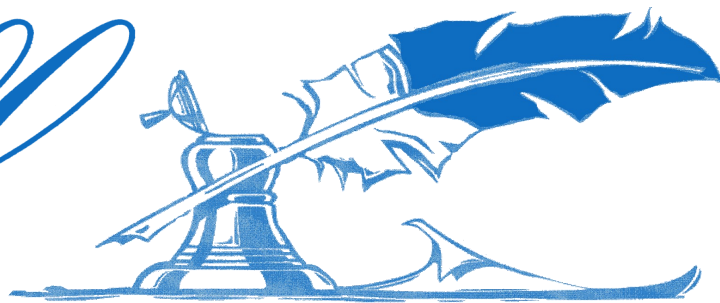


The Quill



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
DIANE M PFLUGFELDER



Page 1

THE MCANJ CONFERENCE SCHEDULE IS ENCLOSED!



Page 4

GIVE BACK TO THE TROOPS



Page 18

ACTUALLY, WHAT DOES A CLERK REALLY DO OR THINK-AND SOME PERSONAL RAMBLINGS



Page 12



Save the Date

MCANJ Annual Education Conference will be held

April 27th-30th at the

Hard Rock in Atlantic City

Registration opens February 1st!



President's Message from Diane M. Pflugfelder



Wow – do you remember all the hype about Y2K? And here we are in year 2020.

Y2K is the acronym for “the year 2000” in which complete havoc was expected when the year changed from 1999 to 2000. Computers only allowed two digits (99, not 1999) and it was anticipated that banking and power plant computers may not be able to operate under “00”. What would the computers do? Would all the information be lost forever? Would banking come crashing down? What was going to happen?

I have been told about one Y2K experience. It was a 2000 New Year’s Eve party in a private home and at the stroke of midnight – everything went black! What thoughts went through everyone’s mind? One of the attendees had flipped the main breaker. Kudos to him for his prank. Wish I had thought to do that to my family.

It is thought that this non-event can be contributed to extensive preparation on the part of businesses and government. The century change in the age of computerization was something never experienced before but yet everyone joined together in anticipation of the unknown.

Isn’t the Municipal Clerk’s office havoc and the unknown on a daily routine? Isn’t the Municipal Clerk’s office the base of extensive preparation for the known, but then that can change with one simple phone call? Legislature proposals; OPRA requests; never ending emails; phone calls; resident visits; marriage and dog licenses; minutes; agenda preparation; and more OPRA requests. Welcome to the world of Municipal Clerk`dom`.

Article Continues on Page 3



President Diane M. Pflugfelder-Liberty Township/Warren County

EMAIL: President@njclerks.org

EDITORIAL STAFF FY 2019/ 2020

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DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MUN CLERK: Michele Seigfried, Robbinsville (609) 259-3600 Email: micheles@robbinsville.net

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1996-2000: Patricia C. Shuss
2015-2017: Joseph Kostecki
1960-1970: John R. Zellweger
1983-1993: Janet L. Lynds
2001-2005: Nancy Hatten
1971-1973: Joseph E. Bennett
1994-1995: Patricia Hullfish and Patricia C. Shuss
2006-2015: Jim Doherty

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MCANJ PAST PRESIDENTS * EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

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1985: Elizabeth G. Nolan	2004: Joel Popkin	2017: Denise Szabo
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1993: John J. Galvin	2007: Barbara M. Hawk	
1994: Kathleen A. Thorpe	2008: Heather Mailander	
1995: Christina N. Wilder	2009: Joan Moreland	
1996: Joseph C. Favaro	2010: Vincent Buttiglieri	
1997: Elizabeth H. Kiss	2011: Joanne M. Kwasniewski	
1999: Bernadette Dubuss	2012: Andrew J. Pavlica	

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Joseph T. Carney, Englewood City	

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Atlantic:	Lucy Samuelsen Somers Point City	Middlesex:	Barbara Nyitrari, South Brunswick Township
Bergen:	Heather Mailander, Village of Ridgewood	Monmouth:	Pamela Borghi, Red Bank
Burlington:	Patricia Hunt, Moorestown Township	Morris:	Elizabeth Osborne, Madison Borough
Camden:	Michele Miller, Somerdale Borough	Ocean:	Joseph Kostecki, South Toms River Borough
Cape May:	Scott Jett, North Wildwood City	Passaic:	Allan Susen, Haledon Borough
Cumberland:	Susan Robostello, Millville City	Salem:	Melinda Taylor, Oldsman Township
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Hunterdon:	Ceil Covino, Clinton Township	Warren:	Kristin Shipps, Knowlton Township
Mercer:	Debra Sopronyi, Hightstown Borough		

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Bergen:	Sercan Zoklu, Cliffsides Park	Monmouth:	Pam Borghi, Red Bank
Burlington:	Kim-Marie White, Eastampton Township	Morris:	Mary O'Keefe, Butler Borough
Camden:	Bonnie Taft, Oaklyn Borough	Ocean:	Diane Ambrosio, Ocean Twp. (Waretown)
Cape May:	W. Scott Jett, North Wildwood	Passaic:	Antoinette Battaglia West Milford Twp.
Cumberland:	Lisa Garrison, Greenwich & Woodbine	Salem:	Melinda Taylor, Oldsman
Essex:	Eleni Pettas, Nutley, NJ	Somerset:	Pamela Borek, Hillsborough Township
Gloucester:	Kathy Van Scoy, Paulsboro	Sussex:	Amy Lobban, Sandyston Township
Hudson:		Union:	Nicole Dirado, Union County
Hunterdon:	Michele Bobrowski, Alexandria Township	Warren:	Laurie Barton, Washington Borough
Mercer:	Debra Sopronyi, Hightstown Borough		

President's Message from Diane M. Pflugfelder-Continued

FAST (financial automation system tracking) is here for 2020. The NJ Department of Treasury is working with MCANJ to coordinate multiple-county education sessions to advise the Municipal Clerk on their roles within FAST. We are attempting to coordinate these sessions prior to financial deadlines. Keep in touch with your County Advisory Board members for scheduling of dates and facilities.

I hope that you find the MCANJ Monthly News E-mails beneficial. If you have additional thoughts, I welcome your suggestions. Thank you for sharing.

Team MCANJ "CAN" Education Conference plans are blending together well. We are opening with some comedy and wit in Parliamentary Procedure. Something totally not the expected norm. The program includes all general sessions and offers all RMC CEUs categories as well as CMC/MMC credits and a session with Registrar approval. Our featured speaker, Mike Erwin, is currently a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, assigned to the United States Military Academy at West Point and Mike has completed multiple U.S. Military deployments in the Middle East, 2004-2011.

During the conference we will be conducting a give-back program. At the registration desk you will find a cookie jar for the collection of your donations toward Cookies for the Troops, LLC. Cookies for the Troops, LLC was founded by Santina Flynn, Warren County, after her son Justin joined the Marines. 2019 was this charity's 12th year and they baked 3,694 cookies. Our donation collection will be forwarded to the group assisting them with the costs associated with purchasing ingredients and/or shipping.

As we begin 2020, "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called opportunity and this first chapter is New Year's Day." Love Joy Peace

Team MCANJ – together, lets write a bestselling book!!! *Enjoy the day, Diane*



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS (IIMC) PROGRAMS

Rutgers University is the designated IIMC Institute in New Jersey. At the Center for Government Services, the program has been developed in conjunction with the Municipal Clerks Association of NJ (MCANJ). Inquiries regarding the NJ IIMC programs can be directed to the NJ Institute Director, at flagg@docs.rutgers.edu.

To join the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, visit www.iimc.com for questions, membership requirements and an application form.

Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) Program

The **CMC program** is designed to enhance the job performance of the Clerk in small and large municipalities. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The CMC designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The CMC program prepares the applicants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the Municipal Clerk by providing them with quality education in partnership with institutions of higher learning, as well as State / Provincial / National Associations. The CMC program has been assisting clerks to excel since 1970.

Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) Program

The **MMC program** is one of the two professional designations granted by IIMC. The MMC program is an advanced continuing education program that prepares participants to perform complex municipal duties. The program has an extensive and rigorous educational component and a professional and social contribution component. The MMC applicant must demonstrate that they have actively pursued education and professional activities.



MCANJ 2020 ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE



GENERAL SESSIONS / MEETINGS / EVENTS / PROGRAM

MUNICIPAL CLERKS – TEAM MCANJ CAN

(60 minutes = 1.0 RMC CEU / 75 minutes = 1.5 RMC CEU / 100 minutes = 2.0 RMC CEU /

75 minutes = 1.0 Registrar Credit)

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020

(1 General Session)

Early Conference Registration	3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
MVP Parliamentarian	4:00 p.m.– 5:40 p.m. <i>(100 minutes / 2.0 Professional Development CEU)</i>
President’s Reception	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Backstage)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 (with Exhibitors)

(4 General Sessions)

Conference Registration	7:30 a.m. (Opens)
Breakfast	7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. (extended for arrivals)
Opening Comments	8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Leadership is a Relationship	8:45 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. <i>(100 minutes / 2.0 Professional Development CEU)</i>
(Break (visit exhibitors))	10:25 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. (20 minutes – visit exhibitors)
Recognizing the True Game Face	10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. <i>(75 minutes / 1.5 Registrar/IT CEU)</i>
Lunch (visit exhibitors)	12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
By the Numbers	1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. <i>(75 minutes / 1.5 Finance CEU)</i>
Break (visit exhibitors)	2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (15 minutes – visit exhibitors)
Meet the New High	2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. <i>(75 minutes / 1.5 Finance & Records CEU)</i>
Break (visit exhibitors)	3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (15 minutes – visit exhibitors)
Social Adjustment Time / Exhibitors	4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Dinner of your own

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020 (with Silent Auction & Merchandise Sale)

(4 General Sessions)

Registration	7:30 a.m. (Opens)
Breakfast	7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Visit Silent Auction / Merchandise Sale	8:00 a.m.
Remarks	8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. (15 minutes)
Legislation 2020	8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (75 minutes / 1.5 Professional Development CEU)
Break (visit auction / merchandise sale)	10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (30 minutes)
Annual Meeting	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (includes .50 Ethics CEU)
Lunch (visit auction / merchandise sale)	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
From Hops to Growlers	1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. (75 minutes / 1.5 Licensing CEU)
Break (visit auction / closes at 3:05 pm)	2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (15 minutes)
Elections 2020	3:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. (100 minutes / 2.0 elections CEU)
Pick-Up Silent Auction Items	4:45 p.m.
MCANJ Cocktails / Dinner / Program	6:30 p.m. – 7:00 Cocktails 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Dinner / Program

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

(2 General Sessions)

Check Out	
Breakfast	7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
OPRA vs Common Law	8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. (75 minutes / 1.5 Records CEU)
Break	9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (15 minutes)
A Case for Ethics	10:00 a.m. – 11:15 p.m. (75 minutes / 1.5 Ethics CEU)

2021 Conference Registration Winners Drawn @ 11:15 a.m. Must be present to win.



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PEOPLE PAGE



The People Page is an opportunity for the members of our Association to celebrate each other's achievements both professionally and personally, as well as to share our condolences during times of sorrow. Additionally, when we as clerks have an opportunity to participate in community events that are afforded to us as a result of our position, it is another example of something to share on the People's Page. Please feel free to share. Send your submissions to pborek@hillsborough-nj.org, along with a picture and caption to be included in future editions of the Quill.

BERGEN COUNTY:

Upper Saddle River - Rita Mazzochi Hagen former Upper Saddle River Clerk passed away on June 17. Rita was a 56-year resident of Upper Saddle River. For nearly 30 years, Rita worked for the town of Upper Saddle River in a variety of positions. In 1999, she retired as the Borough Administrator. Upon retirement, Rita was an active volunteer for the Friends of the Library, including in the role of president. She also volunteered at Valley Hospital.

Condolences to the Family and Friends of retired long-time Hasbrouck Heights Borough Clerk and Administrator Louise Davenport on her passing on Monday, September 23, 2019.



Retired Norwood Deputy Clerk Carol Donovan passed away on May 22, 2019. Caroline worked for the Borough of Northwood for almost 20 years as the Deputy Borough Clerk, retiring in March of 2018.

Deepest Condolences to the Family

BURLINGTON COUNTY:

Congratulations Nancy Erlston from Florence Township!
Her daughter Grace had a baby girl, Alice Louise, 10lbs. 7oz.! She's a big beautiful baby!

MIDDLESEX COUNTY:



After he and his City Council running mates were sworn in, New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill used his January 1st speech to name City Clerk Daniel Torrisi as the first new Business Administrator in a generation. The City Council also named Leslie Zeledon as Torrisi's replacement in the important position of City Clerk, which is responsible for maintaining and releasing public records, as well as administering every election that happens in the Hub City. She is the first person to hold the job in nearly three decades, and likely the first Latina City Clerk in the history of the city.

HUNTERDON COUNTY

Congratulations to Jodi McKinney of Delaware Township for earning her CMC!

SUSSEX COUNTY

Dana Klinger, Deputy Clerk for Montague Township

Received her Registered Municipal Clerk **RMC** designation. Congratulations on your achievement!!



OCEAN COUNTY

Congratulations to Christine Hannemenn on her appointment as the Municipal Clerk in Surf City!! **Congratulations Christine!**

SOCIAL MEDIA



Like us on Facebook –Municipal Clerk's Association of NJ and visit our website at www.njclerks.org



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MCANJ MEMBERSHIP BEFORE THE MCANJ CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

MCANJ is now accepting New and Renewal Membership Applications for the FY2019/2020 through our online system.

Membership in the Municipal Clerk's Association of New Jersey offers an instant network to hundreds of the most professional local government officials in New Jersey and beyond.

MCANJ offers meaningful and affordable educational opportunities to its members through an Annual Education Conference, as well as webinars throughout the year. Registered Municipal Clerks can earn continuing education credits towards their certification renewal at these sessions.

MCANJ also keeps abreast of changes in Trenton and disseminates this information to its membership through its continued communications.

Municipal Clerk, the oldest of local government officials, offers camaraderie like no other; with members assisting when needed especially to non-seasoned Municipal Clerks or Municipal Clerks who may have faced a particular situation before. Municipal Clerks will undoubtedly develop new and long-lasting friendships when they join the MCANJ.

MCANJ offers the following classes of membership:

Regular Membership – Any person holding the office of Municipal Clerk, Acting Municipal Clerk, County Clerk, or Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of any municipality or county in New Jersey **(\$100 Annual Fee)**

Associate Membership – Any person holding the office of Deputy or Assistant Municipal Clerk, Deputy County Clerk, or Deputy Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders **(\$75 Annual Fee)**

Affiliate Member – Any person holding any governmental or education office of employment, or any person interested in promoting the objectives of the Association who is not eligible for Regular, Associate or Honorary membership. **(\$75 Annual Fee)**

Honorary Membership – Any Regular, Associate or Affiliate Member in good standing upon retirement. **(\$0 Annual Fee)** (Honorary Members must still renew their membership online each year even though there is no annual fee. This is, so we have your most up to date contact information).

The annual membership term is from July 1st to June 30th. Registration online is simple and quick. You do not need to send your PO for our signature, as the confirmation/invoice which is generated from the system has been approved by the Local Finance Board to be acceptable for use by counties and municipalities in the State.

Visit njclerks.org to register now!



1st Vice President Eileen Gore-Hamilton Township/Mercer County

EMAIL: 1vicepresident@njclerks.org



IIMC UPDATE WINTER 2019-2020



Region II is strong! I recently spent a week in Virginia. In my down time, I visited the Municipal Clerk's Office. Thank you Kim and Ashley for welcoming me to Culpeper. They directed me to Kimberly Ellis, CMC, Deputy County Clerk who is coordinating the Virginia 2020 Education Conference. Kimberly and I spent two and one-half hours reviewing their conference preparations. I found the difference between Virginian and New Jersey Municipal Clerk education requirements most interesting. Our one constant was IIMC.

Should you ever have the opportunity to visit any other State or County Clerk's offices, I encourage you to do so. We think we're all doing the same job, but oh what a difference there truly is.

Region II congratulates Jodi McKinney, CMC, Township of Delaware, NJ, on earning her CMC certification.

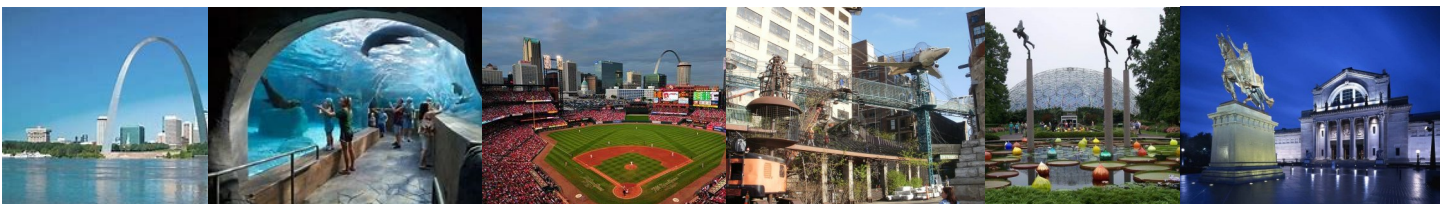
Terri Hudson, Delaware, Region II Director, and I attended the mid-year meeting in Greenville, South Carolina. We looked forward to going to a nice warm place in November. No way – they were in the middle of a cold snap. It happens. Actions taken at the meeting:

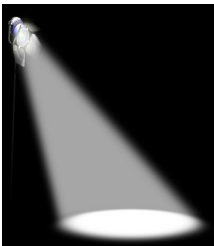
- Board Awards Its 2024 Annual Conference to Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- Board Selects The Netherlands to Host 2021 Study Abroad/Symposium Programs
- Approved the 2019 year-end projected budget and the proposed 2020 budget. Both budgets are balanced with a Board Designated Reserve fund of approximately \$810,000
- Voted to add a fifth day to the 2021 Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI, to commemorate IIMC's 75th anniversary
- Approved a new three-year contract for its Executive Director
- Conducted its annual evaluation of the Executive Director
- Approved continuing with the findings of the Education Task Force, with a final report to be delivered in May 2020
- Approved to remove from its Constitution the requirement for written support by a member from his or her state/provincial/national association to become a candidate for Region Director. The Board believed removing this prerequisite will generate a more inclusive interest in running for a vacant Board position. The amendment to the Constitution will require a membership vote in May 2020
- Tina Touchette, CMC, Village of Oswego, Illinois won the 10 pounds Santa Claws fundraiser.

Keep in touch with Region II by following us on Facebook.

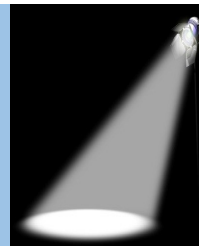
Enjoy the day, Diane

"Meet Me In St. Louis...*your gateway to education*"





MCANJ MEMBER SPOTLIGHT NOMINATION FORM



Eligibility: Municipal Clerks, Acting Municipal Clerks, Deputy Municipal Clerks, Assistant Municipal Clerks, County Clerks, Deputy County Clerks, Freeholder Clerks and Deputy Freeholder Clerks who are current members of MCANJ (Municipal Clerks’ Association of New Jersey) are eligible for nomination.

Goal: To highlight those working in the profession who bring positive attention to the role of being a “Clerk”.

Objective: To recognize MCANJ members who promote their position as “Clerk” through civic activities and events in their work or home community that is outside the scope of their normal duties and responsibilities.

Nominees who are selected for recognition will be announced through electronic communications and posted on Municipal Clerks’ Association of New Jersey website.

Nominee: Title: _____

Municipality/County Nominee Employed by: _____

Work Address of Nominee: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator: (Nominator does not have to be a member of MCANJ)_____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Provide synopsis of nominee’s civic activities and events outside the scope of the nominee’s normal duties and responsibilities of “Clerk”. Limit to 100 words.

Instructions: Submit form to president@njclerks.org for consideration



2nd Vice President Kim Marie White-Eastampton Township/Burlington County

EMAIL: 2vicepresident@njclerks.org

Past MCANJ Member Spotlight Recipients



Recipient	Municipality/County	
Tanya Goodwin, Municipal Clerk	Swedesboro Borough	May 2017
Amanda "Amy" Lobban, Municipal Clerk	Sandyston Township	January 2017
Linda Peralta, Municipal Clerk	Green Township	October 2016
Elizabeth Fritzen, Municipal Clerk	Maplewood Township	January 2016
Michele Seigfried, Municipal Clerk	Robbinsville Township	September 2015
Lisa A. Burd Reindel, Borough Clerk	Bloomsbury / Hunterdon County	April 2015
Richard J. Cuttrell, Municipal Clerk	Neptune Twp. / Monmouth County	April 2015
Kim-Marie White, Municipal Clerk	Eastampton Twp./Burlington County	March 2015
Kathy Falone, Municipal Clerk	Borough of Wanaque/Passaic County	March 2015
Michele Bobrowski, Municipal Clerk	Alexandria Twp./Hunterdon County	January 2015
Ursula Stryker, Municipal Clerk	Franklin Twp./Hunterdon County	October 2014
Judith Sullivan, Clerk/Administrator	Bedminster Twp./Somerset County	October 2014
Joan Hullings, Borough Clerk	Highland Park Borough	July 2014
James Farina, City Clerk	Hoboken City	July 2014
Deanna Bennett, Borough Clerk	Haddonfield Borough	June 2014
Jane McCarthy, Borough Clerk	Bloomington Borough	April 2014
Rhonda Pisano, Dep. Municipal Clerk	Bernards Township	February 2014
Diane Hevener, Dep. County Clerk	Cape May County	February 2014



Immediate Past President Kevin Galland-Woodland Park Borough/Passaic County

EMAIL: ImmediatePastPresident@njclerks.org

ACTUALLY, WHAT DOES A CLERK REALLY DO OR THINK---AND

SOME PERSONAL RAMBLINGS

By Richard A. Lustgarten, Esq.

This article is being written in mid-December so a belated Happy Holidays to all. In researching topics to write about I try to emphasize recent cases or trends in the law that would be of interest to you. I came across a small article written by an elected official of Brookfield, Wisconsin named Scott Berg. He was writing about what a clerk is or what a clerk has to do and since it was concise he related three items---that a Clerk must have patience, must be most attentive to detail, and must be diplomatic and understanding to hostile residents. His article inspired me to reflect on my over forty years of either working with Clerks or representing the MCANJ

- I agree with Mr. Berg's assessment but add the following:
- Be a multi-tasker---you're expected to juggle phone calls, solve computer failures, listen to sob-stories of co-workers, advise why a resident's leaves weren't picked up in August, and just about everything else that's thrown at you in any given day.
- Be an oracle--- because you are expected to perceive and anticipate everything that can possibly go wrong and usually does.
- Be apolitical,--- because, Heaven forbid, you might have an opinion on matters of National or community importance. (Save them for riding home in the car by yourself---hitting the dash board is optional but only for those with tenure.)
- Have institutional memory--- so that you may opine on any question asked of you regarding the municipality even if it occurred years before you started. This includes knowing where every scrap of paper is filed in the office even if not produced or filed by you. This also includes the ability to locate ancient resolutions or ordinances that may have been left out of the Code book and of course, speeches of Mayors or Councilmembers long retired that may have, in an alternate universe, some relevance to a current topic.
- Be attentive to the public ---when they advise you that you're lucky to have a seven hour work day with a great salary and benefits as real workers stay overtime and work at night and on weekends which you obviously never have to do. Don't grit your teeth when they also advise that you never had to miss dinner (What's that?), or stay late when you had other plans 'cause you're a government employee and they just don't do that.
- Be adroit--- in practicing law, accounting, and psychology without a license and have a graduate degree in finance without ever having taken a course in that subject.
- Be the "turn-to" person--- when every one else is going nuts. (Feel free to insert your experiences here.....)
- Don't be afraid---to check the assault statute penalties when the Mayor says "I hate to do this but.....", just as you were leaving for that long weekend or the staff retirement party of your closest friend. Count to 10 if he/she also says "It should only take a few minutes." Include here when anyone says "Just one more thing, I hope you don't mind." (Cursing under your breath is not considered an assault. Just don't be too loud)

If you can relate to any of these thoughts or situations, then congratulations, you are a duly qualified and life member of a noble and essential profession.

It's hard to believe that it has been three years since I retired and harder to believe that I live in southern Indiana. Coming from northern Bergen County, a fairly progressive area, the culture shock was significant. If you're wondering why I'm here it's simply because this is where my daughter and granddaughter live. For those of you with children you understand, and for those of you who anticipate a family you, too, will understand also. Actually, we are right across the Ohio river from Louisville, Ky. which is a fairly progressive city in its own right We are to downtown Louisville, as Fort Lee is to midtown Manhattan except that it only takes fifteen minutes of travel and the toll is only two dollars. (free if you take an alternate route that takes twenty minutes.) More on Louisville in a moment. (continued on next page)



RENT-A-CLERK PROGRAM

If you have recently retired, or know of someone who has, and you/they want to get back into the profession please contact Elaine Kennedy (ebeverly@comcast.net). We have a listing of available individuals to assist with fulfilling short and long term municipal clerk positions.

ACTUALLY, WHAT DOES A CLERK REALLY DO OR THINK---AND
SOME PERSONAL RAMBLINGS (continued from page 12)

By Richard A. Lustgarten, Esq.

In southern Indiana you can't get a good bagel, crisp Italian bread or tasty thin crust pizza. I once went in to a fast food place for coffee and asked for a buttered roll which was met with a quizzical look. No buttered rolls but I could get a biscuit, and if I through caution to the wind, a biscuit with gravy. They put it in a sack not a bag. The local joke when asking about your background is to say "Hoosier your Daddy." (Look it up.) It took a while to understand that "You're fahn" is a way of saying everything's ok. There is some lingering of "No problem" but it is not the favored expression. If they make a comment about New Jersey my retort joke is "What do you call road kill in these parts" and the correct response is "dinner."

Before you get the impression that this is a wasteland, I need to point out that there is an abundance of Burger Kings. Arby's, Taco Bells and of course, McDonalds, so we are not really far removed from civilization. In fairness, I should point out that there is also Panera, Outback, Ruth's Chris, Morton's Steak House, Olive Garden etc. In Louisville there are Broadway quality shows and Broadway touring companies along with an active Actors Studio for innovative plays along with museums, the Louisville Slugger factory which manufactures professional and amateur baseball bats, and of course distilleries. Churchill Downs race track is twenty minutes away.

One thing I learned dramatically is that there is a great divide between "red" and "blue" supporters. Discussions get quite lively and I consciously try to avoid them. No, I'm not talking politics. Out here basketball is king, and both the Louisville Cardinals (red) and the Kentucky Wildcats (blue) have ardent fans. When we were building our home my wife asked the kitchen contractor to consider a blue back splash. He said he was a "Louisville lifer" and if we insisted on blue he wouldn't finish the job. To this day I don't know if he was serious. (We settled on a more neutral color.)

Living out here has also given me a different perspective on guns. New Jersey has some of the most restrictive laws relating to possession and carry licenses. Out here it is no surprise that someone owns a gun and many have possessed them since childhood. It's not too far-fetched to say that owning a gun is like owning a bicycle or a toaster. It's not just law enforcement or "bad guys" that have guns but rather most anybody who wants one (with the obvious exceptions of felons, domestic violence abusers, mentally impaired, etc.). Its just no big deal. While I haven't encountered fanatic "Second Amendment" advocates, the gun owners I do know are "just plain folks" who expect gun ownership to be a personal choice and a way of life if that's the choice they make.

I follow local government issues and some court cases and they are basically the same as back in NJ. The same discussions over budgets and congestive zoning hit the news with the same regularity that you see in your local papers. Because I still consider myself a Jersey Boy I also get the digital version of the Bergen Record everyday. Sadly, I see some of the same controversies that linger on for years or recognize past associates or adversaries. As it is said, some things never change.

For now, I'm not one of those individuals who has so much to do in retirement that "I don't know how I ever got anything done when I was working" nor someone who has so much time on his hands that counting tree leaves becomes an occupation. When some of the other retirees in our complex (no. we're not a retirement community) grouse that the grass wasn't cut to the height in the specs or something equally as vacuous in my view, I just roll my eyes and contemplate my next tee time. For those of you contemplating retirement, balance is the key. I am sure you will find your own niche. And when someone says, "Gee, I hate to do this to you but...." you can easily turn to them and say "Then don't".

"There are a hundred reasons why I shouldn't go to the bar and get a drink, but right now I can't think of one of them."

(quoted from a Mark Twain impersonator while traveling
up the Mississippi on a paddle boat)



WANTED: SILENT AUCTION ITEMS FOR THE MCANJ CONFERENCE IN APRIL

Silent auction items may be donated by your county association, vendors or individuals. All silent auction and merchandise sale profits support the MCANJ Scholarship Fund. To donate an item contact: Laura Borchers/Borough of Norwood-Phone: (201) 784-2965 or email: lborchers@norwoodboro.org or Susan Jackson/Metuchen Borough-Phone: (732) 632-8508 or email: sjackson@metuchen.com.

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People Page-Continued

MORRIS COUNTY:



Chatham Borough Clerk Robin Kline Resigns to take Similar Position in Mendham

Robin Kline has been the the Chatham Municipal Clerk and alternate Deputy Registrar since 2014. She was honored at Chatham's Council meeting March 25, 2019, receiving a resolution thanking her for her service.

Congratulations to Tamar Lawful on her appointment as Chatham Borough Clerk!



Congratulations to new Rockaway Borough Clerk Patti Bussow, from Layton, Sussex County



Congratulations to Megan Phillips on her recent appointment as Long Hill Township Clerk! The Township Committee voted unanimously to hire Megan Phillips to a three-year contract at a meeting held on Wednesday, September 25th. The hire is effective Friday, October 4th.

Phillips takes the place of Debbie Brooks, who held the position from September 2016 through August 23rd of this year. Brooks was not retained by the township and is now the City Clerk in South Amboy.

CAPE MAY COUNTY:



Muriel Margaret Mumford Dickinson Ocean City Deputy City Clerk

Condolences to the Family and Friends of Muriel Margaret Mumford Dickinson, a former Ocean City Deputy City Clerk who retired after 26 years of service. Muriel was 77 years of age and passed away peacefully at home.

PASSAIC COUNTY



Township of West Milford Administrator Antoinette Battaglia administers an oath of office to former Mayor Ictima Ileri to start the mayor's third term.

Condolences

West Milford, Antoinette Battaglia, Township Clerk and former Administrator and 2019-2020 President of New Jersey Municipal Clerk County Association

It is with great sadness to report that Antoinette Battaglia lost her battle with cancer at age 55 on May 31, 2019. Antoinette started working in West Milford's Town Hall in 2006 and was the Township Clerk and former Administrator for 13 years. She was dedicated to the township and attended meetings regardless of the physical side effects chemotherapy was having on her body.

ESSEX COUNTY:



West Orange, Marie Stopfer, retired Municipal Clerk

It is with great sadness to report that Marie Stopfer, passed away on May 3, 2019 after a valiant battle with cancer. Marie was the Municipal Clerk of West Orange for 13 years and President of the Essex County Municipal Clerks Association from 1977-1978.

CAMDEN COUNTY:

Frani Wright Registered Municipal Clerk

Congratulations to Frani Wright who was approved as Registered Municipal Clerk at the Bellmawr Borough Council Meeting held June 27, 2019. Two years before her appointment, Frani Wright was celebrated as Triton Hometown Hero (in October 2017).



Treasury Denise Cafone-Fairfield Township/Essex County

EMAIL: treasurer@njclerks.org



MCANJ CONFERENCE SILENT AUCTION NEWS



Silent Auction 2020

It's that time of the year again, and Laura and I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about our Silent Auction to be held at the MCANJ's Annual Education Conference in Atlantic City (27 – 30 April) at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City.

We have accepted the responsibility to coordinate the Silent Auction of the Conference. The Silent Auction is always one of many highlights at our conference. Most County Associations contribute one or two wonderful baskets and many individuals do the same. It is also helpful if we go out into our community and ask for donations from our local stores. Donations can be either themed baskets or individual items. We love those handmade items made by those of you who crochet, knit, craft, etc. We also love the thought of regifting items that you don't know what to do with. Proceeds from the Silent Auction come back to the members in the form of scholarships.

Also, when you are making your basket, if you could please consider making two baskets, instead of one large basket, in the effort to offer more opportunity to bid on many different baskets, it would be greatly appreciated.

We are doing things a little different this year. We are asking that you bring the items to the registration table Monday, 27 April or Tuesday, 28 April prior to 5:00 pm. Please provide us with information on who is donating the item (s), the donors email address, identification of the item(s) being donated, and an approximate value of the item(s). We will provide the bidding sheets.

Please notify one of us at the following email addresses as soon as possible if you have any item(s) that you will be donating to the Silent Auction.

Laura Borchers
Borough of Norwood
201-784-2965
lborchers@norwoodboro.org

Susan Jackson
Borough of Metuchen
732-632-8508
sjackson@metuchen.com

Thank you,
Laura Borchers and Susan Jackson

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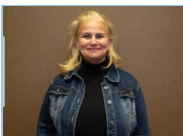
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Secretary Michele Bobrowski-Alexandria Township/Hunterdon County

EMAIL: secretary@njclerks.org

County Flags of New Jersey



The Conference Planning Committee is coordinating a Parade of County Flags. If you have connections with your county representatives we need your help in securing 3x5 flags for the following Counties; Bergen, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hudson, Salem, Somerset, and Union.

Please contact president@njclerks.org for additional details and coordination. Thank you for your assistance.

MCANJ Retirement Gift

If you or someone from your County is planning on or has retired, please let your MCANJ County Representative know so that the Association can provide a retirement gift on behalf of the MCANJ. County Representatives should contact Denise Cafone Treasurer @ Treasurer@NJClerks.org. Please be sure to include the individual's name as it should appear on the engraved gift along with an address where it can be mailed. The request will take approximately 3 to 4 weeks to process, so please ensure that you provide as much advance notice as possible so that it can be presented at a retirement party or last town meeting, etc.

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COOKIES FOR THE TROOPS

As the holiday season approaches, a local group of moms, dads, siblings, families and friends of military heroes are preparing for their annual cookie bake!

Every year, this group of about 20 people get together after Thanksgiving and bake over 3,000 cookies to pack up and send to troops deployed overseas who can't make it home for the holidays. It's a small token of appreciation for the sacrifices they are making for our country. Along with the homemade cookies, we also send small holiday décor, toiletries, magazines, books and other useful gifts to give them a taste of home while they are protecting our freedom.



If you have a loved one that is or will be deployed for the holidays, please let us know and we can send him/her and his/her troop a package!

This year, we are looking for donations including the following items:

- ★ Baking ingredients (inquire for specifics)
- ★ Toiletries – shampoos, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, handwipes, etc.
 - ★ Socks, Undershirts, Underwear/boxers
 - ★ Playing Cards, Dice, small compact games
 - ★ Granola bars, trail mix, beef jerky, etc.
 - ★ Magazines, comic books, etc.
 - ★ Christmas candy (candy canes, etc.)
- ★ Santa hats and small, light-weight holiday decorations
- ★ **Monetary donations** towards postage (it can get quite pricey to mail these boxes out)

**We ask that all items donated be new/ sealed and current (magazines, etc.)*

All donations (with the exception of monetary) must be received by the Monday before Thanksgiving.

Any items that we receive and are not able to ship are given to the local Rolling Thunder-Chapter 3 group, who donate follow-up packages with more holiday goodies, as well as to the local vets at the Lions Hospital!

If you would like to donate, have a hero deployed for the holiday, or have questions, please contact Steve or Taylor at 908-509-4357 or cookiesforthetroopsUSA@gmail.com or find us on Facebook @CookiesForTheTroops and send us a message (don't forget to like us too!)

*Cookies For the Troops LLC is a 501C(3) non-profit organization.
Donations may be considered a tax deduction.*



A Day in the Life of a Municipal Clerk

Meatless Monday

By Michele Lynn Seigfried

It was Monday. I knew it was going to be one of *those* Mondays from the moment the alarm clock went off. Prince charming was farting in his sleep beside me. The dogs were howling. My 7-year-old daughter was screaming at the dogs to shut up and crying because they wouldn't listen to her.

I stumbled out of bed and into the shower. Half way through, the power went off. If you've ever seen my hair when not blown dry, you'd wonder if I'd been playing with the electricity myself. So, I raced through my morning routine so I could get on the road early.

I checked the school lunch calendar. It said "Meatless Monday." The next line said "Turkey Sandwich." I shook my head and wondered what sort of an education my daughter was getting.

Having to get to a County meeting, I rushed to my father's house to dry my hair, then hurried to get the Township vehicle. Of course, the tank was empty. I drove over to the DOT lot to fill the tank. The first pump was broken, so I went to the 2nd pump. In the midst of my wondering why I couldn't fit the nozzle in the tank, Engine No. 1 pulled up. Out jumped five firefighters to help this damsel in distress. "You aren't putting diesel in that car, are you?" Um...noooo...(thank goodness the nozzle didn't fit in the tank!) I already knew I would never outlive the teasing about this one.

With a full tank and fully embarrassed, I drove to the next town over to pick up a colleague. After she didn't answer the front door, I walked around back and found her...in the chicken coop...with a garbage pail lid in one hand and a rake in the other. "Hello Xena Warrior Princess. What art thou doing?" I asked with a smirk. "I'm chasing a hawk out of my chicken coop," she called out. "Is it a chicken hawk?" I asked, laughing. She informed me it was indeed a chicken hawk. You learn something new every day. I never knew chicken hawks existed other than in the old Foghorn Leghorn cartoons. (And for those of you who don't know, a leghorn is an Italian breed of chicken, something I actually did know!) Anyhow, I sort of wished I recorded the whole thing. But had that video shown up on Facebook, I'm certain my diesel mishap would have also. Do unto others, right?

I thought I'd heard it all and seen it all for the day, until we were told at our meeting that a poll worker drove their car through a fire station that was a polling location on election day. If that isn't an argument to change the hours of polling, I don't know what is! Working for 16 to 17 hours in a day with only a lunch break for both poll workers and municipal clerks is just too much. How can people function properly? Funny (not funny)

After work, I picked up my dog from doggie day care. They sent her home with a report card. She got an A+ for pooping. Every dog has their talents.

In closing, let me impart my wisdom to you—wisdom gained by this crazy day. Always remember:

1. Mondays suck, tomorrow will be a better day.
2. It's Murphy's Law – if something can go wrong, it will.
3. You are smarter than you think—or at least smarter than the person writing the school lunch menu.
3. Don't take yourself too seriously. It's okay to laugh at your silly mistakes.
4. You aren't in it alone--there's always a clerk willing to help you get the hawk out of your chicken coop, (so to speak), or at least cheer you on while you do it yourself!
5. There is always someone worse off than you--count your blessings you aren't driving into buildings. And finally,
6. We all have our talents! An A+ for yours, my friends.



IIMC REGION II Annual Conference hosted by the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey is still accepting registrations. The conference is scheduled for January 28th-31st at Resorts in Atlantic City. The theme for this year's conference is "Today's Vision is Tomorrow's Reality". Visit www.IIMC.com for more details and to register. Contact Vinny Buttiglieri at vbuttiglieri@oceantwp.org with any questions.

the *Quill*
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DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The deadline for People Page submissions for the April 2020 issue is March 2 ,2020. Please send People Page news to:

Pam Borek, Municipal Clerk, Hillsborough Twp.,
379 South Branch Road. Hillsborough, NJ 08844
or via Email at pborek@hillsborough-nj.org

The General News Articles deadline is March 10, 2020, and may be sent to:

Michele Bobrowski, Alexandria Township. 242 Little York-Mt. Pleasant Rd. Milford, NJ 08848 or via email to:
clerk@alexandrianj.gov

Questions or comments regarding this or any issue of *The Quill* may be directed to the
Editor, Michele Bobrowski,
by calling (908) 996-7071 ext. 210 or using the contact information shown above.

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