

# WMCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 2009

Virginia Olsen, CMC, City of Mountlake Terrace  
WMCA Board Member

## ICCTFOA INSTITUTE REPORT

By Karen Kuznek-Reese, MMC, WMCA President Elect

I attended the Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers (ICCTFOA) Institute in Boise, Idaho September 23 – 25, 2009. The theme was “Reach New Heights of Success With a KITE (Knowledge, Information, Training, Education)”. Everyone was encouraged to bring a kite to enter into a contest. Many of the sessions focused on state law requirements as well as customer service and ethics.

The all-conference event included a Brazilian buffet at the old Idaho State Penitentiary where attendees toured through Idaho’s first territorial prison. The tour included the courtyards, cells, gallows and the “coolers” where prisoners were sentenced to solitary confinement. This prison closed on December 3, 1973 following the last riot. I came back to work telling people it felt so eerie and I got the strangest feeling of sadness while walking through the site. So get this (especially Bob Baker)! After I returned, I googled the prison and found out that it’s haunted! The website says:



Dinner in the courtyard



Death Row Cell



Courtyard

“Manifestations of ghostly activity are frequent, both in the buildings and on the surrounding grounds. The majority of people who visit the penitentiary will tell you there is a feeling of dread and oppressing sorrow that grows within them as they near the executioner's chambers. Staff members and visitors alike have reported hearing footsteps echoing on the catwalks and stairs. Ghostly voices have often been heard. Many who tour the Old Idaho State Penitentiary have said they felt as though they were being touched, brushed against or pushed by something or someone, an unseen entity. Most who enter the penitentiary say they have the feeling they are being watched. Maybe they are. It is not uncommon to hear reports of apparitions and shadowy figures being sighted.”

Pictured on the right:  
Karen Kuznek-Reese, Ken Harward (Executive Director Association of Idaho Cities), Mary Kay Bennett (President ICCTFOA), Ernie O’Dell (President Association of Public Treasurers of US & Canada).



Anyway, I met some really great people who have some of the same issues we have in Washington. I actually spoke in front of about 150 people. So for those of you who dislike public speaking – if I can do it, so can you! I was really nervous but once I got up there, it wasn't so bad. Of course, it helped that I was talking about Sequim and WMCA – 2 things I am comfortable talking about. So thank you, WMCA, for giving me the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and represent you in Boise!

## CLERK OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Perhaps the most prestigious award a Clerk can receive is that of “Clerk of the Year” and - it's not too early to start thinking about who you will nominate for this award. That's right – Clerks can nominate each other! Past nominees will tell you that just being nominated for this award is an honor in and of itself.

Nomination forms and information on the process can be found under the Clerk of the Year Policy and Awards Committee description on our website at [www.wmcaclerks.org](http://www.wmcaclerks.org). You can also see a list of past Clerk of the Year Award recipients, as well as those honored with the President's Award of Distinction.

The criteria for the Clerk of the Year nomination include:

- Eligible nominees shall be active WMCA members (fully paid dues) for the preceding five consecutive years.
- The nominee must have made significant contributions or performed outstanding service to WMCA, to the profession of municipal clerk, and to his/her individual municipality in the following areas:
  - 1) Leadership, organization, administration and communications.
  - 2) Legislative and governing body procedures, records management and public relations.
  - 3) Outstanding service to WMCA (time/length of service; service on WMCA Committees, attendance at State conferences, involvement in regional groups and/or IIMC committees) and contribution to the clerk profession.
  - 4) Special projects and community activities and volunteerism.

Please note that it is encouraged that nominations be submitted in collaboration with the nominee's elected and/or appointed officials and/or supervisor. Letters will be sent to all members' elected and/or appointed officials in a few weeks. The only WMCA members not eligible to be considered for nomination are those holding the office of President, President-Elect, Vice President and Past President.

Don't let this opportunity to recognize one of your peers pass you by! Nominations must be **postmarked by December 28, 2009**, and submitted to Past President Ali Spietz at the City of Mercer Island, 9611 SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

You DON'T need to be a Fundraising Committee member to join in on all the fun!” Order your ticket books **NOW** by contacting Rebecca Dover at [rdover@othellowashington.us](mailto:rdover@othellowashington.us) or by calling 509-488-5686. Tickets come in books of 10. Each \$5 ticket is good for 3 different chances to win. The prizes will be awarded during the 2010 WMCA Conference with one \$500 winner, one \$750 winner and a \$1,000 winner! Please help the Fundraising Committee achieve its goal to sell 1,250 tickets before the conference. They make great stocking stuffer gifts for the upcoming holidays!!

## \$SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES\$

Scholarship Guidelines and Applications for the 2009-2010 year are available on the WMCA website. One Margery Price Scholarship was recently awarded for the Fall Academy. Other upcoming scholarship opportunities include:

- **Spring Academy**, Margery Price Scholarships are available for registration; the **deadline to apply is December 18, 2009**. You must have received your CMC and be working towards your MMC designation to apply for a Margery Price Scholarship.
- **WMCA Annual 2010 Conference**, **deadline to apply is December 18, 2009**. (Annual Conference Scholarship Application)
- **Northwest Clerks Institute (NCI), PD I, II, & III**, **deadline to apply is February 19, 2010**. (NCI Scholarship Application)
- **NCI Master Academy, PD IV**, **deadline to apply is February 19, 2010**. (Margery Price Scholarship Application)
- **IIMC Advanced Academy**, **deadline to apply is February 19, 2010**. (Margery Price Scholarship)

Please see the WMCA website for full guideline and application details on WMCA Scholarships.

<http://www.wmcaclerks.org/WMCA%20Scholarships.htm>

Other scholarship 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.

## UPCOMING WMCA ELECTIONS

This is a great year to run for a WMCA office. Current Officers and Board Members are encouraging WMCA members to run for an office and hope to see a minimum of two candidates for each position. Watch for the upcoming call for candidates in next month's newsletter, when there will be an opportunity to file for the following positions:

- President-Elect (1 year term)
- Vice President (1 year term)
- Treasurer (1 year to fill unexpired term)
- Secretary ( 2 year term)
- Board member (2 positions- 3 year term)



WMCA job descriptions are available on the website, click on the Executive Committee tab. Please feel free to contact the person who is currently serving in that position if you have questions about what the position entails and how much time is involved.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Sandy Paul, CMC, WMCA Board Member

The first meeting of the full AWC Legislative Committee was held on Thursday, September 17. This was an on-line interactive meeting attended by 28 Committee members, 9 single-city intergovernmental relations staff, and AWC staff.

Each subcommittee provided a brief outline of its preliminary major issues to the full Committee. The full committee then prioritized these issues by using an on-line voting tool. Each member was given three votes and 25 members voted. Below is the outcome of the voting. More detailed information about each recommendation can be found on the AWC website, [www.awcnet.org](http://www.awcnet.org).

Recommended Preliminary Major Priority	# of Votes	%
City flexibility package	16	21%
Pursue pro-active public records requests	11	15%
Pursue street utility authority	7	9%
Limiting liability for local government	6	8%
Oppose the requirement to tape exec. sessions and any restrictions of Attorney-Client privilege or attorney work product	6	8%
Pursue stormwater funding	6	8%
Sustained funding for public health	6	8%
Funding for gang intervention and prevention activities	5	7%
Support regulatory reform efforts	5	7%
Additional financial resources for local revitalization financing tool	3	4%
Modify transportation benefit district authority statutes	2	3%
Annexation and city/county governance transition	2	3%
Brokered natural gas tax	0	0%
Total	75	100%

### Next Steps

The subcommittees will meet between now and mid-November to recommend proposals for the complete legislative priority package (Major, Other, Endorse and Strongly Defend Against issues). The full Legislative Committee will review the final work of the subcommittees at the “in-person” meeting on November 20 (in the SeaTac area; exact location TBD), and prioritize the proposals for the AWC Board’s consideration. The Board will review those recommendations and finalize the 2010 AWC Legislative Priorities during their meeting on December 4.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Justin at [jimj@awcnet.org](mailto:jimj@awcnet.org) or [sherrys@awcnet.org](mailto:sherrys@awcnet.org).

## RECOGNITIONS

### Debbie Jermann, MMC, OAMR President's Award of Distinction



OAMR President Kathy Louie awarded C-TRAN's Clerk of the Board, **Debbie Jermann**, (Vancouver, WA) with the President's Award of Distinction at their conference in September. Debbie served on OAMR's Scholarship, Conference, Education and Special Projects Committees and she is now serving as Chair of the WMCA Fundraising and Special Projects Committee. Debbie is a Past President and honorary member of the Oregon Association of Municipal Recordors.

Congratulations Debbie! We are so glad that you came over the border and are enriching the WMCA membership with your time and talents. We are fortunate to have you. Congratulations!

### Scott Passey, City of Shoreline Employee of the Year

WMCA Board Member Scott Passey was recently honored as Employee of the Year by the City of Shoreline. Employee of the year finalists are nominated by employee peers for demonstration of city values. Here is an excerpt of the nomination provided by Shoreline: "Scott provides excellent customer service whether for a Councilmember, staff member or citizen coming into City Hall...he is the one people turn to for information about the City...he knows his stuff and is a quiet yet effective leader".

When I contacted the City of Shoreline for this newsletter, another co-worker added, "It is my pleasure to work with Scott. He is accurate, and accountable. When he says he will do something, you can take it to the bank. I'm lucky to work with Scott." As a colleague of Scott's on the WMCA Executive Committee, I agree with his co-worker. We are proud of you, Scott. Way to go!

## APPLAUSE PLEASE

We are pleased to inform our WMCA membership about the following achievements:

**CONGRATULATIONS to BETTY GARRISON**, City Clerk/Treasurer of Tenino, who received her Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) in September.

**CONGRATULATIONS to EMY GENETIA**, City Clerk of University Place, **SANDRA WALLENFELSZ**, Clerk of the Board, Snohomish County PUD, and **DEBORA NICHOLAS**, Deputy City Clerk, University Place, for earning their Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designations from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) in September.

## IN MEMORIUM

Sadly, Eva Colomb, Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Millwood, passed away on September 25 following a ten-year battle with cancer. Eva proudly served the City of Millwood for the past 23 years and she will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to her friends, family and colleagues.

<http://www.statesmanexaminer.com/content/blogsection/8/31/>