

New England Clerk



Newsletter of the New England Association of City & Town Clerks

September 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Michele R. Grande, MCTC-MMC
Redding CT Town Clerk
NEACTC President

From the Office of the President: 😊

NEACTC 2023 CONFERENCE

As summer wanes, the NEACTC 2023 Conference Committee is in full conference mode!

"It's All About Balance" – The Annual NEACTC Conference will be held November 15-17, 2023, at the beautiful Water's Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook, CT. The CT conference committee has been working hard organizing our annual conference. The Education Committee has done an outstanding job in booking some very interesting and different educational sessions with the potential of earning the most points ever!



Our conference will open on Wednesday afternoon with keynote speaker, Cam F. Awesome presenting "Building a Championship Mindset", followed by an educational session "Intent vs. Impact: Learning to Communicate Respectfully Across Cultures". Cam is a former National Champion Super Heavyweight Boxer, now traveling across the country sharing his story and "delivering engaging speeches and strategic exercises that instill gratitude and transform mindsets."

On Thursday, clerks will have a choice of 3 different morning sessions and 3 different afternoon sessions – we guarantee you will find something to interest you!

We will have the 2023 Annual Conference Registration live on our New England website within the next few weeks. Registration will be available ONLINE only on our website, but since we cannot accept online payment, checks will have to be mailed as directed on the registration.

Water's Edge Resort & Spa is already fully booked, however there are several off-site options which are posted on the New England website. If you are still in need of a room, I would suggest calling a fellow clerk to see if they will share their room.

NEACTC Website

I hope most of you have checked out our new website and edited your profile to include your individual information. If you are a paid member, you should have received a “welcome email” with information on creating your account and updating your profile. Make sure you add a picture to your profile – I want to see all your smiling faces! If you have not received the original welcome email, check your junk/spam folders before contacting us.

NEMCI&A

The New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy is an intensive program of continuing professional education for clerks run by clerks. The Institute is a 3-year program held one week each year in July at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH. Academy classes are also held at the same time for clerks interested in furthering their education. Check out the [NEMCI&A website](#) for more information on the program for continuing education. It is a very rewarding experience-an opportunity for personal and professional development like no other. Don't forget – scholarships are available through NEACTC and applications will be available on our website by December 1st.

On July 20th I was honored to attend the 45th NEMCI&A graduation class in person. Great job and congratulations to the Class of 2023! Graduating clerks were Joanne Amitrano (Coventry RI), Lisa Bush (Berlin CT), Allyson Danforth (Peabody MA), Joan Dargie (Milford NH), Liselle Dufort (Newport NH), Nicole Merrill (Windham NH), Amie O'Brien (Chester VT), Pamela Powers (Northampton MA), Nichole Romane (South Kingstown RI), Linda Sassi (Eastham MA), Kathryn Scott (Greenfield MA), Debra Tanguay (Coventry VT), Shannon Walters (Stratford CT), and Valerie Ward (Wakefield NH).

I hope we can now entice some of these graduates to join the NEACTC Board or a Committee or NEMCI&A Board as we always need new clerks involved!



MEMBERS OF NEMCI CLASS OF 2023



2023 NEMCI CLASS PRESIDENT DEB TANGUAY

A special thank you to my NEMCI classmate (2011) John Myers, NEMCI&A Chair and his board of dedicated clerks who plan this program all year long. Outstanding job!



2023 NEMCI&A BOARD OF DIRECTORS



JOHN MYERS, NEMCI&A CHAIR

Membership

NEACTC currently has 487 members. Membership in our association entitles members to attend our yearly conference, take advantage of leadership and educational opportunities, and experience social interaction with clerks from the six New England states. Members are also eligible to apply for scholarships to the New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy. Please encourage your fellow clerks to join our association. Clerks should complete the [membership application online](#), print off the registration form and mail to our Treasurer with payment.

NEACTC Appointments

I am pleased to announce the following appointments to positions on NEACTC Committees:

- Mark Bernacki (CT) – Legislative Committee
- Nancy MacDonald (ME) – Legislative Committee
- Joan Dargie (NH) – Legislative Committee
- Susan Pawluk (CT) – Membership Committee Chair
- Sarah Masson (RI) – Membership Committee
- Antoinette Spinelli (CT) – Nominating Committee Chair
- Peggy Long (RI) – Nominating Committee
- Sally Kellar (NH) – Scholarship Committee

NEMCI&A

The following clerks were re-appointed to the NEMCI&A Board for two year terms starting November 15, 2023:

- Dianne Bucco (MA)
- Kerri Parker (NH)
- Sarah Rapose (RI)

Sue Skidgell (ME)

Thank you all for your service to our organization!

Clerks from the State of Connecticut and Vermont are still needed to fill positions on the NEMCI&A Board. Please consider a part of this amazing group of volunteers!

Volunteers Needed!

The New England Association of City and Town Clerks and The New England Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy are run by dedicated volunteers from each of the six states. NEACTC and NEMCI&A are run by separate boards. We are currently in need of clerks to serve on both boards as well as standing committees. Descriptions and responsibilities of the committees are listed on our website. Please consider giving back to our association by volunteering!

Enjoy what is left of summer.....see you in November!

*Michele R. Grande, MCTC-MMC
NEACTC President*



Millie McGinnes Hight, MMC
NEACTC 1st Vice President

The days are getting a little shorter. My morning run is performed in the dark now... wonder how much longer I can convince myself to keep it up. My summer enthusiasm and motivation is waning. The good news is as autumn slowly moves in, we can take our jeans out of storage and pull on those snuggly sweaters. Perhaps it's just about time for baking too – Apple pies, fruit filled muffins, gooey chocolate chip cookies, maybe even bread??

I hope that you have had, or will find, the opportunity to see the movie “No Time to Fail – Election Workers Are Ground Zero for Democracy.” This 90 minute documentary film is about Rhode Island clerks and election officials during the 2020 election cycle. It has been screened locally and nationally and will be shown on PBS this fall. It stars a few of our local election heroes: Rob Rock, RI Deputy Secretary of State/Director of Administration, Kathy Placencia, RI Secretary of State Elections Director and Nick Lima, Cranston Director of Elections. It is a “must see!”

I had the great pleasure of attending the NEMCI Academy class this summer. There were 13 of us that had the pleasure of a clerk reboot. It is so reinviroating and inspiring to connect with these other amazing professionals. It provides an marvelous opportunity to meet new colleagues in the field, pickup new “best practices,” and even make new friends (Thank you Liz Gaffney and Lisa Kent!). Consider attending the Institute or the Academy. Or if you are a Institute graduate, consider volunteering as a NEMCI boardmember.

And, as always, we have congratulations in order:

- Congratulations to Krista Tracy, new Election Administrator in Warwick
- Congratulations to Keith Ford, new Deputy Clerk in Jamestown
- Congratulations to Karen Montoya on her retirement as Jamestown Deputy Clerk

MAKE THE MOST OF THE UPCOMING FALL SEASON!





**Rhode Island at
NEMCI&A**



**NEMCI
Academy
2023**



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

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and had the opportunity to spend quality time with your families or do whatever it is that brings you joy!

Congratulations to all the 2023 NEMCI graduates! Maine didn't have any graduates this year but our attendees are growing in numbers! A big shout out to John Myers, Chairman of the NEMCI board, as well as the other board members for another successful year. Well done!



Maine Clerks at NEMCI

Maine's Secretary of State's office is working diligently on the development of a new software package for voter registration. The initial goal was to roll out the new system in September, however, that date has been pushed back to the end of the year. New Maine law requires ongoing absentee voting status for voters 65 years and older along with individuals identifying as having a disability by 2024 and then open up this option for all voters by 2025. The new voter registration program will be integral to tracking this new voting option!

Maine clerks will hold their annual meeting on September 12th when new officers will be elected. Our officers for the upcoming year are Tracey O'Roak of Kennebunk – President, Karly Perry of West Bath – 1st Vice President, Dwayne Young of Weston, 2nd Vice President, Lisa Ward of Lisbon – Secretary and Sue Skidgell of Perham – Treasurer. Congratulations and good luck in the coming year!



New Hampshire City & Town Clerks' Association

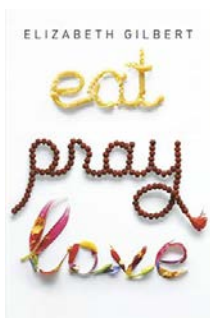
Hello from NH!

A Rainy summer did not stop the following clerks from graduating NEMCI this past July. Please help me congratulate Lee Dufort, Newport NH, Nicole Merrill, Windham NH, Joan Dargie, Milford NH, and Valerie Ward, Wakefield NH. Well done clerks of NH!

Now we are experiencing summer temperatures just in time for fall! Mother Nature is a funny gal. We are waiting for the State to set up the Presidential Primary, and what the new voting tabulators will look like.

We are closing in on our conference in October and want to extend an invitation to those who wish to attend an Athenian Dialogue which will be held prior to the beginning of our conference in beautiful NH, October 11-13, 2023 at the Grand Summit Hotel at Attitash, Bartlett, NH, Tuesday 10/10 \$125.00 Athenian Dialogue for CMC/MMC Credit 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Fee includes: Athenian Dialogue "Eat, Pray, Love" facilitated by Tami Kelly, MMC with working lunch.

<https://nhctca.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2023-NHCTCA-Registration-Form-fillable2.pdf>



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



Hello New England Clerks!

Vermont Clerks are headed out to our Annual Conference, September 12-13 in the beautiful location of Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT. The July flooding in Vermont forced us to change location, but we are all reorganized and ready to go!

We will be swearing in new officers, awarding Clerk of the Year, and other awards, having some great educational opportunities, and celebrating Vermont strong! We used our StarChapter site for conference registration – learned a lot and it's been great!

Tracy Borst
Fourth Vice President
NEACTC
Thetford Vermont Clerk/Treasurer



GREETINGS FROM MASSACHUSETTS

Kelly L. Darling, CMC, 5th Vice President, Orleans Town Clerk

Hello from Massachusetts,

I feel for the many New England communities that have faced flooding and other storm-related damage during this summer. I hope you have been able to make the best of the sunny days.

On June 28th, the Massachusetts State House held a “Clerks Day on the Hill”. Attended by about 100 Massachusetts Clerks, we were able to meet with our legislators and discuss our concerns with the ever-changing election laws, as well as tour our historic State House. The MTCA Legislative Committee did an enormous amount of work to put this together. It was a fantastic experience.



Massachusetts had three Clerks graduate from NEMCI in July. Allyson M. Danforth (Peabody), Linda Sassi (Eastham) and Kathryn Scott (Greenfield). Very proud of these clerks for finishing, as their 3-year program turned into a 5-year program. Congratulations to *all* the graduates!



The MTCA will hold their fall meeting in Springfield, Massachusetts from September 20th-22nd. The classes will be election based, as the MTCA Officers and Education Committee are focused on making as much election training and education available as possible as we prepare for the 2024 election cycle.

I know many Massachusetts Clerks are looking forward to attending the NEACTC Conference in November. This will be my first NEACTC Conference since becoming a member of the Board and I am excited for the experience and learning opportunity. I know the Connecticut Clerks will put on a terrific conference.

The NEACTC 2028 Conference Committee will soon be scouting locations in beautiful Massachusetts. We are grateful to the Past President and Past Treasurer for their assistance during our first year of organizing and fundraising.

I look forward to seeing you all in November.



- **Fourteen Institute Graduates...** Congratulations to the class of 2023.

Joanne Amitrano, Coventry, RI
Allyson M. Danforth, Peabody, MA
Liselle Dufort, Newport, NH
Amie O'Brien, Chester, VT
Nichole Romane, South Kingston, RI
Kathryn Scott, Greenfield, MA
Shannon L. Walters, Stratford, CT

Lisa Bush, Berlin, CT
Joan Dargie, Milford, NH
Nicole Merrill, Windham, NH
Pamela L. Powers, Northampton, MA
Linda Sassi, Eastham, MA
Debra Tanguay, Coventry, VT
Valerie Ward, Wakefield, NH

All hats off to you graduates as you return to your communities with your I can do it attitude. You have grown and accomplished so much. I hope that you are still beaming from ear to ear. You should be, you deserve to be, and you earned it. Remember, life begins at the end of your comfort zone.

- **Do Clerks need a reason to party? Silly question...** Next July will be the 50th year for the New England Municipal Clerks' Institute & Academy. The infamous Tammy Legacy of the Vermont Legacy's, the queen of party has stepped up to lead the 50th NEMCI&A celebration. Sounds like a great time for your NEMCI class to plan to attend the Academy for a class reunion. Yes? Stay tuned for more info as Tammy and her team make plans to party.
- **Institute 3 huge news...** Thanks to the International Institute Director of the year Tracy Borst. IIMC will now allow year three attendees of the Institute to earn Certified Municipal Clerk, CMC, or Master Municipal Clerk, MMC points. Meaning if you earn your CMC designation after attending year two of the Institute, year three can be for MMC points. What a refreshing and positive change for Clerkdom.
- **Opportunity calling you...** The NEMCI&A Board of Directors consists of two volunteer clerks from each of the six New England states. Board members quickly bond and become a family, similar to an Institute class bonding together. The NEMCI&A Board has an opening for a qualified New Hampshire member and will have an opening for a Connecticut and Vermont member this November. Please consider joining the Best Board Ever, be a BBE member. Many Clerks served so you could attend the Institute and Academy. Time for you to serve?

With the most colorful fall aspirations for you to succeed,

John Myers, Board Chair

A FEW WORDS ABOUT NEMCI

So, you are thinking about attending NEMCI&A, Good for you! For those who don't know, NEMCI&A is the New England Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy that takes place the third week of July at PSU, in Plymouth, NH.

The thought is there now is the time to act upon it. Scholarships are available from the Maine Town & City Clerk's Association, New England Association of City & Town Clerks and the International Institute Municipal Clerks, so money should not be an issue. You also may have an opportunity for a scholarship from your County Association, just do a little research and apply.

Let me tell you just a little bit about why you should take that leap and sign up. We have a great program for educating Clerks here in Maine, but the Institute is just a step above. You have intense training in subjects that are relative to Clerk life that carries across from year 1 to year 2, (and assume year 3-I'll let you know next year) that affords you the opportunity to self-reflect, share in group activity and become a better person both professionally and personally. Networking with Clerk's across N.E. and even New York, you will make new "Forever Friends" that are just a call or email away.

I just finished my second year at the Institute and am very much looking forward to my third year and graduation next year. Graduation will mean that I have earned my CMC (Certified Municipal Clerk) certification but it does not have to end there. If I am able to continue, I would like to attend the Academy and work towards my MMC (Master Municipal Clerk) certification. Of course, I may decide to take a step back and allow my Deputy to take advantage of the program and earn her certification first.

Don't just take my word for it, ask any Clerk that has been to NEMCI&A and I guarantee you will get the same answers, "...It's great, glad I did it, an awesome experience that you just have to be there to understand..." I encourage you all to 'Take that Leap' and experience it for yourself, you'll be glad you did! You can be the next Clerk to share your NEMCI story.....

Sue H. Cote, CCM
City Clerk/Registrar
City of Sanford, ME



SAVE THE DATE:

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

Event presenters – back by popular demand:

Sunday – Athenian Dialogue facilitated by Sue Haag, Region 1 Director and Town Clerk of Austerlitz, NY (Sneak Peek on topic – The wonderful, whimsical Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum is a few blocks from the hotel)

Monday & Tuesday – Cathy Donahue, Central CT State University School of Business adjunct professor and CT Municipal Clerks Institute faculty member. Cathy specializes in business communications, marketing, productivity and performance. She is a 2023 Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient from the University, has presented to Region 1 for the past few years and is highly regarded as a trainer. Our working theme: Serving as a Public Official in 2024: Developing Grit, Tenacity, Perseverance and Resilience. More info on Cathy: [\(21\) Cathleen \(Cathy\) \(Donnelly\) Donahue | LinkedIn](#)

Lots more info to come, we look forward to hosting you and welcoming you to Springfield – home of the National Basketball Hall of Fame, MGM Casino, Mass Mutual Center, Springfield Museum campus (five museums – fine art, science, aquarium, planetarium, and more), many restaurants well known for German food and Italian food, fourth largest city in New England and 15th largest in Region 1, close to flagship Yankee Candle Shop in Deerfield, outlet malls and more. For history buffs – Titanic Museum and Historical Society, Springfield played a pivotal role in the Civil War, and was a stop on the Underground Railroad. The Springfield Armory is a National Historic Site and has the largest collection of historic American firearms in the world. Also home to Franklin Park, as large as Central Park, and features a zoo, lake, playgrounds, formal rose garden, and more. So much to do in Springfield!

Want to see what is happening in Springfield, a really dynamic and engaging city? Follow their city Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofSpringfieldMA> And the Explore Western MA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ExploreWesternMass>

And speaking of Facebook, please remember we have two Region 1 FB groups to stay connected on a more regular basis: [\(5\) IIMC Region 1 | Facebook](#) AND <https://www.facebook.com/groups/599570466904304> Why the two groups? One is run by IIMC headquarters and one is run by the Region 1 members. We try to post duplicate info to both groups but sometimes we forget so joining both helps to stay connected.

We have 663 members in Region 1 in our seven states; Sue and I are ready to assist you with any questions you may have regarding IIMC, national certification as a CMC or MMC, the new EPP program, the 2024 IIMC conference in Calgary and more. Feel free to reach out at any time.

Thanks everyone.

Happy Fall -

Sue Haag, Region 1 Director

Town Clerk, Austerlitz, NY

shaag@austerlitzny.com

Kathy Montejo, Region 1 Director

City Clerk, Lewiston, ME

kmontejo@lewistonmaine.gov

PLEASE NOTE-you must set up and log in to your member account before registering for the conference! DO NOT "CONTINUE AS GUEST"-THERE IS NO OPTION TO REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE UNDER GUEST.



When

November 15, 2023 1:00 PM to
November 17, 2023 1:00 PM

[Add to Calendar](#)

Tickets

\$250.00 NEACTC 2023
Conference Registration

\$75.00 Guest-President's
Reception ONLY

\$85.00 Guest-Banquet Dinner
ONLY

[Register Now](#)

Registration for the 2023 New England Conference is now available **ONLINE ONLY** for **members**. When registering, you must indicate if you will be attending the President's Reception; choose your preferred classes (class size will be limited) for Thursday morning and Thursday afternoon ([click here](#) for class descriptions and presenter bios); indicate your meal choice for Thursday night banquet; and let us know if you are staying for Friday breakfast and class thereafter. On the last page of the registration click on "**Print Receipt**" and mail along with your check payable to **NEACTC 2023** to:

Michele Grande, Town Clerk
P.O. Box 1028
Redding Center, CT 06875-1028

Once your registration is complete, you will receive two emails from webmaster@newenglandclerks.org

Directions

Water's Edge Resort & Spa
1525 Boston Post Road
Westbrook, CT 06498

[Get Directions](#)

- *confirmation of registration and a receipt. If you do not receive the emails, check your junk folder!*

Michele Grande, President of The New England Association of City and Town Clerks, along with the clerks of the State of Connecticut, are thrilled to be hosting the 56th Annual Conference November 15-17, 2023 at the beautiful Water's Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook, CT. The 2023 Conference Committee has been working diligently to present an educational, interesting and entertaining event! We have some awesome presenters and educators lined up - as a matter of fact, our keynote speaker's last name is *Awesome!* We look forward to presenting our fellow New England clerks in November with a memorable conference!

Call to Vendors: The New England Association of City and Town Clerks is very grateful for our vendors and sponsors who contribute to our annual conferences. It is with your generous support every year that we are able to provide outstanding educational programs and professional development to our member clerks in the States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. We would love to see you in Westbrook this November! The vendor registration form is under "Documents" on this page.

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Cam F. Awesome

Part 1 - 1:15 – 2:00 pm

Building a Championship Mindset

Part 2 - 2:30 – 5:30 pm

Intent vs. Impact:

Learning to Communicate Respectfully Across Cultures



National Champion Super Heavyweight Boxer, Cam F. Awesome will offer ways to make the many challenges faced in Town Clerks' offices more tolerable with simple changes that can provide greater happiness, positive emotions, improved health, and even stronger relationships. Cam's positive, optimistic and gratitude-filled presentation will share simple but effective daily practices that lead to a more positive mindset.

Part 1: Participants will learn how to remain resilient during unsure times; strategic ways of practicing gratitude daily; simple and effective tips to build a resilient mindset; how to set and attack ambitious goals; the true definition of "hard work" and ways to identify and avoid distractions to stay on course.

Part 2: Today our Town Halls and Town Clerks' offices are more diverse as workplaces than they have ever been. With so many different cultures in American society, cultural competence is a crucial skill. Cam will share lessons he learned traveling to 30+ countries as Captain of Team USA, where he learned to interact with people of different backgrounds. In this presentation Cam will share ways he has personally put his foot in his mouth and provide ways to address the impact made on others!



*Completion of both parts of this course
awards 1.875 IIMC points towards
CMC/MMC from the CTCA Master
Municipal Clerks Academy*



Thursday, November 16, 2023

8:30 – 11:30 am

Morning Session A



Get Back in the Driver's Seat in Your Leadership Role!

Cathleen D. Donahue, PhD

In this session, we will explore how you can build awareness, credibility, and influence to get more “yesses” from your internal and external audiences. We'll unpack common speed bumps and obstacles that slow us down at work. You will leave this session with a toolbox of strategies to position yourself as an impactful leader.

Cathy Donahue is a communications strategist, educator, and adjunct faculty member in the School of Business Marketing Department at CCSU, where she teaches managerial communication. Cathy is a champion of coaching leaders to build strong personal and professional brands. A veteran presenter, she frequently speaks on building healthy organizations and strategies to help leaders be impactful.

Awards 1.5 IIMC points towards CMC/MMC from the CTCA Master Municipal Clerks Academy



Thursday, November 16, 2023

8:30 – 11:30 am

Morning Session B

**Work-life Balance – a Work in Progress!
*Creating Balance Through Organization***

Danielle M. Sicard, MMC, CMMC, Town Clerk, Easton, MA

NEACTC's own Danielle M. Sicard, Town Clerk of Easton, MA, will present a course filled with tips and tricks to work smarter and not harder so you can find and maintain a better work-life balance. Together we will explore how to maximize productivity while avoiding burnout, how to overcome time management barriers and how to utilize organizational techniques to optimize workflow. Danielle brings a clerk's perspective to the conversation with relevant examples and tips that you can immediately implement in both your office and life!

Awards 1.5 IIMC points towards CMC/MMC from the CTCA Master Municipal Clerks Academy



Thursday, November 16, 2023

8:30 – 11:30 am

Morning Session C



**Elections Bootcamp: *Combating Election Misinformation*
and
*Educating & Persuading Public Officials***

**Josh Simon Goldman, Sr. Program Manager,
Center for Tech and Civic Life**

*Completion of both parts of this course awards
1.5 IIMC points towards CMC/MMC from the
CTCA Master Municipal Clerks Academy*

Combating Election Misinformation

When it comes to elections, misleading information can be a powerfully disruptive force. Facing growing information threats against democracy, election officials can take steps to boost voter confidence and minimize confusion. This course will help you strengthen your role as a reliable source of information and create a defensive strategy to combat misinformation.

Educating and Persuading Public Officials

Legislation around elections can change rapidly. Connecting with public officials can be helpful in ensuring policymakers are informed when considering legislation that impacts elections. This course will help you confidently inform policymakers about your role in administering elections, establish and maintain trusted relationships with public officials, and prepare you to get involved in initiatives advancing practical and voter-centric policies.

Center for Tech and Civic Life

The Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) is a team of civic technologists, trainers, researchers, election administration and data experts working to foster a more informed and engaged democracy and helping to modernize U.S. elections. A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, CTCL works with state and local election offices, offering practical tools, trainings, standards, and more that help administrators oversee secure, inclusive elections. Over the years, CTCL has supported offices across the US that serve more than 100 million total voters.



Thursday, November 16, 2023

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Afternoon Session A

Offsite Presentation
TURTLE: David Bushnell's Revolutionary Vessel

Fred Frese, Author

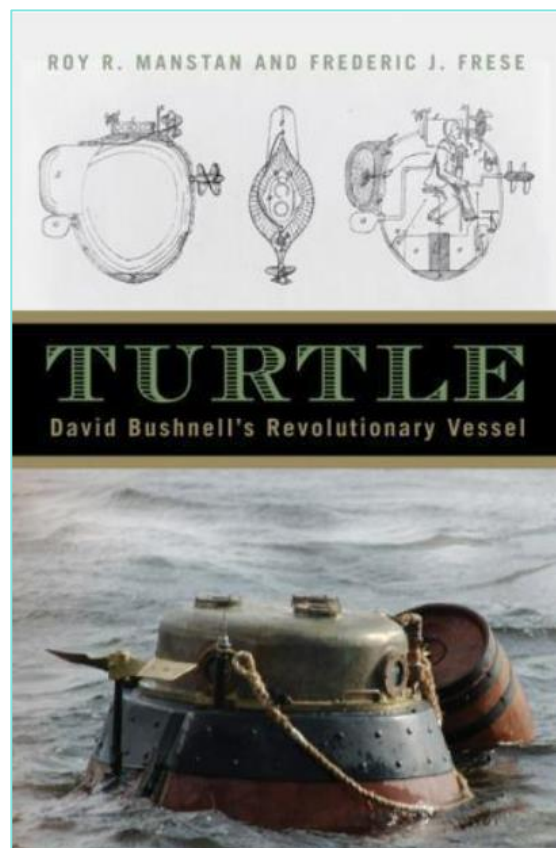
*Awards 1 IIMC point towards CMC/MMC from the
CTCA Master Municipal Clerks Academy*



Come and see the Replica of Bushnell's Submarine at the Westbrook Town Hall.

Hear the remarkable account of the History and Reconstruction of the First Operational Submarine built at the onset of the American Revolution by David Bushnell a native of Old Saybrook/Westbrook, CT. The "Turtle" was used for the "destruction of vessels of war" on a quiet night in September of 1776. Sergeant Ezra Lee maneuvered Bushnell's strange little craft out from Manhattan into the midst of the greatest naval fleet ever assembled in the Americas. Although the mission was unsuccessful, Bushnell's concept of submarine warfare was considered by George Washington to have been "an effort of genius."

Fred Frese, co-author and retired Technical Arts teacher of Old Saybrook, CT shares his involvement in the working replica and the reconstruction of this famous vessel; facilitated through an education partnership with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, RI, where co-author Roy Manstan was a mechanical engineer and Navy-trained diver.



Participants will be given directions for a short drive (less than one mile) over to the Westbrook Town Hall to hear this presentation and view an actual replica of the Turtle Submarine itself!

Thursday, November 16, 2023

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Afternoon Session B

Tips for Running Safe and Secure Elections



Patti Dubois, CCM, CMC, MMC
City Clerk/Registrar of Voters Waterville, ME

Tina Barton, MMC, Senior Elections Expert
The Elections Group

*Awards 1 IIMC point towards CMC/MMC from
the CTCA Master Municipal Clerks Academy*

Election offices require a secure environment where electors have the confidence to vote and workers can carry out assigned tasks. In the current atmosphere, collaboration and cooperation between election officials and law enforcement is necessary. This course will walk participants through the Five Steps to Safer Elections, focusing on how to build relationships and trust between election officials and law enforcement, as well as how to prevent and respond to threats and violence against voters and election workers. Both presenters received death threats after the 2020 election and will share their personal stories.

Former Rochester Hills, MI, City Clerk, Tina Barton is a Senior Election Expert with The Elections Group and has over 32 years of government experience, serving at the federal, county, and local levels. The last 17 years of her career have been focused on election administration. She holds a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership and a Bachelor of Business Administration.

NEACTC's own Patti Dubois has served as the City Clerk in Waterville, ME since 2001 and has extensive experience in administering local, state, and federal elections. As Chair of the MTCCA's Legislative Policy Committee, she has developed strong working relationships with Maine's elected officials and was successful in getting legislation passed in 2022 to enhance protection for election officials in her state.



Thursday, November 16, 2023

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Afternoon Session C

**Tapping Into Your Power:
*Simple Ways to Calm the Mind***

Dawn Michanowicz, MMC, EEM-AP

*Awards 1 IIMC point towards CMC/MMC from
the CTCA Master Municipal Clerks Academy*

How do you power through when your tank is empty? What do you do when you are overwhelmed and worrying about upcoming deadlines, elections or answering all those emails? Find fuel within your own body and it's not a Dunkin' run! Discover movements to shift that frenetic pace into positive, calming energy. Using tapping, stretching, and gentle holds, this class will offer easy protocols to re-set your fight/flight/freeze response.

This class is for the municipal clerk seeking alternatives to releasing stress at their workplace. Instead of going to the gym or taking a walk, here are alternatives they may have never considered. These simple protocols calm our mind and provide energy to shift our focus, ultimately improving our mental health.

After 20 years in local government and as a Master Municipal Clerk in Massachusetts, Dawn Michanowicz learned that stress comes with a cost: She had chronic knee pain, frequent migraines, allergies and other imbalances. Impressed by the results of Energy Medicine, she became an Advanced Practitioner, expanded her knowledge of acupressure and became a Reflexologist, Reiki Master and Yoga Instructor. Today Dawn is retired as a Town Clerk but teaches classes in New England, New York and Florida. Her classes are fun, simple to understand and IIMC-approved. Also a popular Athenian Dialogue Facilitator, Dawn uses creativity and humor as she shares the benefits of "mindfulness at work."





Friday, November 17, 2023

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

HUMOR AND COMMUNITY:
Why We Need Connection and Laughter Now More Than Ever

Gina Barreca, PhD

*Awards 2 IIMC points towards CMC/MMC from
the CTCA Master Municipal Clerks Academy*

We need to tell our stories so that we can re-establish our focus and create, or recreate, a sense of community. Like most other talents or skills, a sense of humor can be developed. Like carrying a tune or picking up the check, however, some people never master the art. We all face tough choices: we all face death, we all face suffering, we all face the prospect of another season of "90 Day Fiancé." We have two alternatives: we can crack up or we can crack a smile. Survival, or making survival worth the bother, depends on seeking joy, and on uncovering, and discovering curiosity. In one of life's great ironies, the funny parts of life emerge from carefully nurturing a sense of the absurd. Recognizing absurdities doesn't make the darkness go away, but it does admit the light.

Author and editor of many books, Gina Barreca, Ph.D., is a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor at UCONN. Her blog for PSYCHOLOGY TODAY has reached well over 7 million unique views and she's written for The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Independent of London, Cosmopolitan, and The Harvard Business Review. Her books have been translated into several languages and she's appeared on CNN, the BBC, NPR, the Today show, Entertainment Tonight, 20/20, and, yes, Oprah. Gina lives in Connecticut and can be found in The Library of Congress and the make-up aisle at Walgreens.



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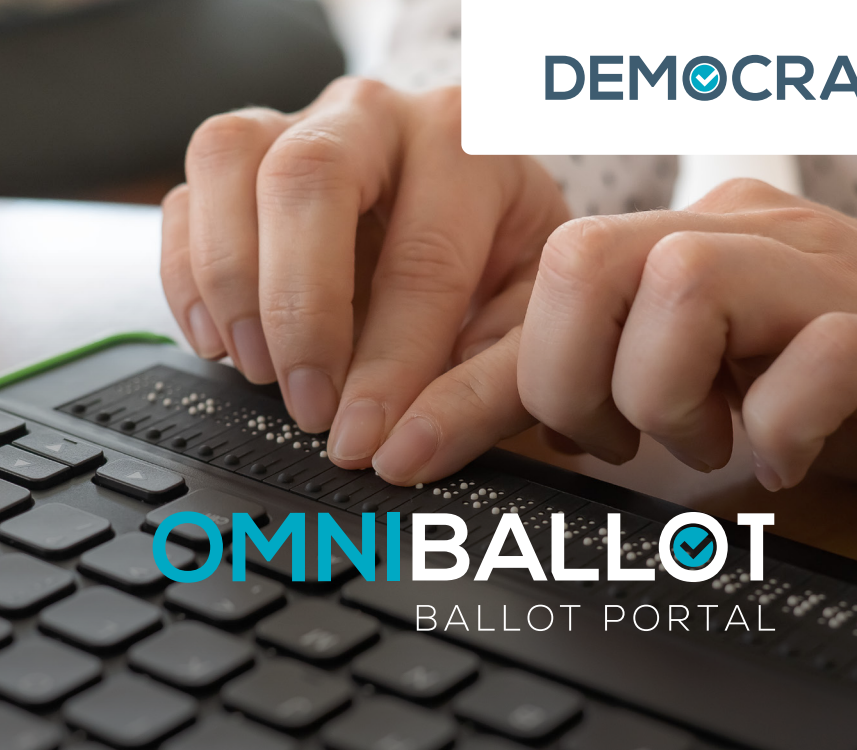
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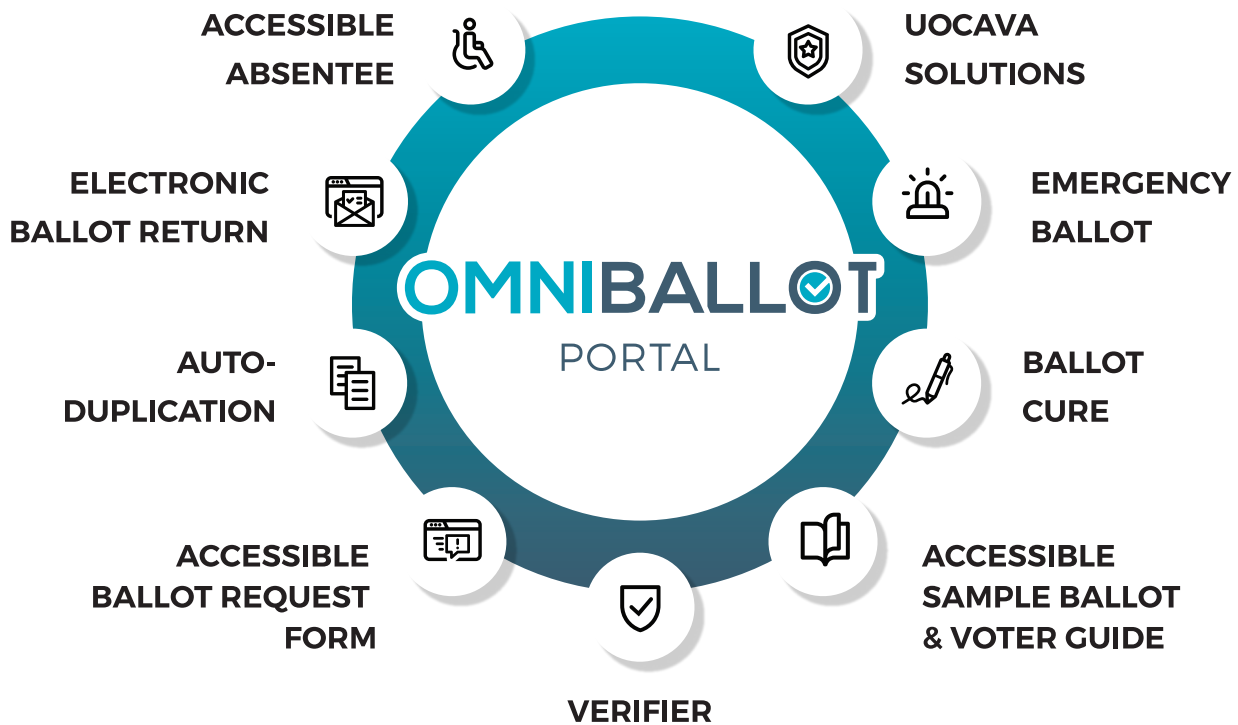


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