

Editor, Rachel Carl, CMC



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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

### Dee Roberts, MMC

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, I gladly left the wind and rain behind for beautiful Cathedral City, California for the City Clerks Association of California (CCAC) annual conference. Cathedral City is just one of many small cities in and around Palm Springs, and the weather was in the 90's with a nice breeze every day.

I took advantage of their Athenian Dialogue on Tuesday. We discussed *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy and it was probably one of the best all-day classes I have ever attended. CCAC offers Athenian Dialogues all year long so the class was small, only eight of us, and the discussions were very intense at times, relevant to today and thought provoking to say the least. The facilitator was Professor Ed Tywoniak from Saint Mary's College of California and he did an outstanding job.



Tracy Davis, Dale Shafer, Sheri Pierce, Jose Jasso Nova Javier, and Dee Roberts at the All Conference Event

Their opening session was *City Clerks, Make Some Noise! – For Yourself, Your Communities and Your Profession*. They offered some great sessions all week including Social Media & Today's 24-7 News Cycle, Records Management, Inherited a Mess?, City Technology, Generational Diversity & Succession Planning and Mindful Leadership along with multiple sessions

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

geared specifically to California rules and regulations. It was a jam packed week.

President Jose Jasso's theme is *City Clerks Agents of Change* and what a great host he was. I was lucky enough to spend time with Nova Javier, President of the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks, Tracy Davis and Sheri Pierce, Region 9 Directors and Dale Shafer, President of the Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders. On Wednesday night we traveled to the "Cree Estate" for the all-conference event – "***Fiesta Del Presidente***". The estate was breathtaking and we were treated to the most amazing traditional Mexican food ever, entertainment and swimming (NOT ME)! Two beautiful pools and hot tubs!

Everyone at the CCAC was warm and welcoming and it was so much fun getting to meet new people and find out, as clerks, how much we really do have in common – no matter what state we live in.

At the Region IX luncheon I was given an opportunity to speak about WMCA and my very brief time as president. I also explained where South Bend is located, that we rarely see sunshine, and I reminded everyone to ***Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire!***

*Dee*



Dale Shafer, Sheri Pierce, Nova Javier, Dee Roberts, Jose Jasso, and Tracy Davis before the Black and White Banquet

# AMENDMENTS TO WMCA BYLAWS



## PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS APPROVED AT THE 2017 WMCA CONFERENCE!

All four proposed amendments to the WMCA Bylaws were approved at the March 2017 WMCA Conference. The adopted amendments updated the WMCA Bylaws as follows:

**1. Adding a new “Honorary Retiree Membership” Classification and new Member Class Definition.**

This amendment affects members who have retired or are nearing retirement, who have made significant contributions to WMCA and the profession.

**2. Allowing the appointment of an individual to a vacant position without holding an election, if only one individual declares their candidacy for that vacant position.**

*There is historically very low voter turnout when a single candidate is on a ballot; if only one candidate declares, the position is filled sooner, to ensure duties are fulfilled and the Executive Committee is whole. Note: This is only for special elections due to a vacancy – general elections will still occur even if there is only one candidate.*

**3. Providing a directive that the Elections Officer co-chair the Membership Committee; and that the Elections Auditor be a designated co-chair of the Audit Committee.**

*The Elections Officer and Elections Auditor used to be separate committees/roles and would receive CMC or MMC points the same as a chair position for assuming those positions. With the absorption into their respective committees, they currently do not receive the same points even though the responsibility is the same. In an effort to recognize the significant role these positions play, by making them co-chairs, they will receive the same points as previously awarded when they were separate roles from the committee.*

**4. Setting the quorum for the Annual Business Meeting at 50 active members**

*Under Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, a majority of the members is needed to transact business at a business meeting, unless a quorum is defined in the bylaws. WMCA bylaws are silent on quorum for an Annual Business meeting. We have approximately 300 voting members, and on average, we have 100 active members registered for conference where the annual business meeting is held. With a membership of over 300, and an average of 100 registered attendees, we believe 50 is a reasonable expectation for attendance at the meeting and adequate membership representation.*

**The updated bylaws are available on the WMCA website:**

<http://www.wmcaclerks.org/resources/Documents/Bylaws/2017%20Bylaws.pdf>

# FEATURED CLERK

## Karen Kuznek-Reese, MMC City of Sequim, City Clerk



Karen Kuznek-Reese has been at the City of Sequim since 1998; she started her career there in the Finance Department assisting the Clerk/Treasurer with clerk duties, processing utility payments, and payroll. From there, she transitioned to the Assistant to the City Manager. When the City Manager separated the Clerk/Treasurer responsibilities, she took on the role of the City Clerk.

She especially likes the variety of work she does for the City. Her responsibilities include being the City liaison for the City Arts Advisory Commission, which she loves; the group has created quarterly art exhibits at the Civic Center, initiated Keying Around – a program similar to Piano Time in Shoreline, installed several public art pieces, and are working on a wearable art show. She is also responsible for the City’s volunteer program; with approximately 100 volunteers, the City of Sequim has more volunteers than paid staff! She

also serves as a member of the City Fun Committee working to coordinate events like potlucks and a Wii bowling tournament at City Hall to promote community within the workplace.

Karen is a Washington State native – she grew up in the Port Orchard area and then spent some time in the greater Seattle area before finally settling in Sequim in 1989. She has experienced both small and big towns and thinks the size of Sequim (population 7,000) is just right, especially since it isn’t too far from Seattle. Her favorite things about Sequim are the lack of traffic - less than a ten minute commute to work - and also the really nice people.

Karen has had exposure to both public and private sector work. She started with the United States Department of the Navy where she worked as secretary to a Commander and as a backup flight dispatcher. That meant she got to attend meetings with US and Canadian military personnel – sometimes at Keyport, WA and sometimes in Nanaimo, B.C. She also got to fly in Kenmore Air planes, a helicopter, ride on a hydrofoil, a submarine, and many Navy ships. Heady stuff for an 18 year old right out of high school. She moved on from there to a position with the United States Department of Justice (Drug Enforcement Administration) and United States Attorney’s Office doing clerical work and legal research. She left the government to work for a series of different law firms in the private sector before going to work for the Jamestown Tribe where she worked in the Tribal Gaming Department until going to work for the City of Sequim.

When she gets some free time, Karen enjoys spending time with the grandkids and gardening. She also enjoys travel but hasn’t had enough free time to travel as much as she would like to. On her travel bucket list is a New England cruise from Nova Scotia to the New England states.

Karen has been married to her husband Robb for almost 13 years. They have five children and 14 grandchildren between them. This is great because Karen has always wanted a big family. Karen and Robb have two miniature Schnauzers Tug (who loves the grandchildren) and Bogey



## FEATURED CLERK CONTINUED

(named for the golf score). They also have one cat, Kat, who adopted them when he showed up on the porch one day and never left.

Karen has been a member of the WMCA since 2001, and is a past WMCA President, serving one and a half terms in 2010. She received her MMC in 2009, attending the Northwest Clerk's Institute when it was still being held at Seattle University. She is missing the crowd at the WMCA conferences these days as coverage and training dollars has limited her ability to go.

Karen would like to add that she encourages everyone to do self-breast exams – yes, men get breast cancer too! By the time people are reading this article, Karen will have had surgery to remove a lump that she found in her breast. It turned out to be cancer. Luckily she caught it early, and it is a Stage 1, maybe 2. But it was still early! She will start radiation in about a month and won't know if she has to have chemo until after the surgery. So do those breast exams!!!



## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



# Don't forget! Renew now!

**Register online and pay online, register online and mail in a check or mail your membership application and check. It's your choice! Access the application [Here](#).**

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

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

- Availability of scholarships for the 2017 annual WMCA conference; 2017 & 2018 Academy sessions; and Professional Development sessions. You aren't eligible for scholarships 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 WMCA, including changes to legislation affecting our profession and training opportunities.
- WMCA website, with access to "members only" areas.
- Eligibility for the prestigious "Clerk of the Year" award.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



*By Tisha Gieser, Legislative Committee Co-Chair*

The 2017 regular legislative session adjourned on April 23. In the last few weeks of session two important bills related to the public records act passed: HB 1594 and 1595. An AWC article with more detail on the bills is available [online](#).

The final versions of the two bills can be accessed using the links below:

[HB 1594](#) – Improving public records administration.

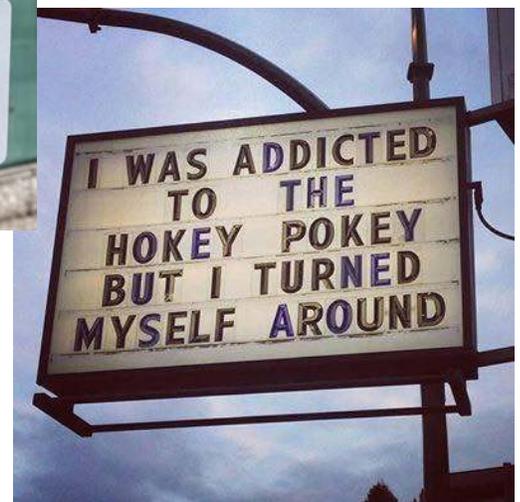
[HB 1595](#) – Concerning costs associated with responding to public records requests.

Both bills are awaiting signature by the Governor. Barring a veto, they would become effective mid-July. Look for more information about the impacts of these bills in next month's newsletter.

## Legislative Input:

We want to hear from you! What are your legislative priorities? Please send your ideas for potential state reforms to Legislative Committee Co-Chairs Debbie Burke ([debbieb@ci.normandy-park.wa.us](mailto:debbieb@ci.normandy-park.wa.us)) and Tisha Gieser ([tishag@issaquahwa.gov](mailto:tishag@issaquahwa.gov)).

## JUST TO MAKE YOU SMILE . . .



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



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

- ◆ **Annagrisel Alvarez**, City of Wenatchee, Deputy Clerk/Public Information Officer
- ◆ **Linda Burrow**, City of Seattle, Legislative Operations Supervisor
- ◆ **Linda Carl**, Snohomish Health District, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board
- ◆ **Karlynn E. Dolby**, City of Zillah, Accounting Clerk I
- ◆ **Cindy Huff**, City of Puyallup, Administrative Clerk
- ◆ **Tracey Hunter**, Evergreen Rural Water of Washington, Executive Director
- ◆ **Lynda Kramlich**, City of Colfax, City Clerk
- ◆ **Teresa Lopez**, City of Union Gap, Finance Technician
- ◆ **Anderea Moore**, Town of LaConner, Deputy Clerk
- ◆ **Flora Rogers**, City of Omak, Administrative Assistant
- ◆ **Ana Rocha**, City of Kirkland, Deputy City Clerk/Public Disclosure
- ◆ **Jill Schwerzler-Herrera**, City of Edgewood, Communications Coordinator

## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM PAIRINGS



New member Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk from the City of Colfax, has been paired with Keri MacDonald, City Clerk from the City of Cheney!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED AND MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERKS:**

**Renee Cameron, CMC, City of Des Moines**

**Brenda Martinez, MMC, City of Black Diamond**

**Holly Pannell, MMC, City of Colville**

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## 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](mailto:mvaliant@ci.tumwater.wa.us) & Rachel Shaw at [rshaw@ci.prosser.wa.us](mailto:rshaw@ci.prosser.wa.us)