011 promises to be another exciting year for the NEMCI.

NEACTC members planning to attend the Institute or Academy are advised the deadline for applying for a scholarship is **Friday, March 18, 2011.**

All applications will be reviewed by Scholarship Committee members Donna Hooper (Lexington), Marlene Chused (Sharon) and Sandra Burgess (Amherst). Applicants will receive notification of award, to be followed by announcements at the June 2011 MTCA conference.

In awarding scholarships to attend the New England Municipal Clerk Institute & Academy, the MTCA gives preference to first-time students.

Scholarships to attend the Institute are also funded by the state associations, New England Association of City and Town Clerks, and the New England Municipal Clerks Institute. Scholarship applications will be funded at the state level and forwarded to NEACTC for further funding if needed.

Application Deadline: Friday, March 18, 2011!

Submit scholarship application to:

MTCA Scholarship Committee
c/o Donna Hooper, Town Clerk
1625 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA 02420
dhooper@lexingtonma.gov
Phone: 781-862-0500 x 273; Fax: 781-861-2754

2011 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 for State Scholarship Chairpersons to file applications with the Joint Scholarship Chair is **April 8, 2011**.
 3. Joint Scholarship Chair will notify the applicant, the Treasurer of the NEACTC, and the Treasurer of the NEMCI & Academy by April 29, 2011.
-

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)

MA: Sally Hayden – 250 Main Street, Rutland, MA 01543

Phone: 508-886-4104

sallyh@townofrutland.org

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: Donna M. Hooper, CMC/CMMC, 1625 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA. 02420

Phone: 781-862-0500

Fax: 781-861-2754

dhooper@ci.lexington.ma.us

NH: Sharon Teel, PO Box 194, Center Sandwich NH, 03227

Phone: 603-284-7113

Fax 603-284-6819

tctcsandwich@cyberpine.net

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: Barbara Seaver, P.O. Box 82, New Gloucester, ME 04260

Phone: 207-926-4126

Fax: 207-926-4136

bseaver@newgloucester.com

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

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| | YES | NO |
| 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 letter of denial | _____ | _____ |
| 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 your STATE Scholarship Chair by your state deadline.

**** 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, 2011*****

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

Date received: _____ Date action taken: _____

Amount awarded: _____ OR: Reason for denial _____



March 7, 2011

For immediate release:

Déjà vu! The New England Municipal Clerks' Institute & Academy is pleased to welcome back three of its most popular instructors, after a too-long absence.

Al Borsodi is returning to teach computer classes; Don Van Nostrand will handle personnel issues and other business-related courses in the Institute and Massachusetts State Representative Harriett Stanley will give us insight into budgeting and personal finance in a half-week Academy class.

NEMCI & A will be held July 16-22, 2011 at Plymouth (NH) State University. The Board of Directors feels it has taken the best from the past for an even better future.

If you haven't attended NEMCI, sign up now. If you haven't been back in a while, make this the year of your return. The brochure & registration form will be up on our website, newenglandclerks.org, shortly. We look forward to making new friends and greeting old ones. Please contact any of the Board members listed below for more information.

2010-2011 NEMCI & ACADEMY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Hutchenrider, Chair

Patricia Spruance	CT	860-465-3013	pspruance@windhamct.com
Agnes Pier	CT	860-285-1902	pier@townofwindsorct.com
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Kelli Barnaby	NH	603-610-7207	klbarnaby@cityofportsmouth.com
Patricia Little	NH	603-352-0133	plittle@ci.keene.nh.us
Sandra Pinsonault	VT	802-362-1178 x2	dorsetclerk@gmail.com
Pattie Lewis	VT	802-496-2452x23	patti@madriver.com
Linda Hutchenrider	MA	508-862-4044	linda.hutchenrider@town.barnstable.ma.us
Wilma McDonald	MA	978-462-7591	townclerk@salisburyma.gov

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Colette Williams, CMC - Town Clerk - Town of Brewster, MA.



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MTCA CONFERENCE SCHEDULES 2011

- SUMMER** June 8, 9, & 10, 2011
Seacrest Resort
Falmouth, MA
- FALL** October 12, 13 & 14, 2011
Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort
Hancock, MA
- NEACTC** November 16, 17 & 18, 2011
Hilton Mystic
Mystic, CT



Newsletter of the MTCA

584 Main Street
Athol MA 01331



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The Public Recorder

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