



PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE
EILEEN GORE



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MCANJ 2020/2021
REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN



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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A
MUNICIPAL CLERK BY
MICHELLE LYNN
SEIGFRIED



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Anecdotes and
Gaffes
By:
Richard Lustgarten,
Esq.



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Message from President Eileen Gore-Hamilton Township

Mercer County

EMAIL: President@njclerks.org

On July 1, 2020, I will begin my role as President of the Municipal Clerks' Association of NJ. I will also be celebrating my 40th year of public service to my hometown of Hamilton Township (Mercer County). I can't think of a better way to celebrate this milestone than by serving as your President. Being President of such a professional and dedicated organization is truly an honor, so I thank you for allowing me to have such a privilege to lead this great Association as we continue to face the on-going challenges in 2020 because I know that with your help, we will be successful.

While outlining my goals earlier in 2020, I was excited about the endeavors that will lie ahead. While I knew that some changes will come as they always do, I never, ever, expected the new decade would bring our Country and State to a grinding halt with the coronavirus pandemic that prompted schools to shut down, employees to work remotely, and people to remain inside their homes in an attempt to contain the spread of the disease. Days began to blend together as people tried to adjust to a new way of life under quarantine which has made other events in 2020 seem like a long lost memory. I think it's safe to say that we have all stared back at our televisions to a chorus of voices bringing us information that sometimes brought us fear, but was and continues to be laced with hope as well. But from that pain and fear came strength, and that strength gave way to courage, and that courage gave us wisdom and perseverance in knowing that we will see this through. So whatever distraction you use to get through these times, whether it be books, binge-watching your all-time favorite or new favorite shows, art, music, social media, or maybe even a drink or two (or three on a really bad day), we all look forward to a time that our love for our family and friends can once again give way to an actual hug, a kiss, the holding of another's hand or even the holding of a new baby that we have yet to meet. It is my hope that you and your family have been able to stay safe through this and that continues to hold true for you and your family. And while I know that might not be the reality for some, please accept my best wishes for continued good health, and sympathies from the entire MCANJ family, for all of you affected by the loss of a loved one from this horrible disease.

To my colleagues on the Executive Board – 1st Vice-President Kim Marie White (Eastampton Township), 2nd Vice President Denise Cafone (Fairfield Township), Treasurer Michele Bobrowski (Alexandria Township), Secretary Lucy Samuelsen (Somers Point) and Immediate Past President Diane Pflugfelder (Liberty Township), along with Joel Popkin, our infamous Executive Director, and our Attorney Thomas Prol, I look forward to working together to move the association forward. I know that we will undoubtedly be busy this year as we continue to represent your interests to the best of our ability. I would also like to acknowledge and thank out-going Immediate Past President Kevin Galland for his many years of service to the association. Kevin has always made himself available to many of us and his advice and guidance was very much appreciated. To the Advisory Board members, committee members, retired volunteers and Past Presidents, I thank you for continuing to serve MCANJ and providing invaluable institutional knowledge that helps us learn from the past as we plan for the future.

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EDITORIAL STAFF FY 2020/ 2021

Editor: Michele Bobrowski, Alexandria Twp. (908) 996-7071 ext. 210 E-mail: clerk@alexandrianj.gov
Contributing Editor: Drew Pavlica , City of Garfield (973) 340-2000 ext. 4012 E-mail: apavlica@garfieldnj.org
People Page: Pam Borek, Hillsborough Twp. (908) 369-4313 E-mail: pborek@hillsborough-nj.org
Advertising: Joel Popkin, MCANJ Executive Director (732) 609-6441 E-mail: joelpopkin@optonline.net
Day in the Life of a Municipal Clerk: Michele Seigfried, Robbinsville (609) 259-3600 Email: micheles@robbinsville.net

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Hudson:	Alberto Cabrera, Guttenberg Twp.	Union:	Available
Hunterdon:	Ceil Covino, Clinton Township	Warren:	Kristin Shipps, Knowlton Township
Mercer:	Kim Macellaro, Ewing Township		

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President Eileen Gore's Message-continued from Page 1

To each and every one of you, I would like to ask that you please consider joining a committee that might be of interest to you. You will be able to find a listing of the committees along with a description of the functions and responsibilities on our website, so please take a moment to review and contact me relative to any you wish to join. And while you might think that it will take too much to be involved, in reality it will take no more than a few hours of your time to be a successful committee member. Just recently, we have purchased a subscription to ZOOM that will enable committee meetings to be held via online video in order to make it easier for members to attend without leaving their office when job duties won't allow. This invitation is also being extended to the county associations to use in order to conduct their meetings, so I hope that the county presidents reach out to the Executive Board to make use of this technology. One of my goals for this year is to be able to attend a meeting of each county and with the use of this technology, I am hoping to make this goal a reality. So please, anyone wishing to use our Zoom application, please reach out to 1st Vice President Kim Marie White who will act as the Zoom coordinator.

Another piece of technology that we would like to advance in assisting with our educational opportunities is *Mentimeter* which we were able to debut with the April webinars for which we received positive reviews along with the suggestions which we will incorporate into our future presentations and communications with our members. More information will follow in future email blasts where we will continue to introduce this software and it is hoped that you will enjoy this new path to learning. This software will also be made available to any county association should they so choose to use it as a learning tool during their meetings. If anyone is interested in utilizing the software, please reach out and I will be glad to share with your county.

New initiatives will certainly change the way we do business and these changes will only continue over time. With that said, rest assured that we will take the initiative to communicate professional development opportunities so that we may stay in the forefront of any such changes. So in addition to our email blasts, I encourage you to visit our website (njclerks.org) and our Facebook page regularly. Thanks to the efforts of Drew Pavlica (City of Garfield) and April Claudio (Belmar), our Facebook page is updated many times a day with important information from around the State that is very illuminating.

In the year ahead, we will continue to monitor legislation that could affect the Municipal Clerk. Two such issues are, the ever floating bills that seek to make changes to the OPRA and OPMA laws as sponsored by Senator Loretta Weinberg (Bergen). The MCANJ will continue to request a seat at the table to express our views and make recommendations to improve both bills to ensure such laws are equal and balanced for all parties. Another bill of interest is S2496 recently introduced by Senator Paul Sarlo (Bergen and Passaic) which will require the municipal clerk to receive voted mail-in ballots in order to avoid traveling to their county seat, or rely on the United States Postal Service which may be unreliable in the timely delivery of mail-in ballots. While amendments have been proposed to the original bill, the MCANJ, in conjunction with the NJLM, has continued to expressed their concerns relative to this bill and we will continue to keep you apprised. I should mention that that Senator did clarify that this bill would not become effective for the July 7th Primary, but rather for the November 3rd General Election. While that still doesn't bode well for municipal clerks, at least it will not be thrust upon us this for this primary election which we already have had to make some major adjustments as a result of executive orders issued by Governor Murphy. While there are certain to be some issues that will be faced during this election, I am confident that through the integrity and professionalism of New Jersey's municipal clerks, residents will be ensured every opportunity to cast their ballot.

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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. County Representatives should contact Michele Bobrowski, Treasurer at Treasurer@NJClerks.org. Please be sure to include the individual's name as it should appear on the engraved gift along with an address where it can be mailed. The request will take approximately 3 to 4 weeks to process, so 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.

Immediate Past President Diane M. Pflugfelder-Farewell Speech as the 2019/2020 MCANJ President

In January 2020 when I asked who remembered Y2K, I never anticipated joining you as a part of history a few months later adjusting to the COVID19 pandemic. It is so unreal how quickly our plans and intentions become amended beyond our means. Who would have thought?

Each and every New Jersey Municipal Clerk should take tremendous pride in your courage, adaptability and selfless dedication to your municipality. You have committed to the continued operation and public services of your offices during these challenging times for everyone. Your drive, determination, innovation and sheer willpower have conquered prior challenges (e.g. 9-11), and you will conquer this one too. In 2013, MCANJ President John Mitch stated “We may not be able to control the challenges we face, but we can control how we face the challenges.”

I want to thank you, the membership of MCANJ for allowing me to serve as your President these past twelve months. As incoming President in April 2019, I presented many new ideas and suggestions for FY2020. Some of my goals have been accomplished, some have not and some just went out of control.

The Executive Board and Constitution and Bylaws Committee reviewed the definitions of the MCANJ Committees and presented you, the membership with the consideration to vote on the consolidation of committees. You voted in favor of consolidation. The Executive Board also reviewed their housekeeping practices and updated filing of electronic documentation for a more efficient means of retrieval.

FY2020 exemplified your dedication to MCANJ with increased membership and member involvement. The e-blast and post card membership reminder was a success. MCANJ cannot be what it is without your input and involvement.

MCANJ has made communication within our membership a priority. Be it through e-blasts, Facebook, our website or monthly News blasts, we try to keep you informed on current events and matters of importance. I hope that you found the monthly MCANJ News e-blasts beneficial.

The FY 2020 LDF seminar was a great success. This was the first time MCANJ has ever had to reschedule the LDF seminar and maybe I should have seen that as a premonition for the future cancelation of events. Oh well. 75 LDF members registered for the seminar and received multiple CEUs. We thank Attorneys Jonathan N Frodella and Katrina L Campbell for sharing their expertise and enlightening us with a fun filled factual day.

The Executive Board attempted to coordinate regional meetings with multiple counties for the presentation of the Municipal Clerk’s role in the new FAST financial software. But, we all know how FAST went.

I opened the quarterly Advisory Board meetings and invited volunteers on all MCANJ committees to attend. I feel that it is important that all volunteers should be a part of what makes MCANJ tick. We are all equals for the success of MCANJ. The Executive Board could not do it without your support.

FY2020 also included the IIMC Region II Conference in January 2020. This was a most successful event with over 90 participants from PA, VA, MD, DE and NJ. The conference concluded in a very upbeat atmosphere and CEUs for RMC, CMC and MMC certifications were received by all. At the conclusion of this event, MCANJ remained in the black.

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SOCIAL MEDIA




Like us on Facebook –Municipal Clerk’s Association of NJ and visit our website at www.njclerks.org

RMC Certification Renewal Deadlines Extended

Local Finance Notice 2020-13/May 27, 2020

Extended Certification Renewal Deadlines All DLGS certifications, along with tax assessor certifications, with expiration dates occurring on or after May 15, 2020 have been temporarily extended one year. Renewal cycles commencing after the expiration of certifications temporarily extended pursuant to P.L. 2020, c. 34 shall revert to their original two and three-year statutory time periods. Please refer to the Appendix for a chart detailing the extended renewal cycles for all DLGS-licensed positions. If an unlicensed individual appointed as acting municipal clerk, temporary purchasing agent, temporary principal public works manager, or a temporary municipal or county chief financial officer is serving in that capacity as of May 15, 2020, that individual may be appointed for one additional year in that acting or temporary capacity, subject to Director approval. A local government must complete and submit to the Division the same application and questionnaire form ordinarily completed to seek an extension of acting status for the additional year for record keeping and consistency purposes. Please note that the two-year maximum for a private entity to temporarily serve in the capacity of a municipal finance officer is not altered by this law.

DLGS-Licensed Position	Current Statutory CEU Renewal Deadline	Extended CEU Renewal Deadline (by Cycle)	Next CEU Renewal Deadline (by Cycle) Following
Registered Municipal Clerk 	September 30, 2020	September 30, 2021	September 30, 2023
	October 31, 2020	October 31, 2021	October 31, 2023
	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2023
	April 30, 2021	April 30, 2022	April 30, 2024
	September 30, 2021	September 30, 2022	September 20, 2024
	October 31, 2021	October 31, 2022	October 31, 2024
	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2024
	April 30, 2022	April 30, 2023	April 30, 2025

Reminder-Don't forget to renew your 2020/2021 MCANJ Membership at njclerks.org

Municipal Clerks



COVID-19 Announcement

For public health reasons, Rutgers has directed that no face-to-face classes will be held and no events will meet at any on-campus or off-campus location through August 14. When information becomes available, students already registered in Center for Government Services classes will be sent updates at the email address provided at registration. For more information, visit <https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu>

Sat, July 11, 18, 25, August 1*	MC-4004-SU20-1	Information & Records Management	9:00am-4:00pm	Online via Zoom - All meetings are LIVE. *8/1 course will meet 9:00am-12:00pm.	\$635
Mon, July 13 – Sat, Aug 15	MC-4002-SU20-1	Local Elections Administration	9:00am-4:00pm	Online via Canvas -	\$635
Sat, Aug 1 – Sat, Aug 22	MC-4005-SU20-1	Municipal Clerk Review	9:00am-2:15pm	Online via Canvas -	\$635

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 pborek@hillsborough-nj.org, along with a picture and caption to be included in future editions of the Quill.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY:

The Borough of Helmetta named Municipal Clerk Sandy Bohinski as a Hometown Hero during Covid-19 for ensuring services were provided to the residents during the pandemic. Congratulations Sandy!!



SOMERSET COUNTY:

Congratulations to Edith Gil on her appointment as Watchung Borough Clerk! Edith began her position with the Borough on Monday, June 8th after being hired by the Borough Council in May.



Retired North Plainfield Borough Clerk Gloria Pflueger passed away on March 28th at the age of 88. Gloria was the Municipal Clerk for North Plainfield for 36 years. Deepest Sympathy to the family!

HUNTERDON COUNTY:



Condolences to the Family and Friends of Retired Clinton Town Clerk Lois D. Terreri who passed away on May 10, 2020. May She Rest in Peace.

PASSAIC COUNTY:



Congratulations Municipal Clerk/Administrator Kevin Galland on your retirement effective June 30th from Woodland Park. Enjoy Retirement and thank you for your service on the MCANJ Executive Board.

MONMOUTH COUNTY:

Congratulations Tammy Brown of Neptune City on earning her IIMC Certified Municipal Clerk Certification.

ESSEX COUNTY:



Congratulations Kevin Harris, Municipal Clerk of the Township of South Orange on earning his IIMC Master Municipal Clerk Certification.

BURLINGTON COUNTY:



Condolences to the Family and Friends of former Bordentown Township Municipal Clerk Jean King Blakeslee-Malpus on her recent passing.

Condolences to the Family and Friends of former Maplewood Municipal Clerk (1983-1988) Robert Gist on his passing on February 23, 2020.

SUSSEX COUNTY:

Condolences to the Family and Friends of former Hamburg and Har-dyston Clerk Laure Lyons Dyksen who passed away at her home on March 19, 2020 at the age of 63.

OCEAN COUNTY



Congratulations April Claudio, Municipal Clerk of Belmar on earning her Certified Municipal Clerk Certification through IIMC.

Congratulations!!!

President Eileen Gore's Message continued from Page 4

Unfortunately, our 2020 Education Conference "MCANJ Team Can" was unable to be held due to the pandemic, but I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Diane Pflugfelder because while we had to make the very difficult decision to cancel the conference, it did not prevent her from still being able to provide our membership with continuing education credits by way of webinars hosted through the NJ League of Municipalities webinar platform. So a big thank you to Diane and Danielle Holland (NJLM) for their concerted efforts in making that such a big success! We also have had to make changes to our normal way of conducting Association business, including our Executive Board meetings via Zoom and even the swearing-in of this year's officers.

The theme of the 2021 Education Conference is "New Paths to Successful Leadership", which will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel in Atlantic City on March 15-18, 2021. The Education Conference Committee is coming together to bring to you what is hoped to be an enjoyable conference complete with new additions that we believe will be memorable for all. We as municipal clerks are the pathway connecting residents and their government. We are frequently sought after for direction and assistance and with our deep knowledge of local government, we have the ability to directly affect the lives of our residents. Serving both Mayor and Council, we as Municipal Clerks are those whose governing bodies can count on to make sure public meetings, public records, and local elections run smoothly. With our conference this year falling on St. Paddy's Day, we will be incorporating some lively entertainment. With any luck of the Irish, Vinny Buttiglieri, could end up in a kilt showing off this Irish dance moves.

Finally, I would like to take this time to thank Christina Wilder, former Hamilton Township Clerk and my longstanding supervisor of over 20 years for administering my oath of office. Chris also had the honor of holding the position of MCANJ President (1995) and also served as IIMC President (1992-1993). It was Chris who encouraged me to begin the process of becoming a municipal clerk, even though in my early years, I have to admit that I might have contributed to her hair turning white prematurely. To this day, Chris continues to be an inspiration to me in my position. I truly appreciate all the encouragement, support and wisdom that she has given me over the many years.

In closing, I would again like to express my gratitude and thanks to all who have helped me throughout my years. Your confidence in my ability to successfully take on this position is greatly appreciated. I look forward to the coming year and will do my absolute best to represent this association. I know that the hard work of our conference committee will shine through resulting in a successful and enjoyable Educational Conference.

Stay well, stay safe and stay strong

Eileen



Reminder-Don't forget to renew your 2020/2021 MCANJ Membership at njclerks.org



Secretary-Lucy Samuelson

EMAIL: secretary@njclerks.org

IIMC REGION II UPDATE-JUNE 2020

I hope you were able to recognize Municipal Clerk's Week 2020 in some personal way. You deserve it. I was out of the office that week so I got away from the telephone calls. But my husband was going crazy listening to all the daily emails that kept hitting my cell with their designated tone. He had no idea how much communication material Municipal Clerks deal with daily.

We have all been victimized by COVID-19 in so many different ways. When zooming on the 2019-2020 Board of Director's meeting May 15, 2020, I listened to how the virus has impacted each of our states and countries. Internationally, Firemen, Police, Farmers and Medical staff have stepped up to support those in need. Others have been subjected to extreme flooding and snow storms and unable to gather at the designated public shelter. It is surely a time of testing human compassion as well as individual responsibility.

Buster Brown, Chair, Donor Recognition Committee of the IIMC Foundation, has informed me that the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey has been selected to receive the IIMC Foundation Step-Up Donor Award for 2020. This award is given to the Association or Region who has the highest percentage increase in donation from the previous year. This award was to have been presented to MCANJ at the IIMC Annual Conference in St Louis. With the cancelation of the 2020 Conference, this award will be presented to MCANJ at the 2021 Conference.

As a member of the IIMC Education and Professional Development Committee, I am excited to share with you that the IIMC Board of Directors voted to temporarily allow Athenian Dialogues to be conducted virtually using video conferencing software through January 2021. Hosting organizations and facilitators can work together to offer leadership programs in an online format. Dialogues must still be 6 educational hours in length but may temporarily be broken up into two 3-hour parts, or three 2-hour parts.

I was fortunate to participate in an Athenian Dialogue on March 13, 2020 in Durham, NC. Camilla Gibson Pitman, MMC of Greenville, South Carolina facilitated the book, *Sully, Miracle on the Hudson*. If ever you have the opportunity to travel into another IIMC Region and take part in an education session, I encourage you to do so. The topic was great and getting to know other IIMC members was so much fun. Maryland had intentions of conducting an Athenian this summer but to date I have not heard the status on that session.

The IIMC Conference app now offers year-round information with a calendar function. This allows you to keep track of important IIMC meetings and online learning opportunities. Check it out!

IIMC Conference 2021 is scheduled for Grand Rapids, Michigan, the week May 9-13 2021. We have been advised that all the education and Athenian dialogue sessions and speakers scheduled for 2020 shall be repeated at the 2021 conference. The only schedule change is the onsite visitation. The Convention Center in Grand Rapids is next door to the Amwell Hotel. Award ceremonies for 2020 and 2021 will be presented at this five-day 75th Anniversary Conference amidst special events



On Friday, May 22, 2020, I have been invited to participate in the 2020 Institute Director Colloquium zoom call. We are to address the status of institutes, welcoming a New York Institute proposal; how to prepare for the future; and how we can work collaboratively move Municipal Clerk education forward. IIMC is diligently trying to establish programs so you may continue to pursue your CMC and MMC certifications.

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RENT-A-CLERK PROGRAM

If you have recently retired, or know of someone who has, and you/they want to get back into the profession please contact Elaine Kennedy (ebeverly@comcast.net). We have a listing of available individuals to assist with fulfilling short and long term municipal clerk positions.



IIMC REGION II UPDATE-JUNE 2020-continued

The IIMC 2020-2021 Board virtually met on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 to swear in the new board members; Past President Lana McPherson; Vice President Pamela Smith; President Elect Sherrie Pierce; and, President Mary Johnson. You can view this meeting on the IIMC website. We hope to be able to conduct the mid-year meeting in November at the IIMC headquarters in California, but only time will tell.

In March 2020 ,the members of Region II received a ballot to vote on the adoption of a Region II Rotation Schedule. The question was, "Do you wish to adopt the Region II Director Agreement showing the rotation schedule with years?" Of the 83 responses received, 86.75% voted to adopt an agreement showing the dates and years. One individual stated that they did not support a rotation schedule at all. The adopted schedule is;

Delaware serves 2019 – 2022, term expires May 2022
Virginia elected May 2022
New Jersey serves 2020 – 2023, term expires May 2023
West Virginia elected 2023
Virginia serves 2022 – 2025, term expires May 2025
Pennsylvania elected 2025
West Virginia serves 2023 – 2026, term expires May 2026
Maryland elected 2026
Pennsylvania serves 2025 – 2028, term expires May 2028
Delaware elected 2028
Maryland serves 2026 -2029, term expires May 2029
New Jersey elected 2029
Rotation repeats beginning with a) above:
Delaware serves 2028 – 2031, term expires May 2031
Virginia elected May 2031

I wish you all a peaceful and noneventful summer. May you and yours find a new norm and may it be a good one for all.

Enjoy the day, Diane

IIMC's 75th Celebration in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This will be a five day event, look for the Preliminary Conference Program this Fall.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW RMC'S FOR 2019

The MCANJ family would like to express our congratulations to the newest Registered Municipal Clerk's for the State of New Jersey. We hope that all of you will be able to join us at our 2021 Annual Education Conference where we look forward to presenting each of you with your RMC pin before your friends and peers. The best of luck to each and every one of and if you should need any help along the way, please do not hesitate to reach out. Again, congratulations and best of luck in your new positions.

April 2019 RMC's

Deborah Devery
Krista DiGiorgio
Cynthia Maresca
Maryanne Capasso
Kathleen Tolosi
Kristin Shipps
Omar Stovall
Gloria Rose
Christina Clipperton
Megan Keefe
Linda Martin
Sheri Medina
Shannon Campbell
Sheri Golden
Sara Gresko
Bobbie Quinn
Dawn Sayers
Kristy Davis
Dana Klinger
Vanessa Parent
Kyle Harris
Megan Phillips
Christine Rosikiewicz
Emerald Hornig
Shalonda Owens
Nadine Druymgoole
Alexander Bauer
Wendy Martin
Lynette Sidoti
Francine Wright
Allison Quiqley
Andrea Singley
Marcia Karrow
Lauren Wasilauski
Ceci Tramontana
Catherine Cameron

October 2019 RMC's

Maria Carrington
Erin Burke
Lauren Staats
Erin Delaney
Nicole Langenmayr
Jordan Padovano
Wendy Barras
Paola Reilly
Christine Andres
Nancy Britton
Mounir Almaita
Angelese Bermudez
Nieves
Linda Giliberti
Erika MacMurray
Jessica Mignogna
Amanda Nevins
Jennifer Honan
Matthew Bansch
Nadine Cicero
Erica Kostyz
Colleen Little
Lubna Muneer
Lorena Thompson
Shalon Bennett
Jeanine Siek
Jonathan Salonis
Edith Gil
Kerry Quinn
Laurie Varga
Jerry Lore



1st Vice President Kim Marie White-Eastampton Township/Burlington County

EMAIL: 1vicepresident@njclerks.org

Immediate Past President Diane M. Pflugfelder-Farewell Speech as the 2019/2020 MCANJ President-continued from page 5

Thank you Immediate Past-President Kevin Galland for keeping MCANJ's interest in OPRA alive and our communication door with our legislative representatives open. He and Lori Buckelew exemplify the professionalism of Municipal Clerks while dealing with sticky situations.

In April 2019, I promised you a MCANJ Annual Education Conference like no other. OK – kinda, sorta. Speakers and CEUs were obtained in all CEU categories; you were to witness the first NJ County Parade of Flags; theater, ball game, amusement park, Warren County Fair weekly passes and dinner gift cards/donations were received from various businesses that were to be distributed at the conclusion of each education session (we returned these gifts to support their local businesses rather than ask them to donate during this time of reduced revenue); donations were also received from M&M Mars, (which have since been donated to a local foodbank); I wanted to personally congratulate and shake the hands of each newly certified RMC, CMC and MMC; the Executive Board was excited to introduce the mentimeter program, allowing you the attendee to be actively involved in the education session; the Executive Board purchased a new banner for the podium and retired the 1960's silhouette; and, we were collecting your donations to initiate a MCANJ Give-Back program with the 2020 recipient being "Cookies for the Troops".

In April 2019, I promised you a MCANJ Annual Education Conference like no other. After declarations of national, state and local states of emergency, emails and member's calls of concern over COVID-19, with the heaviest of hearts the Executive Board unanimously decided to cancel the Annual MCANJ Education Conference. We made history with the first MCANJ webinar conference. Four sessions were coordinated with the assistance of Danielle Holland-Htut and Michael Darcy of NJLM. Webinar participants included MCANJ as well as IIMC Region II members to obtain RMC, CMC and MMC credits at no cost! I was told that life (COVID-19) gave me lemons and instead of accepting lemons, I whipped them up into limoncello. Darn right. Municipal Clerks are resourceful and as a team we get the job done.

With the cancellation of the Annual Education Conference, I extend my most sincere apologies to Eileen Gore, who was not given the opportunity to publicly be sworn in as MCANJ President by Christine Wilder with her family present. For those of you who are recipients of your RMC, CMC and MMC certifications, Clerk of The Year, Friend of the Municipal Clerks Award, and L. Manuel Hirshblond Distinguished Service Award – you are not forgotten. All recognitions shall be made at the 2021 MCANJ Annual Education Conference.

I can't thank everyone enough on all their support over the past year. Thank you for each member of MCANJ for being a part of Team MCANJ "CAN". This has been a most humbling and heartwarming experience. Thank you to the Executive Board, our Executive Director Joel Popkin, our Attorney Tom Prol; the Advisory Board Members; the Committee members; and our retirees. Without each and every one of you there would not be a MCANJ.

All the best to the incoming Executive Board as we the Municipal Clerks of New Jersey lead our municipalities into the new world of post COVID19.

Let us continue to be the professional face of our municipalities and remember that the office of the Municipal Clerk is the resident's doorway to local government.

Enjoy the day, Diane

Reminder-Don't forget to renew your 2020/2021 MCANJ Membership at njclerks.org



Immediate Past President Diane M. Pflugfelder-Liberty Township/Warren County

EMAIL: ImmediatePastPresident@njclerks.org



2020/2021 MCANJ REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

MCANJ is now accepting New and Renewal Membership Applications for the FY2020/2021 through our online system.

Membership in the Municipal Clerk's Association of New Jersey offers an instant network to hundreds of the most professional local government officials in New Jersey and beyond.

MCANJ offers meaningful and affordable educational opportunities to its members through an Annual Education Conference, as well as webinars throughout the year. Registered Municipal Clerks can earn continuing education credits towards their certification renewal at these sessions.

MCANJ also keeps abreast of changes in Trenton and disseminates this information to its membership through its continued communications.

Municipal Clerk, the oldest of local government officials, offers camaraderie like no other; with members assisting when needed especially to non-seasoned Municipal Clerks or Municipal Clerks who may have faced a particular situation before. Municipal Clerks will undoubtedly develop new and long-lasting friendships when they join the MCANJ.

MCANJ offers the following classes of membership:

Regular Membership – Any person holding the office of Municipal Clerk, Acting Municipal Clerk, County Clerk, or Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of any municipality or county in New Jersey **(\$100 Annual Fee)**

Associate Membership – Any person holding the office of Deputy or Assistant Municipal Clerk, Deputy County Clerk, or Deputy Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders **(\$75 Annual Fee)**

Affiliate Member – Any person holding any governmental or education office of employment, or any person interested in promoting the objectives of the Association who is not eligible for Regular, Associate or Honorary membership. **(\$75 Annual Fee)**

Honorary Membership – Any Regular, Associate or Affiliate Member in good standing upon retirement. **(\$0 Annual Fee)** (Honorary Members must still renew their membership online each year even though there is no annual fee. This is, so we have your most up to date contact information).

The annual membership term is from July 1st to June 30th. Registration online is simple and quick. You do not need to send your PO for our signature, as the confirmation/invoice which is generated from the system has been approved by the Local Finance Board to be acceptable for use by counties and municipalities in the State.

Visit njclerks.org to register now!

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

The Legal Defense Fund was established by the Municipal Clerks' Association to financially assist Municipal Clerks when actions have been taken against them in the performance of their duties.

With initial membership costing \$75.00, and \$25.00 annually thereafter to renew, the Legal Defense Fund could prove to be your most valuable insurance coverage. This fund exists for the protection of its members and anyone who is not currently a member, is encouraged to join. ***Initial membership and renewals will begin on August 1st.*** Please visit njclerks.org to register online. The deadline for joining in November 1st.



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**“Heard it on Facebook”
A Day in the Life of a Municipal Clerk
By Michele Lynn Seigfried**

I know you are all sick of hearing about the COVID-19 crisis and I wanted to ask, how are you all coping with everything? Between home schooling a temper-tantrum throwing 8-year-old drama queen and spending half of my days at home with Mr. Grouchy pants, one of my great escapes has been Facebook. I haven't laughed so hard in a long time. In case you don't have Facebook, here are a few of my favorite laughs this month:

If the pandemic season overlaps with tick season, there will be Corona with Lyme.

Why are we running out of toilet paper? Because when one person sneezes, a hundred others wet themselves!

The world has turned upside down, old folks are sneaking out of the house, and their kids are yelling at them to stay inside!

Everyone is posting memes and talking about quarantine and here I am wondering how I never noticed there's a turd in Saturday.

Since beauty salons have closed, selfies dropped like the stock market.

What are murder hornets and how much toilet paper do we need to buy?

Want to find out who your real friends are? Ask them to borrow a roll of toilet paper!

I used to think taking my bra off was the best part of my day, but taking my mask off is 100x better.

Masks are the new bra--they aren't comfortable, people will notice when you don't wear one, and you can now get them in every color, pattern, and style.

New drinking game during home schooling--every time someone says "Mom," you drink. Nevermind. You'd be dead.

Years from now, we're gonna be like 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022. "Hey you missed..." No we didn't, we just don't talk about that one.

After this plague is over, I don't want to see any more memes claiming that you could live in a cabin alone for a year for \$1 million. You literally couldn't stay in your house for 5 days to save your grandmother!

50 ways to beat COVID--don't hop on the bus, Gus. Stay away from the pack, Jack. Sneeze in your sleeve, Steve, to keep the virus free. Stop touching your face, Grace. Keep washing your hands, Stan...

It's like I'm 16 again. Gas is \$5 and we are all grounded.

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are.

It could be worse, the internet could go down.

Now I know why my dogs/cats try to run out of the door as soon as it's opened.

I'm about one week away from being friends with a volleyball! (Reference to the movie Castaway)

I have the most loving wife. Last night I woke up while she was holding a pillow tightly over my face to protect me from COVID-19.

I miss the days when we were terrified of Romaine lettuce.

Just asked a 6 year old if they understood why there was no school. Her response was, "Because there's no toilet paper."



2nd Vice President-Denise Cafone-Fairfield Township/Essex County

EMAIL: 2vicepresident@njclerks.org

**“Heard it on Facebook”
A Day in the Life of a Municipal Clerk
By Michele Lynn Seigfried**

Commercials in 2030: Were you or someone you know overly exposed to hand sanitizer during the Coronavirus pandemic? You may be eligible for compensation!

For the first time in history, we can save the human race by laying in front of the TV doing nothing.

Sneezing went from “Bless you” to “F you” real quick.

Does anyone have a recipe to make toilet paper from cauliflower?

Like a good neighbor, stay over there!

A sign in CVS reads, “Please remember to stand 6 feet apart or the average length of one of our receipts.”

I just looked for the toilet paper emoji and couldn’t find it for a second, and I was like, dang, they got that too!

Home schooling is going well, two students were suspended for fighting and one teacher got fired for drinking on the job.

I can’t believe I can walk into a store to buy weed, but I have to meet my hairdresser in a dark alley with unmarked bills to get a haircut.

Quick question: Are we buying up all the raid now or are we throwing toilet paper at the hornets?

And just like that, everyone starting eating cheese to save the toilet paper.

Public health experts are asking people not to drink bleach to try and prevent COVID-19 infections. (Ok, this one wasn’t on facebook, it was in an actual email that I received from the County of Mercer with COVID updates).

Please don’t mistake my humor about the virus as a lack of seriousness or concern. Laughing through hard times is sometimes what keeps me going. I hope some of these put a smile on your face as well and helped you escape from reality for a few minutes too. Stay safe, my friends.



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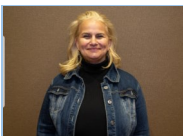
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Treasurer Michele Bobrowski-Alexandria Township/Hunterdon County

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NJLM Conference

105th Annual November 17-19
Atlantic City Convention Center



Tuesday, November 17

Conference and Exhibits Open

12:00 Noon

12th Annual Sustainable Jersey Awards Luncheon

2:00 p.m.

The League Welcome Cafe: Orientation

An Update from the Division of Local Government Services (GFOA/TCTA/NJLM)

Laughter & Leadership: How Humor Can Make You a Better Leader
Managing Litter During a Pandemic

Bringing Wellness to Your Community: Mayors Wellness Campaign
Mayors Committee on Art & Culture

Strengthening the Vitality of Your Community Through Placemaking

3:00 p.m.

NJLM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

3:45 p.m.

Reinventing Your Downtown After Economic Upheaval

School & Municipal Cooperation

SHBP/PERS Update

Energy Master Plan

Municipal Emergency Management in the Age of COVID-19

Continuing Communication During a Crisis

Sustainable Jersey Grants and Technical Assistance Programs

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Affordable Housing Update (NJPO/NJLM)

Technology to the Rescue: Resiliency During Social Distancing

Economic Stimulus

Sustainable Jersey Program Update: New Actions & Initiatives

9:00 a.m.- Noon

Cannabis Tandem Session

10:45 a.m.

ABC of Alcoholic Beverage Control

Urban Mayors

Effective Management of Municipal Water Resources

12:15 p.m.

MAYORS' BOX LUNCH

2:00 p.m.

Elected Officials Primer: Budget & Procurement

Recent OPRA Decisions

Urban Enterprise Zone Assessment-Lessons & Next Steps

NBC-LEO

Legislative Leadership: Working Together for a Better NJ

Municipal Finance

Former Governors

Addressing Sexual Harassment in Government

Advancing Sustainable Energy Communities

3:45 p.m.

Annual Risk Management Seminar

Procurement (NJLM /GPA)

Women's Session

Opioids Response

Public Engagement: What's the Point?

5:15 p.m.

WOMEN IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT-Networking and Awards Event

Thursday, November 19, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Interest Arbitration & Negotiations Update 2020

Public Contracts Law & Regulation Update (GFOA/TCTA/GPA)

Planning Special Occasion Events (NJLM/NJPO)

Police-OHSP-Extremism

Municipal Waste Reduction Strategies

9:00-12:00 noon

Property Tax – Advanced (Tandem) (AMA/NJILGA)

10:45 a.m.

Labor Law and Personnel Policy Update

OPMA & Civility: Administration of Public Meetings

Shared Services

Census 2020

Flood 2.0

Expanding Boundaries: Local Roles to Nurture Healthy Communities

12:00 Noon

NJLM DELEGATES LUNCH

3:30 p.m.

NJLM Business Meeting

Anecdotes and Gaffes

By Richard A. Lustgarten, Esq.

It is early June at the time of this writing and chaos, health and economic fear prevail. I decided to take a sojourn to events that have occurred which hopefully will lift your spirits. Some of these happened decades ago so I may take a little license in their recitation but I assure you they are all true. (As best to my recollection)

I was a young Borough Attorney in a Bergen County town when two new members of the minority party were sworn in. Immediately one stood up and said, "I rise to a point of order".

He had a copy of Roberts Rules of Order in his hand. Although the Rules were formulated for large assemblies and conventions, they have been adopted by many municipalities. I advised him, I thought rather kindly and gently, that he didn't have to actually stand so he sat and indicated he had a point of order. After being recognized, he commenced to lambast the Mayor, Council and me. (As they say, no good turn goes unpunished.)

Again as a very young attorney, I appeared in Municipal Court in New Jersey. (I had tried some cases in my third year of law school, but this was the first time as a practicing attorney.) When the case was called the Judge requested that "everyone" get sworn in. I raised my hand and took the oath along with the others. The Judge looked at me and asked if I was going to testify. I said no and he just gave me a Cheshire Cat grin but was kind enough not to embarrass me. (Lesson One—don't take things literally.)

After many years, our practice became rather hectic with various court appearances and other responsibilities, it was easy to forget the most basic of details. One very rainy Friday, I had to appear in court for a settlement conference. I was leaving from Bergen County. I knew the case was venued in an "M" county, so I grabbed the file and proceeded to New Brunswick, the location of the Middlesex County courthouse. When I got there, I didn't see the Judge's name listed on the directory. Only at that point did I realize that I was suppose to be in Freehold, and the County was Monmouth. Because it was raining so badly and traffic had been at a stall, I called the judge, who was very understanding, and participated in the conference by phone. (That NEVER happened again, and in retrospect I take some solace that at least I had the "M" right. Imagine if I thought the correct county had been Cape May, because of the "M" in the second word.)

As First Assistant Bergen County Counsel, one of my responsibilities was to prosecute condemnation cases for road widenings and other acquisitions for County projects. In the middle 1970's, I was involved in a case to condemn part of a property to widen a roadway which would be a major access to the new Giants stadium which was being built in the Meadowlands. I had only been practicing about seven years and was up against an excellent attorney from a high-powered law firm. The issue was that the property taking would create too steep a grade for his client which was a trucking firm. In other words, they argued that the tractor trailers could not ingress or egress the property safely thus destroying his client's business. They came in with engineers and a physical mock-up of the property, adjustable to show the before and after grades. When they "slid" a small replica of a truck along the after slope it conveniently fell off the exhibit. I could see the Commissioners were impressed. To my surprise, after this demonstration, the defendants rested. At that point I made a motion to strike the testimony and dismiss their defense. All looked at me as if I were crazy. However, I argued that while they may have proven damage to the business with the change in grade, they presented no evidence as to how this negatively impacted the value of the property. We were not condemning the business only taking part of the property and the test was how did this impact the value of the remaining land. Not knowing what to do the Commissioners adjourned the hearing. Before they had a chance to rule on my motion, the State took over all of the condemnation projects relating to the Stadium and I never did find out the outcome. (This case is an example of sometimes not only not seeing the forest through the trees but perhaps not knowing what forest you were in)

At a point in time, again in the 70s, George McGovern and Ted Kennedy were coming to the Bergen County Courthouse during McGovern's presidential campaign. Being active in politics, I was given the opportunity to meet them and then assigned a section of the courthouse steps to keep people from congregating on it. I was given a green lapel button to signify I was a big shot. Everyone followed instructions and stayed off the steps except this one guy. His back was to me and I was several steps above him when I asked him repeatedly to leave the area. After about the third request he turned around and at that point it was clear that he was a secret service man. Totally unimpressed with my green button, he merely smiled and turned back around. (Whoops.)



Executive Director Joel Popkin-Email: executivedirector@njclerks.org

Anecdotes and Gaffes

By Richard A. Lustgarten, Esq.-*continued from page 18*

I was defending an individual in a criminal case and the victim described the assailant as not wearing glasses. My client had acute vision issues and wore very pronounced dark rimmed glasses with thick lenses. We brought in an ophthalmologist to describe his condition. In addition, we brought in his aunt with whom he lived. She buttressed the defense by indicating that her nephew wore his glasses “all the time.” I wanted to make sure that she didn’t appear to be embellishing her testimony so I asked “You don’t mean that he wears them when he goes to bed, do you?” To which this very prim and proper lady responded a little huffily, “Well I don’t know, I don’t sleep with him after all.” Well the jury cracked up and even the judge had to laugh. I’m sure this exchange helped in his acquittal. (You never know what you’re gonna get)

When appearing before tax board commissioner’s hearings, the assessor and I would arrive early to describe the process to our residents and indicate that they only had ten or fifteen minutes to present their case so they should get to the point quickly and stick to testimony relating to value. Invariably, we would always have some people testify that they paid their taxes on time, that they’ve been a resident for 35 years, that they support Little League, that taxes were too high and they were on a fixed income, and that the Mayor and Council were spendthrifts. When I first started defending these appeals, I used to object to this testimony. Rather quickly I learned that objecting was unnecessary as the Commissioner just ignored these pleas. However, the assessor and I did lament that at times we were subject to what I called the LOL or LOM plea. These acronyms stand for little old lady and little old man. While they really didn’t present a compelling legal case for a reduction, it was clear that they evoked some sympathy and the Commissioner gave them some minimal relief. (I hope these labels don’t offend anyone, but since I am “up there” I’ve exercised literary descriptiveness)

A most bizarre occurrence happened when I represented husband and wife buyers of a house. I sensed some friction between them but could not really pin it down. At the table for closing were the two sellers, my two buyers, sellers’ attorney, two realtors and for some reason the mortgage officer and of course me. The mortgage officer had brought the mortgage documents which, if you have ever been to a closing, can be extensive. He handed them to me and they were quite a pile. I handed them to my client, the wife, to execute. She took them and to everyone’s shock and amazement stood up and threw the papers at her husband and said, “I told you I didn’t want this house and I don’t want you” and walked out. (Trust me they don’t teach that in law school)

We had a case representing petitioner in a workers compensation action. After completing all the required questions to establish jurisdiction and injuries, we asked the final wrap up question of “Can you describe what you could do before the accident that you can’t do now?” Our client answered, “Well I can no longer have relations with my wife---or her friends.” (One question too many)

A couple of years ago I decided to talk to the assessor about my assessment where we now live. They are much more informal in Indiana than New Jersey and she said just come in, don’t bother about comps or any documentation. We had a nice discussion and she agreed to lower the assessment and would let me know. I did not file any paper work for this—just a nice chat so to speak. As I was leaving her office she said she had just one more question to ask and I figured this might be where she questioned my request regardless of what she had previously said. However the question was “Are all the women in New Jersey like the ones we see on the “Real Housewives of New Jersey””. For once I was speechless as she said it in a way that I knew she wasn’t kidding. I was tempted to say “No, only those who file tax appeals” but I didn’t. (This is a good place to stop)

Stay safe and well and have as good a summer as possible. RAL

If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else. (Chinese proverb)



the *Quill*
Editor - Michele Bobrowski
88 Inskip Avenue
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DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS

The deadline for People Page submissions for the October 2020 issue is September 1 ,2020. Please send People Page news to:

Pam Borek, Municipal Clerk, Hillsborough Twp.,
379 South Branch Road. Hillsborough, NJ 08844
or via Email at pborek@hillsborough-nj.org

The General News Articles deadline is September 8, 2020, 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.