

MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, by 2013 MCANJ President Nancy Saffos.



I hope this edition of our Quill finds you all well, having enjoyed the summer season and now enjoying the early days of autumn. In these ever changing times, MCANJ continues to be presented with challenges, adventures and even some pleasantries!

I am proud and thrilled to announce that Vincent Buttiglieri, MCANJ Past President and current IIMC Region II Director since 2011, has “thrown his hat in,” as they say, as a candidate for the position of IIMC Vice President. The Executive Board extends their support for his campaign and we encourage you all to support Vinny as well. Vinny has done so much for MCANJ. I am confident you all will join me in wishing Vinny a very successful campaign.

Our state government officials remain busy proposing, amending and approving changes to legislation that directly impact the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Despite our best efforts, the Common Sense Shared Services Bill S-533 passed both the Assembly and the Senate, and now sits on the Governor’s desk awaiting his consideration. As you may know, the bill was amended to be a Pilot Act and if enacted, will only apply to Camden, Morris, Ocean, Sussex & Warren counties. We fundamentally oppose this bill. Thanks to various efforts, including those of the NJLOM, there were some noteworthy amendments made to the Bill. We are especially grateful to Lori Buckelew of the New Jersey League of Municipalities, who has spent countless hours with me and the Executive Board, providing amendment updates, talking out suggested amendments to pending legislation, and, simply put, being an incredible advocate for MCANJ and for municipal clerks.

I began with the Common Sense Shared Services Bill because I think it’s important that we, as professional municipal clerks serving the public and our elected officials, be mindful of what Common Sense is, or perhaps better stated, what it could be. Common Sense is defined by Merriam-Webster as “sound and prudent judgment, based on a simple perception of the situation or facts.” Voltaire, a French writer, wrote “Common Sense is not so common.”

Passage of the Common Sense Shared Services Act through the State Legislature has proven to us that Common Sense is indeed not so common, and we can see why Ralph Waldo Emerson said it was “as rare as genius!” Nevertheless, we, as municipal clerks serving our elected officials, residents, business owners and the general public, must not be tempted by negative attitudes. Rather, we must be steadfast in our commitment to excellence in service. Perhaps it would serve us well to keep in mind that Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom’s Cabin, said, “Common sense is seeing things as they are; and doing things as they ought to be.” We may not always be able to change what is, but we can always control what we are, what we do, what our attitudes are and how our actions affect those we serve. Let’s continue to be the example of excellence in all we do, despite the obstacles we may encounter.

The GREAT NEWS is S-2433, providing for the MCANJ President or their designee to serve as a member of the Government Records Council, remains on Governor Christie’s desk awaiting his signature. This bill unanimously passed both houses. We had hoped the governor would have long since signed the bill, but we continue to be optimistic that he will, and at last the GRC will be blessed with an RMC from MCANJ as one of its members! IF—WHEN signed, the bill would take effect immediately. AT LAST! Perhaps by the time you read this, it will have already gone into effect!

As for OPMA S-2511 and OPRA S-2512, we have received many resolutions from municipalities throughout the state opposing these bills and continue to encourage those that have not passed resolutions to do so. Your efforts do impact decisions being made. There have been some changes made and there are additional changes that Senator Weinberg is contemplating, to propose as further amendments to these bills, all of which improve the legislation.

Continued On Page 3

