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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

Debbie Burke, MMC

April was a whirlwind of a month for me between personal life, work, and representing WMCA. The city of Normandy Park will be welcoming a new City Manager on May 1st. Many of you may know him from the years of service he provided in Gig Harbor, yes, it's Mr. Mark Hoppen. I had the opportunity to participate in the various elements of the interview process and am looking forward to working with him.

My child (Sierra) made it home on Easter morning and we had a wonderful afternoon visiting with Immediate Past President Quinn's family in Sumner. Sierra spent the next 24 hours visiting with her friends, past co-workers, and had a great time at the Mariners' opening game. Then, she promptly whisked herself on a flight back to school and work on Tuesday morning.

I recently attended the California Clerks' Annual Conference which was held in the city of Rohnert Park, in Sonoma County. I was able to head down a day early for a little sightseeing at the petrified forest, Safari West, and the Charles Schulz museum in Santa Rosa. I spent a lot of time with the Presidents of Oregon and Alaska during the conference. We had a wonderful visit with the city of Sonoma City Clerk at her City Hall. The conference fun night was spent in San Francisco where we saw "Beach Blanket Babylon," a musical mockery of politicians and famous musicians both past and present. We were in stitches from the comedy portrayed with spectacular costumes and outrageously gigantic hats. The conference schedule in California is somewhat similar to our conference - like the keynote speakers, banquet, awards, fundraising, and vendors. A few things they do different is the Past Presidents' lunch, and the number of awards they give out to the members each year. The California Clerks were all welcoming, sweet, and a lot of fun!

Being away for a week created more of a backlog in the office. I worked Saturday, mostly on the phone with the Interim City Manager and the City Attorney to clarify information to be presented in the next Council meeting packet, argh! It was all worth it!! That's a good attitude, right?

Upon my return, I also had the pleasure of visiting with Auburn Deputy City Clerk Shawn Campbell in the morning and later in

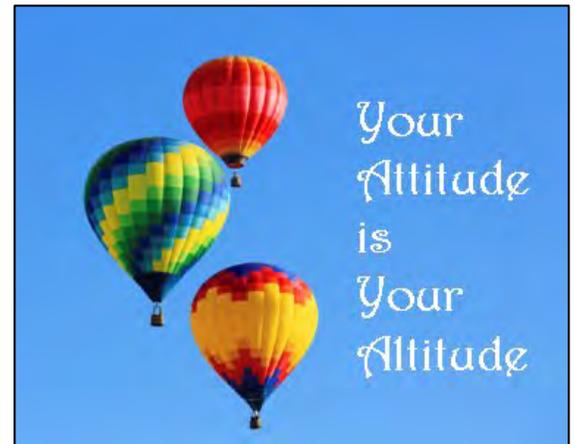
ON THE INSIDE...

WMCA T-Shirt Contest	Page 2
Clerk of the Month	Page 3
Legislative Report	Page 4
Laugh Out Loud	Page 5
Region IX Directors' Update	Page 6
Certification News	Page 7
Membership News	Page 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

the day met with Seattle City Clerk Monica Simmons to work on some final details for the events we are hosting at IIMC in Hartford this month. As of the California Conference, there were 66 Region IX members registered for Hartford. An increase over last year by far! Maybe it's due to a Region IX member becoming President!

In closing, I would like to share a quote related to my conference theme from Andy McMenemy in the UK, with a little twist: Your attitude is contagious, make yours worth catching!



New logo, hopefully!!

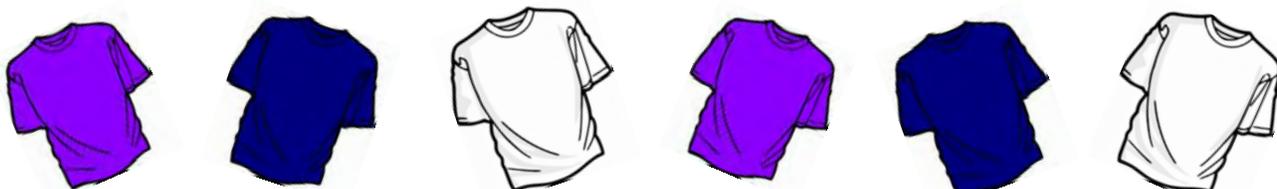


WMCA T-SHIRT CONTEST

Heads Up WMCA - Contest Coming!

WHAT WOULD YOU PUT ON A T-SHIRT?

Something snappy! **Something catchy!** That is what we will be looking for as we roll out a contest to design a T-Shirt as a fundraising event for the WMCA Education Scholarships. The Executive Committee will be discussing the terms of the contest at their June Board Meeting - more information will be coming. Start thinking about what you would put on the shirt - *be creative!*



CLERK OF THE MONTH



Interim City Clerk Susan Duncan, City of Ferndale



City Hall Hawks Fans!
(Susan is in the white jersey)

She's a wife, mother, grandmother, Arts Guild President, rabid Seahawks fan, foster parent for dogs, WMCA volunteer, and the Interim City Clerk for the City of Ferndale – meet super woman Susan Duncan!

Raised in Lynnwood, Washington, Susan moved up to Whatcom County after attending Western Washington University in Bellingham. She and her husband, Dave, have lived in Ferndale (population of about 12,200) for the past 22 years.

Susan has three children. Her son Jason (29) is married to Arieanne and their blended family yielded Susan three grandchildren: Alena (11), Alyssa (9) and Kaydin (6). Susan's daughter Heather (20) lives in Bellingham and her younger son, Evan, is 17 and a junior in high school. Some of Susan's favorite Grandma activities are having sleepovers for the grandkids and taking them to plays.

Speaking of plays, Susan is a huge fan of the arts, currently serving as President of the Lynden Performing Arts Guild. In addition to the Presidential duties, Susan acts, dances, sings and directs in various community shows. (Good to know, Susan, because we may need some of your many talents in future fundraising efforts for WMCA [wink]!) Last winter, Susan directed "A Christmas Story the Musical" and her next project (in case you're up near Lynden) will be "Shrek, the Musical" running June 11-28. She is not acting or directing in this show however, because those responsibilities rotate.



Dave and Susan in Leavenworth

New to city government only two years ago, Susan was hired as the Deputy City Clerk in Ferndale. Having just been through the Northwest Clerks Institute (NCI) himself, her boss Sam Taylor encouraged her to attend NCI. She's looking forward to reuniting with her PD II buddies this June. "We have a great group and I love the learning atmosphere where everyone is so focused. And in the evenings, we visit and talk about our kids and jobs and share our experiences of work as well as funny stories."



Susan is very passionate about her role as staff liaison to the Ferndale Arts Commission. She successfully worked with a Councilmember recently and received a grant from the Whatcom Community Foundation to host a summer youth theatre for kids ages 8 – 18. Now she's working with the program directors on a three-week long program consisting of full day theatre workshops. The program ends with four live performances of "Honk! Jr.", a musical version of the story of the ugly duckling.

PD 1—Terrorizing the Streets of Tacoma 2014 When she's not at work, home or the theatre, Susan enjoys camping and hiking with her family. That family includes five rescued dogs: Charlie, a 13 year-old Golden Retriever who belonged to a friend of her daughter Heather; 3 year-old Casper, believe it or not an "all white" Australian Shepherd mix who was born deaf and partially blind; a 5 year-old pitbull named Roxy that was Jason's dog; and two foster dogs that she took in as a volunteer for the Alternative Humane Society.

Susan was busy selling raffle tickets and taking on a lot of fundraising duties at our conference last March and with Debbie Jermann now serving on the Executive Committee, Susan will be shadowing her as a co-chair this year and take on chairing that committee in 2016-17. In addition, Susan enjoys serving on the Newsletter Committee. Thanks for all that you do, Susan, both for WMCA and for your community!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Legislative Report

Sandy Paul, Legislative Committee Chair

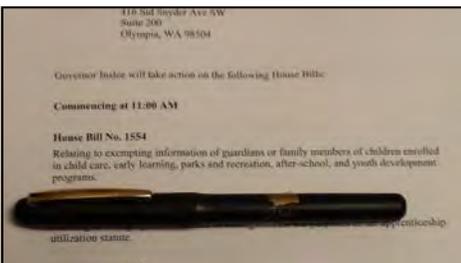
We want to make sure you heard that our bill to exempt parent and guardian records for children in parks programs, HB 1554, passed unanimously out of the Senate!

What to expect on the public records front this session: This is a direct quote from the AWC Newsletter going into the Legislative Session in January.

As we moved into the 2015 legislative session, several other public records policies were expected to generate debate and discussion. Most were not expected to draw much, if any attention, and least of all a vote. But one did:

Protecting the confidentiality of family members and guardians of children enrolled in parks programs: Statutory provisions enacted by the Legislature in 2010 protect against disclosure of the names and identities of children enrolled in local parks and recreation programs (RCW 42.56.230). However, that same protection does not extend to the legal guardians and/or immediate family of the child. Again, after urging from cities, the Sunshine Committee voted to recommend to the 2015 Legislature these extended protections.

Our very own Carol Etgen, MMC, City Clerk for the City of Fife, saw deficiencies in the law protecting children from disclosure of information if they were enrolled in a Parks and Recreation program. The bill primarily came from the request of Carol who had a particular issue arise that made shortcomings in the existing law known. Therefore, Carol and the City of Fife, with the aid of Kent Assistant City Attorney proposed, through the Sunshine Committee, that the Legislature consider an amendment to more broadly protect family identity information for children that is contained within the files and records of a parks and recreation program. On April 8, the bill was passed into law, also protecting the parents and guardians of those children. After all, if a perp could get to the parents, they could get to the kids, too, right?



It went to the Governor's desk for his signature. Deal done. Carol was there, and brought home the pen as a memento. Way to go, Carol!





Mother's Rules



Mother's Dictionary of Meanings

Dumbwaiter: One who asks if the kids would care to order dessert.

Feedback: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

Full Name: What you call your child when you're mad at him.

Grandparents: The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

Hearsay: What toddlers do when anyone mutters a dirty word.

Independent: How we want our children to be for as long as they do everything we say.

Puddle: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

Show Off: A child who is more talented than yours.

Sterilize: What you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it, and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it and wiping it with saliva.

Top Bunk: Where you should never put a child wearing Superman jammies.

Two-Minute Warning: When the baby's face turns red and she begins to make those familiar-grunting noises.

Whodunit: None of the kids that live in your house.



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

REGION IX DIRECTOR'S UPDATE



The City Clerks Association of California (CCAC) held its annual conference in Rohnert Park (aka Sonoma Wine Country) the week of April 20. I flew solo at the conference as Alice was needed at home and had to cancel her plans to attend at the last minute. While Alice was missed, everyone understood family comes first.

The CCAC Conference Planning Committee did an outstanding job, as always. IIMC speaker Michelle Ray facilitated an exceptional Academy prior to the conference, "It's Time to Take the Lead: How to Build Outstanding Internal and External Business Relationships." Michelle also was the keynote speaker, kicking off the conference with "No More Drama! How to Build High Engagement, High Morale and a Happier Workplace!" Additionally, sessions such as "Mindful Leadership and Emotional Intelligence," "Minute Take: Tips & Tricks – Minutes on the Fly," "Building Strong Relationships with Your Council Members and City Attorney," and "Follow Me I'm Right Behind You! How to Lead & Influence Others" (just to name a few) captivated the attendees and provided great information to take back to the office.

The conference culminated with the President's Awards of Distinction and announcement of the City Clerk of the Year. Lisa Pope, MMC and City Clerk of Malibu took home the coveted honor. The surprised and teary look on her face said it all – Ms. Pope was honored and proud to be chosen the California City Clerk of the Year. Congratulations, Lisa!

Once again, job well done for the membership CCAC!

Next stop – Hartford, Connecticut for the IIMC Board Development and Board Meeting May 15 and 16, and the annual conference May 17-20. Academy sessions and Athenian Dialogues will be held May 16 and 17, prior to the start of the conference. At last glance, Region IX has 60 delegates attending the conference. This is up from the last few years. Let's take this as a good sign about the economy.

The agenda and related materials for the May 16 Board meeting have been posted to the IIMC website at www.iimc.com. Please take the time to look over the agenda and let us know your thoughts. Alice and I appreciate any input you may have regarding the items to be considered by the Board. Here's a link to the agenda and materials: <http://www.iimc.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/390>

Remember, Alice and I (and soon to be Region IX Director Tracy Davis) remain available to answer any questions you may have regarding IIMC Membership, committee involvement or certification.

Be well!

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REGION IX DIRECTOR'S UPDATE (CONT.)

Meet Tracy Davis!



Tracy Davis

Tracy Davis has served as City Recorder for the city of Keizer since 1992. Since her appointment as City Recorder, Tracy has been active in both the Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders (OAMR) and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). Tracy served as OAMR President in 2002 and has chaired many of the OAMR Committees during her tenure. She currently is serving as the Chair of the Northwest Clerks Institute Education Committee. Tracy has also been involved at the international level previously serving as Chair of the IIMC Program Review/Certification Committee and currently as a member of the IIMC Conference Committee. Tracy received her MMC designation in 2005. In her personal life, Tracy enjoys spending time with her family, especially her new twin granddaughters Reagan and Millie. Tracy looks forward to serving all the members of Region IX and pledges to continue her commitment to ongoing professional development and education for Municipal Clerks.

CERTIFICATION NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK:

Donald Ross, CMC
City of Westport

CMC

Congratulations NICE GOING!
GREAT! Way to Go!
Yea! FELICITATIONS
CHEERS Take A BEST
BOW! WISHES!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WMCA and our Membership Committee would like to welcome our newest members:

Tami Justice, City of Rainier
Susan Haigh, City of Bonney Lake



2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues are due! Register and pay online, register online and mail in a check, or mail your membership application and check. It's your choice!

Make sure to get your dues paid. **There is a \$25.00 late fee after May 30th.**

There are many benefits to maintaining your membership in WMCA. A few of these include:

- Availability of scholarships for the 2016 Annual WMCA Conference; 2015 and 2016 Academy Sessions; and Professional Development Sessions. You aren't eligible unless you are a WMCA member!
- Reduced registration costs for the Annual Conference, Academy Sessions and other training opportunities.
- A monthly e-mail newsletter and e-mail blasts keeping you abreast of happenings within the WMCA, including changes to the legislation affecting our profession and training opportunities.
- Members Only access to the WMCA website.
- Eligibility for the prestigious *Clerk of the Year* award.



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@ci.prosser.wa.us