

The Public Recorder



Volume 57, No. 59

Published By The Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association

JUNE 2010

Website: www.newenglandclerks.org

Report of the President, Theodora K. Eaton

WHAT a Whirlwind Summer Conference!

By Tedi Eaton

The planning stage begins about three months before each conference with many, many hands working to bring about a successful conference. The location is selected at least 10 months prior to the conference dates and as the conference approaches, classrooms are selected according to size. Meals are selected. The brochure is prepared for distribution. The Education Committee meets to critique course suggestions and select at least three morning and afternoon classes that meet the criteria for certification. Each member then coordinates one class by selecting the speaker(s), and organizing the details. Class evaluations are prepared, rooms are assigned and as the conference approaches, class and conference registration begins. At the same time, 1st Vice President Donna Hooper is busy sending out invitations to our vendors who are major supporters of our conferences. She is also offering MTCA scholarships to those whose communities are facing budget constraints. If you were unable to attend this conference, look in The Public Recorder before each conference for scholarship information.



Again this year we partnered with the Massachusetts City Clerks for the Summer Conference and it seems to be a plus for both organizations. A big thank you to the City Clerks for sponsoring the banquet entertainment – Reminisce! I don't remember when I saw so many members on the dance floor or for such an extended period of time! What great exercise!

And check out the MCCA President, Russ Malone!!

Nancy Blackmer, Second Vice President, has reviewed the conference surveys that were submitted at the end of the conference. If you picked up a survey and didn't get a chance to complete it, please do so and fax it to Nancy. It appears that she received many good suggestions and the overall opinion was that The Wequassett Inn was a big hit! I know the rooms were limited and some of the class sizes were large, but that can often happen depending on the latest piece of legislation or regulation that is going to affect our positions as municipal clerks. It also appears that many clerks had single rooms

which left a few going offsite to a family cottage or a nearby motel or resort. One suggestion that I received was to have a list of clerks who plan to attend a conference and see if they can find a roommate. It might create a new friendship as well as keep more clerks on site.

The Summer Conference is the first conference after our spring elections and there are usually quite a few new clerks. There certainly appears to be many new clerks this year. We hold the New Clerks double session in June and hope to capture as many new clerks as possible. We also hold New Clerks meetings with Plymouth Town Clerk Larry Pizer at the fall and winter conferences. So if you know of a new clerk, please let me know as well as Kathy Nagle, Wellesley Town Clerk, who handles the MTCA Mentoring Program. We would like to welcome them into our Association and offer any needed assistance. And if you have a new neighboring clerk, give them a call and see if you can answer any questions. I remember my first day, month, year, conference. I kept saying, "What have you gotten yourself into?" My telephone number is 781-455-7510 x 216 and my email is Teaton@needhamma.gov. Kathy's telephone number is 781-431-1019 x 2250 and her email is knagle@wellesleyma.gov.

Our next conference is scheduled for September 28, 29 – October 1, 2010 at the Williams Inn in Williamstown. Stay tuned... And as we head into July, I hope you all have a safe, fun filled summer – or at least a little respite before our fall elections!

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MTCA LOBBYIST REPORT – JUNE 2010

By Stephen Roche

STATE BUDGET WORRIES

I don't recall a time in my 31 years on Beacon Hill when all eyes were turned to the US Capitol as they are now as we await final approval of a federal budget to provide nearly \$700 million in Medicaid monies to the Commonwealth. Without this funding, the Legislature and Governor will have to come up with cuts in an equal amount before July 1st.

The Governor, House, and Senate have all built these federal dollars into their FY2011 budget proposals. The only good news – if you will – is a promise by the Governor to refrain from any further cuts in Local Aid beyond the 4% reduction that we are already facing.

The FY2011 state budget is now in the hands of a House-Senate conference committee that may have to prepare two separate budgets in case the federal funds do not come through. The Senate budget chairman recently stated that if this happens, there would be “cuts from everywhere.”

The Senate completed debate on its FY2011 budget on May 28th after 4 days of debate. Here's a look at the State Secretary's accounts in the final, post debate version of the bill, **Senate 2470**:

0511-0270 For the secretary of state who may contract with the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute to provide the commonwealth with technical assistance on United States census data and to prepare annual population estimates..... \$621,750

0511-0420 For the operation of the address confidentiality program....\$130,858

0521-0000 For the operation of the elections division, including preparation, printing and distribution of ballots and for other miscellaneous expenses for primary and other elections; provided, that the secretary of state may award grants for voter registration and education; and provided further, that the registration and education activities may be conducted by community-based voter registration and education organizations...\$7,642,958

0521-0001 For the operation of the central voter registration computer system...\$5,684,747

0524-0000 For providing information to voters....\$1,257,044

0527-0100 For the operation of the ballot law commission....\$10,687

One of the issues debated by the Senate as part of its budget process was the delay of the implementation of the new requirements for the Open Meeting Law. The new law requires the Attorney General to promulgate regulations by July 1, 2010. An amendment offered by Senator Stephen Brewer to delay the effective date until November 1, 2010 was adopted.

The House final FY2011 budget – House 4601 – does not provide for a delay. Therefore, we are lobbying the budget conference committee members to incorporate the Brewer Amendment into the final budget that is sent to the Governor; see **Section 233 of Senate 2470**.

As you know, a budget amendment offered by Senators Patricia Jehlen and Jamie Eldridge to remove the mandate for the check-out table was not adopted.

EXPANDED GAMING

As you may recall, House Speaker Bob DeLeo secured passage in the House of a bill to expand gambling in Massachusetts. The key components of that bill are:


- allow up to 750 slot machines at each of the state's four racetracks
- license two free-standing casinos

The State Senate recently completed its closed-door discussions about expanding gaming and has reported out a bill that differs significantly from the House plan. The Senate will debate its proposal on June 23rd. The key features of the Senate plan are:

- license three free-standing casinos with one set aside for a qualified Indian tribe
- does not allow slots at tracks

We started out 2010 feeling that this was the year that Massachusetts would vote to allow casinos to operate here, with the Governor, Speaker, and Senate President all lining up behind the idea. But the devil is in the details; the House and Senate have six weeks to work out their differences.

As importantly, the gaming bill becomes a bargaining piece between the chambers.



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MUNICIPAL RELIEF- MUNICIPAL EARLY RETIREMENT

As this point, this is the primary issue that I am tracking for clerks in the House (**House 4631**) and Senate (**Senate 2436**) versions of Municipal Relief. The basic provisions include:

- available only to municipal employees of at least 20 years
- community can add up to 3 years of credible service based on age and/or length of service
- local approval required; number of participants limited
- employees must forfeit unused sick and vacation days – funds for these days go to the local retirement systems

Yet another House-Senate conference is working out the details of a compromise Muni Relief bill.

HOUSE 683 - AN ACT RELATIVE TO PRE-REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

I was asked about this bill at the MTCA Summer Conference. Here's the text:

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

Section 47A of Chapter 51 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following: A person who is otherwise qualified may pre-register on or after that person's sixteen and a half birthday and may vote in any election occurring on or after that person's eighteenth birthday.

This bill was reported favorably by the Election Laws Committee on April 1st and is now poised for a final vote in the House.

CALL FOR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE 2011-2012 SESSION

As you know, we run on a two-year cycle for our legislative sessions. The current session – the 2nd year of the 2009/2010 session – will actually run into early January. Thus, we will continue to work on our bills through the end of the year but must also prepare for the next session.

As part of the MTCA Legislative Committee's process for establishing the MTCA's legislative agenda, we issue a Call for Legislative Proposals.

Do you have an idea for a bill that the MTCA should file for next session?

If you do, please forward it to Larry Pizer, MTCA Legislative Chairman, via email **LPizer@townhall.plymouth.ma.us**.....

MTCA CERTIFICATION EXAM (CMMC) IN JULY

The MTCA examination for Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk (CMMC) designation will be offered in July. Applications must be received by Administrator Barbara LaBombard by **JUNE 30th** for the July exam, which will be mailed between July 16th and 23rd.

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 August 25th for the July 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 September 15th. 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. For more information or to receive the exam packet, please e-mail cityclerk@easthampton.org or call 413-529-1460.



MTCA CONFERENCE SCHEDULES 2010 - 2011

MTCA	SUMMER CONFERENCE JUNE 2, 3, & 4, 2010 WEQUASSETT RESORT & GOLF CLUB CHATHAM, MA	NEATC	43 rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 17, 18 & 19, 2010 HAWTHORNE HOTEL SALEM, MA
MTCA	FALL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 29, 30 & OCTOBER 1, 2010 WILLIAMS INN WILLIAMSTOWN, MA	MTCA	WINTER CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 2, 3, & 4, 2011 STURBRIDGE HOST HOTEL STURBRIDGE, MA

Preliminary Wequasset Survey Results

Just thought I would take a minute to let you know we really do appreciate your comments and suggestions about our conferences. After reviewing the ones I received at the Wequasset, I wanted to address some of the comments/suggestions. We are awaiting a proposal from the Wequasset for next year. After we receive that, we will make a decision on returning – just about everyone liked the location and we will do our best to be able to return. As for the weather – wish I could do something about that, but at least it did not rain.

Tables – several people said they would have liked tables in the classes – because of the number of Clerks attending, there was not room for the tables. The only rooms available for classes were Cape Villa 1, 2, & 3, the Children’s Center, and the Pavilion. Because we were using the Pavilion for meals, that could not be used for classes, so that left the three rooms we used. Unfortunately, we were rather crowded in the meeting rooms.

Entertainment – almost everyone liked the Doo Wop Group – thanks to the City Clerks for providing us this wonderful entertainment. A few other suggestions were comedy, murder mystery, and a DJ. If anyone has the name and contact information for someone they think would be good for our entertainment, please pass it along to either Tedi, Donna, or me.

Banquet – we will look into offering a choice for this meal – the Surf & Turf was the recommendation of the hotel, so we went with that since it was our first time here.

Sound System – I will be talking to the hotel about this so hopefully this will be taken care of if we return next year.

Place to gather and socialize during off times – I will also ask the hotel if they have a location for this – the Outer Bar and Grill area is lovely and has seating overlooking the water, so keep this in mind for another time.

Lack of rooms – the hotel only has 120 rooms; they would only allow us to have 110 of them, so there is nothing we can do about this. A few people mentioned a list of room numbers for clerks – the hotel cannot give this out so there is no good way to gather a list to share.

Other locations – suggestions for other conferences were Greenfield, Northampton, Lenox, and Amherst – I have checked all these places and they either do not have enough meeting room space, or they are very spread out. Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center was suggested and I will see what I can find out about this location. Also, several people suggested a North Shore location. The conferences are set up to be in Western Mass., Central Mass., and Eastern Mass., so if we were to go to the North Shore, we would have to give up the Cape location. If people would like me to look into that as an option, I certainly will see what I can find for hotels that meet our space needs.

Thanks for taking the time to fill out the surveys.

Nancy Blackmer
Second Vice President

WESTERN MASS. CITY & TOWN CLERK'S ASSOCIATION

Western Mass. City and Town Clerks annual meeting will be held on Friday, July 30, 2010 at Look Park in Northampton. Robert Nasdor from the Division of Open Government will speak on the changes to the Open Meeting Law. More details will be mailed soon.

Nancy M. Blackmer, MMC/CMMC
Town Clerk
6 Prospect St.
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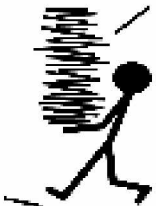
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JUNE – JULY 2010

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Sunday	June 20	Father's Day
Monday	June 21	Summer Begins
Sunday	July 4	Independence Day

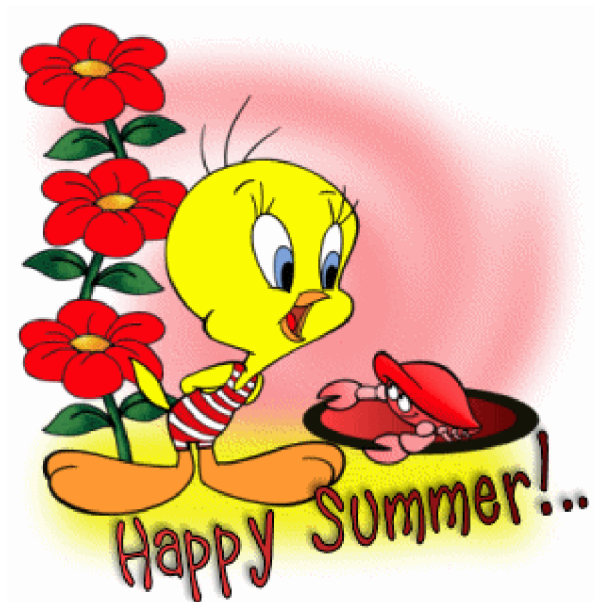


MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The Public Recorder is not published in July. The next issue will be in August.

Hope everyone has a happy and safe summer!!

Nancy Burnham, Editor



Newsletter of the MTCA

584 Main Street
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The Public Recorder

The Recorder is published monthly August to June by the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association for its membership.

Closing date for copy submission is the First DAY of each month. All news, notes, clippings, meeting notices and address corrections should be sent to Editor Nancy E. Burnham, 584 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

Phone: 978-249-4551

E-mail: townclerk@townofathol.org

Website: www.newenglandclerks.org