

MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Barbara M. Hawk

While the rest of us were busy dealing with a cold, icy February, the Education Conference Committee kept warm by working hard, planning the programs for the Municipal Clerks Conference which was held March 5 - March 8 in Atlantic City. My congratulations to them for working so hard and accomplishing so much! In addition to the annual conference, there are several Mini Conferences being planned this year. Here are two of them:

Last Clerk Standing : scheduled for June 13, 2007, from 9am – 1 pm at West Windsor Township Municipal Building, will provide 4 CEU's in Elections. Contact Sharon Young, West Windsor Twp. and Michele Auletta, Washington Twp.

A Jeopardy Game Show: hosted by the Director/DLGS will be held in the southern part of the State some time in May. Look for more information on our website, <http://www.njclerks.org/>.

I'd like to thank everyone who is serving on our MCANJ Committees and the Advisory Board. Your contribution to our Association is greatly appreciated. Advisory Board members: please contact Joanne Kwasniewski, and provide information regarding who the President and Vice President of your county are, and to keep your county abreast of what is going on in our State Association. The June Advisory Board Meeting will be held on June 29, 2007 at Mastoris in Bordentown.

Our "Records" Committee, chaired by Denise Szabo has each person on the committee attending Government Records meetings regarding the Municipal Clerk's responsibility in complying with the Open Public Records Act. This will keep us abreast of any changes that take place.

Our "Laws Affecting Municipal Clerks" Committee, chaired by Greg Hart, has sent a letter to MCANJ Legal Counsel Tom Segreto for him to review regarding A3899 – Requires minutes to be available within 30 days of meeting. Upon Tom Segreto's review, this letter will be sent to our legislators.

When you become MCANJ President, you receive a real eye opener with the many telephone calls from Clerks having trouble with their governing bodies, which makes you realize how important it is to join the "Legal Defense Fund." You might think everything is alright, but it only takes one person to challenge your position and your work ethics.

If you know anyone who is retiring, please let the executive board know, so that we can order them a "Gold Card" which is lifetime membership in the association. As president, I would be honored to present this card to the retiring Clerk.

On April 12, 2007 I will be on the panel representing the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, Inc. at the New Jersey Conference of Mayors. This is good exposure for our association. Wish me luck.

I welcome your suggestions and comments as each of you are the heart and soul of this wonderful Association. You can reach me by telephone at 856-784-1551 and my email is barbarahawk@comcast.net. If you have not joined our Association yet and need an application, please call our Treasurer, Vincent Buttiglieri at 908-226-7606 and he will send you one.



Enjoy the upcoming spring and Easter!

Jim Doherty, Editor
973.875.7192 e-mail: administrator@wantagetwp-nj.org

PAST EDITORS:

J. Ford Flagg, 1954-1959 John R. Zellwenger, 1960-1970
Joseph E. Bennett, 1971-1973 Harry C. Kates, 1974-1982
Janet L. Lynds, 1983-1993

Patricia Hullfish and Patricia Shuss, Co-Editors, 1994-1995
Patricia C. Shuss, 1996-2000 Nancy Hatton, 2001-2005

Contributing Editors:

Advertising: L. Manuel Hirshblond, Toms River 732.349.1348
People: Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Twp., 908.526.1300

MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
EXECUTIVE BOARD 2007

President: Barbara M. Hawk, Laurel Springs Borough
E-mail: barbarahawk@comcast.net

First Vice President: Heather A. Mailander, Ridgewood Village
E-mail: hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net

Second Vice President: Joan Moreland, Haddon Heights Borough
E-mail: Jmoreland@haddonheightsboro.org

Treasurer: Vincent Buttiglieri, South Plainfield Borough
E-mail: vbuttiglieri@southplainfieldnj.com

Secretary: Joanne M. Kwasniewski, Fair Lawn Borough,
E-mail: munclerk@fairlawn.org

Immediate Past President: Elaine B. Kennedy, North Hanover Twp.
E-mail: ebeverly@comcast.net

Administrative Consultant: L. Manuel Hirshblond

Legal Counsel: Thomas A. Segreto

PAST PRESIDENTS*EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

1974*Joseph V. Valenti	1994*Kathleen A. Thorpe
1975*Alfred A. Reda	1995*Christina N. Wilder
1977*Otto M. Bock	1996*Joseph C. Favaro
1978*Norma B. Sisco	1997*Elizabeth H. Kiss
1981*L. Manuel Hirshblond	1998*Lynn Stanzlaus
1983*James F. O'Keefe	1999*Bernadette Dubuss
1985*Elizabeth G. Nolan	2000*Nancy Hatten
1987*Lewis N. Thompson	2001*Sharon L. Brienza
1988*Elaine Wallace	2002*Bernadette Standowski
1991*Mildred C. Bird	2003*Allan Susen
1992*Barbara A. Camp	2004*Joel Popkin
1993*John J. Galvin	2005*Jane Williams-Warren
	2006*Elaine B. Kennedy

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Atlantic:	Carol A. Raph, Northfield City
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Salem:	Maureen Abdill, Pilesgrove Township
Somerset:	Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Township
Sussex:	Denise Stagnari, Green Township
Union:	Kathleen Wisniewski, Springfield Township
Warren:	Theresa Tamburro, Blairstown Township

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Sharon Brienza, Chair

The 2006 General Election saw several changes in the make up of governing bodies across the State, so it came as no surprise to me when I started getting telephone calls shortly thereafter from Municipal Clerks who were concerned about their positions.

Many called after hearing "rumors" that they were going to be replaced, brought up on charges and a myriad of other threats that, as you can imagine, made for a very stressful holiday. As I have said in the past, many of you believe nothing like this can ever happen to you, but by the number of new members that have joined this year, I see many of you are rethinking this opinion—and rightfully so!

Initial membership of \$75.00, with an annual renewal fee of \$25.00 thereafter, is a small price to pay to protect your future. Applications and renewal applications were included with your annual dues membership or you can download an application form from the MCANJ website. I urge you to complete the form as directed. Hopefully, you will never need the assistance of the Legal Defense Fund, but if you do, this could prove to be your most valuable insurance coverage.

Please mail the completed application with your **PERSONAL CHECK** payable to MCANJ – LDF to:

L. Manual Hirshblond, Administrative Consultant
11 Boxwood Terrace
Toms River, NJ 08755

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at 908-526-1300, ext. 103.

Sharon L. Brienza, Township of Branchburg
LDF Committee Chair

POSITION AVAILABLE: TOWNSHIP CLERK
UNION TOWNSHIP, HUNTERDON COUNTY

Full time position in community of 5,000. Proper certification required to perform all statutory duties of Municipal Clerk; Good organizational, administrative, computer and communication skills. Salary negotiable. Send resume w/salary history to: Union Township Committee, 140 Perryville Road, Hampton, New Jersey 08827, or Fax to: 908-735-0591. EOE

REGION II WILMINGTON DELAWARE - JANUARY 11-13, 2007
(Information and pictures from Region II submitted by Bette Mastropasqua.)

Municipal Clerks from New Jersey joined the nearly 100 attendees for the 2007 Region II Conference held in the beautiful DuPont Hotel in Wilmington Delaware. Dignitaries from the State of Delaware and the City of Wilmington provided a warm welcome to all.

In addition to the education opportunities and tour of the Dupont Estate (Winterhur), the best part of the Conference was during the Friday evening dinner/entertainment. A hypnotist asked for volunteers and proceeded to place them in a deep sleep and then took them on a journey that left the rest of the group - hysterical.



Pictured above: Vinnie Buttiglieri (South Plainfield) and Dan Torissi join some fellow Clerks “at the beach” on a sweltering afternoon, drinking pina colada's and stretching out on a lounge chair. Apparently, neither Vinnie nor Dan remember anything. The last command the hypnotist gave, was that after everyone returned to their seats, when he mentioned a particular word, Dan would assume the personality of Richard Simmons and lead the group in exercise..... and that's just what he did!

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2007 MCANJ SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey will be offering scholarships for the 2007 education year. Municipal Clerks, Deputies and Assistants continuing their education in pursuit of RMC, CMC and MMC certifications are eligible. Candidates for all scholarships MUST be members of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey. CMC and MMC Scholarship applicants must be tenured Municipal Clerks.

Scholarships (maximum amount \$500) to be awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 during the League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City:

- One (1) RMC Scholarship
- One (1) Peter H. Maclearie CMC Scholarship
- One (1) MMC Scholarship

Completed applications should be mailed directly to:
MCANJ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
c/o Bonnie Leonetti, RMC/CMC
Long Beach Township
6805 Long Beach Boulevard
Brant Beach, NJ 08008-3661

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2007

You are encouraged to take advantage of this scholarship program offered to you by your Association. Please complete this application page (or a photocopy of it) and submit it as instructed. Should you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Leonetti at 609-361-1000.



MCANJ 2007 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Title _____

Municipality _____

Address _____

Date of Appointment as Municipal Clerk _____ Deputy/Assistant _____

Check One: MCANJ Dues are paid by municipality MCANJ Dues are paid by member

I am applying for the:

- RMC Scholarship – cost of one (1) course (not to exceed \$500)
- CMC Scholarship [tenure date _____] – Up to \$500 for tuition to CMC program by Rutgers University
- MMC Scholarship [tenure date _____] – Up to \$500 for tuition to MMC program by Rutgers University

List RMC, CMC and MMC educational courses taken and indicate whether the municipality or you paid for the course.

Reminder: All applicants must be members of the Municipal Clerks' Association of NJ, Inc. Applicants for the CMC and MMC Scholarships must be tenured.

Use a separate sheet of paper for a short statement as to why you feel this scholarship should be awarded to you and attach it to your application.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

2007 IIMC Academy and Institute



The IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk Institute and the IIMC Master Municipal Clerk Academy were held January 23-26, 2007 at the Holiday Inn of East Windsor, NJ.

Topics included a “Writing Workshop Just For Municipal Clerks,” “The Miracle of Teamwork,” and “In The Eyes of the Public: Avoiding the Perception of Impropriety.”

This 4-day, 25-hour intensive training opportunity is offered through Rutgers University Center for Government Services in cooperation with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Each annual CMC Institute fulfills one quarter of the required 100 hours of University Instruction necessary to qualify for the IIMC designation of Certified Municipal Clerk.

The Master Municipal Clerk Academy program establishes the ultimate professional designation for municipal clerks—the Master Municipal Clerk. Participants receive six points toward their MMC journey for attending the MMC Academy.

Brown’s River Ad

TURN YOUR LIFE INTO A GREAT ADVENTURE!

Brian Kathenes, President of Progressive Business Concepts, Inc., offered a number of organizational performance strategies for both the Master Municipal Clerk participants and the Certified Municipal Clerk participants. This was quite the accomplishment as Brian offered one of his presentations while wearing a “Cat in the Hat” hat. Other speakers included Claudia Monte of CAM Consulting Group LLC, who offered insight into Workplace Ethics, and Jennifer Miller of the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, who offered strategies for dealing with Workplace Stress.



GETTING AND KEEPING THE CMC DESIGNATION

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks has implemented changes for the Certified Municipal Clerk Certification and Recertification Process. The following information is re-printed from the January Issue of the IIMC News Digest, with the permission of the IIMC News Digest Editor and IIMC Interim Executive Director, Chris Shalby.

Q: What is the minimum number of education points for the CMC designation?

A: 60 points (120 hours).

Q: Are the current participants in the CMC program required to take the additional 20 hours?

A: No. Prior to January 1, 2007, IIMC members who are already entered into an IIMC Institute to obtain a CMC designation shall fulfill the 100 hours of education requirements, and they are not required to take the additional 20 hours.

Q: What are the requirements for earning the CMC designation?

A: The following are the requirements for obtaining the CMC designation:

1. Be a Clerk or a Deputy Clerk or perform the duties as defined by IIMC.
2. Be an active member of IIMC for two years.
3. Affirm and practice the IIMC Code of Ethics.
4. Complete and submit an IIMC Application for CMC Designation with required supporting documentation and fee.
5. Furnish a letter of sponsorship from a Municipal Clerk member of IIMC.
6. Perform the core duties of a municipal clerk by serving a Legislative Government Body (LGB) in an administrative capacity with management responsibilities, which would include four (4) of the following:
 - a. General Management
 - b. Records Management
 - c. Elections
 - d. Meeting Administration
 - e. Management of by-laws, Articles of Incorporation, ordinances or other legal instruments
 - f. Human Resources Management
 - g. Financial Management
 - h. Custody of the official seal and execution of official documents
7. Deputy Clerks must perform at least four (4) of the eight (8) core duties.
8. Attain sixty (60) points in the Education category.
9. Attain fifty (50) points in the Experience category.
10. Once certified, a CMC holder shall apply for Recertification every four years, unless application is made for admission into the MMCA program prior to his/her four (4) year CMC anniversary date. Those CMC holders who actively and consistently are pursuing an MMC designation and earn 12 or more Advanced Educational points per year may retain their CMC without having to recertify, otherwise, they shall recertify in a timely manner.

Q: What is the Application for Designation?

A: The Application for the CMC designation encompasses all Education and Experience requirements. Upon the completion of Education and Experience requirements for the CMC designation, the applicant shall complete an Application for Designation. The applicant shall submit the Application for Designation and its supporting documents to IIMC in a timely manner.

Q: At what stage should the Application for Designation for CMC be submitted to IIMC?

A: The Applicant should submit the Application for Designation for CMC to IIMC after fulfilling all Education and Experience requirements for designation.

Q: What are the Education requirements for the CMC designation?

A: The following are the Components of the Education requirements for the CMC designation (total of 60 points required):

60 Points: Satisfactory completion of 120 hours (60 points) of coursework at an on-land IIMC approved Municipal Clerks Institute. One-third (1/3) of the minimum 120 hours of Institute training for the CMC Certification program may be obtained through distance education. All distance education shall be pre-approved by the Director of Education and Research.

20 Points: A Bachelor's degree or higher in Public Administration or a related field*

10 Points: A Bachelor's degree or higher in an unrelated field*

5 Points: An Associate of Arts degree in Public Administration or a related field*

* Examples of acceptable fields of study include public administration, political science, business administration, municipal management, municipal finance, governmental accounting, records management, urban affairs, and urban planning. Education units or hours may not be credited to both CMC and MMCA programs.

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GETTING AND KEEPING THE CMC DESIGNATION

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Q: What are the Experience requirements for the CMC designation?

- A:** The following are the components of the Experience requirements for the CMC designation (total of 50 points required):
- 4 Points** per year, max. 40 pts: Full-Time Municipal or Deputy Clerk with administrative responsibility
 - 2 Points** per year, max. 40 pts: Part-time Municipal or Deputy Clerk with administrative responsibility
 - 2 Points** per year, max. 30 pts: Other full-time administrative positions in local government prior to becoming a Municipal Clerk or Deputy Clerk
 - 1 Point** per year, max. 30 pts: Part-time Municipal or Deputy Clerk with no administrative responsibility
 - 1 Point** per year, max. 30 pts: Administrative position in federal, state or provincial government
 - 1 Point** per year, max. 30 pts: Administrative position in business

CMC Experience Component - Municipal Clerks Conferences

- 4 Points** each, max. 20 pts: Attendance at IIMC Conferences
- 1 Point** per 6 or more hours in one day of attendance, max 10 pts: Attendance at Municipal Clerk related conferences. Example: IIMC regional, municipal associations, state associations and municipal league conferences

CMC Experience Component —Continuing Education

- 1 Point** per 6 or more hours in one day, max 15 pts: Continuing education courses, college non-degree related courses

Satisfactory completion of IIMC-approved Distance Education or self-study courses: Points vary with course, max of 25 pts

CMC Experience Component —Business or Vocational School Courses

- 1 Point** per 10 hrs of training, max 10 pts: Courses must relate to the Municipal Clerk’s position

CMC Experience Component —College or University Courses

- 1 Point** per credit hour, max 25 pts: Relevant college or university course credits not used for education points

Q: Do I have to be a Municipal Clerk and an IIMC member to take an IIMC program?

- A:** No. IIMC encourages anyone interested in his or her personal and professional development to attend an IIMC program. However, you may not attain the CMC designation unless you are a member of IIMC and you are a Municipal Clerk or a Deputy Clerk.

Q: Do I have to be an IIMC member for two consecutive years while I attend an IIMC Institute for obtaining the CMC designation?

- A:** No. You must have two years of IIMC membership for purposes of the CMC designation but they do not have to be consecutive. However, the two years of membership have to have been within the last 5-year period prior to applying for the CMC designation.

The enrollee is responsible for earning a minimum of 12 points of coursework per year toward the fulfillment of the requirements of the CMC designation.

Q: The work I do is very similar to that of a Municipal or Deputy Clerk, but my actual job title is not “Municipal Clerk.” Would IIMC accept my administrative experience?

- A:** Yes, points may be awarded for the work you do, not necessarily the job title you have. Describe your duties on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to your application.

Q: If I do not maintain my membership with IIMC may I still use my CMC designation?

- A:** No.

Q: I hold a CMC designation but am temporarily out of work. May I retain my CMC designation while I look for another Clerk position?

- A:** Yes, under three conditions:
- You must be actively looking for work
 - You must maintain Associate Member status with IIMC until you secure your new Clerk position, and
 - You must recertify every four years.

Q: May I use my CMC designation after my retirement?

- A:** Yes, as long as you maintain Retired Member status with IIMC.

MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

A County Association or an individual Clerk may nominate a candidate for Municipal Clerk of the Year. The previous honorees are those individuals who have made positive contributions to our profession for the benefit of all of us. The Association invites you to submit the name of a Municipal Clerk who has had an impact on our profession and who should be considered for this prestigious honor.

MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR

NOMINATION FORM

(please type)

All nominees must be members of the Municipal Clerks' Association of NJ, Inc., currently employed as Municipal Clerks and tenured in their positions. Current members of the Executive Board and former recipients of the award are not eligible. Qualifications must include activities within the MCANJ and may include related community and volunteer work. The selection of the annual "Municipal Clerk of the Year" is made by the Executive Board and announced at the Association's Annual Meeting during the League of Municipalities Conference in November in Atlantic City.

Nominee _____

Appointment Date _____

Municipality _____

Address _____

County _____

Qualifications of Nominee:

Attach statement in support of Nominee's candidacy (maximum 500 words)

Nomination made by _____

(Name of County Organization or Individual)

Address _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____ Phone No. _____

Submit to: Joanne M. Kwasniewski, MCANJ Secretary,
Office of the Municipal Clerk
8-01 Fair Lawn Avenue, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
FAX: 201-475-1581

Deadline for submission: July 1, 2007

PEOPLE PAGE

by Sharon Brienza

PITTER PATTER... Middlesex County – North Brunswick

We congratulate (belatedly) Municipal Clerk Lisa Russo on her first child, Marissa Dominique Russo, born on June 19, 2006.

WEDDING BELLS.....Warren County – Alpha Borough

Laurie Ann Courter married Jim Barton on July 22, 2006 at Califon United Methodist Church. After honeymooning at Topsail Island, North Carolina, it's back to the grindstone.

NEW COUNTY PRESIDENTS

It's not often a Deputy Municipal Clerk is elected President of a County Municipal Clerks association so imagine the pride in Wildwood Crest and Millville, where Kevin Yecco's Deputy Janelle (Jan) Holzmer and Lew Thompson's Deputy Susan Robostello were elected Presidents of their respective County Associations.

Jan received her RMC in 2000 and her Certified Municipal Registrar designation in 2006. She also serves as the Claims Coordinator for administration of the NJ State Health Benefits Program. She has conducted seminars with Kevin in the subject area of the performance/relationship of the Municipal Clerk and Deputy Municipal Clerk. Wildwood Crest is very fortunate to have someone as dedicated, competent and qualified as Jan. Kevin believes that a line of progression that will serve Wildwood Crest residents and taxpayers for many years to come has been established with Jan as the Deputy.

Susan also serves Millville as the Assistant Municipal Administrator. Susan achieved her Municipal Tax Collector certification in 1990 and served as Treasurer of the Tax Collector and Treasurer's Association of Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem and Camden Counties for four years. She was appointed Deputy Municipal Clerk in 2003; received her RMC in 2004 and was appointed Assistant Municipal Administrator in 2004. Her dedication, professionalism and knowledge of the multiple functions of the Municipal Clerk/Administrator's office has provided an added dimension to their municipal operation. Lew feels Susan has all the qualifications and ability to handle the demands of a chief administrative officer.

Congratulations to Jan and Susan for jobs well done and for the honor of serving your County Association as President!

The Laws Affecting Municipal Clerks Committee of the MCANJ

The Laws Affecting Municipal Clerks Committee of the MCANJ is charged with the responsibility of keeping Municipal Clerks informed about pending and recently enacted legislation which impacts the performance of our day-to-day duties and which impacts the office of Municipal Clerk. The Committee also keeps the MCANJ Executive Board informed about pending legislation which impacts Municipal Clerks and which might warrant the MCANJ getting involved by pro-actively educating legislators about potential impacts of such proposed legislation. To effectively carry out our mission, the Committee will be publishing a monthly report on the MCANJ website (www.njclerks.org). Look for the "Legislative Tracking" page under the "Legislative Update" tab on the website. The monthly report consists of three parts: (1) a brief description of pending and recently-enacted legislation which impacts Municipal Clerks and is of particular interest; (2) the "MCANJ Pending Laws List" is a listing of pending legislation with recent legislative action by Bill number, which includes a brief summary, list of bill sponsors, and current status of the bill in the Legislature; and (3) the "MCANJ Enacted Laws List," which is a list of recently enacted legislation of interest to Municipal Clerks. It should be noted that, consistent with the MCANJ's educational purpose, the MCANJ can take an active role in educating legislators and municipal officials on potential impacts of proposed legislation. However, the MCANJ may not lobby for or against any particular legislation as this would be inconsistent with the MCANJ's 501(c)(3) non-profit application (which is pending as of the date this article was written). Clerks' Associations on the County level, municipalities, and individuals may not have similar restrictions, and therefore may be permitted to advocate for or against proposed legislation. Other than the recently enacted omnibus property tax reform bills, which we all need to understand, the following are some pieces of legislation that may be of interest:

Recently Enacted

A3787 - Establishes civil unions - Whether or not you act as Registrar, become familiar with this law. Consider adopting an ordinance establishing a fee for marriage and civil union ceremonies (League of Municipalities has distributed sample language).

S638 - Prohibits bids for local public contracts from falling on Mondays or days after holidays.

S695 - Raises maximum dog license fee to \$21 - For those municipalities which are not covering their costs with current fees, you can now increase the fees.

Pending Legislation

A913 - Established additional bases for disqualification of bidders under Local Public Contracts Law.

A2004 - Decreases maximum copying fees to \$.10 per page for letter size.

A2974 - Revises "Notaries Public Act of 1979."

A3899 - Requires minutes to be released within 30 days of a meeting.

A3959 - Expands polling place hours by one hour in the evening.

A4010/S2193 - Changes presidential primary from last Tuesday in February to first Tuesday after first Monday in February.

A4035 - Permits voter registration up to 29 days before an election and reduces polling place hours by one hour in the morning.

PEOPLE PAGE, continued: COUNTY NEWS

by Sharon Brienza



SUSSEX COUNTY

The Sussex County Clerks Municipal Clerks Association announced their new officers for the years 2007 and 2008. The officials were sworn into office by Sussex County Clerk Erma Gormley on Monday, January 8, 2007.

Pictured left to right: President Lorraine Stark/Hopatcong Borough Clerk, Vice President Eileen Klose/Hampton Township Clerk, Secretary Anna Rose Fedish/Lafayette Township Clerk, Treasurer Patricia Leasure/Franklin Borough Clerk and Sussex County Clerk Erma Gormley.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

The Cumberland County Municipal Clerks' Association elected a new slate of officers at their recent reorganization holiday luncheon meeting conducted at Ye Olde Centerton Inn. Susan Robostello (Millville Deputy Municipal Clerk) was elected President; Roy Spoltore (Upper Deerfield Township) Vice President; Karen Seifrit (Deerfield Township) Secretary and J. Roy Oliver (Maurice River Township) Treasurer. The Association also recognized the service of Keith Petrosky (Vineland) and Lewis Thompson (Millville) for their leadership to the association.

OCEAN COUNTY

The newly elected officers of the Ocean County Municipal Clerks' Association this year are: Bette Mastropasqua (Beachwood), President; Bonnie Leonetti (Long Beach Township) Vice President; Linda Wilkie (Long Beach Township), Secretary; Dana Dale (Harvey Cedars Borough), Treasurer.

SOMERSET COUNTY

Several children in Somerset County had much happier holidays with the generosity of the members of the Somerset County Municipal Clerk Association. They held their Annual Toy Drive during their Holiday Luncheon where several large bags of toys were donated to the Marines *Toys for Tots* program. Guests at the luncheon also included retired Somerset County Municipal Clerks: Ray Whitlock (Borough of Rocky Hill), Jo Ann Stransky (Montgomery), Dee Lortie (Warren Township), and former MCANJ Clerk of the year Jean Pellicane (Franklin Township). All retire-



PASSAIC COUNTY

During the 2006 Holiday Parade of Lights in Paterson that's our Jane Williams riding on the float!

PEOPLE PAGE, continued

by Sharon Brienza

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

The Middlesex County Municipal Clerks Association held their "After" Holiday Party on Friday, January 19 at the Historic Cranbury Inn. The owner gave a brief overview of the history of the Inn which consists of two 1700's stagecoach taverns built together in 1800 by the innkeeper's house with a 1930 main dining room addition and a timber frame banquet hall recently completed. John Mitch, Woodbridge, was a wonderful master of ceremonies and Party Hardy DJs provided the entertainment. Many of the Middlesex County Clerks in attendance brought their office staff and there were several out of County Municipal Clerks attending as guests. Gifts were abundant...the Middlesex County Clerks were able to choose a gift from a wide variety of choices including 13" TV sets and mini stereo systems. Everyone who brought a gift received a gift in return and to make all the guests feel special, they received a gift as well! After a wonderful dinner, there was dancing and lots of fun!



At Left, John Mitch and Elaine Jasko getting ready to distribute gifts.
Pictured Below: Every one having fund doing the Cha Cha Slide!



BURLINGTON COUNTY

The Burlington County Clerks' Association had the wonderful opportunity of making a few Christmas Holidays brighter for some youngsters this past holiday season. Through the Association's efforts, contributions were made to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Burlington County, Wordsworth Academy, Boys Home/School in PA and a Pemberton Township Family.

"The Burlington County Clerks' Associations' blessing upon those in need will never be forgotten by many."

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

We have learned that Dennis, the son of Municipal Clerk Penny Maida-Smith (Lincoln Park) was deployed to Iraq on November 12. As a Lt. in the US Navy, he will be there for a minimum of 1 year. Dennis has a wife and two daughters. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers so he (and all others) will come home safe and as soon as possible.

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to Pat (Plainsboro) and Gerry Hullfish on the recent loss of Pat's sister and brother. Condolences also go out to Kathy Wisniewski (Springfield) on the sudden loss of her brother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

IN MEMORY

We received word that Anna O. Hankins, retired (1985) Municipal Clerk from Lavallette passed away on December 22, 2006. Joe Bennett, Retired Municipal Clerk and past instructor (as well as former Quill Editor), informed us that during certain months of the year, she and her husband lived on an island adjacent to Lavallette which required her to take their boat to get to work and to attend the Municipal Clerks' classes. On behalf of the entire MCANJ family, our deepest condolences go out to her family.

PEOPLE PAGE, continued

by Sharon Brienza

CLERK BECOMES MAYOR: Ocean County – Brick Twp.

When Brick Business Administrator Scott Pezarras presented Mayor Joseph Scarpelli's letter of resignation at the December 6th meeting, he had a surprise in store for Clerk Virginia Lampman. That same evening he presented a second letter to the Governing Body naming her the acting Mayor. Ginny now has a new schedule and things are changed. She now signs ordinances conducts ceremonial events, and sits in the Mayor's seat at meetings. Ginny will serve until a replacement is named. In taking on the Mayor's duties deputy clerk Lynette Iannarone will be taking on more work in the Clerk's office. We wish Madam Mayor Lampman good luck, and we hope she's back in her role of Clerk quicker than you can say "Call to Order".

TRANSITIONS

We all wish Elaine Kennedy the best of luck in her new position as Municipal Clerk/Administrator in Eagleswood Township, Ocean County. The Burlington County Clerks wish Elaine the best of luck and will miss her! The Ocean County Municipal Clerks Association welcomes her to their lovely area of the State!

Best of luck also goes to Dawn Human who is now the Municipal Clerk/Administrator for the Borough of Pitman, Gloucester County.

Congratulations to Susan Nelson, Borough of Harrington Park, Bergen County, who was appointed Municipal Clerk on January 2, 2007, after serving four years as Deputy.

Talk about a transition....Judith B. Beecher retired as Municipal Clerk from Florham Park, Morris County, but was so loved by her residents, they wrote her in as a candidate during the June, 2006 Primary and she subsequently was elected to the Borough Council in November! As Judy says, "So much for retirement!" Good luck, Judy!!

Congratulations to some of our more recently retired Municipal Clerks: Bernadette McPhee, Delran Township, Burlington

County;
William
(Barney)
Wahl,
Adminis-
trator/
Municipal
Clerk of
High
Bridge,
Hunterdon
County;
and An-
thony
Conti,
City of
Trenton,
Mercer
County.
We wish
you the
best of
luck and
much hap-
piness in
all your
future
endeavors!

RETIREMENT

On Thursday, January 25, 2007, 150 people gathered at The Assembly East Hill (Closter, NJ) to celebrate Joe Favaro's (Englewood Cliffs, Bergen County) retirement. Joe was appointed Municipal Clerk in 1981 after serving on the governing body for 12 years. Joe has been an active member of the State Association chairing conferences, serving on several committees and leading the Association as its President in 1996. In 1997, he was the recipient of the prestigious Municipal Clerk of the Year Award in recognition of his achievements as Municipal Clerk. Joe always made new members feel welcome at conferences and knew no strangers at IIMC conferences. He was always there to listen and share his knowledge if someone needed guidance or support. Hopefully Joe will continue to share his wonderful smile and laughter as a "retiree" at the MCANJ and IIMC conferences because they will not be the same without him! Joe, we wish you and Yvonne all the best wherever your dreams may take you and from what we understand, they will be taking you on several trips. We will miss you!!



MCANJ 2nd VP Heather Mailander presenting Joe Favaro with the MCANJ Gold Card.

Polling Place Hours: Human Factor Considerations

Thomas A. Segreto, Esq., MCANJ legal counsel

Elections! Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133(e)(3), Municipal Clerks “serve as the chief administrative officer in all elections held in the municipality, subject to the requirements of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes”, but there is only one Municipal Clerk and aside from Jersey City, municipalities can only appoint one deputy clerk. Presently, N.J.S.A. 19:15-2 provides for district boards opening the polls for election at 6:00 A.M. and closing them at 8:00 P.M., and for a school election the polls are open between the hours of 5:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. and during any additional time which the school board may designate between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M.

Our legislature tends to reach between extremes and articulates policy decisions which are seemingly at odds. On the one hand efforts are constantly made towards absentee liberality and even voting by mail exclusively. On the other hand the legislature extended polling hours in the recent past and, presently, there is pending proposed legislation to extend the hours further. One can rationalize the policies by indicating that the legislature is providing maximum opportunity to vote, but any municipal clerk will tell you that the vote does not end at the polls. It ends when the votes are tallied and certified. Extending the hours during which polls remain open, thus requiring the municipal clerk as the chief administrative officer of the elections to be present during the course of the election, has the potentiality of fostering fatigue and inefficiency of performance in the oversight process. In this day and age when the interest of furthering the right to vote trumps the responsibilities attendant to that right, prolonging the process may additionally have the unintentional effect of allowing more room to abuse the right and enable fraud in the voting process. The empirical support for such a contention is not extensive, but deductive reasoning and an understanding of basic human physiology would seem to provide a firm foundation in logic supporting this theory. In a study by Jeffrey V. Johnson, PhD and Jane Lipscomb, PhD, RN, FAAN, published in an article entitled “Long working hours, occupational health and the changing nature of work organization” in the September 2006 issue of the American Journal of Industrial Medicine, it was found that:

“Research indicates that long working hours are polarizing along class lines with professionals working regular though longer hours and less well-educated workers having fewer though more irregular hours. Extended and irregular hours are associated with acute reactions such as stress and fatigue, adverse health behavior such as smoking, and chronic outcomes such as cardiovascular and musculoskeletal disorders.”

One might think that if the legislature wanted to ensure extended polling hours to further the right to vote, they would have carved out a two hour window of rest for the municipal clerk and the polling workers. As challengers become more prevalent in the voting experience, a well rested poll worker and alert municipal clerk are going to become more essential to the process. Imagine if the legislature adopted the European work day philosophy for elections. In Europe, the commercial stores close for hours at midday and then they open until the evening. It may very well be cost effective and ultimately in the voter’s interests for the legislature to establish a commission to examine what hours of the election day are most quiet and establish a two part election day, a morning session and an afternoon/evening session with a two hour window to allow poll workers and the municipal clerk to relax or rest. It would also allow for systematic problems to be resolved with as little interference with the voters during the election process.

**Elected legislators
should open dialog
with those affected
by changes ...
Elections don’t run
themselves.**

With regard to the question of whether it is legal to require the municipal clerk and related workers to work those extensive hours, it should be pointed out that the municipal clerk is either an executive, administrative or professional officer within the meaning of the implementing rules of N.J.S.A. 34:11-56a et seq., the New Jersey State Wage and Hour Act, or 29 U.S.C. 8-201 et seq., the Fair Labor Standards Act. Nonetheless, the workers who work with the municipal clerk are not executives and hence, the law may necessarily mean that there may need to be spread out across multiple shifts to cover the work during the day.

With regard to pending legislative bills pertaining to polling hours, on February 8, 2007, **A3959** was introduced into the legislature by Assemblywoman Jennifer Beck. A3959 extends polling hours from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The bill was referred to the Assembly State Government Committee upon introduction. On the other hand, **A3533** introduced on October 23, 2006 by Assemblyman Bill Baroni reduces polling hours from starting at 6:00 am to 7:00 am and expands by one hour, the window within which a poll worker is permitted to be absent from a polling location. In 2006, a pre-filed bill **A327** which reduced the polling hours from starting at 6:00 am to 7:00 am died in committee. The morale of the story is that elected legislators should open dialog with those affected by changes in time; that elections don’t run themselves. **A3533** seems to be the most sensitive proposition to the human factor so often forgotten. In the battle of whether to extend or reduce the polling place hours, it would be wise for our law makers to talk to the law implementers; otherwise the inevitable and avoidable problems will arise.

In the larger picture, prior to becoming law, any bill which implicates the role of a statutory officer should be discussed in an open dialog with those who are responsible for its administration. Until that higher logic is advanced, the laws will be enactments of the present day idealized theory as opposed to practical solutions to real problems.

SPOTLIGHT ON HUNTERDON COUNTY: 21 stories of our Garden State; 21 stories to say "We're Great!"

The land now embraced by the borders of Hunterdon County was originally associated with local Native American tribes. The tribes called themselves Lenni Lenape; the European colonists renamed them Delaware, after the river along which most of them lived. From 1704-1724, Dutch settlers began arriving by way of the Raritan and its tributaries. Settlers from Monmouth, Burlington and further south were largely of English, Scotch, or Scotch-Irish extraction. A new element in the settlement of Hunterdon made its appearance between 1715 and 1720, when German settlers found their way across the southern border. By the mid-eighteenth century, Germans accounted for a large segment of Hunterdon's population. Historical data establishes that present-day Hunterdon was a part of Burlington County prior to 1714. Hunterdon County was established on March 22, 1714. The boundaries of the original Hunterdon County included present day Sussex, Warren, and Morris Counties and a portion of Mercer County. The name of the new County, Hunterdon, honored Governor Robert Hunter.

Through the centuries, there have been numerous well-known historical events that took place within the borders of Hunterdon County. In 1935, Hunterdon County witnessed a dramatic murder trial which engaged worldwide attention in the century-old courtroom of Flemington. Here, Bruno R. Hauptman was tried for the crime of the fatal kidnapping of the son of Col. Charles Lindberg from his Sourland Mountain home. Hauptmann was found guilty and was electrocuted. Hundreds of reporters and photographers swarmed through the town and, needless to say, much unfair and unwanted publicity came to Hunterdon.

Recreation opportunities abound in Hunterdon County. There are 24 County Parks covering over 6,400 acres, with approximately 20 additional preserves, areas, trails and other properties owned by the County and open to the public for use. Also, there are 5 State owned parks & areas: D & R Canal State Park, Bull's Island Recreation Area; Round Valley Recreation Area; Spruce Run Recreation Area and Voorhees State Park. There are over 160 Permanently Preserved farms in Hunterdon County, totaling over 16,000 acres of land.

Paul Whiteman, famous bandleader dubbed the "King of Jazz," lived on a farm in Delaware Twp. from 1938-1959. Bing Crosby made his singing debut with the Whiteman Orchestra in 1926. Whiteman paid him \$150 a week.

The municipalities of Hunterdon County are: Alexandria Township, Bethlehem Township, Bloomsbury Borough, Califon Borough, Clinton Town, Clinton Township, Delaware Township, East Amwell Township, Flemington Borough, Franklin Township, Frenchtown Borough, Glen Gardner Borough, Hampton Borough, High Bridge Borough, Holland Township, Kingwood Township, Lambertville City, Lebanon Borough, Lebanon Township, Milford Borough, Raritan Township, Readington Township, Stockton Borough, Tewksbury Township, Union Township, and West Amwell Township.

All information in this article comes from the official Website of Hunterdon County,
<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us>

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DEADLINES FOR NEWS ITEMS

The deadline for the July issue is June 1, 2007. Please send People Page news to Sharon Brienza, Municipal Clerk, Branchburg Borough, 1077 US Highway 202 North, Branchburg, NJ 08876. Questions or comments regarding this or any issue of the *Quill* should be directed to the Editor, Jim Doherty, Township of Wantage, 888 Route 23, Wantage, NJ 07461 or by calling 973-875-7192 or via email to: administrator@wantagewp-nj.org. Articles for submission should be prepared in Microsoft Word, using Times New Roman 10-point font, and sent as an email attachment to administrator@wantagewp-nj.org by the deadline specified.

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