

Editor, Jennifer Cusmir, City of Maple Valley



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[www.WMCAClerks.org](http://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

Diana Quinn, MMC

*Work your Magic!*

It's hard for me to believe conference is just a month away. I am looking forward to it with a plethora of different emotions!

This year's conference is going to be a great learning experience, with fabulous presenters, and engaging topics. There are so many fun things to do in beautiful Vancouver! A few of the highlights are:

- ◆ Tuesday - President's Reception in the lovely Pine/Spruce Rooms, overlooking the park. There will be a no host bar with appetizers.
- ◆ Wednesday - an all conference activity at "Big Al's", including games, food, and the auction!
- ◆ Thursday - "Work your Magic" Banquet with a scrumptious dinner, and dancing featuring our own Past President, Scott Passey (a.k.a. "Mr. DJ") performing for our pleasure!

I look forward to seeing you all there!

I'm so excited for our members to get acquainted with the charitable organization I chose for this year's conference. **Vida's Ark** is a non-profit organization founded in 2007 that is dedicated to teaching teen mothers life and parenting skills. The mission of **Vida's Ark** is to assist homeless teens, and their children, by providing a safe, supportive and nurturing home; while teaching them the skills to become self-sufficient, and to complete their high school education.

This charity is near and dear to my heart, as my beautiful, talented, and extremely intelligent middle daughter, Katie, was also a teen mother (and no, I am not bias in the least). Katie was 17 years old when she gave birth to our lovely granddaughter, Natalie (who is now 16). Katie was one of the fortunate teens who had the love and support of her family and friends. While preparing for the arrival of our granddaughter, Katie went to counseling, and parenting classes. She desired to be as good a parent as she possibly could, making sure she was prepared to take care of her daughter.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

During this time, she met many expectant teen mothers who didn't have the advantages she had. Katie, being our Katie, with a very soft heart, befriended many these young girls, doing all she could to help them. Her father and I were so very proud of her. She managed to have her child and graduated with her high school class. Through the Running Start program, she finished her dental assisting course during her senior year. She was asked numerous times, while she was pregnant and after giving birth, to talk to young teens about the struggles of being a teenage parent.

These young mothers, without the guidance, security and loving care of family are truly in need of a safe place to stay, and an opportunity to flourish as a person. Vita's Ark is the place that provides this. Please visit their website at [www.vidasark.org](http://www.vidasark.org). I'm confident that once you do, you'll want to "**Work your Magic**" by way of a donation of diapers, baby and maternity clothes, baby/children's furniture, unexpired car seats, personal hygiene items, household items, cleaning supplies, and school supplies.



This year has been a monumental experience for me, all the way from receiving the honor of representing YOU and our association at the Region IX State conferences, to being a part of brainstorming for the future of our organization. You will never know the amount of gratitude I feel for the faith you entrusted in me this past year. It's going to be my honor to hand the reigns down to President Elect Debbie Burke. I feel more than confident in her ability to carry our association forward, knowing she is a top-notch clerk with tons of experience, and loves WMCA as much as I do. We are so lucky to have her, and I encourage each of you to seek her out at conference to introduce yourself, and take advantage of the wealth of knowledge she has. She's also a lot of fun, and a truly **magical** person!

I wish you all a wonderful February, with lots of love and laughter. Remember to **Work your Magic!**

*Diana*

## LOGO WEAR BLOWOUT SALE

The WMCA Executive Committee has **worked their magic** to lower prices on our amazing logo wear! Come to the 2015 Conference prepared to purchase your WMCA merchandise and **represent!**

- 3/4 Sleeve Baseball Shirts are only **\$5.00**
- 1/4 Zip Sweatshirts, Fleece Jackets, and Long Sleeve Denim Shirts are a jaw-dropping **\$10.00**
- Full Zip Sport Wind and Track Jackets are, OMG, **\$15.00**

There are limited sizes and quantities available, so stop by early to get your hands on these amazing deals!



# GRAND RAFFLE TICKETS

**Grand Raffle Tickets** are still available for sale! Our goal is to sell all 1,500 ticket by the time raffle at the WMCA Annual Conference Banquet, Thursday, March 19, 2015. We need everyone's help to reach our goal!

The tickets are \$5.00 each **OR** 5 tickets for \$20.00 - what a **scorchin' hot deal!** Purchase some Grand Raffle Tickets and surprise your favorite Valentine!



There are three chances to win: First Drawing is \$500, Second Drawing is \$750, and Third Drawing is \$1,000!

To get tickets to sell to family, friends, co-workers, and yourself, contact:



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## 2015 WMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AUCTIONS



Spring is right around the corner and we are starting to count down the days until the 45th Annual WMCA Conference. Your Fundraising Committee is gearing up for another successful fundraising conference week.

The silent and live auctions we hold at conference are one of the top money makers for scholarship funds. Be creative with your auction baskets – there are many popular themes, including Seahawks!, spa treatments, gardening, home décor, wine tasting, and many more. Chances are if it is something that you enjoy, others will also enjoy.



Don't forget the men in your lives - create a "Guy" Bucket with outdoor sports items, fishing tackle, bug repellent, hand warmers, wool socks. Perhaps a Poker Night Bucket including snacks. For those of you who would appreciate a little "me" time, how about a gas card and gift certificate for a weekend with the guys golfing.



Given everyone's hectic schedules, both at work and home, the Fundraising Committee would also like to offer the opportunity, for those who do not have time to shop, to simply donate cash - we will do the shopping for you! If you prefer this option, send a check to Debbie Jermann, MMC, C-TRAN, PO Box 2529, Vancouver, WA 98668.

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

# CLERK OF THE MONTH



## City Clerk Ann Swenson, CMC



Ann is the City Clerk for the City of Liberty Lake, the gateway city, along westbound I-90, to Eastern Washington. As Executive Assistant to the second incoming Mayor, she began her career in Liberty Lake, December 2007. In February 2009, Ann was promoted to Deputy City Clerk and, later that same year, was appointed and confirmed as City Clerk. Ann achieved CMC status from the IIMC and has served on the WMCA Awards, Membership, and Education Committees.

Born in Espanola, NM, she was adopted at birth. As fate would have it, Ann's adoptive mother, Katherine, was working as a nurse at the hospital on the November morning that Ann came into the world. Ann enjoys sharing their story. "I guess I couldn't wait to come into this world and was born outside the hospital, in the parking lot. Because I wasn't born in the hospital, I was brought to the pediatric floor rather than the neonatal ward. My mom came to work her shift in pediatrics, saw me and asked, 'Who's this?' Once it was explained to her that I was born outside the hospital and was up for adoption, that was it! My mom said, 'I'll take her; she's mine!'" To this day, Ann is convinced that there is no such thing as coincidence!

Ann grew up in Montana, where she worked for Human Resources Council District XII, the Public Service Commission, the Department of Administration, and the Montana State House of Representatives. She later moved to Las Vegas, NV. Staying true to her work in the public sector, she worked for the State Bar of Nevada. Ann later returned to Montana, and in 1995 moved to Washington, where she has been a resident ever since.

Ann is honored to be the WMCA Clerk of the Month for the month of February because February is a very special month for her. On February 14th, Ann and her sweetheart, Lyle, will celebrate their 17th year of wedded bliss. February also calendars another of her favorite days, the NFL's "Big Kahuna"! Ann is a huge Washington D.C. fan (don't knock her, she has been for a long time), but she is psyched to see "the other Washington team" return to the Super Bowl! "It's hard to not become infected by the 12th Man hype. It's contagious, and boy it is a lot of fun! GO HAWKS!"



When she's not working, Ann enjoys spending time with her husband, their handsome and talented 15-year-old son, Kaleb, and their 7-year-old Maltichon, Snowball. Together they enjoy family and friends, music, camping, boating, and their summer lake place. Ann's adventurous side includes travel, exploration, trying new recipes, singing karaoke, and getting energized by visual arts.

Next time you find yourself east of Spokane, stop by Liberty Lake and say "hi" to Ann!

# 2015 NORTHWEST CLERKS INSTITUTE

Registration is now open for 2015 classes. Sited on the beautiful campus of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, you won't want to miss this opportunity to invest in your future! Make a difference in your organization, career and future. Build management skills, learn from professional instructors, and foster peer relationships.

Go to [www.nwclerks.com](http://www.nwclerks.com) to register or for more detailed information on the courses offered.

## Dates and Course Titles:

**Professional Development I – May 31-June 5, 2015** (The Role of Clerk, Customer Service, Legal Issues, Records Management, Jurassic Parliament, Ethics, Effective Business Writing and Writing Minutes and Meeting Notes)

**Professional Development II – June 7-12, 2015** (What's the Color of Your Desk?, Understanding Yourself and Others, Stepping into Supervision, Financial Management and Budgeting, Managing Human Resources, RESOLVE (problem solving/team building/negotiations), Creating Your Personal Vision Statement, Advanced Records Management)

**Professional Development III – June 14-19, 2015** (Communicate Like a Pro, Minimizing the Impact of Negative Influences in the Workplace, Decision-making, Intergenerational Communication and Management, Meeting the Media, Leadership Focus: How to lead with service and results, Handling Emotions Under Pressure, The Ever Changing Workplace)

**Professional Development IV – June 8-11, 2015** (Master Academy – Crucial Conversations© with Betsy BeMiller)



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## Legislative Committee Report Sandy Paul, MMC, Chair

Question received by the Legislative Committee: Is it true that AWC and the Legislature will not focus on additional reforms to the Public Disclosure laws?

The short answer is *yes*. For a number of years the AWC Legislative Committee has listed as its top priority any issue that streamlines the process around public disclosure and curbing nuisance requestors. These topics are not on the 'hot sheet' for the 2015 Legislative session due to so many other important issues before the bodies, including education and transportation. Focus has shifted this session to calling attention to more revenue sharing of liquor and cannabis profits. Cities remain the heart of a strong state, and Strong Cities has become the face of this year's AWC priority. Should public disclosure issues again take the forefront, AWC will be right there beside cities and clerks.

We have much to be hopeful about. Never before have there been organized bi-partisan groups of legislators focusing on city and county issues and advocating for us in their respective caucuses. The House group is up and running. They'll send letters to leadership promoting the need to address key issues. The Senate caucus has held its first meeting. If your legislator is a member, thank them. If not, ask them if they are interested in learning more. Key contacts in each caucus are Representatives Chris Reykdal (D-Tumwater) and Cary Condotta (R-East Wenatchee), and Senators Ann Rivers (R-La Center) and Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah).

Sen. Ann Rivers (R-La Center), along with Sen. Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah), and a number of other senators introduced a bill, SB 5417, that would share a portion of the marijuana excise tax with local governments. AWC worked with WSAC and the Senators to craft the bill, which shares 33% of revenue collected with cities and counties. Securing a share of the excise tax for cities is one of AWC's legislative priorities. Encourage your Senator to support this legislation.

The following clichés provide a far too convenient way to answer a question without going into any detail, or perhaps avoid answering a question at all. If you like clichés, you might like this lighthearted list of things to listen for:

1. The other Washington: A reference to Congress. It's a warning that Washington state lawmakers level at each other when they can't seem to agree, a place where political bickering gets in the way of agreeing on important policies — such as a tax package for highways, or a plan to pay for public schools. Oh wait, that's this Washington.
2. Borrowing from Peter to pay Paul: Taking money from one government program to fund another — and not actually solving whatever budget or tax problem is at hand. No one ever borrows from Paul, ever. Why is that?
3. Putting the cart before the horse: We're getting ahead of ourselves, or considering a new policy prematurely. When was the last time you spent a weekend hauling materials by horse-drawn cart. Anybody? OK, let's move on.
4. Path forward: Next step or solution to a political impasse. Searching for a path forward seems to be what people do during political negotiations, as if they're blindfolded in the middle of a dark wood. A path backward? That *would* be something.
5. The devil's in the details: Supporting the general idea of that legislation, but opposing it if something distasteful or untoward ends up in there. Yes, details matter — because that's pretty much the way life works.

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT (CONT.)

6. Forcing mechanism or forcing function: Technically, a “forcing mechanism” is a term used in climate change science, while a “forcing function” exists in some kind of calculus many legislators and reporters never got around to studying. In political terms, the two phrases apparently mean the same thing: Something that forces politicians to get something done. The state Supreme Court’s order holding the state in contempt over education funding may act as “forcing mechanism;” fining legislators for each day they work overtime could act as a “forcing function” to get lawmakers out of town on schedule. Ultimately, this phrase is just too robot-like.
7. It takes two to tango: We’re trying to make this (bill, policy, whatever) happen, but the other party won’t go along with it or negotiate with us on it. It’s a phrase used by politicians to blame the other party in the divided Legislature, which has a Democrat-led House and a Republican-led Senate. The accuser is acknowledging that they’re supposed to be dancing. Maybe both parties are bad dancers?
8. Job creators vs. working families: Businesses that employ people and/or the very wealthy, versus families just struggling to get by. Democrats in Olympia are always trying to come to the aid of “working families.” But what about working single people? Don’t they vote? Meanwhile, Republicans are often working to help “job creators,” because “the rich” didn’t do well in focus groups. And don’t forget the favorite activity for working families — sitting around the kitchen table trying to pay their bills.
9. It’s time for real talk: Time to start dealing in earnest. You’re telling us that you’ve been engaging in fake talk? That’s reassuring.
10. Grow the pie: Build the economy or attract more businesses so that everyone benefits. Budget-writing and tax policy sound so innocuous when discussed in terms of flaky pastries.

(The above phrases were quoted in the *Tacoma News Tribune* and *Olympia Olympian*)



# REGION IX DIRECTOR'S UPDATE



Tracy Davis

The filing period for the position of Region IX Director closed in mid-January. IIMC Headquarters has confirmed Region IX's incoming Director will be Tracy Davis of Keizer, Oregon.

Region Directors serve a three-year term and my term will be coming to an end in May 2015. Tracy will be installed at the Annual IIMC Conference in Hartford, Connecticut in May. Ms. Davis will join Alice Attwood of Tonasket, Washington and both will serve as your Region IX Directors.

Region IX consists of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. Sadly, we currently have no members from the beautiful State of Hawaii. The position of Region Director rotates through our states based on a written agreement which was developed years ago. The process used has served our Region well.

Alice and I wanted to share the news with you and introduce Tracy Davis by way of her biography and picture. In the meantime, Alice and I continue our excellent adventure in service to you. Please let us know how we can help you in your pursuit of education and certification to be the best municipal clerk you can be.

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LOL!

# LAUGH OUT LOUD



**All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt. ~ Charles M. Shulz**



## JOKE OF THE MONTH

### Candy Love

Four-year-old Sam loved candy almost as much as his mom Sally did. He and Daddy had given her a beautiful heart-shaped box of chocolates for Valentine's Day. A few days later Sam was eyeing it, wishing to have a piece of it. As he reached out to touch one of the big pieces, Sally said to him, "If you touch it, then you have to eat it. Do you understand?"

"Oh, yes," he said, nodding his head. Suddenly his little hand patted the tops of all the pieces of candy. "Now I can eat them all."



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

