



**VERMONT MUNICIPAL CLERKS' AND TREASURERS' ASSOCIATION
81st ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
KILLINGTON GRAND
KILLINGTON, VERMONT
SEPTEMBER 18, 2017**

The 81st Annual Meeting of the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association was held at the Killington Grand. Registration was from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. with a breakfast buffet and an opportunity to visit the vendor booths. The vendor participants were:

Adkins Printing	Mascoma Bank
Citizens Bank	NEMRC
Code Base	People's United Bank
Community Bank (Merchants)	The Satellite Biz
Credit Union of Vermont	TD Bank
Cott Systems	VELCO
DuPont Storage Systems	Vermont 211
General Code	Vermont Local Roads
Inclusion Solutions	VLCT
Invest EAP	VT Attorneys Title
Kofile Preservation	Wells Fargo
LHS Associate	

VMCTA BUSINESS MEETING

President Lucrecia Wonsor, Killington, called the business meeting to order at 12:49 p.m. She led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance then introduced the VMCTA Executive Board.

Review/Approve 2016 Minutes

Tim Arsenault, Vernon, made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

President Wonsor presented the 2017 VMCTA proposed budget and treasurer's report to the membership. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2017 proposed budget and treasurer's report as presented. There wasn't any discussion, questions or comments. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

Auditor's Report

President Wonsor turned the meeting over to Auditor Patti Lewis, Fayston, who reported that she reviewed the financial reports of the VMCTA and found the records to be in good standing.

Nominating Committee's Report

President Wonsor turned the meeting over to the Chair of the Nominating Committee Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Fairlee. She announced the following slate of officers as nominated:

Donna Kinville, South Burlington	President
Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Fairlee	1 st Vice-President
Tracy Borst, Thetford	2 nd Vice-President
Dawn Custer, Hubbardton	Secretary
Audra Girouard, Concord	Treasurer
Deanna Robitaille, Montgomery	Auditor
Debra Hawkins, Pawlet	Member at Large (1-year term)
Diane Judd, Holland	Member at Large (1-year term)
Stacy Jewell, St. Johnsbury	Member at Large (2-year term)
Karen Richard, Colchester	Member at Large (2-year term)

Sandy Pinsonault, Dorset, made the motion to elect the slate of officers as nominated. There were no other nominations from the floor. The motion was seconded by Clyde Jenne, Hartland. All members were in favor. The motion carried. The VMCTA Officers were duly elected. President Wonsor announced the newly elected officers would be sworn into office during the banquet by Secretary of State Jim Condos.

Constitution Amendment

President Wonsor turned the meeting over to Constitution Committee Chair Clyde Jenne, Hartland, who explained the proposed amendment to the Constitution was asked for by the Executive Board. The change would affect Article 7 Section 1 of the by-laws. The current by-law has the Annual Meeting on the 3rd Monday in September unless it is a holiday of religious significance. Mondays are often hard for treasurers. Clyde read the proposed change to the membership explaining the date and place of the Annual Meeting will be known at least 180 days in advance. President Wonsor asked if there were any suggestions or questions. It was asked if the conference would no longer be on a Monday. President Wonsor explained it allows for the flexibility to hold it on other days. It will open options when scheduling the venue and it will be better for many treasurers. Joyce Mazzucco, Randolph, made a motion to accept the Constitution Amendment as proposed. The motion was seconded. All members were in favor. The motion carried.

Special Awards Presentation

President Wonsor explained the Town Clerk of the Year award was being presented now because of scheduling conflicts. Carol Dawes helps other clerks, is a voice of reason, when statutes aren't clear the network is used to bring clarity. She has served on the Certification Committee and presents at Spring Trainings. Carol noted it was an honor she didn't feel she deserved adding she would endeavor to continue to earn respect over the years.

Legislative Report

President Wonsor turned the meeting over to Legislative Committee Chair Karen Richard, Colchester. Karen introduced members of the Legislative Committee. She reported it was an interesting legislative session. The Vital Records bill changed in the way it was being handled. They will be taking input from clerks at Town Fair. There is a fee for storm water runoff which is being considered as an addition to property tax bills. At the end of the session clerks asked to have the day before the election as a gap day, people not registering or voting in the office. The City of Burlington has 5000 pages that must be checked and sent to the printer on the Friday before the election to get it back by Monday. The city isn't sure when to send it to the printers now. Clerks just need a day to get ready for the election. Carol Dawes reported in addition to receiving input on the Vital Records bill at Town Fair, a representative from the Vermont Department of Health is willing to come to the county groups to engage with clerks. A member asked if the gap day was going to be across the board for all clerks or elective, clerks could choose to allow voting and registration the day before an election. Karen explained the Secretary of State had said it would be easier if it was mandated and everyone did the same but that didn't come to pass. The issue is with the larger towns. One had 450 voters vote in office the day prior to the election. By allowing offices to close the day before the election clerks aren't denying individuals the right to vote but encouraging them to vote one of the other of the 45 days before the election and not wait until the last moment. Some clerks in attendance explained why it is difficult the day before and election. One had to load everything in her car and travel over a mountain to get to her polling place. There have been times people show up to vote in the office once everything has been loaded and ready to go.

New England Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy (NEMCI&A)

President Wonsor introduced Tracy Borst, Thetford and Tammy Legacy, Roxbury. Tammy began by informing the membership she had only been a NEMCI&A Board member for a couple of months. She then recognized the graduates of New England Municipal Clerks Institute & Academy for 2017. She asked Lisa Bragg, Strafford, and LaDonna Dunn, Westfield, to stand and be recognized. There were three Vermont clerks who attended academy this year, Priscilla Aldrich, Burke; Lucrecia Wonsor, Killington; and Diane Judd, Holland. Tracy Borst reported NEMCI&A is a wonderful, enriching experience where you meet a lot of great people. It helps you to develop a professional bag of tricks. She explained she and Tammy are both available to help facilitate members being able to attend the program.

New England Association of City and Town Clerks (NEACTC)

Tammy Legacy reported she was appointed as the Vice-President of Vermont on the NEACTC Board after the resignation of Alison Kaiser (formerly Stowe Town Clerk). The New England Conference is November 15 – 17, 2017. Stowe Mountain Lodge is being considered for the New England Conference to be held in Vermont in 2021. She asked members who would like to help or serve on a committee to please get in touch.

International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC)

President Wonsor introduced Carol Anderson, IIMC Region 1 Director. Carol noted she was happy to be invited. IIMC is the largest and strongest network of clerks. It empowers through

certification and education. It gives you the power to be who you will be. She explained she was currently running for the first time to be a city clerk, she has always been an assistant. She noted she has her MMC certification and has plastered it all over as part of her campaign. Experience matters. The annual Region 1 meeting is March 21-23, 2018 in Manchester, Vermont. The IIMC Conference this year is in Norfolk, Virginia and in attending points toward CMC or MMC certification are earned. It is in May 2018. IIMC is the organization through which you earn your CMC. The only higher clerk designation is the MMC. It is recognized throughout all states.

County Reports

The following counties reported:

Windham County – reported as a group they met twice last year. The last one was with the Secretary of State. Archer Mayor was at last May's meeting.

Chittenden/Grand Isle Counties – The next meeting is October 3rd in Essex. Jim Barlow, South Burlington City Attorney will be talking about the Open Meeting Law.

Rutland County – met once and is hoping to have another meeting in October or November.

Washington County – After a two-year hiatus the county meetings are up and running again. There will be four a year scheduled at alternating locations.

Franklin County – Meets 4 – 6 times a year. Recording fees were recently discussed. Next a local legislature will be invited to discuss what is important to clerks.

Other Business

President Wonsor informed the membership the Executive Board had a committee which discussed recording fees. Ideas explored consisted of going from a per page fee to a flat higher first page fee and an additional lower per page fee for pages beyond the first. \$45 - \$55 was discussed as the fee for the first page with \$5/page for all additional. It is hoped there will be a statutory requirement that \$10 of the first page fee be set aside for restoration, including computerization. It is hard for some clerks to set money aside for restoration and they would welcome the requirement. Doing the research, it was found it cost more to record a document than what is being brought in as the recording fee. We are the only state charging the same per page fee. More of the recordings received are now 1-3 pages. There aren't the big twenty-page mortgages like there were in the past. It was asked if the Property Transfer Tax Return fee could increase. Lucrecia explained it could be treated as any other document. The Board wanted to make certain clerks on fees and stipends weren't losing. She asked members to share any ideas they may have.

President Wonsor noted she would like to recognize Alison Kaiser who retired from Stowe. She was always an active member of the Association and we are very happy to have her here helping.

Karen Richard was recognized as a clerk/treasurer retiring this year.

Jessica Alexander, Jericho and Diana Vachon, Shelburne explained they wanted to have a team

of survivors and supporters in the Vermont Dragon Heart Festival which takes place in Burlington on the first Sunday in August. Twenty-two people row a dragon boat on a 100-meter course. Your commitment means a practice in July and the festival in August. The fundraiser is \$80 per rower and is a great way to blow off steam right before an election.

VMCTA Business meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Attest: Dawn Custer
VMCTA Secretary

The 2017 awards presentations were held after the banquet. The Town Clerk and Treasurer of the Year awards were presented by President Wonsor and Georgette Wolf-Ludwig. Before the presentation of awards President Wonsor took a moment to thank the membership for allowing her to serve as the Association's president the last two years. She noted she has been honored to represent the Association and thanked everyone for their trust reminding members the Board is here to serve the membership.

Municipal Treasurer of the Year: Joyce Mazzucco, Randolph

The following certifications were presented.

2017 Certified Vermont Clerks

LaDonna Dunn, Westfield; Deanna Robitaille, Montgomery

2017 Certified Vermont Treasurers

Lucrecia Wonsor, Killington

2017 Re-Certified Town Clerk Level 1

Diane Judd, Holland

2017 Cum Laude Town Clerks

Nellie Noble, Granby; Deb Beckett, Williston, Susie Haughwout, Wilmington
Lucrecia Wonsor, Killington

2017 Cum Laude Town Treasurers

Nellie Noble, Granby; Deb Beckett, Williston

2017 Magnum Cum Laude Town Clerk

Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Fairlee

Secretary of State Jim Condos swore in the newly elected VMCTA officers. A round of applause was given to all the evening's award recipients and for the newly elected officers.

Newly elected VMCTA President Donna Kinville spoke briefly about her goal for the Association. President Kinville stated she considered it an honor to be elected. She noted she would like to see clerks regain their voice and unity and asked for clerks to help. Her door is open for any input or suggestions. She thanked everyone again.