

MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Joanne Kwasniewski, 2011 President



I cannot believe that the year is half over already! It has been an eventful year so far.

The 2011 Education Conference was amazing. The Conference Committee worked extremely hard to provide us with exciting sessions, dynamic speakers, CEU's in all disciplines and to make sure that everything went smoothly. Events of this importance and magnitude take the tireless efforts of many people. I am extremely grateful to Co-Chairs Heather Mailander and Sharon Brienza who helped keep the Committee moving forward. Believe me, the rest of the Committee, which included Diane Pflugfelder, Bette Mastropasqua, Jane Gillespie, Ceil Covino, Lea Quinty, Doreen Cali, Debra Sopryni, Drew Pavlica, Nancy Saffos, John Mitch, Vinny Buttiglieri and Keith Kazmark, was only a step behind. The Committee devoted countless hours before the conference, during the conference and after the conference making sure that everything went smoothly and if it didn't, making sure that none of you even realized it.

We could not have had such a successful conference without the assistance and guidance of our Executive Director, Joel Popkin, who is always working on our behalf. My thanks and appreciation also to our dedicated retirees Al Reda, Barbara Camp, Joseph Favaro, Tina Fiorellino, Theresa Tighe and Joseph Valenti who man the registration desk which allows the Committee members to attend the sessions.

We had an amazing team of Addie Hanna and Joan Moreland in charge of the Silent Auction – they did a great job. Doreen Cali and her crew did a fantastic job selling merchandise – I doubt anyone escaped without buying something.

We were extremely fortunate in these tough economic times to have 280 attendees, which demonstrates the commitment and dedication Municipal Clerks have to education. My thanks to those who are always there to lend a hand, to introduce the speakers, scan the attendees and hand out CEU certificates. It seems that everyone gets caught up in helping; even our Legal Counsel Richard Lustgarten was seen helping Debra Sopronyi, Yancy Wazirmas and Sue Witkowski selling raffle tickets.

It seems no sooner than our Education Conference was over, I was heading to Nashville Tennessee for the IIMC Annual Conference. I was proud to be representing New Jersey. It was quite an honor and a thrill to carry the New Jersey flag during the parade of State flags at the Opening Ceremony. The general session speakers were excellent. I am sure those of us in attendance came away with more than a few new ideas to bring back to the office. Although our group was small, we paid particular attention to how things were done so that we could have a better idea of how things will work when we host the IIMC Annual Conference in 2013 in Atlantic City. We came away with some great ideas. The Tennessee Municipal Clerks were gracious hosts and presented an outstanding conference.

I am thrilled to announce that Vinny Buttiglieri was successful in his bid for Region II Director for IIMC. Congratulations to Vinny! I know that he will do a wonderful job representing New Jersey! Thanks to Jane Williams-Warren who has so ably served as Region II Director for the past three years. Vinny has a tough act to follow, but I know he is up to the task.

Continued on Page 11

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: Joel Popkin, 732.609.6441

People: Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Twp., 908.526.1300

MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2011

President: Joanne M. Kwasniewski, Fair Lawn Borough

E-mail: munclerk@fairlawn.org

First Vice President: Drew Pavlica, Garfield City

E-mail: garfieldclerk@optonline.net

Second Vice President: Nancy L. Saffos, Cherry Hill Township

E-mail: NSaffos@chtownship.com

Treasurer: John Mitch, Woodbridge Township

E-mail: john.mitch@twp.woodbridge.nj.us

Secretary: Keith Kazmark, Elmwood Park Borough

E-mail: kkazmark@elmwoodparknj.us

Immediate Past President: Vincent Buttiglieri, Ocean Township

E-mail: vbuttiglieri@oceanwp.org

Executive Director: Joel Popkin

E-mail: joelpopkin@optonline.net

Legal Counsel: Richard A. Lustgarten

PAST PRESIDENTS * EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

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

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Atlantic: Kimberley Hodsdon, Estelle Manor City

Bergen: Heather Mailander, Ridgewood Village

Burlington: Patricia L. Hunt, Moorestown Township

Camden: Deanna Bennett, Haddonfield Borough

Cape May: Lisa Stefankiewicz, Stone Harbor Borough

Cumberland: Susan Robestello, Millville City

Essex: Linda Wanat, Montclair Township

Gloucester: Dina Zawadski, Deptford Township

Hudson: Robert Byrne, Jersey City

Hunterdon: Cecilia Covino, Clinton Town

Mercer: Eileen Gore, Hamilton Township

Middlesex: Barbara Nyitrai, South Brunswick Township

Monmouth: Dawn McDonald, Interlaken Borough

Morris: Elizabeth Osborne, Madison Borough

Ocean: Bette Mastropasqua, Beachwood Borough

Passaic: Jane Williams-Warren, Paterson City

Salem: Cynthia Dalessio, Woodstown Borough

Somerset: Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Township

Sussex: James Doherty, Wantage Township

Union: Jean Kuc, Rahway City

Warren: Kelley Smith, Harmony Township

codification
expert

supplementation
reliable

legal review
comprehensive

electronic service
friendly

nationwide
service

CODED SYSTEMS

608 Highway 71 ♦ Spring Lake, New Jersey 07762

Tel 732.775.2300

Fax 732.820.2000

www.codedsystems.com ♦ info@codedsystems.com

MCANJ 2012 Committees - A Call for Volunteers

As President of our Association next year, I would like to invite you to take an active part in the MCANJ by volunteering your time and talents to serve on one of our Committees. I urge you not to sit idly by and let others do the work. MCANJ needs you. I can assure you that it will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your professional career. Only with your involvement can we address the present and future needs of our organization. I hope you will join me by completing the form below and returning it to me via mail, fax or email by September 1, 2011. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please call me at (973) 340-2001. I am looking forward to working with all of you in 2012 and thank you for your participation.

Andrew J. Pavlica, 2011 First Vice President

Constitution & Bylaws:

Reviews and recommends amendments to the Association's Constitution and Bylaws, with the purpose of enacting sound and fair rules of our organization.

Education:

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

Elections:

Examines and evaluates the statutory requirements governing elections in municipalities.

Education Conference:

Plans and implements an informative and rewarding program.

Fund Raising:

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

Information Technology/Web Page

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

Legal Defense Fund:

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

Legislative Review:

Reviews and monitors all proposed legislation which may affect the Municipal Clerk or our municipalities.

Legislative Committee for Laws Pertaining to Municipal Clerks:

In conjunction with the Legislative Committee, monitor and review all proposed legislation that may directly affect the Municipal Clerks' profession.

Manual Review:

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

Membership / Peer Alliance For Learning:

Strives for 100% membership in MCANJ. Identifies new Municipal Clerks and teams them with participating experienced Municipal Clerks who share their knowledge and assistance when needed.

Professional Development and Mini Conferences:

Develops programs and seminars that address the managerial skills needed by today's Municipal Clerks.

Public Relations/MCANJ Booth:

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

Quill:

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

Raffles:

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

Records:

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

Resolutions:

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

Scholarship:

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

Name _____ Title _____

Municipality/Address _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

I would like to serve on the following MCANJ Committee(s) during 2012:

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

3rd Choice _____

Deadline: Please return by September 1, 2011 to: Andrew J. Pavlica, MCANJ 1st VP
City of Garfield
111 Outwater Lane,
Garfield, NJ 07026-2694
OR Fax to: (973) 340-5183
OR E-mail to: garfieldclerk@optonline.net



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS NEAR!

Municipal Clerks, Deputies and Assistants continuing their education in pursuit of RMC, CMC and MMC certifications are eligible for a Scholarship. Candidates for all scholarships MUST be members of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey. CMC and MMC Scholarship applicants must be tenured Municipal Clerks. Scholarships shall be awarded at the Annual Meeting of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 during the League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City:

Four (4) RMC Scholarships

One (1) Peter H. Maclearie CMC Scholarship (Includes registration and 1 night's hotel accommodation)

One (1) MMC Scholarship (Includes registration and 1 night's hotel accommodation)

Completed applications should be mailed directly to:

MCANJ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

c/o Karen Hughes, RMC

Westwood Borough

101 Washington Avenue

Westwood, NJ 07675

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

You are encouraged to take advantage of this scholarship program offered to you by your Association.

Please complete this application page (or a photocopy of it) and submit it as instructed.

Should you have any questions, please contact Karen Hughes at 201-664-7100, ext. 101

MCANJ SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Title _____

Municipality _____

Address _____

Date of Appointment as Municipal Clerk _____ Deputy/Assistant _____

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

I am applying for the:

RMC Scholarship – cost of one (1) course

CMC Scholarship [tenure date _____] – for tuition to CMC program by Rutgers University and one (1) night's hotel accommodation.

MMC Scholarship [tenure date _____] – for tuition to MMC program by Rutgers University and one (1) night's hotel accommodation.

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

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

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

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

MUNICIPAL CLERKS

SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR OFFICE

FROM MUNIDEX

PETS
LIQUOR
MERCANTILE
CLERK INDEXING
BINGO AND RAFFLES
CITIZEN SERVICE ACT
LANDLORD REGISTRATION
BOARD AND APPOINTMENTS

MUNIDEX

174 Rt. 17 N., Rochelle Park, NJ 07862 – Phone: 201-291-1000 – Fax: 201-291-8588
Email: munidexinc@aol.com

REGISTRARS

YOU HEARD ABOUT IT ~ YOU HEARD ABOUT THE TIME SAVINGS

YOU HEARD HOW IT PRINTS ON THE FORM

YOU HEARD ABOUT THE EASE OF USE

MUNIDEX VITALS SOLUTION

- MARRIAGE
- CIVIL UNION
- REMARRIAGE
- DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP

ALL IN ONE PROCESS * ALL IN ONE PLACE

PEOPLE PAGE

by Sharon Brienza



CONGRATULATIONS

IIMC REGION II DIRECTOR

After a very strong campaign, Vinny Buttiglieri won the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Region II Director's seat.



Vinny taking the Oath of Office during the Annual Business meeting.

This was a very important election considering NJ will be hosting the IIMC Annual Conference in 2013. Having a NJ Director at this time could not have been more important.



Vinny taking his well deserved seat at "the table."

RETIREMENTS

Laureen "Reenie" Fellin of Watchung Borough (Somerset County) retired as of May 31. Reenie was hired on June 1, 1991 (the day the Watchung Police Station caught fire), a day she says is difficult to forget. She began her career as the Deputy Clerk/Secretary to the Planning Board. Reenie was appointed Borough Clerk in 1998 when Adele Widin retired and then became Borough Clerk/Administrator, a position she has held since 2003.

Maryann Smeltzer of Sea Bright Borough (Monmouth County) retired on July 1 and Hopatcong Borough Clerk Lorraine Stark also retired.

We all wish you the best of luck and happiness in your new ventures – whatever they may be!

TRANSITIONS

Effective June 1, Lorraine Stark's replacement in Hopatcong will be Cathy Gleason. Cathy will be leaving her position as Municipal Clerk Administrator of Sussex Borough to take the Clerk's job in Hopatcong.



Cathy Gleason

Brian McNeilly, who was serving as the Acting Sussex County Clerk since the retirement of Erma Gormley earlier this year, has become the new Administrator of Stanhope Borough. Before leaving, Brian named Jeffrey Parrott as the Deputy County Clerk for Sussex County, so now Jeff becomes the new Acting Sussex County Clerk.



Pictured Left: Jeff Parrott. Right: Brian McNeilly

Christine Dispenza left her job as Deputy Municipal Clerk in High Bridge to become the Municipal Clerk of Bethlehem Township in March.

Congratulations all around to every one and good luck in your new positions!

Continued on Page 7

PEOPLE PAGE

by Sharon Brienza

Continued From Page 6

BERGEN COUNTY MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION

The BCMCA holds five meetings a year where the members donate to a different organization each time they meet. The tradition began when Carol Dray was President and current President Lorraine McMackin wanted to continue the practice. During their February meeting they collected \$110.00 for the Make-a-Wish Foundation and in April they collected shopping bags full of food and sundries. Keep up the good work, Bergen County Municipal Clerks!!

CMC

Tonya D. Carter, Deputy Township Clerk, Township of Lawrence, received her CMC designation. 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.

A NOTE FROM KATHY THORPE-HOLDER

To all my Friends in Region II: Thanks for your support of my MCEF Walk/Run. I collected \$1,700 the highest amount and therefore was awarded a free registration (Value + \$500) for the 2012 IIMC Conference in Portland. As I stated at the Region meeting, my sole purpose in working to have the highest sponsor amount was to donate the registration to New Jersey, to use as a fund raiser for the IIMC Conference in 2013 being held in NJ. Thank you again for your support of me and MCEF.

Kathy Thorpe-Holder

FOR THE FUN OF IT

Carla Horowitz, Deputy Clerk for Montclair Township started working with clay over 35 years ago because her dearest friend wanted to be a potter and she went along for the ride. Little did she know at the time that it would become her passion.

Recently a Raku pot of Carla's was chosen to be included in "500 Raku" published by Lark Books. Raku is a type of Japanese pottery traditionally characterized by hand-molded clay as opposed to using a potter's wheel.

2011 ANNUAL MCANJ CONFERENCE



Another successful Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey Conference was held at the Taj Mahal thanks to President Joanne Kwasniewski and the Conference Committee.



Keynote speaker Scott Marcus was a hit while engaging several members of the audience in group participation.



Mayor Lorenzo Langford welcomed all the attendees and asked for a round of applause acknowledging Rosemary Adams, who recently retired after serving as Atlantic City's Municipal Clerk after 28 years of service.

Continued on Page 12

LEAGUE CONFERENCE VENDORS WANTED!

The 96th Annual League Conference is November 14-17, 2011. If you know a vendor with a product or service useful to your colleagues across the state, please help us to contact them, or ask them to contact us. From the simple everyday, to exotic new technologies – everything a municipality uses belongs at the Annual League Conference. It surprises some people to hear that all the new exhibitors learn about the League Conference through word of mouth. That makes you and your colleagues our most important partners. And all it takes is a conversation with someone you already know!

Full information is on our website NJSLOM.ORG under "Annual Conference," or ask your vendors to call the League office at 609-695-3481. They can get full information from Michael Darcy at extension 116 or Kristin Lawrence at extension 125. Please feel free to share this letter with any of your vendors, suppliers, or corporate friends. We would love to hear from them, and help them take full advantage of the opportunities available at the Annual League Conference – the largest municipal conference in the country!

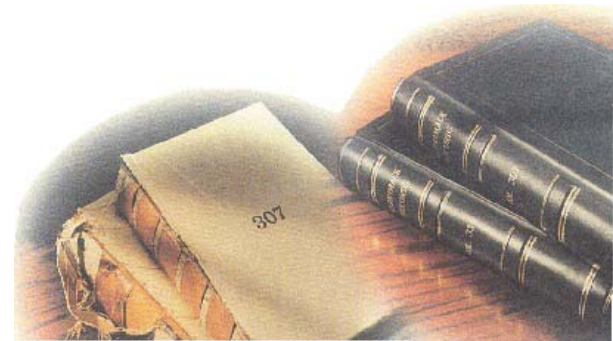
Michael J. Darcy, CAE
Assistant Executive Director
MDarcy@njslom.com

Kristin Lawrence
Exhibit Manager
KLawrence@njslom.com

*Brown's River Marotti Co.
of Vermont*

800-639-3027
info@brmco.us

**PERMANENT RECORDS CONSERVATION
HIGH-DENSITY MOBILE SHELVING
MAP AND PLAT RESTORATION
MODULAR VAULT SYSTEMS**



SPOTLIGHT ON: CAPE MAY COUNTY

21 Stories of Our Garden State; 21 Ways to Say, "We're Great!"

During the last few centuries, Indians, explorers, pirates, whalers, farmers, tourists and residents have all enjoyed the abundance and natural beauty of the waters and peninsula known today as Cape May County.

Lenni Lenape Indians made their summer camps on these shores before European explorers arrived. Some 20th Century roads were originally paths cleared by these Native Americans.

Henry Hudson sailed the Delaware Bay in 1609 aboard the Half Moon, anchoring near Cape May Point, but his exploration did not result in any settlement. In the 1620's, the Dutch West India Company sent Cornelius Jacobsen Mey with three ships to the Delaware Bay and New York region. During this voyage, he named the Bay's south cape, Cape Cornelius and the north, Cape Mey. The south is now Delaware's Cape Henlopen, while the north still bears his name, although later English settlers altered the spelling.

Did Captain Kidd really bury some of his treasure on Cape May County beaches? No one has ever found any of it if he did. At least, no one has ever admitted that they have found any of it. But that hasn't stopped legends from being told and retold about secret treasure chests lying somewhere beneath the sands. Documented reports note that there was, indeed, pirate activity here. In one instance, at least, a Governor Bass claimed to have "been credibly informed that Captain Kidd...had been seen and spoken to..." aboard a large sloop near Cape May. The Governor allegedly "saw the sloop himself when he went down to the Cape after other pirates," and would have attempted to capture it had it not "outsailed his vessel."

Can you really see whales off the shore of Cape May County? That question would have seemed absurd to early settlers who made their living through whaling in the Delaware Bay. The first settlement in the County was established by these whalers in about 1685 on the Bay's southern banks. They called it Portsmouth, or New England Village, and later Cape May Town and Town Bank.

Too many whales were killed in too short a time, causing the destruction of the Bay's whaling industry. As the county's whaling industry diminished, farming became more popular, and more necessary, as a means of survival. Many whalers who had been seasonal farmers during those months when the whales were not in the Bay now depended entirely on the land for their living. Cape May County was formally created in 1692 from land held by the West Jersey Society. In 1726, the first census showed a population of 668. Increased trade between Cape May, Philadelphia and Burlington, along with improved transportation, led to the establishment of new towns and villages. The County was divided into three precincts in 1723: Upper, Middle and Lower (three of today's townships). In 1745, Cape May Court House became the County seat.

All information is taken from the Cape May Department of Tourism Website, www.thejerseycape.com

ROOM RESERVATION FORM
Tropicana Casino and Resort, Atlantic City, NJ

This year, there is a total block of 22 rooms available to our Association in the Havana section at the rate of \$95 per night (plus \$8 occupancy fee, \$7 shuttle fee & \$1 phone fee), and in the rest of the hotel at \$85 per night (plus \$8 occupancy fee, \$7 shuttle fee & \$1 phone fee). If you do not pay by voucher, add the cost of the State sales tax of 13%. These rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Any room not reserved by September 10, 2011 will revert back to the League for its use.

League Policy Regarding Cancellations: Anyone canceling a reservation after October 25, 2011, will be responsible for the entire cost of the room. The Municipal Clerks' Association will not be responsible for the cost of any cancelled room. Please remember: If you make your room reservation through the MCANJ, you must cancel through MCANJ, not the hotel directly.

Please Print or Type:

Name: _____

Municipality: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Enclosed: Personal Check # _____ (or) Voucher # _____

I will be arriving on November _____, 2011 and departing on November _____, 2011.

Make payable to Tropicana Casino and Resort in the amount of \$ _____ for one (1) night's deposit.

HAVANA SECTION _____ OTHER _____

My reservation will be for three (3) nights at Tropicana Casino and Resort and I acknowledge that I am responsible for the full three (3) nights' accommodation and will honor the cancellation policy of notifying 2nd Vice President Nancy Saffos no later than October 25, 2011. I further accept that cancellations made after this deadline date will require my payment of all cancelled room night costs.

Signature Date

Title/MCANJ Position

Return by September 2, 2011 to:
Nancy Saffos, 2nd Vice President
Cherry Hill Township
Address: 820 Mercer Street, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-2638
E-mail: nsaffos@chtownship.com
Phone: (856) 665-6500
Fax: (856) 488-7893



Reminder: Tickets for the Wednesday, November 16, 2011 MCANJ BREAKFAST are available through your County Advisory Board Representative. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

"MEANDERINGS: NOT JUST STRICTLY LEGAL"

by Richard Lustgarten, MCANJ Legal Counsel



"Summertime, and the living is easy..." at least that's what the old song says. Just glancing through the newspaper indicates exactly the opposite. More terrorist bombings in the Middle East, the Legislature has to come up with another half billion dollars to fund the Abbott School districts, earthquakes, tornados, increasing gas prices while oil companies make billions of dollars in gross receipts, Presidential candidates coming and going (already?), healthcare debate continuing and all of the other depressing news that appears daily on TV and the newspapers.

Couple that with the uncertainty of New Jersey pension reform and retiree healthcare benefits and unwinding during the summer is clearly a daunting task.

Put in perspective, however, history dictates that there is always "bad news," and those stories are more frequently published than the feel good stories which probably don't sell many newspapers and don't make primetime.

The sordid details of public/private lives of Presidential contenders and ex-Governors may fascinate the curious and are certainly curiously fascinating, but really don't add to the public discourse in a meaningful way. High powered public officials doing bad things seem to always make the news. You may ask, of course, how all this applies to municipal clerks and in one sense, it doesn't. However, in another sense, it does, because municipal clerks belong to that larger universe of citizenry-apart from agendas, OPRA requests, being custodian of every problem, the municipality's chief cook and bottle washer and seer to everyone and everything. (If this entire description applies to you, you are clearly working too hard.)

But as we move into summer, I start to contemplate whether things are more complex now than they ever were, or does it just seem that way.

My unscientific conclusion is that things are more complex, clearly more voluminous and require more immediate attention in a shorter time span.

Nevertheless, municipal clerks are expected to be the paragons of municipal oversight. Hundreds of correct responses and countless hours of properly processing more and more paper typically go unnoticed until one blunder occurs. Then, in municipal government, as in most bureaucracies, the modus operandi appears to attempt to "fix blame" rather than "fix the problem." And after the dust settles, everyone is supposed to continue as if nothing happened, despite harsh language, hurt feelings and a general sense of lack of gratitude for all the good things that municipal clerks do.

As the head note to this article says, these are musings of your legal counsel rather than the sometimes dry reporting of some new legal case, statute or event. This article is being written right after Memorial Day weekend which was, typically for me, filled to the brim with tasks to be accomplished rather than just kicking back and letting summertime "be easy."

There is one personal anecdote I would like to share however, as it specifically relates to municipal government but does not specifically relate to the municipal clerk's office.

I recently had occasion to call a municipality and speak to an appointed official about a legal matter.

It was clear from the tone of the person who answered the phone that a barrier was being put up between my request to speak to this particular individual and the message being relayed to him. Without being asked what the subject matter was, I was asked "Well, who are you?" At this point, unsuccessfully trying to suppress my annoyance, I retorted "Who do I have to be?" Eventually, I was put through and had a pleasant conversation.

The point of all this is that had I just been John Q. Citizen without any experience "inside Borough Hall," I would have come away with the feeling that a) my taxpayer dollars were being misused, b) all public officials and employees are rude or non-responsive, or c) I was badly treated but that's life and you can't fight City Hall.

Obviously, none of those conclusions foster a good relationship between residents and their governmental officials/employees. In this climate of public employee bashing, we need all the friends we can get.

Continued on Page 11

"MEANDERINGS: NOT JUST STRICTLY LEGAL"

by Richard Lustgarten, MCANJ Legal Counsel

Continued from Page 10

Consequently, while not legal advice, but advice nevertheless, we should treat every caller as a Broadway actor does each performance. I have been told that the Broadway actors have a mindset that members of this audience should be treated as if it is the only time that the actor's performance will be seen, so that no matter how many previous performances have occurred, this is the one and only time to leave a good impression on this audience. That's a good mind-set to have regardless of how hassled, overworked or put upon you feel. That citizen/resident/taxpayer on that particular interaction will either come away with a good or bad feeling. In the current atmosphere of negative publicity against public employees, no potential supporter should be turned off by a less than gracious interaction.

In addition to the general social commentary above, I do note three cases of interest to you thus fulfilling my responsibility as legal counsel and not resident philosopher. They relate to liability for official acts.

Generally, a public official has qualified immunity which shields the official from liability regardless of whether the official's conduct constituted a mistake of law, of fact or a combination of the two. (Hickson v. Marina Associates, 743 F. Supp.2d 362 (D.N.J. 2010)).

While absolute immunity protects certain officials who perform special functions such as judges and prosecutors, most officials are entitled to qualified immunity which operates to shield them from suit for their good faith conduct. (Peterson v. Bernardi, 719 F. Supp.2d 419 (D.N.J. 2010)).

Finally, the same standard of objective reasonableness that applies in a 1983 action (Civil Rights) under the Federal statutes, also governs a public employee's good faith arising under the New Jersey Tort Claims Act. (Simmons v. Loose, (418 NJ Super 206 App. Div. 2011)).

Make sure you understand the request, document your actions, seek legal advice if necessary, and give a timely response. If you do, you should be protected.

To conclude "Summertime and the living is easy...." – only if you make it so. Therefore, (except for those with significant allergies) smell the roses, take a walk in the park and I'll communicate again in the fall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Joanne Kwasniewski, 2011 President

Continued from Page 1

I have received numerous copies of resolutions that you have had your governing bodies adopt, opposing S-1351 which will amend the Open Public Meetings Act. It is very important that we continue to let our legislators know how strongly we feel about the adverse effect many requirements of this bill will have on local government. I am still hopeful that we will see changes to the proposed bill. The Executive Board and the MCANJ Legislative Committee will continue to watch what is happening and I will keep you updated through email blasts.

Speaking of email blasts, if you haven't been receiving any emails from me through MCANJ IT/Web Page at admin@njclerks.org, please let me know. We may not have your correct email address. Daina Dale, Chair of the Information Technology/Web Page Committee is working diligently to create an accurate up-to-date data base of email addresses, so it is important that when your email address changes for any reason you let us know.

1st Vice President Drew Pavlica and I have already begun working on the programs for the NJ League of Municipalities Conference. Our Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16th in the Swan Ballroom at the Tropicana. The County Advisory Board Members will be contacting you about tickets for the breakfast over the summer.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201)794-5340 or email at munclerk@fairlawn.org.

Have a great summer!

PEOPLE PAGE

by Sharon Brienza

Continued from Page 7

ANNUAL IIMC CONFERENCE

The Annual IIMC Conference was held in Nashville, TN and in addition to the many educational opportunities, and Vinny's election as our Region II Director, everyone had some fun, too!



The Jersey Group on the way to the Wildhorse Saloon for the All-Conference Event.



Sharon Young and Daina Dale boot scootin' at the Wildhorse Saloon



Jane Williams Warren's prize for responding to a question during a session! (I told you they had some fun, too!)

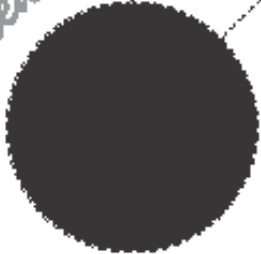
MINICONFERENCE NORTH HUGE SUCCESS!

Sandyston Township in Sussex County was the site of the second Mini-Conference North for 2011, as close to 50 persons received CEU credits and heard excellent presentations on the topics of OPRA, OPMA, and the Local Public Contracts Law. Kudos to Amy Lobban of Sandston Township for hosting a wonderful day!



QScend proudly offers the following web-based software solutions to improve your municipality's citizen service:

- QContact
- QAlert
- QNotify
- QScheduler
- QPolling
- QForms


Please... 

Come In!

With QScend's software suite working for me, I now have more time to spare.

Let QScend help you improve citizen service. Give us a call or log on for more information.


1.888.878.3000
www.qscend.com
info@qscend.com



We'll be at the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference.

Will you?

Visit us at booth 600.



SLOGANS OF NEW JERSEY

Some municipalities were “First.” Some are our “Favorite.” And still others deal with the Past, the Present, or the Future. There are many colorful nicknames and slogans for New Jersey’s municipalities and this series celebrates those Slogans.

In each edition of the Quill, we’ll include some for you to enjoy.

Test your knowledge by seeing if you can match the Municipality with the Slogan.

Then turn to page 14 and see how you did!

This issue’s theme celebrates slogans that share the message:

“TO KNOW US IS TO LOVE US!”

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>___ Hamilton Township (Mercer County)</p> <p>___ Seaside Heights Borough (Ocean County)</p> <p>___ Vernon Township (Sussex County)</p> <p>___ Ocean City (Cape May County)</p> <p>___ Cherry Hill Township (Camden County)</p> <p>___ Collingswood Borough (Camden County)</p> <p>___ Atlantic City (Atlantic County)</p> <p>___ Haddon Heights Borough (Camden County)</p> <p>___ Brigantine City (Atlantic County)</p> | <p>A. The Place You Want to Be</p> <p>B. The Friendly Community</p> <p>C. You Couldn't Pick a Better Place</p> <p>D. America's Favorite Hometown</p> <p>E. America's Favorite Playground</p> <p>F. An Island You'll Love For Life</p> <p>G. New Jersey’s Four Season Recreation Community</p> <p>H. Your Home For Family Fun Since 1913</p> <p>I. America's Greatest Family Resort</p> |
|---|--|

TURN TO PAGE 14 FOR THE ANSWERS!

MCANJ, INC. MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY As of June 3, 2011

CATEGORY	TOTAL
MUNICIPAL CLERKS	499
DEPUTYMUNICIPAL CLERKS	229
ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERKS	7
ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL CLERKS	15
COUNTY CLERKS	8
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERKS	1
CLERK TO FREEHOLDER BOARD	2
AFFILIATE MEMBERS	16
 GRAND TOTAL	 777

Submitted by
John Mitch,
MCANJ
Treasurer



% of MUNICIPAL CLERKS PAID (June 3, 2011)

County	Total # of Municipalities	Municipalities	
		Paid	% Paid
Atlantic	23	20	86.96%
Bergen	70	63	90.00%
Burlington	40	36	90.00%
Camden	37	33	89.19%
Cape May	16	14	87.50%
Cumberland	14	11	78.57%
Essex	22	21	95.45%
Gloucester	24	22	91.67%
Hudson	12	10	83.33%
Hunterdon	26	25	96.15%
Mercer	13	12	92.31%
Middlesex	25	23	92.00%
Monmouth	53	47	88.68%
Morris	39	33	84.62%
Ocean	33	31	93.94%
Passaic	16	16	100.00%
Salem	15	13	86.67%
Somerset	21	20	95.24%
Sussex	24	20	83.33%
Union	21	20	95.24%
Warren	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>77.27%</u>
	566	507	89.58%

SLOGANS OF NEW JERSEY

“TO KNOW US IS TO LOVE US”

Here are the answers to the Matching Challenge shown on page 13

- D. Hamilton Township (Mercer County) is known as “America’s Favorite Hometown.” The 92,000 residents of Hamilton Township have bragging rights to support their claim, having been recently rated as the 51st best place to live in the country and the 4th best place to live in New Jersey by CNN/Money Magazine.
- H. Seaside Heights Borough (Ocean County) is “Your Home For Family Fun Since 1913,” a slogan backed up by Seaside Heights’ beach being voted one of New Jersey’s Top Ten! Visit their tourism site for a list of all the fun things to do at www.seasideheightstourism.com.
- G. Vernon Township (Sussex County) is known as “New Jersey’s Four Season Recreation Community.” Vernon Township attracts many visitors throughout the year who come to enjoy the natural beauty, healthful spas, gracious Bed & Breakfast accommodations, ski resorts and golf resorts, giving Vernon Township the reputation as a "Live, Work, Play & Relax Community" throughout the four seasons.
- I. Ocean City (Cape May County) is “America’s Greatest Family Resort” and because of that, it is a wonderful place for family reunions, group outings and of course, beach weddings! Beaches, boardwalk, bay, Ferris wheels and amusement rides make beautiful backdrops for all your family photos. Throughout the year, OCNJ hosts numerous free family events. Visit www.oceancitychamber.com and get the whole story!
- C. Cherry Hill Township (Camden County) is "A Great Place to Live, Work and Play." The Township promises "You Couldn't Pick a Better Place." Boasting 49 parks within its 24 square miles, the community enjoys a reputation as a family-oriented, bustling town with 19 award-winning public schools, numerous places of worship, and a vibrant business sector known for shopping, dining, and entertainment destinations.
- A. Collingswood Borough (Camden County) is "The Place You Want to Be." With street festivals, professional theater and international music talent, Collingswood is truly a destination for the arts. And, carrying through on that theme, in Collingswood, shopping is truly a work of art! With a wide variety of specialty shops and beautiful surroundings, you'll find everything from fine art and crafts to gifts and home fashions in designer boutiques, high-end consignment shops, and antique galleries. Whatever your style, Collingswood is your destination!
- E. Atlantic City (Atlantic County) is "America's Favorite Playground." With casinos, boardwalk, conventions, shows and beach, Atlantic City is "Always Turned On." From antique shops, museums and cultural attractions, piers, arcades, amusements and trolley tours, Atlantic City has it all! You'll find more than enough places to visit and play with Atlantic City's attractions and activities.
- B. Haddon Heights Borough (Camden County) is "The Friendly Community." Haddon Heights was incorporated as a Borough on March 2, 1904, from portions of the now-defunct Centre Township and parts of Haddon Township. New Jersey Monthly magazine ranked Haddon Heights as one of the best places to live in New Jersey, and the Borough has also been designated as a Classic Town by The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.
- F. Brigantine City (Atlantic County) is "New Jersey's Best Kept Secret" and "An Island You'll Love For Life." As far back as the 1500s, the Lenape Indians called this island their "summer playground." And if the natural beauty and peaceful seclusion are not enough of a reason to visit, consider this: the legendary pirate, Captain William Kidd, is said to have buried treasure under Brigantine Beach sand. Good luck!

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS ADVANTAGES:

If you are enjoying this issue of the *Quill*, and would like to continue receiving future issues in the mail, **MAKE SURE YOUR MCANJ 2011 DUES ARE PAID!** The 2011 Executive Board is continuing the practice of tying in the mailing list of the *Quill* with the dues list for 2011 MCANJ membership. So, if you have previously been receiving an issue of the *Quill*, and find that you are not receiving any more issues in 2011, check to make sure that your MCANJ membership dues are current and up to date. Membership in the Legal Defense Fund also requires that your dues be paid and current.



LEGAL DEFENSE FUND REMINDER

By now all current members of the Legal Defense Fund should have renewed since the deadline was April 1. If you forgot to renew, you will have to join as a new member. Anyone who is not a current member, can join at any time, keeping in mind there is a 90 day waiting period before you can file a claim. Applications for membership are available on the MCANJ website (www.njclerks.org). The LDF Committee has been busy over the last year with issues so complex that the MCANJ Attorney has gotten involved since many of these things could effect the entire organization. Governing bodies are trying to do some crazy things and some of them are succeeding! Don't wait until it happens to you – join the LDF today.

Sharon L. Brienza,
Township of Branchburg
LDF Committee Chair

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND BREAKFAST

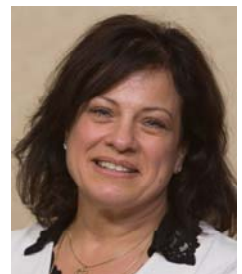
The date of the Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast this year is Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

Breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the business meeting will begin at 9:30 am.

The price of the ticket will again be \$30.00. The deadline for purchasing tickets is October 7, 2011. As in the past, no tickets will be sold at the door.

Tickets will be available from County Advisory Board Representatives. Individuals interested in purchasing tickets should contact the Advisory Board Representative of their county.

Nancy L. Saffos
MCANJ 2nd VP
820 Mercer Street
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
Phone: (856) 488-7892



Visit us
online or
call to sign
up for our
FREE
Webinars

Document
Management
Solutions

powered by
Laserfiche®

GENERAL
CODE

800-836-8834
www.generalcode.com

In this issue, we conclude our series of “SPOTLIGHT ON ...” articles celebrating the Counties of New Jersey. Cape May County provides a wonderful exclamation point to round out our series of “21 Stories of Our Garden State; 21 Ways to Say ‘We’re Great!’”

In this issue, on Page 13, we kick off a new series named “SLOGANS OF NEW JERSEY.” As we will see during this series, some municipalities were “First.” Some claim to be our “Favorite.” And others deal with the Past, the Present, or the Future. Sometimes we compare ourselves to another place; and sometimes we celebrate our own uniqueness! There are many colorful nicknames and slogans for New Jersey’s municipalities; and this series will celebrate those Slogans. Each edition of the Quill, we’ll include some for you to enjoy.

We’ve been busy compiling as many slogans and nicknames as we could find, but we can always use some more help! Anyone interested in having your Municipality and Slogan listed in an upcoming Edition of the Quill, please forward the information (Municipality/County/Slogan) via Email to: administrator@wantagetwp-nj.org.

DEADLINES FOR NEWS ITEMS: The deadline for the October issue is August 26, 2011. Please send People Page news to Sharon Brienza, Municipal Clerk, Branchburg Borough, 1077 US Highway 202 North, Branchburg, NJ 08876. Questions or comments regarding this or any issue of the *Quill* should be directed to the Editor, Jim Doherty, Township of Wantage, 888 Route 23, Wantage, NJ 07461 or by calling 973-875-7192 or via email to: administrator@wantagetwp-nj.org. Articles for submission should be prepared in Microsoft Word, using Times New Roman 10-point font, and sent as an email attachment by the deadline specified.

the *Quill*
Editor - Jim Doherty
13 Fair Oaks Lane
Ocean, N.J. 07712

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BERGENFIELD, NJ
PERMIT NO. 447