

# WMCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT **MAY 2009**

Ali Spietz, CMC, WMCA Past-President

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello to all my WMCA friends and associates! Having just represented WMCA and returned from the 36th Annual CCAC Conference in Rohnert Park, I bring warm greetings from an equally warm group – not to mention a couple ideas for our 2009-2010 conference in Spokane Valley. It's interesting to see how others create their own form of magic. And, I'd be remiss if I didn't say, "Thank You," to

the familiar faces of Pam Kolacy and Colleen Nicol, Region IX Directors; as well as the Presidents from Oregon, Alaska, and California whom I had the privilege of meeting at our own WMCA Conference just over a month ago. Another special guest was also in attendance – Ms. Dyanne Reese, IIMC President.



Bob & Pam at the Clos du Bois Winery in Geyserville, California



Dyanne Reese, IIMC President and Colleen Nicol, Region IX Director

As you can see from the photographs, I was in great company while visiting the "Golden State." CCAC President Margaret Roberts and the 120 plus clerks in attendance enjoyed the 36th Annual CCAC Conference – where the theme was "City Clerks have the Power of W.I.N.E. (Wisdom, Integrity, Neutrality and Ethics). That was very fitting as we were in the middle of Sonoma County – wine country.

Attendees enjoyed multiple general sessions including such topics as Technical Writing, Improved Listening Strategies, Best Practices for Motivation – During Tough Economic Times, and Creating Solutions – Sharing Points of View. Most days, we were all invited to wear jeans and sweatshirts. Yes, it was actually cold there, too. A formal banquet was hosted Thursday evening where President Roberts presented the Clerk of the Year and two Presidents Awards of Distinction as well. It was every bit as moving as our annual event. Indeed, the networking opportunities create lasting friendships that also double as additional "resources" when we have questions.

In other pages of this EC Report, you'll find information about what occurred at the March 20, 2009 Board meeting (such as the sunseting of the Communications Committee); and that which has happened since (including the appointment of Alice Bush, Lakewood, to fill the unexpired term (through March 2010) when Karen Kuznek-Reese was sworn in as President Elect.



Region IX Presidents - Kathy Louie, Oregon; Janette Bower, Alaska; Bob Baker, Washington; and Margaret Roberts, California

A couple of our own committees have already “checked in” and begun working on next year’s 40th Annual WMCA Conference. Look forward to a “Birthday Party” a/k/a President’s Reception as well as some outstanding educational sessions. And, speaking of committees, IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED. Please contact me and let me know if you’d like your name added to one of the committee rosters. Thank you cannot be said enough for your dedication, support and ongoing commitment to our outstanding organization.

Without question, I know this is the year that we have an excellent opportunity to Stand with Purpose. Live with Passion. Serve with Pride. Thank you, each of you, for taking part – however possible – at home, at work and in your communities to rise to the challenge!

## UPCOMING NORTHWEST CLERK INSTITUTE

**Register Now!** It is not too late to register for the Northwest Clerks Institute Professional Development courses. Don't miss the opportunity to move forward toward your CMC or MMC certification this year - lots of great learning, plenty of networking, and fun. The classes, held at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA, are just around the corner, so don't forget to register:

- Professional Development I Course: May 31 – June 5
- Professional Development II Course: June 7 – June 12
- Professional Development III Course: June 14 - 19
- Master Academy (PD IV): June 10 - 13



The Master Academy (PD IV) is a different program than last year so you may attend and receive credit even if you attended previously. Wallace Wilkins, Ph.D., serves as a conflict mediator, organizational coach and personal consultant for successful leaders will be leading a program on conflict resolution. The class has been approved by IIMC for 9 or 12 points toward your MMC certification - register as soon as possible as there is some preparation work to complete before the Institute. Although no early registration fee applies, the early registration deadline for PD IV is May 15 in light of the prep work to be completed; there is still room and time for applicants to register for this class.

Check out the website for more information: <http://www.capps.wsu.edu/NCI/>

## BOARD VACANCY APPOINTMENT



Congratulations to Alice Bush who was recently appointed to fill Karen Kuznek-Reese’s vacant Board Member position until March of 2010. Alice (who jumped right in as Vice-President four years ago) brings a wealth of knowledge and strong dedication to our organization and we are excited to have her back on board!

## MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK

Don't forget to pat yourselves on the back for me for a job well done, because it's **MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK - MAY 3 – MAY 9, 2009!**

## CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

Recently, Connie Wheeler, City Clerk for the City of Oak Harbor, Sandy Kenworthy, Deputy City Clerk for the City of Pasco, Katie Marcelia, Sr. Exec. Assistant/Deputy Clerk of the Board of Pierce Transit, and Diana Quinn, City Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Algona received their CMC designation from IIMC. We all know how hard it is to reach this milestone, way to go Connie, Sandy, Katie and Diana!!!



## LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2011 CONFERENCE

President-Elect Karen Kuznek-Reese has chosen the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver as the site for the 2011 WMCA Annual Conference. The Heathman has recently added on 40 guest rooms and 4,000 additional square feet of conference center and they are ready for us to enjoy their facility! The Heathman Lodge is located in a beautiful rustic setting in Vancouver, Washington, just minutes from Vancouver Mall, downtown Vancouver, and 5 miles from Portland International Airport. Situated on the north bank of the Columbia River, directly across from Portland, Oregon and less than 90 miles from the Pacific Coast, Vancouver is a vibrant city with a unique mix of metropolitan energy, small-town charm, rich history and exciting recreational opportunities. The Heathman Lodge delivers a tranquil, mountain-like retreat brimming with Northwest ambiance and all the amenities you need to get down to business or vacation. Experience a charming artisanal lodge that allows you to escape the world while remaining connected.



## SUNSETTING OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

At the Executive Committee's March meeting, it was decided to sunset the Communications Committee as most of the duties in the description are being handled by other members or groups in our organization. A few years ago, the Website Committee and the Newsletter Committee were combined to create the Communications Committee. The Committee was tasked with maintaining and updating the WMCA Website, developing the format of and facilitating the monthly Executive Committee news updates to members, conducting surveys and preparing an Annual Report of the WMCA. The Executive Committee made the following changes, and thus dissolved the Communications Committee:

- The monthly reports are designed and facilitated by one member of the Executive Committee each month.
- The Executive Committee designates someone as the Webmaster each year who works closely with the President and Education Coordinator to ensure timely and updated posting to our website (Sheryle Wyatt, MMC is our current Webmaster).
- The President will designate members or create an ad hoc committee if a member survey needs to be conducted.
- The Annual Report will now be part of the Past-President's duties.

Please let President Baker or Past-President Spietz know if you have any questions.

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

~ *Sandy Paul, CMC, City Clerk, City of Pacific*

The Washington State Legislature adjourned on schedule on April 26, 2009. After valiant attempts in committee to make changes supported by Municipal Clerks to the Washington State laws concerning Public Disclosure, only the following received the legislature's action:

- [SB 5130, Improving Public Access to Records by Reducing Abusive Prisoner Requests](#): The Attorney General's Office requested legislation to allow respondents to request an injunction if a records request by an inmate is proven to be intended to harass or cause harm to a person or vital government function. SB 5130 was signed into law by the Governor on March 20 and is effective immediately.
- The Legislature rebuffed Attorney General McKenna and State Auditor Brian Sonntag's work to increase government transparency and chose not to pass bills to:
  - Study the creation of a board that would enforce the Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act.
  - Require that government officials receive training and certification in the Open Public Meetings Act.

The legislature will likely not consider the other bills in special session, which is predicted to be called to settle some outstanding budget issues. January 2010 will be here all too quickly when issues concerning public disclosure and its funding, will no doubt, appear again on the agenda.

## COMMITTEE SIGN-UPS

Weren't able to attend the conference or forgot to sign up for a committee? There's still time! Contact President Bob Baker ([bbob@ci.newcastle.wa.us](mailto:bbob@ci.newcastle.wa.us)) to let him know which committee you'd like to join. Working on a committee grows even more friendships within the WMCA organization. Check out the committees on our website at [www.wmcaclerks.org](http://www.wmcaclerks.org).