

# New England Clerk



Newsletter of the New England Association of City & Town Clerks

WINTER 2022

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



It's been two years since we have all been living through the COVID-19 pandemic. We have made adjustments on how we offer service to our communities. Some Cities & Towns have closed their doors temporarily to the public with staff working remotely, while others have stayed open with limited in-person services to the public.

It appears that we may be looking at a brighter future with the mask mandates being lifted in some communities in Massachusetts on February 28, 2022.

The Massachusetts City & Town Clerks Association hosted their Winter conference for its Members in early February, at the Devens Common Center in Devens, MA. There was a high turnout and excellent educational classes for all who attended.

On February 15, 2022, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker signed into law a new session law which extends certain COVID-19 related measures in particular an extension until July 15, 2022, of the remote meeting provisions of the Governor's March 12, 2020, Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. This

has been very positive allowing communities to continue to hold meetings with public attendance by virtual means.

There is currently legislation pending for same day voter registration which will be a big change for Massachusetts voters. We are anxiously waiting for the outcome of this important Election bill.

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 March.

We are excited that education programs will be available in person at the New England Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy, located at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH from July 16- July 22nd, 2022. I hope many of you who have not attended will consider attending. It's a wonderful experience meeting your colleagues from other New England States, sharing ideas and attending educational sessions to help towards your certifications. If your municipality is not able to provide funding you can apply for a scholarship which has to be done annually. For registration and scholarship information please visit the [NEACTC website](#).

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. please be on the lookout for more to come over the next few months on the NEACTC website.

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!

**Sincerely,**



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



**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. Thank you to all the organizers for a successful conference!

10 CT Clerks attended the Region I Conference, so we took the opportunity to talk about 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. In preparation for the conference, we need to have fundraisers, contact vendors, schedule educational classes and speakers, create registration packets and programs, plan entertainment and decorations, and so many other tasks. Carol Anderson of Torrington has agreed to be Educational Chair and Marc Garofalo of Derby has agreed to be Vendor Chair (thank you both!). Any and all help would be appreciated! One of our important fundraisers is the basket raffle which will be conducted during the NEACTC 2022 Conference in Chatham, MA in November. It's never too early to put yours together!

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.



## ***More news from Connecticut***

Connecticut is in the mist of our legislative session. We are watching and testifying on bills concerning remote notarizations, dog licensing, absentee ballots and other miscellaneous bills. Fortunately, this is a short session which will end on May 4, 2022.

We had a lot of clerks who have retired, changed jobs or decided not to run for reelection in the past couple of years. Please drop a card or a note to anyone that you may know. The following is a list of clerks who have left:

<b>Town</b>		
Canaan/Falls Village	Palmer	Mary
Chester	Calamari	Debra Germini
Darien	Rajczewski	Donna
East Haven	Gravino	Stacy
Eastford	Vincent	Melissa
Farmington	Ray	Paula
Greenwich	Budkins	Carmella
Haddam	Brookes	Scott
Hamden	Morrison	Vera
Manchester	Camposeo	Joseph
New Fairfield	Dohan	Pamela
New Hartford	Ventre	Debbie
Orange	O'Sullivan	Patrick
Plainfield	Gardiner	Barbi
Portland	Curley	Ryan
Prospect	Anderson	M. Carrie
Simsbury	Bulter	Ericka
Somers	Logan	Anne Marie
South Windsor	Trahan	Lori
Stonington	Ladwig	Cindy
Warren	Tiedmann	Joanne
Wethersfield	Sassano	Dolores
Willington	Lam	Amy
Windsor Locks	Nolan	Scott
Winchester	Sedlack	Sheila
Woodbury	Carlson	Linda

I wish all the new clerks in Connecticut and throughout New England all the best. NEACTC is a great organization which will provide great networking and wonderful friendships.

All the best,  
Kate Wall CTCA President



## Well Wishes from Rhode Island!

**Millie McGinnes, MMC**  
**NEACTC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

We here in New England have been embracing our mufflers and mittens (and perhaps fancy new holiday ski coats). I for one, have found myself on the slopes quite regularly this winter making the most of the cold, snowy weather. I hope you have also found time to celebrate and practice what you love – whether it is reading by the fire, baking for yourselves and/or others, taking dance classes, rebuilding your antique roadster or playing board games with the family. It is important to remember ourselves, stoke our own fires and revel in our passions.

In Rhode Island the Town and City Clerk's Association met in late January via Zoom. Our in-person meetings have been thwarted again and again. Fingers crossed for the April meeting. It has been two years now since we have seen everyone in the flesh.

Our education components covered a couple of moving targets and upgraded systems unrolling with the new-year. We held a forum on virtual/hybrid meetings and best practices for such conducted by a panel consisting of Erin Leise, Richmond Town Clerk, Shawn Selleck our Technology Chair and Katherine Sadeck, Special Assistant Attorney General for RI. Currently we are allowed to host meetings either solely in-person, hybrid or entirely remote. The flexibility is a nice new offering from our Governor's latest emergency ordinance, though, I for one, look forward to a little more consistency.

During our business meeting, we heard from Rob Rock, Director of Elections for the RI Secretary of State. Clerks and RI Elections alike are tracking bills that will streamline our election process and allow for larger precincts going forward. Director Rock piqued our interest in an upcoming election program the state is hosting: A Cybersecurity Summit – to discuss the threats, safety and security of our election process. Additionally, redistricting has been on everyone's mind and planning as we move forward with new voting district lines.

Here in Rhode Island we are all breaking in a new, phased statewide electronic vital record system. As with anything new, I believe we are working out the processes and kinks as we go along. But the hope is to have one comprehensive source to obtain the more recent vital records.

I am a bit disappointed that, due to staffing constraints, that I will miss the IIMC Region 1 Conference in March. I know it will prove a constructive (and fun) experience for all attendees. Thank you Sue Haag and Ann Quirk who are pulling it together!

Wishing all a warm, safe end of winter and a brief mud-season that ushers in spring weather!



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

Maine has been in a deep freeze since the beginning of the year and we are certainly hopeful that spring will come early despite Punxsutawney Phil seeing his shadow! We are also hopeful now that the Omicron infection rate is dropping that we can return to some semblance of normalcy in the near future.

The Maine Town & City Clerks Association continues to offer training via Zoom. The classes have been split into two shorter sessions which has been well received by participants. Our first in-person class in over two years is scheduled for later this spring.

Our Legislative Policy Committee has worked hard this session to create a safer environment for election officials. As with many areas throughout the country, Maine election officials were not immune to death threats as a result of the 2020 election cycle. MTCCA worked with legislators to put forth a bill that would make threatening an election official a felony. This was a huge uphill battle for the association. The Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee membership was split on the bill which means it would likely die before reaching the floor of the house. Through negotiations with us, the committee unanimously approved placing language in our election statute to make threatening an election official a misdemeanor crime and also requiring the Secretary of State to track and report to the legislature any reported threats and to also provide de-escalation training for municipal clerks. The bill has moved on to the full legislature for a vote and we are optimistic that it will pass. This was a huge win for Maine clerks!

Kathy Jones, Portland City Clerk, will be retiring on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She has been an integral part of our association and will be greatly missed!



## New Hampshire City & Town Clerks' Association

Greetings from NH!

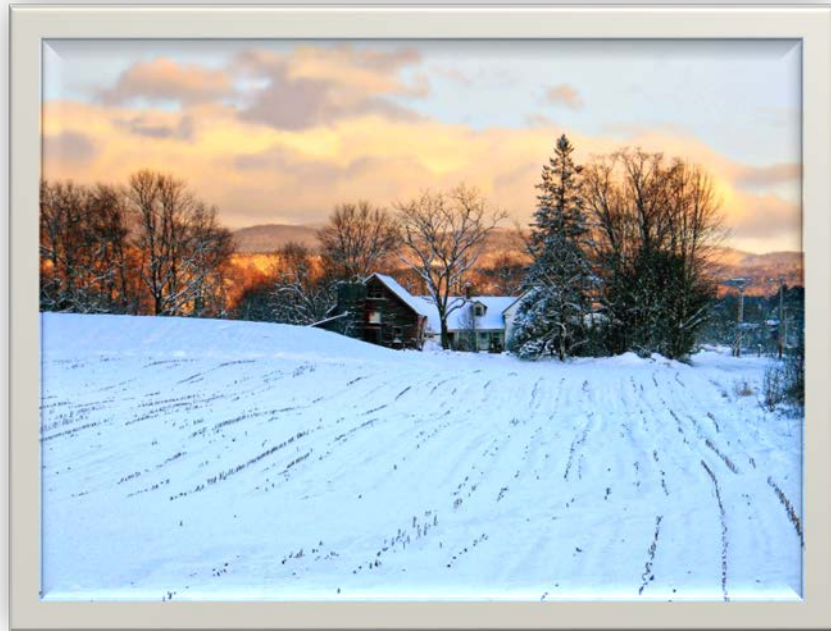
Just when we think we are close to Spring with warmer temps to 60 in some places last week, we are hit with upwards of 12.5 inches of snow the end of last week as well as frigid temperatures this week! Brr! BUT the good news is it is not getting dark until about 5:30pm so that is hope right there that Winter will soon be a distant memory.

We hope you enjoy the Region I conference next week, sadly most of us will not be able to attend as NH Clerks are getting prepared for the local elections which in most towns are taking place March 8th, we wish you a great conference and safe travels.

We are looking forward to mask mandates being lifted and getting back to somewhat normal whatever normal is.

NEMCI will be in person this year in July and we look forward to seeing everyone in person. Do you know what NEMCI is? Do you want to know all about it and how it can benefit your growth professionally and personally? Check out [www.nemcia.org](http://www.nemcia.org). Or you can reach out to any of the board members listed on the website.

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Greetings from a cold, and snowy Vermont! Our latest storm dumped 14+ inches in many areas across our little state! The snowbanks are high, and it is beautiful.

I am thrilled to be serving as your 5<sup>th</sup> Vice President; Tammy Legacy leaves me big shoes to fill and hasn't she done a fabulous job? Luckily, she is a wonderful lady (and friend!) and she will be guiding me along the way.

As COVID-19 continues to plague us here in Vermont, we are seeing our town meetings delayed, in person meetings moved to ballot, and some even holding the in person Town Meeting. It seems to me we just get used to a new way, only to have a new way come along. What a challenging time to be a Town Clerk!

I'm excited to be attending the Region One meeting and education conference in March! Its so uplifting to travel again and see my fantastic Clerk friends!

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

# NEMCI&A

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***Save the Date***

***July 16<sup>th</sup> –22<sup>nd</sup> 2022***

***Registration opens March 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am***

***Watch for our new online registration***

Academy (MMC) courses will be announced shortly

**An Athenian Dialogue will be held**

**SUNDAY – JULY 17, 2022**

**Information and Registration Coming Soon**

**Scholarships are available**

**Check with your State for application deadlines and directions**

Scholarships also available through NEMCI&A/NEACTC

find more information at

<http://www.nemcia.org/scholarships.html>

*Come Grow and Learn with us... NEMCI&A*

*Watch for more information to follow*

## From the Editor:

Congratulations to Sue Haag & Ann Quirk, our Region I Directors who held a very successful Region I Conference in Sturbridge, MA. I don't want to steal their thunder, but it was a wonderful event from the venue, to the program, to the banquet. We even have Region I Bylaws now!



They will have plenty to share in the Spring edition of *The New England Clerk*.



## **New England Clerk**

Newsletter of the NEACTC

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**NEACTC ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**CHATHAM BARS INN, CHATHAM, MA**

**NOVEMBER 16 – 18, 2021**

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