

The Quill



53rd Annual Professional Municipal Clerks

PEOPLE PAGE



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CLERK OF THE YEAR ALLAN SUSEN OF HALDON BOROUGH



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INCOMING PRESIDENT MESSAGE DENISE CAFONE



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PRESIDENT KIM- MARIE WHITE'S STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION ADDRESS



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Celebrating the 53rd Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week, from May 1 through May 7, 2022. Municipal Clerks around the world will be celebrating the 53rd Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Initiated in 1969, by IIMC the week, is a time of celebration and reflection on the importance of the Clerk's office. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation that officially declared Municipal Clerks Week the first full week of May. In 1994 and 1996, President Bill Clinton also signed proclamations recognizing Municipal Clerks Week.

Proclamation

53rd ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK
May 1 - May 7, 2022

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world, and

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels, and

Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all.

Whereas, The Professional Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community.

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Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations.

Whereas, It is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk.

Now, Therefore, I, _____, Mayor of _____, do recognize the week of May 1 through May 7, 2022, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Professional Municipal Clerk, _____ and to all Professional Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2022

Mayor: _____ Attest: _____

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Hudson: Alberto Cabrera, Guttenberg Twp. Union: No Representative
Hunterdon: Karen Romano, Lebanon Boro Warren: Donna Zilberfarb, Frelinghuysen
Mercer: Laurie Gompf, Hopewell Township

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Hudson: No Representative Union: Nicole Dirado, Union County
Hunterdon: Ceil Covino, Town of Clinton Warren: Diane M. Pflugfelder, Liberty Twp.
Mercer: Kim Macellaro, Ewing Township

People Page

The People Page is an opportunity for the members of our Association to celebrate each other's achievements both professionally and personally, as well as to share our condolences during times of sorrow. Additionally, when we as Clerks have an opportunity to participate in community events that are afforded to us as a result of our position, it is another example of something to share on the People's Page. Please feel free to share. Send your submissions to the email of: peoplepage@MCANJ.us along with a picture and caption to be included in future editions of the Quill.

RETIREMENTS

Nennette Perry, East Brunswick Clerk – Retired March 31, 2022



Congratulations Joan Benzinger-Hullings on your retirement; 36 years with the Borough of Highland Park. (Pictured on Left).

Jennifer S. Pearson, Deputy Clerk of Logan Township (Gloucester County) retired on January 31st.



Longtime Aberdeen Township Clerk Karen Ventura (above) retires after 20 years. Karen retired as of January 31, 2022. Enjoy South Carolina!!

Congratulations to Red Bank Borough Clerk Pam Borghi on her Retirement!

Peter Gorbatuk, retired in late 2021 as the Municipal Clerk for Englishtown. Peter served as Englishtown's Acting Municipal Clerk in 2006 and officially became the Municipal Clerk in 2009.

Congratulations to Lake Como Borough Clerk/Administrator Louise Mekosh who retired on March 31st.

Janice Kisty of Jackson Township has retired as of December 31, 2021. Kisty has served as Jackson's Township Clerk since Jan. 1 2019. Prior to that she served as the Deputy Township Clerk, Planning Board Secretary, Planning Board Recording Secretary and Zoning Board of Adjustment Recording Secretary (Pictured Below).



Longtime Corbin City Clerk Joanne Siedlecki has retired. Congratulations Joanne!

Congratulations Melissa Hesler on your retirement from Tinton Falls on February 1st.

MCANJ Retirement Gift

If you or someone from your county is planning on or has retired, please let your MCANJ County Representative know so that the Association can provide a retirement gift on behalf of the MCANJ for active members. County Representatives should contact Lucy Samuelsen, Treasurer @ treasurer@mcanj.us. Please be sure to include the individual's name and address where it can be mailed. Please ensure that you provide as much advance notice as possible so that it can be presented at a retirement party or last town meeting, etc.

MCANJ MEMBER SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Do you know a Municipal Clerk, Acting Municipal Clerk, Deputy Municipal Clerk, Assistant Municipal Clerk, County Clerk, Deputy County Clerk, Commissioner Clerk or a Deputy Commissioner Clerk who is a current member of MCANJ (Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey) and they bring positive attention to the role of "Clerk"? They are eligible for nomination!!!! We want to recognize a MCANJ member who promotes their position as "Clerk" through civic activities and events in their work or home community that is outside the scope of their normal duties and responsibilities. Nominees who are selected for recognition will be announced through electronic communications and posted on the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey website. So if you know a fellow Clerk who has been doing amazing things— go to the MCANJ website at www.njclerks.org, fill out the Spotlight Nomination Form and send it to Kim Marie White at president@mcanj.us so we can all celebrate this achievement!!

People Page-Continued from Page 3

TRANSITIONS/NEWLY APPOINTED CLERKS

Jennifer Santiago has been appointed as the Clerk for Highland Park Borough! Congratulations!



New Jackson Township Deputy Clerk Mary Moss takes the oath of office which was administered by outgoing Township Clerk Janice Kisty while Council President Andrew Kern held the Bible.



New Jackson Township Clerk Diane C. Festino takes the oath of office administered by outgoing Township Clerk Janice Kisty.

Congratulations to Sean Assay on his appointment to Borough Clerk of the Borough of Island Heights!



Congratulations to Jessie Joseph, (surrounded by three of her grandchildren in the picture above), on being sworn-in as Ocean Township Municipal Clerk by Mayor Christopher Siciliano at their Council Meeting held on Thursday, December 30, 2021!



Congratulations Ojetti Davis on becoming a Registered Municipal Clerk in South Orange.



Congratulations to Howell Township Clerk Dwayne Harris who has accepted a position as Township Manager in another municipality located in Burlington County.

Congratulations to Gretchen McCarthy who was appointed as Englishtown's new Municipal Clerk at the council's annual reorganization meeting on January 3rd. McCarthy succeeds Peter Gorbaturk, who retired in late 2021. Prior to her appointment as Municipal Clerk, McCarthy was the borough's Deputy Municipal Clerk. She served as the Interim Municipal Clerk following Gorbaturk's retirement.



Congratulations to Nancy Salisbury (above) who was recently installed to serve as the Hawthorne Deputy Borough Clerk!

Congratulations to Tuckerton's Samantha Holberg on passing her certification to become a Registered Municipal Clerk. Congratulations Samantha!

Congratulations to Kimberly Johnson as being appointed the Municipal Clerk for Corbin City.

Congratulations Michelle Hutchinson on your new role as Municipal Clerk for Tinton Falls!

Congratulations to Kelly Mitch who was named Piscataway Deputy Municipal Clerk and Alternate Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics!

BettyLou DeCroce, who left the New Jersey State Assembly on Monday, January 10th has had a long public service career. It began about 40 years ago as a local official in Mine Hill. Later, she served for many years as the Township Clerk in Roxbury and then as Deputy Commissioner of the State Department of Community Affairs when Chris Christie was Governor. She left that post to take the Assembly position after her husband's death.



People Page-Continued from Page 4

TRANSITIONS/NEWLY APPOINTED CLERKS-Continued

Kathryn Hutchinson began her new role on Jan. 31st for Old Bridge Township as the Municipal Clerk.

Alexandra Vacha is the new Deputy Clerk in Robbinsville Township-Welcome Aboard Alexandra!

Other Clerk News

Congratulations to Alexandria Township Municipal Clerk & MCANJ 2VP Michele Bobrowski's son Joseph on completing his basic training at Fort Benning, GA on March 25th. Joseph now continues another 12 weeks in advanced training before graduating completely for infantry training on June 24, 2022. Joseph attends the University of Maine and is a part of their ARMY ROTC program. He will be joining the Maine Army National Guard Katahdin Region/Bravo Co. 3/172nd INF Mountain in Brewer, Maine while he continues his studies.

Congratulations to South Toms River Borough Clerk/Administrator Joseph Kostecki on his appointment as Hamilton Township (Atlantic County) Administrator!



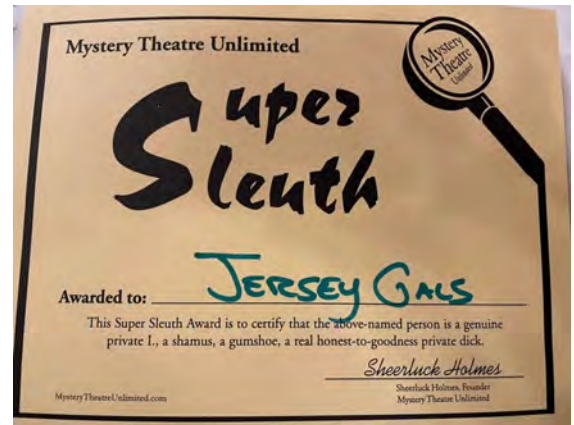
Jim Dray, Son of Retired Emerson Borough Clerk Carol Dray, has been hired as a Tight Ends Coach by the Chicago Bears!



IIMC NEWS

IIMC Region II Municipal Clerks Conference, Oglebay Resort - Wheeling, West Virginia, February 8-11, 2022

Ten Municipal Clerks represented NJ. A new tradition has been started where a plaque will be passed around from year to year to the State who has the most representation (Below are some photos of the IIMC Region II Conference).



UPCOMING IIMC EVENTS:

April 20, 2022-Rising Strong, How the Ability to Reset Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent & Lead by Brene Brown Hosted by: Warren County Municipal Clerks' Association Facilitated by: Janice Bates, MMC This dialogue is limited to 30 people. The book must be read prior to date of the Dialogue. Please return registration form with check in the amount of \$50 made payable to Warren County Municipal Clerks' Association. Mail to: Diane M Pflugfelder, RMC/MMC Liberty Township 349 Mountain Lake Road Great Meadows, NJ 07838. First 30 checks received will be granted access to participate in this Zoom Dialogue.



2022 76th IIMC Annual Conference: Little Rock, Arkansas, SUNDAY, MAY 22 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022



Municipal County Clerks Associations News/Updates

Somerset County Clerks Association



The Municipal Clerks Association of Somerset County held their first in person meeting since March of 2020, a holiday luncheon.

The Executive Board was sworn in for 2021-22 and collections of gift cards were gathered for donation to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County. Bridgewater Township Clerk Linda Doyle and Grace Karanja, Deputy Clerk delivered the donations.



Gloucester County Clerks Association

The Municipal Clerks' Association of Gloucester Reorganized on January 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom. Due to the surge in the Covid-19 Virus, we felt for the safety of our members to hold the Reorganization Meeting by a Zoom remote meeting. Dina Zawadski, Deptford Township, is the President, Kathy A. VanScoy, Borough of Paulsboro, is the Vice President, Debbie Pine, Elk Township, is the Secretary and Diane Malloy, Harrison Township, is the Treasurer.



Ocean County Clerks Association

Ocean County Clerk's Association Reorganization meeting was held January 25th at Ott's Good Earth Garden restaurant in West Creek, NJ.

Swearing them in - Armando Riccio, Esq.

Officers left to right:

Barnegat Township Clerk Donna Manno, Treasurer

Barnegat Twp. Dep. Clerk Andrea Christensen, Secretary

Little Egg Harbor Twp. Clerk Susan Farrell, President

Missing - Antoinette "Toni" Jones, Pt. Pleasant Borough Clerk, Vice President

Mr. Riccio did a presentation on Personnel issues, including Handbook & Policy Manual requirements. CEU's in Prof. Development were given.

Middlesex County Clerks Association

The Middlesex County Clerks Association nominated and Swore-In the following board members for 2022:

Norma Carbin, President/Treasurer – Deputy Clerk of South Brunswick

Cheryl Sharkey, Secretary –Deputy Clerk of Woodbridge Township

Debra Rubin, Sergeant in Arms-Township Clerk of Cranford

Sussex County Clerks Association

Sussex County Municipal Clerks' Association Holiday Lunch Meeting at the North Shore House in Stillwater, New Jersey on December 9, 2021 (All Pictured Below)



Municipal County Clerks Associations News/Updates

Bergen County Clerks Association



2021 Bergen County Municipal Clerks' Association President Stephanie Evans (at the podium) administers the oath of office to 2022 BCMCA Officers (L-R) Secretary Kelley Halewicz (Waldwick), President Gina Kim (Palisades Park), Vice-President Marie Quinones-Wilson (Bergenfield), and Treasurer Yancy Wazirmas (Englewood) at the BCMCA Annual Holiday Meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at Seasons Restaurant in Washington Township, New Jersey.



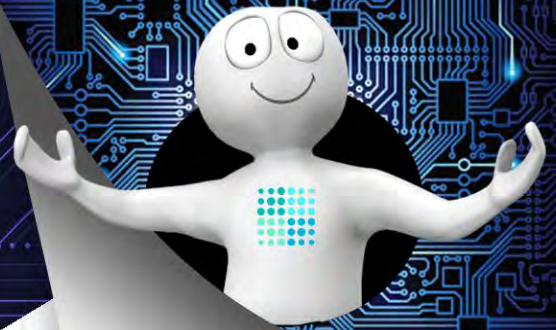
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Did you know???

Daniel's Law Update:

Daniel's Law has been revised and is expected to be signed into law soon. Named for the son of a New Jersey federal judge who was killed by a deranged litigant, Daniel's Law is designed to limit the disclosure of the home addresses of judicial officers, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and immediate family members of each who are residing in the same household. The big change is that there is now a process to be administered by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) by which a protected official must make an application in order to request protection under the law. The legislature created a process for this, including providing funding and authorizing the state to hire a consultant to create a web-based portal for submission of requests. DCA will receive, review, and either approve or deny all applications, and there will be carve-outs for notices for development applications under the Municipal Land Use Law; election petitions and other materials; homes sales, lien, encumbrance and other real estate recordings; class action notifications; and other "legal, promotional, or official notice which would otherwise be provided to the person..." The Department of Banking and Insurance is also empowered to issue rules and regulations within eighteen months consistent with the new law. The law forbids local government agencies from "knowingly" engaging in the "post, repost, publish or republish on the Internet of the home address" of someone who has applied and been approved by DCA under the law. Anyone who violates the law knowingly is liable for a \$1,000 fine plus reasonable attorney's fees and punitive damages.

Below is a decision involving the discretionary authority of a Municipal Clerk with respect to gauging signatures on ballot initiatives and voting matters. It is a cautionary lesson and was "published," meaning it is binding statewide precedent for all Municipal Clerks.

The issue in the case was evaluating the similarity of signatures on a petition as compared to the voter registration logs. While the standard is discretionary for Clerks, the court has relaxed it somewhat in favor of inclusion of signatures.

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION

GOVERNMENT

[Twp. of Montclair Comm. of Petitioners v. Twp. of Montclair](#), Appellate Division, Judge Fisher

Defendant township appealed from the judgment of the trial court. Defendant had enacted an ordinance adopting rent regulations. Plaintiffs wished to challenge the ordinance in the next election. Due to the State of Emergency imposed for the COVID-19 pandemic that banned door-to-door signature gathering, plaintiffs set up a website that allowed voters in the Township to read the ordinance and referendum petition before proceeding to a signature page where voters were required to provide the statutorily required information along with an electronic signature. After obtaining the required registered voter signatures, plaintiffs filed the referendum petition with the Township Clerk. However, the Clerk rejected over a hundred signatures, concluding that the voter's e-signature did not match the signature in the voter registration system. The Clerk calculated that plaintiffs' petition was short by 106 signatures. Plaintiffs provided updated e-signatures that were again rejected by the Township Clerk on grounds that they did not match the pen-and-ink signatures in the voter system. Plaintiffs filed suit, arguing that the Clerk's decision was arbitrary. The trial court ultimately ruled in favor of plaintiffs, ruling that the Clerk's grounds for rejection were arbitrary and capricious as plaintiffs' petition met the statutory requirements. On appeal, the defendant argued that the uncontested facts showed that the Clerk had rejected signatures that did not resemble the voters' signatures in the voter system. The court rejected the defendant's argument and affirmed the trial court. The court noted that the referendum petition statute merely required that petition signers be qualified voters, and had no requirement that the appearance of voters' signatures match that in the voter registration records. (Approved for Publication)

Agendas are permanent records and are to be kept for infinity-they are not to be discarded.

New Jersey recently enacted Assembly Bill No. 2877. In general, the Act requires that a creditor that has initiated a foreclosure proceeding on commercial property, within 10 days of initiating the proceeding, notify the Municipal Clerk where the property is located that a foreclosure has been filed against the property. The Act also requires the Municipal Clerk or other responsible local official to notify a foreclosing creditor in the event that a commercial property in foreclosure becomes vacant or if the exterior of the property is found to be a nuisance or in violation of any applicable state or local code.

Did You Know???

Election Updates:

Police Officers will no longer be permitted to stand within 100 feet of a polling place or ballot drop box under a new law signed by Gov. Phil Murphy on January 18, 2022.

The new law includes both on-duty and off-duty law enforcement but would still permit local and county police to assist in the transportation of ballots and to enter polling locations in the event of an emergency.

Election boards are now barred from requesting law enforcement assistance at a polling place.

The new prohibition does not prevent officers from voting, nor does it prevent officers from remaining in their homes if those fall within the 100-foot limit.

Raffle participants are not permitted to purchase raffles of any kind with electronic payment options such as PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, Credit Card squares, etc. If a participant wants to purchase a raffle they must continue with the old fashion way of payment via cash or check.

Some IMPORTANT Election day reminders!!!!

19:62-9 Open hours of office of Municipal Clerk on election days.

9. The office of the Municipal Clerk shall be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the day of an election to provide replacement ballots or provisional ballots to voters, receive voted ballots being deposited in person by voters and permit individuals with disabilities to vote using a voting machine that is fully accessible to such individuals. During this time, such appropriate staff shall be available for election purposes at the office of the Municipal Clerk as may be required by the County Board of Elections to ensure the proper administration of the election process.

(Even if your municipality is closed on Election day, you are working!)

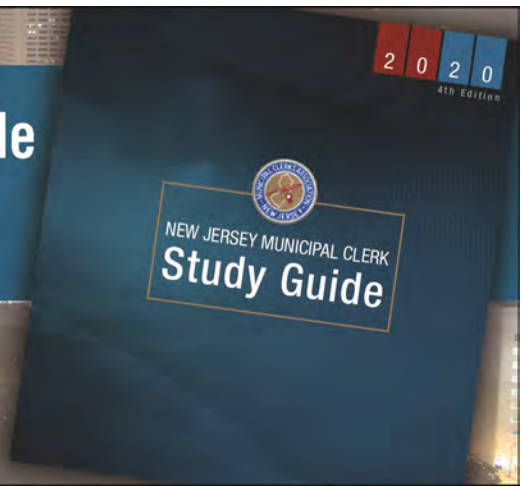
19:18-3. Municipal Clerk's office open until all ballot boxes delivered; record of times of delivery

The Clerk of the municipality shall attend his office on election day, or appoint one of the clerks in his office to act for him, and keep his office open from the time the polls shall be closed until all the ballot boxes used at the various polls in the municipality at such election shall have been delivered at his office.

The Clerk of the municipality or his subordinate whom he may have appointed to act in his stead shall enter in a book to be kept for that purpose the exact time when each ballot box may be delivered at such office, the district whence it was brought, names of the members of the district board delivering it, and the name of the Police Officer or other witness who may accompany them, and any other particulars he may deem important; such book shall be filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk and be preserved by him for two years.



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Message from President Kim Marie White



They say the third time is the charm, and I hope so as this is the third time, I have written this President's message! The first attempt was before the start of the conference, as information needed to be submitted to the Quill Editor by certain dates and took precedence. During the conference, I started to re-write, but had little time to work on it and needed to wait until the conference ended. What a high coming off that conference! I am still in awe of the amazing job the conference team did to take my vision and bring it to life. It is important to mention the team that made the conference so amazing. If it wasn't for the work by these special individuals the conference would not have been what it was. Thank you to; Michele Seigfried, Co-Chairperson – Township of Robbinsville, Linda Semus, Co-Chairperson – Township of Mansfield, Doreen Cali – Borough of Roselle Park (Retired), Daina Dale - Borough of Harvey Cedars, April Claudio – Borough of Belmar, Vinnie Buttiglieri – Township of Ocean (Retired), Laurie Gompf – Township of Hopewell, Kim Macellaro – Township of Ewing, Debra Sopronyi – Borough of Hightstown (Retired), Susan Jackson – Township of New Hanover, Mary Picariello – Township of North Hanover, Mary Alice Brown – Township of Woodland, Allan Susen – Borough of Haledon and Barbara Ilaria – Borough of Manasquan.

I would like to thank everyone that registered and came to the conference and the fact that we had 44 first time registrants is amazing! I was able to take a photo with each new RMC, so please contact me if you would like to have it. One of the many special highlights from the conference was that I had the pleasure of teaching these new Municipal Clerks. They are no longer just my former students; they are also now my colleagues.

Thank you to our Exhibitors who attended. And many thanks for all the sponsorships we received! The conference speakers were simply incredible, and I will forever cherish them. I loved how they incorporated my theme into their power points or mentioned it somewhere during their presentations. The keynote speaker Pete Blank was energetic, knew what a Municipal Clerk was and what we do. He interacted so well with the audience to keep our attendees very engaged.

Not being in person for two years had it lows, but this was absolutely one of the best feelings to have us all together learning, while we navigated down that yellow brick road. So many people stopped me to tell me how much they were discovering, while socializing and creating professional friendships. Even after the conference I got emails, phone calls and text messages from people to tell me how much they had enjoyed the Conference. To everyone that reached out to tell me, thank you! How about that Clerk of the year Allan Susen from Haledon Borough...he had no idea it was him until the very end. Congratulations to him, and it was very well deserved indeed!

My time as President of the MCANJ has been so humbling, and I hope I have inspired some of you to get involved. When Lori was speaking she mentioned that OPRA reform is coming, and after twenty years I am going to work to help reform OPRA for us all. I know we won't be able to change everything that we don't like, however, it's a start in the right direction. I have had one meeting with a legislator who was very open to the ideas that I presented. We have a long way to go, but I am going to stay positive for us all. I will be sharing updates and information with President Elect Cafone along the way so she can update the membership accordingly.

For those that know (Have a Disney Day!).



2022 CLERK OF THE YEAR

Our Clerk of the Year recipient has made innumerable contributions to the Municipal Clerk's profession, which has made them an ideal candidate. This person has been a Clerk since the 90s.

Their willingness to jump to help anywhere it is needed never goes unnoticed and their vast knowledge of the profession helps other Municipal Clerks.

This person is truly a public servant and is dedicated to the profession and their municipality as they were elected to serve on their Governing Body before becoming part of the Municipal Clerk's Office. This person also serves as an Administrator.

Our recipient has served on numerous committees, both for the MCANJ and IIMC for decades, serving as chair or co-chair many times. To name a few:

Various Conference Committees, Membership Committee, the Peer Alliance for Learning, the Records Committee, 75th Anniversary Committee, Education Committee and a representative on the MCANJ County Advisory Board.

A recipient of the L. Manual Hirshblond Service Award and was the 2018 IIMC Award recipient for their many years of service to the IIMC Foundation.

They have served on the MCANJ Executive Board and became President of MCANJ in 2003 along with being a former IIMC Region 2 Director.

Married for 43 years, this person has 4 children and 9 grandchildren. He enjoys cooking, traveling, gardening and fishing. Please allow us to introduce our Clerk of the Year **Allan Susen of Haledon Borough !!!!**



Congratulations Allan!



"FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO YOUR EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS"





MCANJ Cocktail Party



Newly Licensed Registered Municipal Clerks

Jennifer Ader

Amari Allah

Nichole Almanza

Sean Asay

Emily Bowman

Nancy Brown

Carolynn Budd

Douglas Cabana

Kerry Callery

Denise Capparelli

Kelly Coles

Larissa Chen

Kimberely Cuspilich

Ojetti Davis

Shannon Elton

Lisa Esposito

Catherine Finkler

Richard Franchetta

Matthew Gallelo

Kristine Gould

Patricia Gravatt

Alyssa Guglietti

John Hallanan III

Donna Hands

Stephanie Haver

Samatha Hollberg

Michelle Hutchinson

Danielle Ingves

Ashley Jolly

Parameswari Kannan

Roxanne Landy

Sherry Marnell

Sandra McCafferty

Kathleen McLeer

Donna Messina

Jessie Moehlman

Frank Pannucci

Robin Ray

Kristin Rohner

Alison Sabo

Lisette Sanchez

Jennifer Santiago

Thomas Scanlon

Jessica Short

John Schmidt

Pamela Scott-Forman

Robert Smith

Melissa Tigar

Suzanne Walsh

Shonta Watson

Francis Weston



CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERKS

Beth Brothman, Borough of Andover

Barbara Disporto, Borough of Maywood

Magdalena Giandomenico, Borough of
Park Ridge

Kathleen Hart, Township of Millstone

Gina Kim, Borough of Palisades Park

Danielle Lewis, Township of Morris

MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERKS

Michele Bobrowski, Township of Alexandria

Christine Demiris, Borough of New Milford

Courtney Fitzpatrick, Borough of Lincoln Park

Paula Geletei, City of Atlantic City

Debra Sopronyi, Borough of Hightstown (Retired)



Newly Licensed Registered Municipal Clerks-continued



Newly Licensed Registered Municipal Clerks-continued



Congratulations!

A Message From Incoming President Denise Cafone

Good Evening and thank you all for being here tonight. Thank you Mayor Gasparini for administering the Oath of Office and thank you to Chris Durkin, Essex County Clerk for presenting me with a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners of Essex County.

After 2 long years of zoom meetings and webinar classes I am so grateful we can be in person for this conference. It truly makes a difference when we can all connect together, face to face, after continuing to navigate and adapt to the ever-changing times during this pandemic.

I would like to thank Kim-Marie, our outgoing President, for the amazing conference she and her conference committee have put together. The countless hours of planning and preparing have brought us to where we are today. Your leadership as President has been second to none. We are incredibly lucky to have traveled the yellow brick road with you as our fearless leader.

It is truly an honor and privilege to stand before you and represent not only Essex County Clerks, but represent ALL of the Municipal Clerks in the State of New Jersey as your President-Elect. Thank you all for your support throughout my journey serving on the Executive Board.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Essex County Clerks for their support. When I initially considered becoming a part of the MCANJ, unsure of the venture I was to embark on, I sought the advice of my mentors:

Harold Wiener of Irvington

Liz Fritzen of Maplewood

Louise Palagano of Bloomfield

Cynthia Brown of East Orange

And Steve Berry, Retired from Glen Ridge.



Chris Durkin, Essex County Clerk (Bottom Middle)

A Message From Incoming President Denise Cafone



Mayor Gasparini of
Fairfield Township



Essex County Clerks



Their support has been unwavering. Without their and my family's encouragement and guidance, I would not be standing here before you.

I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge the overwhelming support I have received from my Mayor, James Gasparini, and my Administrator, Joseph Catenaro. **THANK YOU!**

I would also like to acknowledge my Deputy, Kathleen Tolosi, my Assistant Margie Pierce.

This evening, we have several Clerks who have received their "RMC" Registered Municipal Clerk Certification. Many of us here have stood in their shoes, proud, anxious, excited and unsure of the challenge that lies ahead. I applaud you all for your perseverance and bravery and I welcome you to our wonderful association.

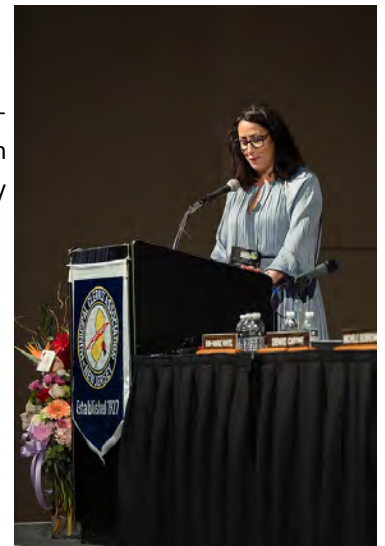
I honestly believe by being accepting and approachable, we can ensure the continued success not only of our State and local associations, but also to carry on the legacy and reputation of the Municipal Clerk. "Seasoned Clerks", and that includes myself, I challenge you to think back to when we began our careers and remember the mentors that led the way for us. I, myself will be embracing this challenge throughout the year as President. We all have something to offer whether we are "seasoned" or just beginning. Our unique experiences can be incredibly valuable to each other.

REMEMBER, there is only "1" Municipal Clerk in each municipality, **"IT'S A SMALL WORLD"**.

In closing, I would like to thank my family for their love and support, my father Joe, my step-mother Pat, my children, Meghan, Paul, Jenna, Marissa, my daughter-in law Bianca and son-in law Mike and of course my new precious grand-daughter "Camila". Lastly; thank you to you my husband Paul who has supported me from the beginning of my career. You are my rock.

Thank you again and I look forward to being your President.

Denise



A Message From Council Member Dominic F. Santillo, Eastampton Township (Burlington)

Although I've never been to this conference before, let me start by saying, IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN PERSON IN ATLANTIC CITY!

It surely has been a challenging two years for all of us, but I'm glad to see so many of you here tonight. As Ms. White mentioned, I apologize as our Mayor Mr. Anthony Zeno has been pulled away to an important work project and cannot attend this evening. Having served as Mayor last year and worked alongside Kim-Marie for now 3 years and 3 months on Council, I want to commend her for a job well done leading the conference team to put together this great event.

After 14 years in East Windsor, she moved south to Eastampton in 2008. After 10 years "learning the Township," Kim took the reins as Township Manager in 2018. While she's the only Township Manager under my tenure as Council Member, our more senior Council Members all joke about the revolving door and how many Managers she trained through the years. I think it's like five or six?

In addition to "those 40 hours a week," she's a mom to two teenage boys and two dogs, has a loving family... and a Sean. If that wasn't enough, she has like 15-20 initials after her name with all her roles and certifications: C-M-C, M-M-C, Q-P-A, C-P-M, M-C-A-N-J P-R-E-S-I... And I'm sure that a few of you out there have had Ms. White as an instructor at Rutgers University for your clerks courses? Any? Let's see your show hands. Very impressive.

What I love about professional associations is the continued learning. I'm sure the older we all get, the less perfect we realize that we are. The thing that's great, is that just like the Garden State Parkway, we have to keep working on ourselves – no matter how inconvenient to the rest of the people out there! I kid, I kid. But as I think about Kim-Marie and all she's accomplished through the years, I know that while her term here as President may be coming to a close, she certainly will help the next generation of future leaders of this organization, and the next generation of New Jersey Municipal Clerks for years to come.

Now Kim, and I'm sure many of you deal with people like me. Maybe a teacher or football coach or a state worker or someone like me – an IT guy! They get elected every 3-4 years that you have to train and educate on New Jersey municipal government. I attended a program called American Legion Jersey Boys State back in 1996 – then returned to staff and educated staff and high school juniors about local, county, and state government. I've been a part of that program for 25 years, but I'm still learning. Kim is teaching me. And in return, I'm helping her by bringing my skills to the table and challenging her to be a better planner, a better leader. And to be better at Excel Spreadsheets!

So my advice to each of you, is look for those opportunities to help each other to work with someone new to make New Jersey and your communities better. To run better. To be more efficient. To be forward thinking and most importantly to do it for the right reason; and to do it with respect for the office and each other.

Congrats on your term Madam President, and best of luck to each of you in finding those opportunities.



Contact Information for the 2021/2022 MCANJ Executive Board



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Burlington County
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Borough of Haddonfield
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Hamilton Township
Mercer County
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Meet our New Incoming Secretary for 2022/2023-Nancy Bretzger of Peapack & Gladstone

Nancy Bretzger is a resident of Randolph. She is the Borough Clerk/Administrator for the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone. Between her and her husband they have 6 children and 4 grandchildren.

Nancy volunteered for her children's various sports and activities while they were growing up. She has been working for the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone for 4 ½ years.

Nancy started working in 2007 part time in the Fairfield Clerks office and then in 2010 went to work for North Caldwell as their Acting Clerk and received her certification in 2013. She was also the Zoning Board Secretary for North Caldwell as well as the Program Coordinator for Municipal Alliance for Fairfield for 3 years and for North Caldwell for 10 years.



Executive Director Joel Popkin
Email: executivedirector@MCANJ.us
Retired Clerk-Neptune City
Monmouth County

REFLECTIONS OF A VETERAN MUNICIPAL CLERK: Things I wish I hadn't said, or I said differently

By: Richard Lustgarten

In a conversation with a new Municipal Attorney; "Are you sure you don't want my help in drafting this complicated ordinance?" "No?" "Ok, you do it." One week after passage, Judge issues temporary restraining order.

In attending a meeting with very high level State and County officials. "I hear what everyone's said, but I have a better way."

To a somewhat nasty resident: "I've got tenure so don't try my patience."

A resident wants to see the Clerk's office in operation, and the Clerk says sure and invites him for next day at 8:30. The resident shows up with a camera, tape recorder, pads and pencils and four friends----and lunch.

Woman comes into the Clerk's office and says, "The Mayor says I can get a ticket fixed here." Clerk jokingly says, "You've got the wrong office, that would be the Court Clerk's job"-----Nooooo.

To a distressed resident, "Since you have to go to work, you can leave your toddler and cat in my office for the day."

"Sure Mayor, I'll give up two of my Bermuda vacation days to go to the Water Policy Control Commission seminar to listen to "Exciting New Ideas in Pipe Connectors"---in Doylestown, Pa."

To Council: "I'll be glad to oversee the updating of the administrative code along with my other duties. Just give me two weeks."

"I can save the town legal fees. I don't mind negotiating the police contract myself. No problem."

"Gee, this new computer is great. I don't need a secretary or a deputy. I can do it all myself."

To a resident applicant : "The Board secretary is out sick. I can review the variance application for you."

To the school board secretary: "Ya know, together we could do a lot of mischief."

"Of course I won't tell the rest of the Council what you're planning. At least I think I won't."

To a resident wanting to pay cash for a tax payment: "I'll take it for you since the collector is out to lunch." Noooo

Mayor says to Clerk after long meeting. "Some of us are going out for coffee, do you want to come?" Clerk responds, "I don't think so. I've had to listen to all of you for the last three hours and I think that's enough for one day."

OPRA requests. "Of course we love 'em. Why do you ask?"

Clarity about devotion or obsession for your job is having a fine Cabernet or a fresh box of Krispy Kremes



Incoming Executive Board for 2022/2023

Pictured from top left: Joel Popkin, Executive Director, Incoming Secretary Nancy Bretzger of Peapack Gladstone Borough, Incoming 2 VP Lucy Samuelson of City of Somers Point, Incoming Treasurer Deanna Bennett of Haddonfield Borough. Pictured from bottom left: Incoming 1 VP Michele Bobrowski of Alexandria Township, Incoming Past President Kim-Marie White, and Incoming President Denise Cafone.



The President's Award was presented to John Mitch, the Municipal Clerk for the Township of Woodbridge. John Mitch has dedicated so much of his time to the MCANJ and did so charmingly. President White joked in her speech that he is the one who got her into this mess. John saw something in her that she didn't see in herself, and she thanked him for that.

Friend of the Municipal Clerk Award Recipient Amy Cosnoski on behalf of her niece who designed this years conference logo.





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MCANJ Annual Dinner



EXHIBITORS

MCANJ extends its most sincere thanks to our Exhibitors

President Kim-Marie White's State of the Association Address

Good morning, it is wonderful to see you all here! The MCANJ currently has 728 members, and of that number 275 are legal defense members. I can't thank you enough for joining our Association. I am so excited to announce that this year we have 44 first-time conference registrants which is so fantastic!

I would like to take a minute to thank all of you that volunteered to be on our boards and committees. Without your service on these boards, the Executive Board would not be able to handle all our various tasks. So I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Another special thank you to the County Association Presidents and Advisory Members. Thank you for jumping on the zoom meetings so I could update you all with important information. It certainly did not go unnoticed.

If you ever wanted to become involved and maybe you are nervous, please reach out to me or anyone on the Executive Board so we can give you the details. Please get involved with the MCANJ in some way or another, as it does make a difference. Not only in your career, but also in your life. For those Counties that donated to the tricky tray, your generous donations blew me away. I had so much fun shopping for the other items. I hope everyone had a chance to check them all out.

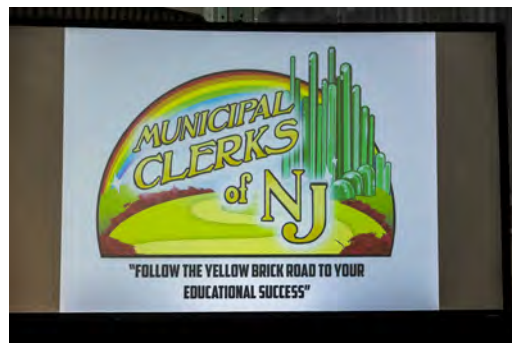
During the past two years, what did the Coronavirus teach us? We all need to think differently, on smaller scales, or sometimes larger scales, which led to new ways of approaching the daily challenges we face. The flow of information was constantly changing and of course everyone looked to the Municipal Clerk for guidance. As Clerks we had to adapt at the snap of a finger with insight, knowledge and experience so the community could best be served with little or no impact. How could we continue to provide services to our residents when our municipal building was closed? Some of us put drop boxes outside of our buildings and enhanced availability of online processes. Kudos to us all as we kept the municipality operating! Although I have 100 days left as President before handing the reins over to President-Elect Cafone, I still have some unfinished business to attend to. I will be sifting through the SOPs to define any inconsistencies and present changes to the Executive Board.

I would like to enhance our online registrations for membership applications, legal defense applications, conference registrations and anything else we need. We are also looking at redesigning our website to make it more user-friendly. I know it won't all be done by the time my presidency ends, but I will be on the Board for another full year to keep working on it.

I was recently in West Virginia for the Region II Conference and I met so many new Clerks and formed additional friendships. Those bonds will forever be with me and that is what I hope for all of you. Introduce yourself, meet new people, network with other Clerks. The saying "strength is in numbers" exists for a reason. The more Clerks you know, the larger your information network will be. The conference team hit it out of the park with speakers for this conference. That may have been said before; however, the speakers keep getting better and better. The entire conference team has worked their butts off since July to make my vision from five years ago come to life and my appreciation is immense.

Some might be wondering why I chose the theme of the Wizard of Oz. Not only is it my favorite movie, but it teaches us that we must let go of our expectations of who we think we need to be for others and embrace our authentic selves. All of us work with someone like the characters in the Wizard of Oz (someone who lacks heart, is stubborn, set in their ways, is an overthinker and overachiever), but at the end of the day we are Dorothy. We push the boundaries and in the future, we are the Wizard! Embrace being the Municipal Clerk and step into who you are.

It has been a very rewarding experience for me as a member on the Executive Board and is full of memories and people I will cherish. I thank you all for being here with us and I really hope you are enjoying the exhibitors and the conference.



A Message From President Kim-Marie White

I have often said I was supposed to become a chef, as the passion for cooking grew each year as I watched and learned from my mom and my grandmothers. Eventually they would allow me to prep and cook with them. The plan was to attend Johnson and Wales in Rhode Island to study culinary arts when I was offered a full-time position with East Windsor Township. Who would have thought that 29 years later it would have led me here, as the President of the best association of Municipal Clerks?

In June 2008 I left East Windsor to become the Municipal Clerk in Eastampton Township. Eastampton is such a unique place, and I am happy to have been a part of the growth and expansion over the last fourteen years. It's my forever home...well, until I retire. As I settled into my new position I also decided to attend a meeting of the Burlington County Clerks Association. Patty Hunt, Donna Ryan, Kathy Hoffman, and Pat Ryan lured me in. In 2011 I was nominated to be the President of the Burlington County Clerks Association, and I still serve in that role. Once I accepted the nomination, they just won't let me step down!



Once on the Burlington County Clerks Association I knew I needed to be a part of the Municipal Clerks Association of New Jersey. The MCANJ has been a part of my life for so long it's hard to remember a time without the association, all the other Municipal Clerks that are members, and the conferences we have attended over the years. In business they always say to not take things personally. I find that hard to do when there's true passion for what you do. I only have one speed. To be as efficient, effective and quick as possible without reinventing the wheel.



I cannot begin to express how humbling it has been serving as your President, and I am very excited that I still have four months left before handing the reigns over to President Elect Cafone. During my remaining time as President, I will be focusing on a binder called the Standard Operating Procedures (the SOP's) which is near and dear to each of us on the Executive Board. When Eileen and I would travel to Liberty Township for meetings I would sit in the passenger's seat reviewing materials and reciting the SOP's as if I was an audible book. When you are on Executive Board that is our "how to" book. Similar to the NJAC, and for those of you that don't know what that means...it's the New Jersey Administrative Code, which is basically the how to do detailed version. Almost every conversation with a member of the executive board ends in ok, I'll check the SOP's.

I can honestly say that the Executive Board and the members of the MCANJ have a terrific Executive Director, Joel Popkin. Joel is such a classy guy, and he inspires me each and every day. I talk to Joel at least once a day, if not more. Joel was one of my first Municipal Clerk instructors and I knew from that first day that I wanted to teach, and Rutgers afforded me that opportunity. I LOVE teaching as it allows me to extend my passion to future Municipal Clerks and MCANJ members. So many students remain in contact with me after they have become RMC's and my network of Clerk's continues to grow each year!



Many people don't know what our jobs entail, or how precise we need to be to follow the laws in place. Some also don't understand how complicated a simple OPRA can be, or how easy it is to miss a deadline. As Clerks we often will take on as much as we can because we care, because we are loyal, and let's face it...we like the challenges.

It's certainly not like it was years ago when there was a little time to chit chat with another Clerk on the phone or have some downtime. I disliked those slow times in the office, but now I long for a slow day. All I want to do is organize my files and purge some records. A Municipal Clerk's job is not about pushing around papers!



A Message From President Kim-Marie White-continued

The distinguished political scientist Professor William Bennett Munro wrote in 1934 one of the first textbooks on municipal administration and stated:

"No other office in municipal service has so many contracts. It serves the mayor, the city council, the city manager (when there is one), and all administrative departments without exception. All of them call upon it, almost daily, for some service or information. Its work is not spectacular, but it demands versatility, alertness, accuracy, and no end of patience. The public does not realize how many loose ends of city administration this office pulls together." These words, written more than 88 years ago, are even more appropriate today.

One of my sayings when I walk into work is, "What fresh hell awaits me today?" This is just light-hearted banter of course because each day is a new opportunity to excel. I push myself to achieve more than the day, week, month or even year before.

There is no way I could have been the President of the MCANJ if my Governing Body had not been supportive. They recognized the length of my journey with the MCANJ over the years and understood the importance of my appointment as President. Yes, I must say I have a great group of Council Members, and I am not just saying that because two of them are here. I also need to thank my staff for making it all work on the days I wasn't readily available, and for their constant support and encouragement.

I would like to take a moment to thank the incredible conference team for the amazing job they have done putting on such a great conference. It takes a good six months to plan and get all the moving parts going in the right direction. They all came together and worked as a unit from the very first meeting we had, and I knew I had picked the right individuals to get the job done. Everyone had their own part, and it has been a blast! Michele and Linda, thank you for being my co-chairs. The conference team are the ones that deserve all the credit. I also need to thank the retired clerks who came to help at the registration desk. So, let's give them all a hand. We also have 44 first time conference registrant attendees this year, and that is the highest number of "newbies" that I believe we have ever had.

First, I cannot thank my parents enough for moving from the city atmosphere to suburbia. I am so very fortunate that you were so aware and down to earth and realized it was time to move. I would not be standing here before you all this evening if it wasn't for them, so thank you! To my baby sister Danielle, I know it was a little hard for us to spend time together this year due to all my obligations and I'm happy to say you will get plenty of time with me now. I need to give kudos to my sons Kyle and Zachary and my better half Sean for understanding how important the MCANJ was for me. I was often on the phone while trying to get dinner on the table or while driving with them in the car. If it wasn't Eastampton work, it was MCANJ work.

Thank you all for attending this evening!



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DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The deadline for People Page submissions for the July 2022 issue is June 6, 2022. Please send People Page news to:

Drew Pavlica, Retired Municipal Clerk, City of Garfield,

via Email at peoplepage@MCANJ.us

The General News Articles deadline is June 7, 2022, and may be sent to:

Michele Bobrowski, Alexandria Township, 242 Little York-Mt. Pleasant Rd. Milford, NJ 08848 or via email to:

clerk@alexandrianj.gov

Questions or comments regarding this or any issue of *the Quill* may be directed to the

Editor, Michele Bobrowski,

by calling (908) 996-7071 ext. 210 or using the contact information shown above.

Articles for submission should be prepared in Microsoft Word, using Calibri 10-point font.