

# New England Clerk



Newsletter of the New England Association of City & Town Clerks

WINTER 2023

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



Happy Spring everyone! I am sure everyone is looking forward to warmer weather and beautiful blooms! The past few months have been a bit of a blur here in Redding, CT. On Christmas Day, a sprinkler pipe burst in our health department spewing 6,000 gallons of water which spread throughout Town Hall. Everything had to be removed from the entire building and we were closed to the public for 8 weeks while repairs were being made. Thankfully, the vault was unaffected, and no permanent records were lost. 42 boxes of documents from the health department were sent out for drying and treatment. This was quite a process – from freezer to a drying chamber, then cleaned and restored. Let this be a lesson to periodically review your records storage and make sure there is a plan in place in the event of an emergency. Overall, we were very lucky, and the upside is our building

is freshly painted and has new carpeting throughout!

*Now for NEACTC news and updates:*

## Membership

I am pleased to announce that Susan Pawluk, Town Clerk of Stratford, CT has accepted a position on the Membership Committee and will serve as Chair this year. *Thank you, Susan, for volunteering to take this on.*

Membership renewals were due by March 1, 2023. An email reminder was sent out at the end of December and the new form was posted to our website. At our board meeting last November, rather than increasing dues across the board, we decided to add \$15.00 to any memberships renewed after March 1, 2023, but kept the renewal at \$35.00 if received prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>. This was to encourage clerks to renew by March 1<sup>st</sup> to get the lower rate, and hopefully fund our treasury early in the year. VPs, please follow up with any unpaid members and encourage them to renew their membership.

A huge thank you to VP Lisa Goodwin (Bangor, ME) for re-designing our membership brochure. She did an amazing job! This [brochure](#) is on our website under “Membership Lists” and can be used as a tool to recruit new members within your states.

### Scholarship

Last month, I appointed Kathy Larkin, Town Clerk of Southington, CT as Joint Scholarship Chair. She has been working diligently with the state scholarship chairs to award scholarships for the New England Municipal Clerks Institute and Academy. State chairs – please make sure all your information is sent to Kathy by April 6<sup>th</sup>. *Thank you, Kathy and to all the scholarship chairs for your work on this committee!*

### IIMC Region I Annual Meeting

I will be attending the Region I Annual Meeting in Cooperstown, NY from March 29-31<sup>st</sup>. I know our Region I Directors, Susan Haag and Kathy Montejo, have put together a wonderful program for us and I look forward to seeing everyone.

### NEACTC Website

First, I would like to thank Leigh Carney of East Greenwich, RI for all the years she dedicated to keeping our website up and running. I know she spent a lot of time on the website and it did not go unnoticed. *Leigh, we all appreciate your efforts!*

Second, a huge thanks to Lucrecia Wonser of Killington, VT for volunteering to take on the job of NEACTC Webmaster. Over the past four months, Lucrecia and our immediate past-president, Dottie Powers, have been working diligently with StarChapter on a brand new beautiful website. There have been a few glitches, but I think it is finally coming together. The new website will enable each clerk to log into their own account to update their personal information, register for classes and keep track of their education. Stay tuned.....

### NEACTC 2023 Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Golf anyone? The NEACTC 2023 Fundraising Committee is holding a golf tournament on Monday, June 12, 2023 at Keney Park in Windsor, CT. We need players, sponsors and raffle donations. This is our last opportunity to raise some money for our conference in November. If interested, please contact Jeff Dunkertown, Westport, CT Town Clerk by email [jdunkertown@westportct.gov](mailto:jdunkertown@westportct.gov) or by calling 203-341-1105. [Click here](#) for golf flyer with details and registration form.

### 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. My conference committee has been meeting regularly and everyone has taken on tasks to present a great conference – from scheduling meaningful educational sessions which will earn you the most points ever, hiring engaging speakers, and of course, throwing in some socializing and entertainment! The hotel information is on our website and [reservations](#) can be made now.

I am looking forward to working with all of you throughout this year! Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.



**Millie McGinnes Hight, MMC**

**NEACTC 1st Vice President**

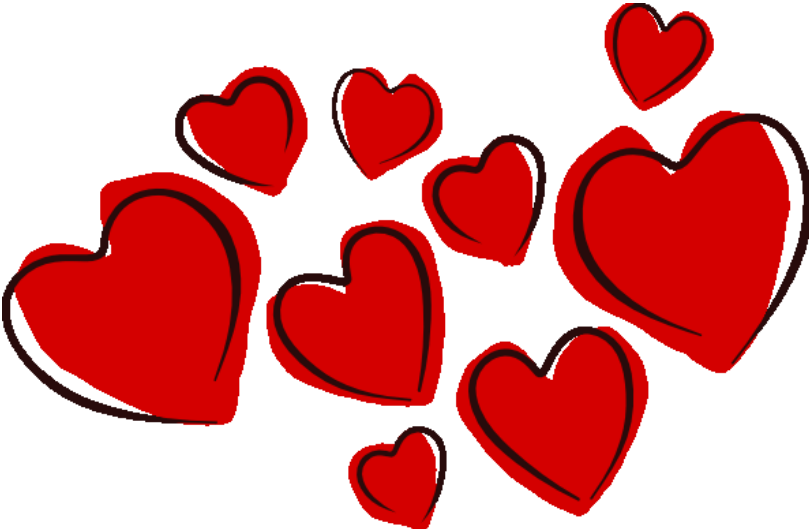
Well Happy Spring New England Clerk's! I find myself writing this one in Cooperstown, New York, on the cusp of the IIMC Region 1 Conference. (Apparently, I missed my submittal deadline and must scramble to get myself back on track. 😊 ) I just checked into the Otesaga Resort and am peering out over the Otesaga Lake for encouragement – the beauty is incredibly inspirational! I hope to see many of you here tomorrow when we start to gather!

As this is supposed to be an update on Rhode Island I better get to it:

- There is a special election in the works to fill the vacating US Congressional seat of David Cicilline. Congressman Cicilline will resign from Congress on June 1<sup>st</sup> to take over as CEO of the Rhode Island Foundation. And here we thought it was an “off” election year.
- The Rhode Island Clerk's Association is working with the RI Secretary of State, Elections Division and the RI Board of Elections on a number of bills to streamline the voting process and operations.
- There is hope, through bill support, for a change in Rhode Island's primary date. It regularly falls on the Tuesday after Labor Day, making it a hard working holiday for the RI Clerks and staff.
- The RI Association is also advocating for bills allowing for public notices and certain required advertisements to meet advertising requirements through website postings, in lieu of expensive newspaper ads.
- Finally, RI is promoting a bill to allow for Clerk's Offices to maintain some issuance rights over local vital records. Over the past fifteen months, the state has been incorporating a central vital records system, and not allowing the local clerks to hold their citizenry records.

Here's to working toward and wishing for the best outcomes!

Now on a personal note. I recently had the greatest pleasure to get married to my wonderful and now, loving spouse. It makes me reflect on the importance of love. Whether in a new or long-standing relationship, a friendship, a hobby, or a new interest, love is something to be nurtured and cherished. I wish you all LOVE in any form that it comes to you.





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

The Maine Town & City Clerks Association (MTCCA) is offering its members a hybrid model of education. Some classes are being offered via Zoom while others are in-person or a combination of in-person and Zoom. Although I favor in-person learning for myself, the hybrid model is giving our membership an opportunity to attend classes when they may not be able to travel to a class. At the end of the day, education is our goal!

The MTCCA Legislative Policy Committee has been very active monitoring all the new bills making their way through the Maine Legislature. Patti Dubois, of Waterville, is our fearless leader and has done a tremendous job representing the interest of all Maine clerks at the state level. Maine clerks have a long history of advocating for our profession and making sure our position on legislation is put forth during deliberation of bills that will affect our jobs.

MTCCA also has an Elections Working Group chaired by Angela Holmes of Westbrook. This group works closely with the Secretary of State and the Elections Division on a variety of election issues such as proposed legislation, new software development and general topics surrounding the administration of elections. We are fortunate to have a Secretary of State who is open to our suggestions and values our opinions. The State is currently developing a new central voter registration system and has been gathering input from our group on what functionality we want or need in the new system.

Maine communities have been experiencing “first amendment audits” over the past few months. For those who may not be familiar with these, it is when someone comes in to the town office and starts videoing all kinds of things, including staff. They may ask questions and sometimes say things to try to get a reaction. After the audit and especially if someone has reacted to their presence, the video ends up on line. The best way to handle these events is to just allow them to video in public areas without interacting and if you don’t want to be on camera, go to a private area of the office.



# New Hampshire City & Town Clerks' Association

Greetings from NH!

Spring will be busting out all over soon!!!

The NEMCI Academy program is going to be like nothing we have had in the past. It will be a 4 day program that should be a not to miss! Sign up starts in April!

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



As I write this, most of Vermont communities are wrapping up town meeting season. Vermont League of Cities and Towns prepared a nice preview with lots of statistics about Town Meeting 2023 in Vermont and some facts struck me as particularly interesting to Town Clerks.

In January of 2023 the VT legislature moved to extend the COVID precautions that allow for extension of the date of town meeting and or the move from in person to ballot vote; at least 11 towns chose to postpone or move all articles to ballot again for 2023. That said, Vermont Town Meetings largely returned to in person meeting this year. In 2022 sixty three towns held in person Town Meetings compared to at least 182 towns meeting held in person this year. The fallout of these precautions is more towns moving permanently to the ballot only option and completely moving away from in person town meetings – eighteen towns considered doing to on the 2023 ballot.

Vermont is also seeing an increase in the move from Elected to Appointed positions – in 2017 the legislature moved to allowing municipalities the authority to vote to convert elected positions to appointed. In 2023 nine more towns considered articles to move the elected Town Clerk to an appointed role.

With elections behind (most) of us, we now await mud season – that lovely fifth season in Vermont, dog licensing and spring trainings, Region 1 annual conference, and then IIMC annual conference in May – I hope to see many of you there!

And finally, speaking of conferences, I just had to share the picture of me with our past Vermont NEACTC President Tammy Legacy from the fabulous conference in Massachusetts in November.

Tracy Borst  
Fourth Vice President  
NEACTC  
Thetford Vermont Clerk/Treasurer





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

Greetings from Massachusetts!

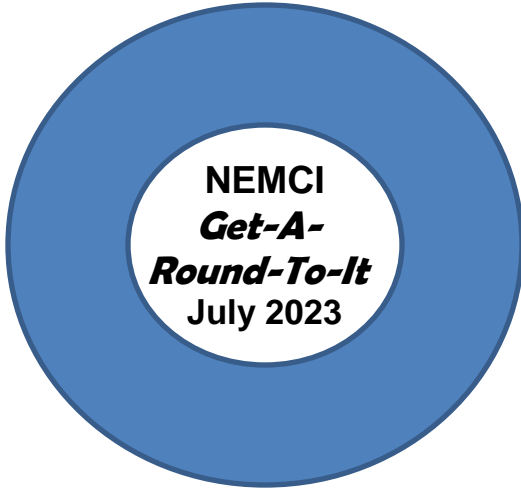
Spring is right around the corner! This year we have had some winter days that felt more like spring, but we all know we will have spring days that feel more like winter.

The Massachusetts Town Clerks Association, in conjunction with the Massachusetts City Clerks Association, held their Winter Conference in Devens, Massachusetts in February. The turnout was great; the classes were well-attended and very informative.

The MTCA has two surveys in the works; a Salary Survey that will be searchable and updated annually, and an Early Voting/Vote-by-Mail survey. The MTCA Legislative Committee will use this to work with the State to try to streamline the early voting and vote by mail processes as well as express our needs and the long-term issues with sustainability of the existing voting laws.

Our next MTCA Conference will be in Plymouth in June; we are looking forward to networking with our colleagues during warmer days. We will also be swearing in new officers and thanking our outgoing president, Bob Cutler, Foxborough, for his service and leadership.

Wishing you all the best for 2023.



**2023 NEMCI... *Get-A-Round-To-It***  
July 15th thru 21st, Plymouth, NH

Here it is! Your very own ***Get-A-Round-To-It*** for the *New England Municipal Clerk's Institute*. Cut-it-out today and keep it close where you can see it often. Now that you have your own, start planning to attend July 15-21st. Do it for your Community. Do it for yourself. You will never regret the *NEMCI* experience ***Get-A-Round-To-It!***

Have you ever said to yourself? "I will attend the *New England Municipal Clerk's Institute* someday." Well, that was me, year after year. I could always find another reason not to attend this year. But I always said, "I would someday." It took me more than 20 years to **get-a-round-to-it** and I am so glad that I finally did. The Institute is an exceptional educational experience for your professional and personal growth, truly benefiting you and your community. *NEMCI* has a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors that oversees the Institute only as a Clerk could. They hire outstanding faculty members, and your fellow students will be simply marvelous, family for life.

You will be astonished with what you can accomplish with everyone's support. It takes an incredibly special person to be a Clerk and to have more than a hundred of them encouraging you to do your absolute best for a full week for the next three years is stupendous. The bond that you will build with your classmates is hard to express in mere words. Check the *New England Municipal Clerk's Institute & Academy's* website <http://www.nemcia.org/> for more information preparing you to encounter the entire *NEMCI* advantage. Registration information to be announced, with **limited seats available**. Last April registration closed in just a few hours. Plan now to be at Plymouth University this July for you and for your community.

**If you are already a NEMCI graduate.** It is time to return to the Academy. Exciting plans are being made for new opportunities. Stay tuned for more information.

**You will never regret having the full NEMCI experience, *Get-A-Round-To-It!***

John Myers, NEMCI&A Chair  
Town Clerk, Buxton, Maine  
NEMCI Class of 2011  
[jmyers@buxton.me.us](mailto:jmyers@buxton.me.us)

# Join NEMCI&A at Plymouth State University!!



## **New England Municipal Clerks' Institute & Academy (NEMCI&A)**

**July 15-21, 2023**

Calling all Clerks, Deputies and Assistants!!

Have you attended NEMCI&A?? No? No better time to start than now. It will be one of the best decisions you will make. It is a wonderful professional educational opportunity enhancing your current skills and knowledge. This is a great time to start your NEMCI&A experience and earn education points towards your Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) and/or Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation. Not only will you grow professionally but you will grow on a personal level. Making friends with colleagues and forming a network system with other clerks that you will find invaluable.

Visit our website at: [www.nemcia.org](http://www.nemcia.org) to learn more information on Institute and Academy classes, new postings to come.

**Registration opens April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.**

**Institute I limited to the first 30 registrations.**

**Be on the lookout for the registration link to be sent out by NEACTC.**

## **New England Clerk**

Newsletter of the NEACTC

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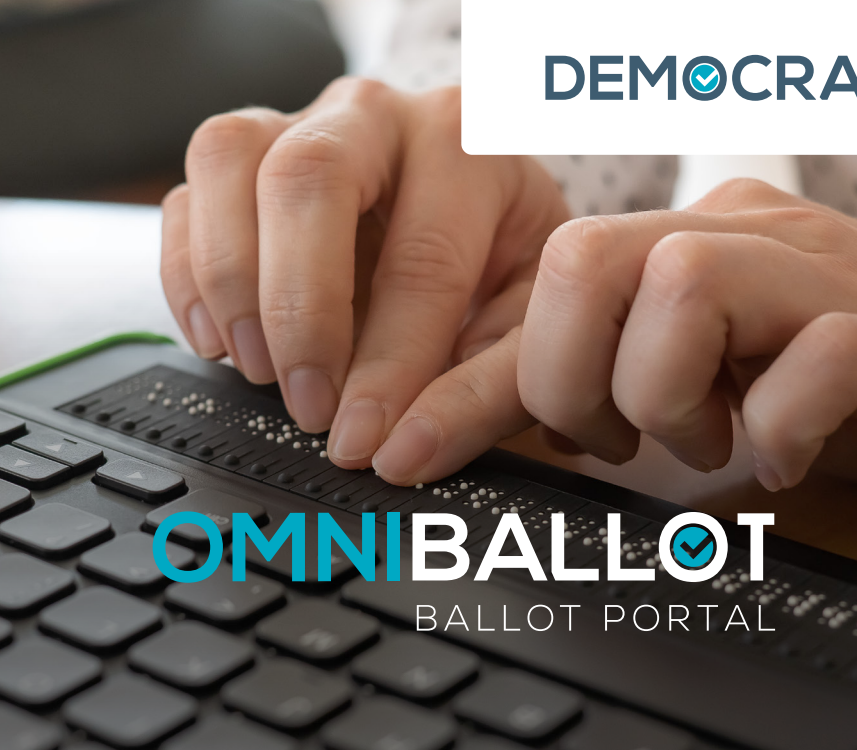


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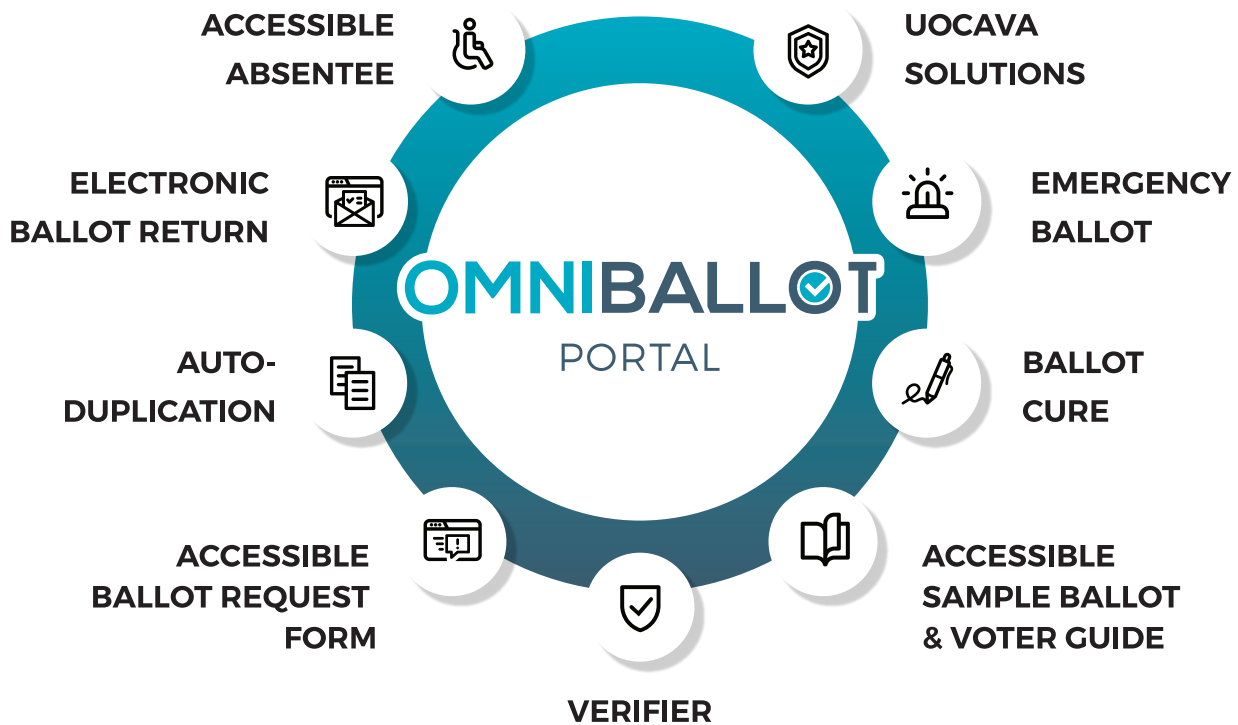


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