

New England Clerk



Newsletter of the New England Association of City & Town Clerks

SPRING 2022

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



As we head into the summer months, please take time for yourselves to relax and reflect on how hard you have worked to maintain services in your offices despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. You are all rock stars in your communities!

It's been wonderful to see that conferences have been once again instituted and we have been able to meet with our colleagues from all over New England. In March, IIMC Region I, hosted their annual meeting at the historic Publick House in Sturbridge, MA and in May, the IIMC Annual conference was held in Little Rock, AR. Both conferences were very well attended with a great array of classes, activities and dining options.

This certainly is a sign of our lives getting back to normal and once again having opportunities to grow in our roles with continuing education and connecting with our colleagues.

We are happy to report that NEACTC was able to give out scholarships to 10 students who will be attending NEMCI in July. All applicants that applied were able to receive a scholarship from either NEACTC, their state associations, IIMC or NEMCI&A.

We are very excited for the programs to begin again and for students to complete their education which has been put on hold. Good luck to all and hope their experience at Plymouth State, is as rewarding as it was for me.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your state Vice President if we can be of any assistance to you.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in November at the 55th annual NEACTC conference in beautiful Cape Cod MA.

Region 1 IIMC members enjoying dinner in Little Rock, AR



Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Dorothy A. Powers

**Dorothy A. Powers, CMMC/MMC, Westwood Town Clerk
NEACTC President 2021-2022**



GREETINGS FROM MASSACHUSETTS
President, Dottie Powers, MMC, CMMC



Massachusetts Clerks have been busy with local elections and gearing up for the State Primary in September and State Election in November. We recently received news that the legislature has passed some new election reforms including a 10 day voter registration deadline and permanent vote by mail, to name a few. As clerks we are resilient and will adjust to these new changes and any others that may come along.

The Massachusetts City & Town Clerk's Association recently held their summer conference in Plymouth MA. The class lineup included Election Potpourri- 2022 State Elections, State Ethics Conflict of Interest, Open Meeting Law, Vital Records, Election Security Partnership Tabletop Exercises, Raffles, Notary, Commission to Qualify and Election Leadership.

During lunch, the following Clerks were awarded their CMMC certification having successfully completed the educational, professional and educational requirements required for this designation.

CMMC: Laurie A. Becker, Paxton Kandy L. Lavallee, Grafton Patricia E. Dzuris, Chelmsford Pamela B. Thorne, Essex James F. Hegarty, Southborough 1st CMMC Recertification Dawn M. Varley, Whitman Anita K. Carlson, Rutland 2nd CMMC Recertification Carlene C. Hamlin, South Hadley Diane Packer, Natick Elizabeth Sloan, Hanson. Congratulations to all on this accomplishment!

Dottie Powers was also awarded the Mass Town Clerk of the Year award presented by President Bob Cutler and Nancy Blackmer, Orange Town Clerk.



The highlight of the conference was a semi-formal gala held in celebration of MTCA's 100th Anniversary. It was a fun night had by all, with great food, and music provided by an 8 piece band, Splash.

It was wonderful to see the following retired City & Town Clerks who attended: Richard Theroux, Agawam; Linda A. Ramsdell, Ashburnham; Linda E. Hutchenrider, Barnstable; Jean McGillicuddy, Carver; Jacquelyn Souza, Dennis; Janet A. Linehan, Easton; John F. Hanlon, Everett; Marie Crimmins, Foxborough; Jacqueline A. Brown, Freetown; Marcia Cole, Halifax; Paula Roberts, Hardwick; Mary Lou Murzyn, Kingston; Lois K. Ennis, Mattapoissett; James G. Mullen, Jr. Milton; Cynthia May, Orleans; Lori Kelley, Oxford; Laurence Pizer, Plymouth; Nancy J. Butler, Plympton; Phillip J. Campbell, Easthampton; Naida L. Parker, Rochester; Sally M. Hayden, Rutland; Marlene Chused, Sharon; Rosemary B. Harvell, Sudbury; Susan E. Taveira, Swansea; Denise L. MacAloney, Westminster; Jane E. Hibbert, Yarmouth.

Retirees "Forever Young"



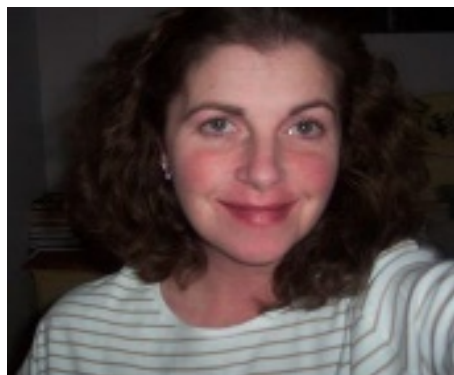
The Massachusetts City & Town Clerks Association's Clerks Mentoring committee, is busy once again offering educational classes to benefit new clerks and their staff with upcoming sessions in June.

Just a reminder that Massachusetts will be hosting the 2022 NEACTC conference at Chatham Bars Inn located in Chatham, MA on Cape Cod. Mark your calendars so you can be sure to attend from November 16-November 18, 2022. The fee per room will be approximately \$199 plus applicable taxes. The registration fee will be \$225 for NEACTC Members. Please go to the following website for more information: <https://neactc2022.com/>.



Our association suffered a terrible loss when Pearl Sears, Plymouth Town Clerk, passed away March 25, 2022. Pearl was the first female clerk appointed in Plymouth. We extend our sympathies to her family including her son, Brendon J. Sears, and Fiancé Richard Bureau. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Pearl Sears, Plymouth Town Clerk



We all continue to work through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, retirement's and losses both personal and professionally. On behalf of Mass City and Town Clerks, for anyone who has suffered a loss, we extend our sympathies, for those who have retired we wish you the very best, and for all the new Clerks, we welcome you!

Thank you for all you do for our association!

Dottie



MICHELE R. GRANDE, MCTC-MMC, TOWN CLERK OF REDDING, CT, 1st VP

Greetings from Connecticut! It was so nice to be able to meet in person at the IIMC Region I Conference in Sturbridge, MA for two days of networking, education, and face-to-face interaction with our clerk friends from different states. Thank you to all the organizers for a successful conference!

Ten Connecticut Clerks attended the Region I Conference, so we took the opportunity to discuss and start making plans for the 2023 NEACTC Conference. I would encourage all CT Clerks to help in some way to make this a memorable conference. One of our important fundraisers is the basket raffle that will be conducted during the NEACTC 2022 Conference in Chatham, MA in November, and I am hoping for donations from every CT town! It's never too early to put yours together! For the Clerks from the other New England States, please support our basket raffle in November!



NEACTC 2023 does not yet have a theme, but we are working on it! We do have a venue:

The 56th Annual Conference of the New England Association of City and Town Clerks will be held November 15-17, 2023 at the beautiful Water's Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook, CT. The room rate will be \$179 plus taxes. The CT Clerks will be planning and fundraising over the next two years as we look forward to hosting here in CT.

Many of us here in CT are very excited for the November conference on the Cape – I know the Massachusetts clerks are working very hard on this event! There will be several NEACTC board positions to be filled this November, with openings from every state. This is your opportunity to get involved - we welcome your input and your volunteerism! The commitment on the NEACTC board is minimal – just a few meetings a year and the annual meeting in November at the conference. Please contact your New England state President or Vice President for more information.

Wishing you all a restful, wonderful summer before election season kicks in!



Let Summer Begin!

Millie McGinnes, MMC
NEACTC 2nd Vice President

Here we are on the cusp of summer. How did that happen? I would attest to the fact that only four days ago we were hovering around the 40° mark. Right? And now sultry and warm - Spectacular! The days are getting longer too. I find I rise earlier (hello first light at 4:30 a.m.). But even with these longer days I still find the time evaporates so quickly....

Well, here's the happenings in Rhode Island: The RI Town and City Clerk's Association met in person for the first time since 2020(!) in Middletown, Rhode Island. We were hosted by our Rhode Island Association President Wendy Marshall in her hometown. It felt great to share each other's company again, rekindle those friendships and begin to create new ones.

Our education component was a grassroots Clerk 101, in which we raised topics and challenges from our offices to brainstorm and discuss best practices. One topic that raised many questions and noted challenges was the implementation of the RI Department of Health's new statewide vital records program. We are working towards navigating our way through the intricacies of the program, with hopes of finding a more streamlined process on the other end.

During our business meeting, we heard from Rob Rock, Director of Elections for the RI Secretary of State. He rallied our enthusiasm for the upcoming election season. And we are all still holding on to a glimmer of hope that a few of the election bills out there to ease our processes, may be passed into law.

Additionally, Rhode Island is happy to welcome new Deputy Clerks to our fold:

- Stephanie Bernardo of Barrington
- Jessica Capaldi of Warren
- Nichole Romane of South Kingstown

We are all also bidding a warm farewell and best wishes to Donna Giordano the Town Clerk of Westerly. She has held the position for decades. Donna is an institution in Westerly and in our organization. She has been a consummate provider of dependable information and deep institutional knowledge, not to mention her sunny disposition. She will be missed. Fortunately, the position has been filled by another Westerly and Rhode Island Clerk's Association institution Mary Leblanc. Congratulations to Mary!

Let's enjoy picnics and lawn games, long walks through the woods and rollicking in the waves at the beach!

Best to you all for the Summer!



Greetings from Maine
3rd Vice President, Lisa Goodwin, MMC, CCM

Maine clerks are currently gearing up for the June 14th Primary Election. Turnout is expected to be light with very few contested races on the party ballots. It will be a good practice run for new clerks before heading in to the gubernatorial election in the fall.

As I reported in the last newsletter, MTCCA worked with the Maine legislature to amend state law making it a crime to threaten an election official. I am happy to report that the bill passed, and has been signed by our Governor. Included in this legislation is a requirement for the Secretary of State's office to provide de-escalation training to Maine clerks. We are very excited for this to become law and to receive this new training!

Congratulations to Kathy Montejo of Lewiston! She was sworn in as our new Region I Director for IIMC at its conference in Little Rock. We are very fortunate to have Kathy represent us!

Also congratulations to Shelly Crosby of Orono who received her Athenian Fellowship at IIMC in Little Rock! Great job!

Enjoy the summer and make time to do the things you love best!



New Hampshire City & Town Clerks' Association

Greetings from NH!

Summer is just about here and we are starting to enjoy the sunshine.

Recently I attended the IIMC Conference and was honored to represent NH in the Opening Ceremony by carrying the state flag. If you have never attended the IIMC conference you are missing out on some of the best professional growth instruction as well as an opportunity to meet clerks from all over the country as well as the globe. I highly recommend putting the money into your budget.

We are a month away from NEMCI after a two-year Covid break and we are all excited to be together again. We are back and better than ever!

Enjoy your summah!

Kerri A Parker, CTC, CDTC, CMC
NEACTC – 4th Vice President
Town Clerk-Town of Meredith



Vermont is returning to its every popular green color as Spring has sprung! I just love seeing the foliage return, the grass return to green and temperatures warm up! You will find me putting in many miles on my bicycle on these warm days when I can get out of the office.

About 180 Clerks and Treasurers around Vermont recently enjoyed our annual Spring training. While this is aimed at the newly elected clerks, our attendance always includes many seasoned clerks too. Organized by the Continuing Education and Certification Committee, this one-day training is facilitated by experienced and retired clerks from across the state.

As we head into the summer months, we are headed-out again to training provided by our elections division on the new tabulators provided by the state. The new machines are required for use at the August primary and the November mid-term election. There is likely to be discussion and refresher information in September during our Annual conference.

The Annual conference will return to Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, Vermont. A mere 6 miles from my home, but a very convenient spot in the middle (yet eastern side) of the state. This event annually consists of education sessions, certifications and awards, and our annual banquet; this year we expect to host a debate with the Vermont Secretary of State candidates.

I am ever so hopeful that we will attend without masking or COVID fears, and will bring back my favorite event - the evening music and dancing.

Tracy Borst, MMC
5th Vice President/NEMCIA Chair
Thetford, Vermont Town Clerk



NEMCIA is Back and Better Than Ever!!

We are so very excited to be returning to in person classes this summer as we return to our Institute and Academy program in Plymouth NH. Our students are eager to return too as shown by our Year 1 Institute program filling up in a record time - 22 hours! We expect to host 30 new students, 27 returning to Year 2 and 3 combined, and over 20 Academy students. The Board of Directors (two clerks representing each of the six New England States as elected by NEACTC) spend countless volunteer hours to provide this education for clerks throughout New England, and beyond. Back and better than ever this summer.

NEMCIA's webinar series has been very popular and completed a 5-week series of online classes. We continue to offer On-Demand courses - you will find the information about course offerings and our summer programs on our website, NEMCIA.org

Our Board of Directors is short one of our representatives from New Hampshire. Please consider joining this board! The experience of serving is rewarding, and the comradery is as fabulous on the board level as it is in the Institute program. Reach out to me or Kerri Parker, of Meredith New Hampshire, the NEACTC NH VP, and NEMCIA board member.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy summer, and I hope to see you in person this July at NEMCIA!

Tracy Borst, MMC
NEMCIA Chair
Thetford, Vermont Town Clerk

New England Clerk

Newsletter of the NEACTC

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NEACTC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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NOVEMBER 16 – 18, 2021

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