

New England Clerk



Newsletter of the New England Association of City & Town Clerks

FALL 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michele R. Grande, MCTC-MMC
Redding CT Town Clerk
NEACTC President

I would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to NEACTC President Dottie Powers and her amazing crew of Massachusetts Clerks for hosting the 55th Annual New England Conference at Chatham Bars Inn in Chatham, MA. It takes years of hard work and dedication to plan each conference and the Massachusetts Clerks made it a hard act to follow! The venue was beautiful, the food was delicious, the service outstanding and the educational sessions pertinent and well-thought out.

Many thanks to my CT Clerks who organized and ran our fundraising raffle and clothing sale. We raffled off 62 prizes, sold 40 sweatshirts and 25 t-shirts, netting approximately \$4000 profit! By the way, t-shirts are still available in 3 colors and many sizes! To purchase, you can contact Joan Angelini, Westbrook CT Town Clerk at: jangelini@westbrookct.us Special thanks to raffle co-chairs Wendy Gannon Lionetti (Ridgefield TC) and Jeff Dunkerton (Westport TC) for their hard work on the raffle and to Joan Angelini (Westbrook) for undertaking the clothing sale.

Talk about a hard act to follow – Dottie Powers has done an outstanding job as our NEACTC President! She spent countless hours running board meetings throughout the year, meeting with the various committees, researching legislative changes and initiating changes to the NEACTC website. Thank you, Dottie for your hard work and dedication. I look forward to our continued work together on the NEACTC Board.

I am honored to be your new NEACTC President and look forward to working with the new board throughout the upcoming year. We hope to have a new NEACTC website up and running by early next year which will have many new features, hopefully including online membership renewals and conference registrations. Kudos to Dottie Powers for initiating this effort - she and I will be working with our new Website Chair Lucrecia Wonsor and recently "retired" Website Chair Leigh Carney.

It is now time for the CT Clerks to shift into full conference planning mode for 2023! We will be hosting the conference here in Connecticut at the beautiful Water's Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook November 15-17, 2023. My Conference Committee has been organizing and making plans and I am confident we will provide an exceptional educational, interesting and entertaining conference for all of you!



If the last few years have taught us anything, we need to strive for balance in our lives – a balance between work and home, a balance that gives us peace and purpose at the same time. It is time to put the turmoil of the past few years behind us and look forward to achieving a happy medium, the perfect balance. Hence, our theme for 2023!

Congratulations to the NEMCI Graduating Class of 2022! I was fortunate to be able to attend the graduation ceremonies in July and was reminded of the wonderful experience of attending the NEMCI program. You should all be very proud of your accomplishment (especially since a 3-year commitment became a 5-year commitment). I highly recommend this program – guaranteed to give you knowledge and confidence, make you laugh and cry, and an opportunity to establish life-long friendships. Talk to a NEMCI graduate – I doubt anyone will tell you differently!

AND - Congratulations to my very own Deputy Clerk Kerry Miserendino for recently achieving her Certified Municipal Clerk! She is hands-down the most amazing, sincere, and dedicated assistant anyone could ask for, and I am so very proud of her!

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year!





Past President's Message
Dottie Powers, MMC, CMMC, Westwood, MA Town Clerk
"Clerks are a Beacon of Light, let your light shine!"



It has been a privilege and the honor to lead the members of New England City & Town Clerks Association as your President this past year. It has been a humbling experience working with such a wonderful Board of Directors who give so much of their time and talents to assist fellow clerks throughout New England in pursuing professional development and providing tools and support to serve their communities. I cannot thank them enough for all of their time, commitment, hard work, support and guidance!

We are also very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals who lead New England Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy! They were able to continue programs this summer that had been put on hold during the past two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to the wonderful team led by Tracy Borst and congratulations to the class of 2020 who were able to return and graduate this summer.

Having served on the NEACTC Board for the past six years has truly been one of the highlights of my career and has given me the opportunity to form new relationships and make lifelong friends with Clerks throughout the New England States.

The 55th Annual conference hosted by Massachusetts in beautiful Chatham, Massachusetts was just the break everyone needed after a very busy election cycle. The Chatham Bars Inn was extremely accommodating with spectacular rooms, many with views of the ocean, great service, and food. The Presidents reception was a lot of fun with attendees dancing the night away to music by the Relics of Cape Cod.

The Education committee did a fantastic job with a great line up of classes sending people home with tools to relax, rest, reflect, be aware of best practices for the security of their election databases, differences in workloads from state to state and motivational tools from an amazing woman who survived the Boston marathon bombing, Rosann Sdoia Matera. We were also fortunate to have an Athenian Dialogue facilitated by Susan Haag, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Austerlitz, NY.

The banquet was a very enjoyable evening with the opening procession done by the Cape Cod Coast Guard contingency, dinner music by Street Magic, followed by the swearing in of new board members

and concluding with the passing of the gavel to my fellow NEMCI graduate, our new President, Michele Grande from Redding, Connecticut. Congratulations and the best of luck to Michele as our new leader; she will do a fantastic job!



Special thanks to NEACTC Secretary Susan Clements-Dallaire and Treasurer, Kelly Bilodeau who were both new this year and did an amazing job!

We were sad to see our Webmaster Leigh Carney step down from her role and thank her for her many years of dedicated service to the Board. We are so fortunate that Leigh will be bringing her talents to the NEMCI Board. Thank you, Leigh!

Many thanks to the Cape and Island clerks who made the coasters depicting beautiful Cape Cod scenes, that were the given as a luncheon gift along with candy donated by the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce.

A conference such as this was not possible without the generous donations of many vendors who sponsored events such as the presidents Reception, education breaks, meals, conference bags, name-tags and banquet gifts. We truly appreciate their support. Please see the specific donations listed in the 2022 Conference brochure.

We welcome to the following NEACTC appointees sworn in on 11/17/2022:

Executive Board: Lisa Arpin , CT & Kate Wall, CT; John Meyers, ME; Sue MacKinnon, NH; Sarah Rapose, RI; John Odum , VT; Mary Maslowski, MA

Officers: Susan Clements-Dallaire, ME, Secretary; Kelly Bilodeau, CT, Treasurer; Lucrecia Wonsor, VT Webmaster; Betsy Browne, CT, Newsletter Editor; Kelly Darling, MA, 5TH VP; Tracy Borst,VT,4TH VP ;

Kerri Parker, NH, 3RD VP; Lisa Goodwin, ME, 2ND VP; Millie McGinnes, RI, 1ST VP; Michele Grande, CT, President.

NEMCI appointees: Officers: Chair: John Myers-Buxton, ME; Vice-Chair: Sarah Rapose, RI; Secretary: Dianne Bucco, MA; Treasurer: Sue Skidgell, ME.

Board of Directors: Marguerite Phillips, CT; Sherri L. Mutch, CT; Sarah Rapose, RI; Leigh Carney, RI ; Sue Skidgell, ME; John Myers, ME; Kerri Parker, NH; Kristin Kennison, NH; Tracy Borst,VT Georgette Wolf, VT; Dianne Bucco, MA; Jayne Davolio, MA

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Holiday season and the New Year ahead filled with lots of happiness and good health!

Warmest Wishes,

Dottie

Dorothy A. Powers, Westwood Town Clerk



Millie McGinnes, MMC

NEACTC 1st Vice President

November is now behind us and that brings a small sense of relief for our offices. We have weathered the election, moved through the certification of our newly appointed candidates, and educated those candidates on responsibilities, etc. Now we move forward, with fingers crossed, in hopes of the creation of an effective municipal organization and a smooth functioning governing Council. I hope for all you had an election and transition without incident, or an excessive amount of stress.

Many had the pleasure, including my new Deputy 😊 to attend the New England Association of City and Town Clerks' Conference at Chatham Bars on the Cape. I loved the connection with colleagues and friends, classes that calmed (Rest, Relax, Reflect), taught (Finest Hours presentation) and inspired (RoboStrong) and the dancing into the night (kicking Beach Party). Thank you Dottie and team whom put on a fabulous event.

Happenings back here in Rhode Island include some significant changes in our state government officials. We will be welcoming a new Secretary of State Gregg Amore. Which of course means we will be saying goodbye to our long-term Secretary Nellie Gorbea. She has been working with the City and Town Clerks for years in many state government capacities, culminating in eight years as Secretary of State. She has been a partner for the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association and a personal friend to us all. She has worked tirelessly to improve processes in business services, open government and, most of all, elections. She has brought state-of-the-art election equipment, cybersecurity upgrades, education and conferences, grant monies to cities and towns and, while drafting and enacting early voting legislation, heard and addressed our concerns. We are saying goodbye to an impressive woman, colleague and friend.

Another change in RI government that has considerable impact on the clerks is the promotion of our friend and colleague Rob Rock. He is leaving the role of Elections Director for the Secretary of State and will take over as Deputy Secretary of State. I cannot adequately express how impactful, impressive and plain old amazing Rob has been over his many years with elections administration. Some of you may have had the pleasure to meet him and/or hear his presentation regarding Election Reform in Chatham. Congratulations to Rob! We are proud and excited for him, but we will no doubt feel his loss.

Well, now it is time to roll into December, the holidays and the new year. Hopefully we will all have a bit of time to slow down and breathe. My advice: spend time with the people you love; laugh as much

as possible; surround yourself with sights and smells that make you smile; relish in the holiday spirit and the renewal of the new year.

Wishing you peace and fulfillment and a Happy New Year!



A sunrise view from Chatham, MA



Rhode Island Clerks in Chatham



Greetings from Maine
2nd Vice President, Lisa Goodwin, MMC, CCM

Administration of Maine's Gubernatorial Election went smoothly throughout the state. There were several recounts as well as the Ranked Choice Vote for the 2nd Congressional District representative. Both RCV and other recounts upheld the results reported by Clerks on Election Day.

The election was barely over when the Maine Town & City Clerks Associations' Election Working Group starting gathering data regarding what worked well during the election cycle and what needed to be improved on. The group, chaired by Angela Holmes of Westbrook, will soon meet with the Secretary of State to see what processes can be improved upon before the next election.

The MTCCA Legislative Policy Committee chaired by Patti Dubois of Waterville is also gearing up to review possible law changes to improve the functionality of our offices on a variety of topics including elections, vital records and dog licensing. Cloture for the upcoming legislative session is at the end of December so this group will be working quickly to get sponsors for proposed law changes. This group works tirelessly throughout the legislative session not only on bills we have had put forth on our behalf but also tracking and testifying on all bills that may affect our offices. It truly takes a village to keep up with all the legislation!

Thank you to Dottie Powers and the Massachusetts Clerks for hosting a wonderful conference. Chatham was a beautiful setting and it was fun seeing old friends and meeting new ones! Happy Holidays and warm wishes for a happy, prosperous New Year!



New Hampshire City & Town Clerks' Association

Greetings from the Granite State!

We are all looking forward to a long winters nap with the Election season that has just past we all deserve a break 😊

If you didn't go to Chatham for the NE conference you missed a very informative and enjoyable week, job well done by Dottie Powers and her conference committee.

Snow has fallen which means it's going to hopefully be a White Christmas.

Happy Holidays to all! See you at Region 1 in March!



Kerri A Parker, CTC, CDTC, CMC
NEACTC – 3rd Vice President
Town Clerk-Town of Meredith



Greeting from Vermont! Vermont Clerks are in recovery mode from the August Primary, I wish you all smooth elections as you do the same!

We are also eagerly anticipating our annual Vermont Municipal Clerk and Treasurer Association conference, to be held at the beautiful location of Lake Fairlee Resort in Fairlee, Vermont mid-September. This year's education offerings include General Sessions of Building Resiliency for the Future and Reflections of Your Job Through the Five Elements; other instruction includes courses on the keeping of public records, general election processes, roles and responsibilities of Town Clerks, internet fraud, cyber security and ARPA Fund Accounting. We will round out our learning with our annual business meeting and banquet!

Then its full steam ahead for the November 8 election! I look forward to seeing many of you at the NEACTC conference in Chatham!

Tracy Borst, MMC & CVC
NEACTC 5th Vice President
Thetford Town Clerk & Treasurer

GREETINGS FROM MASSACHUSETTS
Past President, Dottie Powers, MMC, CMMC



As we head into the winter months, please take time for yourselves to relax and reflect on how hard you have worked this year with a busy election season and many new legislative changes in the way elections are facilitated which added to an increased workload for all. You all rocked it and should be proud of what you do to make the process fair and equitable to all! Unfortunately many communities were hit with recounts and were supported by so many wonderful clerks and volunteers to help them through this. Many thanks to you all who offered your time and support!

It was great to see so many Massachusetts Clerks and their staff in attendance at the recent NEACTC 55th Annual Conference held in Chatham, MA at beautiful Chatham Bars Inn. We had a warm welcome from Chatham Town Administrator Jill Goldsmith and Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Director Patty Lloyd.

Those who attended had a great time reconnecting with their colleagues from throughout New England. Accommodations, ocean view location, events, education classes, and food were wonderful! We thank the 2022 Massachusetts conference committee who worked hard to ensure every attendee had an unforgettable experience.

The Cape and Island Clerk's association donated beautiful hand made coasters as a most memorable gift to all attendees. Thank you to all who helped make this donation possible.

Congratulations to our newly appointed, New England City & Town Clerks Association, 5th Vice President, Kelly Darling, Orleans Town Clerk who was sworn in at the annual conference. Kelly will be responsible for hosting Massachusetts in 2028 and lead New England as their 61st President. Best of luck to Kelly and please consider helping her by volunteering to be part of her team and to Mary

Maslowksi, Yarmouth Town Clerk on her appointment to the New England City & Town Clerks Association Executive Board who was also sworn in at the annual conference . Best of luck to Mary!

Thank you to Clerks and their staff from near and far for attending the 55th Annual NEACTC hosted by Massachusetts. We were happy to welcome you and hope you enjoyed your stay with us!

Thank you Mass Clerks for your confidence in having me lead NEACTC this past year. It was a wonderful experience!

Wishing you and your families a wonderful Holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year ahead!

Warmest Wishes,

Dottie

Dorothy A. Powers, MMC,CMMC
Westwood, MA Town Clerk



Greetings from Massachusetts!

I am the town clerk in Orleans, and I was honored to be nominated and sworn in as the 5th Vice President at the 55th Annual NEACTC Conference in Chatham. I hope you were able to attend. It was held at the gorgeous Chatham Bars Inn. The conference was a great success. Dottie Powers and her conference committee did a tremendous job with location, classes, meals, gifts, and vendors. A heartfelt thank you to Dottie and all that worked to plan such a special conference.

Most of us are still recovering from the November 8th Elections; here in Massachusetts some districts had a recount, and a few still have special elections or town meetings to come. It seems it never ends! Our election laws are constantly shifting; although next year does not include a state ballot, we will face new laws and challenges with our local election processes.

In between it all, the Massachusetts Clerks get together to learn, work through problems and share ideas. The Massachusetts Town Clerk Association held an informative conference in Springfield in September, and all are looking forward to our winter conference in (usually snowy) Devens in February.

Our "clerk" communities are truly one of my favorite parts of being a town clerk. I wish you all healthy and safe holiday season!

Kelly L. Darling, CMC
Town Clerk
Orleans, Massachusetts



Dear New England Clerks,

Wow... what an outstanding year for the NE Institute and Academy, steered by the leader of the century Tracy Borst of Vermont. Thank you Tracy for sharing your vast talents and innovative ideas with all of us. You are the best of the best and my nominee for NE Clerk of the Year.

Under Tracy's guidance, after two years of no in person classes, we returned to Plymouth University this past July. Graduating twelve clerks, maintaining fourteen in Institute two, a whopping twenty-nine year one clerks and seventeen Academy students. Along with sixty On-Demand courses offered and eight virtual live webinars. Educational opportunities offered, clerks attended, training received, goal accomplished.

With mixed feelings, changes in faces took place at the 55th Annual NEACTC meeting in Cape Cod, MA this past November. Sadly, longtime NEMCI&A Board Members, our Vice Chair & Development Chair Kathy Larkin of CT, Logistics Chair Tammy Legacy of VT, and Scholarship Chair Rick Goldstein of RI termed off the Board. They served with honor as they gave their all. Thank you Kathy, Tammy, and Rick. We miss you. A tear or two may have been shed in your honor. Thrillingly, Leigh Carney of RI, Kristin Kenniston of NH, Sherri Mutch of CT, and Georgette Wolf-Ludwig of VT joined the Board with progressive energy. We are so delighted they have joined us. We welcome you with open arms and a huge hug. Ecstatically, as I jump up and down like Will Ferrell in *Elf*, Tracy Borst, Marguerite Phillips, Kerri Parker, Sue Skidgell, Sarah Rapose, Dianne Bucco, and Jayne Davolio remain on the Board. Together building a remarkable board, a family to offer educational opportunities to you.

Join us in Plymouth, NH July 15th through July 21st, 2023 to see what the NEMCI&A Facility and Board has in store for you! Come for your municipality, come for you, and leave with tools of knowledge and lifelong friends. Until then, the most blessed Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Humbly yours,

John

John Myers, NEMCI&A Chair
Buxton, ME Town Clerk jmyers@buxton.me.us

PS. Are you ready for additional pioneering Academy courses? Did you hear that single rooms may become a regular thing? Stay tuned for upcoming news and announcements.



IIMC Region 1

Susan Haag RMC MMC

Kathleen Montejo MMC CCM RP

Attending the New England Association of City and Town Clerks Annual Conference in Chatham, MA last month was wonderful! It was great to see multiple states come together for a common goal, educating clerks! President Powers was gracious enough to give the go ahead for a few New York Clerks to attend. If you had the privilege of attending, you'll agree it was a great time of comradery and learning. Classes were fantastic..especially RoboStrong! What a story of courage, strength and hope!

This reminded me that all seven states will once again come together for our IIMC Region 1 Annual Meeting March 29-31, 2023 at the historic Otesaga in Cooperstown, NY. Registration forms are out so hurry to save your spot. This year's theme is Team Work! How apropos since we will be within walking distance to the National Baseball Hall of Fame! If you avail yourself to all educational opportunities, 8.5 IIMC CMC or MMC education points are available.

The IIMC Region 1 Newsletter will be coming out before the end of the year and will include many updates from the IIMC Board's Mid-year meeting. Be sure to check your email spam if you haven't received anything by January. If you would like to check the email we have on file, let us know.

Our Region 1 Face Book is going strong. If you haven't joined, do so today!

May your holidays be filled to overflowing with love, family and friends!

Sue and Kathy

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Newsletter of the NEACTC

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**NEACTC ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WATER'S EDGE, WESTBROOK, CT
NOVEMBER 15-17, 2023**

Visit our website: www.newenglandclerks.org