



## MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

**STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION** as presented by 2013 MCANJ President Nancy Saffos, at the Annual Business Meeting of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey on November 20, 2013.



Good Morning! Allow me to begin by saying to all of you, individually and collectively, to you who are our association, it has been my privilege, my honor and my pleasure to have had the opportunity to serve as your president for 2013.

I would like to reflect for a moment, to this very time last year. Last year, for the first time in the NJLM's history, we were unable to come together because of the New Jersey League of Municipalities Convention was cancelled as a result of the devastating effects of what has come to be known as Super Storm Sandy. This time last year many of our colleagues were busy trying to, literally, pick up the pieces of their towns, save what they were able, and begin the work necessary to make their towns whole again. Some towns were bruised, some hurt badly, and far too many crippled by the awful effects of that disastrous storm.

Even when we re-scheduled our Annual Business Meeting to December 12th, many of our colleagues were still in a whirlwind trying to bring sense and order of the catastrophe that Mother Nature had so devastatingly and so quickly created. To all of you who stood strong in the face of chaos; all of you who remained steadfast in your commitment to public service; all of you who could not be with us last year, after the storm had ended because your work

had just begun; all of you who have spent endless hours, days, weeks and months trying to make your towns whole again; to all of you – we all say thank you. Thank you for being there and for representing our profession in such a way that makes and keeps us proud to say we are a municipal clerk. You truly are Stronger than Any Storm!

*Continued on Page 3*

**LOOKING AHEAD TO 2014** as presented by 2014 MCANJ President John M. Mitch, at the Annual Business Meeting of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey on December 12, 2012.



On January 1, 2014, I will begin my 25th year in local government. Having served in various elected and appointed positions including Fire Commissioner, Councilman, Deputy Municipal Clerk, Emergency Management Coordinator, Acting Business Administrator, and Municipal Clerk, I cannot think of a better way than to celebrate this milestone while simultaneously serving as your association's President.

I have been thinking about this year for some time now. Being President of an organization of more than 700 professionals is truly an honor. I owe many of you who sit here today a big thank you for your support over these past years and look forward to your continued support this coming year. In particular, I want to thank the Municipal Clerks, Deputy Clerks, County Clerk, Deputy County Clerk and Freeholder Clerk from Middlesex County (known as the greatest county in the land) for their on-going support and encouragement. After all, this is where I got my start. We work well together as a group as we share common goals and a true commitment to our governments.

To my Council, Mayor, administration and colleagues from town hall in Woodbridge, one could not ask for a better team to work with. When someone like myself enjoys what I do and appreciates the people I work with, it makes going to work not feel like a job.

To several of my good and longtime friends who are here today, you're absolutely the best. While we all share a common bond from the Avenel fire house, our friendships couldn't be stronger.

*Continued on Page 6*

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1971-1973: Joseph E. Bennett  
1974-1982: Harry C. Kates  
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1994-1995: Patricia Hullfish and Patricia C. Shuss, Co-Editors  
1996-2000: Patricia C. Shuss  
2001-2005: Nancy Hatten

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#### MCANJ PAST PRESIDENTS \* EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

|                            |                             |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1974: Joseph V. Valenti    | 1995: Christina N. Wilder   | 2005: Jane Williams-Warren  |
| 1975: Alfred A. Reda       | 1996: Joseph C. Favaro      | 2006: Elaine B. Kennedy     |
| 1977: Otto M. Bock         | 1997: Elizabeth H. Kiss     | 2007: Barbara M. Hawk       |
| 1981: L. Manuel Hirshblond | 1999: Bernadette Dubuss     | 2008: Heather Mailander     |
| 1985: Elizabeth G. Nolan   | 2000: Nancy Hatten          | 2009: Joan Moreland         |
| 1987: Lewis N. Thompson    | 2001: Sharon L. Brienza     | 2010: Vincent Buttiglieri   |
| 1988: Elaine Wallace       | 2002: Bernadette Standowski | 2011: Joanne M. Kwasniewski |
| 1993: John J. Galvin       | 2003: Allan Susen           | 2012: Andrew J. Pavlica     |
| 1994: Kathleen A. Thorpe   | 2004: Joel Popkin           | 2013: Nancy Saffos          |

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Thomas Redanauer, Barrington Borough Christina N. Wilder, Hamilton Township Elizabeth H. Kiss, East Brunswick Township

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| Bergen:     | Heather A. Mailander, Ridgewood Village | Monmouth:  | Jane Gillespie, Spring Lake Borough             |
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#### NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL CLERK COUNTY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

(Subject to Change once each County Association holds their 2014 Organization Meeting)

|             |                                          |            |                                         |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Atlantic:   | Olga Perez, Egg Harbor Township          | Middlesex: | Nennette Perry, East Brunswick Township |
| Bergen:     | Laura Borchers, Ho-Ho-Kus Borough        | Monmouth:  | Jane Gillespie, Spring Lake Borough     |
| Burlington: | Kim-Marie White, Eastampton Township     | Morris:    | Susan Caljean, Chatham Borough          |
| Camden:     | Deanna Bennett, Haddonfield Borough      | Ocean:     | Mary Madonna, Surf City Borough         |
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| Hudson:     | N/A                                      | Union:     | Doreen Cali, Roselle Park               |
| Hunterdon:  | Cynthia Ege, Lambertville City           | Warren:    | Kelley Smith, Harmony Township          |
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### 2013 STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

*Continued from Page 1*

So, this is to be “The State of The Association.” The state of our association is alive and flourishing. We are strong. We are working hard. We are changing and improving; and we are having an effect. We are being noticed and being listened to, rather than just heard, which is evidenced by Senator Loretta Weinberg’s presence here with us this morning. The state of our association is very much alive and flourishing!

2013 proved to be yet another busy and productive year for MCANJ, and challenging as well. Thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer, Denise Szabo (& company); we were able to launch an on-line membership process in January. Denise was firm in her belief that we should, and as firm in her commitment that we could and would be successful in launching a streamlined on-line membership renewal process for the association and its members.

I am proud to tell you (and again thanks to what I call the “electronic leadership” of Denise Szabo and our 2nd Vice President, Keith Kazmark), MCANJ will be launching a totally new website by the end of 2013. I guess you can call us technologically current, so look for our new site. I do ask your help with encouraging any retired clerks you know, who may not be aware of our new renewal procedures, to go to our website and fill out their annual renewal memberships on-line. This provides us with the most current contact information for all of our members including our Honorary Retired Members.

Drew Pavlica and Jim Doherty have continued to keep our Facebook page updated. Some days it feels like it’s hourly because of all the notices I receive to check out tagged photos and accept suggested friends. It is hard to believe that my friend Drew, who didn’t have a cell phone two or three years ago, is now posting on Facebook and all the time! Look out Twitter because I think Drew has his eye on that too. Thank you to Drew and Jim for your efforts. Jim Doherty has continued to provide us all with outstanding publications of the Quill, as its Editor, along with Sharon Brienza, who is our People Page Editor. Thank you both for your efforts providing us with outstanding publications.

Thank you also to Daina Dale, who not only had to put up with my pestering for e-mail blasts and website postings, she also tended to all of the details of the daily maintenance of our website and the requests of so many members for e-blasts. Daina has worked on our website, and will continue to work on our new website, as well.

I extend my gratitude to all of the committee chairs and members, as well as the advisory board representatives. All of you worked very hard and gave your time for MCANJ and I appreciate all of your efforts and your support throughout this past year.

*Continued on Page 4*



## ***2013 STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION, By Nancy Saffos, 2013 MCANJ President***

*Continued from Page 3*

The legislature has been busy this year. Proposed amendments to OPRA and OPMA have kept us quite busy as they have since way back to Past President Vinny Buttiglieri's term. At times, it has been frustrating: watching for when committee hearings would be scheduled, so that we would be able to attend and testify to the Senate or the Assembly; and learning that amendments were moved to second reading without committee hearings. The way the state legislative process works continues to mystify us. Thanks to the dedication and help of Lori Buckelew at the New Jersey League of Municipalities, we have remained diligent in our efforts to protect the integrity of local government and the office of the municipal clerk, watching all legislation that affected our positions.

Because of 2nd Vice President Keith Kazmark's efforts, we were able to meet with Senator Loretta Weinberg's Chief of Staff, Jason Redd, who spent a considerable amount of time with us in August, reviewing OPRA and OPMA amendments. This board has approached the discussions on these amendments from the standpoint of realistic implementation and we have addressed issues like commercial requests and the use of taxpayer dollars to increase private businesses' client and customer bases. We noted the issue of who should be held responsible and liable for withholding public documents or for responding late when it has nothing to do with the municipal clerk. We have spoken to the fact that prohibiting additions to an agenda could likely be a hindrance to necessary, efficient, and effective government action and ultimately hurt the citizens of our municipalities. We have addressed all parts of the legislation and we will remain optimistic anticipating revisions that make implementation more reasonable. These bills are not going away, however we have affected many important changes to them.

We have spoken to the realities of local government and the need for flexibility. We have addressed, and continue to address, many issues while emphasizing that we, as municipal clerks, are proponents of good and transparent government. Our mission is to serve the public in a way that achieves just that – open and good government that meets the needs of our residents and businesses, in the most expeditious, efficient, professional and respectful manner possible.

The Early Voting bill thankfully was put to rest. Interestingly enough, it was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly. Fortunately, it was absolutely vetoed by the governor. We already have early voting in New Jersey. It is called "Vote by Mail!" Jim Doherty was good enough to come to Trenton with me and testify before the Senate. Government is mystifying!

The legislation providing for the President of the Municipal Clerks' Association or their designee to have a seat on the Government Records Council passed both the Senate and the Assembly unanimously. It was sent to the governor's desk where it sat for quite some time and then was vetoed. The governor's message explained his only objection was that the appointment of another government employee would upset the balance of the council. Once again, we flooded legislative offices with calls and letters asking for an amended bill to address the governor's one and only concern.

Thanks to our 1st Vice President John Mitch's contact with his legislative office, on November 7th, 2013 Senator Joseph Vitale introduced that amended bill. I am now anxiously waiting for "that" e-mail or telephone call advising us that this new bill has been added to the Senate Committee's agenda, so that we can make the trip to Trenton and provide supporting testimony, which will include a reminder that they already approved the bill unanimously!

At this time, both the Senate and the Assembly are in session until January 14, 2014, so we ask that you continue to call and write your senators and assembly representatives and ask for support of this very important legislation. We are hopeful that good government will prevail at the state level and we will see this legislation become law very soon. We are optimistic and expect that both the Assembly and Senate will once again unanimously support the bill and the governor will sign it as our Holiday Present! Finally, it has been a long time coming! We deserve a seat on the GRC and given that seat, we will improve the productivity of that council.

The Common Sense Shared Services Bill did pass, however only as a pilot and only in a handful of counties. We did influence that legislation and meaningful amendments were made to the original bill. We paid very close attention to this and all legislation pertaining to the office of the municipal clerk. While some of the legislation is not exactly what we would have preferred and there are many who are unhappy about the final legislation, make no mistake that our attention and the attention of all those who sent resolutions of opposition, made telephone calls and wrote letters to the legislature all helped soften the blow. We may not have achieved what we wished for but we did get a softer, kinder version than that which was originally proposed because of our efforts.

**Continued on Page 5**

## ***2013 STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION, By Nancy Saffos, 2013 MCANJ President***

*Continued from Page 4*

Our Annual Education Conference this year was wrapped into the IIMC Annual Education Conference, which we, MCANJ, proudly hosted here in Atlantic City. We hosted clerks from all over the United States and the world. Thanks to the efforts of the many volunteers and the steadfast stewardship of Co-Chairs Chris Wilder and Allan Susen, the conference was a huge success and is being touted as one of the best IIMC conferences in its history. I also offer our thanks for the help and guidance of the staff at the Trump Taj Mahal: Wendy Wenal, Robert Kelly and Denise, as well as Flo Kelly and Felicia from the AC Convention & Visitor's Bureau,

On the topic of IIMC, I am pleased to announce that our very own Vinny Buttiglieri, currently serving as IIMC, Region II Director has thrown his hat in the ring and is running for IIMC Vice President. To those of you who are members of IIMC, please make sure you support Vinny and vote for him to be IIMC Vice President.

This year we had a change to the way our Education Committee operated as the Executive Board, along with our fabulous Executive Director Joel Popkin, developed a new structure and policy for its continuance. It is said there are no coincidences, just small miracles. That must be true because all of the sessions for this year's league conference were already organized from last year's cancelled League Convention, so the committee was able to reconfirm their program for this year and not a beat was missed. A new structure has been established and we are confident that we will be as strong, if not stronger, as we move forward. A special thank you to Harold Weiner, Sharon Young and all of the members of the Education Committee for your patience, your efforts and your professionalism, as we "rebooted" your committee.

This year we had conference "call in", as an option for participation in all Advisory Board Meetings. This seemed to work well. We even had an Executive Board Meeting by conference call. Times are changing and we are changing with the times.

Change can be good! We must be willing to change or we will be left behind.

We have all become busier and busier in our offices. This year we had two Special Elections for State Senator; we continued to experience cutbacks in our offices and municipal budgets; we had another increase in our portion of contribution to our health benefits' cost; and as I said last December, there is one thing that has not changed a bit.... We are asked every day to do more with less and for less!



We are professionals and we must remain committed to our pledge to serve the public with the highest level of professionalism and respect. Only in that way will we continue to receive and maintain the respect we deserve as municipal clerks.

Once again, I urge you all to get involved. We are extremely fortunate and look forward in 2014 to the leadership of President Elect John Mitch, who will undoubtedly welcome your help and your support.

To misquote Aristotle, our association is only as good as the sum of all its members! As I have said before, gone are the days of the few. We are in the days of the many! Everyone is welcome. We encourage your participation. We need your participation to grow. Join us and be a part of the solutions we seek.

It has been my honor, my privilege and my sincere pleasure to serve as your president. There have been and will continue to be challenges that we must face and only if we are committed to unity and to the greater good of the whole will we be successful in our endeavors, as an association. Please come and be part of what keeps us alive and flourishing.

Thank you for allowing me this wonderful opportunity.

Gratefully,

Nancy Saffos

## *LOOKING AHEAD, by 2014 President John M. Mitch*

### *Continued From Page 1*

And to those members of my family who are here this morning, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. For more than 33 years I have been involved in my community and much of what I have done could not have been done without your support.

Whether it was political campaigns, fundraisers, walking door-to-door, manning phone banks, putting up lawn signs, buying raffles, purchasing tickets to events and so much more, you have always been there for me.

To my wife Laura and my children, Kelly, Tommy and Kara, you all know too well how seldom I am home. With that, you do not complain or question it; you simply (or simply not) work around it. I thank the four of you from the bottom of my heart.

As for our state association, please allow me to first acknowledge President Nancy Saffos for her leadership this past year. While she enjoyed the pleasures of being host President for an International Conference whose attendees numbered 900 from 10 different Countries and Provinces, she also spent much time addressing legislation regarding Common Sense (or not so common sense) Shared Services, the Open Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act; not all which we were in favor of (in part or in full). President Saffos always did her best to look out for Municipal Clerks and municipalities around the Garden State. She also followed the footsteps of so many Presidents before her.

Being a member of this Executive Board involves many different tasks. To name a few, it is staying on top of legislation that affects our profession; it is ensuring that educational opportunities are plentiful and affordable; it is facing new challenges, both professionally and personally and it is working with what has become more common these days ... reforms, and so much more.



The 2014 Executive Board will undoubtedly be busy. In December (2013) we will be rolling out a facelift to our website that will hopefully be easy to navigate; much thanks to 2014 1st Vice President Keith Kazmark (Elmwood Park), 2014 2nd Vice President Denise Szabo (Bernards Township) and Information Technology Chair Daina Dale (Harvey Cedars). With an improved website, continuous Facebook postings by Andrew J. Pavlica (past MCANJ President) and Information Technology Committee Member Jim Doherty (Wantage), and continued e-blasts, we hope to improve our communication to you.

The 2014 Executive Board will also continue to stay on top of the Legislature to see that we get a seat at the table of the Government Records Council. This well-intended effort began years ago under the leadership of Vincent Buttiglieri (past MCANJ President) with 2013 taking it to its furthest point. However, even with bi-partisan and full support of both the Senate and the Assembly, Governor Chris Christie vetoed the Bill due to an issue he had with "balance." While I respect his position and understand his concern, I don't know why he simply did not conditionally veto the Bill and allow the Legislature to do its job if they were inclined to do so. To that end, my District Senator, Joseph Vitale, who initially introduced the vetoed Bill, has introduced a new Bill which addresses the Governor's issue. I also learned this week that Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, who initially introduced the companion Bill in his House, has indicated that he will again introduce the companion Bill this session. I want to personally thank my sister-in-law Laurie McCabe, a legislative assistant to Senator Vitale, who is here today, for her assistance with this Bill. In 2014 I hope to get this Bill back on the Governor's desk, but this time, for his signature.

Some of you already know from my comments at the September Advisory Board Meeting, that I do not understand why we hold our Annual Meeting during the League of Municipalities Conference rather than at MCANJ's Annual Education Conference. The Annual Meeting is extremely important as this is where our membership votes on changes to our By-Laws and Constitution and, where our membership votes on who will represent them on the Executive Board. In fact, if municipalities are hesitant about allowing employees to attend the League because of the negativity that is sometimes cast upon it, some Municipal Clerks would never be able to stand before you as a candidate. In addition, the amount of voting members at the Annual Meeting is at least double or even triple of what is here today. I truly believe that a bigger audience rather than a smaller audience should be making these decisions. To that end, I will soon charge the responsibility to a committee of several to review this possible change and to make a recommendation to the Executive Board. If their findings are favorable we will begin to review the logistics to make these changes in the near future. I also believe that this change will save our organization money by reducing some of the expenses incurred during the League.

*Continued on Page 7*



## *LOOKING AHEAD, by 2014 President John M. Mitch*

### *Continued From Page 6*

Together with the 2014 Executive Board, I intend to stay on top of the challenges and changes that affect our profession. We need to continue using our strengths, but begin to use them in new and improved ways. Some of the changes we have faced over the past several years have forced many local and state employees to retire, taking with them many seasoned municipal clerks. That trend, unfortunately, continues to happen.

I believe that our association has represented our interests as best as they could for many years and we will continue to do so while I am your President. As a team, this Executive Board, Keith Kazmark (1st Vice President), Denise Szabo (2nd Vice President), Dina Zawadski (Treasurer), our new Secretary Kevin Galland, Nancy Saffos (Immediate Past President), our Executive Director Joel Popkin (who has a sense of duty second to none), and our Attorney Richard Lustgarten, will work tirelessly for you.

I look forward to soon announcing my Advisory Board Members from our 21 counties and more than 100 appointments to various committees. Once they are announced in the Quill newsletter, I encourage you to reach out to the members listed or to this Executive Board with any questions, concerns or suggestions for improvement. It is only through your participation and speaking up that we know what is on your mind.

Of paramount importance will be the opportunity for me to craft a new direction for our Education Committee. As you know our relationship with Rutgers University has recently changed. But rather than dwell on the past, I ask you to look forward to the future. I also ask for your patience as this transition may take longer than a year and may even go into 1st Vice President Keith Kazmark's term as President in 2015.

And speaking of education and the future, my 2014 Education Conference Committee is off and running. We are set to bring to you a great conference in March, entitled "Municipal Clerks; Meeting the Challenge." I chose this title because each and every day we are: MEETING THE CHALLENGE. As Municipal Clerks, we are often the direct link between residents and their local government. Our citizens look to us for direction and satisfaction. We also serve our elected officials and are the ones that they should and can count on, to be sure we are representing them well and carrying out our many duties as prescribed by state law. We need to stay committed to ourselves, our local governments, and our citizens. While we may not be able to control the challenges we face, we are able to control how we face these challenges. Remember this ----- we bring people together.

I have had the pleasure of serving on this Executive Board under the Presidencies of Vinny Buttiglieri, Joanne Kwasniewski, Andrew J. Pavlica and now Nancy Saffos. I have learned a lot from each of them. While we have come far under their leadership and the leadership before them, let us now look at how far we can go. As a team I know we can go far. I am confident as a person, and as an organization, we will rise to the challenges in 2014 and seize opportunities to stand tall.



Our organization has so much to offer. I urge you to please get involved if you are not already. And I urge those of you here today who are receiving your RMC designation, to get involved as I and many of us have.

In closing, it is my opinion that being an active member of our association has undoubtedly made us better Municipal Clerks. I believe we can continue to succeed but it takes hard work, striving to do the right thing, and never compromising your integrity or values. Only you can limit yourself. Always do your best and do the right thing. Then whatever happens next, there will be no regrets.

I don't take this challenge of being your President lightly and only have one year to leave my mark. I am proud to be just a small part of MCANJ but as a team, we will stand together for a larger part. THANK YOU!

## *2014 MCANJ Committees by President John M. Mitch*

### **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**Chair:** Eileen Gore, Hamilton Township (609) 586-0311 [egore@hamiltonnj.com](mailto:egore@hamiltonnj.com)

**Members:** Harold E. Wiener, Irvington Township; Gene Padalino, Pennsauken Township; David Hughes, Summit City

### **EDUCATION**

**Chair:** Joanne Kwasniewski, Fair Lawn Borough, (201) 794-5340 [muncclerk@fairlawn.org](mailto:muncclerk@fairlawn.org)

**Members:** Harold E. Wiener, Irvington Township; Ann Bistriz, Harrington Park Borough; Diane Pflugfelder, Liberty Township; Ann Marie McCarthy, Franklin Township (Somerset); Heather Mailander, Ridgewood Village; Jane Williams-Warren, Paterson City; Gene Padalino, Pennsauken Township; Sharon Young, West Windsor Township; Linda Wanat, Montclair Township; Louise Palagano, Bloomfield Township; Elaine Jasko, Perth Amboy City

### **EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

**Co-Chair:** Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Township (908) 526-1300 [sharon.brienza@branchburg.nj.us](mailto:sharon.brienza@branchburg.nj.us)

**Co-Chair:** Heather Mailander, Ridgewood Village (201) 670-5500 [hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net](mailto:hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net)

**Members:** John M. Mitch, Woodbridge Township; Keith Kazmark, Elmwood Park Borough; Denise Szabo, Bernards Township; Dina Zawadski, Deptford Township; Kevin Galland, Woodland Park Borough; Nancy Saffos, Cherry Hill Township; Joanne M. Kwasniewski, Fair Lawn Borough; Joel Popkin, MCANJ Executive Director; Ceil Covino, Clinton Town; Patricia Frontino, Glassboro Borough; Diane Pflugfelder, Liberty Township; Doreen Cali, Roselle Park Borough; Drew Pavlica, Garfield City

### **ELECTIONS**

**Chair:** Jane Williams-Warren, Paterson City (973) 321-1311 [jwilliams@patersonnj.gov](mailto:jwilliams@patersonnj.gov)

**Members:** Linda Wanat, Montclair Township; Michele Reilly, Mountain Lakes Borough; Amada Curling, Passaic City

### **FUNDRAISING**

**Chair:** Doreen Cali, Roselle Park Borough (908) 245-6222 [dcali@rosellepark.net](mailto:dcali@rosellepark.net)

**Members:** Rhona Bluestein, Roselle Borough; Cynthia Brown, East Orange City; Adeline Hanna, Midland Park Borough

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / WEB PAGE**

**Co-Chair:** Daina Dale, Harvey Cedars Borough (609) 361-6000 [clerk@harveycedars.org](mailto:clerk@harveycedars.org)

**Co-Chair:** Drew Pavlica, Garfield City (973) 340-2001 [apavlica@garfieldnj.org](mailto:apavlica@garfieldnj.org)

**Members:** Keith Kazmark, Elmwood Park Borough; Jim Doherty, Wantage Township; Jane Gillespie, Spring Lake Borough

### **LEGAL DEFENSE FUND**

**Chair:** Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Township (908) 526-1300 [sharon.brienza@branchburg.nj.us](mailto:sharon.brienza@branchburg.nj.us)

**North:** Carol Dray, Emerson Borough; Harold E. Wiener, Irvington Township;

**Alternate:** Diane Pflugfelder, Liberty Township

**Central:** Vinny Buttiglieri, Ocean Township (Monmouth); Dwayne Harris, Atlantic Highlands Borough;

**Alternate:** Barbara Nyitrai, South Brunswick Township

**South:** Rhonda Williams, Atlantic City; Kim Johnson, Mullica Township

**Alternate:** Mary Lou Bergh, Washington Township (Gloucester)

### **LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR LAWS PERTAINING TO MUNICIPAL CLERKS' PROFESSION**

**Chair:** Kim-Marie White, Eastampton Township (609) 267-5723 [kwhite@eastampton.com](mailto:kwhite@eastampton.com)

**Members:** Harold E. Wiener, Irvington Township; Rhona Bluestein, Roselle Borough; Susan Robostello, Millville City

### **MANUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Coordinator:** Joel Popkin, MCANJ Executive Director (732) 609-6441 [joelpopkin@optonline.net](mailto:joelpopkin@optonline.net)

**Editor:** Deanna Bennett, Haddonfield Borough

**Members:** Ann Bistriz, Harrington Park Borough; Judy Allen, Delaware Township; Nennette Perry, East Brunswick Township

*Continued on Page 9*



## 2014 MCANJ Committees by President John M. Mitch

Continued from Page 8

### MEMBERSHIP / PEER ALLIANCE FOR LEARNING (PAL)

#### **North**

**Chair:** Drew Pavlica, Garfield City (973) 340-2001 [apavlica@garfieldnj.org](mailto:apavlica@garfieldnj.org)  
**Members:** Neil Grant, Fort Lee Borough (201) 592-3500 x1040 [n-grant@fortleenj.org](mailto:n-grant@fortleenj.org)  
Jane Williams-Warren, Paterson City (973) 321-1311 [jwilliams@patersonnj.gov](mailto:jwilliams@patersonnj.gov)

#### **Central**

**Chair:** Ceil Covino, Clinton Town (908) 735-8616 [ccovino@clintonnj.gov](mailto:ccovino@clintonnj.gov)  
**Members:** Ann Marie McCarthy, Franklin Township (732) 873-2500 x6211 [annmarie.mccarthy@twp.franklin.nj.us](mailto:annmarie.mccarthy@twp.franklin.nj.us)  
Karen Siano, Eatontown Borough (732) 389-7621 [clerk@eatontownnj.com](mailto:clerk@eatontownnj.com)  
**Alternate:** Sandra Bohinski, Helmetta Borough (732) 521-4946 x100 [s.bohinski@helmettaboro.com](mailto:s.bohinski@helmettaboro.com)

#### **South**

**Chair:** Denise Brouse, Merchantville Borough (856) 662-2474 x103 [dbrouse@merchantvillennj.gov](mailto:dbrouse@merchantvillennj.gov)  
**Members:** Lynda Wells, Long Beach Township (609) 361-1000 [wells@longbeachtownship.com](mailto:wells@longbeachtownship.com)  
Mary Lou Bergh, Washington Township (Gloucester) (856) 589-0520 [mbergh@twp.washington.nj.us](mailto:mbergh@twp.washington.nj.us)

### PAST PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

|                                |                |                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chair</b> Andrew J. Pavlica | 2012           | <a href="mailto:apavlica@garfieldnj.org">apavlica@garfieldnj.org</a>                 |
| Nancy Saffos                   | 2013           | <a href="mailto:nsaffos@chtownship.com">nsaffos@chtownship.com</a>                   |
| Joanne Kwasniewski             | 2011           | <a href="mailto:muncclerk@fairlawn.org">muncclerk@fairlawn.org</a>                   |
| Vincent Buttiglieri            | 2010           | <a href="mailto:vbuttiglieri@oceantwp.org">vbuttiglieri@oceantwp.org</a>             |
| Joan Moreland                  | 2009           | <a href="mailto:jon6073@aol.com">jon6073@aol.com</a>                                 |
| Heather Mailander              | 2008           | <a href="mailto:hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net">hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net</a>           |
| Barbara Hawk                   | 2007 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:barbarahawk@comcast.net">barbarahawk@comcast.net</a>                 |
| Elaine B. Kennedy              | 2006 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:ebeverly@comcast.net">ebeverly@comcast.net</a>                       |
| Jane Williams – Warren         | 2005           | <a href="mailto:jwilliams@patersonnj.gov">jwilliams@patersonnj.gov</a>               |
| Joel Popkin                    | 2004 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:joelpopkin@optonline.net">joelpopkin@optonline.net</a>               |
| Allan Susen                    | 2003           | <a href="mailto:asusen@haledonboronj.com">asusen@haledonboronj.com</a>               |
| Bernadette Standowski          | 2002 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:lorettabs@aol.com">lorettabs@aol.com</a>                             |
| Sharon Brienza                 | 2001           | <a href="mailto:sharon.brienza@branchburg.nj.us">sharon.brienza@branchburg.nj.us</a> |
| Nancy Hatten                   | 2000 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:nanhat10@optonline.net">nanhat10@optonline.net</a>                   |
| Bernadette Dubuss              | 1999 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:bmdfed@msn.com">bmdfed@msn.com</a>                                   |
| Elizabeth Kiss                 | 1997 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:kisbet42@aol.com">kisbet42@aol.com</a>                               |
| Joseph Favaro                  | 1996 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:joefav70@me.com">joefav70@me.com</a>                                 |
| Christina Wilder               | 1995 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:cwilder5@aol.com">cwilder5@aol.com</a>                               |
| Kathleen Thorpe-Holder         | 1994 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:ktorpe99@comcast.net">ktorpe99@comcast.net</a>                       |
| John Gavin                     | 1993 (Retired) | N/A                                                                                  |
| Elaine Wallace                 | 1988 (Retired) | N/A                                                                                  |
| Lewis Thompson                 | 1987 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:lthomp15@gmail.com">lthomp15@gmail.com</a>                           |
| Elizabeth Nolan                | 1985 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:nolanmom6@aol.com">nolanmom6@aol.com</a>                             |
| L. Manuel Hirshblond           | 1981 (Retired) | <a href="mailto:manjanh@verizon.net">manjanh@verizon.net</a>                         |
| Otto M. Bock                   | 1977 (Retired) | N/A                                                                                  |
| Alfred Reda                    | 1975 (Retired) | N/A                                                                                  |
| Joseph V. Valenti              | 1974 (Retired) | N/A                                                                                  |

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINI CONFERENCES

**Chair:** Joanne Kwasniewski, Fair Lawn Borough (201) 794-5340 [muncclerk@fairlawn.org](mailto:muncclerk@fairlawn.org)

#### **North**

Ann Bistriz, Harrington Park Borough and Diane Pflugfelder, Liberty Township

#### **Central**

Ann Marie McCarthy, Franklin Township (Somerset) and Nennette Perry, East Brunswick Township

#### **South**

Roy Duffield, Woodbury City, Susan Robostello, Millville City and Patricia Frontino, Glassboro Borough

Continued on Page 10

## 2014 MCANJ Committees by President John M. Mitch

*Continued From Page 9*

### PUBLIC RELATIONS / MCANJ BOOTH

**Co-Chair:** Ceil Covino, Clinton Town (908) 735-8616 ccovino@clintonnj.gov

**Co-Chair:** Barbara Rae, Edgewater Borough (201) 943-1700 barbara@edgewaternj.org

**Members:** Cynthia Brown, East Orange City; Vinny Buttiglieri, Ocean Township (Monmouth) ;  
Tanya Goodwin, Swedesboro Borough

### QUILL

**Editor:** James Doherty, Wantage Township (973) 875-7192 administrator@wantagewp-nj.org

**People Page:** Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Township (908) 526-1300 sharon.brienza@branchburg.nj.us

**Committee Member:** Lauren Vande Vaarst, Englewood City **Advertising:** Joel Popkin, MCANJ Executive Director

### RAFFLES

**Chair:** Yancy Wazirmas, Parsippany-Troy Hills Township (973) 263-4350 ywazirmas@parsippany.net

**Members:** Diane Pflugfelder, Liberty Township; Patty Hunt, Moorestown Township; Heather Mailander, Ridgewood Village; Susan Witkowski, Hillsdale Borough

### RECORDS

**Chair:** Jeff Jotz, Rahway City (732) 827-2000 jjotz@cityofrahway.com

**Members:** Harold E. Wiener, Irvington Township; Margaret Pemberton, County of Middlesex; Vinny Buttiglieri, Ocean Township (Monmouth); Gene Padalino, Pennsauken Township

### RESOLUTIONS

**Co-Chair:** Sandra Bohinski, Helmetta Borough (732) 52-4946 x100 s.bohinski@helmettaboro.com

**Co-Chair:** Marie Elena Macari, Saddle River Borough (201) 327-2609 mmacari@saddleriver.org

**Members:** All Advisory Board Members

### SCHOLARSHIPS

**Chair:** Karen Hughes, Westwood Borough (201) 664-7100 khughes@westwoodnj.gov

**Members:** Cynthia Brown, East Orange City; Vita Mekovetz, Readington Township; Barbara Shepard, Boonton Township; Rayna Harris, Raritan Borough

### AD HOC COMMITTEE: HISTORICAL REPORT COMMITTEE

**Co-Chair:** Andrew J. Pavlica, Garfield City (973) 340-2001 apavlica@garfielddnj.org

**Co-Chair:** James Doherty, Wantage Township (973) 875-7192 administrator@wantagewp-nj.org

## PEOPLE PAGE *by Sharon Brienza*

### JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

MCANJ President John Mitch has been holding planning meetings in preparation for the 2014 MCANJ Conference at his Woodbridge office in the Council Chambers. A meeting was scheduled for October 31 and John realized that his Council Chambers would not be available due to the room being used for the sorting of election forms and materials. John sent this picture of what his Council Chambers looked like after they prepared for their 75 voting districts. He also noted that they provide some materials in three different languages – English, Spanish and Gujarati.





## PEOPLE PAGE

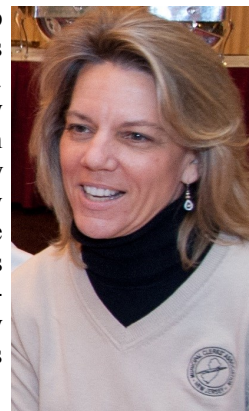
by Sharon Brienza

### CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Paul Margiotta (pictured at left) of Wayne Township (Passaic County), who was honored at the MCANJ Annual Business Meeting for achieving the prestigious Master Municipal Clerk designation. Daina Dale (pictured at right), Municipal Clerk for the Borough of Harvey Cedars (Ocean County), also received the prestigious MMC designation in November. The MMC is one of 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. 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.

Way To Go Paul and Daina!!



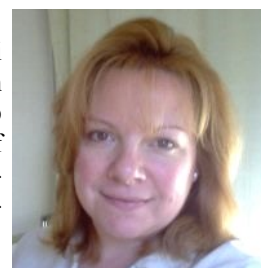
### RETIREMENTS



Mary Ann Finlay, Township of Pemberton (Burlington County) retired September 30, 2013, after 33 years with Pemberton Township, 17 of those as Township Clerk. Best wishes for health and happiness to you Mary Ann!

### TRANSITIONS

Amy Gunther-Cosnoski (pictured at right) has been appointed as Township Clerk for the Township of Pemberton, effective October 1, 2013. Congratulations!



### CONDOLENCES

Deepest sympathy to Jean Donch, Municipal Clerk, Old Tappan, (Bergen County), on the death of her mother.

### RETIREE NEWS

On Monday, August 26, 2013, Charlotte Daily (retired Municipal Clerk from Borough of West Cape May, Cape May County) was honored by the Cape Women's Resource Fund at their 22<sup>nd</sup> Women's Equality Day Tea. This organization provides programs that promote equal rights for women and to raise the status of women in Cape May County. Charlotte began organizing the West Cape May parade for years beginning with a 30-minute trek down Broadway to today where it stretches for miles through West Cape May into Cape May with fire trucks, Mummers, dozens of floats, etc. and thousands of spectators. In 1970, Charlotte (aka the "Parade Lady") went to the Borough of West Cape May looking for a job where she was hired as the Deputy Borough Clerk and a few months later she was sworn in as the Borough Clerk – a position she held for almost 22 years before retiring in 1991. Congratulations Charlotte!



Attending the annual Women's Equality Day Tea were, from left in the first row, West Cape May Mayor Pamela Kaithern, West Cape May Commissioner Carol Sabo, Cape May County Freeholder Kristine Gabor, Honoree Charlotte Daily, of West Cape May, and Cape May County Clerk Rita Marie Fulginiti, and, second row, Surrogate M. Susan Sheppard, State Republican Committeewoman Lynda Pagliughi, Stone Harbor Mayor Suzanne Walters and Wildwood Crest Deputy Mayor Joyce Gould.



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## FRIEND OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK AWARD

At the 2013 MCANJ Annual Meeting, President Nancy Saffos presented the "Friend of the Municipal Clerk" Award to the Bernards Township IT Department for all their help in developing on-line MCANJ membership registrations, suggested MCANJ Website improvements and other technological assistance and guidance.

Pictured at Right:

2013 MCANJ Treasurer Denise Szabo with Chris Kyriacou, the Bernards Township Information Technology Director and Rhonda Pisano, Assistant to the Municipal Clerk, representing the Bernards Township IT Team.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW REGISTERED MUNICIPAL CLERKS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### **Recipients of the Registered Municipal Clerk Designation in October 2012:**

Leena Abaza, Donna Bell, Michele Bobrowski, Elizabeth Bonseewich, Pamela Borek, Bonnie Brookes, Cosmo Cirillo, Linda Mae Gonzales, Freda Gorman, Diane Grimaldi, Ray Heck, Joanne Heron, Jeanne Hitchner, Kathleen Holmes, Carol Marsh, Chelsea Nollett, Tara O'Grady, Karin Parker, Josh Pitts, Jeanne Smith, Emilia Strawder, Melidan Taylor, Mark Zschack, and from April 2012: Sarah Wooding.



### **Recipients of the Registered Municipal Clerk Designation in April 2013:**

Nancy Acciavatti, Georgann Berardis, Kathleen Capristo, Stephen Carasia, Andrew Casias, Laura DiBella, Nina DiGregorio, Tamara Garaffa, Denise Gelormino, Michele Giardino, Janine Gillis, Anna Godfrey, Kathleen Hart, Robin Hough, Kathleen Keen, Joyce Lanier, Marie Marlor, Ana Minock, Susan Minock, Rhonda Pisano, Kathy Russell, Andrew Tatarenko





**MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION RETIRED MUNICIPAL CLERKS**

As Read by Maria Elena Macari, Municipal Clerk of Saddle River Borough,  
Co-Chair of the 2013 MCANJ Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, service to others is the best work of life; and

WHEREAS, continued, unselfish service is the backbone of our society and is to be commended and exemplified; and

WHEREAS, as a Municipal Clerk, knowing that you have shared in the growth and success of your community and this organization is a purpose fulfilled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, Inc., that we commend your dedication to the residents of your community and this organization, and point to it as an example to be exemplified and emulated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Honorary Membership is bestowed upon the below-named retired Municipal Clerks in accordance with Article II, Section 1.D of the MCANJ Constitution and By Laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to you, upon the occasion of your retirement, our gratitude and best wishes for good health, success and prosperity for many years to come to those Municipal Clerks named herein:

**Bergen County**

Linda LoPiccolo, South Hackensack (2012)  
Gwen McCarthy, Allendale

**Burlington County**

Patricia D. Ryan, City of Bordentown  
Mary Ann Finlay, Pemberton Township  
Carmela Bonfrisco, Evesham Township

**Cape May County**

Janet H. Harkins, North Wildwood City (2012)  
Kevin Yecco, Wildwood Crest Borough  
Wanda Gaglione, Township of Upper

**Gloucester County**

Carolyn Toy, Franklin township (2012)

**Hunterdon County**

Marilyn Hodgson, Glen Gardner Borough

**Monmouth County**

Jean B. Montfort, Matawan Borough

**Morris County**

Christina Whitaker, Mountain Lakes

**Ocean County**

Elizabeth A. Mastropasqua Beachwood Borough  
Elaine B. Kennedy, Eagleswood Township  
Betty Silvestri, South Toms River

**Passaic County**

Barbara J. Nagy, Clifton City

**Somerset County**

Margaret J. Gould, Peapack & Gladstone Borough

**Union County**

Diane Rowe, Hillside Township (2012)  
Janet Vlaisavljevic, Hillside Township (2012)

Karen Hughes, Borough Clerk of Westwood, New Jersey, once again participated in the Westwood Home for the Holidays parade, and followed up the parade by offering children of all ages a special gift of good cheer from the Clerk's Office. Here Karen plays the role of "Kung Fu Panda, RMC." In previous years, Karen has donned the costumes of Winnie the Pooh, Mickey Mouse, and other animated characters who have come to life thanks to the Westwood Borough Clerk. Thanks Karen, for your annual reminder to us all that one of the most important services we can provide to the public is a smile!





**RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY  
IN MEMORY OF OUR DECEASED MUNICIPAL CLERKS**

As Read by Sandra Bohinski, Municipal Clerk of Helmetta Borough, Co-Chair of the 2013 MCANJ Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, the strength and spirit of a community are often reflected in the activities and successes of its employees; and

WHEREAS, throughout their tenure, Municipal Clerks serve their communities with complete professionalism and at all times demonstrate an extraordinary dedication, enthusiasm and community spirit; and

WHEREAS, as a Municipal Clerk, knowing that you have shared in the growth and success of your community and this organization is a purpose fulfilled,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, Inc., that we commend their dedication to the residents of their respective communities and this organization, and point to it as an example to be exemplified and emulated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to these individuals a moment of silence dedicated to the memories of those who have left us for a greater service:

**Bergen County**

Jeanne D'Alessio, retired, Fort Lee Borough

**Cape May County**

Angela H. Pileggi, retired, Ocean City  
(2001 Clerk of the Year)

**Monmouth County**

Margaret Smith, retired, Borough of Eatontown  
Margaret Montanan, retired, Borough of Keyport

**Ocean County**

Beatrice Iden, retired, Berkeley Township

**Sussex County**

Lynn Stanzlaus, retired, Green Township  
(1998 MCANJ President)

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## *A Place at the Table*

*by Richard Lustgarten, MCANJ Legal Counsel*



United States Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. once famously said that the life of the law is not logic but experience. That statement is certainly true when you try to reconcile different statutes that have different purposes and were enacted at different times.

NJSA 40A:9-133 is the statute relating to the appointment and duties of the municipal clerk. It was enacted in 1971. (Prior laws relating to municipal clerks actually go back to 1911.) In subsection e (2) the statute states, “Act as secretary to the governing body, prepare meeting agendas at the discretion of the governing body, be present at all meetings of the governing body, keep a journal of the proceedings of every meeting, retain the original copies of all ordinances and resolutions, and record the minutes of every meeting.”

Generally speaking the use of the word ‘shall’ in statutory construction is equated to ‘mandatory’ as opposed to the use of the word ‘may’ which is not.

Consequently a literal interpretation of the above section requires the municipal clerk to be ‘present at all meetings of the governing body’.

In one regard, the statute could be interpreted as a ‘shopping list’ of the duties and responsibilities of the municipal clerk but should not be interpreted in an absolutist sense.

Clearly when the municipal clerk is on vacation or is ill, the clerk cannot be present at meetings of the governing body. In a general business sense, this is acceptable as excusable, and would not be actionable against the clerk for not attending the governing body’s meeting under those circumstances.

It appears to me that the statute sets forth the general duties and responsibilities of the clerk subject to its reasonable application as circumstances demand.

In 1975 the Legislature enacted the Open Public Meetings Act. As a general statement under NJSA10:4-12, all meetings of public bodies should be open to the public at all times but the public body may exclude the public under one of nine exceptions.

NJSA 10:4-12 (b)(8) states, “Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplinary of any specific prospective public officer or employee, or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting.”

In other words, it is the option of the employee to allow the governing body to discuss the employee in closed session or to opt to have that discussion in open session.

As we know, the traditional Rice notice alerts the public employee of the governing body’s intentions of discussing the employee and then the employee has the ability to hear the discussion in open session. What is also clear is that the employee is not entitled per se to attend the closed session of the governing body.

Now referring to Justice Holmes statement, we approach a logical dilemma.

Under the clerk’s statute, the clerk shall attend all meetings of the governing body and there is no distinction between an open or closed session. Under OPMA the governing body can exclude the public including the employee to be discussed, if it so chooses.

*Continued on Page 17*

## *A Place at the Table, Continued*

*by Richard Lustgarten, MCANJ Legal Counsel*

*Continued from Page 16*

Which statute prevails if the public employee to be discussed is the municipal clerk. On one hand the clerk is mandated to attend the closed session meeting. On the other hand the governing body can exclude the public from the discussion under OPMA. The dilemma really occurs when the governing body does not wish to have the municipal clerk present in the closed session since it wishes to discuss the municipal clerk.

Taking it one step further, suppose the governing body refuses to discuss the municipal clerk unless he/she voluntarily agrees not to attend that meeting.

The 'experience' part of Justice Holmes quote, of course, is that certain employees might not wish to have themselves discussed in open session and therefore would not opt to have that discussion take place by invoking the options under the Rice notice.

Nevertheless, I am of the view that the clerk cannot be excluded from the closed session discussion of him or her because of mandatory language in the clerk's statute. A second reason that supports my view is that the clerk, in any event, could opt to hear the discussion in open session under OPMA.

Again, these statutes were enacted at different times for different purposes. A simple reconciliation of the two of them would be to amend the clerk's statute to include a sentence that says 'the municipal clerk shall attend all meetings of the governing body except for when the governing body intends to discuss the employment/performance/salary, etc., of the municipal clerk at which time the municipal clerk shall be excused from attending that meeting.'

Again returning to Justice Holmes, experience dictates that candid conversations of the very individual who's being discussed are somewhat difficult when that individual is present.

I could see a Court determining that the clerk could be excluded when he or she is being discussed, but that is a revision of the statutory language. That's 'being practical'.

Unless and until the statutory language is reconciled, it is my view that the clerk shall attend all the meetings, even the one in which he or she is being discussed and should not be excluded by the governing body.

At the time of this writing it is pre-Christmas and New Year's so I wish everyone a belated, a healthy, a peaceful and a stress free New Year if that is at all possible in your chosen profession.

### **The 2014 MCANJ Executive Board:**

Standing, Left to Right:

Keith Kazmark, 1st Vice President  
John Mitch, President;  
Kevin Galland, Secretary

Seated, Left to Right:

Nancy Saffos, Immediate Past President;  
Denise Szabo, 2nd Vice President;  
Dina Zawadski, Treasurer





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Some municipalities were “First.” Some are our “Favorite.” And still others deal with the Past, the Present, or the Future. There are many colorful nicknames and slogans for New Jersey’s municipalities; and this series celebrates those Slogans. Each edition of the Quill, we’ll include some for you to enjoy. Test your knowledge by seeing if you can match the Municipality with the Slogan. Then turn to page 22 and see how you did! This issue’s theme celebrates slogans that share the message,

## “PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE”

- |                         |                                                           |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| ____ Hackensack City    | A. Today’s People; Tomorrow’s Progress                    |
| ____ Wantage Township   | B. An Historical Past, Fascinating Present, Bright Future |
| ____ Andover Township   | C. A Pioneer Community                                    |
| ____ Haledon Borough    | D. History, Community, Family, Tradition                  |
| ____ Newton Town        | E. Envisioning the Future                                 |
| ____ Elizabeth City     | F. A City in Motion                                       |
| ____ Cape May City      | G. A Tradition of Spirit and Friendship                   |
| ____ Old Tappan Borough | H. The Nation’s Oldest Seashore Resort                    |



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Incoming 2014 MCANJ President John Mitch presents Outgoing 2013 MCANJ President Nancy Saffos with a token of appreciation from the Association for her leadership and accomplishments in 2013. Nancy offered her thanks and appreciation to the entire MCANJ Executive Board, and expressed her warmest wishes to President Mitch for success.



## **THE MCANJ ENDORSES**

### **Vincent Buttiglieri, MMC**

#### **Candidate for IIMC Vice President**

- **IIMC Region 2 Director 2011-2014**
- **New Jersey State President 2010**
- **The 2012 L. Manuel Hirshblond Distinguished Service Award Winner**
- **Fundraising Chair - 2013 IIMC Conference**

#### **Vision for the Future**

When each of us were younger and someone asked us what we wanted to be when we grew up, I can confidently say that very few, if any, shouted out Municipal Clerk, City Secretary, Recorder, Treasurer, or even that we wanted to work in local government. For one reason or another, life has taken us on a path leading to one of the most challenging, yet rewarding, careers anyone could have wished for.

In today's ever-changing world, the challenges before us as local government employees are more daunting than ever. However, our ability to rise up and meet these head-on is very gratifying.

In order for us to stay relevant in local government, we need to have the proper resources to remain current, professional, and innovative. The IIMC provides these resources. With over 9300 members in North America and 15 other countries, the IIMC provides all of us with the ability to remain current through our education and certification programs, professional and innovative through our various publications and our networking with professionals throughout the world.

As a candidate for Vice President, I want to share my vision for a bright IIMC future:

#### **Adhere to a Fiscally Responsible Approach to Operating IIMC**

I believe it is important that we continue to build on the success that the IIMC has achieved over the past number of years. I want to see that we continue to run the business of the IIMC in a manner that is fiscally prudent. I am extremely proud in the recent leaderships approach to "live within our means". I want to continue that approach.

#### **Grow IIMC Membership**

IIMC had undertaken an aggressive membership drive that has yielded an increase in membership by more than 300 new members. We need to continue to reach out and solicit our fellow professionals and convey the many benefits of joining IIMC, including our advanced certifications, on-line education, and networking opportunities.

#### **Enhance and Expand IIMC's Global Presence**

The international component of the IIMC is vital to the continued success of our organization. While we currently have members in North America and 15 other countries, the IIMC needs to explore the potential growth opportunities that are available globally. With the hiring of our Region XI Consultant Nick Randle, we have begun the process of searching the world for expansion opportunities. We need to continue moving forward in a manner that will expand the professional ideals and standards of IIMC.

#### **4. Expansion of On-line Services**

In order for IIMC to remain the pre-eminent educational organization, we need to expand our on-line services. In addition to continuing to provide quality on-line education courses that our membership around the world can take part in without ever leaving their office, the IIMC needs to look to expand the parameters of the on-line services it provides, including implementing on-line membership for both renewal and first-timer members

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## L. MANUEL HIRSHBLOND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

At the MCANJ Annual Business Meeting, 2013 President Nancy Saffos named Allan Susen and Christina Wilder the recipients of the L. Manuel Hirshblond Distinguished Service Award. Allan and Chris were the Co-Chairs of the 2013 IIMC Conference held in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Nancy praised Allan and Chris for their amazing planning skills and noted that, by all accounts, the 2013 IIMC Convention was one of the best, if not THE best, IIMC Convention ever held.

Pictured at Right: Manny Hirshblond, 2013 MCANJ President Nancy Saffos, Allan Susen and Christina Wilder.



### MCANJ, INC. MEMBERSHIP

(As of 11/17/2013)

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| MUNICIPAL CLERKS                 | 455        |
| ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERKS          | 27         |
| DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERKS          | 170        |
| ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL CLERKS       | 22         |
| COUNTY CLERKS                    | 4          |
| DEPUTY COUNTY CLERKS             | 1          |
| CLERK TO FREEHOLDER BOARD        | 4          |
| DEPUTY CLERK TO FREEHOLDER BOARD | 1          |
| AFFILIATE MEMBERS                | 27         |
| HONORARY MEMBERS                 | 29         |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>               | <b>740</b> |

Report Submitted By Denise Szabo,  
2013 MCANJ Treasurer

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## **SLOGANS OF NEW JERSEY: “PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE”**

**Here are the answers to the Matching Challenge shown on Page 19**

- F Hackensack City (Bergen County) is considered “A City in Motion” due to its great diversity of neighborhoods and land uses existing in very close proximity to each other. Within its borders are a massive medical center, a trendy high-rise district about a mile long, classic suburban neighborhoods of single-family houses, stately older homes on acre-plus lots, older two-family neighborhoods, large garden apartment complexes, industrial areas, the Bergen County Jail, a tidal river, Hackensack River County Park, Borg's Woods Nature Preserve, various city parks, large office buildings, a major college campus, a small-city downtown district with a Courthouse, and various small neighborhood business districts.
- D Wantage Township (Sussex County) celebrated its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a New Jersey municipality in 2004, and as a part of its celebration, this rural, residential community with bountiful farmland held a contest inviting citizens to submit a motto that would capture the essence of its people. Embracing the obvious, the winning entry became “History, Community, Family, Tradition.”
- A Andover Township (Sussex County) embraces the motto “Today’s People; Tomorrow’s Progress.” The Township is a charming, small town, with a rural atmosphere. Dotted with beautiful lakes, golf courses, and recreational facilities, the Township boasts an excellent school system, outstanding police department, and dedicated volunteer rescue squad and fire organization.
- C Haledon Borough (Passaic County) developed along the northern side of the industrial city of Paterson, New Jersey. It was settled by farmers with colonial Dutch heritage, which led to its nickname as “A Pioneer Community.” The area became a streetcar suburb of Paterson in the years following the Civil War, with the central area known as Haledon, while the area surrounding the large pond along High Mountain Road was called Oldham.
- E Newton Town (Sussex County) embraces the slogan, “Envisioning the Future.” As the County Seat of Sussex County, Newton provides a full service opportunity for its residents and business community. Newton’s Town Government provides an active Community Development program which complements its Historic Preservation efforts and municipal services.
- B Elizabeth City (Union County) proudly tells the world that it has “An Historical Past, Fascinating Present, Bright Future,” which is understandable for the Fourth Largest municipality in New Jersey by population, which is also the county seat of Union County, as well as being named one of "America's 50 Greenest Cities" in 2008, by Popular Science magazine, the only city in New Jersey selected.
- H Cape May City (Cape May County) claims the title of “The Nation’s Oldest Seashore Resort,” and holds the designation of being a National Historic Landmark to back up their claim. With a rich history, award-winning beaches, designation as a top birdwatching location, and many examples of Victorian architecture, Cape May is a seaside resort that draws visitors from around the world. Cape May was recognized as one of America's top 10 beaches by the Travel Channel and its beach was ranked fifth in New Jersey in the 2008 Top 10 Beaches Contest.
- G Old Tappan Borough (Bergen County) works hard at community outreach by sending newsletters, maintaining their municipal website, distributing a Citizen’s Handbook, and regularly updating press releases to keep their residents in the loop. “A Tradition of Spirit and Friendship” epitomizes the philosophy of public service in this fully active Bergen County community.

## *CECILIA COVINO NAMED 2013 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR*

**Presentation made by 2012 Clerk of the Year Elaine Kennedy at the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City on November 20, 2013 during the Annual Business Meeting of MCANJ:**



For some people, civic participation is a choice. For others, it's a vocation. And for a select few, serving in their community is so inextricably a part of them that no day is complete without helping another or many others. This year's dynamic, selfless, and passionate MCANJ honoree falls into the latter category.

For those who have known this clerk for more than just a little while, they would say being a municipal clerk is the perfect career for this individual because of her interpersonal skills and genuine desire to help others. For those who know what it takes to be a stellar municipal clerk, they would say this year's Clerk of The Year embodies all those characteristics, for this clerk is not only a jack-of-all-trades, but truly a master of them all.

This year's honoree has been involved in grassroots campaigns in her town and throughout her county; she has also served as President of the Hunterdon County Clerks Association. This clerk is known to arrive early to work, stay late and shows up bright eyed and bushy tailed for weekend and evening functions and town festivals, and makes certain that any event is fully tended to before the crowd arrives.

The Mayor and town council members know they can count on this clerk for professionalism, enthusiasm and a solid work ethic. One of this clerk's council members has said, not only do residents and merchants rely on her daily to get things done, the mayor assigns large projects to this clerk, like being the Town's representative on the County-level planning committees. A determined and detailed-oriented personality brings results of efforts that have gone above and beyond, in all that this clerk does. Whether it is organizing an event large and formal or small and personal, you can be guaranteed that it will be perfect. In short, this clerk is a worker bee, though charm and integrity unequivocally raise this clerk to Royal Bee status.

This individual's journey to her clerkship was a circuitous one: she began as the Zoning Board of Adjustment Secretary and began courses to become a clerk shortly thereafter. From the beginning of her career as a municipal clerk, this year's honoree has always been an eager and willing volunteer for MCANJ. Always humble enough to serve wherever there is a need, and never needing to be in charge or noted for participation. Whether it is running a booth during the League of Municipalities, gathering donations and making sure that the donors commit to their promises, or volunteering on whatever committee needs help, this clerk serves selflessly and with an open mind; doing it all and with her entire heart, not to mention a warm, welcoming and genuine smile.

Colleagues have referred to this clerk as one of those true "unsung heroes." This year's recipient is an incredible spouse, parent, very soon-to-be grandparent and is truly a faithful friend and colleague to all of MCANJ.

It is with great pleasure that I announce this year's Municipal Clerk of the Year: Cecilia Covino, Municipal Clerk of Clinton Town (Hunterdon County).





### DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The deadline for People Page submissions for the April 2014 issue is March 1, 2014. Please send People Page news to:  
Sharon Brienza, Municipal Clerk, Branchburg Township, 1077 US Highway 202 North, Branchburg, NJ 08876  
or via Email at [Sharon.Brienza@branchburg.nj.us](mailto:Sharon.Brienza@branchburg.nj.us)

The General News Articles deadline is March 7, 2014, and may be sent to:  
Jim Doherty, Township of Wantage, 888 Route 23, Wantage, NJ 07461 or via email to: [administrator@wantagewp-nj.org](mailto:administrator@wantagewp-nj.org).

Questions or comments regarding this or any issue of the *Quill* may be directed to the Editor, Jim Doherty,  
by calling 973-875-7192 or using the contact information shown above.

Articles for submission should be prepared in Microsoft Word, using Times New Roman 10-point font.

the *Quill*  
Editor - Jim Doherty  
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