

MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Joan Moreland, 2009 President



I hope everyone enjoyed their summer! I can't believe it is over already, but now that it is, we have to get prepared for the upcoming League Conference and our Annual Meeting. All Chairs/Co-Chairs should be preparing an annual report for submittal to Sharon Brienza, Clerk of Branchburg Township. Sharon will compile the reports into a booklet which will be distributed at the Annual Meeting. Just remember that MCANJ is only as good as its committee chairs and members – this is your chance to advise all the members what your committee did this past year and possibly get someone new interested in participating on a committee. MCANJ has a lot to offer its members through our many conferences, education sessions, and mini conferences, and it is the Committee members who offer their hard work, dedication and participation to make it all a success. I thank each and every one of the Chair/Co/Chairs and committee members for your contributions!

The New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference is scheduled for November 17 – 20, 2009 at the Atlantic City Convention Center. MCANJ 1st Vice President Vincent Buttiglieri and I worked on the annual meeting program— see pages 4-5 in this issue. Vice President Vincent Buttiglieri has also worked with the Education Committee to line up sessions at the League Conference which will enable Clerks to receive timely information and CEUs. The program has been submitted to the League and sessions are listed on page 3 in this issue of *the Quill*.

The MCANJ Annual Breakfast Meeting will be held at the Royal Swan Ballroom at the Tropicana, on November 18, 2009, at 9:30 am sharp. A Buffet breakfast will be available from 8:00am – 9:30am. International Institute of Municipal Clerks President Mary Lynne Stratta, will be speaking during our Annual Meeting, and retirees Joseph Valenti and Helen Yeldell will be honored for their services to the 566 municipalities in New Jersey. Scholarships will be awarded, so be sure to bring a business card and drop it in the bowl upon entering the meeting! Tickets for the Annual Breakfast Meeting can be obtained by contacting your Advisory Board Member listed on page 2 of this issue). If you don't know who to purchase the tickets from, contact 2nd Vice President Joanne Kwasniewski, Clerk/Manager for Fair Lawn Borough.

Vincent Buttiglieri has been working hard on the **2010 MCANJ Conference to be held March 22-25, at the Taj Mahal Casino/Hotel in Atlantic City.** Keep an eye out for the Date to Remember postcard for further information.

The Taj Mahal Casino/Hotel will also be the site of the **2010 IIMC Region II Conference on January 13-15, 2010.** Keep your eyes open for the registration packet so you won't miss out on this great education opportunity.

I am pleased to announce that John Mitch, Clerk of Woodbridge, will be sworn in as the newest member of the Executive Board. See page 11 of this issue to learn more about John. We all welcome John and are pleased he will be joining us.

I was contacted by Bill Dressel, Executive Director of the New Jersey League of Municipalities, regarding E-Courses the League is considering. He was asking for 2 volunteers to be part of a committee to ensure that courses with CEUs will be scheduled for all affiliate groups. MCANJ 2nd Vice President Kwasniewski and Immediate Past President Heather Mailander have volunteered to be on the committee. Information will be on our website as soon as it becomes available.

I am very disappointed in the poor attendance at the last Advisory Board Meeting. This meeting is one that gives information to the Advisory Board members who in turn take it back to their Counties. My concern is that Clerks in some counties are not getting timely information. If you are an Advisory Board Member and cannot attend the meetings, please contact your Alternate and get them to come. Your Clerks need to be represented, and the only way that will happen is by you attending the meetings and taking information back to your counties.

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 Hatten, 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 2009

President: Joan Moreland, Haddon Heights Borough
E-mail: Jmoreland@haddonheightsboro.org
First Vice President: Vincent Buttiglieri, Ocean Township
E-mail: vbuttiglieri@oceantwp.org
Second Vice President: Joanne M. Kwasniewski, Fair Lawn Borough
E-mail: munclerk@fairlawn.org
Treasurer: Drew Pavlica, Garfield City
E-mail: garfieldclerk@optonline.net
Secretary: Nancy L. Saffos, Cherry Hill Township
E-mail: NSaffos@chtownship.com
Immediate Past President: Heather A. Mailander, Ridgewood Village
E-mail: hmailander@ridgewoodnj.net
Administrative Consultant: L. Manuel Hirshblond
Legal Counsel: Richard A. Lustgarten

PAST PRESIDENTS * EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

1974*Joseph V. Valenti	1997*Elizabeth H. Kiss
1975*Alfred A. Reda	1998*Lynn Stanzlaus
1977*Otto M. Bock	1999*Bernadette Dubuss
1981*L. Manuel Hirshblond	2000*Nancy Hatten
1985*Elizabeth G. Nolan	2001*Sharon L. Brienza
1987*Lewis N. Thompson	2002*Bernadette Standowski
1988*Elaine Wallace	2003*Allan Susen
1992*Barbara A. Camp	2004*Joel Popkin
1993*John J. Galvin	2005*Jane Williams-Warren
1994*Kathleen A. Thorpe	2006*Elaine B. Kennedy
1995*Christina N. Wilder	2007*Barbara M. Hawk
1996*Joseph C. Favaro	2008*Heather Mailander

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Atlantic:	Gail Macera, Folsom Borough
Bergen:	Nancy Hatten, Tenafly Borough
Burlington:	Patricia L. Hunt, Moorestown Township
Camden:	Deanna Speck, Haddonfield Borough
Cape May:	Wanda Gaglione, Upper Township
Cumberland:	Susan G. Robostello, Millville City
Essex:	Linda Wanat, Montclair Township
Gloucester:	Pat Frontino, Glassboro Borough
Hudson:	Robert Byrne, Jersey City
Hunterdon:	Cecilia Covino, Town of Clinton
Mercer:	Sharon Young, West Windsor Township
Middlesex:	John Mitch, Woodbridge Township
Monmouth:	Barbara L. Bascom, Upper Freehold Township
Morris:	Sheila Seifert, Rockaway Township
Ocean:	Bette Mastropasqua, Beachwood Borough
Passaic:	Jane Williams-Warren, Paterson City
Salem:	Maureen Abdill, Pilesgrove Township
Somerset:	Ann Marie McCarthy, Franklin Township
Sussex:	Lorraine Stark, Hopatcong Borough
Union:	Kathleen Wisniewski, Springfield Township
Warren:	Teresa DeMont, Belvidere Town

TIMELESS ADVICE

As we prepare for another League of Municipalities Convention, the following article may lend a sense of perspective:

“PENNY WISE AND POUND FOOLISH

We read a lot these days of taxpayer group criticism of what they term ‘junkets’ by municipal officials, and one of their targets is attendance at the Annual Conference of the League of Municipalities and affiliated associations at Atlantic City. If some of these loud voiced critics would take the time and trouble to attend these conferences and see for themselves that mighty few of the thousands of municipal officials in attendance do any ‘junketing’ they might realize that their officials take their responsibilities seriously and are earnestly trying to learn how to serve their municipalities more effectively. Unfortunately some governing bodies take this criticism too seriously and think they can save some tax money by not attending the annual conference. This is a ‘penny wise and pound foolish’ concept of economy, for just a few of the ideas gained more than pay for the comparatively slight expenditure of municipal funds. Of course this is assuming the officials do not go overboard in their expense accounts and expect to recoup their entertainment expenses out of the public treasury. Many times the information gained from discussing mutual problems of administration with fellow officials results in an ultimate saving of municipal funds by learning better ways of handling the endless strains on the municipal economy. There is no better way to learn how to cope with these problems than by talking them over with other officials who have had to find the most economical solution. The Annual League Conference is the best place to find these answers. Every governing body expects its engineer, attorney, and other professional consultants to keep up to the minute in their fields through their professional associations and there is no good reason why they should not apply the same reasoning to their own community responsibility. In these days of skyrocketing budgets no municipal official can afford to neglect any opportunity to learn from the other fellow’s experience. This applies not only to members of the governing bodies, but to all the ‘key’ officials as well. League Conference programs offer so much to the conscientious public official attendance at all sessions should be a required part of his job.”

The Above Article was originally published in *the Quill* by J. Ford Flagg, the former Borough Clerk of Highland Park and Founding Editor of *the Quill*, in the Issue of June 1959.

FIFTY YEARS LATER, FORD’S MESSAGE HOLDS TRUE.

Jim Doherty
Quill Editor 2009

New Jersey League of Municipalities Program of Activities For Clerks. All Room Numbers Shown are Located in the Atlantic City Convention Center; Please check the League Program at the Conference for updated room assignments.

Tuesday, November 17, 2009:

- 10:00 am –Noon Joint Session With Government Finance Officers Association, Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association, Association of Municipal Assessors and MCANJ: Legislative Update – Room 402 2 Contact Hours for RMC – Professional Development; CMFO/CCFO - Office Management/Ancillary Duties; CTC - Legislation; CPA/RMA - Business Law; CTA - Property Administration
Presiding: Nancy Nichols, President TCTANJ and William Homa, President GFOANJ
Speakers: Susan Jacobucci, Director-DLGS; Jon Moran – NJSLOM Senior Legislative Analyst; Jacqueline Do-TCTANJ Legislative Chairperson; Keith A. Bonchi-TCANJ Legal Counsel; Sharon Brienza, RMC/MMC-Municipal Clerk Branchburg Twp & Past President MCANJ; David Smith-AMANJ & TCTANJ Legislative Agent
- 2:00 -3:40 pm Budget & Audit Updates – Understanding the Process – Room 302 2 Contact Hours for RMC – Finance
- 2:00 -3:40 pm Licensing Medley – Room 417 1.5 Contact Hours for RMC – Licensing
- 3:45 -5:15 pm Division of Pensions and Benefits Update on Retirement Planning and Employee Benefits and Services
– Room 303 1.0 Contact Hour for RMC – Finance and 0.5 Contact Hour - Professional Development
- 3:45 -5:15 pm League Session: What Elected Officials Need to Know About Technology in Conjunction with GMIS-NJ
– Room 404 1.5 Contact Hour for RMC – Information Technology
- 3:45 -5:15 pm League Workshop: Municipalities Can Help Curb Taxi and Limousine Fraud
– Room 305/306 1.5 Contact Hour for RMC – Licensing

Wednesday November 18, 2009:

- 8:00 am MCANJ Annual Meeting – Royal Swan Ballroom – Tropicana Hotel
- 9:00 -10:40 am League Session: Basic Forensic Techniques for Detecting Internal and External Fraud in a Municipal Environment
– Room TBD 2 Contact Hours for RMC – Finance
- 9:00 -10:40 am League Session: Helping Your Constituents Stay In Their Homes – Room TBD 1.5 Contact Hours for RMC – Records
- 9:00 -10:40 am League Session: Email Retention & Document Management Policies, Problems & Solutions (in Conjunction with GMIS-NJ) – Room 415 1.5 Contact Hours for RMC – Information Technology
- 10:45 am –Noon League Session: Show Me the Money – Locating Grant Funding to Meet Your Municipality’s Needs
– Room 421 1.5 Contact Hours for RMC – Finance
- 10:45 am –Noon League Session: Local Governments and the Non-Profit Sector – Separate Worlds or Effective Partners?
– Room 412 1.5 Contact Hours for RMC – Ethics
- 2:00 -3:40 pm League Joint Session with the New Jersey Municipal Management Association: Performance Measurement Benchmarking – Do They Work? – Room 408/409 2.0 Contact Hours for RMC - Ethics
- 2:00 -3:40 pm League Tandem Session: Local Unit Alignment Reorganization and Consolidation Commission Progress (LUARCC) – Part 1 – Room 411 2.0 Contact Hours for RMC – Professional Development
- 2:00 -3:40 pm League Session: The Deal Clincher – Developing an Economic Development Strategy
- Room 419 2.0 Contact Hours for RMC - Finance
- 2:00 -3:40 pm League Session: Census 2010 – The Count, The Whole Count and Nothing but the Count
– Room 418 2.0 Contact Hours for RMC – Professional Development
- 3:45 -5:15 pm 2009 Election Issues – Room 301 1.5 Contact Hours for RMC – Elections
- 3:45 -5:15 pm Creating Opportunity through Economic Growth – A Meeting of the Urban Enterprise Zone Mayors’ Commission
– Room 309 1.5 Contact Hours for RMC – Professional Development
- 3:45 -5:15 pm League Session: Making Citi-Stat/311 Call Center a Reality
– Room TBA 1.5 Contact Hours for RMC – Professional Development
- 3:45 -5:15 pm League Tandem Session: An Examination of Consolidation Stories, Learning From the Experiences of Others - Part II
– Room TBA 2.0 Contact Hours for RMC – Professional Development
- 3:45 -5:15 pm League Joint Session with New Jersey Municipal Management Association: Budget in 2010 – Learning from the 2009 Experience
– What Works from the Short Term and the Long Term Perspective
– Room TBA 1.5 Contact Hours for RMC – Professional Development
- 3:45 -5:15 pm League Session: Controlling Liability Claims – Room 303 1.5 Contact Hours for RMC – Finance

Thursday, November 19, 2009

- 9:00 -10:40 am League Session: Negotiations and Interest Arbitration in These Tough Economic Times
– Room TBA 1.5 Contract Hours – Professional Development
- 9:00 -10:40 am League Joint Tandem Session with New Jersey Planning Officials: COAH Update – Part I
– Room 404 1.5 Contract Hours – Professional Development
- 9:00 -10:40 am League Joint Session with Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association, Government Finance Officers Association & Governmental Purchasing Association: State and Cooperative Purchasing Program – Where Are We Today? Where Will We Be Tomorrow?
– Room 412 1.5 Contract Hours for RMC – Finance
- 10:45 am - Noon League Joint Tandem Session with New Jersey Planning Officials: COAH Update – A Response Panel – Part II
– Room 404 1.5 Contract Hours for RMC – Professional Development
- 10:45 am - Noon League Joint Session with MCANJ: The Open Public Records Act (OPRA) in 2009
– Room 303 1.5 Contract Hours for RMC – Records
- 10:45 am - Noon League Joint Session with MCANJ and Governmental Purchasing Association: What’s New in Pay to Play, Procurement; Ethics and Updates - Room 302 1.5 Contract Hours for RMC Ethics
- 10:45 am –Noon League Session: Health Insurance Issues – Are You Getting the Biggest Bang for Your Buck?
– Room 403 1.0 Contract Hours for RMC – Finance and 0.5 Contract Hour – Professional Development
- 10:45 am –Noon League Joint Session with the Association of Municipal Assessors and the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys: Tax Appeals in a Real Estate Recession – Strategies for Defending the Tax Base without Wiping Out Your Budget
– Room TBD 1.5 Contract Hours for RMC – Finance

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND BREAKFAST OF THE
MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009
8:00 a.m. - Tropicana - Royal Swan Ballroom**

BUFFET BREAKFAST 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Call to Order and Welcome:

JOAN D. MORELAND, President MCANJ; Municipal Clerk, Haddon Heights Borough

Roll Call of Officers: NANCY SAFFOS, Secretary, Municipal Clerk, Cherry Hill Township

Invocation: DAVID C. MELDRUM, Pastor of Laurel Springs Baptist Church

Flag Salute: L. MANUEL HIRSHBLOND, MCANJ Administrative Consultant

Approval of Minutes - Annual Meeting of November 18, 2008

Reports:

Treasurer: ANDREW J. PAVLICA, Municipal Clerk, Garfield City

Legal Update: RICHARD LUSTGARTEN, Esq., MCANJ Legal Counsel, Goodman & Lustgarten

Introduction of Candidate for 2010 Secretary – Nancy Saffos, 2009 Secretary, will introduce John M. Mitch, Woodbridge Twp.

Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Amendments

Recognition of 2009 Committee Chairs: JOAN D. MORELAND, President, MCANJ; Municipal Clerk, Haddon Heights Borough

Constitution and Bylaws: DAVID HUGHES, Municipal Clerk, Summit City

Education: JANE WILLIAMS-WARREN, Municipal Clerk, Paterson City

Education Conference: JOEL POPKIN, Co-Chair, Municipal Clerk, Neptune City Borough and ELAINE B. KENNEDY, Co-Chair, Municipal Clerk, Eagleswood Township

Elections: JANE WILLIAMS-WARREN, Co-Chair, Municipal Clerk, Paterson City and BARBARA BASCOM, Municipal Clerk, Upper Freehold Twp.

Finance: ANDREW J. PAVLICA, Municipal Clerk, Garfield City

Fundraising: KATHLEEN WISNIEWSKI, Co-Chair, Municipal Clerk, Springfield Township (Union) and ROSE MARIE SARACINO, Co-Chair, Old Bridge Twp.

Information Technology/Web Page: ELIZABETH MASTROPASQUA, Municipal Clerk, Beachwood Borough

Laws Affecting Municipal Clerks: MICHELE AULETTA, Chair, Municipal Clerk, Robbinsville Twp.

Legal Defense Fund: SHARON BRIENZA, Municipal Clerk, Branchburg Township

Legislative: ELAINE B. KENNEDY, Co-Chair, Municipal Clerk, Eagleswood Township and LEWIS THOMPSON, Co-Chair, Municipal Clerk, Millville City

Manual Review: JOEL POPKIN, Exec. Bd. Coordinator, LORI BUCKELEW, Editor, Municipal Clerk, Lambertville City

Membership North: SALLY BLEEKER, Chair, Franklin Lakes Borough

Membership Central: LORRAINE CARAFA, Chair, Municipal Clerk, Loch Arbour Village

Membership South: BONNIE LEONETTI, Chair, Municipal Clerk, Long Beach Township

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**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND BREAKFAST OF THE
MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009, 8:00 am - Tropicana - Royal Swan Ballroom
(Agenda continued from Page 4)**

REPORTS, Continued

Mini Conference North: LAURA GRAHAM, Municipal Clerk, Ordell Borough, and DIANE PFLUGFELDER, Municipal Clerk, Bethlehem Township

Mini Conference Central: SHARON YOUNG, Municipal Clerk, West Windsor Township and PATRICIA HUNT, Municipal Clerk, Moorestown Township

Mini Conference South: DEBORA PINE, Municipal Clerk, Elk Twp. and PATRICIA A. FRONTINO, Municipal Clerk, Glassboro Borough

Past Presidents' Council: BARBARA M. HAWK, Chair Municipal Clerk, Laurel Springs Borough

Peer Alliance for Learning North: CECILIA COVINO, Municipal Clerk, Clinton Township

Peer Alliance for Learning Central: KATHLEEN CUNNINGHAM, Municipal Clerk, Cranbury Twp and LORENE WRIGHT, Municipal Clerk, Allentown Borough

Peer Alliance for Learning South: LA SHAWN R. BARBER, Municipal Clerk, Tabernacle Twp. and CYNTHIA DALESSIO, Municipal Clerk, Woodstown Borough

Public Relations–MCANJ Booth: BARBARA RAE, Co-Chair, Municipal Clerk, Edgewater Borough and CECILIA COVINO, Co-Chair, Municipal Clerk, Clinton Town

Quill: JAMES DOHERTY, Editor, Municipal Clerk, Wantage Township

Records: JOHN M. MITCH, Chair, Municipal Clerk, Woodbridge Township

Resolutions: KAREN HUGHES, Co-Chair, Municipal Clerk, Westwood Borough and KATHLEEN NORCIA, Co-Chair, Municipal Clerk, Lawrence Twp.

Scholarship: BONNIE LEONETTI, Municipal Clerk, Long Beach Township

Announcement of Scholarship Winners: BONNIE LEONETTI, Municipal Clerk, Long Beach Township

Tribute to Retired Members: KAREN HUGHES, Municipal Clerk, Westwood Borough

Tribute to Deceased Members: KATHLEEN NORCIA, Municipal Clerk, Lawrence Township

Introduction of Speaker: MARY LYNNE STRATTA, IIMC PRESIDENT

State of the Association Address: JOAN D. MORELAND, 2009 President, MCANJ

Recognition of 2009 CMC and MMC Awards: JANE WILLIAMS-WARREN, IIMC Region II Director; Municipal Clerk, Paterson City

Recognition of Instructors of Municipal Clerks Courses: PAMELA MORLEY-CHAPPELLE, Associate Program Specialist, Rutgers University

Announcement of 2009 Registered Municipal Clerks Certification Recipients: JANE WILLIAMS-WARREN, Education Chair; Municipal Clerk, Paterson City

***(Reminder: RMC/CMC/MMC Recipients should remain after the meeting for pictures and pins)**

Presentation of the 2009 Municipal Clerk of the Year Award:

JANE WILLIAMS-WARREN – “2008 Municipal Clerk of the Year”, Municipal Clerk, Paterson City

2010 Slate of Officers: NANCY SAFFOS, 2009 MCANJ Secretary, Municipal Clerk, Cherry Hill Township

Motion to Cast Ballot for Slate of Officers:

President	VINCENT BUTTIGLIERI, Ocean Township
1st Vice President	JOANNE M. KWASNIEWSKI, Fair Lawn Borough
2nd Vice President	ANDREW J. PAVLICA, Garfield City
Treasurer	NANCY SAFFOS, Cherry Hill Township
Secretary	JOHN M. MITCH, Woodbridge Township
Immediate Past President	JOAN D. MORELAND, Haddon Heights Borough

Administration of Oath to Officers: HONORABLE PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR., Assemblyman, 18th Legislative District

Introduction of President's Guests: JOAN D. MORELAND President, MCANJ; Municipal Clerk, Haddon Heights Borough

Acknowledgements to President Joan D. Moreland: VINCENT BUTTIGLIERI, President-Elect, MCANJ; Municipal Clerk, Ocean Township

Remarks by President-Elect Vincent Buttiglieri: President-Elect, MCANJ; Municipal Clerk, Ocean Township

Introduction of President-Elect's Guests: VINCENT BUTTIGLIERI, President-Elect, MCANJ; Municipal Clerk, Ocean Township

Acknowledgements to President-Elect Vincent Buttiglieri: JOAN D. MORELAND, President, MCANJ; Municipal Clerk, Haddon Heights Borough

Adjournment

PEOPLE PAGE *by Sharon Brienza*

NEWS FROM:

Hightstown Borough – After 14 years as Borough Clerk and 6 years as Clerk/Administrator, Candice Gallagher is putting on her spurs and heading to Jerome, Arizona. She and her husband had already planned on moving there after her retirement. However, during the purchasing process for their new home, the position of Clerk/Manager opened in Jerome. As Candace reported, “one thing led to another ... it was fate, I think ... and I'm moving there in September and will begin working for the town on October 4. My last day with the Borough of Hightstown will be September 18 and I may be on the road the next day! Thanks to all of you ... those I know and those I don't ... for your professionalism and support over the years. NJ Clerks rock!” Candace – we all wish you and your husband the best of luck and much happiness in your new home and on your new job!

CONGRATULATIONS: RETIREES

Editor's note: Even though the retirements of Jean Mele and Rich Moran occurred last year, the information was just received for the Quill.

Jean Mele, Borough Clerk for the Borough of Hawthorne (Passaic County) retired on October 1, 2008 after 18 years. Jean was Deputy for six years before being appointed as Borough Clerk.

Richard Moran, City Clerk for the City of Clifton (Passaic County) retired on April 1, 2008. A life long resident of Clifton, Dick served the city since 1990.

Marilyn Schaefer, Borough Clerk of Madison (Morris County) retired effective July 15, 2009.

Somerset County Freeholder Clerk Barbara Lucas who will be retiring as of December 31, 2009 after 31 years in County Government, 15 years as Freeholder Clerk. The legacy she will leave is the importance of being pleasant and polite to the public, fellow county workers and elected officials. She will now have more time to play tennis, improve her golf game, travel and spend more time with her family.

WEDDING BELLS

Deanna Speck (Haddonfield), can now be called Deanna Bennett. She was married in 2008, but just officially changed her name!

Heidi Brunt, formerly Heidi Abs from Middletown Township was also recently married.

Marilyn Gorgia, Deputy Borough Clerk of the Borough of New Providence (Union County) was engaged in March and is planning a 2010 summer wedding.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!

GET WELL WISHES

Hopefully, by this writing, MCANJ President Joan Moreland, MCANJ Secretary Nancy Saffos and Township Clerk Sharon Young (West Windsor) are all up and around after their surgeries.

TRANSITIONS

Congratulations to Allan Susen (Haledon Borough, Passaic) who was recently appointed Administrator along with his title of Municipal Clerk. Allan is also very involved with the Municipal Clerks Association and the IIMC, so we know that Allan will be putting his multitasking skills to good use in his new role!

CONDOLENCES

Vicki McDonald (retired, Hillsborough Township, Somerset County) passed away on June 10 after a long bout with cancer. After retirement, Vicki and her husband Tom moved to Florida where Vicki was retired for approximately 30 seconds when she landed a job as Municipal Clerk in a small town; shortly after that she became the Municipal Clerk of New Port Richey where she remained for almost nine years before she had to retire due to health reasons. She became involved in the Pinellas County Clerks' Association serving as President. Vicki was one of the biggest champions for Municipal Clerks and always promoted the profession when anyone would listen! (People Page Editor's Note: Vicki was my friend and mentor; we stayed in touch after she left NJ and were able to catch up at the annual IIMC conferences. We last chatted via e-mail in January and she never let on how ill she was. At her funeral, her RMC, MMC plaques and other Municipal Clerks items were proudly displayed.)

Condolences to Robert Byrne (Jersey City, Hudson County) on the passing of two brothers within three months.

Retired City of Rahway Clerk, (Union County) Francis "Bud" Senkowsky passed away on Sunday, August 16, 2009 in Florida. Condolences can be sent to his wife Frances Senkowsky; 86 Wood Haven Drive; Palm Coast, Florida 32164.

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

This is a story out of Otisfield, Maine which is a town 35 miles outside of Portland. They do not have a post office, but have one mail box in front of City Hall that the Postal Service wanted to remove. When a postal worker showed up to remove the box, Town Clerk Sharon Matthews and Administrative Assistant Marianne Izzo-Morin blocked his way and prevented him from taking the box. The Postal Service decided to leave the box “pending further review”, and then on August 15, decided to keep the Town's mailbox. In their statement the USPS said it has “reversed its' earlier decision.” Just goes to show you, Municipal Clerks will do anything that needs to be done!

NEW MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK

Chris Shalby, Executive Director of the IIMC, has announced that Heather Mailander, Municipal Clerk for the Village of Ridgewood, has earned the prestigious Master Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in the month of July 2009. Way to Go Heather—Congratulations!!!

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

The last few months have been very busy not only for the Legal Defense Fund Committee, but the Executive Board as well. There are currently three active cases we are working with – two involve Municipal Clerks *WITH TENURE!* One has been suspended *WITHOUT PAY*, pending a hearing before DCA which could take 6-8 weeks! One was suspended, with pay, after 40 YEARS, also pending a hearing! The other keeps receiving “Rice Notices” and an “Acting Clerk” is appointed to take the minutes during the Executive Session where the Municipal Clerk is excused. Both cases involving the suspended Municipal Clerks need to be watched carefully. They have both hired lawyers so we are hopeful they will be able to expedite the hearing or at least get a “stay” in order to allow them to remain in their jobs. The case with the Municipal Clerk who keeps getting Rice Noticed was due to some personnel issues in her office. She also has representation and has requested the next meeting to be held in public. (Unfortunately, due to the deadline of this article, I do not have an update.) All three were members of the Legal Defense Fund. Just imagine if one, or all, of them were not members.

Always remember, this can happen to anyone of us and no one knows when it could happen – even after 40 YEARS!!

Sharon L. Brienza, RMC/MMC
Township of Branchburg
Chair, Legal Defense Fund

MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

AS OF 8/04/09

of Members Paid

Municipal Clerks	497
Acting Clerks	15
Deputy Clerks	257
Assistant Clerks	15
County Clerks	8
Deputy County Clerks	2
Clerk to Freeholder Board	4
Affiliates	24
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	822
91% of towns paid	
Mercer and Salem Counties have achieved 100%	

Andrew J. Pavlica, RMC/CMC/MMC,
MCANJ Treasurer

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CITY CLERK - SALEM, NJ, Salem County (pop. 5,876): Seeking detail-oriented RMC with excellent administrative and computer skills that can interact well with a wide variety of individuals. CMR certification a plus. Combined position of Clerk/Administrator will be considered. Residency details supplied upon request. Send resume with salary req't to Council President William Sumiel, Jr., 17 New Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079. EOE.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR - SALEM, NJ, Salem County: Seeking full or part-time experienced Administrator for 2.6 square mile City. Must possess strong management and communications skills and be well-versed in municipal budgeting (Edmunds system), contract negotiations, human resources and project management, including redevelopment. Combine position of Clerk/Administrator will be considered. Residency details supplied upon request. Send resume with salary req't to Council President William Sumiel, Jr., 17 New Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079. EOE.

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SPOTLIGHT ON: ATLANTIC COUNTY

21 Stories of Our Garden State; 21 Stories to say “We’re Great”



As early New Jersey settlements grew and developed, each had their own unique identities. In February of 1837, Atlantic County (formerly known as Egg Harbor) was carved from Gloucester County with boundaries that have remained substantially the same to this date. The county is bounded on the north by the Mullica River; on the south by the Great Egg Harbor Bay and the Tuckahoe River; on the west by Camden and Gloucester Counties; and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. The County Seat was established in Mays Landing in 1837 and a courthouse built there in 1838 where it remains in use today. The first Board of Freeholders was established in 1837 in Mays Landing with representatives from four townships: Galloway, Hamilton, Egg Harbor and Weymouth. As townships and municipalities grew, the board grew as well. In 1967, the State Legislature changed the size to a seven-person-at-large County Board until 1975 when a new charter came into effect. The County governmental form changed from Optional County Charter Law to the Executive Form in 1974.

Today, Atlantic County land area covers 561.01 square miles and is incorporated into 23 municipalities. Estimated county population in the 1994 census was 232,231. The roots of local government in Atlantic County are long-standing. While community sizes and government forms vary, the commitment to citizen-service is well-developed and still a matter of pride. The Atlantic County Park System reflects ongoing commitment to the preservation of open space and the provision of ample opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Atlantic County Park System offers a wide variety of recreational and leisure pursuits. Park programs include group events, crafts, environmental education, and children's programs. At present, Atlantic County has thirteen parks, mostly acquired through New Jersey Green Acres funding.

ATLANTIC CAPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE is a comprehensive two-year public institution serving the residents of Atlantic and Cape May counties, enrolling nearly 6,800 students. ATLANTIC COUNTY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY is the most comprehensive technical education facility in Atlantic County. Situated on a 58 acre campus in the Hamilton Business Park in Mays Landing, the Vo-Tech is the school of choice for approximately 900 students, about 700 of which are high school students. The remainder of the population is comprised of post-secondary or adult students, most of whom have returned to school to seek a career change. The school also offers part-time classes for adults.

Nestled in 1600 acres of pristine New Jersey pinelands, RICHARD STOCKTON COLLEGE OF NJ is ranked among the nation's top public colleges in an annual survey of America's Best Colleges. With full time enrollment of 7,300 students, Stockton's focus is on undergraduate teaching and learning in a liberal arts setting. Stockton is the leading institution in the State for graduates in sciences and mathematics. Dubbed New Jersey's Green College (www.stockton.edu/green), among its offerings is an innovative curriculum in sustainability, environmental studies and environmental policy. RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE helps the diverse population of Atlantic County adapt to a rapidly changing society and to improve their lives. They focus on issues and needs related to family and economic well-being, agriculture, the environment, natural resource management and youth development through various programs including 4-H, the Master Gardener Program, and the Blueberry Integrated Pest Management program. Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC), have established a partnership to bring area residents opportunities to obtain their baccalaureate degrees while staying close to home by attending RUTGERS AT ATLANTIC CAPE COMUNITY COLLEGE.

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Peer Alliance for Learning – Membership South by La Shawn R. Barber

Just like many of us, I too first started out appointed as the Municipal Clerk. I often questioned myself if what I was presenting to my governing body was in the right format. Only then I began to seek my fellow Municipal Clerks. “NO OTHER OFFICE IN MUNICIPAL SERVICE HAS SO MANY CONTACTS.” We are excited that you have joined the force of Municipal Clerks in New Jersey and we look forward to becoming acquainted as you begin your career in local government. So, whether it is a clerk's advice and experience in a certain matter you need or a direct resource, *please* do not hesitate to call either one of us, so that we may assist in getting you the answers you need or, at a minimum, we can put you in touch with the person or agency that can assist you. The Peer Alliance for Learning Committee encourages you to connect with your County Presidents. Our first advice to you is; if you have not become a member of the Association yet, we recommend that you visit our web page at www.njclerks.org and consider joining right away. We also recommend that you contact your County Clerks Association President to introduce yourself and consider joining that Association. Both are invaluable resources available to you.

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THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

By Richard Lustgarten, MCANJ Legal Counsel

How many of you have been at a Council meeting where a resident gets up to address the Council and rambles off-subject or personally attacks members of the Council or Municipal Staff? When chided by the Mayor or presiding officer, the resident (and taxpayer, they are quick to remind you) asserts the right of free speech and charges that his First Amendment rights allow him to say anything he wants.

We are generally familiar with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution which indicates that Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech. Probably less known is the New Jersey Constitution (Article 1 ¶ 6) which states, in part, “Every person may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right. No law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press”.

Despite some popular misunderstanding, the right of free speech is not absolute. You cannot utter terroristic threats, cry “fire” in a crowded movie theater, disseminate certain obscene material, or libel/slander someone without consequences.

Generally our Courts analyze the State Constitutional protection for free speech by relying on Federal First Amendment principles. New Jersey also recognizes that the right of free speech does not mean that everyone with opinions or beliefs may express them at any time or in any public place of their choosing. In fact, it is a disorderly person’s offense if an individual, with purpose to prevent or disrupt a lawful meeting, commits an act intending to obstruct or interfere with it physically.

It has been held that words alone do not automatically satisfy the proscription of the statute but must be accompanied by other acts which create the obstruction or the interference. Speech might qualify as such an act but the speech would have to be of a character intended to disrupt the meeting and capable of doing so. We have come a long way since 1925 when an individual was prosecuted for calling a Council member a “bootlegger” and “soup head”. Presumably our elected officials are of tougher stuff than in previous times.

We also know that since 1964, in the U.S. Supreme Court case of New York Times v. Sullivan, public figures and public officials must withstand greater verbal or written abuse than the average person. An elected official, for example, would have to prove the actual malice of the person making the comments or prove that the person had a reckless disregard for the truth, in making them. This is so because the underlying principle of “enhancing the market place of ideas” is placed as a higher value than the libel/slander protection afforded those in public life. In the balancing of First Amendment rights on issues of public importance or public affairs, and the right of an individual to secure and maintain one’s reputation, the latter must yield to some degree to the former. It is also true that the identity or philosophy of the speaker and the subject matter of the speech must be treated with maximum tolerance, and preferences should not be given to supporters over detractors.



In the balancing of First Amendment rights on issues of public importance or public affairs, and the right of an individual to secure and maintain one’s reputation, the latter must yield to some degree to the former.

Nevertheless, as a general proposition, time, place and manner restrictions even on protected speech are valid provided they are justified without reference to the content of the regulated speech, they are narrowly tailored to serve a significant governmental interest, and they leave open ample alternative channels for communication of the information. It is also understood that government may prohibit all forms of communication in non-public forums as long as the ban is reasonable and content neutral, meaning that the suppression of the speaker’s activity is not due to disagreement with the speaker’s views. Conversely, regulations relating to suppressing or limiting speech in public forums (technically, in Latin, fora) receive higher scrutiny by our Courts.

So where does all this leave us at a public Council meeting? The strong stated policy of transparency in government in New Jersey is reflected in the Open Public Meetings Act and the Open Public Records Act which provide for public comment and acquisition of information, respectively, by citizens.

As a general rule of thumb, unless specifically exempted, information is open to public scrutiny and comment unless there is a compelling State interest to the contrary. (As one oft-cited example of this on the Federal level, troop movements in the time of war need not and should not be disclosed for the obvious reasons of safety and security of the troops and the strategic policy of the military. On a local level, think stake-outs, unmarked cars, etc.).

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THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

By Richard Lustgarten, MCANJ Legal Counsel

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Generally speaking, therefore, when an individual seeks to address the Council, First Amendment implications compel allowing the resident to speak on virtually any subject touching on Municipal affairs. If in the course of that presentation, the resident wishes to chastise, attack, criticize, disagree with, or otherwise be negative to Council members and/or Municipal policies, it is his/her right to do so.

Remember, in comparing the significant policy reasons for First Amendment freedoms with an obnoxious or boorish presentation, the First Amendment wins out every time – as it should. It is only when the speaker’s comments intentionally “step over the line” to disrupt the meeting that there is a limitation on the speaker’s right to speak. This can only be determined on a case by case basis dependent on the facts.

If Council members or staff are slandered, they bear a high burden to be successful under the New York Times case.

Nevertheless, Council members and staff also have First Amendment rights and have the right to refute or defend themselves if they so choose. It has been my experience that the more repugnant the comments are by the speaker the more they should be refuted by facts rather than a response on the same level. In the end, the public will determine in the “market place of ideas” which side has greater validity in their position.

Alternatively, under the current status of the law, while members of the public are entitled to speak at public meetings, there is nothing that compels government officials or employees to engage in a dialogue. Additionally reasonable time limitations imposed uniformly on all speakers are valid.

In the end, for Municipal Clerks facing a particularly nasty onslaught: tolerance, a thick skin and a good sense of humor will get you through.

ATLANTIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Continued from page 8

Opportunities for vacation family fun abound. The public can check out Atlantic City vacations, accommodations and information at www.actourism.org, a directory of hundreds of companies, attractions and organizations ... the best of Atlantic City - New Jersey's most-visited place and one of the East Coast's hottest vacation destinations.

All information in this article is taken from
<http://www.aclink.org/>
and
www.actourism.org

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MEET YOUR CANDIDATE FOR MCANJ SECRETARY: JOHN MITCH!

For those of you who do not know me, it is my pleasure to introduce myself to you as a colleague of yours and presently a candidate for MCANJ Secretary. And for those of you who do know me, if you'll take a few minutes, you may find out more about me than you already know.

Born in Newark (NJ) and raised in Woodbridge Township which I continue to call home, I am one of 5 children and the youngest of twins. Growing up as a child and all throughout my school years, family, friends and neighbors always joked with me about getting involved in politics. While I like to think that they were all sincere, I am sure it was actually the opposite out of my nosiness for details and wanting to be in the know.

As I fast forward to 1980, getting involved in our community was always something I wanted to do. I started by joining the Avenel Fire Company; where I served 22 years as a volunteer before becoming inactive. During my tenure I had the pleasure of serving in a number of capacities including Fire Company President and Fire Chief. Today, I still remain a publicly elected member of the Board of Fire Commissioners; having also served several terms in the 1980's and 1990's as well.

I decided to try my hand at politics in 1989 when I ran for and was elected to a Ward Council seat which I held until 1996; serving as president of the governing body during some very exciting times. Just past the mid-way point of my second term, my fulltime employer relocated to Virginia shortly after I married my wife Laura. While searching for new employment a position opened up for our township's Deputy Clerk's position.

Our then-Mayor and Municipal Council offered that position to me, which I accepted after considerable thought and mixed emotions. Within a few months of being in that office, I was appointed Emergency Management Coordinator, holding both positions for the next four years.

In early 2000, I was appointed to the position of Municipal Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics and continue to serve in these positions today. In 2002 when our Mayor became Governor, I was offered to head what used to be named the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles. After weeks of consideration, I decided to decline the offer and accept our new mayor's offer to serve as his Acting Business Administrator (in addition to being the Clerk / Registrar) while he conducted a thorough search.



Brown's River Ad

Little did I know that the search would take 2 ½ years and many, many hours, days, weeks and even months of some very challenging times, especially when overseeing a workforce of over 800 fulltime employees. During this period I also had occasion to serve as Acting Mayor when the chief executive was out of town and also served a term as a Trustee to the New Jersey State Police Pension Board during these same years.

After giving up the administrator's position in mid-2004, I began to get more involved in career related organizations and events. This included becoming an officer of the Middlesex County Municipal Clerks Association and an Advisory Board member to the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey where I currently serve as a member of its Education committee, By-Laws Committee and Records Committee (which I currently Chair). I have also had the opportunity to present several C.E.U. sessions for both MCANJ and Rutgers.

As we all know, Municipal Clerks are very busy individuals. As someone who has benefited from the knowledge shared by others, I believe that I can give back to our association and its members by standing before you as a candidate for MCANJ Secretary. I get a lot of my energy from my three wonderful children, Kelly (10), Thomas (8) and Kara (4) and would like to share that energy with you. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to working for you beginning in 2010.

League of Municipalities Conference November 17-20, 2009
Tickets (\$30 each) for MCANJ Breakfast Buffet on November 18, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.
Tropicana Casino and Resort Hotel, Atlantic City are now available through your
Advisory Board Representative (see page 2 for listing by County)
Annual Business Meeting following Breakfast
2010 MCANJ Officers sworn in; Newest RMCs, CMCs and MMCs honored
Who will be 2009 “Municipal Clerk of the Year”?

ATTENTION ALL ATLANTIC CITY LEAGUE ATTENDEES

We would like to renew our annual request for volunteers to help us staff the MCANJ booth at the League Convention. If you can spare an hour of your time, between 9 am—5 pm on Tuesday (Nov 17) or Wednesday (Nov 18), and 9 am—1 pm on Thursday (Nov 19), it would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Cynthia Dalessio via E-mail at woodstownclerk@comcast.net to sign up for the time slot(s) of your choice.

Ceil Covino and Barbara Rae
2009 Co-Chairs, Public Relations/Booth Committee

DEADLINES FOR NEWS ITEMS

The deadline for the January 2010 issue is December 4, 2009. Please send People Page news to Sharon Brienza, Municipal Clerk, Branchburg Township, 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.

the *Quill*
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