

Editor, Debbie Jermann, MMC

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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

Dee Roberts, MMC

### *Bonjour mes collègues clercs*

After a grueling red-eye flight to Montreal, Canada several of us hit the ground running, well at



least walking fast! Due to several flight changes and delays President Elect Virginia Olsen, Board Member Melissa Collins and I arrived a day and a half early for the IIMC Conference and were able to take in some of the wonderful sights of beautiful Montreal. Poor Virginia spent most of that time looking for her luggage while the rest of us did a walking food tour of old Montreal. It was a great way to learn some history and sample some delicious local foods along the way. I logged 9 miles on my Fitbit that day!

Opening ceremonies were awe inspiring with almost 900 delegates in attendance! It also provided a bit of a challenge at the all-conference function but with a

little patience it all worked and it also provided a great excuse to go back to the room early for a little rest, relaxation and a call home.

There were way too many sessions to talk about here, but two that really stood out where *Uncrapify Your Life* by Jeff Havens and *Cracking the Code...Become a Better Communicator by Mastering the Psychology* by Faith Wood, CSP. Both provided some great strategies to make our lives better – at work and home, each in their own interesting way.

The IIMC Region IX Dinner was held at the Upstairs Jazz Bar & Grill and was planned by the Oregon Association of Municipal Records (OAMR) and chaired by Peggy Hawker. Seventy one of us enjoyed a fabulous dinner, the wait staff was very accommodating and the jazz was enjoyed by



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED



many.

This was only my second IIMC Conference, but it certainly has made me want to attend others in the future. The chance to meet so many interesting people from so many different parts of the county AND world and to network with the best of the best is an opportunity of a lifetime. A special thanks to Tracy Davis and Sheri Pierce, Region IX Directors, for the unexpected but much appreciated "Parade of Flags" during our Region IX meeting. It was something that a couple of us had really looked forward to, but since the IIMC

Conference was in a foreign country they did not do the traditional "Parade of Flags" during the opening ceremonies so Tracy & Sheri made sure we didn't get slighted. It was so much fun! Thanks again ladies! As I was again reminded - ***Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire!***



## WA State's First Athenian Fellow!



Congratulations to Christine Bainbridge, City Clerk from the City of Spokane Valley, who became Washington State's first Athenian Leadership Society Fellow! At the IIMC Conference last week in Montreal, Quebec, Chris was honored with a certificate recognizing that she has completed ten Athenian Dialogues and is now an Athenian Fellow.

The premise of the Athenian Dialogue is the idea that clerks are leaders in very profound yet subtle ways. Leadership here is not the transactional vending machine citizens seem to believe about public management. Dialogues are conversations in which clerks share their experience and understanding as it relates to the ideas of the author and the relevance of those ideas to their public leadership role. Participants devote a full day (6 hours) to a Dialogue and come away intellectually enriched by this communication experience. WMCA will be offering Athenian Dialogues this fall and at the conference next March.

# SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who applied for scholarships!  
Also, thank you to everyone who participates in scholarship fund raising!

The following individuals were awarded scholarships to attend the Northwest Clerks Institute:

## Professional Development I (PD 1)

John Millard, City of Tenino  
Jacqueline Renteria, City of Sunnyside  
Joël Pilkinton, City of Tonasket  
Flora Rogers, City of Omak  
Marissa Canales, City of Connell  
Kim Michaels, Town of Lind  
Andrea Moore, Town of La Conner  
Maria Medlock, City of Mabton  
Teresa Lopez, City of Union Gap  
Tami Justice, City of Rainier



## Professional Development II (PD 2)

Maria DeGoede, Town of La Conner  
Tami Pevey, City of Sultan

## Professional Development III (PD 3)

Michelle Skystad, City of Okanogan



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## PRA LEGISLATION UPDATE

**HB 1594 and HB 1595 were signed into law by Governor Inslee on May 16<sup>th</sup> and will be effective on July 23, 2017.**

In large part, HB 1595 concerns costs associated with responding to public records requests. The bill allows agencies to establish a statement of costs that it charges for photocopies and now includes “electronically produced copies”. An agency does not have to calculate its actual copying costs if it has rules or regulations declaring the reasons doing so would be “unduly burdensome”. In that case, the agency can use the PRA default fee schedule. RCW 42.56.120 is amended to provide a default copying fee schedule. See the attached fee schedule summary distributed during the recent WAPRO conference.

The consensus at WAPRO seemed to be that the \$2 flat fee doesn’t make sense and that most agencies will use the “actual cost” options provided in the bill. If an agency chooses to establish a statement of costs, it must be adopted **only after providing notice and a public hearing**. This bill also allows agencies to deny “bot” requests – those requests an agency reasonably believes was automatically generated by a computer program or script as well as denying a request for all, or substantially all, of an agencies records. However, be careful with this ... a request for all records regarding a particular topic or a particular keyword or name is not considered a request for “all of an agency’s records”.



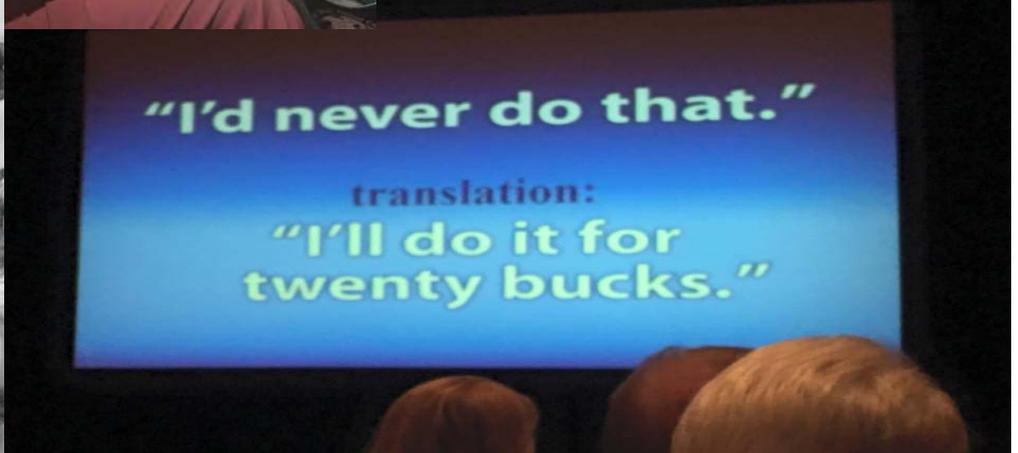
HB 1594 places a \$1 surcharge through 2020 on recorded county documents to fund a state program to improve local governments’ records-keeping systems and administration. The bill amends the training requirement for public records officers in RCW 42.56.152 to require training on “particular issues related to the retention, production, and disclosure of electronic documents, including updating and improving technology information services.” The State Archives and AG’s office are working on providing training resources to agencies.

The bill suggests that local agencies should consult the Attorney General’s Office Model Rules when establishing PRA ordinances. Nancy Krier from the AG’s office hopes to have the new model rules ready for release around November of this year. The bill adds a new section in RCW 40.14 that requires public agencies to maintain a log of public records requests **that must contain the identity of the requestor (if provided), date received, text of original request, description of records produced or withheld and the reasons therefor, and the date of final disposition**. There is also a new requirement for data collection and reporting by agencies “with actual staff and legal costs associated with fulfilling public records requests of at least \$100,000 during the prior fiscal year.” If your agency falls into that category, you’re going to want to read the bill, paying particular attention to section 6 (link [here](#)).

WAPRO leaders acknowledged that while this does seem burdensome for agencies, it will help all of us in the long run by providing more factual and accurate data on the costs agencies incur fulfilling requests. The data gathered will likely lead to further reform. The legislation also calls for records consultation programs, and a local government competitive grant program, both administered by the State Archives. We should see more about how this will work in the coming months.

***Jennifer Veneklasen, City Clerk of Port Angeles and Debbie Burke, City Clerk of Normandy Park***

# IIMC CONFERENCE MEMORIES



# IIMC REGION IX REPORT

Greetings WMCA Members! We were thrilled to see 23 of your members at the annual IIMC Conference in Montreal, Canada. It was a great conference filled with dynamic educational sessions and some really fun evening events. Once again, we'd like to congratulate Chris Bainbridge, MMC – City Clerk from the City of Spokane Valley, WA for her induction into the Athenian Leadership Society Fellow program. Chris is the first WMCA member to attain this designation. We were excited to give WMCA President Dee Roberts, MMC and the other Region IX state presidents the opportunity to carry their state flag during our Region IX meeting in Montreal. We know it wasn't exactly the same as the real experience but hope you enjoyed your moment in our spotlight. Our Region IX dinner at the Upstairs Jazz Bar and Grill was a great success. The IIMC Board of Directors met on Friday and Saturday prior to the conference. We will have a full report on the Board discussion and any action in our upcoming IIMC Region IX Summer Newsletter, which should be distributed in July.

We'd like to give a shout out to all of the WMCA members who have attained their CMC or MMC certification this past year. Currently, WMCA has 206 CMC's and 38 MMC's. These great numbers show dedication to your professional development. We encourage you to continue participating in your WMCA educational sessions as well as those offered by the Northwest Clerks Institute. These are premium educational programs as well as a great opportunity to network and learn from your peers.

If you have questions or need any information on IIMC, please do not hesitate to contact us. Happy summer, WMCA!

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## SWEATSHIRT PRE-ORDERS COMING SOON!





## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

- Cheryl Chrt - City of Cosmopolis
- Carrie Snowden – City of Brier
- Dawn Thompson – City of North Bonneville
- Kelly Beech – Town of Coupeville
- Daniela Erickson – City of Pasco

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK:**

**MMC**

**Maria Holman, CMC, City of Wenatchee  
Melissa Hart, MMC, City of Renton**

**CMC**

**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)