



MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by MCANJ President John M. Mitch



On behalf of the Executive Board and our Executive Director, I extend to you our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year, and hope that you were able to enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

For municipal clerks and county clerks, ringing in a New Year often brings additional workload in tandem with our reorganization meetings, especially with the countless appointments and reappointments that are made by our governing bodies. While this meeting does consume a lot of our time, it too will pass as we're already working on the next tasks upon us.

Having just completed twelve months as your President, I want to thank you, the general membership, individually and collectively, for your continued support and encouragement this past year. Having conducted five (5) Executive Board Meetings, four (4) Advisory Board Meetings and several Conference Committee Meetings during the 2014 calendar year, we have worked together as a team to put forward some new initiatives while, at the same time, tweaking other practices, all in an effort to serve you better and more efficiently.

In the past, the January Quill edition would have included a State of the Association Message from your outgoing President as well as a Welcome from your incoming President. However, with the change of our association from a calendar year to a fiscal year

operation, the terms of our Executive Board members as well as your Advisory Board members and all committee members have been extended until June 30, 2015. This change, as well as the postponement of collecting dues, will likely be the most transparent changes, with the latter being equivalent to six-month additional membership at no cost. What you do not see is the retooling and updating of our primary job responsibility timelines for all Executive Board members and several of our committees.

While the aforementioned were borne out of the change to our operational year, other changes have been made to our internal controls by implementing a segregation of duties and instituting a stronger alternate control, both at the suggestion of our underwriters.

With the New Year, we will be launching the on-line registration system for MCANJ sponsored mini-conferences, much like we did with MCANJ membership and MCANJ's Annual Education Conference. The on-line mini-conference registration will track registrations and payments, provide an invoice, and allow for electronic issuance of CEU certificates. Like the first two on-line systems, this too will be tied to the membership database and for those who want to register but are not MCANJ members, you will be prompted to either register your membership, or be subject to paying non-member fees. The system was tested by the Executive Board and Advisory Board members in November and all worked well. A lot of thanks are directed to 2nd Vice President Denise Szabo and IT Committee Chair Daina Dale for their continuing efforts with these changes.

Over the summer I made a concerted effort to attract more members. As I sat to prepare these comments, our membership to date totaled 793; up 54 from this time last year however, down 25 from the prior year. While I am not certain what caused this number to fluctuate so much, I remind you that our membership dues have remained stable for quite some time and that in order to attend MCANJ-sponsored education sessions at a member rate, your membership dues must be current. With the annual Education Conference only three months away, it is important that you are a paid member in order to attend at the member rate.

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EDITORIAL STAFF:

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PAST EDITORS:

1954-1959: J. Ford Flagg
1960-1970: John R. Zellweger
1971-1973: Joseph E. Bennett
1974-1982: Harry C. Kates
1983-1993: Janet L. Lynds
1994-1995: Patricia Hullfish and Patricia C. Shuss, Co-Editors
1996-2000: Patricia C. Shuss
2001-2005: Nancy Hatten

MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC. EXECUTIVE BOARD 2014-15

President: John M. Mitch, Woodbridge Township E-mail: president@njclerks.org
1st Vice President: Keith Kazmark, Elmwood Park Borough E-mail: 1vicepresident@njclerks.org
2nd Vice President: Denise Szabo, Bernards Township E-mail: 2vicepresident@njclerks.org
Treasurer: Dina Zawadski, Deptford Township E-mail: treasurer@njclerks.org
Secretary: Kevin Galland, Woodland Park Borough E-mail: secretary@njclerks.org
Immediate Past President: Nancy L. Saffos, Cherry Hill Township E-mail: immediatepastpresident@njclerks.org
Executive Director: Joel Popkin E-mail: executivedirector@njclerks.org
Legal Counsel: Richard A. Lustgarten

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

IIMC PAST PRESIDENTS

Robert Radford, Hasbrouck Heights Borough	Joseph T. Carney, Englewood City	Joseph V. Valenti, Woodbridge Township
Thomas Redanauer, Barrington Borough	Christina N. Wilder, Hamilton Township	Elizabeth H. Kiss, East Brunswick Township

MCANJ ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS 2014-15

Atlantic:	Carol L. Degrassi, Somers Point City	Middlesex:	Barbara Nyitrai, South Brunswick Township
Bergen:	Heather A. Mailander, Ridgewood Village	Monmouth:	Jane Marban, Spring Lake Borough
Burlington:	Patricia Hunt, Moorestown Township	Morris:	Yancy Wazirmas, Parsippany-Troy Hills Township
Camden:	Deanna Bennett, Haddonfield Borough	Ocean:	Maryann Ellsworth, Point Pleasant Beach Borough
Cape May:	Scott Jett, North Wildwood City	Passaic:	Jane Williams-Warren, Paterson City
Cumberland:	Susan G. Robostello, Millville City	Salem:	Cynthia Dalessio, Woodstown Borough
Essex:	Linda S. Wanat, Montclair Township	Somerset:	Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Township
Gloucester:	Patricia Frontino, Glassboro Borough	Sussex:	Lauren Kirkman, Vernon Township
Hudson:	Alberto Cabrera, Guttenberg Town	Union:	Jeffrey Jotz, Rahway City
Hunterdon:	Cecilia Covino, Clinton Town	Warren:	Kelley Smith, Harmony Township
Mercer:	Sharon Young, West Windsor Township		

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL CLERK COUNTY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

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:	Sheila Williams, Florham Park Borough
Camden:	Deanna Bennett, Haddonfield Borough	Ocean:	Mary Madonna, Surf City Borough
Cape May:	Christopher Wood, Wildwood City	Passaic:	Kelley A. Rohde, Ringwood Borough
Cumberland:	Roy Spoltore, Upper Deerfield Township	Salem:	Esther Mitchell, Mannington Township
Essex:	Joyce Lanier, Newark City	Somerset:	Kevin Sluka, Somerville Borough
Gloucester:	Dina Zawadski, Deptford Township	Sussex:	Amy Lobban, Stillwater Township
Hudson:	N/A	Union:	Doreen Cali, Roselle Park
Hunterdon:	Cynthia Ege, Lambertville City	Warren:	Kelley Smith, Harmony Township
Mercer:	Michele Seigfried, Robbinsville Township		

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by 2014 MCANJ President John M. Mitch

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Our Information Technology / Webpage committee (Daina Dale, Jim Doherty and Andrew J. Pavlica) continue to use our website (www.njclerks.org) and Facebook Page to communicate with our membership so that we are sharing as much as possible with you. You should also be reminded that our meeting minutes are posted on our website, which allows you to follow along with what's happening and to see what items your Executive Board Members and Advisory Board Members are discussing on your behalf. We are also considering, at the request of an MCANJ member, additional enhancements to the site which may include a Resolution database for your use. Discussions continue about how to set this up and how to categorize the Resolutions. This past year our website was used for on-line polling of members. This exercise can be extremely helpful to the Executive Board when considering changes. In fact, referring to the suggestion of a Resolution database, of 126 members who cast their vote last time I looked, 92% (118 votes) indicated that they would use the database if it were created. 1% (1 vote) and 7% (9 votes) voted no or not sure, respectively.

By the time you receive this issue of the Quill, the 99th Annual New Jersey State League of Municipalities (NJLom) Conference will be long past. Please do not forget to access your CEU certificates through their website. While there will likely be many reminders to do so, don't postpone accessing them as there will be a deadline date that you do not want to miss. Otherwise, you may not be able to get the credits you earned and deserve. Many thanks go out to NJLom Executive Director William (Bill) Dressel and his team who consistently put together outstanding conferences. Next year's 100th will certainly be a milestone to celebrate. The amount of work that goes into an undertaking like this is unmeasurable. I also want to thank MCANJ 1st Vice President Keith Kazmark for working with our Education Committee (Joanne Kwasniewski, Harold Wiener, Ann Marie McCarthy, Heather Mailander, Gene Padalino, Sharon Young, Linda Wanat and Louise Palagano) by participating in Joint Sessions with other disciplines as well as presenting three sessions for our members which included ABC Exceptions, What's Hot in the World of Elections, and The Quest for Government Integrity. I had some terrific feedback about the ABC presentation (Licensing CEU's) by Deputy Attorney General Lisa Barata. For those of you who may not have been able to attend her session, we will have her at our annual Education Conference in April.

The NJLom Conference also allowed MCANJ to unveil its new booth. Much thanks to MCANJ Secretary Kevin Galland and Executive Director Joel Popkin for working with the Executive Board in ordering the booth and to Public Relations Co-Chairs Barbara Rae and Ceil Covino for their assistance. They also helped coordinate the volunteers who helped cover the booth during the conference which included active members and retirees including Manny Hirshblond, Bette Mastropasqua, Joan (and Rich) Moreland, Joel Popkin, Heather Mailander, Joanne Kwasniewski, Michele Bobrowski, Debra Sopronyi, Marie Elena Macari, Joan Hullings, Shinnell Smith, Joyce Lanier, and Deanna Bennett (I hope I didn't miss anyone). In addition, I thank Kevin Galland for covering the General Consulting Period and availing himself to municipal officials from around the state who may have questions about Municipal Clerks.

In the last Quill, I spoke of our 2015 Annual Education Conference (Motivation Matters!). Since then, due to the uncertainty of the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, we have moved our conference to the Tropicana Hotel (Atlantic City). Registration, one class and a welcome reception will kick off the conference late-afternoon, Sunday, April 26, 2015. The conference will end late-morning, Wednesday, April 29, 2015. In between will be a number of General and Break-Out Sessions to help you obtain your CEU's. Details and registration for the conference is expected to be announced this month. It will be sent out via e-blast to our members and posted on our website and through Facebook. I am hoping that this conference is as equally if not more productive than my conference as President last year; Municipal Clerks: Meeting the Challenge. I like to think that last year we "met" the challenge and this year, we will become more motivated than ever.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by 2014 MCANJ President John M. Mitch

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I would also be remiss if I did not thank those of you who recommended other locations to look at for our conference. However, after contacting each facility, most of which were outside of Atlantic City, we continually ran into problems with date availability, prices, lack of rooms for overnight accommodations, limited meeting space, etc. Once we block out dates for work-related conflicts (petitions, elections, etc.), holidays (Easter, Passover, Memorial Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day), and other important times of the year (i.e., communions, graduations, etc.), it leaves little availability on the calendar for us to select conference dates.

As for legislation, there continues to be countless Bills under consideration by the Legislature of which OPRA, OPMA and the GRC Bills are among them. Immediate Past President Nancy Saffos and I have participated in several discussions and meetings with the League and other interested parties with regards to S-781(OPMA) and S-782 (OPRA) [sponsored by Senators Loretta Weinberg and Joseph Pennacchio] and how they are tied to the 2004 Privacy Study Commission Report. While these Bills seem to drag on and on, I can't help but to think it may be to our benefit. Another Bill that we are concerned with is S-2324 which would permit municipalities to enter into a professional services agreement for newly appointed Tax Assessors. As I mentioned to one of our committees, if this was to become law, it begs the question: Who will be next? There is some good news with the A-3390 (sponsored by Assemblyman Craig Coughlin). This is the Bill that allows the Municipal Clerk the option to transmit Land Use notices to adjoining municipalities and the County Planning Board electronically. This Bill too was at the suggestion of one of our association members. While the Bill was moving forward it did hit a snag with some wording with reference to confirming service / receipt. Our Legislative Review Committee for Laws Pertaining to Municipal Clerks (Kim Marie White, Harold Wiener, Rhona Bluestein, Susan Robostello and Kelley Halewicz) have weighed in on this and will continue to monitor movement on this and the many other Bills out there. You can always view their reports on our website and see the amount of time and dedication they put in which is evidenced by their reporting. In addition to this committee, Michele Seigfried (Robbinsville) represents me at the Leagues Legislative Committee meetings which she and other Municipal Clerks including Nennette Perry (East Brunswick) and Mike Januszka (Milltown) participate in with the decision making as to what Bills the League supports or opposes.

I am also sure most of us are anxiously waiting to hear about what will come upon us by Executive Order or Legislation regarding "more" reforms to our pensions and health benefits. We still await the Study Commissions report and recommendations as well as any word from the state as to the direction they will be heading.

Several months ago I heard that there may have been one or more Municipal Clerks who thought that they were automatically a Notary Public by nature of their position. Please know that our attorney (Richard Lustgarten) has opined that it is not the case and that a Municipal Clerk would have to apply for that designation like anyone else. While state statutes authorize the Municipal Clerk to administer oaths in certain circumstances, a municipal clerk does not have general notary powers unless qualified under NJSA 52:7-10 et seq.

Desk Reference (Update No. 4) is completed thanks to committee members Joel Popkin, Deanna Bennett, Ann Bistriz, Judy Allen and Nennette Perry. They have worked hard with the RMC instructors on this update which in part includes a complete overhaul of Chapter 4 (Records Managements and Open Public Records Act), specifically in the area of Records. For immediate access, please visit our website. It will also be incorporated into the materials the students will receive upon registering for the Introduction to the Duties of the Municipal Clerk session this spring.

We learned in November of some policy changes that the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) was making with regards to those seeking the CMC designation. The concerns were with those earning the designation prior to January 1, 2015 and those after. Those after this date would receive 47 education points towards their designation after completing the five RMC Rutgers classes as compared to those who received their designation prior to that date who would only receive 20 education points. This change is of concern to many clerks who have expressed their disappointment with our IIMC representatives. To that end I am sure both IIMC 1st Vice President Vincent Buttiglieri and Region II Director Andrew Pavlica will be addressing this matter and will report on it in the upcoming months.

Over the past several months I have had the opportunity to attend a number of retirement celebrations. Among them was one for Jane E. Williams-Warren (City of Paterson) which was held at the television-famous Brownstone. While driving to her dinner, I could not help but remember the amount of her family members and friends who showed up on stage for her crowning as Clerk of the Year several years ago. With that said, I was not surprised to see the more than 200 people in attendance at her dinner.

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MCANJ MEMBERSHIP REPORT as of December 1, 2014

<u>County</u>	<u>Total # Municipalities</u>	<u># of Municipalities Paid</u>	<u>% Paid</u>
Atlantic	23	19	83%
Bergen	70	57	81%
Burlington	40	33	83%
Camden	37	29	78%
Cape May	16	13	81%
Cumberland	14	7	50%
Essex	22	18	82%
Gloucester	24	19	79%
Hudson	12	7	58%
Hunterdon	26	24	92%
Mercer	13	8	62%
Middlesex	25	22	88%
Monmouth	53	43	81%
Morris	39	34	87%
Ocean	33	29	88%
Passaic	16	14	88%
Salem	15	10	67%
Somerset	21	18	86%
Sussex	24	20	83%
Union	21	17	81%
Warren	22	18	82%

MCANJ, INC. MEMBERSHIP

As Of December 1, 2014

Full —Municipal Clerk	481
Full—Acting Municipal Clerk	20
Full —Clerk of Freeholder Board	2
Full—County Clerk	2
Associate —Assistant Municipal Clerk	23
Associate—Deputy Municipal Clerk	191
Associate—Deputy County Clerk	1
Honorary Membership (Retired)	45



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by 2014 MCANJ President John M. Mitch

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Jane, who also served us as our President in 2005 and as one of our IIMC Region II Directors, was as beautiful as her infectious smile. Evidenced by the comments made by state, county and local officials in attendance, there is no doubt in my mind that Jane was the glue that kept it all together in Paterson's City Hall. Jane's well-deserved retirement will undoubtedly have an effect on her municipality. I trust she will be consulted often from her elected officials and colleagues.

On a different note, I am sad to report that our longtime Quill Editor, Jim Doherty (Wantage Township/Sussex County) is winding down in that position. He has continued the tradition of six decades after Nancy Hatten, Patricia Shuss, Patricia Hullfish, Janet Lynds, Harry Kates, Joseph Bennett, John Zellweger and J. Ford Flagg in providing us with a great newsletter. While several individuals expressed an interest in becoming the new Editor, South Toms River Municipal Clerk Joseph Kostecki was selected. Both Jim Doherty and MCANJ 1st Vice President Keith Kazmark felt his qualifications and current product he produces for his municipality demonstrates his ability to succeed the many great Editors before him. Jim and Joe will work together until June 30, 2015. At that time, Joe will take over with the new Executive Board come July 1st. We wish both men the very best.

In closing, let's kick off this New Year with renewed energy and faith. As always, we are here to listen and try to help you. I look forward to seeing you in April and remember, Motivation Matters!



PEOPLE PAGE

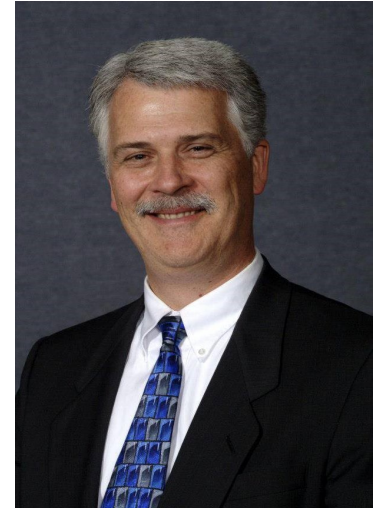
by Sharon Brienza

CONGRATULATIONS

MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK

Allan R. Susen, Municipal Clerk/Administrator, for the Borough of Haledon (Passaic County) and Past President of the MCANJ has received the prestigious Master Municipal Clerk designation. The MMC is one of the two professional designations granted by IIMC. To qualify for entrance into the Master Municipal Clerk Academy (MMCA), which prepares participants for achieving the MMC status, one must have earned the CMC designation. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The program prepares the participants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the Municipal Clerk by providing them with quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning.

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



RETIREMENTS



On October 29, 2014, 250 family, friends and colleagues honored Jane Warren-Williams on her retirement from the City of Paterson (Passaic County.) The party (yes, it was a party with singing, dancing along with several acknowledgements) was held at The Brownstone in Paterson.

Left: MCANJ President John Mitch, 1st VP Keith Kazmark and Jane.

Right: Acknowledging the crowd, Jane thanked everyone for attending and for their support over her career.



Diane Seals, Borough Clerk, Borough of High Bridge (Hunterdon County), retired on October 31, 2014. She was the Deputy Clerk from 1986-2007 when she was appointed as Borough Clerk. She was honored by the Hunterdon County Clerks at the Ryland Inn in Whitehouse, hosted by the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce.

Left: Diane with one of her Retirement gifts.

Right: A group shot of the Hunterdon County Municipal Clerks (standing) and retired Clerks (seated).



PEOPLE PAGE, Continued

by Sharon Brienza

RETIREMENTS, Continued

Robert P. Marasco, Newark City Clerk (Essex County), pictured at right, retired December 31, 2014. He began his career in Newark city government as an analyst in the clerk's office in 1979. He rose through the ranks in the office and was appointed as City Clerk by the municipal council in 1987. He is looking forward to spending more time with his family, traveling and staying active in the Newark community "outside the government rather than inside."



Several Municipal Clerks from Bergen County have announced their intentions to retire, including Ginny DeMaria, Rochelle Park; Fran Garlicki, Bogota Borough; Barbara Rae, Edgewater Borough; and Diane Thornley, Wood-Ridge Borough.

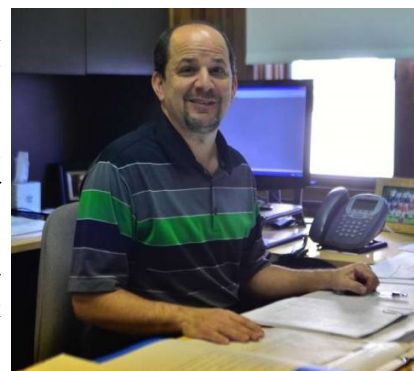


Ginny DeMaria



Fran Garlicki

Also retiring from Bergen County is Neil Grant, Borough of Fort Lee. Neil was hired in June 1987 as a computer operator for the Municipal Court. In December 1993 he transferred to the Borough Clerk's Office where he remained after being named Borough Clerk on November 12, 1998.



Mayor Mark Sokolich commented that Neil never took more than five consecutive days off in his 27 year career and is "truly a dedicated individual." Neil enjoys spending time with his girlfriend and 16 year old son. He plays tennis and golf and takes yoga to keep him going. He is a Mets and Jets fan which explains the yoga!

After 25 years of public service in several municipalities, Deputy Township Clerk Teresa Sgro has retired from Long Beach Township (Ocean County). Teri has worked for the Township since 2002 and has served as Deputy since 2010. Teri also worked for the Borough of Pine Beach from 1989 until her retirement, in a full time and part time capacity.

Congratulations to all and best wishes for a long and happy retirement!

TRANSITIONS

John Gregory, Administrator for the Borough of High Bridge (Hunterdon County) was appointed as Acting Borough Clerk on November 1, 2014.

On November 3, 2014, Susan Jackson began her tenure as the Municipal Clerk for the Borough of Metuchen (Middlesex County.)

Marie Hood, a 22-year Avalon Borough (Cape May County) employee who has been acting as Assistant Municipal Clerk for the last six months, was officially sworn in as borough clerk on October 30, 2014.

Evelyn Rosario (formerly Municipal Clerk of Nutley Township, Essex County), currently serves as Deputy Municipal Clerk in Fort Lee Borough (Bergen County) and will be officially appointed as the Fort Lee Borough Clerk on January 1, 2015.

We wish you all the best of luck in your new positions!

PEOPLE PAGE, Continued

by Sharon Brienza

OH BABY!

Congratulations Amanda Macchia, Township Clerk of Mine Hill Township (Morris County) on the birth of her daughter Victoria Ellen Macchia, on August 1, 2014, at 9:09 pm, weighing in at 5 lbs. 9 oz., 18 inches.



Congratulations to first time grandma, Past President Nancy Saffos (Cherry Hill, Camden County) on the birth of her granddaughter, Sienna Giuliette Saffos. Sienna was born on October 29, 2014 weighing 6 lbs. 11 oz. & 19 1/2 inches long.



WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Jane (Gillespie) Marban, Spring Lake Borough (Monmouth County) on her recent marriage to Raul.



Congratulations are also in order for Kelley Halewicz (formerly Rhode) on her marriage on August 2, 2014 to Dan at The Deauville Inn, Strathmere, NJ. Kelley reports the rain stopped just in time for their ceremony on the beach followed by a Beach Party BBQ reception.



Pictured above, left to right:
Dan, Kelley, Kelley's son Ian

PEOPLE PAGE, Continued

by Sharon Brienza

COUNTY NEWS

Middlesex County Municipal Clerk's Association held a meeting on September 19, 2014 at the Raritan Yacht Club.



CONDOLENCES

Betty Jayne "Bettsey" Arnold, (retired from Seaside Heights, Ocean County) passed away on Monday, September 29, 2014. Bettsey was a longtime dedicated Borough Clerk for 36 years in Seaside Heights before retiring in 2002. She enjoyed scrapbooking and spending time with her cherished family, especially her grandchildren.

Franklyn Pflueger, husband of retired North Plainfield Borough (Somerset County) Clerk Gloria Pflueger, passed away on October 22, 2014.

Ron Saracino, husband of retired Old Bridge Township (Middlesex County) Rose-Marie Saracino, passed away on October 24, 2014. Before Rose Marie retired, Ron accompanied her to almost all of the MCANJ conferences.

Our condolences to all.

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new name...familiar faces
formerly *Brown's River Marotti Co.*

BILL STEWART
william.stewart@kofile.us

MCANJ FY2015 Committees—SHARE YOUR TALENTS! Please Help Out

I ask that you please consider serving on one of the committees of MCANJ (listed below). While it is always great to have experienced Municipal Clerks serving on committees, it is equally important to open the door for newer Municipal Clerks or Municipal Clerks that have not yet served on a committee, to share new ideas and innovations. I hope to wind up with a dynamic mix of experienced minds and fresh voices. Together, as a team, we can address current as well as future issues that affect our profession. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the form below and return it to me no later than March 1, 2015 at kkazmark@elmwoodparknj.us or via facsimile @ 201-794-0976. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 201-796-1457, extension 202. I thank you in advance for your consideration in volunteering and I look forward to working with you next year.

Keith Kazmark, 2014 First Vice President

Constitution & Bylaws: Reviews and recommends amendments to the Association's Constitution and Bylaws, to enact sound and fair rules of our organization.

Education: Develops educational programs, reviews the certification and recertification programs and provides for seminars and conferences.

Education Conference: Plans and implements an informative and rewarding program.

Elections: Examines and evaluates the statutory requirements governing elections in municipalities.

Fund Raising: Plans and implements fund raising efforts for the benefit of MCANJ and the Legal Defense Fund.

Information Technology: Prepares, provides and reviews information shown on the MCANJ web page. Provides the Executive Board with other means of technology useful to the Municipal Clerk.

Legal Defense Fund: Reviews applications of Fund members for legal assistance and promotes Fund membership.

Legislative Committee for Laws Pertaining to Municipal Clerks: Monitors and reviews all proposed legislation that may directly affect the Municipal Clerks' profession.

Manual Review: Provides the annual updates of the Study Guide and Desk Reference manuals in conjunction with the Education Committee and Rutgers University.

Membership / Peer Alliance For Learning: Strives for 100% membership in MCANJ. Identifies new Municipal Clerks and teams them with participating experienced Municipal Clerks who share their knowledge and assistance when needed.

Professional Development and Mini Conferences: Develops programs and seminars that address the managerial skills needed by today's Municipal Clerks.

Public Relations: Functions as the official Welcome Committee for our members and guests during conferences and other sponsored events. Organizes and manages the MCANJ booth at the Spring Education Conference and the League of Municipalities Conference.

Quill: Provides a comprehensive professional publication for quarterly distribution to Association members.

Raffles: Conducts such appropriate events, as determined by the Executive Board. Handles all aspects of the application process, advertising and follow up reporting to LGCCC for all games of chance run by the MCANJ.

Records: Reviews pertinent decisions of the Government Records Council regarding the Municipal Clerk's responsibility in complying with the Open Public Records Act.

Resolutions: Presents Resolutions recognizing retired and deceased Municipal Clerks at the annual meeting at the Annual League of Municipalities Conference.

Scholarship: Advertises the availability of scholarships available, reviews applications and selects candidates to receive financial assistance.

Name _____ Title _____

Municipality/Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____ E-mail Address: _____

I would like to serve on the following MCANJ Committee(s) during FY2015:

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

3rd Choice _____

Please return by March 1, 2015 to:

Keith Kazmark, MCANJ 1st Vice President
Elmwood Park Borough
182 Market Street,
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Fax: (201) 794-0976
E-mail: kkazmark@elmwoodparknj.us

IIMC Update

RMC CEU CREDITS EXPECTED TO BE EARNED AT THE 2015 IIMC CONFERENCE IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

For New Jersey Municipal Clerks, the 2015 Conference of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks will be conveniently held in Hartford, Connecticut from May 17-20, 2015. The IIMC is offering a maximum of 8 IIMC Education Points for this Hartford Conference to be applied to those working towards their Certified Municipal Clerk certification or their Master Municipal Clerk certification.

In addition, MCANJ Past President Allan Susen is working diligently with New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Certification Unit Supervisor Dan Kaminski to secure New Jersey Registered Municipal Clerk CEU credits for the various education sessions to be offered at the Hartford Conference.

The IIMC has not yet finalized all the sessions, but when they are finalized, the MCANJ will send out an Email Blast to all our members including the grid listing the sessions with their corresponding RMC education units for the 2015 IIMC Conference.

REGION II UPDATE

The IIMC Region II Annual Conference, hosted by the Delaware Municipal Clerks Association, is scheduled for January 13-16, 2015, in Dover, Delaware at the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino. The theme for this year is "Keep Calm and Lead On" and a host of education sessions have been scheduled.

In addition to the conference education sessions on January 15, an Athenian Dialogue will be offered on Tuesday, January 13, as well as a full day of pre-conference education sessions on Wednesday, January 14. Please note all registration deadlines. If you attend the Athenian Dialogue, the pre-conference education sessions and the conference education sessions, and complete each written assessment tool, you will obtain 9 total CMC/MMC IIMC Education Points.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Kail at (302) 537-3771 or admin@townofbethanybeach.com. Hotel reservations may be made by calling the Dover Downs Hotel & Casino Reservations Department at (866) 473-7378; use CODE - GCLERKS when making your reservation.



THE MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY SAYS "THANK YOU" TO WILLIAM DRESSEL, UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC SERVICE

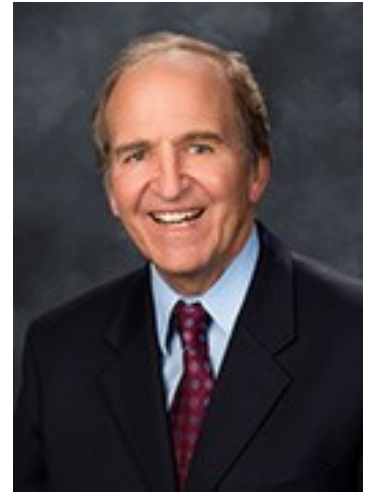
William G. Dressel, Jr., Executive Director of the New Jersey League of Municipalities, has announced his retirement from that position at the close of the League's fiscal year on June 30, 2015.

Over the past 41 years, Bill has committed himself to improving the institution of municipal government. The guidance and patience Bill has exhibited for the past 4 decades are clear indications of his extraordinary professionalism. Bill always remained available and accessible to every one who contacted him, from State Senators to local Council members; from State Officials to municipal employees; Bill's return telephone call or e-mail to you and me was rarely more than a couple minutes away.

We are proud to have been able to work with Bill Dressel and the League, helping to shape and influence many of New Jersey's statutes and regulations, ensuring that the best interests of the State of New Jersey were preserved. Bill's legacy of success may be exceeded only by his legacy of respect by those he worked for, and with. Bill's sphere of influence numbers in the tens of thousands directly, and encompasses the entire population of the State of New Jersey, in terms of impact and benefit.

Bill Dressel has been a rare gift. He will be missed, and I know our entire Association joins with me to wish him long years of health and happiness in his retirement.

John M. Mitch,
President
MCANJ, Inc.



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PAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
FACEBOOK PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/www.njclerks.org>

SEE PAGE TWO OF THIS ISSUE FOR CONTACT
INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR EXECUTIVE
BOARD OF THE MCANJ, WORKING HARD FOR
YOU AND ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU
WITH WHATEVER ISSUE OR QUESTION YOU
MAY HAVE.

MCANJ 2015 ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE PROPOSED SESSIONS / MEETING / EVENTS
(Subject To Change)



SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015

Registration:	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (2.0 hours)
Session (General)	4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. (1 ¼ hours / 1.5 CEU - ELECTIONS)
President's Reception:	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (2.0 hours)

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015

Breakfast	7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. (45 minutes)
Opening Remarks	8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. (15 minutes)
Session (General)	8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (1 ¼ hours / 1.5 CEU - ETHICS)
Break / visit with vendors	10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. (20 minutes)
Annual Meeting / Session	10:20 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. (100 minutes / 1.0 CEU - ELECTIONS)
Lunch / visit with vendors	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (1.0 hour)
Session (Break Out)	1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. (1 ¼ hours / 1.5 CEU – LICENSING, RECORDS & FINANCE)
Break / visit with vendors	2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (15 minutes)
Session (Break Out)	2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. (1 ¼ hours / 1.5 CEU – REPEAT FROM 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.)
Reception with vendors	3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (1 ¼ hours)

(Light pickings and refreshments will be served. Prizes to also be awarded by vendors.)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

Breakfast	7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. (45 minutes)
Opening Remarks	8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. (15 minutes)
Session (General)	8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (1 ¼ hours / 1.5 CEU - IT)
Break / visit Silent Auction	10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. (20 minutes)
Session (General)	10:20 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (100 minutes / 2.0 CEU – PROF. DVLP.)
Lunch / visit Silent Auction	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (1.0 hour)
Session (Break Out)	1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. (1 ¼ hours / 1.5 CEU – PROF. DVLP., LICENSING & RECORDS / REGISTRAR)
Break / visit Silent Auction	2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (15 minutes)
Session (Break Out)	2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. (1 ¼ hours / 1.5 CEU – REPEAT FROM 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.)
Visit Silent Auction	3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. (30 minutes; Auction closes at 4:15 p.m.)
Banquet Dinner	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (3.0 hours)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015

Breakfast	7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. (45 minutes)
Session (General)	8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. (1 ¼ hours / 1.5 CEU - FINANCE)
Break	9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (15 minutes)
Session (General)	10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. (1 ¼ hours / 1.5 CEU - RECORDS)

Three (3) 2016 Free Registration Winners Drawn. Must be present to win @ 11:15 a.m.

CIVILITY, THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

by Richard Lustgarten, MCANJ Legal Counsel



In 1756, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu said “Civility costs nothing and buys everything.”

Senator Adlai Stevenson said “Politeness is the art of choosing among one’s real thoughts,” and in the immortal words of comedian Jimmy Durante, “Be nice to people on your way up because you might meet ‘em on your way down.”

These sentiments seem to be largely lost in today’s public discourse. We have a congressman interrupting the President when he was addressing Congress and an Associate Supreme Court Justice shaking his head negatively when the President was referencing a Court decision.

Whatever happened to respecting the office even if you have dislike for its current occupant?

Closer to home we have a Governor who seems to relish “in your face” confrontation with residents, students and reporters. “Sit down and shut up” is not constructive discourse but makes for good press and may confirm ones “toughness.” The problem of perceived lack of civility crosses the political spectrum and is neither Democratic nor Republican in nature.

Benjamin Franklin said “Be civil to all, sociable to many, familiar with few, friend to one, enemy to none.”

And finally “A good word is an easy obligation, but not to speak ill, requires only our silence, which costs us nothing.” (John Tilotson, Archbishop of Canterbury)

So where have we lost our way, according to some?

The First Amendment to the Federal Constitution provides that Congress shall not abridge the freedom of speech, and most states have similar provisions in their own Constitutions.

We know, of course, that the “freedom” referenced is not absolute. You can’t yell “fire” in the crowded movie theater, and terroristic threats, and threats to do bodily harm with the clear capacity to do so, are criminalized in our statutes. Obscenity is an offense that can be prosecuted, and slandering someone is actionable.

Other than these and some other limited categories, does this mean that anything goes as far as speech is concerned? Can municipalities limit comments from the public at meetings and if so in what way?

We start with the premise that a full and open discussion of public issues that foster and support transparency in government is a worthy goal, at that the public has the right to address its elected and appointed officials on virtually all topics relating to the manner and style of governance, as well as questioning specific topics such as taxes, expenses, projects and the hundreds of other matters that Mayors and Council members deal with all the time.

But where does critical inquiry end and scurrilous attack begin? Can the public be shut down because the comments are incorrect, insulting, off base, political, grandstanding, or just a plain “waste of time?”

Some communities are introducing ordinances to limit public comments to “relevant “ matters and to have the inquirer direct questions through the chair (Mayor) rather than to a specific elected official. We know that by statute public comment is required at every council meeting, and mandated public hearings are required for the adoption of ordinances.

We also know that reasonable time limitations can be imposed for these comment periods. But what kind of limitation, if any, can be instituted when the comments are truly irrelevant, nasty, in the attack mode, or plainly uncivil given the requirements of the “free speech” clauses and the desirability to achieve as much “open government” as possible?

Case law indicates that there may be a restriction on “speech” using a time, place and manner test. That is to say, despite some residents’ thoughts to the contrary, you don’t have the right to speak whenever you want to. The speaker is out of order in addressing the Council outside of the allotted public comment periods and may be prosecuted not for what is said, but rather because it is being said at an inappropriate time and is disruptive of the meeting.

Continued On Page 15

CIVILITY, THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

by Richard Lustgarten, MCANJ Legal Counsel

Continued From Page 14

“Time, place and manner” speech cases involve some very delicate balancing between the competing interests of the right to be heard and the right of a society to conduct its business in a safe and orderly manner.

An example would be billboards which are a form of commercial speech. The place, size and type of billboard may be regulated, subject to certain conditions, and this is not deemed to be a speech violation as long as the content of the sign is not restricted.

But I digress.

The prevailing view is that the concern over civility is subordinated to the public’s right to redress grievances against the government.

Harry Truman supposedly said “If you can’t stand the heat get out of the kitchen.” Though sometimes used in a humorous context, this is an unfortunate comment because it places the burden on the receiver of abuse to endure it, rather than on the abuser who promulgates it to forego it.

So where are we?

The right to comment, even as offensively as can be imagined, must be tolerated so long as the comments are not disruptive. If a public official (elected member) or public figure (some staff members) feel they have been unfairly slandered, the right of redress is a difficult one. Unlike an ordinary citizen, for the last fifty years since *NY Times v Sullivan*, you have to prove that the speaker made the comments with actual malice (whatever that means) instead of just being fast and loose with the truth or careless with the facts.

Enduring hurtful words and accusations are the price of democracy, but I have always felt that public officials should not be the public whipping boys or girls of every malcontent, political opportunist or truly demented individual who wishes to make a splash at a Council meeting in the hopes of having the comments printed in the local paper for that proverbial five minutes of fame.

I don’t believe that public officials sign on to be abused just because they serve in government. Sometimes it’s unavoidable, given our strong tradition of speech and open government set forth above.

In my capacity as municipal attorney and attorney for a board I drew the line if I was accused of an illegal act or acting unethically. If someone commented that my legal advice was wrong, politically motivated or just plain dumb, it rolled off my back. Attack me in the former categories and I fired back (civily, of course) because no response is interpreted by some as an admission.

I thoroughly advise that the public should be afforded as much opportunity to have its say as is reasonably possible given the business at hand of the agenda.

I also believe, contrary to an editorial in a Bergen County newspaper, that the public should address the Chairperson and the comments can be funneled to the appropriate Council or staff member. I believe this makes for a more orderly process especially when a topic is expected to be unduly contentious.

I recommend to you an article sponsored by the NJ League of Municipalities entitled “The Need For Civility In Local Government Dialogue” by John C. Gillespie, Esq., Co-chair of the League’s Municipal and Governmental Relations Dept.

Finally, when you’re gritting your teeth and the comments are being made at a late night Council meeting, remember the words of Winston Churchill: “It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government, except all the others that have been tried.”

**“There’s a
Big Difference
Between the
Heat from
the Kitchen
and the
Stench from
the Gutter.”**

- Anonymous

DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The deadline for People Page submissions for the April 2015 issue is March 3, 2015. 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

The General News Articles deadline is March 7, 2015, and may be sent to:
Jim Doherty, Township of Wantage, 888 Route 23, Wantage, NJ 07461 or via email to: 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*
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