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Founded in 1969, 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

Virginia Olsen, CMC

How's your summer going? I've had a fun summer filled with adventures and I hope you're having some fun too. As this newsletter gets published, I will have just wrapped up Labor Day weekend with my friend and Deputy City Clerk of Richland, Debby Barham who invited me and my guy to her Diamond Lake home. I'm so looking forward to grilling and jet skiing and having a chill weekend. Debby and I roomed together at PD 1 but we weren't in one of the rooms with five or six other clerks. We were in the handicapped room because she just had hip surgery and we had a fully accessible ADA room with the high toilet and everything! There aren't a lot of WA clerks left from our class (2005-07) as some have left clerkdom or retired but Debby and I will always remember that experience with a laugh.



July and August are always super busy with summer events for my city so vacation is never an option until late August. After National Night Out, I had a great time at the Hall & Oates and Train concert at Key Arena and the next night we saw Phantom of the Opera at the Paramount Theatre. Later in the month, I went to Leavenworth to see the Sound of Music at the Ski Hill Amphitheatre.

Another new adventure I tried was taking a salsa and bachata lesson in July. There's a Salsa Club in Seattle that places a dance floor right next to the beach at Alki in West Seattle each summer. They teach lessons for an hour then have dancing until late into the evening. If you haven't been to Alki Beach, there's a wonderful boulevard for walking and bike riding as well as volleyball and picnics on the beach. Across from the gorgeous view of Puget Sound, there's lots of pubs and restaurants to enjoy. I try and go at least once each summer and may go back again for the last dance in mid-September.

In between, I've been working hard on the yard at my rental house and we have now ascended from potentially the worst yard on the block to the best (according to neighbors), mostly because we water and mow regularly and have flowers and beauty bark. I pruned years of neglect off all the shrubs and have attacked crabgrass with a vengeance. Before the smoke-filled skies appeared, I was also enjoying beautiful dry summer weather with hiking and pool time. I'm still doing Zumba but not as much and my knees and back are thankful. Finally, as an avid sports fan, I've been watching the Mariners and Seahawks games and doing a lot of grilling and spending some time by the fire pit at night.

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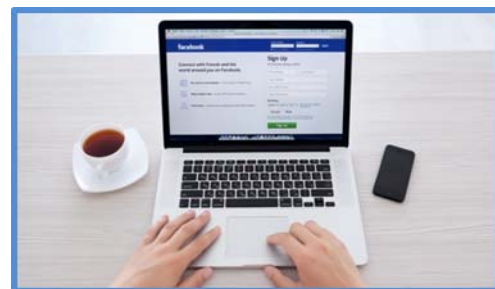


WMCA business heats up again this month as I travel to Portland for the OAMR conference in mid-September followed by the fall mini-conference in Chelan in October. In November, I will be purchasing some very warm clothing in preparation for the AAMC conference in Anchorage.

Don't forget to register for the Athenian Dialogue, Fall Academy or both! It will be great to see you all again without waiting a whole year for our annual conference. Until next month...Don't Sit Out the Dance!

RULING FINDS FACEBOOK POSTS CAN BE A PUBLIC RECORD

A February ruling in the Washington State Court of Appeals clarified the circumstances under which personal Facebook posts can be considered public records. The court held that *"a public official's posts on a personal Facebook page can constitute an agency's public records subject to disclosure under the PRA if the posts relate to the conduct of government and are prepared within a public official's scope of employment or official capacity."* The court also held that the Puyallup City Councilmember Julie Door's personal Facebook posts related to city business and were not public records.



Julie Door's posts fell under three categories:

- References to various city issues;
- References and links to posts on the city's Facebook page about various city issues; and
- References and links to the Puyallup Police department's Facebook page.

The analysis focused on whether the posts met the three elements of a public record in RCW 42.56.010(3):

- 1) *"any writing"*
- 2) *"containing information relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any governmental or proprietary function"*
- 3) *"prepared, owned, used, or retained by any state or local agency"*



They were able to conclude that the posts were "writings" and that at least some of the posts were related to the conduct of government or a government function. The court then turned to whether the City of Puyallup "prepared" Councilmember Door's Facebook posts but concluded they had not been prepared by the city.

This is an important case for elected officials and employees who maintain their own personal Facebook page and occasionally post about agency business. In this case, the court provided some good direction on what types of social media posts constitute a public record. In the future, when your agency receives a request for personal Facebook posts, do a careful review of *West v. City of Puyallup*.

You can view the complete article by Flannery Collins posted online March 7, 2018 and published in the summer 2018 MRSC newsletter.

FEATURED CLERK

Joël Pilkinton is the Court and Utility Clerk for the City of Tonasket and is working towards her CMC. Joël has attended PD 1 and 2 and while she was nervous to leave her family to attend PD 1 last year, she is glad her boss pushed her to go. She was able to work PD 1 and 2 around the timing of her husband's 40th birthday as well as her son's 13th birthday. Joël credits NW Clerks Institute, PD 1 and 2 for making her feel more confident in herself and her job. She feels comfortable with leaving home and knowing her husband and two sons are okay. She has made lifelong friends and felt better prepared for the dorm life in year two. She encourages new attendees to bring an extra pad for the mattress if you're staying on campus!



The City of Tonasket is a small community located along the eastern bank of the Okanogan River in north central Okanogan County, Washington with a population of about 1,110. One of Joël's many jobs includes mailing out the 540 utility bills each month. She goes above and beyond and reviews each bill for unusually high increases in usage or other errors that can be fixed before sending out to customers. That's some great customer service!

Some more of Joël's tasks, which she states she does have A LOT of, include accounts payable, accounts receivable, utilities, court planning, commission meetings, building permits, and also working in the community pool; pulling weeds and watering plants. Currently she is also training in the payroll department and in the cemetery.

Joël began her journey with the City of Tonasket on May 12, 2014 after working for a local bank for four years. Her current boss (Alice) encouraged her to apply when this position opened. It's a small world in Tonasket, as Joël graduated with her boss's son and Joël also attended school with the Deputy Clerk's daughter so she has known them basically her entire life.

The things Joël says she enjoys most about her job are knowing the people you work closest with and being able to get out of the office daily to walk around the city by picking up mail and making a deposit at the bank. Joël says she loves everything about her job except records retention.... (We hear you Joël! 😊)

Joël has been married to her husband Chris for 15 years (together for 22). They have two sons; Chase who is 14 years old and Braden who is 10 years old. They have 3 dogs; Bron who is a 16 week old long haired dachshund, Cooper who is a 3 year old black lab, and Coco who is a 14 year old chocolate lab. They also have three chickens; Fluffer Cheeks, Thunder, and Sprucer Grouse (yes, looks just like one).



When Joël isn't working you can find her with her family hunting, fishing, or camping. She says they just enjoy being outdoors. Joël also enjoys volunteering at her son's elementary school when she can take time away from work. In 5 years, Joël hopes to still be working for the City of Tonasket and would love to move up into a new position as well. She also hopes to move closer to town once her oldest son graduates from High School.

We know you're busy Joël so thanks for taking the time to talk to us and allow us to get to know you better!



FUNDRAISING UPDATE



For those of you attending the Mini-Conference in Chelan October 11 – 12, we will again be holding our 50/50 raffle drawing. Tickets are \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5.

Winner takes 50% of the pot! There will be 2 chances to win – one at the Athenian Dialogue, and one at the Academy.

Remember, you have to play to win!

In addition, at the Fall Academy we will be selling raffle tickets for two beautiful basket full of goodies.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. All proceeds go to the WMCA Scholarship Fund, making it possible for more clerks to take advantage of the many great educational opportunities offered by WMCA and NCI.

If you have something you would like to donate to one of the baskets, please contact Susan Duncan (susanduncan@cityofferndale.org) or Deb Estrada (deb.estrada@mercergov.org)



NEW ONLINE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Now Available!

Do you have a new employee that is interested in joining WMCA?

The website has been updated to include an online membership application and is set up to take electronic payment or provide an invoice for payment by mail.



Six new members have joined online in the last week. We are excited to launch this new feature. *Please remember that membership fees are not prorated.*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

Kari Martinez-Bailey, City of Port Angeles
Melanie Dickinson, City of Everson
Adri Crim, City of Lake Stevens
Nickolas Falk, City of Edmonds
Teresa Mattingly, City of Auburn

Jane Montgomery, City of Orting
Jacinda Rublaitus, Chelan County Board of Commissioners
Allison Morrison, Snohomish County PUD No. 1
Brooks Wall, City of Normandy Park
Welcome **Back** to **WMCA** Treva Percival, City of Buckley!

Congratulations to our Newest Certified Clerk!

Laura Smedley, CMC, Jefferson Transit Authority, WA

**CMC
&
MMC**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED!!!!

Have you served on a committee for years and want to take it to the next level? Have you ever wondered how all the people who you see leading committees got there? Well here is your chance to get involved and be a part of the action.



If you are interested in serving as a committee chair or co-chair in the coming year or years to come, please reach out to Paula Swisher either by phone 425-775-5440 or email pswisher@ci.brier.wa.us. As President-Elect, it is Paula's job to find a great group of leaders for the 2019-2020 committees. Let her know your interest and let's see where there is a spot for you or get you in a position to be mentored for future years.

WMCA is built on a bevy of volunteers, and members are needed to keep us moving forward, bringing their fresh ideas and investing in the organization to keep it growing. Please consider taking the next step in volunteering and taking on a leadership role. Committee descriptions can be found on our website at www.wmcaclerks.org

WMCA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

In celebration of WMCA's upcoming 50th Anniversary and 50th Annual Conference, the Historical Committee will be featuring fun facts from our former years in this and upcoming month's newsletters. We hope you enjoy this trip down memory lane!

1979

- ◆ President: Leonard "Duke" Brunelle
- ◆ 1st Vice President: Helen Stodden
- ◆ 2nd Vice President: Dorothy Schauerman
- ◆ Secretary: Bernard Parker
- ◆ Treasurer: Margery Price
- ◆ Annual Dues = \$10.00
- ◆ Conference Dues = \$40/person
- ◆ The 1979 Conference was held April 25, 26 & 27th at Clover Island Motor Inn in Kennewick, WA.
- ◆ Shirley Kinney, of Fife, suggested that WMCA have some bumper stickers printed and available for the annual Conference that read "CITY CLERKS DO IT IN MINUTES." She felt it would be great PR for all clerks.
- ◆ Members were encouraged to bring copies of Council minutes and agendas to the annual conference for the Share and Tell portion of the meeting.
- ◆ A Hawaiian buffet was planned for Wednesday night of conference, where attendees were encouraged to wear their prettiest, or most unusual costume. The winner won a free weekend for two, lodging only, at Clover Island.
- ◆ Bi-Laws were amended to reduce the term of office for WMCA officers from two years to one year, and Board member terms would change from six years to three years with two members elected each year.
- ◆ Members gathered during the annual conference for a luncheon, where they looked back to 1969, the year that Neil Armstrong made his "giant step" for mankind, Richard Nixon and Associates were preparing to take their "giant step" toward early retirement, and George Carson took a "giant step" in (WMCA's) behalf when he assembled a small group of City Clerks in the Library of the Bellevue City Hall, and this idea of the Washington Municipal Clerks Association was conceived."



If you enjoyed this tidbit of WMCA history, please check out all of the current and historical WMCA newsletters on WMCA's website at www.wmcaclerks.org.

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 Newsletter Committee Chair, Rachel Shaw at rshaw@ci.prosser.wa.us.