MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC.

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION by Barbara M. Hawk, 2007 President



Presented at the MCANJ Annual Business Meeting on 11/14/07:

As I look back and try to remember all that happened throughout this busy and fast moving year, I'll remember mostly about my personal contact with my committees, executive board and municipal clerks throughout the state.

My first alert was from Bill Dressel concerning the cutting of 10 million dollars from the PARIS Grant. I had our legal counsel, Tom Segreto, compose a letter to the Budget Committee Chairman Lou Greenwald, which was read at the Assembly Appropriations Meeting on July 18, 2007. A meeting was set up with the legislators and attended by John Mitch of Woodbridge, Jane Williams-Warren of Paterson City and representatives from the Division of Archives and Record Management to explain the importance of stabilizing this funding source. Even though the money was not appropriated as we had hoped, the legislators received a better understanding of how this money is to be continually used through the PARIS grants by municipalities for the management, storage and preservation of public records. The response from Municipal Clerks, by having their governing bodies adopt resolutions in support of this, was phenomenal.

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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2008 by Heather Mailander, as presented on November 14, 2007 at the Annual Business Meeting of the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey in Atlantic City.

Good morning. As I stand here before you as the incoming President of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, I want to let you know how proud I am to be the President-Elect of this wonderful organization. New Jersey has always been a leader. We were one of the first States to have a State Certification, and we are one of the few States that have a continuing education requirement to maintain the State certification. This is because we have had excellent leaders of this organization in the past who have worked many long hours to help create and get the legislation for the certification and recertification adopted.

We are educated professionals who maintain the history of the municipalities that we serve. Many times, we are the ones who provide the continuity in government. We are the people who write the history of the governing body through our minutes. We administer a fair and impartial process for all elections. We maintain the integrity of the local legislative process. We issue liquor licenses, handle resident complaints, protect and preserve all official documents of our municipalities. Many of us license dogs and cats and issue marriage, birth, and death certificates.

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Photographs courtesy of Donald Camp Photography of Absecon, New Jersey Jim Doherty, Editor

973.875.7192 e-mail: administrator@wantagetwp-nj.org PAST EDITORS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Vice President: Vincent Buttiglieri, South Plainfield Borough

E-mail: vbuttiglieri@southplainfieldnj.com Treasurer: Joanne M. Kwasniewski, Fair Lawn Borough

E-mail: munclerk@fairlawn.org

Secretary: Drew Pavlica, Garfield City

E-mail: garfieldclerk@optonline.net

Immediate Past President: Barbara M. Hawk, Laurel Springs Borough

E-mail: barbarahawk@comcast.net Administrative Consultant: L. Manuel Hirshblond

Legal Counsel: Thomas A. Segreto

PAST PRESIDENTS*EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

1974*Joseph V. Valenti 1995*Christina N. Wilder 1975*Alfred A. Reda 1996*Joseph C. Favaro 1997*Elizabeth H. Kiss 1977*Otto M. Bock 1978*Norma B. Sisco 1998*Lynn Stanzlaus 1999*Bernadette Dubuss 1981*L. Manuel Hirshblond 1983*James F. O'Keefe 2000*Nancy Hatten 1985*Elizabeth G. Nolan 2001*Sharon L. Brienza 1987*Lewis N. Thompson 2002*Bernadette Standowski 1988*Elaine Wallace 2003*Allan Susen 1991*Mildred C. Bird 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

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Atlantic: Carol A. Raph, Northfield City Nancy Hatten, Tenafly Borough Bergen: Burlington: Patricia Hunt, Moorestown Township Nancy Saffos, Cherry Hill Township Camden:

Cape May: Theresa Tighe, Sea Isle City Cumberland: Susan G. Robostello, Millville City Essex: Linda Wanat, Montclair Township Debora Pine, Elk Township Gloucester:

Hudson: Robert Byrne, Jersey City Hunterdon: Cecilia Covino, Town of Clinton Mercer: Sharon Young, West Windsor Township

Middlesex: John Mitch, Woodbridge Township

Barbara L. Bascom, Upper Freehold Township Monmouth: Sheila Seifert, Rockaway Township Morris: Bette Mastropasqua, Beachwood Borough Ocean: Jane Williams-Warren, Paterson City Passaic: Salem: Maureen Abdill, Pilesgrove Township Somerset: Patricia DiRocco, Warren Township Sussex: Lorraine Stark, Hopatcong Borough

Union: Kathleen Wisniewski, Springfield Township

Teresa DeMont, Belvidere Town Warren:

MUNICIPAL CLERK CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

The Division of Local Government Services has sent the following information for all persons interested in taking the Municipal Clerk Certification Examination this Spring:

Friday, April 11, 2008 is the date of the next examination for certification as a Registered Municipal Clerk. The exam will be given at Thomas Edison State College in Prudence Hall, located in Trenton, New Jersey and directions will be provided upon acceptance of your application.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- 1. Be 21 years of age or older at time of examination.
- Be a citizen of the United States.
- 3. Be of good moral character.
- Be a high school graduate or have received an equivalency diploma.
- Have completed at least two (2) years of higher education or have equal full-time public work experience performing duties relative to those of a Municipal Clerk. If qualifying on the basis of experience, the work must be with a county or municipal government. Also, the law allows for a combination of the education and experience that equals two years, not just two years of one or the other.
- Have completed, successfully, the following courses from Rutgers or similar courses offered at a college certified by the NJ Dept. of Education:
 - Introduction to the Duties of Municipal Clerk
 - Advanced Duties of the Municipal Clerk
 - Local Election Administration
 - Information and Records Management
 - Municipal Finance Administration for Municipal Clerks

Application forms and additional information are available from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services, Certification Unit, P.O. Box 803, Trenton, NJ 08625-0803, or by calling (609) 633-6349. Applications can also be downloaded from the DLGS website at:

www.nj.gov/dca/lgs

Completed applications, together with the application fee of \$50, made payable to the State Treasurer, must be received by the Division postmarked no later than March 12, 2008.

PLEASE NOTE:

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs maintains strict adherence to the application deadline! In the past, some students have lost their window of opportunity for taking the exam because of a failure to take this deadline seriously! The March 12, 2008 deadline is not flexible, nor is it open to negotiation or consideration of extenuating circumstances. If your application is not submitted by the deadline date, you will not be able to take the RMC Exam on April 11, 2008.

2008 President's Message: "Looking Ahead" (continued from page 1) By Heather Mailander

We are the "do-ers". We have all given up countless hours of our personal lives at night and on the weekends and missed times spent with family and friends, all for the betterment of our local communities.

Over the past twenty years that I have been a Municipal Clerk, I've seen the role of the Municipal Clerk grow and the responsibilities increase dramatically. It seems that when the State of New Jersey implements a new program or requirement, such as Financial Disclosure Forms and the Open Public Records Act, they create another task for the Municipal Clerks to handle. Municipal Clerks have continued to take on these additional tasks and administer these programs. In 2008, we face a new challenge as we run a Presidential Primary Election on February 5th. I know that once again, Municipal Clerks will tackle this challenge and run this election with our usual can-do attitude.

Unfortunately, many times we do not let our governing bodies, our residents, and our fellow co-workers know the vital part that we play in local government.

During 2008, I would like to focus on the fact that education is the key to our success. This includes the education of our members in obtaining and maintaining our state certifications. It includes education of our governing bodies about the important part that we play in the local government process. It includes education so that we may better ourselves and better serve our communities.

In closing, let me say that this organization is your organization. Become involved, in the way that you are able, and your involvement will make a positive difference. Together, I know that we will continue to do great things for the Association and the profession of the Municipal Clerk.



The 2008 Executive Committee of the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey looks forward to working with you to make this a great year!

Pictured at left:

Seated: Barbara Hawk, Immediate Past President; Heather Mailander, 2008 President; Joanne Kwasniewski, Treasurer; Joan Moreland, First Vice President.

Standing: Drew Pavlica, Secretary; Vincent Buttiglieri, Second Vice President

GENERAL CODE PUBLISHERS ADVERTISEMENT

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AT THE 2007 NJ LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CONVENTION IN ATLANTIC CITY , THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVING THE REGISTERED MUNICIPAL CLERK DESIGNATION:

November 2006 RMC

Donna J. Burbam, Lois R. Butner, Denise D. Cafone, Cindy A. Crivaro, Andrea T. DeGolia, Michelle DeRocco, Theresa A. DeVecchi, Susan M. Dydek, Diana Francisco, Charles L. Green, Pamela A. Huefner, Jenai L. Johnson, Erin M. Knoedler, Victoria Ann Kupsch, Kathryn Leissler, Patricia A. McKim, Shawn G. Menzies, Joseph M. Mutter, Susan D. Onorato, Christopher F. Parlow, William Senande, Debra L. Sopronyi, Karen E. Stallings, Margaret J. Verga, Yancy M. Wazirmas, Kim Marie White, Susan F. Witkowski



April 2007 RMC

Karen F. Barna, Lisa A. Burd, Patricia A. Clayton, Robin D. Collins, Linda M. Donnelly, Kevin V. Galland, Jenny E. Gleghorn, Dena M. Hrebenak, Keith H. Kazmark, Lauren E. Kirkman, Irene G. McNulty, Dawn M. Pennock, Ursula V. Stryker



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STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION: Continued From Page 1

Barbara M. Hawk, 2007 MCANJ President

Throughout the year I have heard from Municipal Clerks concerning the problems they have encountered with their Mayors and Council regarding tenure, appointments of Acting Clerks, cutting of hours and our statutory duties. Our legal counsel, executive board and legal defense committee have worked with these Municipal Clerks in offering them legal advice and guiding them through these difficult times. I can never stress enough the importance of joining the "LEGAL DEFENSE FUND".

It was a privilege to represent the Municipal Clerks' Association at the Conference of Mayors in April. We were pleased to have a lot of interaction with the Mayors who work so hard in representing their municipalities. I was invited and attended the G.F.O.A. Fall Conference at Atlantic City on September 28, 2007. It was great to meet and network with these Finance Officers as we attended their seminars. In June, Jane Williams Warren, Linda Wanat, Barbara Bascom and I met with Donna Kelly, Deputy Attorney General and again in October Helen Yeldell, Karen Venditti and I met again regarding the funding of the Presidential Primary. In a memo from Bill Dressel dated November 7, 2007 the State has appropriated funds to meet the mandated costs imposed on municipalities and we are required to coordinate these through the county. Bill Dressel and I are requesting more information on how municipalities make sure that they don't incur any extra costs for this Presidential Primary. Four "Mini-Conferences" were held through the state, which gives our membership more opportunities to get CEU's. I thank my Mini Conference Committee for doing such a great job. I was excited to be able to certify my signature on the revised "Municipal Clerks' Retention Schedule". Karen Perry and I thank all the Municipal Clerks for their input and review of this retention schedule.

My heartfelt thanks to each and every Advisory Board member, Committee Chair and member who worked so hard and was so instrumental in updating us on new laws affecting municipal clerks; attending GRC meetings; meeting with election officials throughout the state; notifying Municipal Clerks of important issues, problems and concerns throughout the state with blasts over the internet; planning of education seminars, and changes in our Constitution and By Laws and amendments to Legal Defense By Laws.

The support of the Camden County Municipal Clerk's Association, Inc. was greatly appreciated.

To my wonderful "Executive Board" I thank you for your hard work and support. We became a great team.

A great big thank you to Manny (L. Manuel Hirshblond) who has guided me with wonderful advice and help throughout my term as President. I will miss those Monday morning calls. Thanks to our legal counsel, Tom Segreto, for your expert legal advice and guidance as we dealt with our fellow municipal clerks throughout the state.

My biggest thanks to my husband Bill, who spent as much time on the computer as I did, printing labels, sending emails to the executive board, packing and counting items for giveaways and being my biggest supporter. No wonder you lost your hair after being married to me for 47 years. I love you.

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Coded Systems Ad

PEOPLE PAGE

by Sharon Brienza

GET WELL WISHES

As Municipal Clerks we all know how much we give to our communities, but Daina Dale of Harvey Cedars (Ocean County) has gone above and beyond.

Daina's mom, an active 71 year old woman who was still working in NYC went on dialysis 3 years ago for kidney failure due to high blood pressure. Daina and her mom were tested for a kidney donation, but were not compatible. Her mom was listed on several donor lists and when they finally got the call that a match had been found, the doctor determined the match was not ideal. The doctor reviewed his records and decided with new technology, Daina could donate her kidney to her mom. After additional tests, the surgery was done on September 26 and as of this writing, her kidney is working perfectly in her mom. Daina said that her mom "actually created the kidney, so she deserves it back!"

Jean Pellicane, (retired, Franklin Township, Somerset County and former Municipal Clerk of the Year) has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Jean is currently going through chemo and is hanging in there. Her address is 48 Irvington Drive, Somerset, NJ 08873 for anyone wishing to send a card. On behalf of the MCANJ family, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

WEDDING BELLS

Alida (Lee) DeGaeta (Marlboro Township, Monmouth County) married Dominick Manco, Esq. on August 17. Claire French, Monmouth County Clerk officiated over the beautiful wedding held at the English Manor in Ocean Township. Dominick is an associate with Schibell, Mennie & Kentos, Ocean Township, where he is the Borough Attorney in Highlands and Special Counsel for Affordable Housing in Colts Neck. On behalf of the entire MCANJ family may you have much love and happiness in your new life together!

ROTARY VOCATIONAL AWARD

Rotary International District 7470 recently bestowed their "Vocational Award" to Denville Municipal Clerk Donna Izzo Costello. Donna is a twice Past President of the Denville Rotary, a Claude Dickerson Awardee, a four time Paul Harris Fellow and Rotary Foundation Benefactor. Donna is also a twice Past President of the Municipal Clerks Association of Morris County and chaired and served on several Committees of the MCANJ. As stated in the program for this award, "Donna is a consummate professional as the Municipal Clerk for the Township of Denville who approaches every day with a sense of humor and a dedication to finding the best in all of us. She is a true and dedicated friend who exemplifies the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

Congratulations from the entire MCANJ Family on this prestigious award.

CONDOLENCES

Bryan W. Marks, retired Clerk of the Borough of Farmingdale (Monmouth County), passed away in September. He retired after 15 years in April, 2007. Surviving are his wife, Jessie Auriemma Marks; a son, Bryan P. Marks, two daughters, Lori Hogan and Wendy Fiolek along with six grandchildren. Donations in Bryan's memory can be made to Autism Speaks, c/o Lori Hogan, 25 Sally St., Howell, NJ 07731.

John "Jack" O'Brien, retired Municipal Clerk of Wayne (Passaic County), passed away on October 1, 2007. Surviving are his wife Jean, daughters Gail McGeady, Mary Beth O'Brien, Erin DiDia, Lynn Quinn and the late Karen Brady and son John "JR" O'Brien as well as several grandchildren. Contributions in Jack's name may be made to Sloan Kettering Memorial Hospital "For Cancer Research", PO Box 27106, NY, NY 10087. Bette Mastropasqua shared personal memories of Jack with this editor. She met Jack in the mid-1980's when they worked on a piece of legislation that would close a gap in the Clerks' tenure law. When the law changed requiring certification, she and Jack (unknown to each other at this time) both faced losing their positions as Clerks because of a one year gap in tenure. They each reached out to their local legislators who put them in touch with each other and there began a great friendship and a long hard journey to change the law and were successful in getting A1863 passed.

John J. Dwyer, retired, Municipal Clerk of the City of Elizabeth (Union County), passed away on October 7 at the age of 81. John became the Municipal Clerk in 1965 after serving in other areas of municipal government. John retired in 1992. His wife of 50 years, Concetta, predeceased him. Surviving are his daughter, Jeanine, son John and several grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. Donations in John's name can be made to the Verona Lions Club, PO Box 38, Verona NJ 07044.

On behalf on the MCANJ family, our heartfelt condolences to everyone.

Jane Williams-Warren and her family would like to thank all of the members of MCANJ for their condolences in the way of cards, letters, thoughts and prayers when Jane's brother passed away. Jane says the outpouring of love and support was more than she could have ever imagined.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Michele Auletta, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Washington in Mercer County, has asked that everyone change her address to Township of Robbinsville. A question on the ballot to change their name was approved during the General Election. All registrars should also note that any marriages taking place in Washington, Mercer County, should reflect the new name beginning on January 1, 2008.

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PEOPLE PAGE, Continued

by Sharon Brienza

TRANSITIONS:

Ann Carlson, former Deputy Municipal Clerk from Warren Township is now the Municipal Clerk in Mendham Township, Morris County.

Karen Hughes, formerly Municipal Clerk in Park Ridge accepted the Municipal Clerk position in Westwood Borough replacing Eileen Sarubbi upon on her retirement.

RECENT 2007 RETIREES:

Mary Ann Coogan, Spring Lake, Monmouth County Penny Newell, Mendham Township, Morris County Val D. Imbriaco, Linden City, Union County

Best wishes for a long and happy retirement!

EILEEN SARUBBI

After 20 years of distinguished service to the Borough of Westwood (Bergen County), Eileen Sarubbi retired. A retirement celebration was held on November 9, 2007 honoring Eileen for her years of service to the Borough and residents of Westwood.

KATHY SAYRES

On October 19, 2007, a retirement party was held to honor Kathy Sayers who retired after 25 years of municipal service, with the last 14 years in New Milford (Bergen County). Kathy received her RMC in December, 1990; her CMC in April, 1996 and her MMC in February, 2007. She also became a Qualified Purchasing Agent in January, 2003 and was appointed Borough Administrator in 2003. After a week in Disney with her family and long time companion, Jim Moriarity, Kathy will be spending time with her granddaughters, SHOPPING, traveling and studying her genealogy.



Municipal Clerks attending the party and pictured with Kathy included: Heather Mailander, (Ridgewood, MCANJ 1st VP) Joanne Kwasniewski (Fair Lawn, MCANJ Secretary), Drew Pavlica (Garwood), Diane Thornley (Wood-Ridge), Neil Grant (Fort Lee), Paula Jaegge (Waldwick), Marie Elena Macari (Saddle River), Ann Fay (Haworth) and Lorraine McMackin (Norwood).

WALKING FOR A CURE

The Mercer County Clerks Association participated as a team in the Susan G. Komen *Race for the Cure* Walkathon on October 14, 2007 in Jackson, NJ. The 16 members of the team raised money for breast cancer research and had a fun time doing it. The T-shirts, which they painted themselves, spoofed the caveman commercials and Municipal Clerks as government employees, saying "Mercer County Clerks Walking for a Cure...So easy, a government employee can do it!!" Congratulations ladies....great job for a great cause!



Pictured: Kathy Norcia (Lawrence Township), Leona Baylor (Hightstown Borough), Tonya Carter (Lawrence Township), Mindy Scudder (Millstone School District), Eileen Gioscio (Trenton School District), Saharra Inman (Lawrence Township), Dolores Williams (Princeton Township), Shaundrika Stevenson (Princeton Township), Penny Edwards-Carter (Princeton Borough/Trenton City).



 Pictured: Bill Dressel, Executive Director of the New Jersey League of Municipalities, with Paterson City Clerk Jane Williams-Warren.
 Mr. Dressel was presented with the 2007 MCANJ "Friend of Municipal Clerks" Award at the Annual Business meeting on 11/14/07

2008 MCANJ Committees by President Heather Mailander

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

David Hughes, Chair, Summit City / 908-273-6400 Patricia Hullfish, Plainsboro Twp. /609-799-0909 Nancy Hatten, Tenafly Boro / 201-568-6100 John Mitch, Woodbridge Twp./732-634-4500 x 6404 Ian Shore, Paramus, Boro / 201-265-2100 Harold Wiener, Chair, Irvington Twp. / 973-399-8111 Ann Marie McCarthy, Franklin Twp./732-873-2500 x 211

EDUCATION

MCANJ President's Appointments

Allan Susen, Chair, Haledon Borough/973-595-7766 x103 Sharon Young, West Windsor Twp./609-799-2400 Diane Pflugfelder, BethlehemTwp./908-735-4107 Jane Williams-Warren, City of Paterson/973-321-1310 Barbara Bascom, Upper Freehold Twp./609-758-7738 Liaison Manual Review: Lori Buckelew, Lambertville/609-397-0110

Rutgers Appointments

Linda S. Wanat, Montclair Twp. / 973-509-4900 Elaine Jasko, Perth Amboy City / 732-826-0290 John Mitch, Woodbridge Twp./732-634-4500 x 6404 Marie Macari, Saddle River Borough/201-327-2609 Louise Palagano, Bloomfield Twp./973-680-4000

EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Joel Popkin, Co-Chair, Neptune City Borough/732-776-7224 Sharon Brienza, Co-Chair, Branchburg Twp./908-526-1300 Jane Williams-Warren, Paterson City/973-321-1310 Heather Mailander, Ridgewood Village/201-670-5500 x201 Joan Moreland, Haddon Heights Borough/856-547-7164 Vincent Buttiglieri, South Plainfield Borough/908-226-7606 Joanne Kwasniewski, Fair Lawn Borough/201-794-5340 Andrew Pavlica, Garfield City/973-340-2001 Barbara Hawk, Laurel Springs Borough/ 856-784-0500 Elizabeth Mastropasqua, Beachwood Borough/732-286-6000 Kathleen Wisniewski, Springfield Twp./973-912-2200 Patricia Frontino, Glassboro Borough/856-881-9230 Nancy Saffos, Cherry Hill Twp./856-665-6500 Gail Macera, Folsom Borough/609-561-3178 Adeline Hanna, Midland Park Borough/201-445-5720 Al Reda, Retired Administrative Consultant: L. Manuel Hirschblond Welcome Committee:

Rosemary Adams, Atlantic City/609-347-5300

Mini Conferences – 2 Spring, 2 Fall & Professional Development North

Laura Graham, Oradell Borough/201-261-8200 x246 Diane Pflugfelder, Bethlehem Twp./908-735-4107

Central

Sharon Young, West Windsor Twp./609-799-2400 Michele Auletta, Robbinsville Twp./609-259-7082 **South**

Debora Pine, Elk Twp./856-881-6525

Patricia Frontino, Glassboro Borough/856-9230 x116

Professional Development

David Maffei, Pt. Pleasant Borough/732-531-9633 Ann Marie McCarthy, Franklin Twp./732-873-2500 x211 Bernadette Park, Stafford Twp./609-597-1000 Jim Rogers, Deal Borough/732-531-9633

ELECTIONS

Jane Williams-Warren, Co-Chair, Paterson City/973-321-1310 Barbara Bascom, Co-Chair, Upper Freehold Twp./609-758-7738 Bonnie Leonetti, Long Beach Twp./609-361-1000 Deanna Speck, Haddonfield Borough/856-429-4700 x204 Amada Curling, Passaic City/973-365-5500

FINANCE

Joanne Kwasniewski, Fair Lawn Borough/201-794-5340 Vincent Buttiglieri, South Plainfield Borough/908-754-9000 L. Manuel Hirshblond, Administrative Consultant/732-349-1348 Ferraioli, Wielkotz, Cerullo & Cuva – Auditors

FUNDRAISING

Kathleen Wisniewski, Co-Chair, Springfield Twp./973-912-2000 Rose Marie Saracino, Co-Chair, Old Bridge Twp./732-721-5600 Adeline Hanna, Midland Park Borough/201-445-3844 Joan Moreland, Haddon Heights Borough/856-547-7164 Barbara Hawk, Laurel Springs Borough/856-784-0500 Stella Ward, Old Bridge Twp./732-721-5600 Carol Shapner, Retired/856-293-7421

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/WEB PAGE

Bette Mastropasqua, Chair, Beachwood Borough/732-286-6000 Vincent Buttiglieri, Liaison, S. Plainfield Borough/908-754-9000 Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Twp./908-526-1300 Daina Dale, Harvey Cedars Borough/609-494-2335 Ian Shore, Paramus Borough/201-265-2100 Nancy Hatten, Tenafly Borough/201-586-6100 Elesha Johnson, Camden City/856-757-7000

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Sharon Brienza, (10) Chair, Branchburg Twp./908-526-1300 North

Nancy Hatten (10) Tenafly Borough/201- 568-6100 Harold Wiener (09) Irvington Twp./973-399-8111 Alternate: Carol Dray (08) Emerson Borough/201-262-2380

Central

Rose Marie Saracino, (10) Old Bridge Twp./732-721-5600 Maureen Doloughty, (09), Holmdel Twp./732-946-2820 Alternate: Sharon Young, (08) West Windsor Twp./609-799-2400 **South**

Bette Mastropasqua, (10) Beachwood Borough/732-286-6000 Carol Raph (09), Northfield City/609-641-2832 Alternate: Deanna Speck, (08) Haddonfield Borough/856-429-4700

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Elaine Kennedy, Co-Chair, Eagleswood Twp./609-296-3040 Lewis Thompson, Co-Chair, Millville City/856-825-7000 Sharon Brienza, Branchburg Twp./908-526-1300 x Michael Januska, Milltown Borough/732-828-2100 Bette Mastropasqua, Beachwood Borough/732-286-6000 Ian Shore, Paramus Borough/201-265-2100 Deanna Speck, Haddonfield Borough/856-429-4700 x204 L. Manuel Hirshblond, Administrative Consultant/732-349-1348

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2008 MCANJ Committees by Heather Mailander (Continued from Page 8)

LAWS AFFECTING MUNICIPAL CLERKS

Michele Auletta, Chair, Robbinsville Twp./609-259-7082 J. Mark Mutter, Dover Twp./732-341-1000 Sharon Young, West Windsor Twp./609-799-2400 Harold Wiener, Irvington Twp./973-399-8111 Patricia Frontino, Glassboro Borough/856-881-9230 Barbara Nyitrai, South Brunswick Twp./732-329-4000 Kathleen Norcia, Lawrence Twp./609-844-7000 Laura Graham, Oradell Borough/201-261-8200 x246 Thomas Segreto, Legal Assistance

MANUAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Lori Buckelew, Chair and Editor, Lambertville City/609-397-0110 Nennette Perry, East Brunswick Twp./732-390-6810 Deanna Speck, Haddonfield Borough/856-429-4700 X204 Michele Auletta, Robbinsville Twp./609-259-7082 Joanne Monarque, Millburn Twp./973-564-7000

MEMBERSHIP—North

Sally Bleeker, Chair, Franklin Lakes Borough/201-891-0048 Jane Wiliams-Warren, Paterson City/973-321-1310 Neil Grant, Fort Lee Borough/201-592-3570 Cecelia Covino, Clinton Twp./908-735-8616

MEMBERSHIP—Central

Gretchen McCarthy, Chair, Jamesburg Borough/732-521-2222 Lorraine Carafa, Loch Arbour Village/732-531-4740 Barbara Nyitrai, South Brunswick Twp./732-329-4000 Kathleen Cunningham, Cranbury Twp./609-395-0900

MEMBERSHIP—South

Carol Raph, Chair, Northfield City/609-641-2832 Bonnie Leonetti, Long Beach Twp./609-494-5421 Terry Tighe, Sea Isle City/609-263-4461 LaShawn Barber, Tabernacle Twp./609-268-1220 Cynthia Dalessio, Woodstown Borough/856-769-2200

PAST PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL

Jane Williams-Warren, Chair, 2005 Barbara M. Hawk, 2007 Elaine B. Kennedy, 2006 Joel Popkin, 2004 Allan Susen, 2003 Bernadette Standowski, 2002 Sharon Brienza, 2001 Nancy Hatten, 2000 Bernadette Dubuss, 1999 (ret.) Lynn Stanzlaus, 1998 (ret.) Elizabeth Kiss, 1997 Joseph Favaro, 1996 Christina Wilder, 1995 (ret.) Kathleen Thorpe, 1994 (ret.) John Galvin, 1993 (ret.) Barbara Camp, 1992 (ret.) Mildred Bird, 1991 (ret.) Elaine Wallace, 1988 (ret.) Lewis Thompson, 1987 Elizabeth Nolan, 1985 (ret.) James O'Keefe, 1983 (ret.) L. Manuel Hirshblond, 1981 (ret.) Norma Sisco, 1978 (ret.) Otto M. Bock, 1977 (ret.) Alfred Reda, 1975 (ret.) Joseph Valenti, 1974 (ret.)

PEER ALLIANCE FOR LEARNING

North: Cecelia Covino, Clinton Twp./908-735-8616 Denise Stagnari, GreenTwp./908-852-9333

Central: Kathleen Cunningham, Cranbury Twp./609-395-0900 Lorene Wright, Allentown Borough/609-989-3030 South: LaShawn Barber, Tabernacle Twp./609-268-1220

Cynthia Dalessio, Woodstown Borough/856-769-2200

PUBLIC RELATIONS/BOOTH

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Helping out at the Municipal Clerks Table at the Atlantic City Convention is a much-appreciated way to help your State Clerks Association! Pictured at the 2007 Convention are: Susan Caljean (Chatham Borough), Cecilia Covino (Clinton Town) and Karen Sandorse (Lebanon Twp).

2008 Municipal Clerk Education Conference

WHEN: Monday thru Thursday, April 21—24, 2008 WHERE: Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City. "Save The Date" Cards were mailed in November 2007

The Conference brochure with full details about the program, room rates and reservation forms will be mailed to you during the month of January 2008. This conference will offer exciting programs with CEU's in all required areas.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Psycho-Geometrics: Communicating Beyond our Differences

The MCANJ Executive Board and 2008 Annual Conference Committee are pleased to announce that Dr. Susan Dellinger will be this year's key note speaker. Dr. Susan Dellinger is one of the nation's leading authorities in the communications field. She is best known as creator of the revolutionary Psycho-Geometrics System, a unique analysis of personality types as geometric shapes. Her system has led to sweeping improvements in communications for more than half a million people worldwide. Her presentation is entertaining, filled with humor, engaging anecdotes and cartoons. With a highly interactive approach, she enables audience participants to examine human behavior from the creative new perspective that people come in all sizes, but only five personality shapes. Based on the idea that every personality is defined by a square, circle, rectangle, triangle or squiggle, participants discover more about themselves, their attitudes and the people with whom they come in contact. They are shown the most effective techniques to improve seemingly incompatible relationships and build successful office, client and customer relationships, as well as individual careers. Gender based communication differences are also explored. Dr. Dellinger demonstrates techniques that undo sexual stereotyping, bridging the gender gap and the differences between individuals of the same gender.

Susan Dellinger is the author of three books, Communicating Beyond Our Differences: Introducing the Psycho-Geometrics System, Psycho-Geometrics: The Art of Influencing People and Communicating Effectively: A Complete Guide to Better Managing. She has also produced the popular audiotape seminar, Leadership and Management Skills for Women and is currently working on a fourth book, Woman 2000.

QScend ADVERTISEMENT

CONGRATULATIONS 2007 CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERKS

AT THE 2007 N J LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CONVENTION, THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVING HMC CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK DESIGNATION:

Lorraine McMackin, Karen Mount-Taylor, Joy M. Wiley

The Following Individuals were recently acknowledged by IIMC for having attained the CMC Designation, as well:

John Mitch, Rosary Sollena, Patricia A. Frontino



Brown's River Ad

AT THE 2007 N J LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CONVENTION, THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR ACHIEVING HMC MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK DESIGNATION:

Mary P. Madonna, Andrew J. Pavlica, Kathy A. Sayers

The Following Individuals were recently acknowledged by HMC for having attained the MMC Designation, as well:

Mary Ann O'Neill, Vita Mekovetz, Jim Doherty

Photographs of CMC's and MMC's are courtesy of Donald Camp Photography of Absecon, New Jersey



International Institute of Municipal Clerks President Charles E. Tokar, MMC (pictured here on the left) spoke at the Annual Business Meeting of the MCANJ in Atlantic City on 11/14/07, offering congratulations to New Jersey's Municipal Clerks for leadership and excellence in the field of public service. Pictured with Mr. Tokar is MCANJ Quill Editor Jim Doherty.



Drew Pavlica and Vita Mekovetz were among this year's crop of newly-designated Master Municipal Clerks

Term Appointments: Words Have Meaning

By: Thomas A. Segreto, MCANJ Legal Counsel

It would seem obvious that words should be given their clear and plain meaning unless it is an idiosyncratic word, but sometimes application of the obvious becomes a challenge. The word "term" is a word which when combined with a set number of years, has an obvious, clear and unambiguous meaning. While "term" seems to be unambiguous on its face, there is an old saying in the law that "Hard cases make bad law". This saying means that facts surrounding a difficult circumstance, which usually involve an extraneous controversy, sometimes lead to an interpretation of the law which is inconsistent with the state of legal precedent and logic.

Recently, MCANJ was contacted regarding a fairly uncomplicated controversy. A municipality's Municipal Clerk had vacated her position by reason of retirement. The appointing authority, within 90 days of the vacancy, appointed an Acting Clerk and the governing body confirmed the appointment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 9-133(c). The Municipality chose to make that temporary appointment an appointment of one year pursuant to the same statute. Then upon the expiration of that one year, the municipality appointed the Acting Clerk for a one year term with the approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, as Acting Municipal Clerk. This second one-year term appointment followed the termination of the first one year non-term appointment. Upon the expiration of the first one year term appointment, the appointive authority expressed a desire to appoint the Acting Clerk for an appointment of less than one year. Local Government Service approved the less than one year appointment and we expressed our objections.

The Statute in question: N.J.S.A. 40A: 9-133(c) in relevant part provides as follows:

"c. Within 90 days of the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of municipal clerk by reason of the departure of a registered municipal clerk, the governing body may appoint a person who does not hold a registered municipal clerk certificate to serve as acting municipal clerk for a period not to exceed one year and commencing on the date of the vacancy. Any person so appointed may, with the approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, be reappointed as acting municipal clerk for a maximum of **two subsequent one-year terms** following the termination of the temporary appointment. No local unit shall fill the position of acting municipal clerk for more than three consecutive years." (emphasis added)

If a term is not what we know it to be in the context of the statute governing Acting Clerks, who is to say that the statutes governing RMCs will not be interpreted into meaninglessness?

What is clear is that the municipality gets one temporary appointment to be made within 90 days of the vacancy of an RMC. Then, the acting clerk may be reappointed to a maximum of two subsequent one-year terms following the termination of the temporary appointment. The municipality does not get to bank the temporary appointment. It does not get to choose when the temporary appointment is made.

What is troubling is the fact that Local Government Services, the agency charged with the responsibility to administer the RMC statute, relied on an Attorney's General opinion regarding temporary CFOs.

Under relevant provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140.13(f), a temporary Chief Financial Officer may be appointed as follows:

"f. When a vacancy occurs in the office of chief financial officer following the appointment of a certified municipal finance officer to that office, the governing body or chief executive officer, as appropriate, may appoint, for a period not to exceed one year and commencing on the date of the vacancy, a person who does not hold a municipal finance officer certificate to serve as a temporary chief financial officer. Any person so appointed may, with the approval of the director, be reappointed as chief financial officer following the termination of the temporary appointment for one additional year. No local unit shall have a temporary chief financial officer for more than two consecutive years."

The operative missing word which creates a stark contrast between the two statutes is the word "term". Clearly, without the word "term", Local Government Services could back into the comparison with relatively little discomfort, but the word "term" is present and no one can simply read it out of the statute.

Continued on Page 13

Term Appointments: Words Have Meaning

By: Thomas A. Segreto, MCANJ Legal Counsel

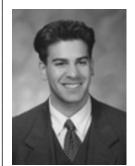
Continued from Page 12

Citing the NJ Supreme Court case of McCurrie v. Town of Kearny, 174 N.J. 523 (2002) which specifically discussed term appointments with respect to the position of Municipal Clerk, MCANJ by and through its counsel respectfully identified the differences between the statute pertaining to the position of Acting Municipal Clerk and the statute pertaining to a temporary Finance Officer. Almost rhetorically, we inquired of the Director of Local Government Services, on what basis the Director interpreted the word "term" as meaning anything more or less than the length of time preceding the word; to wit, one year. We did not receive a response to our inquiry.

Whether you are an Acting Clerk or a term-appointed RMC, this issue has rather unpleasant implications and has the potential of becoming a stumbling stone in the tenure process. What you should keep in mind, is that under the law governing statutory interpretation in the context of an agency which administers the statute, the courts have held that substantial deference to the interpretation of the agency charged with enforcing an act is ordinarily given absent a resolution of a purely legal question or where the agency's interpretation undermines the Legislature's intent. Also, if a term is not what we know it to be in the context of the statute governing Acting Clerks, who is to say that the statutes governing RMCs will not be interpreted into meaninglessness?

If the plain, clear and unambiguous meaning of the word "term" is anything other than a fixed and definite period of time, the cloud of politics may darken the steps to a consistent application of the law. Needless to say, MCANJ will be monitoring this scenario because sometimes, when enough people trip over a stumbling stone, it becomes part of the road.

REPRESENTATION DE L'ANDRESENTATION DE L'ANDRES



Thomas Segreto is a Senior Associate in the law firm of Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC. Tom handles a wide variety of litigation matters, including civil rights litigation, liability claims, contract disputes and matters involving civil service, discrimination and the New Jersey Tort Claims Act. Mr. Segreto's practice encompasses the areas of local government law and land use and zoning. He has handled matters on behalf of municipalities pertaining to civil liability, municipal court appeals, matters involving public entities and its officers and employees, bid specifications and Local Public Contract Law issues.

Mr. Segreto currently serves as General Counsel to the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey, Inc. In addition to providing advice and counsel on operating issues, he frequently provides training on the Open Public Records Act and Open Public Meetings Act, as well as other local ordinances and laws. He just recently obtained a Tax Free 501(c)(3) designation for the MCANJ to operate as a tax free educational institution.

(Biography of Thomas Segreto taken with permission from the website of Scarici & Hollenbeck, LLC, http://www.njlegalink.com/Attorneys/Segreto.htm)



THE 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY WISHES YOU A HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN 2008!











LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

For almost eleven years the LDF has provided assistance, guidance and support to Municipal Clerks who have encountered problems on the job. In 2007, 43 new members joined and that is in addition to all the renewals. Current members continue to renew their membership because they know the importance of this committee and the fund if they find themselves in need of assistance. Burlington and Morris Counties had the most new members this year at five. Several Counties followed with four new members bringing the total membership of the LDF to 275.

During 2007, the Committee made payments over \$5,000 to Municipal Clerks to help cover their legal expenses. Currently, the Executive Board of the MCANJ has authorized Tom Segreto to assist in two cases as the outcomes will have an effect on the entire MCANJ membership. One reduces a Municipal Clerk's hours/salary from full time to part time. The other is based on the statute where an "Acting" Municipal Clerk can be appointed for a one year term where the governing body believes an appointment can be for any amount of time "up to one year" and the Director of DCA agrees with that thought process.

Again in 2007, the General Election saw several changes in the make up of governing bodies across the State, so it came as no surprise to me when I started getting telephone calls shortly thereafter from Municipal Clerks who were concerned about their positions. As I have said in the past, many of you believe nothing like this can ever happen to you, but by the number of new members that have joined this year, I see many of you know have a different opinion.

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

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

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

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

Sharon L. Brienza, Township of Branchburg LDF Committee Chair

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION: Continued From Page 5

Barbara M. Hawk, 2007 MCANJ President

This year I am presenting the "President's Award" to Joel Popkin who has been so instrumental in organizing our two Educational Conferences that have be put on by our Association, which have been very successful both professionally and financially. I wish Heather Mailander a successful year in her term as President for 2008. Please feel free to call me at anytime. Thank you for this great opportunity to serve such a wonderful organization and I am proud to be part of such a fine group of professionals. I'd like to leave you with this thought:

WHERE THERE IS LOVE

Where there is love the heart is light.

Where this is love the day is bright.

Where there is love there is a song
To help when things are going wrong,
Where there is love there is a smile
To make all things seem more worthwhile,
Where there is love there's quiet peace,
A tranquil place where turmoil's cease...
Love changes darkness into light
And makes the heart take "wingless flight" –
Oh, blest are they who walk in love...
They also walk with God above,
And when man walks with God again
There shall be Peace on Earth for men

Love and God bless all of you.



Barbara Hawk with her family about her, at the MCANJ Business Meeting in Atlantic City on 11/14/07

NANCY HATTEN NAMED 2007 MUNICIPAL CLERK OF THE YEAR









This year's recipient of the New Jersey Municipal Clerk of the Year Award is Nancy Hatten, Municipal Clerk of Tenafly Borough. Nancy has been a Municipal Clerk for over two decades, and has served in the same municipality during that time. Several members of the Tenafly Borough governing body and the Borough Attorney attended the Award Presentation for Nancy at the Municipal Clerks Annual Business Meeting in Atlantic City on November 14, 2007, and presented Nancy with a bouquet of flowers to thank her for her dedicated and professional accomplishments on behalf of Tenafly.

Nancy received her Registered Municipal Clerk designation in 1989, and immediately began to "give back" to her peers. Her dedicated service is showcased by never-ending volunteerism. Nancy has served on numerous committees of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey including the Education Committee, the Public Relations Committee, the Peer Alliance for Learning, and the Booth Committee. Nancy has also served for many years as the Advisory Board member from Bergen County.

Nancy has also served on International Institute of Municipal Clerk committees such as the Professional Status Committee and Legislative Committee, and has attended several IIMC conferences. Whenever Nancy travels to IIMC conferences, she organizes the group, and is always the first person in the door, which has earned her the title "The Hostess with the Mostest".

Nancy has touched many lives in her role as an instructor for Rutgers University and the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey, teaching the Registered Municipal Clerk certification classes for ten years. Nancy served as editor of the Quill for five years, and has left a mark of high professionalism in that capacity. Over the years, Nancy has served on every position on the MCANJ Executive Board, and served as president of MCANJ in the year 2000.

Our best wishes and sincere congratulations are extended to the 2007 Municipal Clerk of the Year, Nancy Hatten!

HISTORY OF THE "CLERK OF THE YEAR" AWARD

The "Distinguished Service Award" was given only once, in 1976. Thereafter, it became known as the "Municipal Clerk of the Year Award" and is awarded annually at the League of Municipalities Conference during the MCANJ annual business meeting. The recipient is chosen by the members of the Executive Board for the MCANJ and is a well-guarded secret until the announcement is made by the previous year's recipient. Beginning in 2001, the April issue of the Quill contained a nomination form to be used by individuals or county associations who wish to nominate a Municipal Clerk for consideration by the Executive Board. This nomination form is now included in each April edition of the Quill, to meet the July 1st deadline for receipt of nominations.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS ADVANTAGES: A special message from the MCANJ Membership Committee

If you are enjoying this issue of the Quill, and would like to continue receiving future issues in the mail ...

MAKE SURE YOUR MCANJ 2008 DUES ARE PAID!

The 2008 Executive Board is continuing the practice of tying in the mailing list of the *Quill* with the dues list for 2008 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 2008, 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.

Don't get left behind-Make Sure MCANJ 2008 Dues are Paid!

DATES AND LOCATIONS OF 2008 ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS:

LOCATION: NEPTUNE CITY COMMUNITY CENTER, 117 THIRD AVENUE, NEPTUNE CITY, NJ (unless otherwise shown)
DATES: Friday, January 25; Thursday, April 24 (At Annual Education Conference, Tropicana); Friday, June 20;
Friday, September 19, Wednesday, November 19 (At League of Municipalities Conference, Tropicana)

TIME – 10:00 A.M

DEADLINES FOR NEWS ITEMS: The deadline for the April issue is March 5, 2008. 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: jim@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 to jim@wantagetwp-nj.org by the deadline specified.

the *Quill*Editor - Jim Doherty
11 Boxwood Terrace
Toms River, NJ 08755

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