

Website: [www.newenglandclerks.org](http://www.newenglandclerks.org)

**Report of the President # 11  
by Judy St. Croix**

“M” is for May - May Day, Mother’s Day, Memorial Day. This is a very busy month for all of us, both in and out of the office. It is town meeting time, local election time, and how many nomination papers do you have in your office to certify?

A few weeks ago, someone asked what I found to be the most surprising thing about being the MTCA President. I replied that I had anticipated most of the demands – the mountains of paper, the daily dozens of e-mail messages, and an extensive meeting schedule. What I had not foreseen was the amazing difference I would be accorded, not as an individual, but as a representative of the Association. I have been invited to county clerk meetings, retirement parties, press conferences, and most recently to be a guest panelist at the annual meeting and seminar of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council.

The panel discussion was on Federal and State Regulations Affecting Access to Birth, Marriage and Death Records. Other panelists were Richard H. McCoy, Director for Health Statistics, Vermont Department of Health; Reverend Dr. Robert L. Rafford, past president of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council and founder of the Town Clerks and Genealogists Action Group of Connecticut; and, Melinda Lutz Sanborn, past president; of the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists.

In December 2004, President Bush signed Public Law 108-458 “Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act.” During the summer and fall of 2005 working groups throughout the nation, including Massachusetts, discussed proposed draft regulations for this law with vital records officials. These Federal regulation proposals included sweeping changes to state and local vital records laws, as well as vital records access and security measures. The regulations were originally due out in December 2005, but have been postponed until later this year. In Massachusetts the changes will be significant. We are one of 15 states with an “open” access/issuance policy for most birth records. The other 42 jurisdictions have “closed or restricted” access policies. The panel discussion addressed how these proposals would affect records custodians and genealogists. Although we don’t always agree with the genealogists when it comes to access to vital records, I was able to explain to the more than 100 persons present that clerks need to protect the integrity of vital records and one way of doing that is by strengthening the security. In the audience was the City Clerk from Lewiston, ME, Kathleen Montejo, a former state president. It was an interesting and enjoyable experience and I was proud to represent MTCA at this meeting.

The June Conference is only a few weeks away and the plans for our joint conference with the city clerks are coming together nicely. Our budget crisis is still being reviewed and we will have a discussion and vote on the FY07 Budget at the business meeting on Thursday, June 15. Hope to see you all “at the beach.”

# **MTCA LOBBYIST REPORT – APRIL 2006**

## **By Stephen Roche**

### ***ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION (EDR)***

As promised, the House and Senate chairs of the Election Laws (EL) Committee established three subcommittees to study major election laws issues. The MTCA is well represented on these working groups, as you will see below.

A portion of an email message from the Committee's Legal Counsel regarding to the EL Committee is found below. The message lists working group members and gives you an idea on how we will proceed. MTCA members Judy St. Croix, Mary Lou Murzyn, and Larry Pizer have not been assigned to a specific working group but will help any of the groups and may sit in some meetings.

#### **Election Day Registration Sub-Group**

Representative Jamie Eldridge (Chair) - Robert Amara, Representative Bradley Jones - Steven Larrabee, Representative Cleon Turner - Stephanie Coxe, Senator Cynthia Stone Creem - Josh Krintzman, Cathy Dowd, Pam Wilmot,

**Denise MacAloney, James Mullen, Carole Marple - representing MTCA; Russ Malone for the City Clerks.**

#### **Early Voting Sub-Group**

Representative Steve Walsh (Chair) - Josh Harrell, Representative Mary Rogeness - Christina Vidoli, Representative Geraldine Creedon - Katherine Joy, Cathy Dowd, Pam Wilmot, Juan Martinez

**Russell Patten, Michael Palmer, Joyce Bradshaw - representing MTCA; Joe Shea for the City Clerks.**

#### **No Excuse Absentee Voting Sub-Group**

Representative Demetrius Atsalis (Chair) - John Horgan, Representative Joseph Driscoll - James Daiute, Cathy Dowd

**Wendy Houle, Sally Hayden, Kathy Nagle - representing MTCA; I am also assigned to this group.**

Michelle Tassinari, Michael Maresco, and Lou Caputo, from the Secretary of State's office, have not been assigned to any specific group, but will be available to help answer anyone's questions, and will attend meetings as long as their schedules permit. Due to the nomination paper filing deadlines, and ballot preparation they all have their hands full, but have offered to help as much as they can and participate as much as possible with each sub-group.

Our next meeting will focus on how each election reform scenario has been implemented in other states. Please use the following questions, suggested by Michelle Tassinari, as a guide line. (For example, the EDR sub-group will research all of the states that currently practice EDR and inform us how they administer it, who administers it, what identification requirements these states have, etc...)

#### **Election Day Registration (EDR)**

1. How would it be administered? (At the polling place or city/town hall?)
2. Who would administer it? (By temporary registrars or by already existing poll workers or city or town clerk?)
3. What type of identification would need to be provided? (Proof of identification and residency?)
4. What elections would it apply to? (State, Federal, Local?)
5. Would it apply to town meetings?

### **Early Voting**

1. When? (What about towns that don't have regular hours?)
2. How? (Using paper ballots that aren't processed until election day? or using separate equipment before election day that is sealed and totals aren't reported until election day?)
3. Where? (In some states they have voting centers at malls, etc)
4. Who? (Will extra staffing be required, and how much?)
5. What elections would it apply to? (State, Federal, Local?)

### **No Excuse Absentee Voting**

1. How do you anticipate the number of ballots to print? (Both absentee and official--as well as other supplies--applications and envelopes)
2. Who pays for the postage?
3. How do you process a voter that sent in an absentee ballot but then changes their mind and either wants another ballot or wants to go to the polls on election day?
4. When and where would the absentee ballots be counted?

The next Task Force meeting, scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>, has been postponed because the House and Senate will be meeting jointly that day in Constitutional Convention.

As you may recall, one of the proposed amendments that the General Court MAY vote on May 10<sup>th</sup> is a **proposal to allow "at-will absentee voting"**. They passed over it last time they met in the Fall and there's no firm sense yet what they will do on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **FY 2007 STATE BUDGET**

ACCOUNT	Governor	House Final	FY 2006
Elections Division Administration and Expenses	\$5,337,343	\$5,337,343	\$3,676,775
Central Voter Registration	\$5,500,701	\$5,462,603	\$4,496,243
Information to Voters	\$1,201,161	\$1,201,161	\$583,744
US Census	-	100,000	-

This last item is a new addition supported by the Secretary's Office to begin preparation for the 2010 Census. It provides funding for assistance from the U/Mass Donahue Institute.

The House also adopted an amendment to set aside \$43,700 of the Secretary's Elections account for the "establishment of the Lawrence Election Monitoring Program."

The state budget now moves to the State Senate which is expected to debate the budget the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week of May.

As expected, Governor Romney signed House 1680 into law on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The legal reference is Chapter 38 of the Acts of 2006.

### ***HOUSE 1680 – CPA MONEY FOR RESTORING HISTORIC DOCUMENTS & ARTIFACTS***

Representative Vinny deMacedo, at the request of the MTCA Legislative Committee, submitted a letter to the Governor asking that he attach an "Emergency Letter", making the provisions of Chapter 38 of the Acts of 2006 law effective immediately. The Governor has not yet responded to Representative deMacedo's request.

**UPDATES ON OTHER LEGISLATIVE ISSUES OF NOTE TO CLERKS**

April was a very busy month for legislative committees on Beacon Hill as they rushed to issue reports on bills pending before the committees. The Election Laws Committee was no exception.

Below you will find reports on a number of bills that we have been tracking since January 2005. The MTCA Legislative Committee has worked on most of these proposals, including providing verbal and/or written testimony and meeting with legislators when necessary.

Where it states below that the committee report was accepted, this means that the full House accepted a negative report on the bill, thus killing it for the rest of this legislative session.

HB46 - Relating to voters being required to provide their dates of birth at polling places.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB47 - Establishing a commission to encourage candidate debate and informed voting.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB49 - Establishing an online voting task force.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB53 - Relating to the instant runoff voting method.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB54 - Relating to voting by the instant runoff voting method in primaries.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB57 - Relating to facilitating absentee voting in the Commonwealth.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB58 - Relating to increasing voter participation through studying the feasibility of alternative or replacement voting methods for elective offices in the Commonwealth.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB60 - Relating to requiring primary candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor to be nominated in groups.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB64 - Relating to specially qualified voters.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB71 - Establishing a statewide voter registration database, voter education, and expanding the authority of local election districts review commission.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB74 - Relating to absentee voting.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB75 - Relating to activities at election polling places.  
04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB79 - Directing the Secretary of the Commonwealth to promulgate regulations for the implementation of an "instant runoff voting" method of preference for candidates for Representative to the United States Congress.  
04/04/2006 H Recommitted to Joint Committee on Election Laws

HB80 - Enabling cities and towns to extend voting rights in municipal elections to certain non-citizens of the Commonwealth.

04/04/2006 H Recommitted to Joint Committee on Election Laws

HB93 - Relating to absentee ballots.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB94 - Relating to ensuring privacy and independence for blind and visually impaired voters.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB106 - Relating to further regulating the initiative petition process in the Commonwealth.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB115 - Relating to regulating voting in local elections by property owners with a principal residence in a different municipality.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB119 - Relating to further regulating nomination papers and initiative petition signature papers.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB120 - Relating to an investigation by a special commission relative to Internet voting and other possible technologies in the Commonwealth.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB122 - Relating to reforming the election recount law with a particular emphasis on the standards for judicial review.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB127 - Relating to the facilitation of voting in the Commonwealth.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB133 - Relating to software used in voting machines for elections.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB135 - Relating to increasing voter participation.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

HB63 - Relating to elections to fill vacancies in certain county positions.

04/04/2006 H Recommitted to Joint Committee on Election Laws

HB64 - Relating to specially qualified voters.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

04/04/2006 H No action taken

04/04/2006 H Recommitted to Joint Committee on Election Laws

HB127 - Relating to the facilitation of voting in the Commonwealth.

04/04/2006 H Committee report accepted

04/04/2006 H No action taken

04/04/2006 H Recommitted to Joint Committee on Election Laws

HB 66 - Relating to voting by the instant runoff voting method.

04/10/2006 – H Committee report accepted

**HB 111** - Relating to further regulating conduct at polling places.

04/05/2006 – H Committee report accepted

*As you can see, we keep the MTCA Legislative Committee pretty busy.*

**Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association**  
**~Business Meeting~**  
**Holiday Inn, Worcester MA**  
**Wednesday, February 9, 2006**

Judith St. Croix, President of the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association, called the business meeting to order at 12:35 P.M.

The minutes of the October 19, 2005 Business Meeting were presented by Ann Click, Secretary. The motion to waive the reading of the minutes was presented and carried unanimously by voice vote. The motion to approve the minutes was presented and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Carole Marple, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report as of February 6, 2006. The current checking account balance is \$3,103.5 and the Business Fund balance is \$11,578.53 for a total of \$14,682.07. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was presented and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Sally M. Hayden, First Vice President, reminded everyone about the vendor cards that will be drawn at the Banquet.

Theodora K. Eaton, Second Vice President, announced that the entertainment will be during the cocktail hour.

Michelle Tassinari was introduced as the new Director of Elections. Michelle reported that the Legislators present at the recent meeting in Framingham did not expect that the Election Day registration legislation will be implemented in 2006. It was agreed to form a committee to study all the proposed election legislation. Michelle announced that her office will be following up on handicapped accessibility of polling places. Michelle said the finalist for the handicapped accessible machines will be announced at the end of the week. There will training during the spring and summer. Michelle reminder us to enter all dates of town meetings and town elections. She announced that are getting new computers with flat screens, new printers and CD burners. The new machines will be delivered between March and June. Michelle said as of now the cost of the local elections run on the new accessible machines will be paid out of HAVA money.

President Judy St. Croix introduced MTCA Lobbyist Steve Roche. Steve reported that the Secretary of State's accounts that affect clerks look quite solid. He announced an increase of \$1.6 million for the Elections Division, a \$1 million increase for the CVR and a \$600 thousand increase for the Information for Voters. Because this is an election year Steve feels there will be no undue delays in sending the budget to the Governor. Steve asked the President for a show of hands pro and con for doing a pilot EDR. Michelle explained the pilot would be a trial for a specific period of time. The show of hands indicated more were against the pilot than were for it.

Steve reported that several Senators and Representatives are in favor of our two bills; to eliminate the check-out table and to eliminate the cancellation devise. Mary Lou Murzyn, Legislative Committee Chairman and Steve have been invited to present these two pieces of legislation to the House of Representative. Steve reported that Bill #1680 will be passed in the House. The amendment to the Community Preservation Act will allow Community Preservation Funds to be used for restoring municipal records. Steve reported that the League of Women Voters' bill to allow non-resident 16 and 17 year olds to work at polls has been adopted by the Senate but not the House of Representatives. Steve reported the absentee voting at will bill for the Constitutional Convention will come up in May.

Linda Hutchenrider, Bylaw Committee Chairman, named the individual Bylaw Committee members; Sally Hayden, Edie McCracken, Marie Crimmins, Barbara Swann and Linda. She mentioned that it was a great committee. The committee didn't want any increase in dues to harm anyone. Linda reported that the two biggest expenses are the Lobbyist and the Recorder and that \$16,000 is collected in dues. She said the Budget Committee will review what was passed at the E-Board meeting yesterday and will be brought to the general group in June for a vote.

A group of clerks were recognized for being on various committees and received Certificates of Appreciation; John Hanright, Stoneham, Helen Christian, Mansfield, Marsha Cole, Halifax, Barbara Stats, North Reading, Laura Nora McKay, West Newbury and Brian Howard, Randolph.

Several new clerks were introduced, Ann Swindells, New Salem, Melanie Mangum, Royalston, Donna Hunsinger, Longmeadow, Mary Ellen Lannon, Winchester, Joanne Rappa, Saugus, Amy Summers, Lynnfield, and David Olson, Newton City Clerk.

It was mentioned that John Hanlon, of Everett and John Moak, of Newburyport were elected Mayors. The following retiring clerks were mentioned, Nancy Zuelke, Lincoln, Kay Scanlon, Wilmington, Jerry Pacheco, Dedham and Jean Banks of Saugus.

Diane Casagni, Certification Administrator presented a CMMC certificate and pin to Jacqueline Brown of Freetown.

Ellie Horwitz from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife spoke next. She stated that the mandate for Fisheries and Wildlife is to maintain, conserve and keep all wildlife in balance with citizens. She stated that tax money does not fund this department. She passed out Abstracts booklets and generally wanted clerks to be re-introduced to the services her Department provides. The Mass Wildlife magazine is available and is a self sustaining publication. Ms. Horwitz requested that we link our town web sites to the Fish and Wildlife web site, [www.masswildlife.org](http://www.masswildlife.org).

At 1:35 P.M. a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was presented and carried unanimously by voice vote.

**TO: MEMBERSHIP OF THE MASSACHUSETTS TOWN CLERKS ASSOCIATION**

The following individuals have been nominated, and have agreed to serve if elected, to positions in the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association.

As members of the nominating committee, we have voted in the affirmative on this slate of officers and executive board members. I now present this slate to you, the membership, and ask for a final vote of approval.

**Officers:**

Judith St. Croix, President – for one year – Wayland/Middlesex County  
Sally Hayden, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – for one year – Rutland/Worcester County  
Theodora Eaton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – for one year – Needham/Norfolk County  
Ann M. Click, Secretary – for one year – Hopkinton/Middlesex County  
Carole B. Marple, Treasurer – for one year – Sherborn/Middlesex County

**Executive Board Members – Term to End 2009**

Nancy J. Butler - Plympton/Plymouth County  
Nancy Blackmer - Orange/Franklin County  
Nancy Talbot - Ware/Hampshire County

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth A. Carey  
Deborah L. Pellegrini  
Linda Hutchenrider  
Denise L. MacAloney  
Janice M. Lawson and  
Sally M. Hayden

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2006



**JACQUELINE S. DELLICKER, CMC  
TOWN CLERK OF HOLLISTON**

Jacqueline S. Dellicker, CMC, has been awarded the prestigious designation of CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) for achieving its high educational, experience and service requirements.

Jacqueline has been employed with the Town of Holliston since December 1995, serving as Assistant Town Clerk before her appointment to her current position of Town Clerk in March 2000.

Active in professional affiliations she is as member of the IIMC, New England City & Town Clerks Association, Massachusetts Town Clerks Association, and serves on the Board of Directors to the Middlesex Town & City Clerks Association.



**BARBARA STATS, MMC  
TOWN CLERK OF NORTH READING**

Barbara Stats, MMC, has received the Master Municipal Clerk designation through the IIMC Master Municipal Clerk Academy Program.

The Master Municipal Clerk Academy was established to further professional education and to enhance the performance of today's Municipal Clerk. All Academy members must demonstrate that they have actively pursued educational and professional activities and have remained informed of current events in local government.

Barbara has been employed with the Town of North Reading since May 1981, serving as Clerk Administrative Assistant, and the Assistant Town Clerk before her appointment to her current position of Town Clerk in April 1998.

She achieved IIMC'S CMC status in December 1998 entered the Master Municipal Clerk Academy Program in August 2000 and has continued to fulfill the educational requirements of her three levels of Membership in the Academy.

Active in her professional affiliations she is a member of the IIMC, New England Association of City & Town Clerks, served on the MTCA Educational and Scholarship Committees, is past president of the Middlesex County City & Town Clerks Association, and serves on the Board of Directors to the Middlesex Town & City Clerks Association.



**JUNE**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Teacher's Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> Retired members of the Armed Forces Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> Public Employees Appreciation Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> Fire Fighters Memorial Sunday & Children's Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> Rabies Prevention Week
- 14<sup>th</sup> **Flag Day Please display the U.S. Flag**
- 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill
- 18<sup>th</sup> Father's Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> Korean War Veterans Day & Battleship Massachusetts Memorial Day



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### MTCA & NEACT CONFERENCE SCHEDULES

2006 - 2007

IIMC	SUMMER CONFERENCE JUNE 14, 15, 16, 2006 SEA CREST, FALMOUTH, MA	NEACTC	39 <sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 15, 16, 17, 2006 (Corrected date) THE MARRIOT, NEWPORT, RI
MTCA	FALL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 4, 5, 6, 2006 JIMINY PEAK, HANCOCK MA	MTCA	WINTER CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 7, 8, 9, 2007 STURBRIDGE HOST, STURBRIDGE, MA

### MASSACHUSETTS

State Insect (1974) LADYBUG

State Bird (1941) BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Source: Massachusetts facts 8/1/05

**The Public Recorder**

**Newsletter of the MTCA**

**1009 Main Street  
Tewksbury, MA 01876**



**Massachusetts Town Clerks Association**

**President**

Judith L. St. Croix, CMC/CMMC, Wayland

**First Vice-President**

Sally M. Hayden, CMC, Rutland

**Second Vice-President**

Theodora K. Eaton, CMMC/MMCA/CMC,  
Needham

**Secretary**

Ann M. Click, CMC/CMMC Hopkinton

**Treasurer**

Carole B. Marple, CMMC, Sherborn

**Editor**

Elizabeth A. Carey, CMC, CMMC, Tewksbury

**The Public Recorder**

The Recorder is published monthly by the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association for its membership.

Closing date for copy submission is the First DAY of each month. All news, notes, clippings, meeting notices and address corrections should be sent to Editor Elizabeth A.

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