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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

Debbie Burke, MMC

Greetings Members!

The conference in Oregon was awesome! The conference center in Seaside is located just blocks from where we stayed, and is also next to shopping and eating establishments. IIMC President Monica Simmons, Host President Amy Sowa, CCAC President Byron Pope and I were able to enjoy a quick walk along the beachfront and around town. The Athenian Dialogue was no disappointment either! I learned some new social media tips during breakout sessions and visited with some old and some new vendors. Finally, there wasn't a dry eye in the house during the banquet when they announced a special dual memorial scholarship in honor of one of their members whose husband recently passed away, along with our long time NCI Director Dema Harris who will soon be retiring early next year; for real this time. OAMR named it the Davis-Harris scholarship which is funding a single person for a full three years of training in PD1 through PD3.



For the ICMA Conference in Seattle, I volunteered at the airport with Issaquah City Clerk Tina Eggers on Sunday where we helped more random passengers than conference attendees. By chance we did meet the Sacramento City Manager. My City Manager and I helped about 50/50 random ICMA travelers during our Saturday volunteer shift. The conference in the Convention Center was really quite amazing. I was able to attend four sessions on Monday and ran into nearly all of my prior City Managers, a few of yours, as well as meeting several from out of state. There were also a ton of vendors, but I only visited with the ones we commonly use!

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My trip to Boise for the college family weekend was fantastic. My daughter's boyfriend's parents were there too and we spent the weekend touring the campus, the town, and had a great time playing games, eating out and enjoyed some live music outside on the river.

I am looking forward to our next Board meeting coming up this month in Spokane where we will do our site visit. Immediate Past President Diana Quinn and I have an adventure planned to go to Green Bluff with one of our vendors, which will be fun.

Hope you all are doing well and enjoying the cooler fall weather!!

Go Hawks!!



WMCA FUNDRAISING UPDATE

A 50/50 Raffle was conducted at the Fall Academy Session. \$227 was split 50/50 between Rebecca Ozuna, City of Othello and the WMCA Scholarship fund - thank you all who participated.

We will continue to sell the Grand Raffle tickets with cash prizes of \$1,000, \$750, and \$500 available. Only 1,500 tickets will be sold at \$5/each or five for \$20. The tickets are printed and can be requested through:

Dee Roberts, Clerk/Treasurer

City of South Bend

PO Drawer 9

South Bend, WA 98586

360-875-5571

dee.roberts@southbend-wa.gov



We will hold a live and silent auction during the 2016 Spring Annual Conference, with a "special" live auction item - surprise! Be on the lookout for special deals to purchase and donate to the cause during the upcoming holiday shopping (ugh) months!

We will also continue the \$1 Raffle, with the winning ticket being drawn at the end of the last session on Friday - \$100 cash prize could be yours.

The fabulous front zip, hooded sweatshirts will be offered again - pre-sale only. The WMCA Executive Board will finalize the pre-sale offering at their October meeting so look for information on how to order soon thereafter.

The entries for the T-Shirt Design Contest have been received and are being rated by the WMCA Fundraising Committee. The committee's recommendations will be sent to the Executive Committee who will choose the winning entry. The T-Shirts will be available for sale at the March 2016 Conference and by mail - stay tuned.

FEATURED CLERK



Kammy Hill, MMC *City Clerk of Walla Walla*

Kammy Hill grew up enjoying both the beach lifestyle of Southern California and the mountain lifestyle of Ketchum, Idaho. She was born in the small town of Jerome, Idaho where her mother grew up. When she was two, her dad decided he was tired of teaching the rich and famous to ski in Sun Valley and wanted to become one, so the family re-located to Costa Mesa, California (adjacent to Newport Beach). She attended school in California but got to spend her summer and winter breaks in Ketchum, riding horses, camping, fishing, hiking, skiing, catching frogs and anything else that would keep “the kids” entertained.

She started her career in local government in 1985 as the secretary to the Mayor and City Council in Cathedral City, California (next door to Palm Springs). She became the Deputy City Clerk in 1987 and the Acting City Clerk in 1988 when the elected City Clerk retired. Kammy ran for election against two opponents and became the elected City Clerk/Municipal Records Administrator in 1989 (the second elected City Clerk in the City’s history). After her first daughter, Courtney, was born in 1993, it became her goal to move out of California (and the summers with an average temperature of 112 degrees for four months were just too hot). She was appointed City Clerk of Walla Walla in November 1994 after the previous Clerk/Treasurer was convicted of embezzling over \$750,000. In November, Kammy will have served a combined 30 years in the City Clerk’s office.



Kammy and Mumford

Education and being a “change agent” have always been very important to Kammy. She attended the Continuing Education for Public Officials (CEPO) program in California which was the education program available to Clerks similar to our Northwest Clerks Institute. Kammy attained her CMC in 1992 and her MMC in 2008. Her involvement in WMCA and SCWMCA has enhanced her love for the “Clerk” profession along with the friendships made along the way. She has served as chair of both the scholarship and membership committees, and multiple terms as secretary and board member of the WMCA Executive Committee.

Kammy and her husband, Bob, have been married for thirty years. Besides Courtney (age 22), they have a daughter, Taylor, who will turn 18 in December. They also added Mumford, a Springer Spaniel puppy, to their family the beginning of September. Bob has two grown adult children from his first marriage, so they have 5 grandchildren with two being younger than Taylor. Family gatherings are lots of fun and never dull! Kammy and Bob still enjoy spending long weekends in Ketchum where she rides horses with her mom while Bob fishes.



Kammy, Taylor and Courtney

Like any Clerk with 30 years experience, there are lots of funny (and not so funny) stories of life as a public servant. One of the most memorable is when a Mayor in Cathedral City showed up to a highly controversial Council meeting very inebriated and bleeding profusely from falling on his face on his way to the meeting. Kammy had to take charge, get the Mayor Pro Tem primed to run the meeting, and get medical attention for the Mayor (twelve stitches for a split lip). All of this was happening behind the scenes as over 300 attendees (and 10 police officers trying to keep peace) waited for the meeting to begin.

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FEATURED CLERK, CONTINUED...



Kammy loves living and working in Walla Walla, the “City so nice they named it twice.” When she relocated in 1994, there were only 12 wineries. Now the community boasts over 120 wineries so there are still quite a few she hasn’t gotten around to checking out yet. Besides wine tasting, she also enjoys walking, traveling, and reading. One tidbit that not many people know is that Kammy’s paternal grandmother was Clerk/Treasurer and Justice of the Peace for Hailey, Idaho until her retirement in 1976. Kammy never imagined that she would be following her grandmother’s career path and is still wondering what she wants to be when she grows up.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The following was received by President Burke too late for inclusion in the September Newsletter. It is notice of a survey in which the state auditor asks Clerks’ opinions about public disclosure. This is your chance to be sure YOU get the email and are given an opportunity to comment. Did you not receive the email? Talk to your city attorney, city manager, or police department to see if they received notice of the survey.

Sent on behalf of Chuck Pfeil, Director of State & Performance Audit for the Washington State Auditor’s Office. I am writing to let you know that our Office is working on a new study of public records requests. To account for changes in the volume and nature of public records requests, the Legislature is considering revising the Public Records Act of 1973. This year, the Legislature asked the State Auditor’s Office to conduct a study “to establish an accurate cost estimate for providing paper and electronic copies of records.”

As part of this work, the State Auditor’s Office Performance Audit team is preparing a survey of every state agency and local government in Washington. This fall you will receive notification that the survey is ready to begin and who should respond to our request. Your entity’s input is important. By responding to the survey, your entity will help our Office provide relevant information to the Legislature about the impact of public records requests on public entities.

Please note that participating in the survey does not affect your current audit schedule or audit results. The information you provide will only be used for the Performance Audit team’s study of public records requests. For more information about the public records study, visit our website **or contact us at** PRRStudy@sao.wa.gov **or (360)725-5616.**

“If your jurisdiction is experiencing the same issues as Kent, for example, you have seen the costs of compliance with the PRA steadily climb, mainly in the scope of searches that must be conducted, the complexity of applying exemptions, and our inability to recover any of the costs of searching for records or applying exemptions. In addition, your agency, just like Kent, receives standard regular requests for records relating to vehicle accidents, land use permitting and GIS information which then become incorporated into marketing efforts. Cities seem to have become a source of free information that for-profit companies utilize to earn income.”

“Access to public records is critical to government accountability. This cannot be denied. However, there must be some way of controlling the spiraling costs of compliance with the PRA – there must be a balance. As much as the public wants, needs, and deserves open access to records, the public surely does not want to pay the spiraling costs of disclosure to the detriment of other government programs.”

It is critical for cities, clerks, to be very detailed in their responses to this survey to ensure that all costs of compliance with the PRA are accurately captured (costs of clerk response time with five day letters and clarification letters, costs of communicating across departments, costs of researching and gathering records, costs of reviewing records for exemptions, costs relating to IT programming, costs of litigation, etc). The information may be utilized in future legislation efforts, and our failure to capture all of the costs in this survey may result in a lack of consideration of the costs of compliance.” Thank you, Ron Moore, City of Kent City Clerk, for wordsmithing.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT CONTINUED....

Switching gears, AWC's legislative agenda for 2016 is beginning to take shape as the Legislative Priorities Committee met on September 21 to look at:

- Issues still on the table from 2015 *or*
- Issues that could be advanced for passage in 2016 *or*
- Issues needing groundwork prior to the longer and more comprehensive 2017 session.

City officials have been asked to submit any issues they felt need legislative consideration. Members of the Legislative Priorities Committee will review the ideas. The recommended priorities and positions will be forwarded to the AWC Board for adoption at their next meeting.

After the priorities are adopted, AWC staff will fan out across the state to talk with you during Regional Meetings, as well as forums or meetings among city officials.

Regional Meetings - October 8 – Pullman; October 14 – Chelan; October 20 – Vancouver; November 10 – Yakima November 12 – Bellingham. Check the AWC website for a location near you.

The AWC Regional Meetings offer an interactive venue for city officials to get the latest in legislative and programmatic information. Join AWC CEO Peter King and legislative staff for an interactive evening of conversation about Operation: Strong Cities next steps. Learn about this multi-faceted effort to mobilize city officials and hold state legislators accountable to prevent the further erosion of the partnership between the state and cities and towns. Come ready to connect and engage with other leaders in your area.

These meetings are for elected officials, city managers/administrators and **CITY CLERKS**. (Taken directly off of the AWC website!!) Find a clerk buddy nearby and GO O-O-O! Yes, you might feel out of your league; probably, you will be welcomed beyond your wildest dreams. Elected Officials LOVE to hear from City Clerks because in our offices, we are expected to remain neutral. We become afraid to have an opinion.

The auditor is asking. Reply. The Regional Meetings are for clerks, too. Embrace one of those meetings. Be a giraffe!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

Tina Evenson, City of George
Kaylee Cody, City of Longview

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK:

Lynette Bisconer, City of Union Gap

CMC

REGION IX DIRECTORS' UPDATE



Greetings WMCA! We recently attended the Oregon Association of Municipal Records conference in Seaside, Oregon. Seaside is a quaint little beach town on the northern Oregon coast and was the perfect site for the Oregon Records to “Navigate the Future”. Patrick Ibarra presented a wonderful Academy session “Write to be Understood and Speak to be Heard” on Tuesday, followed by two additional days of concurrent sessions and an Athenian Dialogue. The Dialogue, “The Originals – The Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron of World War II” was facilitated by Kathie Novak, Institute Director from the State of Colorado. At the annual

banquet, President Amy Sowa presented the Recorder of the Year Award to Tori Barnett, MMC – City of Ontario and the President’s Award of Distinction to Pat Duval, MMC – City of Milwaukie before handing the gavel off to Michele Eldridge – City of Harrisburg who will serve as the 2015-2016 OAMR President. OAMR was honored to host Debbie Burke, WMCA President, Byron Pope, CCAC President, and IIMC President Monica Simmons Martinez at the conference.

The IIMC Mid-Year Board meeting will be held November 6th and 7th in Seattle. We are excited to assist IIMC President Simmons in welcoming the IIMC Board members to the beautiful state of Washington. The agenda for the mid-year meeting includes a social media development session along with updates from several of the IIMC committees. We will discuss the 2016 projected budget and vote on the IIMC conference site for 2020. We’ll provide a full report to you following the meeting.

In other news, the 2016 IIMC Committee applications are now available on the IIMC website. Serving on a committee is a great way to get involved with IIMC and earn points towards your certification. Committees mostly work by way of email communication, however on occasion will meet via teleconference. Take the challenge, sign up and become actively involved with IIMC!

In the next month, IIMC will be distributing information on the annual IIMC Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. The dates for the conference are May 22nd thru 25th. IIMC offers two scholarship for each region. Check out the IIMC website for further information on how you can apply. We’d love to see you in Omaha!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have questions, need information, or simply have ideas to share. **Happy Fall everyone!**

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Region IX Director
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(509) 486-2132

Tracy Davis, MMC
Region IX Director
davist@keizer.org
(503)856-3412

2016 WMCA General Elections Call for Candidates!

-Candidate Packet Deadline: December 31, 2015-



By this notice, the Elections Officer and the Membership Committee announces the annual call for candidates to fill board positions on the WMCA Executive Committee. Service in these positions is a great way to fill service requirements for IIMC certifications and a fun way to be involved in the educational, planning and advocacy activities of the Washington Municipal Clerks Association.

The election will be held from January 29, through February 19, 2016, through electronic voting software. The following positions are available in this election:

- President Elect (1-year term)
- Secretary (2-year term)
- Vice-President (1-year term)
- 2 Board Member positions (3-year term)

Job descriptions for the position can be found at www.wmcaclerks.org/ecpositions (under the Executive Committee tab) as well as complete instructions for declaring your candidacy.

Candidate Packets must be received by the Elections Officer (Leana Johnson, City of White Salmon) no later than Thursday, December 31, 2015. An electronic copy of the application materials is welcome; however, the signed originals of the Declaration of Candidacy and the Letter of Support must be provided in hard copy and **received** by the December 31st deadline.

Candidate Packets **must** include the four following pieces of information:

1. **Declaration of Candidacy:** This is a signed, written document containing the following:

"I declare myself as a candidate for the office of _____. I declare that I am an active WMCA member in good standing. I request that my name be printed on the official ballot for election. Attached is a letter of support from my (mayor, city manager, city/county administrator or CEO), with a photo and candidate statement which I authorize for use in the election process."

2. **Candidate Statement:** This statement must be no more than 200 words in length, including your name, title, place of employment and a statement of why election to office is sought and must be submitted with your Candidate Packet. All words of more than one letter, all groups of numbers, and abbreviations or acronyms will be counted as one word.

3. **Photo:** A (2" x 2") black and white or color digital photo of you must be submitted with your Candidate Packet.

4. **Letter of Support:** A letter addressed to WMCA and signed by your Mayor, City Manager, City/County Administrator, or CEO supporting your candidacy and your increased involvement in WMCA must be submitted with your Candidate Packet.

Send your **complete** Candidate Packet to:

Leana Johnson
WMCA Elections Officer
City of White Salmon
142 E. Jewett Blvd.
PO Box 2139
White Salmon, WA 98672
leanaj@ci.white-salmon.wa.us
509-493-1133 x205

**All submittals must
be received by
December 31, 2015**

LOL!

LAUGH OUT LOUD

Parking Directions



Submitted by
Darla Reese, CMC
Granite Falls



*When black cats prowl
and pumpkins gleam,
May luck be yours
on Halloween.
~Author Unknown*

Creative Halloween Decorating



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

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