

MEET OUR 2024/2025 SECRETARY EDITH GIL



Welcome Edith!

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### **Hudson County Becomes a County Association!**

History was made by establishing the Hudson County Municipal Clerks' Association at its first meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at the Liberty Prime Restaurant in Jersey City, New Jersey. Co-Founder and President-Elect Hudson County Clerk E. Junior Maldonado presided over the inaugural meeting alongside Co-Founder Sean J. Gallagher (Vice President), Madelene C. Medina (Treasurer) and Amanda Bransky (Secretary). The Municipal Clerks of Bayonne, East Newark, Guttenberg, Harrison, Hoboken, Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen, Secaucus, Union City, Weehawken and West New York, as well as, Clerk of the Board of Commissioners of Hudson County will comprise the main governing body of this Association. The heads of the Board of Elections and Superintendent of Election also have the opportunity for membership. The Association looks forward to establishing the membership form and sending it out to all Clerks in the State of New Jersey. The oath of office ceremony was conducted by Commission Chairman Anthony Romano.

The new organization is scheduled to meet three times a year to discuss, share and vote on various topics and issues relevant to the various aspects of each office. These topics will include, but will not be limited to elections, polices and maintaining archival records. Also, seminars and workshops will be conducted to meet the continuing educational requirements to maintain credentialed licenses. The goal of the Clerks' coalescence is to update Hudson County residents with the most recent and up-to-date information regarding all services and processes that are made available to the public.













Just a friendly reminder that the 2024/2025 Membership Registration is open!!! When you register, you need to have your Membership ID you received last year. If you are registering for the first time you will receive a Membership ID at the end of registration. Keep this Membership ID in a safe place along with your password. You will need both of these items to access the MCANJ website, register for future MCANJ events, etc. That Membership ID is your Municipal Clerk lifeline to MCANJ!

### 2024 Clerk of the Year-Louise Palagano, Bloomfield Township



Dear President Bobrowski, Vice Presidents Bennett and Bretzger, Treasurer Macellaro, Secretary McCarthy and Past Presidents Cafone and White and all members of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey,

I want to extend my heartfelt thank you and sincerest gratitude for bestowing upon me the 2023-2024 Municipal Clerk of the Year Award.

And to Glen Ridge Municipal Clerk Tara Ventola and my Fellow Clerks of the Municipal Clerks' Association of Essex County, thank you for seeing in me something I did not see in myself, thus nominating me for this award.

The thoughtful presentation and hospitality shown to me, to my husband and to my fellow Bloomfield Municipal Officials at the Award ceremony was both touching and memorable. We, so very much, appreciated your efforts.

Your belief in my abilities and the acknowledgment of my 30-year work as a Municipal Clerk will inspire me to continue in service to my hometown citizenry. I feel so privileged and honored to be the recipient of this award.

It was a very proud moment for both me and for the Township of Bloomfield. I thank you once again for this prestigious recognition.

Sincerely yours, Louise M. Palagano, Bloomfield Municipal Clerk



### 2024 Clerk of the Year-Louise Palagano, Bloomfield Township

A County Association, or an individual clerk, may nominate a candidate for Municipal Clerk of the Year. This year's Clerk of the Year was nominated by an individual. Previous honorees are those individuals who have made positive contributions to our profession for the benefit of all of us. Qualifications include activities within the MCANJ and may include related community and volunteer work.

Here are some facts about the 2024 Municipal Clerk of the Year:

- 1. First appointed in 1994 as a Municipal Clerk
- 2. In addition to holding a RMC, also holds a Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, as well as, a Master of Public Administration
- 3. Various Professional Associations this person belongs to include:
- American Society for Public Administration
- League of Family Services
- Alumni Association for their Alma mater, and
- Essex County Municipal Clerk's Association, as well as the MCANJ

In addition to these Professional Associations, this person also worked with:

- Local Chamber of Commerce,
- Friends of the Library
- Historical Society
- Safety Council
- Ladies VFW Auxiliary
- Multiple Neighborhood Associations
- Lector and Eucharistic Minister at their local church
- 4. Prior to becoming a Municipal Clerk, this person, as an elected Councilperson, was a member of their local Board of Health, Public Library Board, Planning and Cultural Center,
- 5. After being appointed as the Municipal Clerk, this person, among numerous organizations, was the Chairperson for the Facilities Master Plan Committee, County Utility Authority Investigative Committee, as well as, the Recreation and Parks Commission Oversight Committee.
- 6. This person has been actively involved in organizations that support others, especially women:
- American Association of University Women
- League of Women Voters
- Ladies of Unico
- And has served as the President of the New Jersey Association of Women Flected Officials
- 7. In 1998, this person was named Woman of the Year by the John Grecco Foundation. This highly regarded award further demonstrates the impact their service has had on the community.
- 8. This person has also been awarded the Outstanding Community Service Award, The Who's Who Among American Women of Italian Descent and the 50 Women You Should Know awards. She has remained humble and always has others on her mind.
- 9. A friend to all. Compassionate and giving, this person dedicates herself to everything she does. A loving wife, mother and stepmother.
- 10. All of this while serving as the Municipal Clerk of her town for 30 years.



## **People Page**

#### ARE YOU RETIRING?

#### WE WANT YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION SO YOU CAN STAY INFORMED...

Please accept our CONGRATULATIONS on your pending Retirement.

While you will be enjoying the much-deserved rest and relaxation that retirement brings, wouldn't it also be nice to stay informed of all the News and Events from your colleagues and the MCANJ Association as a whole? We also want to keep you informed.

If you wish to keep up to date with all things MCANJ, please provide the following information to PastPresident@mcanj.us:

Name

Position

Municipality

**Date of Retirement** 

Home Address

Home Telephone Number

Cell Phone Number

Home Email

The MCANJ Executive Board wishes you a very happy, healthy and long retirement!!

#### **RETIREMENTS**

On June 18th, Kathy Hoffman attended her last meeting as Municipal Clerk of Southampton Township. Kathy is retiring June 30th and Melanie Brown is the new Municipal Clerk effective July 1st. Congratulations and best wishes to both.

Group photo from left to right are Melanie Brown, Kim-Marie White(Eastampton Clerk), Kathy Hoffman, Patty Hunt (Moorestown Clerk), LaShawn Barber (Retired-Tabernacle), Vicky Gough (Deputy Clerk, Moorestown) and Retired Clerk Elaine Kennedy.







#### News/Updates/Transitions:



Michelle Hack was officially sworn in as Deptford Township Municipal Clerk. Her sons Justin and Jeffrey Hack were holding the bible for her. Congratulations Michelle!



Village Council honors Clerk Heather Mailander for 35 Years of Service with Ridgewood. Heather was selected as the MCANJ Clerk of the Year in 2023. Congratulations Heather on being recognized for your hard work and dedication over the years.



The Teterboro Mayor and Council honored its Municipal Clerks ahead of Municipal Clerks Week during its April 9, 2024 meeting. Municipal Clerks Week runs from May 5th through May 11th every year. A proclamation honoring Borough Clerk Virginia Alcuri and Assistant Clerk Graciela Ramirez was read at the meeting.

## People Page (continued from page 5)

#### News/Updates/Transitions-continued:



Laurie Roth, Municipal Clerk/Administrator for Allentown Borough, was recognized by Rutgers University and the New Jersey Civil Service Commission for her completion of the Certified Public Manager Program. The State of New Jersey Certified Public Manager Program® (CPM) is nationally accredited by the National Certified Public Manager Consortium. New Jersey has provided the CPM program to public sector managers, supervisors and administrators since 1984.

#### **Condolences:**

Condolences to the Family and Friends of retired Toms River Township Clerk Barbara A. Iasillo who passed away in the comfort of her own home on Saturday, May 25, 2004. She was 77 years of age. May she rest in peace. (on right)



Betty Allen, a former Little Egg Harbor Municipal Clerk, died on May 8, 2024. She was 93. Rest in peace Betty.

Condolences to the Family and Friends of Leona D. Ballinger, 83, who passed away on May 18, 2024, Leona worked for Harrison Township as the Municipal Clerk and Administrator. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to the Family and Friends of former Marlboro Township Clerk Virginia Dunn, who died on December 30, 2023, at 89 years of age. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to the Family and Friends of retired Springfield Municipal Clerk Virginia L. Freck who passed away on Friday, May 3, 2024. She was 85 years old. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to the Family and Friends of former Upper Freehold Township Clerk Fred Kniesler.

Former Middletown Township Clerk, Hilda Stover passed away on March 16, 2024. She served as the Municipal Clerk from 1975-1983. Thoughts and prayers to Hilda's family and friends.



Kathleen Dooling Vigilante, 68, retired Municipal Clerk for the City of South Amboy passed away on January 14, 2024. Thoughts and prayers to Kathleen's family and friends.



Rest in Peace Harold Wiener Feb 26, 2024

A career-driven man, he began working for Irvington Township on June 16, 1980, and was named Municipal Clerk on November 24, 1987. Harold received his state-licensed Registered Municipal Clerk Certificate in 1986, became a Certified Municipal Clerk in 1991 and achieved the distinguished honor of Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) in 2005.

He was also a long-time member of the Municipal Clerks' Association of Essex County. Harold served on numerous committees over the years as well as, a three-year term as President of the same organization. He is also a long-time member of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, as well as, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. He served as the Irvington Township Clerk for 35 years and was even named "Municipal Clerk of the Year" in 2010. During his tenure with the Township, he served under seven mayors and 60 individual council members, and was recognized as a dedicated professional to the Office of the Municipal Clerk. He was affectionately known as "The Wizard" by his staff because of his extensive knowledge in the field.

An inspiration to others, he did not give up his fight against health complications and would return to work as soon as he was able. He was known as a selfless individual who would frequently help others in need, regardless of the time or effort it required. He was respected both inside and outside his municipality for his fairness, impartiality, supervisory ability and judgment. He retired in 2023 after 43 years of total service with the Township of Irvington.

### **County Association News**

The Municipal Clerks' Association of Monmouth County held their Reorganization Meeting on February 22, 2024 at the Molly Pitcher Inn in Red Bank.

County Commissioner Erik Anderson administered the Oath of Office to: President Kerry Quinn (Shrewsbury Boro), Vice President Carol Baron (Brielle), Treasurer Dawn Harriman (Sea Girt) and Secretary Trina Lindsey (Colts Neck). Pictured on top right.

Commissioner Anderson (former Mayor of Shrewsbury Borough) and Christopher Cherbini (Administrator of Shrewsbury Borough) congratulated their Municipal Clerk Kerry Quinn on becoming President. Pictured on right.

Mark Szemple of Sunrise Systems gave a presentation on records management.



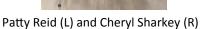


The Middlesex County Municipal Clerks' Association held its afterholidays networking event on Friday, January 26, 2024 at the Acacia (Woodbridge). Members and guests learned the art of building a custom charcuterie board, enjoyed dinner and participated in games to win prizes.



On May 22nd, Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon held her annual spring election workshop at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office in Freehold. Representatives from NJCCIC and the various County election offices were present and discussed Election Day security, types of cyber threats and other important election updates.













Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners recognized Municipal Clerks' Week with a Certificate of Recognition presented to the MCAMC President Kerry Quinn, Shrewsbury Borough. The Bergen County Municipal Clerks' Association held a Regular Meeting at the Bacari Grill in Washington Township on Thursday, June 20, 2024 with an Education Program on Election Security, COOP and Emergency Management.

Speakers included Meshack Walker, the Election Security Coordinator of the New Jersey Division of Elections; Agent Bill Stallone from the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office; and Barry Leventhal from the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management.





## Thank you to our Conference Exhibitors



### **GET INVOLVED WITH MCANJ**

If you are not involved in the MCANJ and want to be, please consider joining a committee that might be of interest to you. Below is a list of committees along with descriptions of the functions and responsibilities, so please take a moment to review and contact Deanna Bennett-President relative to any you wish to join. Thank you!

Deanna Bennett-President@mcanj.us

The following shall be a list of the Standing Committees:

**Constitution and Bylaws** 

Education Conference(s)

Elections

**Fundraising** 

Information Technology

Legislative Committee for Laws Pertaining to the Municipal Clerks' Profession

Manual Review

Membership/Peer Alliance for Learning (PAL)

**Public Relations** 

QUILL

Resolutions

Scholarship

Functions and Responsibilities of Standing Committees.

- The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall recommend to the Executive Board any amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.
- The Education Conference(s) Committee shall, in conjunction with the Executive Board, coordinate the programs and events at the Education Conference or Conferences as the case may be, and shall contact the appropriate committees in such effort.
- The Elections Committee shall examine and evaluate the statutory requirements governing elections as well as any proposed changes in election law and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive Board regarding same.
- The Fundraising Committee shall plan and implement fundraising programs for the benefit of the MCANJ. Shall conduct appropriate 50/50 events as determined by the Executive Board. One Committee member shall be identified as the Raffle representative to LGCCC. At the Transition Meeting of each year, the Executive Board will determine where the proceeds from the raffles should be directed. By vote of the Executive Board, the MCANJ may advance funds to this Committee for fundraising activities with reimbursement to the MCANJ Treasury from the fundraising proceeds, with primary consideration given to the Legal Defense Fund and the Scholarship Fund.
- The Information Technology Committee shall provide and review information shown on the MCANJ Web Page and other Association authorized social media. In addition, the Information Technology Committee shall advise the Executive Board of other means of technology useful to the Municipal Clerk. This may include, but not be limited to, an Annual Information Technology Expo and/or assisting with soliciting persons versed in technological hardware, software, peripherals and other technological devices useful to the Municipal Clerk for the Education Conferences.
- The Manual Review Committee shall be charged with the annual review and publication of updates for the Municipal Clerks'
  Desk Reference Manual.
- The QUILL Committee shall publish the official newsletter of the MCANJ four (4) times a fiscal year.

### **GET INVOLVED WITH MCANJ-CONTINUED**

- The Membership/Peer Alliance for Learning Committee shall be charged with the duty of securing and maintaining the enrollment of all Municipal Clerks, County Clerks and the Clerks of the Boards of County Commissioners in the State of New Jersey. It may be designated further as Membership-North, Membership-Central and Membership-South, at the discretion of the President and shall be responsible for promoting a mentoring program between newly appointed Municipal Clerks and experienced Registered Municipal Clerks to facilitate the training and education of new members.
- The Professional Development/Mini Conference Committee, in cooperation with Rutgers, shall provide education opportunities required to achieve the certification and recertification of Registered Municipal Clerks. One Committee member shall work in conjunction with the conference committee in preparation of the education program for the Annual Education Conference. Shall prepare and implement programs addressing the managerial and administrative skills necessary to meet the professional image of Municipal Clerks.
- The Public Relations Committee shall plan and organize the Booth at the Annual League of Municipalities Conference, as well as, the information Booth at the Spring Education Conference. Additional duties include hospitality at all MCANJ events.
- The Legislative Committee for Laws pertaining to the Municipal Clerks' profession shall monitor and review all proposed legislation that may directly affect the Municipal Clerks' profession. Shall review pertinent decisions of the Government Records Council regarding the Municipal Clerks' responsibility in complying with the Open Public Records Act and amendments and supplements subsequently enacted thereto, and report back to the Executive Board with their findings and recommendations on a regular basis. Shall offer practical recommendations to the Executive Board regarding problems that have been encountered or other foreseeable problems that may be expected in order for Municipal Clerks to comply with OPRA as well as any pertinent issues dealing with records management. One Committee member shall be identified as the MCANJ representative to the Government Records Council.
- The Resolutions Committee shall prepare and present at the Annual Meeting, resolutions recognizing those Municipal Clerks who have retired or passed away since the last Annual Meeting, as well as, present any resolutions passed by the County Associations requiring action by the membership. It shall also present appropriate resolutions of recognition and service to Associations or individuals. Resolutions shall be provided to the Secretary for inclusion in the minutes of the Annual Meeting.
- The Scholarship Committee shall award financial assistance to deserving Municipal Clerks, Deputy Municipal Clerks and Affiliates for courses required for certification and recertification as Registered Municipal Clerks and who are paid members of MCANJ. The Executive Board may award stipends to any Committee Chairs, as deemed appropriate. These stipends shall be approved by Resolution of the Executive Board and stipulated in the Budget for the year.

I want to get involve	d!!			
				SEL CLERKS ALGOE
Township:				
Email:				OF NEW HEISE
Phone:				WIERS
Committee(s) I'm Int	erested in:			
1.)	2.)	3	3.)	
Please return to: Dea	nna Bennett President-MCANJ			
Bor	ough of Haddonfield			
242	Kings Hwy E, Haddonfield, NJ 08033			
(85	6) 429-4700 ext 204			
Em	ail: President@mcanj.us			

## Congratulations to our 2023/2024 RMC Recipients







#### **April 2023:**

Anna Bongiorno **Fallon Burress Anthony Cucci Kecia Daniels** Joann DeBlasis Joseph Delaney Jr. **Emily Dillon** Anthony Farfalla Yenlys Flors-Bolivard Weatherly Frias Ashley Garozzo Wendy Gibson Jennifer Johnson Diana Juarez Nicole Leavy Amy Lewandowski Amy Lowe Kelly Mager Amy McGuckin Barbara Moore JoAnna Myung Jo-Ann Ricks Rebecca Roth Carolina Santos Jacqueline Schulz Jean-Marie Vadovic





#### October 2023:

Mary Clare Bunce Melissa Hallerman Lindsey Kranz Karen Glass Marlena Russo Shawna Jonach Leigh Gronau Valerie Ingles Joei Godin Rachel von der Tann Grace Sequeira Khaled Madin Suzannah Givone Samantha Gravelle Eileen Kuca Chelsea Wharton Erin Belfiglio Jena Dolbow Jonathan Mandel Kelsev Meixner Kelly Mitch Shanee Morris Julie Peterson Erin Seer **Cheryl Sharkey** Brielle Whitmore







#### **CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERKS**

Kelly Lettera, Township of Little Egg Harbor

Erin Delaney, City of Garfield Leena Abaza, Borough of Harrington Park

Vanessa L. Nienhouse, Borough of Chatham

Michelle Hutchinson, Borough of Tinton Falls

#### **MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERKS**

Margaret B. Dilts, Township of Lopatcong

Evelyn Rosario, Borough of Fort Lee

Sherry Mason, Beach Haven

#### PAUL CRAIG ATHENIAN FEL-**LOWS**

Susan D. Jackson, Township of **New Hanover** 



# **CAMP MCANJ CONFERENCE**



# **CAMP MCANJ CONFERENCE**





### **Membership News & Updates**

Membership in the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey (MCANJ) offers an instant network to hundreds of fellow Municipal Clerks along with Acting Municipal Clerks, Deputy Clerks, County Clerks, Clerks of the Board of County Commissioners, Retired Municipal Clerks, Associate/Affiliate Members, local Professional Government Officials in New Jersey and beyond. MCANJ offers meaningful and affordable educational opportunities to its members through an Annual Education Conference and members can earn continuing education credits towards their RMC certification renewal at these sessions along with other licenses they may hold for their Municipality.

MCANJ also keeps on top of changes in Trenton and disseminates this information to its membership through its continued communications. Municipal Clerks, the oldest of local government officials, offers camaraderie like no other; with members offering assistance when needed especially to non-seasoned Municipal Clerks or Municipal Clerks who may not have faced a particular situation before. Municipal Clerks will undoubtedly develop new and long-lasting friendships when they join MCANJ.

MCANJ offers the following classes of membership:

- 1. Regular Membership Any person holding the office of Municipal Clerk, Acting Municipal Clerk, County Clerk, or Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of any Municipality or County in NJ. (\$100 Annual Fee)
- 2. Associate Membership Any person holding the office of Deputy or Assistant Municipal Clerk, Deputy County Clerk, or Deputy Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. (\$75 Annual Fee)
- 3. 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 so we have your most up-to-date contact information).
- 4. Affiliate Member Any person holding any governmental or educational 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)

Registration online is simple and quick. You don't 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.

#### Credit card payments are accepted!

Help keep our membership strong by prompt submission of your membership application on or before October 1, 2024 and to stay up to date with constant ongoing changes in our profession!

The annual membership term is from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Visit njclerks.org to register now!



Thank you to all who came out on Saturday, February 17, 2024 for the spirit mediumship with Rich Braconi and for supporting MCANJ in Belmar.



### **IIMC News & Updates**

Congratulations to Annemarie Krusznis of the Borough of Paramus for earning her Certified Municipal Clerk designation through IIMC in May.

Congratulations to Angelese Bermudez Nieves of the Township of Montclair for earning her Master Municipal Clerk designation through IIMC in June.

Congratulations to Michele Miller of the Borough of Somerdale for earning her Certified Municipal Clerk designation through IIMC in June!

Congratulations to Everett Falt, CMC for becoming a Paul Craig Athenian Fellow through IIMC in May. Keep on reading Everett!



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### A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING MCANJ PRESIDENT MICHELE BOBROWSKI

To say this was not the year I anticipated as President is an understatement. The beginning of 2024 had the Association in an unprecedented situation we have not been in for a while by not having an Executive Director. After the dust settled, our Association will move forward and thrive for future generations of Municipal Clerks. The Executive Board has appreciated the numerous emails of support from all of you. You have been on our side and have been our biggest cheerleaders and we are forever grateful.

They say things happen for a reason and change was needed for this Association to grow. It was January 30, 1922, when the first MCANJ meeting was held in Trenton in City Hall. The Executive Committee was composed of one person from each county and a draft bill for the future was done. It was determined on December 10, 1927, that the MCANJ Annual Meeting be held in conjunction with the League of Municipalities on February 17, 1928. The Annual Meeting was held in Newark in connection with the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual League. Fifty-nine clerks from eighteen counties were in attendance. Here we are in 2024, in Atlantic City with over two hundred and seventy-five attendees with all twenty-one counties represented for our Annual Conference. How we have grown.

What is an organization? They have always been society's best way of achieving various goals. Organizations are not created to serve themselves, but serve the members which they exist. Leadership is what makes an organization effective. It is the essential spark that makes things happen. Without leadership, an organization is just a loosely connected group of people operating without a unifying focus, pursuing different goals and going in contradictory directions. Organizations need leaders because leaders unify groups of people through shared values and goals to help achieve common objectives. Leadership makes an organization work, it strengthens plans and envisions dreams. This is what this Executive Board is going to do.

Moving forward, how are we doing that? Last year, Past President Denise Cafone stood before you to tell you we needed to raise dues because we were told we needed to do so. We put faith in what we were told. Many members were upset by the increase-I am here to tell you we are not raising dues. It was not until I became President, especially this year, that I saw the totality of our financial picture in a whole new light, especially when you are doing the finances directly. In years past, the Executive Director had always handled the finances. Unfortunately, by doing so, the big picture was taken away from the Executive Board. Yes, we are all just as busy as all of you in your offices and it was easy to say, "Let the Executive Director handle it." However, we are on the Executive Board, and we need to rise above our own responsibilities, or we should not have stepped up to be on the Executive Board. It is a lot of work, but extremely rewarding.

- 1. We are assisting BKC, CPA's of Flemington who are our Forensic Auditors in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 for their services. They are doing the Forensic Audit for us to make sure our financials are in order, prepare a proper budget and verify previous transactions. We are being charged an hourly rate due to the limited records we have in our possession currently and are in the process of obtaining additional records from our previous accountant. We sent a letter to our accountant asking for five years of financials be provided to BKC, CPA's. We are also moving forward with BKC, CPA's as our temporary accountants. We pay about three to four monthly bills and a handful of quarterly bills- BKC, CPA's will be providing bookkeeping for us moving forward and will ensure bills are paid.
- 2. The Legal Defense Fund (LDF)-The LDF is an important Committee. Each President is asked to keep the members year after year to maintain the confidentiality of cases brought forth. We are eliminating the Executive Director responsibilities moving forward regarding the LDF as per the previous bylaws. I have appointed an LDF Chair, Deb Sopronyi, retired Municipal Clerk of Hightstown Borough to oversee the financial affairs and membership of the LDF. She will be paid a stipend of \$1,500.00 a year. Kim-Marie White, MCANJ Past President and Municipal Clerk of Eastampton Township is appointed the Vice-Chair to learn under Deb for when she decides to step down. Kim-Marie White will assume the role as Chair. The new Bylaws of LDF will be in the October Edition of the Quill and can be found on the MCANJ website. The membership does not vote on LDF Bylaws per our SOP's, but for transparency, copies of the results approved by the Executive Board have been provided to you in your capacity at today's Annual meeting.
- 3. This is the last time MCANJ will be overseeing our conferences. We are partnering with Laura Flagg and Rutgers University to provide the highest education for our members. Laura Flagg will be working with us in an Executive Director capacity when it comes to future conferences. Rutgers, in conjunction with, the President will oversee the location, theme, ideas of sessions, and the President will have a smaller conference committee because Rutgers will oversee the conference registration, rooms, meals, CEU's, etc. (continued on pg. 21)

#### OPRA REFORM

Outgoing President and Alexandria Municipal Clerk Michele Bobrowski and MCANJ Past President and Eastampton Municipal Clerk Kim-Marie White testified before the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee in support of legislation (S-2930) to reform and modernize the Open Public Records Act (OPRA), which was sponsored by Senators Paul Sarlo and Anthony Bucco on May 9th. Governor Murphy signed this new legislation into law on June 5th. **This new law will take effect in 90 days, just after Labor Day**. It is imperative to remember that the existing requirements of OPRA remain in effect and the new provisions will not apply to OPRA requests submitted before the effective date.



These are some highlights of the bill:

- Attorney fees are now "may" instead of "shall" except if the public agency was determined to have unreasonably denied access, acted in bad faith or knowingly and willfully violated OPRA, then attorney fees are mandatory.
- Records custodians are no longer personally fined. The fine is with the public agency.
- Implements the recommendations of the Privacy Study Commission including:
- 1.) Any personal email address required as part of government application, service, or programs
- 2.) Portion of the document that discloses the personal identifying information (name, email, primary telephone number, primary & secondary home address) of any person provided to the public agency for the sole purpose of receiving official notices
- 3.) Any portion of the document that discloses debit card number, bank account information, month and date of birth
- Expands exemptions to include records such as metadata, owner and maintenance manuals and limits public buildings security alarm system activity and access reports including video footage.
- Fulfills an OPRA request by providing the requestor with a link to the documents on the website. Does provide an option for the requestor to have the documents printed, but the fee is doubled (\$0.05 to \$0.10 and \$0.07 to \$0.14/ page)
- Do not have to establish special service charges in advance by ordinance.
- Custodian must convert the record to the medium or format requested if the medium or format <u>is</u> available to public agency and does not require a substantial amount of manipulation or programming or the services of 3rd party vendor. Can charge a fee. <u>But if it requires a substantial amount of manipulation, programming, or service of 3rd party vendor, the custodian is under no obligation to covert.</u>
- Provides path to address abuses through Superior Court.
- Permits anonymous request, but they cannot file a denial without disclosing their identity.
- Changes the composition of the GRC and their processes.
- The custodian shall grant access to a government record or deny a request for access to a government record as soon as possible, but not later than 7 business days after receiving the request, or 14 business days to fulfill commercial requests/ compliance with Daniels Law & the custodian advises the requestor of the additional time.
- The request shall not be considered submitted until it is received by the Custodian of Records.
- If your agency did not create a requested document, it is not required to produce it and you would direct the requestor to the appropriate agency to obtain it.
- The custodian shall not be required to complete an identical request for access to a government record from the same requestor if the information has not changed. (Requestor can file a periodic request regarding regularly updated public records including, but not limited to certified payrolls, permits and licensing applications.)
- New requirements and penalties for releasing video and photos of individuals without consent.

### MCANJ CAMP AWARD RECIPIENTS-VOTED BY YOU!!!



**Best Chef Award:** Doreen Cali Retired Township Clerk Roselle Park **Union County** 



The Happy Camper Award: "Most Friendly, Bubbly" Kerry Quinn – **Borough Clerk** Shrewsbury Borough



Hikers Award: "Goes the Extra Mile"

Donna Hands-Deputy Clerk Warren Township **Somerset County** 



**Most Creative Award:** 

Lisa Burd-Township Clerk Bloomsbury Borough **Hunterdon County** 

Lisa has her own design company and made all the signs for the conference.



**Chic Camper** Award: "The Most Stylish" Nancy **Brown Township** Clerk Township of Wycoff, Bergen County



White Rabbit Award: Always is a "hair" late for everything-

Tammy Brown Monmouth County Clerk of the Board of Commissioners



**Most Musical Award:** 

Sean Gallagher- City Clerk Jersey City, Hudson County

Sean has his own band if anyone needs musical entertainment for an event.



#### **Nature Award:**

Liz Peterson -Deputy Township Clerk, Township of Living-

You can be sure every morning at the Conference, Liz will be up an hour before dawn heading down for a prebreakfast photo shoot of birds and other critters.



The Funniest Award: "Camp Clown" Susan Witkowski-Township Clerk Washington Township



First Aid Award: "Volunteer EMS and/or Fire" Liz Fritzen-Township Clerk Maplewood Township **Essex County** Liz has been an EMT for 50

and Amanda Lobban -Township Clerk Sandyston Township, Sussex County.



#### **Positive Camper Award:**

"Always sees the good in a situation" Barbara Nyitrai Township Clerk South Brunswick Township-Middlesex County



#### Most Athletic Award:

Carolyn Mazzucco

Bergen County

Township Clerk, Township of Livingston

Carolyn is an avid Pickleball player, a certified AFAA group fitness instructor, Zumba and Spin instructor and a power walker! She has a great regimen of strength and cardio training, combined with eating a healthy diet gives her the energy and great attitude to be a Municipal Clerk.



Camp Caper Award: "Always the jokester/Prankster" Jen Kiernan-Township Clerk, Vernon Township **Essex County** 

**AKA Smarty Pants Award.** Jen says Essex County Clerks do not cook and have their dinners catered each night therefore none could be nominated proves her prankster prowess. LOL!



#### **Book Worm Award:**

Michele Siegfried, Clerk Robbinsville Twp. Mercer County

Michele is our award winning author and you can find her murder mystery books on Amazon. Check them out to see which Municipal Official is guilty!



#### **Best Photographer Award:**

Sharon Brienza, Retired Municipal Clerk, Branchburg Township. Sharon has won several accolades for her photography and her photos have been featured in magazines and grace the halls of a hospital in Delaware.

Bed Head Award: "Who has the best hair" Ana Minkoff Township Clerk, Berkeley heights, Union CountyAna has the most beautiful set of red curls – gorgeous!

Dare Devil Award: "Risk Taker" Donna Campagna -Clerk Allenhurst, Monmouth County.

# MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY 2023-2024 TRIBUTE TO

#### **DECEASED MUNICIPAL CLERKS**

WHEREAS, the strength and spirit of a community are often reflected in the activities and successes of its employees; and

**WHEREAS,** throughout their tenure, Municipal Clerks serve their communities with complete professionalism and always demonstrate an extraordinary dedication, enthusiasm, and community spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, as a Municipal Clerk, knowing that you have shared in the growth and success of your community and this organization is a purpose fulfilled.

WHEREAS, although dearly departed, many Municipal Clerks will always be in thought a part of their municipality.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, Inc., that we commend your dedication to the residents of your communities and this organization and point to it as an example to be exemplified and emulated.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we extend a moment of silence, dedicated to the memories of those who have left us for a greater service:

County	Name	Municipality
Bergen	Jeanne M. Spliedt	Ridgefield Park Village
Bergen	Lorraine Klamerus	Wallington Borough
Burlington	Kathleen Warner	Eastampton Township
Burlington	Anthony J. Carnivale, Jr.	Burlington Township
Burlington	Mary Lou Berg	Evesham Township
Camden	Helen Bradley	Borough of Magnolia
Essex	Harold Wiener	Irvington Township
Hudson	Robert Byrne	Jersey City
Hunterdon	Terri Stahl	East Amwell Township
Hunterdon	Claire Rose Knapp	Borough of High Bridge
Middlesex	Adelaide Mary Koster Searfoss	Edison Township
Middlesex	Kathleen Dooling Vigilante	South Amboy
Monmouth	Joseph Bennett	Neptune Township
Monmouth	Stephen Carasia	Borough of Deal
Monmouth	Virgnia Dunn	Marlboro Township
Monmouth	Fred Kniesler	Upper Freehold Township
Ocean	Barbara Ann Lane Scharmann	Point Pleasant Beach
Sussex	Raymond Hyde	Franklin Township
Sussex	Eileen Defabiis	Montague Township

## MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY 2023-2024 TRIBUTE TO RETIRED MUNICIPAL CLERKS

WHEREAS, service to others is the best work of life; and

WHEREAS, continued, unselfish service is the backbone of our society and is to be commended and exemplified; and

**WHEREAS,** as a Municipal Clerk, knowing that you have shared in the growth and success of your community and this organization is a purpose fulfilled.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey, Inc., that we commend your dedication to the residents of your community and this organization, and point to it as an example to be exemplified and emulated; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that honorary membership is bestowed upon the below-named retired Municipal Clerks in accordance with the MCANJ Constitution and By Laws; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we extend to you, upon the occasion of your retirement, our gratitude and best wishes for good health, success, and prosperity for many years to come to those Municipal Clerks named herein:

COUNTY	NAME	MUNICIPALITY
Bergen	Ann Bistritz	Borough of Harrington Park
Bergen	Jane Dietsche	Borough of Emerson
Burlington	Grace Archer	Bordentown
Burlington	Katherine Burger	Medford Township
Essex	Harold Weiner	Irvington Township
Gloucester	Kathy Van Scoy	Paulsboro
Gloucester	Kimberly Johnson	Mullica Hill
Gloucester	Judy O'Donnell	Borough of Pitman
Gloucester	Dina Zawadski	Deptford Township
Gloucester	Naomi Money	Glassboro
Hunterdon	Cathy Miller	Holland Township
Hunterdon	Karen Sandorse	Lebanon Township
Middlesex	Patricia Reid	Monroe Township
Morris	Cynthia Sloane	Lincoln Park
Ocean	Linda Martin	Stafford Township
Ocean	Charlene Carney	Pine Beach
Somerset	Linda Doyle	Bridgewater Township
Union	Wendi Barry	Borough of New Providence
Warren	Lori Loudenberry	City of Phillipsburg

IT IS SO RESOLVED.

### A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING MCANJ PRESIDENT MICHELE BOBROWSKI

Next year, will be a learning curve for all, but Laura Flagg is amazing and as a State Association we need to provide quality education to our members, not just worrying about throwing together a session for CEUs. By partnering with Rutgers, we also are able to provide those acquiring their CMC/MMCs with higher credit capability than now. As a State Association, we only get a quarter of the credit as compared to a University obtaining IIMC credits for education.

All of this is positive for this Organization's growth and sustainability to make us the best educated Municipal Clerks moving forward.

When I was sworn in as President last year, my goals were to push you to better yourselves as Municipal Clerks and climb mountains to your success. Many have done that by completing your CMCs and MMCs or moving forward in completing them. Never put yourself second. Always continue learning and bettering yourself. Over this past year, I have traveled the State to meet with many of you, and I have enjoyed meeting you all. I have been humbled by all of you that have reached out to me because I have inspired you to be better. You have admired my leadership and I am honored by many of your touching emails, messages, etc. One such quote was from Everett Falt, "Congratulations Michele!" "Your tenure has been nothing short of awe inspiring. Bravo!" and another "You have inspired me to be so much more of a leader!"- Edith Gill

Be involved with your County Association and get involved with MCANJ. Allow these Organizations to grow and prosper. We have made tremendous strides since 1922 and I cannot wait to see what our upcoming RMCs can do to move us even further.

I cannot thank you all enough for attending this year's conference where we provided you with over twenty-two CEUs, five CMR credits, and close to seven CMC/MMC credits. We as Municipal Clerks hold the oldest and one of the most respected positions in government. Be proud of this title and be the best you can be! Thank you.





## Michele

### A MESSAGE FROM INCOMING MCANJ PRESIDENT DEANNA BENNETT

Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Clerks, MCANJ Executive Board members and distinguished guests,

I am incredibly honored to become the 2024/2025 MCANJ President. I am truly humbled and grateful to be placed in this esteemed position. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the members who have supported me and contributed to my journey in this role. As President, I am committed to upholding the values and mission of the MCANJ and working to serve our members. Together, we will strive to promote excellence in our profession, advocate for important issues and foster a sense of unity and collaboration among our members. I am excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead and am confident that, with the dedication and hard work of our mem-

bers we will achieve great things together. Let up continue to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and ethics and make a positive impact on those we serve. Thank you once again for this incredible privilege.





### **The Harold Wiener Mentor Award**

This year, our Association lost a shining star amongst Municipal Clerks. He retired, then we learned of the devastating news of his passing in February. It is not very often that we come across a Municipal Clerk that can touch and affect so many whether in their community or professionally. When Harold Wiener of Irvington was retiring, I was contacted by the Essex News Daily to make a Statement on behalf of the Association. I advised the reporter that "Harold is and will always be a legend to all of us Municipal Clerks here in New Jersey. He has been an asset to the MCANJ and all the municipalities of New Jersey. His legacy will forever live on in all the groundwork he has laid down for us and all of us will be forever grateful. For 43 years, Harold worked with Irvington. Was named Municipal Clerk of the Year. He was a long-time member of the Municipal Clerks Association of Essex County and served on numerous committees over many years with the MCANJ. Over the years, he became a mentor to his staff and statewide to other Municipal Clerks entering the profession. He was known as the "Wizard."

Because of Harold's impact on our Association like no other in an exceptionally long time, it has been determined by the Executive Board to add a new award to be nominated by members of the Association- this award will be known as **The Harold Wiener Mentor Award**. The application will be similar to the Clerk of the Year Award. The Nominee will be someone who has been a mentor to the individual nominating them.

For this year, the Executive Board voted on the first recipient of this prestigious award. I had heard of this individual's name repeatedly in professional circles and from my attendees in my Athenian Dialogue classes on whom they call for advice and hold in high regard. For our new RMCs grab a pen to write this individual's contact information down in case you ever have a question or need advice. The phone number is: 732-602-6007 and their email address is: <a href="mailto:john.mitch@twp.woodbridge.nj.us">john.mitch@twp.woodbridge.nj.us</a>. Congratulations to our first recipient of the Harold Wiener Mentor Award— John Mitch of Woodbridge Township! Congratulations John for this well deserved award!





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 is November 1st.

## **MCANJ Award Recipients**

#### The Joel Popkin Award of Excellence- Dale Forde of Cedar Grove

In 2017, I received an email that said, "Hi, my name is Dale Forde from East Orange, and I helped Joe Kostecki with the Quill. I would like to stay on with the Quill and help you." Dale came out of the blue and has been my right hand with the Quill, my second set of eyes, my photographer for events that I cannot attend, and since my Presidency has been my ride or die with the Quill. Dale has attended Advisory Board meetings and worked on getting Assemblyman Danielson to write an article on Liquor License Reform. Dale has grown in her role with the Quill and has excelled over the last eight years because of her tenacity and willingness to always go the extra mile.



#### The Joel Popkin Award of Excellence- Sean Gallagher of Jersey City

My first phone call, the first day as President was to Sean Gallagher, Clerk of Jersey City. Our goal was to get his County an Association. Working over the course of a year, alongside Past President Kim-Marie White, we had By-laws drafted and approved. On January 18, 2024, Officers were sworn in for the first ever Executive Board of Hudson County. This Executive Board of Hudson County will allow Clerks to have a conduit of communication, educational improvements, and growth between Hudson County and the MCANJ.



#### The Joel Popkin Award of Excellence- Donna Zilberfarb of Frelinghuysen Township

Donna has gone above and beyond in her capacity as a Municipal Clerk. Donna's involvement in the creation of the Frelinghuysen Township Volunteer Fire Company was very instrumental. Donna's exceptional organizational skills, attention to detail, tireless efforts, and dedication contributed to the creation of the first volunteer fire company in the State on New Jersey in almost thirty years, marking a milestone in her community's well-being and safety.



#### The Joel Popkin Award of Excellence- April Claudio of Belmar Borough

Have you ever seen the movie, The Wizard of OZ? The Municipal Clerks' Association of NJ has their very own Wizard always working behind the curtain. It is our own Superhero, April Claudio. April should be wearing a cape everyday because without her, the Association would not be able to operate. April monitors our social media, the MCANJ website, membership, conference registrations, and email issues. If you have ever been locked out of your account, April was the one who would always get you back in. I go on a minimum of sleep, but April goes on even less. I do not think we could function without April. April is the heart of this Association!





## **MCANJ Award Recipients**



#### Manual L. Hirshblond Award- Karen Romano of Lebanon Boro

This individual stepped in when I needed it the most to help me, my sounding board, and a conference co-chair, to make this conference the success that it was. Because of me, Karen has been involuntarily involved with our County Association and MCANJ Committees. This year I have had to rely on Karen more than anything. Without an Executive Director, duties shifted amongst Conference Committee Members and this individual took them without hesitating. I am forever in debt for Karen's unselfishness and unwavering support of my Presidency and of the Association. Karen has been an asset to this Association and myself throughout my Municipal Clerk career. Thank you Karen for everything this year and over the course of my career. Your friendship means the world to me!



#### Manual L. Hirshblond Award- Kim-Marie White of Eastampton

This recipient needs no introduction, she is an asset to this Association and to say she has been my "Go To" is an understatement. I have had her on emergency speed dial and called many times for advice. Kim-Marie was hesitant at first to commit to be my conference co-chair, so I had to sweet talk her and so glad she agreed. Kim-Marie White of Eastampton Township led her troops to make this conference the best it could be. Kim-Marie's diligence and attention to detail was what held the Conference Committee together. I am forever grateful for your mentorship, friendship, dedication, and support this year. Kim-Marie I'm forever grateful for you!!! You are one in a million in the Municipal Clerk world!





#### Manual L. Hirshblond Award- Denise Cafone of Fairfield Township

This recipient has been my rock through this year, and I would not have survived this year without you by my side. As Past President you have gone way above the call of duty to help myself and the Association when it found itself in uncertain times. Because of you, we are in a better place moving forward for future generations of Municipal Clerks and making this Conference a success. Denise worked tirelessly behind the scenes making sure I was eating, getting sleep, answering midnight texts, crack of dawn phone calls and retracing my steps to ensure things were correct. Denise is one of the few who understands what I have gone through, has defended me, and has gone above the call of duty. Denise, thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done for me this past year. Words can never convey my appreciation to you! Love you!

#### **EDITORIAL STAFF FY 2024/2025**

Editor: Michele Bobrowski, Alexandria Twp. Contributing Editor: Dale Forde, Twp. of Cedar Grove Advertising: Michele Bobrowski, Alexandria Twp. People Page: April Claudio, Borough of Belmar

(908) 996-7071 ext. 210 E-mail: clerk@alexandrianj.gov (973) 239-1410 ext. 204 E-mail: assteditor@mcanj.us (908) 996-7071 ext. 210 E-mail: clerk@alexandrianj.gov (732) 681-3700 ext. 225 E-mail: peoplepage@mcanj.us

#### **PAST EDITORS:**

1954-1959: J. Ford Flagg 1960-1970: John R. Zellweger 1971-1973: Joseph E. Bennett

1974-1982: Harry C. Kates 1994-1995: Patricia Hullfish and Patricia C. Shuss 1983-1993: Janet L. Lynds

1996-2000: Patricia C. Shuss 2001-2005: Nancy Hatten 2006-2015: Jim Doherty

2015-2017: Joseph Kostecki

#### MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY, INC. EXECUTIVE BOARD FY 2024/2025

President: Deanna Bennett, Haddonfield Borough E-mail: president@mcanj.us Nancy Bretzger, Borough of Peapack/Gladstone E-mail: 1vp@mcanj.us 1st Vice President: 2nd Vice President: Kim Macellaro, Ewing Township E-mail: 2vp@mcanj.us Ann Marie McCarthy, Franklin Township E-mail: treasurer@mcanj.us Treasurer: Secretary: Edith Gil, Watchung Borough E-mail: secretary@mcanj.us Immediate Past President: Michele Bobrowski, Alexandria Township E-mail: pastpresident@mcanj.us

Tom Prol, JD/MPH of Sills, Cummis, and Gross P.C. Legal Counsel:

#### MCANJ PAST PRESIDENTS

1975: Alfred A. Reda 2	2003: Allan Susen	2014-15 John M. Mitch
1985: Elizabeth G. Nolan	2004: Joel Popkin	2016: Keith Kazmar
1987: Lewis N. Thompson	2005: Jane Williams-Warren	2017: Denise Szabo
1988: Elaine Wallace	2006: Elaine B. Kennedy	2018: Dina Zawadski
1993: John J. Galvin	2007: Barbara M. Hawk	2019: Kevin Galland
1994: Kathleen A. Thorpe	2008: Heather Mailander	2020: Diane Pflugfelder
1995: Christina N. Wilder	2010: Vincent Buttigleri	2021: Eileen Gore
1996: Joseph C. Favaro	2011: Joanne M. Kwasniewski	2022: Kim-Marie White
1997: Elizabeth H. Kiss	2012: Andrew J. Pavlica	2023: Denise Cafone
2001: Sharon L. Brienza	2013: Nancy Saffos	2024: Michele Bobrowski

#### **IIMC PAST PRESIDENTS**

Robert Radford, Hasbrouck Heights Borough Joseph V. Valenti, Woodbridge Township Christina N. Wilder, Hamilton Township Joseph T. Carney, Englewood City

Thomas Redanauer, Barrington Borough Elizabeth H. Kiss, East Brunswick Township Vincent Buttiglieri, Ocean Township

#### MCANJ ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS FY 2024/2025-Pending

Atlantic:	Paula Geletei, Atlantic City	Middlesex:	Norma Carbin, South Brunswick
Bergen:	Heather Mailander, Village of Ridgewood	Monmouth:	Heidi Pieluc, Middletown Township
Burlington:	Amy Cosnoski, Pemberton Twp	Morris:	Elizabeth Osborne, Madison Borough
Camden:	Michele Miller, Somerdale Borough	Ocean:	Christine Hannemann, Surf City Borough
Cape May	Danielle Nollett, Avalon Borough	Passaic:	Nicole Langenmayr, Borough of Ringwood
Cumberland:	Denise Peterson, Maurice River Twp	Salem:	Melinda Taylor, Oldsman Township
Essex:	Jennifer Kiernan, Verona Township	Somerset:	Zina Van Ness, Somerville Borough
Gloucester:	Dina Zawadski, Deptford Township	Sussex:	Amy Lobban, Sandyston Township
Hudson:	Junior Maldonado, Hudson County	Union:	Nicole Kotiga, City of Summit
Hunterdon:	Jenn Ader, Tewksbury Township	Warren:	Donna Zilberfarb, Frelinghuysen Township

Mercer: Peggy Riggio, Hightstown Borough

#### **NEW JERSEY CLERKS' COUNTY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS FY 2024/2025**

Atlantic:	Lisa Tilton, Buena Vista	Middlesex:	Cheryl Sharkey, Woodbridge Township
Bergen:	Yancy Wazirmas, City of Engelwood	Monmouth:	Janine Gillis, Spring Lake Heights
Burlington:	Kim-Marie White, Eastampton Township	Morris:	Elizabeth Osborne, Madison Borough
Camden:	Bonnie Taft, Oaklyn Borough	Ocean:	Susan Farrell, Little Egg Harbor Township
Cape May:	Patricia Feketics, Wildwood Crest	Passaic:	Nicole Langenmayr, Borough of Ringwood
Cumberland:	Lisa Garrison, Greenwich & Woodbine	Salem:	Melinda Taylor, Oldsman Township
Essex:	Tara Ventola, Glen Ridge Borough	Somerset:	Christina Fisher, So. Bound Brook
Gloucester:	Dina Zawadski, Deptford Township	Sussex:	Amy Lobban, Sandyston Township
Hudson:	Junior Maldonado, Hudson County	Union:	Eileen Birch, Union City
Hunterdon:	Lisa Burd, Borough of Bloomsbury	Warren:	Diane M. Pflugfelder, Liberty Twp.
Mercer:	Kim Macellaro, Ewing Township		



The 2024 IIMC Conference was held in Alberta, Canada this year. A handful of Municipal Clerks from New Jersey and Reion II grabbed their winter coats and ventured to it. Many were first-time attendees who had a great time sitting in the sessions, networking with Municipal Clerks from all over the world, and exploring the region. We embraced the western hospitality of Alberta by designing our own cowboy hats at the Buckin Bull Barn Bash, sat on a bull, and listened to cultural music. The keynote speakers were amazing as usual and never disappointed. This year we laughed to Desi Payne's "Do you work with the Living Dead?" and listened to the rapping of the amazing Shaun Boothe with his inspiring and uplifting "Biography Series". Many sessions taught us to unlock our cognitive potential, equity and inclusion in Municipal Engagement, preventing burnout in the workplace, decision making, technology in the workplace, and the future of the Municipal Clerk. The Alberta Conference Committee went out of their way to provide top notch education opportunities for all of us and it showed. The 2025 IIMC Conference will be in St. Louis, Missouri-Sunday May 18, 2025-May 21, 2025.

**Fun Facts about Alberta:** 4th largest province with 4.3 million people living there. It is landlocked but it's full of lakes. Home to the Calgary Stampede known as "The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth" and Alberta's legislature is called "the leg".

## **Contact Information for the 2024/2025 MCANJ Executive Board**

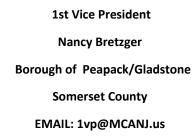
President

Deanna Bennett

Borough of Haddonfield

Camden County

EMAIL: president@MCANJ.us

















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Ann Marie McCarthy

Township of Franklin

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EMAIL: treasurer@MCANJ.us

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Borough of Watchung

Somerset County

EMAIL: secretary@MCANJ.us

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Alexandria Township

Hunterdon County

EMAIL: pastpresident@MCANJ.us



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the *Quill*Editor - Michele Bobrowski
PO Box 7248
Watchung, NJ 07069



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#### **DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

Please send General News Articles and People Page Submissions by September 10, 2024 for the October Edition of the Quill to either:

Michele Bobrowski, Alexandria Township, via email: clerk@alexandrianj.gov

Or

Dale Forde, Cedar Grove, via email: assteditor@mcanj.us

April Claudio for the People Page via email: peoplepage@mcanj.us

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.

Or

Contributing Editor: Dale Forde, Twp. of Cedar Grove (973) 239-1410 ext. 204 or using the contact information shown above.

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