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Visit our Website:

www.WMCAClerks.org

Founded in 1970, WMCA is a non-profit association that promotes the professional and education standards of Municipal Clerks, County Clerks, and Transit Board Clerks in various local governments of the State of Washington.

President's Message

Debbie Burke, MMC

Hello Membership! I hope you all enjoyed the rain we received at the end of July; I found it to be VERY refreshing after all of those hot hot hot days. There hasn't been a whole lot happening on the home front. I personally have been recuperating the last few weekends from the whirlwind of spring conferences, hiring our new City Manager, attendance at many negotiation meetings for the formation of our new Teamster's Union, and attending a number of meetings for our annual insurance audit.

As promised last month, if you are interested in a free one-day registration to the ICMA Conference being held in Seattle in September, here is the link to register to volunteer in order to receive the free registration: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F054DAAAAA23A3FA7-icma/11149770. You would only use the online registration if you plan to attend a ticketed event, attend more than one day, and plan to pay.

The EC authorized a letter of support for our next IIMC Region IX Representative from Alaska – Janette Bower, City Clerk for the City of Palmer, AK. If you are an IIMC Member and have not voted on the ratification of changes to the Constitution proposed in May at the conference, please do so by August 20th – electronic ballots that are unique to your email address were sent out on June 18th.

I was recently contacted by the SAO regarding research they are working on as per the last legislative session regarding public disclosure requests. The Legislative Committee will be setting up a meeting with the SAO and will report the status of our involvement with this project at our October EC meeting.



The famous [Pat Mason from MRSC](#) has recently retired! I attended the retirement function with several City Clerks from Pierce and King County organizations. (See picture above.) The EC approved the purchase of a gift card to REI which was presented with a WMCA Proclamation giving Pat a lifetime Honorary Membership to WMCA. The Proclamation was the result of a gallant group effort by the Education and Executive Committee members!

(Continued on page 2)

ON THE INSIDE...

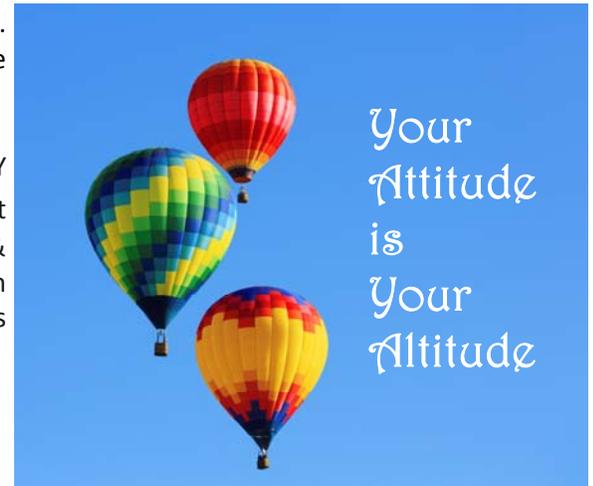
| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 2015 Fall Academy | Page 2 |
| Featured Clerk | Page 3 |
| Scholarships & Fundraising | Page 5 |
| Legislative Report | Page 6 |
| Laugh Out Loud | Page 8 |
| Region IX Update | Page 9 |
| Membership News | Page 10 |

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

In closing, I want to give a shout out to President-Elect Shannon Corin. Shannon shared a Facebook link with me recently that hits home, if I were to have a poem for the March Conference, this would be it!

The link below states that this was written by an 11th grader in Brooklyn, NY named Chanie Gorkin. She posted it at PoetryNation.com & somehow, it found its way to a bar in North London, where a man took a picture of it & posted it to Twitter. Now it's going viral! Read it top to bottom - then bottom to top & you'll see what I mean. Share it with someone who needs it. It may be just the sentiment you, or a friend, needs to see today.

<https://www.facebook.com/JohnTesh/photos/a.83773297712.76437.80985802712/10153271211832713/?type=1&theater>



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FALL ACADEMY!

Are you working toward your CMC or MMC? Do you need more education points?
Then join us for the 2015 Fall Academy in Ellensburg, WA!

On **Friday, October 2, 2015**, David Rabiner, from Rabiner Resources will be presenting
"How to Influence People and Maximize Your Effectiveness."



Being a successful clerk in a challenging municipal environment does not happen automatically. You can try your best to do your job in the right way, but dealing with different people (many in different departments) with different personalities, perspectives, and priorities can create frustration and problems. We need more than the internal fortitude to manage the stress. Without the authority to mandate compliance, we need the personal and communication skills to influence people in a positive way and gain their commitment.

Attendance is open to all WMCA members. You do not need to have your CMC to attend!

This session has been approved for three CMC or three MMC education points by IIMC through the Northwest Clerks Institute upon completion of KTAP.

Class description, registration, and hotel information available at www.wmcaclerks.org/2015FallAcademy

Questions? Contact Education Coordinator Ali Spietz at ali.spietz@mercergov.org

FEATURED CLERK



Doris Sorum, City of Tacoma

Written by Virginia Olsen

City Clerk of the City of Tacoma since 2000, Doris Sorum asked why we wanted to write about her because “she lives a boring life.” In reality, Doris is very entertaining and had some great stories to share about her career with the City of Tacoma that spans 35 years.

Doris started in an internship with the City of Tacoma Police Department where she learned what public service was all about. She was in high school and set her sights on getting a job with the city. Originally hired in the Finance Department, Doris processed utility bills before the system became automated. One of Doris’s responsibilities was processing the outgoing mail. She said they closed down the mail machine at 4pm each day, and one day, a crazy woman came in and said, “You’ve gotta get this out!” Doris thought, “No way, it’s closed. I’m not opening it up.” The crazy woman (from the City Clerk’s Office) said, “We have to get the agendas in the mail!” Doris wondered, “What’s this about the City Council agenda? What do they do?” She said this was her first taste of the clerk world, and it intrigued her.

Doris recalls working in that department for five years before trying out a job in accounts payable. She said she hated it, and that experience only lasted one month. Then she went into purchasing for a stint which was much more fun. Eventually, there was an opening in the City Clerk’s Office. Doris began as a Clerk I and moved up to Clerk III, “the agenda desk.” There she had the responsibility of getting the packets out.



Doris, center, with hardworking employees of the Tacoma City Clerk’s Office at a teambuilding event

In 2000, former City Clerk Rick Rosenblatt retired, and the City Manager asked Doris if she was interested in the job. She wasn’t interested under the structure they had in place, but after Doris was named City Clerk, her City Manager reorganized things.

“Being the hub of the organization is the most interesting part of this job,” stated Doris. “And the ability to work with the City Council, City Manager, Directors, staff and public and see what everyone’s working on.” Doris said she enjoys seeing an idea begin as a seed in a committee meeting and work through to fruition before the full City Council.

In 2004, Doris was asked by her Department Director to attend the WMCA Conference. As a single mom, this idea was not palatable to Doris because she didn’t have anyone to watch her two kids, Katie and Kevin. Her director implored her to attend. She asked if her director was going to watch her kids. This went back and forth for quite some time as she didn’t register. Eventually Doris’s boss said she would discipline her if she did not attend because her education and professional

FEATURED CLERK (CONT.)

development were important. Poor Alice Attwood, Tonasket City Clerk, was coordinating the conference and calling the Department Director repeatedly to ensure Doris would be there. Why? Because Doris was selected as Clerk of the Year at the 2004 Conference in Leavenworth. But her boss couldn't tell her that – it was a surprise!

Doris recalled that she was cranky that she had to be away for a whole week, and so she begrudgingly attended and sat in the back of the room on the banquet night. Deena Wilson Bilodeau from Centralia was there with her daughter so Doris was playing with the little girl when Deena said, "Doris I think you need to pay attention to this." Doris looked up and heard something about a new computer system and wondered what other city was implementing a new system. A few seconds later she heard her name announced as Clerk of the Year. She was very surprised indeed!



Katie, Kevin, and Doris

Speaking of her two kids, Katie is now 26, and Kevin is 20, and they are working and going to college, respectively. Doris is living with and taking care of her 93 year-old mom, Marianne. She enjoys hiking, taking day trips, doing things with her mom, and attending the theatre. Kevin played baseball, so Doris has travelled the state extensively attending tournaments.

Doris provided a very clever "Host Clerk" speech at the 2013 WMCA Conference in Tacoma with a rhyme inspired by the Dr. Seuss conference theme. Doris shared how she brainstormed the idea with her daughter and her college roommate, Kenn.

For those who weren't in Tacoma or who do not remember the poem, here it is. Enjoy the poem and a little history about Doris Sorum and her amazing career at the City of Tacoma:

My name is Doris
Sorum, that is
for 33 years I've been in the biz.

I've served the citizens with all that I've got
I love Tacoma, I love it a lot.

Of all the places to go
And the people you'll meet
And you picked Tacoma
For this special treat!

We have museums to visit and theaters too
Like art and glass or antique cars -- whoo hoo
If you can't see them now, make a note to come back
If you take a whole day, you could stop for a snack.

We have restaurants for fine dining named after men
Like El Gaucho, and Stanley's and Maxwell's and then:
There is casual dining, for whatever you need
Like the Spaghetti Factory, the Madator and Indocine
And if you're up for a walk

You should check out the Rock.

We have the Link lite rail to get you around
To get to the bars where fun will abound
We have sports bars, and themed bars and even a pub
If you're looking for fun, check out the Hub.

Now that we're here, the best part is for last
Just lend me your ear, I'll be really fast.

With the waterfront and delicious seafood,
We have whatever you want, whatever your mood.

So in closing:

I'm glad that you're here, it's been a long time
I hope you have fun and have enjoyed this rhyme.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Fall Academy October 2, 2015, in Ellensburg



Did you know that WMCA offers scholarships that provide financial assistance to members who may not be able to participate due to funding restrictions? Scholarship guidelines and Applications are now available on the WMCA website.

Applications for Fall Academy are due August 14, 2015.

For more information, please contact Melissa Collins, Snohomish County PUD at macollins@snopud.com



50-50 RAFFLE

During the WMCA Fall Academy scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2015, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM in Ellensburg, WA, the Fundraising Committee is going to offer a "50-50" raffle to the WMCA members.



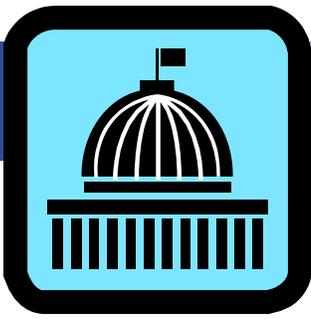
What is a "50-50" Raffle?

It is an opportunity for you to help support the WMCA Scholarship Fund, as well as enter the raffle where one lucky member will win half the raffle pot! The other half (or 50 percent) will go to into the scholarship fund. The tickets will be for sale before the training and during the breaks.

The "50-50" raffle tickets are a \$1.00 for one or \$5.00 will buy you six tickets.

The 2016 WMCA Grand Raffle tickets will be available. The drawing for the winners (\$1,000, \$750, and \$500) will be held during banquet at the Annual Conference in March 2016. If you are attending, please pick up a book or two to sell to your co-workers, council, friends, family, and of course - yourself!





LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Sandy Paul, MMC
Legislative Chair

It may have seemed to you as though the Legislature didn't do much to forward the cause of Clerks and Public Records Officers across the state. Upon further review, there were a few changes that can affect cities, courts and public safety agencies. The list of successes is as follows:

ESHB 1980 enacts certain recommendations of the Sunshine Committee: These amendments go into effect on July 24, 2015.

- * It expands the "personal information" that is exempt under RCW 42.56.230. It adds "financial information" as defined for purposes of identity theft crimes in RCW 9.35.005, including social security numbers. That definition also includes: account numbers and balances; transactional information concerning an account; and codes, passwords, tax identification numbers, driver's license or permit numbers, state identicaid numbers issued by the department of licensing, and other information held for the purpose of account access or transaction initiation. (There was previously no *general* exemption in the PRA for social security numbers or driver's license numbers.)
- * An exemption for information contained in a locally or regionally maintained gang database is added; previously, the exemption covered only the statewide gang database.
- * Personal information of participants in a ride-share program is not subject to disclosure, except for the participant's name, general location, and points of contact, which can be shared with those who apply for ride-matching services and who need that information in order to identify potential riders or drivers. The permission to provide personal information regarding transit passes or fare payment to the news media is eliminated.
- * Voluntarily submitted information contained in enhanced 911 emergency communication systems is exempt from disclosure. This information is exempt until it is used in an emergency response, after which it is exempt only if some other exemption applies. (Submitting this information in advance of an emergency situation is an option for people such as deaf persons, so that medical and other critical information is available to responders when a call is made during an emergency.) This information is included in a database for purposes of display when a person makes a call to 911. This exemption does not prohibit the display and dissemination of information at a public safety answering point to police, fire, or emergency medical responders. It also does not prohibit disclosure for making outgoing calls to provide notification of a community emergency event, database maintenance, or inspection or copying by either the subject of the information or an authorized representative of the subject. **Update** (6/11/2015) to clarify: This information is exempt until it is used in an emergency response, after which it is exempt only if some other exemption applies. Section 1 of ESHB 1980 relating to background information on guardians ad litem was vetoed.

Four other bills amended sections of the PRA:

- ① HB 1554 exempts personal information of family members or guardians of a child enrolled in a child care or a youth program, such as one offered by a parks and recreation program, if the disclosure would result in the disclosure of a child's personal information. The exemption applies if the family member or guardian has the same last name of the child or if they reside at the same address as the child.
- ② SB 5482 exempts Global Positioning System (GPS) data that indicates the location of the residence of an employee of a criminal justice agency. A criminal justice agency is a court or any other agency

LEGISLATIVE REPORT (CONT.)

performing and allocating a substantial part of its budget to the detection, apprehension, detention, pretrial release, post-trial release, prosecution, adjudication, correctional supervision, or rehabilitation of accused persons or criminal offenders.

- ③ HB 1431 exempts documents related to an agency's real estate transactions, if they have been prepared for the purpose of considering the selection of a site or the acquisition of property by lease or purchase, if public knowledge of such consideration would likely cause an increase in the property price. The amendment also exempts such documents if a sale of property is being considered, if public knowledge would likely cause a decrease in the price. The exemption includes those documents prepared for an executive session. The exemptions do not apply if disclosure is mandated by another statute or after the project or prospective project has been abandoned or all properties that are part of the project have been purchased, sold, or leased. No appraisal may be withheld for more than three years.
- ④ ESHB 1078 relates to security breaches. Under the amendment, the term “protected personal information” is no longer limited to computerized and unencrypted data. Minimum notice requirements of a breach are established. No notice is required if the breach is not reasonably likely to subject a consumer to risk of harm. Notice can be delayed if required for law enforcement purposes; otherwise, notice should be given within 45 days of the breach. If the breach involves 500 or more persons, notice must be given to the Attorney General. If an agency is covered under HIPAA and is compliant with HIPAA notification requirements, it is exempt from notification requirements (although, if more than 500 persons are affected by the breach, notice must be given to the Attorney General).

GOOD NEWS

There is good news on the Horizon, so watch your inboxes and those of your mayor/administrators. The State Auditor’s Office is asking, and you wouldn’t want to miss your chance to answer, now, would you? SAO is preparing a survey of every state agency and local government organization in Washington to collect information about the volume and associated costs of public records requests. Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh! How long have we been attempting to bring attention to this issue?



Research and interviews with other states will help identify leading practices in the efficient management of records requests, the associated costs, and what expenses states allow government organizations to recover. In addition to helping policy makers revise the Public Records Act, the results of the WA survey can help governments large and small become more efficient in responding to public records requests.



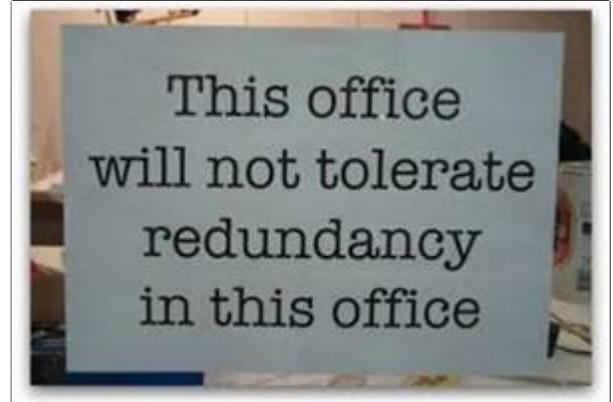
This fall, notification will be sent that the online-only survey is ready to begin and who should respond to the request. The survey will be available for a brief period only, so be aware that there is limited time for completion. All that said, get your lists in order about the issues as you see them such as frequent fliers, commercial requestors, and why doesn’t the legislature have to disclose?

Meanwhile, WMCA and the Legislative Committee are pursuing conversation with SAO about this survey.

LOL!

LAUGH OUT LOUD

Funny Signs



Do you have a funny story, joke or cartoon you would like to share? Please submit them to Shannon.Corin@ci.bremerton.wa.us.

REGION IX DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Greetings Region IX Members!

At the annual IIMC Business Meeting in Hartford, CT, the revised proposed IIMC Constitution was presented to the attendees for a vote. The amendments were passed by the required two-thirds vote of the members present and now have been submitted to the membership for ratification, as outlined in the IIMC Constitution. As an IIMC member, you should have received an email from IIMC mid-June asking for your vote. If you haven't submitted your vote, we encourage you to do so before the August 20th deadline. If you are a current IIMC member and did not receive an electronic ballot, please let us know or you can contact IIMC headquarters directly. We can also send you a copy of the revised proposed constitution if needed. Thanks for your participation in this important process.



Tracy and Alice – Your Region IX Directors

WATCH FOR AUCTION ITEMS

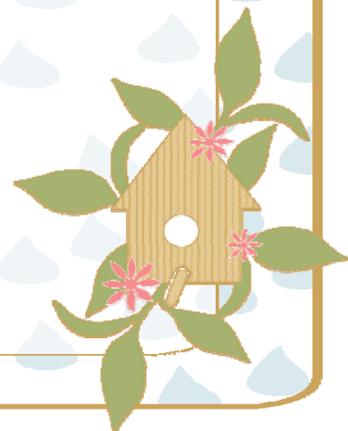
**BACK TO SCHOOL SHOPPING?
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR WMCA LIVE AND
SILENT AUCTION ITEMS!**

AUCTION ITEM SUGGESTIONS...

GIFT BASKETS, GARDEN ART, GIFT CERTIFICATES (LODGING, DINING, OR EVENTS), JEWELRY, HOME DÉCOR, CLOTHING, WINE, ART, AND MANY MORE - USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, AN IDEA, ETC., CONTACT DEBBIE JERMANN AT
360-906-7303 OR DEBBIEJ@C-TRAN.ORG

Each year, WMCA members lend a helping hand to each other by donating items for the Live and Silent Auctions held during the Annual Conference. Over the years, we have helped hundreds of our fellow clerks achieve their education goals. Keep WMCA in mind while hitting those garage sales this summer – always a great place to find baskets for auction items!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS



WMCA and our Membership Committee would like to welcome our newest members:

Jennifer Marshall, City of Federal Way
Meri Jane Bohn, City of Black Diamond

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERKS:

Gretchen Sagen, CMC, City of Raymond
Rachel Carl, CMC, City of Ocean Shores



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



Please watch for more information coming this fall for the fun colored sweatshirts.

Hooded zipper and other new styles are being researched.

This will be a pre-order item only so make sure not to miss out!

Published by Clerks for Clerks!

If you have any great news to share or ideas for articles for the next edition of the WMCA Newsletter, be sure to email them to Melody Valiant at mvaliant@ci.tumwater.wa.us & Rachel Shaw at rshaw@ci.prosser.wa.us