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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

Scott Passey, MMC

SEEK. AND. DESTROY.

As I write this article I'm surrounded by hundreds of city clerks from all over the United States and various parts of the world. Yes, I'm writing you from the IIMC conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, where the WMCA is well-represented by 16 delegates. Although the number may seem small considering the total number of WMCA members, given the current economy and the east coast location, I'm pleased that 16 were able to attend. It was a great opportunity to network with clerks from around the globe and make new friendships.

The theme of the IIMC conference was "Lighting the Way through Education" and it featured workshops covering a wide array of subjects relevant to personal and professional development. Presentations covered many topics including ethics, organizational leadership, managing conflict, motivation, language and communication, budgeting, writing, collaborating, cloud computing, digital records, and records management. I'm also pleased to report on the good finan-

cial health and management of IIMC. Following an intense membership drive, IIMC achieved 140 memberships in Region IX, the most of any year. As you may know, Region XI includes everything outside the United States. IIMC awarded its first MMC in the Netherlands, and the state of Wyoming had their very first on-land conference, as opposed to on-line conference.

IIMC President Brenda Cirtin turned over the gavel to Mark Lemoine of Winnipeg Canada, who was sworn in as the 2013-2014 IIMC President. Our own Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk for the City of Seattle, was elected and sworn in as IIMC Vice President, and our own Alice Attwood, Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Tonasket, was sworn in as our newest Region IX Director. Needless to say, we are proud that WMCA is so well-represented within IIMC leadership!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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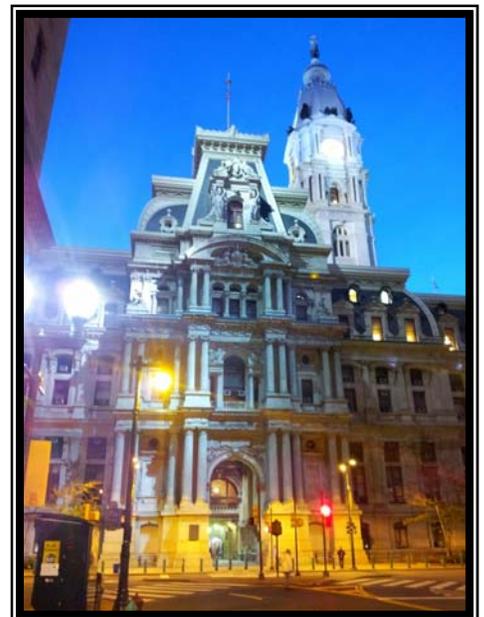
Following the conference I had the opportunity to spend some time at the historic sites in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I visited Independence Hall, the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. I felt a deep sense of pride and reverence as I

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who came before us;

gratitude to those who came before us; I am truly grateful for their sacrifices on our behalf. Indeed, they sought, and they destroyed (both literally and figuratively). May we try our best to do the same. Seek and destroy!

Scott

looked upon the room where our founding fathers discussed, debated, and hammered out the details of these founding documents. I was struck by the fact that these documents laid the groundwork for our modern-day government and the values we espouse as clerks. We owe a debt of



A CHALLENGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Clerks, please use all available resources at your disposal to network, including the discussion forums on the WMCA website. They can be a very valuable tool, especially for new clerks. Also, I challenge you to step outside your comfort zone and sit by someone you don't know at conference and training sessions. Ultimately, you will broaden your circles while also having fun meeting new people!



SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Academy will be held on **Friday, September 27th**, in Ellensburg at the Hal Holmes Community Center. More information to follow....

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Sandy Paul

Our legislature went home on April 28 to our communities after a much less than stellar session in Olympia. Again. Beginning May 13 they were back in Olympia tending to the most important of the issues that they failed to agree on before. What they are back in session to do has nothing to do with politics. Adequate transportation funding is not a Democrat or Republican problem. Adequate education funding has nothing to do with being a Republican or Democrat, either. New Interstate 5 bridges over the Skagit and Columbia Rivers have nothing to do with party affiliation. And sometimes, just do it has nothing to do with Nike, either!

While the most burning issues to Clerks, those of public disclosure, public records, and open meetings are not being considered in this 'special' session, and while Clerks still hold hope for a future in which improvements will come to our state laws that more seriously consider the electronic processes that were not in place when most of those laws were approved in the 1970's, those issues are on the back burner for now. The current trio of concerns cannot be separated from the jobs we do on a daily basis.

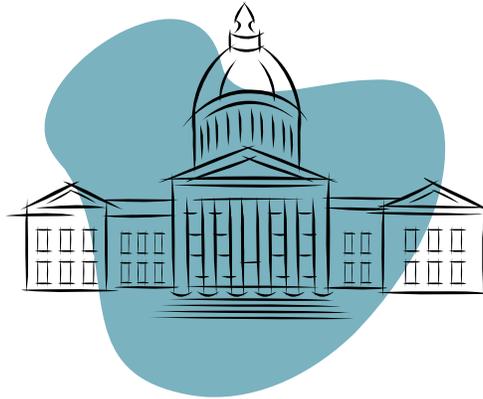
As a Clerk, does it not bother you that the representatives YOU and your local citizens elected are not attending to issues that affect all of us and our local and state economy, regardless of where we live? If improvements are not started now when costs are lower than they will be in, say, 5 years, 10 years, more? (Hey! We know about that stuff!), we are leaving not only those projects, which, in reality, will take 5-10 years to construction anyway, to be funded by our children, grandchildren,

and great-grandchildren who will also have to make those hard decisions after we have taught them that politics is the name of the game and the welfare of the state and its people count for little or nothing. It will be painful now. It will be more painful later.

These are not Eastside vs Westside issues either, as there is plenty of concern to go around. Education is an equal opportunity issue, regardless of the address. If freight corridors in the hated Puget Sound Basin are not open to easy access for all, cars and trucks alike, no freight will move through Eastern Washington communities, either. That includes moving farm products west to be shipped elsewhere. Just think about it.

You are a Clerk and you are a voter. Please be in contact with your local representatives and passionately express to them how you feel about the issues before them and to take a responsible stand with an eye to the future, for themselves and for their families. Check out <http://www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx> for bills before them, when the meetings are, when the sessions are, and, most importantly, who your representative are.

And, of course, you know what Dr. Seuss would say: *Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?* Perhaps we should just suck up, do the right thing and keep us lucky *that way*.



OUR NEWEST CMC...

IIMC Congratulates Sonya Claar Tee for obtaining her CMC designation. Congrats, Sonya!

IIMC CONFERENCE 2013 – ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

By Sandy Paul

Sixteen Washington Clerks arrived in Atlantic City days after Prince Harry left (he was there surveying the damage from Hurricane Sandy) and we departed hours before New Jersey Governor Chris Christy cut the ribbon grandly reopening all of the Jersey Shore after reconstruction of dunes and planting of native grasses and plants because most of them had been destroyed in the storm. That was a sight to see, surely, and an historic moment. Of less historical interest was the reopening of Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, which Clerks from all over the world enjoyed. Damage was evident in places, but Atlantic City must go on. It had and it did!

It was a great conference with amazing educational offerings from the Athenian Dialogs and Academies Saturday and Sunday through the last keynote and seminar on Thursday. Honestly, a break of an entire afternoon to go do and see in Atlantic City was very welcome by Thursday after the intense week. Speakers and presenters were observed for submission of their names to the WMCA Education Committee to research for future speakers for OUR Academies and Keynotes.

Shining moments were many, but there were two, especially. Our very own Monica Martinez Simmons MMC, Seattle City Clerk, had been one of the selections for IIMC Vice Presi-

dent. She prevailed in the vote against Stephanie Kalasz. Norma Rodriquez, a long-time friend of Monica's from Texas, swore her in. And no, neither candidate knew the results of the election prior to the rest of us knowing it at the banquet. This author observed an exchange between the two candidates in the ladies lounge just prior to the announcement that placed Monica in the Best in Class group forever and ever. Both candidates, also long-time friends, greeted each other and embraced. Monica wished Stephanie 'good luck'. Stephanie's comments were not as audible as Monica's, and she, no doubt, did the same thing.



For the first time in several years, WMCA selected a new Region IX Director. Alice Attwood CMC was sworn in to her post by President Brenda Cirtin. Alice is off and running, representing WMCA as well as Alaska, Oregon and California Clerks on the IIMC Board of Directors for the next three years.

REGION IX DIRECTORS' UPDATE

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Kristie and I traveled together as Region IX Director's one last time and attended the IIMC Board of Director's meeting and Annual IIMC Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey May 17-24. At the annual IIMC Business Meeting the morning of May 23, Alice Attwood, CMC, of Tonasket, Washington took the oath of office and graciously stepped into the role of Region IX Director as Kristie Smithers concluded her term of office. At the Region IX meeting held during the conference, the 59 Region IX conference attendees thanked Kristie for the commitment and dedication to the profession displayed throughout her years of service.

This update will be kept brief, as Alice and I will distribute a Region IX Newsletter in late June with the help

of each of our State Associations, State Presidents and Region IX Members. Stay tuned for Region IX updates, IIMC Conference highlights and photos, an article on the election of Region IX's very own Monica Martinez-Simmons as IIMC Vice-President, a report on action taken by the IIMC Board at its recent meeting, and a variety of other topics.

To Kristie Smithers, Alice and I send a sincere thank you and tons of appreciation for the foundation you have laid for us as Region Directors. For someone with such tiny feet, you've left us with some large shoes (Dansko's) to fill!

Joann Tilton, MMC
jtilton@ci.manteca.ca.us

Alice J. Attwood, CMC
tonasket@nvinet.com

FEATURED CLERK



VALERIE LOFFLER City Clerk, City of Oak Harbor

Born in Ft. Hood, Texas, my twin sister and I were the youngest of six children. Dad was career military, and I was fortunate to travel the world as an Army Brat. I attended kindergarten through second grade in Karlsruhe, Germany. Dad retired from Ft. Lewis (now JBLM) and we moved to Olympia when I started the fourth grade. I call Olympia home and most of my siblings still reside there. I met my husband Bob during our senior year at Olympia High School. We've been married for 31 years and have two grown sons, Sam and Jake, and one old Chesapeake Retriever named Buck.

Bob's job took us to Eastern Washington where we raised our boys and shared our love of the outdoors. We spend time hunting, fishing, boating, snorkeling, and snowboarding. I love to spend my time wandering through antique stores, refinishing furniture, gardening or reading a good book. I really love to sing and dance, although I can't do either! I treasure my friendships and each September for the past 27 years, my oldest and dearest childhood friends gather for a weekend reunion in a different location around the state. The older we get, the more fun we have!

Speaking of friends and reunions, that's exactly how I envision our annual WMCA conference. I look forward to it every year. I seriously doubt there's another professional association more dedicated to their profession or that experiences the life-long friendships and camaraderie that we clerks share. The best part is staying in touch throughout the year with our committee work as we prepare for the next year's conference. Believe it or not, I was once a shy clerk. That was before I was coerced into committee work by veteran clerks, and I haven't regretted a moment. I'm blessed with a profession I love, and there's always an opportunity to make a difference. That's why my



favorite committee is the Legislative Committee. I've chaired the Elections and the Fundraising Committees, in addition to serving on the Conference Planning Committee.

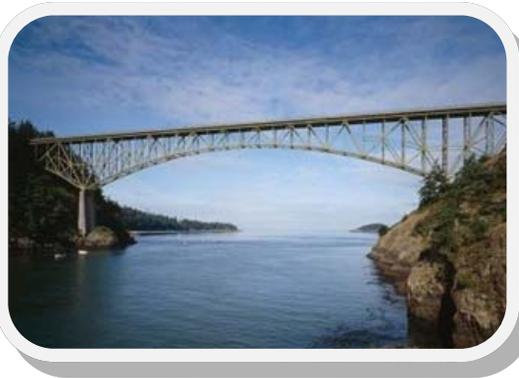
I spent 27 years with the City of Kennewick, and 16 years as City Clerk. After losing that position in 2012, I started with the City of Oak Harbor earlier this year. Oak Harbor is an incredibly beautiful waterfront community on Whidbey Island. It's also home to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, and all Navy tactical electronic attack squadrons flying the EA-6B Prowler and EA-18G Growler. Seventy percent of Oak Harbor's 23,000 citizens are military. And, you should see and hear those jets scream overhead - It's just too cool for this Army Brat!

Oak Harbor has a small town flavor displayed in the numerous annual celebrations. The Irish paint the town green in March, and the Dutch fill the

town with tulips the last weekend of April during the annual Holland Happening. Patriotism soars and flags abound on the 4th of July celebrating the strong alliance between the community and the Navy. Join us in July during Race Week. It's been rated among the top 20 yachting regattas in the world.



My drive to work each day takes me across the iconic Deception Pass Bridge and the scenery never ceases to amaze me. Admittedly, as much as I love the dry climate on the east side of the state, the picturesque mountains of the Olympic Peninsula and the San Juan Islands pull at my heart strings. Not to mention, I have a whole new circle of neighboring City Clerks who I'm looking forward to adding to my list of life-long friends.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to the following members of WMCA who took advantage of the round two scholarship opening for this year's Professional Development I classes at the Northwest Clerk Institute

The following received a scholarship for registration and housing to attend PD I

Renee Cameron	City of Bonney Lake
Debbie Dearing	City of Roy (Housing Only)
Amber DuCharme	City of Rainier
Marta Gonzalez	City of Kent (Registration Only)
Rosemary Murphy	City of Sultan
Patricia Myrdal	City of Stanwood
Linda Spier	City of Kennewick

If you have any questions about the scholarship application process please send me an email or give me a call!

Dee Roberts, 360-875-5571, dee.roberts@southbend-wa.gov

CLERKS AROUND THE STATE

2011 NCI Participants working together.



2013 Labor Relations Institute Keynote Speaker Jake French and Hi-Ya! Girl, Shannon Corin

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@cityofprosser.com

June
2013

Village Art in the Park
Leavenworth
June 2013
<http://www.villageartinthepark.org>

Cruizin Chelan
Chelan
June 6-7
<http://www.cruizinchelan.com>

Prospector Days
Republic
June 7-9
<http://www.prospectorsdays.com>

Wenatchee River Festival
Cashmere
June 8th
<http://www.wenatcheeriverfestival.org>

Washington Brewers Festival
Redmond
June 14th to 16th
<http://www.washingtonbeer.com/wa-brewers-fest>

Fremont Fair
Seattle
June 21st to 23rd
<http://fremontfair.org>

America's Dixieland Jazz Festival
Olympia
June 27-30th
<http://www.olyjazz.com>

Taste of Tacoma
Tacoma
June 28-30th
<http://www.tasteoftacoma.com>