

# New England Clerk



Newsletter of the New England Association of City & Town Clerks

June/July 2023

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



I hope this Summer Newsletter finds you all well and taking some well-deserved time off! In CT, June is the month for licensing ALL the dogs-lots of dogs! As our town committees are gearing up for the July caucuses, September primaries and November elections, the Town Clerks are preparing for the onslaught of political filings for candidate endorsements, nominating petitions, and campaign finance forms. And we are closely following what lies ahead for us as "Early Voting" has been approved by the legislature and is expected to be in place for the primaries in early 2024, oh yay!

## IIMC Region I Annual Meeting

It was wonderful to see so many New England Clerks at the Region I Annual Meeting in Cooperstown, NY from March 29-31<sup>st</sup>. Kudos to our Region I Directors, Susan Haag and Kathy Montejo, for putting together a wonderful program filled with education, networking and social interaction. For those of you who may not know, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) is composed of 12 regions, and each region is represented by two Region Directors. Region I covers the six New England states, along with the State of New York. It is through membership in IIMC municipal clerks can earn and apply for professional designations of Certified Municipal Clerk and Master Municipal Clerk.





I was honored to meet our IIMC President Elect Mary Ann Hess who was a delight. She donated a raffle prize from her hometown of Laurel, MS which coincidentally is the setting for one of my favorite HGTV shows, “Hometown”.



We were also honored with the presence of Dr. Bea Rodriguez, Director of Professional Development at IIMC who shared with us her experience in her role at IIMC, as well as the educational updates on the horizon.

*Clerks from CT, MA & RI meet IIMC  
Director of Prof. Dev. Bea Rodriguez*

### **NEACTC 2023 Fundraising**

The NEACTC 2023 Golf Outing held at Keney Park in Windsor, CT on June 12<sup>th</sup> was a huge success thanks to the expertise and planning of Jeff Dunkerton of Westport, CT and Kelly Bilodeau of East Hampton, CT! We netted just over \$4,000 profit for the fall conference. We were very lucky to have 3 of our vendors sponsor and participate in the outing – we so appreciate their generosity – **Adkins Printing, Dupont Storage Systems and IQS**. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who donated their time and energy planning the event, securing, and donating all the amazing raffle prizes and helping throughout the day.

### **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. This year there are -30 clerks enrolled in Institute I, 29 in Institute II, 14 in Institute III and 14 in the Academy. Check out the [NEMCI&A website](#) for more information on the program for continuing education. It is a very rewarding and worth-while experience – ask any NEMCI graduate, and I am sure they will agree!

### **Scholarship**

Every year, the New England Association of City and Town Clerks awards scholarships for member clerks who are continuing their education and working on IIMC certifications by attending the New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy in Plymouth, NH. Thank you to the Scholarship Committee for their time spent reviewing the scholarship applications and making the awards. A special *thank you* to Kathy Larkin of Southington, CT for accepting the Joint Scholarship Chair position and completing this time-consuming task. This year we awarded a total of \$6,000 to 20 clerks from 5 of the New England

states – 8 attending Institute I, 5 attending Institute II, 5 attending Institute III and 2 enrolled in the Academy. Good luck to all the clerks enrolled in NEMCI&A this year. I look forward to seeing you at graduation!

### **Membership**

NEACTC currently has 456 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 Website**

Well, the most exciting news I have to share is that the new NEACTC website has gone live and it looks great! 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.

A huge “shout out” to Lucrecia Wonsor who has made this huge undertaking a reality. She has spent countless hours working with StarChapter, myself and our Immediate Past President Dottie Powers, redesigning and uploading information to the new website. Lucrecia is also organizing the website committee and scheduling training for postings and upkeep of the new website.

*Thank you very much Lucrecia and Dottie!*

### **NEACTC 2023 Conference**

*“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 is working hard organizing the fall conference and we hope soon our educational sessions and points will be secured; our schedule completed; our meal plans picked; our decorations prepared; and the President’s Reception planned. The hotel information is on our website and [reservations](#) can be made now.

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



**Millie McGinnes Highet, MMC**

**NEACTC 1st Vice President**

Good Day and Salutations New England Clerks. The sun is shining, the sweaters are stored for another season, the sunscreen is being refreshed and the tops are folding back on the convertibles. Living in a tourist community, as many of you do, there is a rising frenetic energy in the air. I personally love this time of year. After a long dormant winter, restaurants are opening, shops are filling with merchandise and the days are long.

Although, in these long days, we are still keeping our nose to the grindstone:

- The election wheels and deadlines are in motion as much of Rhode Island gears up for a special election to fill the vacated US Congressional seat of David Cicilline. Congressman Cicilline resigned from Congress on June 1<sup>st</sup> to take over as CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation.
- As much of Rhode Island's industry revolves around tourism, the state has instituted a new short-term rental annual registration. Many cities and towns are moving toward registration and/or regulation of short-term rentals as well. The boom of short-term rentals have had significant impacts on communities, whether contributing to the attainable housing shortage, changing the dynamic of residential neighborhoods, or missed tax revenues.
- Rhode Island clerks are grateful the legislature has passed a few bills into law regarding elections:
  - Closing schools on Presidential Primary day.
  - Allowing election drop boxes to be opened 35 days prior to the election (used to be 20 days).
  - Allowing 17 year-olds to vote in primaries, as long as they will be 18 years-old as of the general election.
  - Changing the Presidential Preference Primary to April 2, 2024.
- Additionally, clerks are biting their nails and crossing their fingers for passage of some other much needed election bills to bring a bit of ease to the elections operations:
  - Allowing for the combining of voting districts.

- Allowing for notice requirements to be met through website posting instead of costly advertising.
- Moving the primary date by one day if it falls on the day after Labor Day.

And of course we have some congratulations in order:

- Congratulate Tracy Nelson, New City Clerk, Cranston
- Congratulate Mike Narducci, New City Administrator of Elections Providence
- Congratulate Kerry Nardolillo, Warwick Canvasser on her retirement
- Congratulate Alberto de Burgo, New City Clerk, Central Falls
- Congratulate Candida Silva, New Deputy City Clerk, Central Falls

**ENJOY THE SUMMER!**



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

Things are quiet on the home front here in Maine! Most town meetings and local elections have passed without much fanfare. The Maine Town & City Clerks' Association is busy with annual trainings in election law, licensing, municipal law, and vital records. These classes are required for clerks pursuing certification in Maine. Clerks are required to take a test (and pass) in order to receive certification. The Certification Committee and Instructors Committee work very hard to ensure quality education and a fair process for certification.

Seven Maine clerks were able to travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota and attend the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Conference. Maine's own Patti Dubois was a guest speaker on election security. Darci Wheeler won the Prince Look Alike Contest and was awarded free registration for next year's conference in Calgary, Alberta, Canada! Congratulations Darci!



The legislative session is wrapping up here in Maine with many election bills being carried forward to the next session. The Legislative Policy Committee of MTCCA did an outstanding job representing the interests of all Maine clerks. Over the years our factual and "boots on the ground" testimony has built trust and confidence with our legislators and they often ask for our opinion on pending bills. Legislation doesn't always go our way but our voices are definitely always heard.

Best wishes for a warm and fun-filled summer!





# New Hampshire City & Town Clerks' Association

Hello from NH!

We have just finished up our regional workshops which were well attended by many seasoned and new clerks. We were able to visit with our state agencies and learn about new features on the horizon. The Secretary of State has assured us that we will be the First in the nation but that it may remain to be seen in what capacity. Our First in the nation status is in our Constitution, and we will uphold that with pride.

We are working hard to hold our annual conference in October in beautiful Bartlett NH at the Grand Summit Resort at Attitash.

Our Athenian will include breakfast and a boxed luncheon. The book is *Eat, Pray, Love*. facilitated by Tami Kelly from OH. Look for more information soon.

Let's hope that Mother Nature is done with this rain and gives us a summer we all need.

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



Hello New England Clerks!

The Vermont Clerk and Treasurers Association has been working to build a new website through our association program, StarChapter – it's been quite a labor of love, nine months in the making just like a little baby. I am very excited that the new website will be live by the time you are reading this. Check us out [VMCTA.org](http://VMCTA.org)

In May five brave Vermont Clerks ventured out to Minneapolis for the IIMC Annual Conference: Georgette Wolf Ludwig, Peggy Neisner, Sandy Pinsonault, Tammy Legacy and I. What a blast! Georgette proudly carried the Vermont flag for the parade of flags opening ceremony, Tammy and Sandy made new friends with the Study Abroad group, Peggy could be seen right up front soaking up the education. We enjoyed the company of other New England Clerks, made new friends from around the world, learned new things and had some fun.

In July five Vermont Clerks will be headed to Plymouth NH for the NEMCIA Academy program, and five attending the NEMCI Institute including two graduating from the program. We are planning our annual conference, for this September in our capital city Montpelier. In other conference news, the NEACTC conference committee for Vermont in 2027 is meeting later this summer and hoping to lock down a location soon!

Have a safe and happy summer!

Tracy Borst  
Fourth Vice President  
NEACTC  
Thetford Vermont Clerk/Treasurer

Georgette Wolf Ludwig

Tammy Borst, Sandy Pinsonault, Georgette Wolf Ludwig & Peggy Neisner







***GREETINGS FROM MASSACHUSETTS***  
***Kelly L. Darling, CMC, 5<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Orleans Town Clerk***

Greetings from Massachusetts!

The Massachusetts Town Clerks Association held their summer meeting in Plymouth this month. The conference was well attended and provided some great educational opportunities. It was nice to change the focus from elections, at least for this conference.

Our hard-working, long-serving officer and President, Robert Cutler, Jr. (Foxborough) completed his term. New officers were sworn in, with Elizabeth Turner Greendale (Holliston) taking the helm as President. It is great to know the steadfast leadership of our organization will continue and we appreciate all the hard work they do.

Ann Quirk (Barnstable) was chosen as Clerk of the Year. We are all very proud of her achievements and her dedication to her community.

There are many Massachusetts Clerks looking forward to attending NEMCI&A in July. I know of several going for their first year and that really brings back fond memories for me. It is such an amazing, immersive program and you really do make life-long friends there.

The NEACTC 2028 Conference Committee has gotten off to a great start with our fundraising and preliminary planning. No location yet, but we are working on it.

I think I can speak for most clerks when I say we are all looking forward to fully enjoying the summer this year. I hope you all can take time to rest and refresh!



Swearing in of the MTCA Officers



Swearing in MTCA President, Liz Greendale



Massachusetts Clerk of the Year Ann Quirk (middle)



Dear New England Clerks,

- **Logo Refreshed...** Did you notice the new look for the NEMCI&A logo above? We hope that you like it. Thank you to our Development Chair and Fairlee, VT Clerk Georgette Wolf Ludwig for making this happen. Keep an eye out for an opportunity to purchase a new logo lapel pin to help promote and support NEMCI&A for just \$5, wear it proudly.
- **Best of the Best...** On May 15<sup>th</sup> in Minneapolis, Minnesota NEMCI&A Board Member and Immediate Past Chair **Tracy Borst** received the **2023 IIMC Institute Director Award of Excellence**. Tracy is the very first to receive this prestigious award from New England and IIMC Region One. How refreshing and encouraging - NEMCI&A is being recognized by IIMC. What a change - other Institutes are asking how does NEMCI&A do it. Other Institutes want to learn about the full NEMCI&A experience. **Congratulations to the Institute Director of the Year Tracy Borst** and thank you for the tremendous amount of hard work you do and have done improving our profession and leading our Institute to be internationally noticed and recognized.
- **Wow! As the Beat goes on...** When Institute One registration opened this past spring all thirty openings were filled in less than six hours. Not quite the same as waiting to buy your favorite concert tickets, but you get the idea. Additional registrations received to attend NEMCI&A this July at Plymouth State University in the beautiful White Mountains of New Hampshire include twenty-nine returning for Institute Two, fourteen Institute Three students to graduate so soon and fourteen Academy registrations. Start making plans now to attend NEMCI&A next July earning IIMC CMC or MMC points as the beat goes on.
- **New Hampshire become a BBE...** The NEMCI&A Board of Directors consists of two clerks from each of the six New England states. Board members quickly bond and become a family, similar to an Institute class bonding together. Having all twelve Directors year-round to plan and execute all of the educational program duties as expected is so needed. The board has an opening for a qualified NH Clerk. Please consider joining the Best Board Ever, be a BBE and help us share the full experience. Interested? For more information, please email [jmyers@buxton.me.us](mailto:jmyers@buxton.me.us).

With the warmest summer wishes for you to thrive,

John Myers, Board Chair, Buxton, Maine Town Clerk, [jmyers@buxton.me.us](mailto:jmyers@buxton.me.us)



## Greetings from Region 1 –

The Region 1 Annual Meeting was held in Cooperstown, NY at the end of March and had over 50 members in attendance. The themes of teamwork and communication were well presented by Cathy Donahue, business communication professor at Central CT State University. Region 1 Director Sue Haag facilitated the Athenian Dialogue on the life of Lou Gehrig to help round out the theme since we were meeting in the hometown of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

The IIMC conference was held in Minneapolis in May with about 25 members from Region 1, many of them first time attendees. Region 1 was well represented at the international conference, a highlight being our own Tracy Borst, Thetford, VT town clerk and immediate past NEMCI board chair, receiving the very prestigious Institute Director Award of Excellence, the first time someone from New England has received this award. Be sure to check out the video and photos on the two Region 1 Facebook groups. Other honors for Region 1 included Waterville, ME City Clerk Patti Dubois presenting multiple workshops about election worker safety and security measures as well as Darci Wheeler, City Clerk of Bath, ME, easily killing the competition to win the Prince Look A Like contest out of about 18 competitors. Darci won a free conference registration for the 2024 IIMC conference in Calgary, Canada.

Speaking of Calgary, start planning now to attend this great conference in May 2024. You will need a passport or passport card so start preparing now due to the delay in processing. And book your flight early for the best deal. IIMC will issue the preliminary conference details around November.

If you have earned your MMC, the next level to continue your professional development is the new optional PLUS program recently launched by IIMC. Check out the IIMC website for more details.

As always, we encourage you to consider joining IIMC if you are not already a member. IIMC offers many educational opportunities and national certification to help you advance in your career. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

Happy summer -

Susan Haag, New York and Kathy Montejo, Maine  
Region 1 Directors

## **New England Clerk**

Newsletter of the NEACTC

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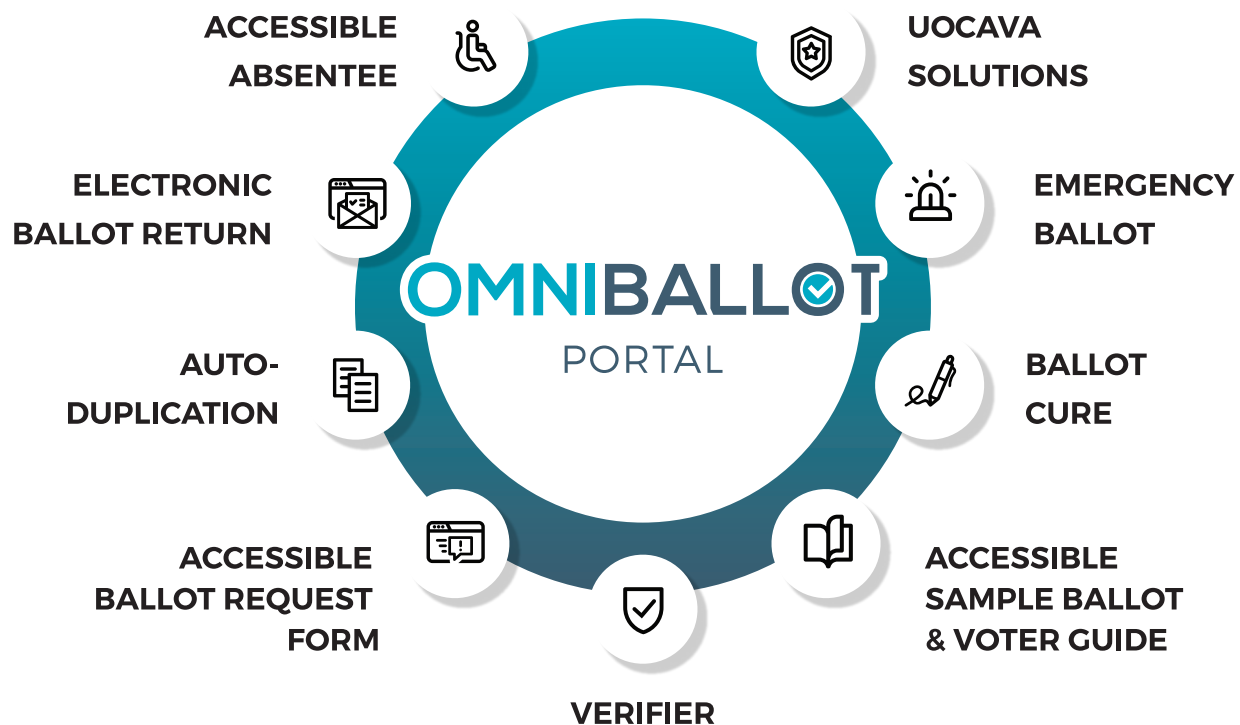
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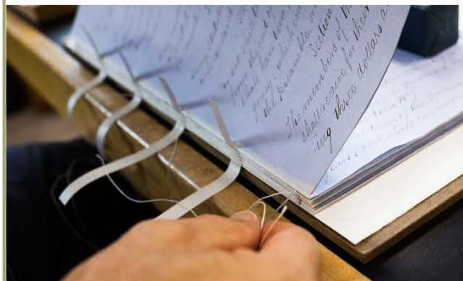


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