

WMCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

JULY 2009

KAREN KUZNEK-REESE, CMC, CITY CLERK, SEQUIM
WMCA PRESIDENT-ELECT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JULY, 2009

Happy belated Independence Day! I hope you were able to do EXACTLY what you wanted to over the three-day weekend. And, if it wasn't quite what you had in mind, I hope you took some time for yourself – even if only for a little while.

The weather in Western Washington has been incredible – and you know what? We were equally blessed with the sun and beautiful surroundings in Nanaimo, B.C. where I had the absolute privilege of representing WMCA at the Local Government Management Association of British Columbia (LGMA) Conference June 8 – 12.

Nanaimo Bay, B.C. Boardwalk



Tom MacDonald, LGMA Executive Director, and his team of experts put on a first-class, outstanding conference in one of the most beautiful cities in British Columbia. Every time Tom had a question, one of his staff members already had the answer, issue handled, or a Plan B in place. The course content was educational, motivational, and inspiring. It was a pleasure to catch up with two of my former Professional Development buddies, too. One of them led a course entitled, "Living In a Fish Bowl – The Private/Public Life Of A Government Official."

As I have the privilege of representing WMCA and traveling to places near and far, I'm reminded of some cool song lyrics... "Everywhere I go, all the places that I've been, every smile's a new horizon on a land I've never seen..." Google it. The meaning is true and deep.

As summer is upon us, I was hoping things would slow down just a bit, yet as you know, there is no rest for Clerks specifically and WMCA committee members generally. Meetings have been held, educational sessions for next year's conference will soon be selected; a successful audit has been conducted; and new information is on the horizon from the Scholarship and Fundraising committees. Your Executive Committee met on June 26, 2009, and had a very full agenda. Read the remainder of this report for tidbits and facts.

I NEVER thought it would be an "honor" to announce that three of our members are retiring. I say that, because it "feels" like goodbye; and I HATE saying, "goodbye." Thank goodness, we create lasting friendships and know that email, cell phones and all things in between will keep us in touch with one another. So, for the record, it is a true honor to announce HAPPY RETIREMENT to:



Sheryle Wyatt, MMC, City Clerk, Tumwater and WMCA Treasurer (and former Past President) leaves her post July 31, 2009. She has diligently served Tumwater for 17 years. Walking away won't be easy, but Sheryle is ready for "some" relaxation. As provided for in the WMCA Bylaws, Sheryle has graciously agreed to remain serving as WMCA Treasurer until such time as WMCA holds its next regular election. Are you interested in serving as Treasurer? You will have the opportunity to be nominated or nominate yourself during our next election.

Becky Upton, MMC, City Clerk, Port Angeles (and former WMCA Secretary) has vowed to “stay home, dig in the dirt, and drive my husband nuts.” Becky retires August 31, 2009. At Port Angeles for 19 years, Becky has met many wonderful clerks and calls it all a rewarding experience to network and to have gained so many, many friends. In an email, today, Becky said, “I will miss everyone more than you'll ever know...” and sends her “most sincere best wishes.”



Julie Matthes, CMC, Deputy Clerk of the Board in Jefferson County for 20 years! She is becoming a “snowbird.” Julie is retiring on July 24, 2009. She will be in the area for about a month. Then she and her fiancé will be spending their time traveling in their motorhome between here and Yuma, Arizona.



Stay tuned for more details on the retirements of each of these leaders and tremendous women.



Departure Bay, Nanaimo, B.C.

Fall Academy

Get ready for Fall Academy! Registration information will soon be ready for the Fall Academy sessions. Dr. Michael Shadow will present “Storytelling – A Communication Tool for Improving Your City’s Image” on October 2 in Wenatchee at the Wenatchee Convention Center and October 9 at DuPont City Hall. The session will be approved by IIMC for 3 MMC or Recertification Advanced Education points, and 3 CMC Experience points. Members of the Education Committee are hard at work on the logistics so stay tuned for more information. Cost will remain at \$125 for registration.

IIMC Study Tour

If you have been itching to travel far from home, check out the 2009 Study Tour information at the IIMC website. This year’s tour will take place in Wales and the United Kingdom. The first part of the program will look at government and local government in Wales. Following Wales, the group’s itinerary will include a session at the University of Gloucestershire, a day at Oxford and then the Society of Local Council Clerks Conference in Daventry, England. Participants will also earn advanced education points toward their MMC or recertification.

Northwest Clerks Institute

Another Northwest Clerks Institute has been completed with great initial reviews from the participants and from Institute Director Dema Harris. Attendance numbers were on target overall, with a large class of incoming clerks in Professional Development I. It

was especially gratifying to see the number of students on scholarship from the three state associations. WMCA, OAMR and AAMC deserve a great deal of credit for advancing the profession through providing much needed trainings for municipal clerks.

Scholarship Opportunities

Budgets are tight for many. There are scholarship opportunities available. WMCA offers scholarships for conference and PD classes. The Marge Price Scholarship is available for advanced education. Other sources include IIMC (International Institute of Municipal Clerks), WCIA (Washington Cities Insurance Authority), AWC (Association of Washington Cities), CIAW (Cities Insurance Association of Washington) and regional clerks associations.

New WMCA scholarship guidelines and applications are almost finalized. Watch for an email soon notifying of their availability on the website. The next upcoming scholarship opportunity will be for Fall Academy. The deadline will be announced.

Ever thought about running for office?

This is a great opportunity to meet new people, use your leadership skills, and earn certification points. Please consider throwing your hat in the ring in 2010 for one of the following positions:

- ☀ Vice President
- ☀ Treasurer
- ☀ Secretary
- ☀ Board member

WMCA Items for Sale

Remember – you can purchase WMCA items year-round. Check out the WMCA Store at the WMCA website. There are some great sale prices!

Raffle items for 2010 Conference

It's never too early to start thinking about next year's conference and auctions. Think about raffle/auction items when you're out and about this summer or there's a great sale somewhere!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following who have received their CMC designation from IIMC:

- Joanne Starr (CMC) of Buckley,
- Mary Bower (CMC) of Clallam Transit, and
- Randy Hinchcliffe (CMC) of Waitsburg.

Congratulations to the following who have received their MMC designation from IIMC:

- Barbara Price (MMC) of Puyallup,
- JoAnne Giesbrecht (MMC) of Skagit County, and
- Karen Kuznek-Reese (MMC) of Sequim.

I hope you are all having a safe & enjoyable summer!