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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 Seek. And. Destroy.

Scott Passey, MMC

Is it really March? I can't believe how quickly time flies! It seems like only yesterday that I took office as your President, and now my term is nearly over. It's hard to recall an experience that has been more gratifying both professionally and personally. I have learned so much from you and our Regional and State Associations and have made many friendships. It has been gratifying to discover just how immensely talented and committed you all are to our professions and development. Congratulations and thank you all for the work you do! Our communities are truly blessed to be served by the clerks of the WMCA!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Conference. You should feel proud for taking the time to invest in yourself to learn new things, network, rekindle old friendships and make new ones. Please join me in celebrating this year's conference, themed "Seek and Destroy." If you recall, my challenge to you is to seek excellence in all you do, and destroy those things that prevent you from achieving your potential. If you want to be a better speaker, a better writer, more adept at managing conflict, whatever it might be -- seek out opportunities to improve. It usually involves stretching yourself beyond your comfort zone, but that's the point. A lack of challenge stunts our growth; it's the challenge that helps us grow. At the same time, eliminate those things from your life -- those habits we all have -- that make us average. Seek excellence; destroy mediocrity. The question is: Do you want to be mediocre, or do you want to be exceptional? It's your choice.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to represent you and serve as your President. I look forward to moving into the position of Immediate Past President, and I look forward to the presidency of Diana Quinn; I know she will be a great leader. I am honored to be part of a great organization!

Scott

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AWARDS COMMITTEE 2013-2014 UPDATE

By Sandy Paul MMC, Chair

Several articles requesting nominations for Clerk of the Year/President's Award of Distinction were placed in the monthly newsletters. Additionally, letters were mailed via the postal service by committee members to each city of our members' employment to solicit nominations for COTY (350 letters followed by 350 'reminder' post cards).

To be nominated for Clerk of the Year is a very high honor for any Clerk. Seven nominations were received for Clerk of the Year. One nomination was ineligible. The requirement for selection is 5 years of continuous membership in WMCA prior to and including the nomination period. This nominee was notified by letter March 1, 2014. Included in the letter was the nomination from the Clerk's city.

Six nominations were rated by the Committee and presented to President Scott Passey. A pair of beautiful trophies was purchased by the Awards Committee Chair for presentation at the WMCA Conference awards banquet in Pasco on March 20.

Letters to those who were not selected as well as copies of their nominations, will be mailed March 21, 2014.

Don't miss the excitement!

NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE AT THE 2014 CONFERENCE

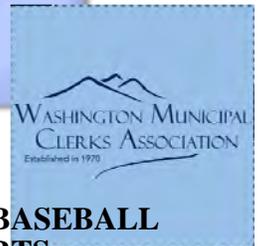
LONG SLEEVE LADIES DENIM SHIRTS
\$24.00 - Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large, and XXX-Large



FULL ZIP SPORT WIND JACKET
\$37.00 - Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large, and XXX-Large



WMCA March 2014



3/4 SLEEVE BASEBALL SHIRTS

Only \$15; sizes small, medium, large, and x-large available - sizes run large.

The color shown in the sample above is the actual color (light blue with navy blue sleeves). The logo will be on the left chest (logo color matches sleeve color).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE



By *Tes Ongoco*

FIVE REASONS TO GET EXCITED FOR THE 2014 WMCA CONFERENCE!

Dear Conference Participants,

CITY OF PASCO is eager to welcome YOU to the WMCA Spring Academy that will take place on Tuesday, March 18th, and the annual WMCA Conference which will kick off on Wednesday, March 19th and run through Friday, March 21st.

Conferences provide ample opportunity to **SEEK** and soak up information from recognized speakers. WMCA 44TH Annual Conference features a wide array of topics and sessions designed to cover most areas of interest. *Check out the Conference Schedule for more information.*

FIVE REASONS TO GET EXCITED FOR the 2014 WMCA CONFERENCE!

#1 - It's a venue for education –

Connecting with like-minded people and collaboratively learning about the subject matter: what a great line up of speakers, highly knowledgeable on *Service Leadership* at the Advanced Academy to an array of topics related to *stress management, beginning accounting, public disclosure requests, and ethics.*

#2 – Problem-solving and brainstorming

Ever wanted to tackle a topic by talking it out? The four Roundtable discussions provide that avenue where attendees from different size cities would have the opportunity to meet, discuss and exchange best practices and common solutions. The Roundtable sessions are geared towards people who have a high level of passion around an issue and are motivated to brainstorm with others and spark informative discussion that you can take back with you to your jurisdiction.

#3 - Bring in new voices

Our Membership Committee, together with the WMCA President and Executive Committee, are eager to welcome the First-Time Attendees at the Meet and Greet at 5pm on Tuesday, March 18th and at the Breakfast Session the following day especially planned for them. We welcome new ideas from new members who can also connect with seasoned members who can mentor them along the way.

#4 - Network smarter (and DESTROY the barrier)

To enjoy each other's company – and continue the rich exchange of ideas and experiences - there will be opportunities to network with your peers within your County, your State and beyond. Aside from attending the scrumptious breakfasts, lunches and dinners carefully planned throughout the conference, please consider joining a Committee or two (while earning CMC or MMC points).

The conference was also designed to allow you to spend time to check out the many vendors and exhibits of our long standing conference sponsors offering solutions to hopefully help you manage your job efficiently.

Last but not the least:

#5 – Find time to enjoy and have fun!

Need we say more....

This should be a great conference with great speakers from start to finish. So block out your schedule for 3-4 days in Pasco, WA.

We hope to see you there!

2014 WMCA DIAMOND SPONSORS

WMCA is fortunate to have many sponsors who give to our organization through donations, exhibiting at our conference, scholarships, and providing services. WMCA has a sponsorship program with three levels, Diamond (\$2,500), Platinum (\$1,000) and Bronze (\$500).

THANK YOU WCIA and AWC Employee Benefit Trust!

The **AWC Employee Benefit Trust** is honored to be a Diamond Level Sponsor this year, and look forward to visiting with city clerks and clerk-treasurers from around the state at the Annual Conference in the Tri-Cities. The AWC Trust is thrilled to kick off your general conference with the Opening Keynote Speaker, Dr. Brian Luke Seward, addressing "Great Stress Management Strategies for Happier Workplaces." Keeping with the healthy theme, Dr. Seward will conduct two concurrent sessions on "A Good Night Sleep: Stress & Insomnia" and "The Low Stress Diet: Stress, Nutrition and the Immune System." After a long day of sessions, you will want to stretch your legs, so join Andy Clarke of our staff for a Healthy Walk before your Dinner Auction.

As your member pooling program, the AWC Trust is committed to its long-standing mission of providing quality benefit programs to Washington cities and towns in an efficient and cost-effective manner through timely information, technical assistance, member education and advocacy. Today, the AWC Trust provides an array of medical, dental, vision, life, LTD and employee assistance programs to over 275 cities, town and special purpose districts. The program's strength is the quality customer service provided to over 35,000 employees and family members statewide.

2013 was a year for good news for AWC Trust members with a 0% rate increase. The decision by the Board of Trustees to self-insure benefitted members to control costs in 2013 and we look forward to that rate stability in years to come.

We applaud your desire to learn more about promoting healthy lifestyles with your educational track at the conference, as this is a key component to controlling healthcare costs. Our health promotion staff are always available to assist you in reinforcing those messages back home, and helping you to achieve the Well City Award and a 2% premium discount!

A wealth of information about the AWC Trust can be found on our

website at www.awcnet.org/healthbenefits. Come visit Andy at the booth and he'll give you a live demonstration of tools and services to help you in your day.

WMCA is also proud to announce that **Washington Cites Insurance Authority** or WCIA has stepped up again as a Diamond level sponsor this year! WCIA is sponsoring two speakers at our annual conference in Pasco -- Jeff Myers & Mike Connelly will present "Public Disclosure -- Handling Difficult Requests".

Washington Cites Insurance Authority is a self-insured municipal risk pool, offering liability, property and specialty insurance programs as well as risk management services to municipal entities in Washington State. Based in Tukwila, WCIA was formed in 1981 and they were the first liability risk pool under RCW 48.62 in the state.

Currently, WCIA consists of over 160 members who not only receive liability and property coverage but comprehensive risk reduction services. Through education, risk management consultation, pre-defense review and on-site risk management services, WCIA members are able to systematically reduce their loss exposures. In addition, WCIA is providing limited student scholarships at the NW Clerks Institute Professional Development (I, II, III or IV). Funded at \$1.8 million in 2013, there are no other risk pools that offer the same level of risk management service as WCIA!

Make sure you check out WCIA's website and learn more about what they can do for your organization. Visit their website at www.wciapool.org and drop them a line to let them know you appreciate their continued support of WMCA. Or better yet, request some information about their services and bring it back to your leadership team to discuss.

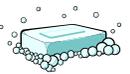
Donations . . . Let's give as much as we get!



By Heidi K.S. Napolitano, Town of Woodway

So many wonderful things come home with us from the conference: information and ideas from the education sessions; professional connections and friendships; WMCA swag; and so much more. The conference is also an opportunity to give generously to others. Each year the President chooses a group in need of donations and asks conference participants to donate as they are able. This year we are partnering with the National Guard to collect supplies that will be sent to our troops deployed overseas. Many everyday items that we take for granted can be difficult to find in foreign countries. A little bit of home can make all the difference for the men and women of our Armed Forces. The supplies listed below are items that the troops request and appreciate.

**SNACKS RAMEN NOODLES MICROWAVEABLE BOWLS DEHYDRATED FOOD SUCH AS DRIED FRUIT OR JERKY
SPICES TO BBQ WITH PERSONAL GROOMING SUPPLIES LIKE DEODORANT, SOAP OR TOOTHPASTE
MAGAZINES, BOOKS OR PUZZLE BOOKS PENS, PENCILS BATTERIES SOCKS OR SLIPPERS**



While physical supplies are important, encouragement and thanks are essential. Take a moment to write a quick note of thanks to be delivered with the donations. Bring notes with you, or write a card when you arrive. **Thanks for making a difference!**

FEATURED CLERK



RACHEL SHAW, CMC City Clerk/IT Manager Prosser, Washington

Born in Tacoma, Washington, Rachel Shaw is the City Clerk/IT Manager for the City of Prosser. Rachel the oldest of four; two sisters and a brother, spent most of her childhood growing up in the Puget Sound area before moving to the sunny, eastern side of the state in 1997. Being a “city girl” fresh out of high school, she wasn’t too keen on the idea of spending ½ a summer in a small town where her family was getting resettled before heading off to college at Chico State in California. As God would have it, the college scenario did not play out. Shortly after arriving in California she found herself homesick, scared, missing her family and right back in Prosser where she later attended community college.



Rachel met her husband Keith at the age of 19 and will be married 13 years this August. Together they have three very rambunctious boys, Kadence 11, Kashus 9 and Kanon 4. Rachel’s only female companion in the house is Molly Brown, a beautiful red-nose pit bull who often times can be seen with hot pink nails to match her collar.

The City of Prosser has been Rachel’s home-away-from-home, for almost 8 years; a little over 3 of those years as the City Clerk. Prior to serving at the City, she worked in the Human Resource and Customer Service Offices at Columbia Crest Winery and as a coffee shop consultant, starting up three coffee shops in Grandview, Prosser, and Richland.



Prosser, a community of less than 6,000 people, is known as the “Birthplace of the Washington Wine Industry.” A combination of the beautiful, historic downtown bustling with offices and stores and a small town residential feel, contributes to the town’s appeal and is a destination for many in the Northwest. For the second year in a row, Prosser achieved national recognition as one of America’s Promise Alliance’s “100 Best Communities for Young People” presented by ING for its initiatives to help young people. The town is busy year round with cultural events and is dedicated to its youth, providing academic support and leadership opportunities.



Rachel keeps busy with her boys’ sporting events and enjoys hiking, camping, fishing, spending time with family and friends, and participating in many of the town events. She is very involved in her community and with her church family where her husband sings and plays guitar on the worship team. She operates ‘Jesus’ Java House’ her church’s coffee shop, leads Children’s Church, serves on the Prosser Community Involvement and Action Coalition Board for youth prevention and volunteers as a mentor to disadvantaged youth at the Boys and Girls Club. When speaking about her job at the City, Rachel said, “Looking back, growing up in Tacoma molded much of my path that is before me today. There was gang violence and brokenness all around me. I had a vision of being part of something great and giving back to the community that we all live and work in and view my role as City Clerk as a representative of public service to the community.”

Rachel is currently a member of the WMCA Conference Planning and Education Committees, Co-chair of the Newsletter Committee and serves as the Chair of the Scholarship Committee for the South Central Washington Municipal Clerks Association.



FEATURED CLERK



MELODY VALIANT, CMC

City Clerk

Tumwater, Washington

Born in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, Melody Valiant is the City Clerk of the City of Tumwater. Melody has 2 older brothers, one younger brother and spent most of her childhood in Tampa, Florida until her family moved to Olympia, Washington when she was 12. She attended

middle school, high school and community college in Olympia and decided to stay there as she loved the area so much.



Melody started at the City of Tumwater in 1997 as a secretary out in the Public Works Operations shop. In 1998, she became the Administrative Assistant in the Finance Department. It was there that she got introduced to the City Clerk profession and expressed her interest to become the Deputy City Clerk in 2005. When the former City Clerk retired in 2009, she became the City Clerk. Before she worked with the City of Tumwater, Melody worked at Green Hill School, as a secretary at a boy's correctional facility in Chehalis.

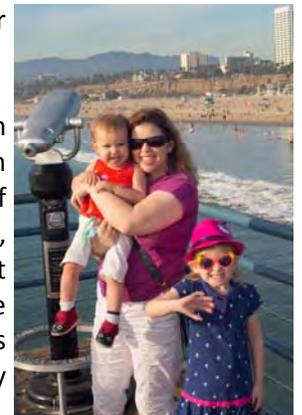
Melody met her husband Bryan at the age of 18 where she was a video store clerk and he was a patron. They have been married for 10 years this past September and together for 20 years. They have two adorable little girls, Zoe 6, Lulu 2 and a little boy - Max who is due in the end of June.

In addition to working for the City of Tumwater, Melody also co-owns a business with her husband Bryan, Amore Studios—Wedding Photography. They have been published in Seattle Bride, Offbeat Bride and have traveled all over the world for destination weddings including Mexico, Hong Kong, and Hawaii. It's a very different type of job than her role as a clerk, but one she enjoys just as much. "It's always an honor to photograph people on one of the most important days of their life and capture images they will treasure forever." Melody's girls Zoe and Lulu keep her very busy. Zoe just started kindergarten and loves doing ballet and gymnastics. Lulu can't wait to be able to join in with big sister on those activities. Melody loves to travel, take cooking classes and attend musicals and plays in Seattle. She recently got to take her family with her to Disneyland before the Laserfiche conference and Zoe and Lulu had so much fun meeting all the princesses, characters and getting their autographs. Other favorite vacation spots are Cannon Beach, Sunriver and Maui which she doesn't get to as often as she'd like.



Since joining WMCA in 2005, Melody has been an active participant in WMCA. She has served on the Education Committee, including Co-Chairing the Committee for 2 years. Melody is currently the Co-Chair of the Newsletter Committee and a member of the Audit Committee.

The City of Tumwater is located at the base of the Deschutes River and is the southern gateway to Puget Sound's mega-metropolitan region spanning several counties from Thurston and Pierce to King County. Together, Tumwater and the neighboring cities of Lacey and Olympia, the state capital, form a community just over 100,00 in population, Tumwater's population is 18,300. Tumwater is the oldest American settlement on Puget Sound. It is perhaps best known as home to the former Olympia Brewery, owned by the Schmidt family. Although the brewery closed in 2003, the historic Old Brewhouse stands as Tumwater's most important architectural landmark. The tradition of brewing, quality drinking water and a strong sense community are celebrated in Tumwater.



AUCTION REMINDER

Reminder – Do Not Forget Your 2014 WMCA Conference Auction Items and Grand Raffle Tickets/Money!

We would like to encourage everyone attending the conference to bring at least one auction item. The silent auction will kick off Wednesday, March 19 at noon. Bidding will continue until 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, March 20. The Live Auction will take place Wednesday evening during the Harvest Buffet dinner.

If you have Grand Raffle Tickets that you are selling or have sold, please make sure you bring your ticket stubs and money, or unsold tickets to conference. If you are not able to attend conference, please make sure you get them to a WMCA member who is attending, or get them in the mail **NO LATER THAN** Monday, March 10 to Debbie Jermann, C-TRAN, PO Box 2529, Vancouver, WA 98668; 360-906-7303; debbiej@c-tran.org.



Thank you for supporting WMCA Scholarships – we will see you in Pasco!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE BLOWOUT!



Fleece Jacket

We have sought out the old prices and de-stroyed them! All WMCA Store Inventory from last year will be priced to sell!

**Fleece Jackets
& Sweatshirts
\$15.00**



Fleece Sweatshirt



**Coffee Mugs
\$2.00**

**Water Tumblers
\$1.00**



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

By Sandy Paul, MMC, Legislative Committee Chair

Legislative Update

The Legislative Committee has been watching and listening as the clock ticks away the 60 days of the 2014 'short' session. With important work like funding education, approving a transportation package, returning a greater portion of sales, liquor, and now cannabis revenue to cities, and public disclosure (which is nowhere on the agenda), your Legislative Committee has had the opportunity to comment on its position on posting meeting agendas and the attached supporting documents on city websites at least 24 hours in advance of a meeting, which most cities of any size are already doing. The only reason the remaining cities may not be doing this type of posting is due to an inability to actually accomplish this task in a timely manner. The good news is that those are the cities exempt from this bill.

So, basically, no change will be apparent.

And you thought all that had so far been accomplished in O-Town was to celebrate the Seahawks' Super Bowl victory, try to re-name Mount Rainier, and designate a state oyster! Gotta love politics!

The Legislative picture will be observed by your Committee twelve months of the year and reported back to you on a regular basis. In the meantime, you can go to www.leg.wa.gov and www.AWCnet.org for the latest in legislative action.

Sign-up sheets for the 2014-2015 Legislative Committee will be available at the WMCA Conference in Pasco this month. If you cannot attend to sign up in person, contact Sandy Paul at Sandydmpmpd@gmail.com to be added to the list.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Congratulations to our newest Certified Municipal Clerk:

Alyeen Carlson, CMC, Clallam Transit System

CMC

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



Scholarship Recognition

This year, we are proud to announce the following members as recipients of the WMCA Annual Conference Scholarship Award:

Susan Duncan, City of Ferndale
Deniece Miller, City of Tonasket
Rosemary Murphy, City of Sultan
Lisa Neissl, City of College Place
Gretchen Sagen, City of Raymond
Robin Schaefer, City of Bothell

FESTIVAL/FAIR SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



Have you ever noticed all the fairs and festivals we list on the back page of the monthly newsletter and have you ever wanted to see one of your city events listed? Well rather than have that month's editor find relevant fairs and festivals to put in the newsletter, we are going to let WMCA members submit events happening in their city or town for inclusion. We are going to start listing events the month before they happen so members have the time and opportunity to attend. Below are the guidelines for submitting your event to future newsletters – happy submitting!

The following information needs to be submitted for any fair/festival you want listed:

Name of Festival	Location of Festival
Dates of Festival	Website (if applicable)

Festival needs to be submitted 6 weeks prior to the event – ie: if the event is on July 4th, it needs to be submitted by May 23rd so it can be included in the June newsletter. Submissions are accepted on a first come, first served basis.

All submissions must be submitted to the Newsletter Chairs, Melody Valiant, mvaliant@ci.tumwater.wa.us & Rachel Shaw, rshaw@cityofprosser.com.



Municipal Research and Services Center
of Washington (MRSC)
(206) 625-1300 | www.mrsc.org
Thursday, March 20, 2014 10:00 – 11:00 A.M. PDT



Is your agency considering switching to a biennial budget? Then this webinar is for you! Join Redmond Finance Director Mike Bailey and MRSC Policy Consultant Lynn Nordby in an informative discussion about the biennial budgeting process. We'll review the steps you need to take to implement the process and highlight the benefits, and potential challenges, that can come from using this approach.

This webinar is recommended for mayors, commissioners, city managers, finance directors, clerks, council members, and other government leaders looking to implement a biennial budget before the statutory – and practical – deadlines for the next biennial cycle. For cities and towns the last date to pass a biennial budget enabling ordinance for the 2015 – 2016 biennium is June 30, 2014. Counties have more flexibility but still need to get started soon to meet their own deadlines.

Full details and registration can be found at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/303710234>

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

March/April
2014

Central Washington Home and Garden Show
March 14 – 16, 2014
SunDome Fairgrounds, Yakima

Let's ShamRock!
March 17, 2014
@ 1 pm
Lakewood Senior Activity Center

Almost Spring Swap Meet
March 15, 2014
@ 8 am
Washington State Fair Events Center,
Puyallup1388772000March 15

Go Green at the Zoo!
March 15, 2014
9:30 am – 4 pm
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Tri-Cities Spring Arts and Crafts Show
March 21 - 23, 2014
Trac Center, Pasco

Bird Watching in Washington State
March 27, 2014
@ 6:30 pm
The Olympia Center

Spring Free Day
April 19, 2014
@ 8 am
Dash Point State Park, Federal Way

Spring Barrel Tasting
April 25, 2014
10 am – 5 pm
Prosser Wine Country