

MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION as presented by Vincent Buttiglieri, 2010 President, at the Annual Business Meeting of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey on November 17, 2010



When outlining my goals for 2010 at last year's Annual Meeting, I was excited about the endeavor that was ahead. I knew that change was coming but I never, ever, expected 2010 to unfold the way it did. It certainly has been one hell of a ride and I would venture to say that the ride has just begun. I recently heard a quote that I think sums up 2010 perfectly and it goes like this: "The only thing constant is change". Well MCANJ can certainly be the poster child for this.

In the course of a few short months, we've lived through changes dealing with pensions and benefits, the Open Public Records Act, Non-Partisan Elections, not to mention the retirements of many of our most knowledgeable and giving Municipal Clerks. You have to wonder if we have ever had a year quite like 2010 before. Not that I'm a betting man, but I would bet we haven't.

I can remember sitting in our January Executive Board meeting discussing what changes were on the horizon and wondering how these changes would impact our membership. Would our membership decrease due to budgetary constraints or would it increase because of all this uncertainty surrounding the times.

Well I'm extremely happy to say that our membership in 2010 did not decrease, and in fact, we have more counties with 100% paid membership this year than ever before. That is a monumental accomplishment and we should be commended for our commitment to this Association and the endeavors we undertake.

Continued on Page 4

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2011 by Joanne M. Kwasniewski, as presented on November 17, 2010 at the Annual Business Meeting of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey in Atlantic City.

What an honor and privilege it is to stand before you today – as one of my Council members said – on my inauguration as President of the MCANJ, surrounded by fellow Municipal Clerks, family, my governing body and colleagues from Fair Lawn. Our Association Counsel Richard Lustgarten and long time colleague and friend suggested that an appropriate title for my speech today would be "You Think You Are Stressed Now – Just Wait." Unfortunately, I am afraid it is the truth. We have seen such drastic changes this year – furloughs, layoffs, mandatory deduction for medical benefits, proposed caps on sick leave and vacation time, quick escapes by many Municipal Clerks and others in government who are retiring in an effort to save what they have worked long and hard to attain before it all disappears. Who could have imagined that local government employees and teachers would become the scapegoat for all the ills in New Jersey? Our colleagues have been summarily fired in direct defiance of the Department of Community Affairs, given raises less than other employees in violation of the statutes, retired after giving up the fight deciding health and sanity is more important than the job and "Rice" has become a staple in every community.

As State aid has been reduced and revenues decreased while expenses have continued to rise, many governing bodies have eliminated funding for education and conferences. Many of us, including my governing body and the others from Fair Lawn here today have had to pay their own way for the first time



Continued on Page 3

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PAST EDITORS:

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Janet L. Lynds, 1983-1993
Patricia Hullfish and Patricia Shuss, Co-Editors, 1994-1995
Patricia C. Shuss, 1996-2000 Nancy Hatten, 2001-2005

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MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
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Immediate Past President: Vincent Buttiglieri, Ocean Township

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Executive Director: Joel Popkin

E-mail: joelpopkin@optonline.net

Legal Counsel: Richard A. Lustgarten

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1974*Joseph V. Valenti	1998*Lynn Stanzlaus
1975*Alfred A. Reda	1999*Bernadette Dubuss
1977*Otto M. Bock	2000*Nancy Hatten
1981*L. Manuel Hirshblond	2001*Sharon L. Brienza
1985*Elizabeth G. Nolan	2002*Bernadette Standowski
1987*Lewis N. Thompson	2003*Allan Susen
1988*Elaine Wallace	2004*Joel Popkin
1992*Barbara A. Camp	2005*Jane Williams-Warren
1993*John J. Galvin	2006*Elaine B. Kennedy
1994*Kathleen A. Thorpe	2007*Barbara M. Hawk
1995*Christina N. Wilder	2008*Heather Mailander
1996*Joseph C. Favaro	2009*Joan Moreland
1997*Elizabeth H. Kiss	2010*Vincent Buttiglieri

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Cape May	Lisa Stefankiewicz, Stone Harbor Borough
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Mercer:	Eileen Gore, Hamilton Township
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Morris:	Elizabeth Osborne, Madison Borough
Ocean:	Bette Mastropasqua, Beachwood Borough
Passaic:	Jane Williams-Warren, Paterson City
Salem:	Cynthia Dalessio, Woodstown Borough
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2011 President's Message: "Looking Ahead" (continued from page 1)

By Joanne M. Kwasniewski

We continue to be vilified in the newspaper claiming that the custodians of records deliberately seek to keep records from the public. No distinction is ever made between the other custodians of records so that it appears that the Municipal Clerks are the ones who do not understand OPRA and have no intention of following it.

If I hear that phrase "do more with less" one more time, I won't be responsible for my actions. We have a joke in Fair Lawn that by this time next year it will be the four statutorily required employees who will be running behind the garbage trucks, collecting the taxes, covering the elections, holding court and paying the bills because there will be no one else left to do it. Every day another piece of legislation is introduced and none of it has been good news and we just don't know what will happen next. To those who were fortunate enough to have gotten out while the getting is good as they say, I wish you well. For those of us who remain I believe we have an opportunity to work within the changes that are coming and make things better. We can rise to the challenges that 2011 will inevitably bring.



Joanne Kwasniewski addresses the Association membership at the Annual Business Meeting

On the bright side President Buttiglieri and I were privileged to meet with Senator Weinberg to discuss the bill that she introduced to make changes to OPRA. She was willing to listen and took into account many of the things we brought to her attention. As a result of that meeting and our subsequent correspondence, some of the most burdensome portions of the bill have been reworked. In addition, MCANJ has made a valuable friend who can be our ally in the future. I attended a meeting where Senator Weinberg explained to those who criticized her for not moving the bill along fast enough that this was a balancing act and that our Association had pointed out some things that she was not aware of before. I believe she has been enlightened and that can only be to our benefit. I will take up the cause and continue our efforts to get a seat on the Government Records Council which is needed to make sure that our voice is heard. It is going to happen one of these days, we just can't give up.

The theme of the 2011 Education Conference is **Municipal Clerks...We Make It Happen!** While I cannot take credit for those words – that belongs to the Municipal Clerk in Emerson, Carol Dray who uses it on her email messages and consented to its use for the Conference – I definitely believe in those words and endorse them. As Municipal Clerks we are the gateway to our communities for our citizens. On a daily basis we provide the citizens with a direct link to their government. We serve the Mayor and Council and we are the ones who the governing bodies can count on to make sure public meetings, public records, and elections operate smoothly. When they let us, we save them from themselves. It is our finely tuned skills that help administer the laws and services that directly affect the daily lives of our residents. We need to promote ourselves more. We know we are good, but our governing bodies need to be constantly reminded.

The logo for the 2011 Education Conference is a puzzle piece. I believe that logo is very appropriate. Government is a puzzle in so many ways and not just because no one can figure out what is going on but because it is made up of many pieces. Without anyone of the pieces, government just does not work. The Municipal Clerk is one of the most vital puzzle pieces. We deal with the governing bodies, the other department heads and staff and the public. Often we are the first ones everyone turns to – unless it is to give out a raise, of course. The Municipal Clerks' professional skills are important to the effective and efficient functioning of the local government process.

So although everything is a challenge right now and most of it we cannot control, you still have control over the most important element and that is your own attitude. We need to strive every day not to be negative about what is happening around us. We need to be enthusiastic in the things that we do which when you are completing the 900th OPRA request for the week is not easy but the right attitude right now is the most important thing. So I challenge you all to get involved in our Association even though you think you have no extra time because you have furlough days or your staff has been cut in half because when you are working to help others and striving to make improvements in the way we do things, you will discover that things are not so bad after all. You will discover a sense of satisfaction in your accomplishments that goes a long way toward to making each day worthwhile.

Recognizing the difficulties that many of us face in getting out of the office, I have proposed and the Executive Board has agreed to change things a little bit for 2011. Instead of the five Advisory Board Meetings that we usually hold, we will have only three meetings in 2011. One will be at the Education Conference in April, one in September and one at the Annual Meeting next November. With the miracles of technology I believe that we can stay in contact with our members and keep them informed about what is happening without the necessity of physical meetings. You will receive more email blasts keeping you up to date and I will be communicating through emails to our Advisory Board Representatives so they can report to their County members. I am committed to improving communication with all of you. Many of our committees have been structured so that the work can be done at the office or after hours at home without meetings. It is my hope that this will make it easier for more people to get involved. It is extremely important that we have your correct email address so that you will know what is going on. We are striving to be more environmentally conscious and reduce the amount of paper we distribute.

Continued on Page 5

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION as presented by Vincent Buttiglieri

Continued from Page 1

I'm also happy to report that the Treasury and the Legal Defense Fund remain sound. Due to the efforts of so many, past and present, MCANJ is in a position to provide educational opportunities to our membership at reasonable costs – and in the end of the day, isn't that the mission of the Municipal Clerks Association.

One of the goals I had hoped to accomplish this year was to FINALLY get a representative from the Municipal Clerks Association on the Government Records Council. Lord knows – it's long overdue!

Our Association, year after year, lobbied long and loud to anyone that would listen that we should have representation on this Board. We all know how that went. Since the inception of OPRA, our opinions have been ignored and even ridiculed. You may recall, Past President Heather Mailander even submitted the name of retired Municipal Clerk, Chris Wilder, to fill a vacancy that was existing on the Government Records Council. Not only did Chris not get appointed, that request was never even acknowledged. I knew in my heart that 2010 was the year that finally something needed to happen. I'm extremely happy to report that on January 12, 2010 Assembly Bill A1333, sponsored by Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, was introduced. This legislation mandated that the President of this Association, or their designee, would be a PERMANENT member of the Government Records Council. This legislation is currently in the Assembly State Government Committee waiting for action. Although we aren't sitting yet, I can tell you that we have entered the building and a chair has been set up for us to take our rightful seat at the Government Records Council table – a table we should have been sitting at from the beginning.



Incoming MCANJ President Joanne Kwasniewski offers Vinny Buttiglieri tokens of appreciation for a Job Well Done

I couldn't help but think that we were finally on calmer waters with regard to OPRA. Then, low and behold, Senate Bill S1352, sponsored by Senator Loretta Weinberg, surfaced. Amongst other things, this legislation was going to reduce the response time for OPRA requests to just a few hours while increasing the penalty for non-compliance. I wanted to pick up the phone and ask the question that was on everyone's mind - what are you people drinking. Once again, legislation was being discussed that affected Municipal Clerks and we were never consulted. Well, thanks to input by many of you, we met with Senator Weinberg to express our frustration and dismay on not only the proposed changes but also the inaccurate portrayal of Municipal Clerks. I have to tell you honestly, I never expected to be treated the way the Senator and her staff treated us - with the utmost respect, courteousness and professionalism. Senator Weinberg actually listened to our concerns, which we expressed to her over a three hour meeting. She actually acted on some of our suggestions and we were able to convince her to include language in her bill mandating the same that Assemblyman Diegnan's bill mandated. Talk about change! I must thank our Attorney, Richard Lustgarten, who utilized his persuasiveness, not to mention his friendship with Senator Weinberg, in securing a successful outcome to this matter. Thank you Richard.

2010 has certainly been a year of firsts for our Association. I've mentioned a couple previously and here's another. After many years of receiving comments about a need to change the venue for our Annual Education Conference, we did just that. As we were embarking on unknown territory, to say I was a little nervous would certainly be an understatement. This decision could have resulted in my Presidency being viewed as a disaster, or worst of all, having to listen to my wife telling me that I should've just left well enough alone and not mess with a good thing. Thank goodness for the sake of MCANJ and myself, it worked out extremely well, wouldn't you agree. We were treated great and the event was a tremendous success. Close to 300 of our fellow Municipal Clerks enjoyed a great conference highlighted by presentations from Michael Kelly from Afterburners, as well as those we have come to depend on each and every year to enlighten and educate us, our friends Joe Valenti, Lori Buckelew, Scott Steinman, Patti DeCostanzo and of course, our own Elesha Johnson, who got the conference off to a phenomenal start with her presentation on Citizen Leadership. Com. Everyone knows you can't put an event on like this alone. I had a great Committee to work with, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Sharon Brienza and Heather Mailander, not to mention the best Executive Director any organization has – Joel Popkin. My sincere appreciation to all of you for a job well done

Continued on Page 5

2011 President's Message: "Looking Ahead" By Joanne M. Kwasniewski

Continued from page 3

Although there will be less Advisory Board meetings, there will be no such break for the Executive Board. The Executive Board will continue to meet and work in the same diligent manner that it is the custom and tradition of Executive Boards.

I also urge you to remember that as Philosopher John Dewey said "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself". So you need to keep on attending conferences, seminars and mini-conferences even if you are forced to pay for them yourself because that is one of the best ways to make yourself more valuable, harder to replace and out in the front of the pack. As far as stress, oh yes, it will be there but you can reduce it by remembering some very basic ABC's of success – take advantage of every opportunity, zestfully meet any challenge, value your health and take time for yourself because you are your most important asset. It will be my privilege and honor to lead this great association as we face the on-going challenges in 2011 and I know that with your help we will succeed.

In closing I ask you to raise your water glass (because unfortunately our budget does not include champagne) and join me in a toast to you – the Municipal Clerk, ... because **WE MAKE IT HAPPEN!** Thank you for your confidence in me.



Carol Dray (right), President of the Bergen County Municipal Clerks' Association, offers Joanne praise and support for Joanne's MCANJ Presidency

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION as presented by Vincent Buttiglieri

Continued from Page 4

The final comment about the 2010 Conference I'd like to make is "How about those cookies"! I know everyone enjoyed them and actually, this is not meant to disrespect anyone but I would have to say that they were the highlight of the conference. I want to thank the two special people who were responsible for making them – my mother and father, Josephine and Charlie. I have to warn you both that rumor has it you just might be getting a request for more cookies for the 2011 conference. Do yourself a favor – change your phone number. Joanne is a little more demanding than I am and not as easy to work with.

The success of this Association has always been a result of the dedication of its members. None are more dedicated than the men and women that I have had the privilege to serve with: Past Presidents Jane Williams-Warren, Elaine Kennedy, Barbara Hawk, Heather Mailander and Joan Moreland, as well as the current Board members Joanne, Drew, Nancy, John, and now Keith. It has, and will continue to be a pleasure to work together with you so that MCANJ can reach new heights.

My special thanks to two extraordinary gentlemen, our Administrative Consultants, Manny Hirshblond and Joel Popkin. To see what these two men do on a day to day basis really makes you understand what the word service really means. I have been lucky to be able to work with you both. Thanks for all you've done to make me look good, which as many can attest, is no small task.

Trust me when I tell you that this association is in good hands in 2011. Joanne Kwasniewski will be a phenomenal leader. Her knowledge, thoroughness and dedication will be a critical component as we move forward in these difficult times.

Finally, to Ray Jean – the support and guidance that you've given me this year and throughout the past five years is something that I have valued and cherished. You have been my biggest ally and cheerleader and for that, I'm eternally grateful. I can now promise you that the minute I get home, I'm going to clean off the dining room table so it can be used for dinner and not my private office any more.

While my tenure as your President is coming to an end, my service is not. I've decided to submit my name for consideration for the IIMC Region II Director's seat that is currently held by our own Jane Williams-Warren. Rumor has it that another individual from another State will also be running so it's extremely important that all New Jersey Clerks vote, as there will be an election. I'm hoping that I can count on your support.

In closing, I want to say what an immense honor and privilege it has been to serve as your President and I hope that you feel that I've made a positive contribution to this Association and the profession we love so much. That was my only goal and I hope that I've achieved that. Thank you and have a great 2011!

2011 MCANJ Committees by President Joanne M. Kwasniewski

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Harold Wiener, Chair, Irvington Twp. / 973-399-8111
Eileen Gore, Hamilton Twp./609-890-3500
David Hughes, Summit City / 908-273-6400
Ann Marie McCarthy, Franklin Twp./732-873-2500

EDUCATION

MCANJ President's Appointments

Heather Mailander, Ridgewood Village/201-670-5500 x 201
Diane Pflugfelder, BethlehemTwp/908-735-4107
Jane Williams-Warren, City of Paterson/973-321-1310
Sharon Young, West Windsor Twp/609-799-2400
Harold Wiener, Irvington Twp / 973-399-6797

Rutgers Appointments

Elaine Jasko, Chair, Perth Amboy City / 732-826-0290
Jennica N. Bilecki, Washington Twp/856-589-0520 x 213
Louise Palagano, Bloomfield Twp/973-680-4000
Nenette Perry, East Brunswick Twp/732-390-6810
Linda S. Wanat, Montclair Twp / 973-509-4900

EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Sharon Brienza, Co-chair, Branchburg Twp./908-526-1300 x 103
Heather Mailander, Co-chair, Ridgewood Village/201-670-5500 x 201
Joanne Kwasniewski, Fair Lawn Borough/201-794-5340
Andrew J. Pavlica, Garfield City/973-340-2001
Nancy Saffos, Cherry Hill Township/856-488-7892
John Mitch, Woodbridge Twp/732-634-4500 x 6404
Vincent Buttiglieri, Ocean Township/732-531-4968
Keith Kazmark, Elmwood Park Borough/201-796-1457
Diane Pflugfelder, Bethlehem Township/908-735-4107
Doreen Cali, Roselle Park Borough/908-245-6222
Cecilia Covino, Clinton Town/908-735-8616
Jane Gillespie, Spring Lake Borough/732-449-0800
Elizabeth Mastropasqua, Beachwood Borough/732-286-6000
Andrea Lea Quilty, Princeton Borough/609-924-3118
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Joan Moreland, Haddon Heights Borough/856-547-7164
Barbara Hawk, Retired

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Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Twp./908-526-1300 x 103
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Alt.: Terence Wall (2011), North Arlington Borough/973-991-6060

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Rose Marie Saracino (2013), Old Bridge Twp./732-721-5600
Sharon Young (2012), West Windsor Twp./609-799-2400
Alt.: Dwayne Harris (2011), Atlantic Highlands Borough/732-291-1444 x 613

South

Patricia Hunt (2013), Moorestown Twp./856-235-0912
Constance Mahon (2012), Cape May Point Borough/609-884-8468
Alt.: Kim Johnson (2011), Mullica Twp/609-562-0064

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Continued on Page 7

2011 MCANJ Committees by Joanne M. Kwasniewski (Continued from Page 6)

PAST PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

Joan Moreland, Haddon Heights Borough, 2009, Chair
Vincent Buttiglieri, Township of Ocean, 2010
Heather Mailander, Ridgewood Village, 2008
Barbara M. Hawk, 2007 (ret.)
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Allan Susen, Haledon Borough, 2003
Bernadette Standowski, 2002 (ret.)
Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Township, 2001
Nancy Hatten, 2000 (ret.)
Bernadette Dubuss, 1999 (ret.)
Lynn Stanzlaus, 1998 (ret.)
Elizabeth Kiss, 1997 (ret.)
Joseph Favaro, 1996 (ret.)
Christina Wilder, 1995 (ret.)
Kathleen Thorpe-Holder, 1994 (ret.)
John Galvin, 1993 (ret.)
Barbara Camp, 1992 (ret.)
Elaine Wallace, 1988 (ret.)
Lewis Thompson, 1987 (ret.)
Elizabeth Nolan, 1985 (ret.)
L. Manuel Hirshblond, 1981 (ret.)
Alfred Reda, 1975 (ret.)
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North

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Central

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Sharon Young, West Windsor Twp./609-799-2400

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Patricia Hunt, Moorestown Twp./856-235-0912

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Harold Wiener, Irvington Twp./973-399-8111
Jeffrey Jotz, Rahway City/732-827-2000

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Maria Elena Macari, Co-Chair, Saddle River Borough/201-327-2609
All Advisory Board Representatives

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Vita Mekovetz, Readington Twp./908-534-4051
Barbara Nyitrai, South Brunswick Twp./732-329-4000
Barbara Shepart, Boonton Twp./973-402-4012



The 2011 Executive Board of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, Inc., looks forward to working with all of you in 2011. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and professionalism, and stand ready to assist you in any way we can!

Pictured from Left:

John Mitch,
Treasurer

Nancy L. Saffos,
2nd Vice President

Vincent Buttiglieri,
Immediate Past President

Andrew J. Pavlica,
1st Vice President

Joanne M. Kwasniewski,
President

Keith Kazmark,
Secretary

PEOPLE PAGE

by Sharon Brienza



RETIREMENT

Laddie Wyatt, City Clerk of the City of Plainfield will be retired by the time this issue hits your desk. Many of you newer Municipal Clerks may not know Laddie, but many of us that are still around, remember Laddie as a pioneer in our defense when she took on the City of Plainfield. A new administrator began indicating that he believed she was “dispensable” and in November 1988 (15 months after she was appointed), she received a notice telling her to clear out her desk on or before December 12.

Former MCANJ Counsel, Michael Pane, and others, submitted briefs after which, the Honorable Judge Barbara Byrd Wecker ruled that NJSA 40A:9-133 recognizes the position of Municipal Clerk to be a professional position, one above and removed from the political fray and from changes in government...so the Clerk could provide continuity in the administration of municipal government. She held that Laddie had a three year term of office and could only be removed from office at the end of her term by failure to be reappointed or be removed for cause.

Shortly after winning this case, Laddie and Michael went after Plainfield for reimbursement of her legal fees – which they also won.

Thank you, Laddie for taking up the fight...and for winning! Good luck to you in your retirement.

(Ed note: Information for this article was taken from articles Michael Pane wrote for the April, July and October, 1989 Quills. If anyone is interested in reading more of the Judge's opinion, I can email you a copy of the Quill.)

Mercer County News

The following were elected officers of the Mercer County Municipal Clerk's Association at their meeting of June 17, 2010:

Eileen Gore (Hamilton Township), President
Regina Toth (Hopewell Borough), Vice President
Tonya Carter (Lawrence Township), Treasurer
Kim Macellero (Ewing Township), Secretary

Leona Baylor was appointed Clerk of the City of Trenton

The Mercer County Municipal Clerk's Association celebrated its 50th Anniversary at a gathering held on December 3, 2010 at the Princeton Nassau Inn, the site where the original organization of the Association took place.

OTHER FAMILY NEWS

NFL:

Jim Dray, son of 2010 Bergen County Municipal Clerks' Association President Carol Dray of Emerson, made the Arizona Cardinals NFL football team. According to the Arizona Cardinals website, Jim plays tight end and wears number 81 and could be seen on the field in the November 29, Monday Night Football, game.

EMMY AWARD:

Joan Preztunik, wife of our own Drew Pavlica, and her ABC news team won an Emmy Award in the Annual News and Documentary for their “Outstanding Live Coverage of a Current News Story – Long Form” for their reporting on the Inauguration of President Obama.

ANOTHER APPOINTMENT:

I was recently appointed to the Brooks Arts Council which oversees the restoration and scheduling of events at the historic Bound Brook Theatre which originally opened in 1927. Unfortunately, the Theatre was destroyed during Hurricane Floyd and was flooded again in 2007.

MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK

Michele Seigfried, Township Clerk of Robbinsville, NJ earned her Master Municipal Clerk designation in September. Congratulations Michele!

CONDOLENCES

Regina White, Municipal Clerk for the Borough of Somerdale, passed away Tuesday, August 17, 2010 after a 15 year battle with breast cancer. She continued to work over the past five years even while receiving chemotherapy each week. Her sense of humor and the love she felt for her job and those around her will be sorely missed.

Former Paterson City Clerk, Sylvia Ulmer, passed away on June 19, 2010.

Helen Marie Mika, retired from the Borough of Allentown (Monmouth County), passed away Monday, September 20, 2010, at her home. Marie served as the tax collector and treasurer for 29 years. She also served as the Borough Clerk, Registrar of Vital Statistics and Water and Sewer Rent Collector for 21 years and Purchasing Agent for 16 years.

Our condolences to all.

**PULASKI DAY PARADE
OCTOBER 3, 2010**

1st Vice President Drew Pavlica wore his tuxedo, top hat, white gloves and cane for the Casimir Pulaski Day Parade up Fifth Avenue in New York City. Garfield's Deputy Mayor Stanley Moskal was the Grand Marshall for the entire Tri-State region of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey which was an extremely high honor as a Garfield resident has never been Grand Marshall before in the 73 years of the NYC Pulaski Day Parade.

Sto Lat!!

(Polish greeting - May you live 100 years!!)

These wonderful pictures of the 73rd Annual New York City Pulaski Day Parade, held on October 3, 2010, are courtesy of Hawthorne Borough Clerk Sue Witkowski (pictured below, with Garfield City Clerk Drew Pavlica), who went to NYC to watch the Parade.



The Pulaski Day Parade is held annually on Fifth Avenue in New York City to commemorate Casimir Pulaski, a hero of the American Revolutionary War. It is held on the first Sunday of October and features Polish dancers, Polish sports teams and their mascots, Polish school ambassadors, and civic representatives— none more exuberant and friendly than our own Drew Pavlica, pictured below.



Flat Stanley

Edison Mayor Antonia Ricigliano stopped by the Middlesex County Municipal Clerks' meeting with Flat Stanley who was the product of a 1st grade school project by her grandson Michael Mido. This was Stanley's first government meeting with Clerks.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

MCANJ 2011 CONFERENCE

APRIL 4-7, 2011

TAJ MAHAL, ATLANTIC CITY

**WATCH FOR REGISTRATION PACKETS THAT
WILL BE MAILED IN JANUARY 2011**

MUNICIPAL CLERKS...



WE MAKE IT HAPPEN!

After the wonderful experience and the positive reviews we received about the Taj Mahal last year, I am pleased to tell you that we are going back. The Taj has agreed to keep the room rates the same as last year - \$99 for the Taj Tower and \$124 for the Chairman's Tower (plus occupancy tax of \$5 per night and the hotel tax). The Conference Committee is very much aware of the financial constraints all of us are facing, so we worked very hard to keep the registration fee as reasonable as possible – only \$290 for the entire conference. We are committed to bring you the best educational experience possible at the least cost we can. The Conference Committee has kept in mind that this Education Conference may be the only opportunity many of you may have to obtain CEU's this year. CEU's will be available in every discipline. There will be something for everyone including the Municipal Clerk that also serves as Registrar, Purchasing Agent or Tax Collector. You will also be able to earn credit toward your CMC or MMC. We have secured a key note speaker who will present a unique motivational session tailored for Municipal Clerks that will help you feel inspired, get motivated, become more productive and have a great time at the 2011 Conference. We have included some old favorites such as Joe Valenti, Esther Nevarez, Lori Buckelew and Bill Kearns but there are many new speakers who will present a different twist on such things as unusual liquor licensing situations, electronic communications and my personal favorite "Survival Tactics for the Municipal Clerk – Clerk by the Statute" with Daniel Kaminski. Last year's Welcome Reception was such a big hit that we are going to do it again. The Signature Club is a great venue and I know that you will enjoy the refreshments and the opportunity to socialize with friends. The Conference Committee has planned a wonderful surprise for our grand Banquet Dinner that you won't want to miss. Mark your calendar so you won't miss what is going to be a fantastic event.

Sincerely,
Joanne M. Kwasniewski, RMC/CCM/MMC
MCANJ President

**MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
AS OF 11/15/10**

	<u># of Members Paid</u>
Municipal Clerks	501
Acting Clerks	10
Deputy Clerks	237
Assistant Clerks	26
County Clerks	1
Deputy County Clerks	0
Clerk to Freeholder Board	0
Affiliates	<u>15</u>
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	790

91% of towns paid

Cape May, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, Union and Warren
Counties achieved 100% Membership

Nancy L. Saffos, RMC/CMC/MMC,
2010 MCANJ Treasurer

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HAROLD WEINER NAMED 2010 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR



Harold Weiner, this year's Clerk of the Year recipient, has been a professional in municipal government for thirty years, and has held the position of Municipal Clerk for over two decades.

Harold's career in government began in the same town in which he was raised and educated, and within a year of his employment, Harold was a transcriber of minutes for the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Harold received both the Registered Municipal Clerk designation and a Masters Degree in 1986; and after working for years in the Clerk's Office, was appointed the Municipal Clerk of his hometown, Irvington, in 1987.

Harold has served his County Association in various leadership positions, including Secretary, Treasurer and President.

Additionally, Harold has served, and continues to serve, MCANJ on many Committees, including Professional Development, Peer Alliance for Learning, Laws Affecting Municipal Clerks, Records, Legal Defense Fund, and Constitution and By Laws.

This year's recipient has also served, for years, as an Advisory Board Representative and Alternate Advisory Board Representative.

Harold has served on the Education Committee; he has served as an Instructor for Rutgers University on behalf of the Registered Municipal Clerks Certification Program; and he has been a speaker for numerous seminars and conferences.

Harold received the prestigious designations of Certified Municipal Clerk in 1991, and Master Municipal Clerk in 2006, from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, further exemplifying his commitment to the educational ideals of the Municipal Clerk profession.

Our honoree has represented the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey before government sessions in Trenton, many times, on important issues affecting not only our profession, but local government as a whole.

Often quietly, and without fanfare, Harold frequently helps other Municipal Clerks, the Public, Elected Officials, and anyone in need, regardless of the time or effort it requires.

Harold is respected inside and outside his municipality, for his fairness, impartiality, supervisory ability, and judgment.

Our honoree continues to be a major supporter of his local Library and Lion's Club, as well as other deserving programs in his community. Harold enjoys fishing on his boat and being a devoted uncle to his nieces and nephews.

And, speaking of devotion, for the first twenty-plus years of his career as a Municipal Clerk, Harold never, ever, missed a meeting of the Mayor and Council ---- a span of over 1,000 meetings! What dedication!!!

Our most sincere congratulations are extended to the 2010 Municipal Clerk of the Year:

HAROLD E. WEINER
Township Clerk of Irvington

“RICE” OR RICE PUDDING? – ONLY THE LEGISLATURE KNOWS

By Richard Lustgarten, MCANJ Legal Counsel

President Kwasniewski and I have been discussing the ramifications of a Rice Notice and we have a slight difference of opinion. Since this column has my “byline”, she will have to write her own if she takes issue with it (Just kidding, Joanne.) I should note that what is to be discussed here, coincidentally, was raised in a League article by one of the League’s staff attorneys.

Rice, of course, refers to the case of Rice vs. Union, Cty. Reg. High School Bd. of Ed., 155 N.J. Super 64 (App. Div. 1977) which interprets one of the exceptions to the open public meeting requirement.

While we all know the presumption of a public meeting is that it is to be open, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 provides 9 exceptions where the public may be excluded. Subsection b(8) permits the public body to go into closed session relating to employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee, employed or appointed by the public body with the proviso that the individual or all individuals whose rights can be adversely affected, may request in writing that the matter be discussed in an open meeting.



The *Rice* case clarified that in order for a public employee to exercise the right to have the discussion held in public, the public employee must have reasonable advance notice of the date of the discussion to exercise that right which is only common sense.

This concept is routinely understood and followed at the present time. The collateral question is this: If an employee receives a *Rice* notice, and does not choose to have the matter opened up to be discussed in public, does the employee have the right to attend the closed session of the public body? There is no case law specifically that answers this question. The argument in favor of allowing the public employee to attend the closed session is simply that if the statute permits the matter to “go public” at the request of the employee, and therefore the employee could observe and listen to the comments made by the public body, what is wrong with keeping the confidentiality relating to the employee in closed session while allowing the employee to still make the same observations by attending. The other side of that argument is a legal statutory maxim that the Legislature is presumed to understand what it is doing when it enacts laws, and if the Legislature desired to give the public employee that option, it could have simply said so in the statute.

“It is therefore my opinion that a public officer or employee does not have the right to attend the matter in closed session after being “Riced” and only has the two options of allowing the matter to proceed in closed session without his/her presence or opting to have the matter discussed in public.”
- Richard Lustgarten

If I were exercising legislative draftsmanship, I would simply add to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(8) the following sentence. “In the event the public officer or employee does not request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting, the public officer or public employee may nevertheless attend the closed session of the public body when the matter relating to the public officer or public employee is discussed.” The argument, therefore, is that since the Legislature did not add this type or similar language, it specifically intended not to permit the attendance of the employee in closed session. The “intent of the Legislature” is, at times, a legal fiction because courts are reluctant to declare laws that have been duly adopted to be invalid unless they violate a clear cut constitutional provision, or are so ambiguous as to prevent their reasonable interpretation. (There are some other reasons that statutes are invalidated but the general gist is as just stated.)

It is therefore my opinion that a public officer or employee does not have the right to attend the matter in closed session after being “Riced” and only has the two options of allowing the matter to proceed in closed session without his/her presence or opting to have the matter discussed in public.

Of course, nothing in the law is ever as simple as just stated.

N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133 is the Municipal Clerks’ statute that sets forth the term of office and duties and responsibilities of the municipal clerk. This statute was originally adopted in 1971 and amended several times through 1998. The “exclusion of the public statute” was enacted in 1975 and amended through 2008. Consequently, the adoption and amending of these two separate statutory frameworks have overlapped over time. Why is this relevant?

“RICE” OR RICE PUDDING? – ONLY THE LEGISLATURE KNOWS

By Richard Lustgarten, MCANJ Legal Counsel

Continued From Page 12

Under N.J.S.A. 40A:9-133e(2), the municipal clerk shall act as secretary to the governing body, prepare meeting agendas at the discretion of the governing body, be present at all meetings of the governing body, keep a journal of the proceedings of every meeting, etc....

You can see where this is heading. What happens in the situation where it is the municipal clerk who receives the Rice notice and opts not to have the discussion relating to him/her proceed in open session under N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(8). Under the above reasoning, the municipal clerk would be excluded from that discussion because that statute, by my interpretation, only permits the public employee to hear the closed session discussion if the public employee opts to have it open session. You begin to understand why the legal maxim that the Legislature has presumed to know its own legislation is, at times, more imaginary than real. These statutes are clearly in conflict with each other because the municipal clerk is mandated (read obligated) to attend all the meetings of the governing body which would clearly include closed sessions. Better draftsmanship could avoid these types of conflicts.

However, it is my opinion that the municipal clerk is entitled to attend a closed session meeting of the public body even if he/she is the person being “Riced” for two reasons. First, there is a specific statutory mandate which directs the municipal clerk to be present at all meetings of the governing body. (There is another legal maxim that the specific trumps the general in trying to interpret the meaning of a statute.)

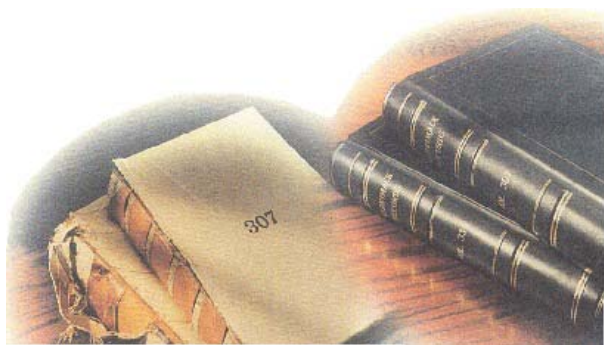
The major reason, however, that I believe the municipal clerk can attend the closed session is the actual language in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b because its introductory statement says, “A public body may exclude the public only from that portion of a meeting at which the public body discusses (matters that fall within one of the exceptions):...”

I do not believe in this context, that the municipal clerk is considered a member of the “public” but rather the municipal clerks status is established by the other statute. Consequently, he/she attends the closed session.

Of course, I can’t let the matter be so fully resolved. Supposing a municipal clerk retires and for some reason the public body wishes to discuss that municipal clerk in closed session. As a hypothetical, supposing that the pension board questions certain increases in salary that the municipal clerk received in the year or two prior to retirement. Part of the closed session statute allows discussions about the “employment”, etc. of a current or prospective public officer or employee. The retired municipal clerk would not be a current or prospective public officer or employee by definition. Query? Is the retired municipal clerk now a member of the general public and therefore may be excluded by the governing body from closed session? I believe so.

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... It is my opinion that the municipal clerk is entitled to attend a closed session meeting of the public body even if he/she is the person being “Riced”

- Richard Lustgarten

For those of you who attended the League convention, you heard, once again, the daunting challenges that face municipal clerks in the coming year. As Joanne recited, if she hears the phrase “do more with less” one more time, she may become physically ill. (I believe she also inferred that attacking the speaker of the phrase was also an option but in the spirit of the season, I will make that just a supposition on my part.)

While the Governor and the Legislature muddle through areas upon which they can agree, as of the writing of this article there is still a stalemate with respect to the “toolkits” which are supposed to help municipalities get through these tough economic times. Whatever!

Any way, whether you like “rice” pudding, plum pudding, hasty pudding or none of these, I wish everyone a safe, healthy, happy holiday season and a productive New Year.

SPOTLIGHT ON: UNION COUNTY

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

HOW UNION COUNTY GOT ITS NAME

by Robert J. Fridlington

By an act approved on March 19, 1857, which became effective on April 13 of that year, the New Jersey State Legislature created “a separate county, to be called the county of Union.” This was the last of the state’s twenty-one counties to be established. The act passed the General Assembly by a vote of 43 to 10, the largest majority ever given to the establishment of a new county. But it had been a long struggle.

The story has its origin in the early days of settlement. In 1683 the provincial Assembly, meeting in Elizabethtown (Elizabeth), divided the province of East New Jersey into four counties: Bergen, Essex, Middlesex, and Monmouth. The area that is present-day Union County was included in Essex, where it would remain for almost 175 years.

Throughout that period Newark was the seat of county government, and Elizabethtown was unhappy with that arrangement. In the early years Elizabethtown had been the larger of the two towns, but even after Newark had surpassed her in population and in commercial development, the rivalry continued. Elizabethtown residents could not forget that their community was the older of the two, that it was the first permanent English settlement in New Jersey, and that it had been the first capital of the province. They were proud of its splendid role in the American Revolution; it had been the home of Abraham Clark, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and of William Livingston and Jonathan Dayton, both signers of the Constitution. Elizabethtown also boasted that it had been considered, if only briefly, as the site of the nation’s capital after independence had been won. Put simply, Elizabethtown was subordinate to Newark, and its residents did not like it.

Other residents in the southern part of the county joined those in Elizabethtown in the chorus of complaints. Travel in these early years was slow and difficult. Travel that today takes only a few minutes over our modern streets and highways might take hours over the rutted paths and wagon roads of that era. Residents of the western part of the county felt that Newark was simply too far away to conduct official business. A county seat, they argued, should be centrally located and as convenient as possible to the citizenry. A simple summons for jury duty, for example, might impose considerable hardship and require an absence from home of several days. But their grumbling fell on deaf ears. The same kinds of protests were being heard in other counties of the state.

All of these issues were debated at length in 1806 when an effort was made to relocate the Essex County courthouse. At the time, control of the Essex County Board of Freeholders was held by representatives from the “southern tier”—Elizabethtown, Rahway, Westfield and Springfield. The courthouse in Newark was old and badly in need of repair. It was also too small. Rather than recondition the old building or build a new one in Newark, the freeholders from the southern tier held out for a new courthouse at a new location. In November 1806 the State Legislature finally acted, declaring that the courthouse’s location should be determined by the voters, and a referendum was scheduled for three days the following February. Eleven sites were nominated for a new location, but they were eventually narrowed down to two—Newark and Day’s Hill, a part of Springfield Township. The voters in the townships lying to the west, although a bit distrustful of Elizabethtown, stood should to shoulder with their larger neighbor in support of Day’s Hill.

When the votes were counted, Newark won, but the election was marked by widespread fraud, cheating, and intimidation. Individuals voted multiple times. Men and boys wearing dresses cast ballots for wives and mothers. Children and non-residents voted. Voters were threatened. One man reported that in Elizabethtown trouble flared, and supporters of Newark “were lacerated with whips and bruised with bludgeons.” On the other side, an Elizabethtown advocate could scarcely contain his fury. The people of Newark, he fumed, “excelled in wickedness, in perfidy, in lying and cheating [worse than] anything that has ever been witnessed in the United States.”

The deception and deceit had simply gone too far; the Legislature stepped in and invalidated the election. In the end, however, Newark again won out. It retained the courthouse and remained the seat of county government. The Day’s Hill partisans were furious. They sputtered and protested and there were cries for secession, but to no avail.

The courthouse election did nothing to aid the southern tier, but it did have one significant, though unintended, consequence. The New Jersey Constitution of 1776 granted the franchise to “all the inhabitants . . . of full age” who were worth fifty pounds and met residency requirements. This was generally accepted to mean that all persons—men, women, whites, blacks—could vote if they met the stated requirements, and there is evidence to suggest that the requirements were not rigidly enforced. All of this came to an end in 1807 when the state legislature, reacting to the irregularities in the courthouse election, reviewed the state’s suffrage qualifications and passed a law limiting the right to vote to white, male citizens who had reached the age of twenty-one. Blacks and women thus lost the right to vote. This discrimination against black men was eliminated by the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1870, and against women by the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920.

Continued on page 15

The issue of separation from Essex lay smoldering for several decades, never breaking into flame. Then, on January 1, 1839, the Elizabethtown and Somerville Railroad ran its first train from Elizabethtown to Plainfield and in doing so ushered in a new era. The Elizabethtown and Somerville, which eight years later was rechartered and renamed the Central Railroad of New Jersey, had united the southern townships with Elizabethtown. Iron rails had revolutionized transportation and whetted the appetites of business and commercial interests, creating new stirrings of sentiment for secession.

Around 1845 a determined agitation for separation from Essex County once more appeared, and with the creation of Plainfield two years later, the movement picked up momentum. In the southern tier communities there was the widespread conviction that separation from Essex would result in expanded economic activity and increased prosperity for the average citizen. Once again the fight was led by Elizabethtown, which saw itself as the new county seat, and once again Westfield and Plainfield had a different end in mind. As their appeals were rebuffed year after year, the residents of both Elizabethtown and of the western townships felt increasing frustration. In the period between 1837 and 1850 New Jersey had created six new counties—Atlantic, Passaic, Mercer, Hudson, Camden, and Ocean. And all this time the pleas of southern Essex had been ignored.

With the passage of time, however, new elements were being added. Elizabeth, which was finally incorporated as a City in 1855, wanted more than ever to flex its municipal muscles. Another influence was the support from other counties in northeastern New Jersey, who were feeling increasingly outnumbered in the State Legislature. They also wanted the addition of a new county, which would add one more northeastern member to the upper house. There was, moreover, a new harmony existing between the political parties. The Democrats and the Republicans, recognizing the great opportunities that separation from Essex would provide them, cast aside partisanship and agreed to temporarily forget their differences. They agreed to divide the county offices equally between them and apportion the offices among all of the towns. They even extended an olive branch to their adversaries and promised to share the spoils with those who opposed the separation.

With these new forces at work the years of campaigning and political maneuvering finally paid off. On March 19, 1857, the New Jersey legislature finally brought Union County into being. One newspaper stated that passage of the bill was “evidence of what can be effected by perseverance in a just cause.” A little more than three weeks later, on April 13, the day of the annual town meetings of the townships, it all became a reality. After decades of struggle, the battle was won. Elizabeth became the county seat and the Elizabeth courthouse and grounds were conveyed to the county. Now the county would even have its own militia unit called the Union Brigade, attached to the State’s Second Division.

The first meeting of the Union County Board of Freeholders convened at Elizabeth on May 13, 1857, with two Freeholder representatives from each town in the newborn county: William J. Tenny and James B. Barnett from Elizabeth; Abner Parcell and Matthias T. Wade from Union; Isaac Bannister and Williams Stites from Springfield; John S. Clark and Daniel H. Noe from New Providence; Gideon Ross and Charles Marsh from Westfield; Manning Vermeule and Zachariah Webster from Plainfield; and Samuel Williams and Stephen Jackson from Rahway. Joy and harmony prevailed. Business proceeded briskly, and the Freeholders unanimously elected Samuel Williams of Rahway as director. Priam Pierce was chosen Clerk of the Board

There was unintended irony in the seceding towns taking the name “Union.” Because the county came into being only four years before the country erupted into bloody civil war, historians and others, then and now, have assumed that the name was chosen to emphasize the inhabitants’ allegiance to the federal union. An editorial in the Trenton True American congratulating the new county stated that it was hoped and believed that “true to their title” the people of the new county “will always be faithful to the Union.” Perhaps. But the people of the new county had long spoken of a union of the southern towns of Essex. As far back as the great courthouse fight in 1807, representatives of the disaffected towns toasted “An Union of the five southern townships.”

The city of Elizabeth was elated that separation had been achieved. The New-Jersey Journal offered a “hearty thanks” to the state legislature for “this tardy rendition of justice.” But there was even more at stake. The paper added: “Old fogyism which so long reigned rampant here has already been nearly ‘rubbed out,’ and the consequence has been that, awakening from our long sleep, we have brushed the cobwebs off and made rapid strides toward obtaining the position in the State which we should have long since occupied.” The future was bright. “Location, the character of its population, with some minor matters, have overslaughed the feeble remains of old fogyism, and we are now emphatically progressing.”



The information in this article has been taken from an article written by Robert J. Fridlington in 2007. Mr. Fridlington is a member of the Union County Historical Society, the Cranford Historical Society, and served on the Union County 150th Anniversary Committee. A Professor Emeritus of History at Kean University, he is the author of *Union County Yesterday* and other historical publications. Special thanks is also given to Sebastian Delia, Communications Director of the County of Union. If you are interested in further information about Union County, please visit their website at <http://www.ucnj.org/home.html>

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



Pictured Above: 2009 Registered Municipal Clerks

Lisa Dority, Winslow Township; Diane Malloy, Harrison Township; Jeffrey Jotz, Rahway City;
Colleen Naumov, New Milford Borough; Barbara Nagy, Clifton City

Pictured Below: 2010 Registered Municipal Clerks

Seated: Jane Dietsche, Emerson Borough; Fran Scordo, Montvale Borough; Kim Macellarro, Ewing Township; Maggie Pereira, Tinton Falls Borough; Madeleine Smith, Maplewood Township; Patricia Carpenter, Kearney Town

Standing: Deborah Karlsson, Edgewater Borough; Rhonda Williams, Atlantic City; Jaime Evelina, Teaneck Township; Wil Daddario, Hopewell Township; Maureen Murphy, Tinton Falls Borough



MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY: 2010 RESOLUTION RETIRED MUNICIPAL CLERKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Bergen County: Nancy Hatten, Tenafly Borough
Nadine Conn, Teterboro Borough
- Camden County: Barbara Hawk, Laurel Springs Borough;
Jane Barber, Lindenwold Borough
- Cape May County: James Alexis, Middle Township
Dorothy Tomlin, West Wildwood Borough
- Cumberland County: Lewis Thompson, City of Millville
- Gloucester County: Dolores Connors, Swedesboro Borough
Raymond Sherman, West Deptford Township
- Mercer County: Annette Bielawski, Hopewell Township
- Monmouth County: Irene Joline, City of Long Branch
Karen Mount-Taylor, Tinton Falls Borough
Rose Ann Weeden, Manalapan Township
Barbara Bascom, Upper Freehold Township
- Morris County: Lydia Magnotti, Jefferson Township
- Ocean County: Virginia Lampman, Brick Township
Bonnie Leonetti, Long Beach Township
Marie Pellecchia, Manchester Township
- Union County: Barbara Riepe, Scotch Plains Township
Kathleen Wisniewski, Springfield Township

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVING THEIR REGISTERED MUNICIPAL CLERK CERTIFICATION IN THE FALL OF 2009 AND THE SPRING OF 2010, BUT WERE NOT PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING FOR THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Fall 2009 RMC Recipients:

April Claudio, Eileen DeFabis, Nancy Ferrigno, Barbara Ilaria, Kathleen Jentsch, Robert Kenny, Amanda Lobban, Mary O'Keefe, Christine Robbins, Meg Steeb, Yolanda Roberts

Spring 2010 RMC Recipients:

Erin Barillas, Denise Brouse, Kate Chambers, Carole Chamberlain-Berman, Jennifer Crespo, Susan Crossman, Lyla DeCastro, Joseph Delaney Jr., Christine Dispenza, Judith Madden, Michelle Masser, Pamela McCartney, Noreen Morris, Desrie Picinich, Bonnie Taft, Carol Torres, Lois Yarrington

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWEST MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY: SHARON YOUNG OF WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERKS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY



Pictured above: Evelyn Rosario, Nutley Twp; Kim-Marie White, Eastampton Twp;
Peter LoDico, Saddle Brook Twp; Rhona Bluestein, Roselle Borough

The CMC designation program is designed to enhance the job performance of the Clerk in small and large municipalities. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The program prepares the participants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerks by providing them with quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning. The program has been in existence since 1970 and has helped thousands of clerks in various municipalities.

Other CMC Recipients Not Shown above: Heidi Brunt, Middletown Twp; Lorinda Sciara, Woodcliff Lake Borough; Eileen A. Gore, Hamilton Twp; Nicole L. Di Rado, Clerk of the Board, Union County Freeholders; Keith Kazmark, Elmwood Park Borough;

News on the RMC Study Guide for 2011:

Municipal Clerks, please note that the New Jersey Municipal Clerks Study Guide has been republished and the Third Edition is forthcoming.

Beginning in the spring of 2011, Rutgers will be utilizing the Third Edition of the New Jersey Municipal Clerks Study Guide, 2010.

All content has been revised and the Third Edition supersedes all previous versions of the Study Guide. The Manual Review Committee and Coded Systems have worked to revise all content and publish in a new format. Order forms for the new books will be provided with the Rutgers course offering and online.

Students registered for spring 2011 courses will be provided with the new Third Edition Study Guide. Current holders of the Study Guide will have the option to buy the Third Edition unbound for use with their existing binders.



2010 MCANJ President Vinny Buttiglieri (pictured above, at right) bestowed the First MCANJ “L. Manuel Hirshblond Distinguished Service Award” to Bonnie Leonetti, Clerk of Long Beach Township, at the Annual Business Meeting held in Atlantic City on November 17, 2010. Pictured with Vinny are Manny Hishblond (at left) and Bonnie Leonetti (center).

**2010 RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
IN MEMORY OF OUR DECEASED MUNICIPAL CLERKS**

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

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

WHEREAS, although dearly departed many Municipal Clerks will always be in thought a part of their municipality;

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

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


Bergen County:	Catherine Boel, Little Ferry Borough
Camden County:	Regina White, Somerdale Borough
Cape May County:	Fran Pettit, Woodbine Borough
Essex County:	Marge Underhill, Cedar Grove Township (retired)
Monmouth County:	Helen Marie Leming Mika, Allentown Borough (retired); Charles Ormsbee, Belmar Borough (retired); Mary Martin Vaccaro, Asbury Park City; Georgine Young, Lake Como Borough
Morris County:	Marilyn J. Snow, East Hanover
Passaic County:	Sylvia Ulmer, Paterson City (retired)
Somerset County:	Thomas Brodbeck, Bound Brook Borough (retired); Jean Pellicane, Franklin Township (retired)

May they rest in peace.

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Friend of the Municipal Clerks Award

Each year, MCANJ presents a very special award - the Friend of the Municipal Clerk Award. This award is given to someone that has made valuable contributions to our Association over a period of time. This year's recipient has played a vital role in the success of both our Annual Education Conferences and our Annual Meetings that we hold at the Tropicana Hotel. He has continually gone out of his way to make sure that our wishes are his command. He has treated us with the utmost courtesy and respect, and for that, we owe him much. He has often been a sounding board for many of us and has offered valuable suggestions on how we could make these endeavors better year after year. The 2010 Friend of the Municipal Clerks Award is presented to FORD PFIFFER, with our grateful appreciation for his many years of dedicated service to our Association and its membership.

Buttiglieri Announces Candidacy for Region II Director

To My Fellow New Jersey Clerks:

While my tenure as MCANJ President has concluded, my desire to serve has not. I am extremely excited and honored to announce my candidacy for the position of IIMC Region II Director, currently being held by New Jersey's own Jane Williams-Warren, whose term concludes in May 2011.

New Jersey has always been viewed as a leader within the IIMC family, and it is extremely important that we retain our position on the IIMC Board of Directors. This will not be an easy undertaking as my candidacy is being challenged by an individual from another state. Let's be clear: Region II has always been very well represented, especially by our fellow New Jersey Clerks, some of whom have gone on to higher office.

I look forward to continuing that fine tradition as Region Director but I NEED YOUR HELP! I am asking for your support in the upcoming months so that New Jersey can continue to represent the entire Region on the IIMC Board of Directors. Should an election be necessary, ballots will be sent to all IIMC members throughout Region II in March 2011. It will be imperative that you complete your ballot and return it to IIMC headquarters. Please keep your eyes open for any additional information in the upcoming months. Thank you, in advance, for your support!

Vinny Buttiglieri

Municipal Clerk / Registrar
Township of Ocean

DEADLINES FOR NEWS ITEMS

The deadline for the April 2011 issue is March 4, 2011. 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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