

New England Clerk



Newsletter of the New England Association of City & Town Clerks

December 2023 Edition

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Millie McGinnes Hight, MMC
New Shoreham, RI Town Clerk
NEACTC President

Well, here it is – Winter! I have my fingers crossed for New England snow and Block Island ice for pond skating. I look forward to the winter sports, followed by warm fires and hot cider at the hearth with friends and loved ones. My wish for you is that the winter provides just what you need.

I hope you all had the opportunity to attend the wonderful 56th Annual NEACTC Conference presented by New England Association (Past) President, Michele Grande and her team. The Water's Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook, CT gave a beautiful backdrop. The education was motivating and engaging. I brought quite a few things back with me to include in my processes and practices. Thank You Michele!

As President, I am honored to work with a fantastic group of Clerks and am grateful to the new NEACTC volunteers. Kate Wall of Berlin, CT has stepped up to fill the big shoes of Kelly Bilodeau as Treasurer. Kate has filled this role in the past and is willing to take on this large job once again. Lissa Magauran of Marion MA has volunteered to serve a Secretary, jumping right in to scribe the minutes at the final business meeting at the conference. A big thank you to past Secretary Susan Clements-Dallaire and good wishes for her upcoming retirement. New Executive Board members include Joan Chabot of Tiverton, RI; Josie Ewing of Lebanon, NH; Sharyn Thomas of Shrewsbury, MA; Diana Vachon of Shelburne, VT; Francesca Villani of Hebron, CT and Darci Wheeler of Bath, ME. Remember, we are an organization of volunteers. We are an association devoted to Clerk's, all provided by Clerk's. Your volunteerism matters!

Membership

There are a few upcoming changes regarding membership I want you to be aware of:

- All renewals will be conducted through the NEACTC website.
- We are encouraging all members to renew using a **credit card**.
- The renewal period will open January 1st.
- Renewals are due by March 31st.
- You must be a member by March 31st to be eligible for an NEMCI&A scholarship.

NEMCI&A

The New England Municipal Clerks Institute (NEMCI) is an intensive program of continuing professional education for those in attendance. The purpose is to assist Clerks in developing and maintaining the high level of administrative expertise needed for the successful operation of increasingly complex municipal government. NEMCIA will take place this summer July 13th – 19th, 2024 at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire. Keep on the lookout for registration announcements in early 2024, as first year registration can be competitive.

Scholarship

The NEMCI&A Scholarship application is available on the NEACTC website under “NEMCI and ACADEMY.” You must be a member in good standing of both NEACTC and your state association. Your state association will set the due date for applications and alert you of such.

IIMC Region I Annual Meeting

The International Institute of Municipal Clerks’ Region I meeting will be held March 24th – 26th, 2024 in Springfield, MA – a nice central location! I am looking forward to attending both the conference and the Athenian Dialogue: Dr. Seuss & Mr. Geisel, A Biography facilitated by the one and only Sue Haag. Please consider attending both events.

NEACTC 2024 Conference

Rhode Island is looking forward to hosting New England Clerks in Newport this upcoming year. Our homebase will be the Newport Marriott from November 20th – 22nd, 2024. We will be traveling off site to Newport Vineyards for the President’s Reception. The conference team is working hard to put together an exciting and educational experience for all. Please join us!



New England Clerk’s Conference 2024
November 20th – 22nd, 2024 – Newport, RI
“Grow. Renew. Transform.”

Finally, I am honored to serve as your President this upcoming year. I am grateful for your friendship and support. Please reach out to me if you have issues, or ideas. I would love to hear from you!

From the Office of the Immediate Past President



By all accounts, the 56th annual conference of the New England Association of City and Town Clerks was a great success! The venue was outstanding, the educational programs sensational, our keynote speaker “Awesome”, the food delicious, the entertainment excellent and the weather was beautiful!

150 clerks from the six New England states attended and hopefully all gained some new knowledge and a new perspective, as well as some tools and tips to achieve a better balance in life.

Kudos to my outstanding conference committee who has worked so hard over the last six years to bring the conference to fruition – thank you all!

A sincere thank you also to all our vendors who attended and contributed to our association with sponsorships – Adkins Printing, Avenu Insights & Analytics, Center for Tech and Civic Life, ClerkBase, DemocracyLive, Dupont Systems, ePN, IQS, Kofile, NEDCC, and US Imaging, as well as those who donated conference bags (IQS), neck wallets (General Code) and stress footballs (ESS). Our association is extremely grateful for their support.

It was my honor to have served on the NEACTC Board over the past six years. Thank you to all the board members who have served with me along the way- it has been a pleasure to get to know all of you throughout the years. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the most recent board for their support of my Presidency last year – you are a wonderful group of talented and dedicated volunteers, and I will treasure your friendship.

As many of you know, at our annual meeting on November 16th, we voted to amend our Constitution, Articles V, VI and XI. The approved changes will be incorporated into the Constitution and posted to the website. A huge shout-out to Legislative Committee Chair Andy Dowd and his committee for undertaking and completing this task on very short notice!

Over the month or so prior to the conference, I had also been working with Millie McGinnes Highet, Mary Maslowski and John Odum to review our standing committee descriptions which were established in 2010 and have become outdated and in need of clarity in many areas. This was one of my goals to complete before the end of my term, but unfortunately, I put it off and we just simply ran out of time. We will continue working on revisions to these committees to present to the current board.

I wish to extend my congratulations to the newly installed or renewed officers of NEACTC and NEMCI&A for your dedication to our association and wish you luck in your new terms. Elected at the annual meeting were President – Millie McGinnes Highet, Rhode Island; 1st VP – Lisa Goodwin, Maine; 2nd VP – Kerri Parker, New Hampshire; 3rd VP – Tracy Borst, Vermont; 4th VP – Kelly Darling, Massachusetts;

5th VP – Carol Anderson, Connecticut; Secretary – Elizabeth “Lissa” Magauran, Massachusetts; and Treasurer – Kate Wall, Connecticut.

Also elected as Members-at-Large for 3-year terms were Joan Chabot, Rhode Island; Darci Wheeler, Maine; Sharyn Thomas, Massachusetts; Francesca Villani, Connecticut; Jaseya Ewing, New Hampshire; and Belinda Clegg, Vermont

NEMCI&A officers for 2023-2024 are Chair-John Myers, Maine; Vice Chair-Sarah Rapose Rhode Island; Secretary-Dianne Bucco, Massachusetts; and Treasurer-Susan Skidgell, Maine.

NEMCI&A Board members elected for two-year terms are Dianne Bucco, Massachusetts; Kerry Parker, New Hampshire; Susan Skidgell, Maine; Sarah Rapose, Rhode Island; and Deb Tanguay, Vermont.

I look forward to working with the New England board this year to help revise standing committee descriptions and to continue my work on our new website. I am thrilled to have turned over the gavel to the magnificent Millie and look forward to sitting back and enjoying the Rhode Island conference next year!

Best wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy holiday season and New Year!

Michele R. Grande, Immediate Past President



CT Clerks celebrate at President's Reception



Former CT Clerks Joe Quartiero, Patty Strauss, Joe Camposeo, Essie Labrot, Joyce Mascena, Christine Halloran and Bernice Dixon celebrate with President Michele Grande



Greetings from Maine 1st Vice President, Lisa Goodwin, MMC, CCM

Congratulations to Michelle Grande and her committee for a very successful and fun conference! The setting was beautiful and the educational sessions were very helpful! Also congratulations to our new President, Millie McGinnes Highet and best wishes for your year of leadership!

Maine, as other states, is gearing up for a year full of elections. Statewide we have a Presidential Primary in March, a state primary in June and the Presidential in November along with school budget and local elections throughout the year! Good luck to everyone throughout the upcoming year!

There are lots of changes happening in Maine in the upcoming year. Beginning in February 2024, Maine residents 65 or older, or those who self-identify as disabled will be allowed to apply for on-going absentee ballots. This means that they sign up once, and we will then mail a ballot to them for every election. Currently voters must request a ballot individually for each election.

Also new in the upcoming year are semi-open primaries. Voters who are not affiliated with a political party will be able to participate in the primaries by selecting a ballot of one of the participating parties. Maine clerks are still awaiting the rollout of the much anticipated new central voter registration program. We are hopeful that this will occur in the upcoming weeks so that we have ample time to get used to it before the March primary.





Tracey O’Roak of Kennebunkport is the new President for the Maine Town & City Clerks’ Association. Congratulations and best of luck Tracey! Susan Clements-Dallaire finished her year as President as well as Secretary for NECTC and did a great job in both positions. Sue will be retiring in the spring so we wish her lots of happiness and good health in the next phase of her life! We will miss you!

Wishing all of you a very healthy, happy and prosperous new year!



New Hampshire City & Town Clerks' Association

 Happy Holidays! 

New Hampshire is gearing up for a very busy election year beginning with the First in the Nation's Presidential Primary taking place on January 23rd.

This year's NH Conference was held in October at Attitash and with our new educational programming it was an extremely popular year with almost all the clerks in NH attending.

The 2026 Conference Committee is researching some very impressive places to hold the New England Conference so stay tuned!

We hope you all have a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season filled with the love of family and friends!

Kerri A Parker, CTC, CDTC, CMC
NEACTC – 2nd Vice President
Town Clerk-Town of Meredith
41 Main Street
Meredith, NH 03253
603-677-4203
kparker@meredithnh.org



Hello New England Clerks!

What's happening in Vermont – I suppose the same as the other states this past weekend: snow, snow, snow!!

More than 20 Vermont Town Clerks traveled to the New England conference in Connecticut; we caught this cute photo of most of us at the Presidents Reception. Kudos to Michelle Grande and her team for a fabulous fall conference; a beautiful location and outstanding education. I enjoyed seeing all the familiar faces, and wining the Block Island 2 night get away was surely a highlight for me; I hope Rhode Island's fund raising efforts proved profitable!

Now back in our offices at the start of an election year, we Clerks are gearing up for Presidential Primary ballots to be received mid-January for the start of absentee voting. Vermont will only be sending Presidential Primary ballot when requested and for most of us the primary coincides with our Town Meetings. Are you all ready for 2024 Election Season? Remember to take care of yourselves as we head into this busy election year.



Tracy Borst
3rd Vice President
NEACTC
Thetford Vermont Clerk/Treasurer



GREETINGS FROM MASSACHUSETTS
Kelly L. Darling, CMC, 4th Vice President, Orleans Town Clerk

Season's Greetings from Massachusetts!

2023 is quickly coming to a close! I am not ready! I think everyone is facing 2024 with some trepidation; but I know all City and Town Clerks will do their absolute best through the upcoming challenges.

The Massachusetts Town Clerk Association held their fall meeting and conference in Springfield, Massachusetts in September. The MTCA E-board and Education Committee arranged for state officials to provide a three-day course of intensive election training, covering all aspects of running elections from beginning to end. It was well needed and well received by all; attendance was high.

Massachusetts also had a very good showing at the NEACTC Conference. The Connecticut Clerks did a fantastic job with meals, education, and a lot of fun! They even arranged for some beautiful weather which just enhanced the great location. Thank you to past President Michele Grande and her conference committee for hosting a terrific conference.





Unfortunately, I did not get a group photo of all the Massachusetts attendees. I promise this will happen at all future NEACTC conferences!

Wishing you and your families the very best this holiday season.

Kelly L. Darling
Orleans Town Clerk
NEACTC 4th Vice President



Dear New England Clerks and Staff,

*The **New England Municipal Clerks' Institute (NEMCI)** is an exceptional education experience available to Municipal Clerks and their staff. The Institute is extremely beneficial to both new and veteran Clerks. If I had one wish that could be granted to all Clerks, it would be for them to have the NEMCI experience firsthand. This incredible event is truly one of those lifetime experiences that Clerks need to experience themselves in order to appreciate the value. Clerks owe it to themselves and to their communities to set the Institute as a goal. It took me 23 years of saying to myself that I would attend someday before I actually did. I hope that it does not take you as long to decide that you will attend. But if it does, it will still be well worth all of the rewards earned. You will leave the Institute feeling that you can tackle any issues that come your way. **I dream that all Clerks will accept the NEMCI challenge and grow, both personally and professionally.***

***Scholarships** are available to help pay the tuition fee. With generous support from my State's Clerk Association, my County Clerks' Association, the New England Association of City and Town Clerks (NEACTC) and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), I was able to complete all three years of NEMCI. With scholarships received, my community only had to pay the tuition deposit fee.*

*I hope, wish, and dream that you too will attend NEMCI. Plan now to attend NEMCI for one week in July for the next three years at beautiful Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. The dates for **2024** are **July 13th through July 19th**.*

For more information on NEMCI&A and on scholarships please visit:

[https://newenglandclerks.org/NEMCI and Academy](https://newenglandclerks.org/NEMCI_and_Academy)

Warmest regards,

*John Myers, MMC, CCM, NEMCI&A Chair
Town Clerk, Buxton, Maine, jmyers@buxton.me.us*



101 NEMCI&A Updates...

July 2024 & 2025... Plymouth State University (PSU) has been awarded the 2024 and 2025 contract for the Institute and Academy in person program location. The program is set to take place **July 13-19, 2024** and July 12-18, 2025 at PSU. Mark your calendars today, as you make plans to attend. Stay tuned for the date and time for registration to open. Seats are limited to the first thirty registrations, with deposit received.

Indebted... Two NEMCI&A Board Members had their terms of service end this past November. **Thetford, Vermont Town Clerk Tracy Borst** and **Bloomfield, Connecticut Town Clerk Marguerite Phillips** both serving through COVID and both having their terms extended. Their service and leadership for the past eight years have led the Institute and Academy to shine, not just in New England. The Institute became noticed and beneficial Internationally. Thank you Tracy and Marguerite for your endless dedicated work and friendship given freely to improve NEMCI&A. We will miss you both. We wish you only the absolute best today and every day in the future.

One for two... As Tracy and Margarette step aside and let others serve, we joyfully welcome **Coventry, Vermont Town Clerk Deb Tanguay**, a 2023 NEMCI graduate, to the board. Deb brings embraced energy and a fresh perspective. Deb is a first-rate keeper. Welcome Deb!

NH & CT Adventure... The NEMCI&A board consists of two members from each of the six New England states. Currently we are lacking two members - one from New Hampshire and one from Connecticut. Are you looking for a gratifying adventure? If yes, please consider serving and contact a board member for more information.

Reunion Celebration... This July marks the 50th anniversary of NEMCI&A. Will you return for a celebration and a reunion of your class? More information will be released in the coming days. Be on the lookout for announcements via NEACTC.

\$1,000 calling your name? The joint scholarship application is now available for those planning to attend NEMCI&A in July 2024. Visit [New England Association of City Town Clerks - NEMCI&A Scholarships \(newenglandclerks.org\)](https://newenglandclerks.org) for more information.

Queries... If you have any questions, please ask!

Until next time,

John Myers, MMC, CCM
NEMCI&A Chair
Town Clerk, Buxton, ME
jmyers@buxton.me.us / 207-929-6171

SAVE-THE-DATE AND MEET US IN “THE CITY OF FIRSTS”

2024 IIMC Region 1 Annual Meeting & Training Conference
March 24 – 26, 2024
Marriott Springfield Downtown
Springfield, MA

Hosts: Region 1 Directors Susan Haag, MMC and Kathy Montejo, MMC



The city of Springfield, MA has a long tradition of innovation and making history, and is known as “The City of Firsts” – first American-made gasoline-powered car manufactured, first American postcard printed and mailed, first American-English dictionary published, first basketball game played, first board game produced (The Game of Life by Milton Bradley), first dog show in the U.S., first planetarium built in U.S. and so much more.

Today, Springfield is home to the National Basketball Hall of Fame, MGM Casino, Titanic Museum and Historical Society, is well-known for Italian and German cuisine and close to the Lee Premium Shopping Outlets, Yankee Candle flagship store and more.

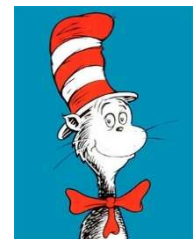
Conference Theme: “Serving as a Public Official in 2024: Developing Grit, Tenacity, Perseverance and Resilience”

IIMC Certification Points: Up to 9.5 CMC or MMC points, pending current IIMC review

IIMC EPP Hours: Up to 8 EPP hours (applicable for Cohort 1), pending current IIMC review

Event Schedule:

Sunday – Athenian Dialogue, facilitated by Sue Haag, featuring the book “Dr. Seuss & Mr. Geisel: A Biography”. Theodor S. Geisel, known as Dr. Seuss, was born and raised in Springfield. This Dialogue will include a tour of the Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden and The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss, part of the Springfield Museum complex, to help bring to life the spirit of whimsy, creativity and fun.



Monday – Training Session, Annual Business Meeting Luncheon and Optional Evening Program featuring a hands-on session of interaction, engagement and fun

Tuesday – Training Session and Optional Tour of Springfield City Hall

Presenters: Cathy Donahue and Alana Ledford, Faculty members for the CT Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy and Adjunct Professors at Central Connecticut State University School of Business, and Jim Ognibene, New England Municipal Clerks Institute Faculty and owner of Visioneer Learning training and consulting firm

Conference registration packet and hotel registration information coming soon.

New England Clerk

Newsletter of the NEACTC

Betsy P. Browne, Editor

611 Old Post Road

Fairfield, CT 06824

townclerkbetsybrowne@outlook.com



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November 20th – 22nd, 2024 – Newport, RI

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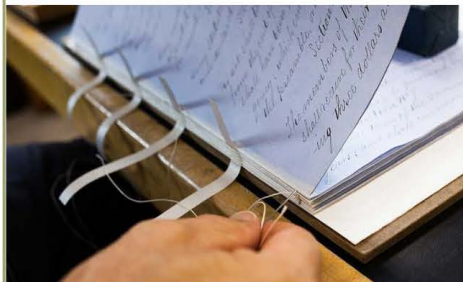
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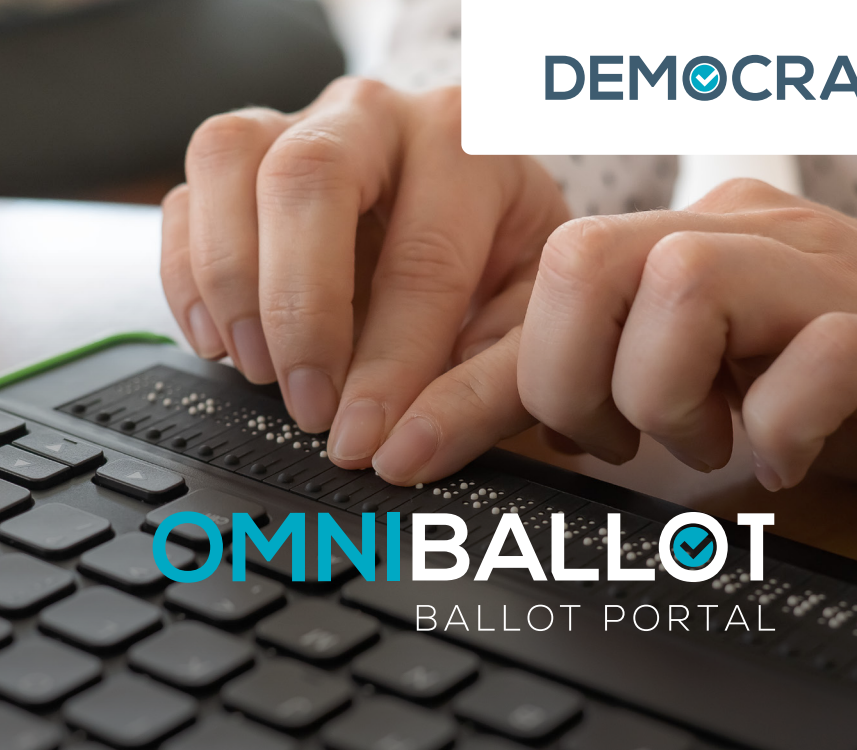
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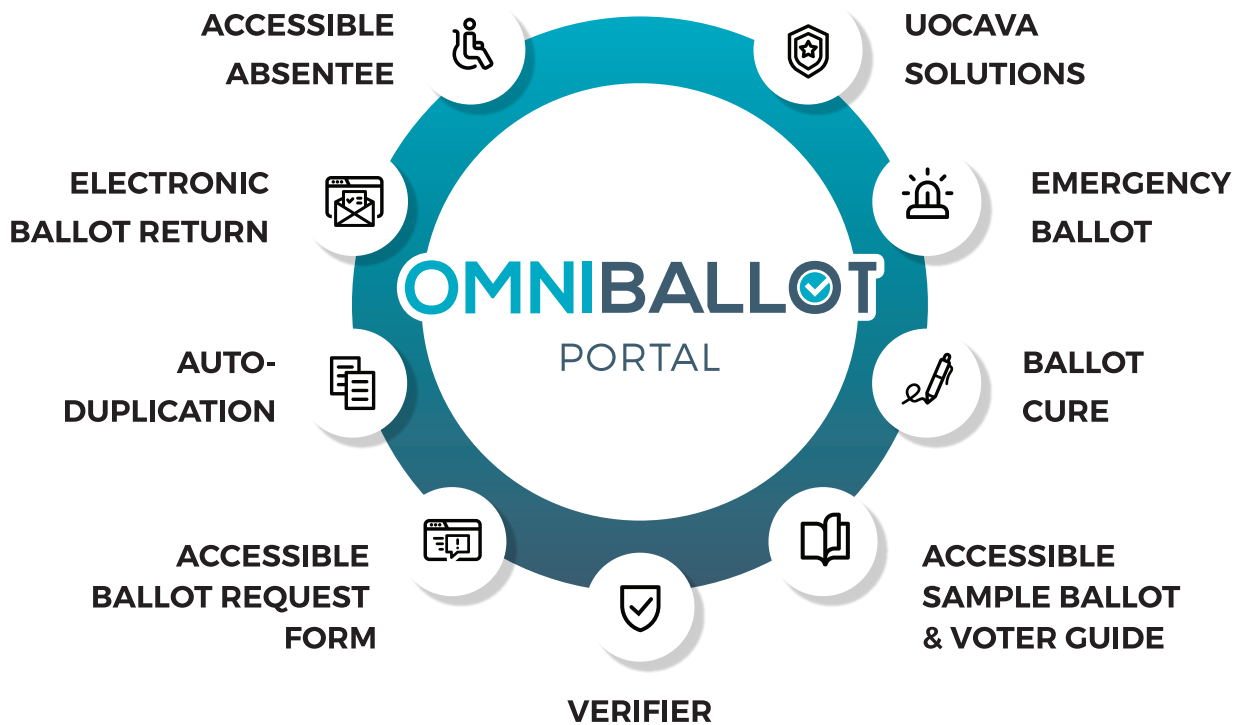


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