
NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL CLERKS NEWSLETTER

May 2008



Message from the President

*By Jerry Wilcox
Clerk/Treasurer, Crete
NMCA President*

There has been much discussion lately about IIMC's recent changes and the changes they plan to make in the future. It appears on the cover that IIMC would like to move the CMC and MMC designations in the direction of a certification that would be required by some level of government to practice a particular profession similar to an EMT Certification or Water Operator Certificate, where you would be punished judiciously or monetarily for practicing without a current up-to-date certification.

The UNO Clerks Institute and Academy has done a great job of keeping up with the IIMC recommendations on meeting the requirements set forth to date and I feel they are very capable of integrating any additional requirements that may come forth. They have also made great efforts to communicate Nebraska's

concerns about the changes.

If the Legislature of the State of Nebraska would make it statutorily required that the City or Village Clerk have a current up-to-date certification to be employed by a City or Village, I have to believe that the IIMC certifications would exceed the requirements the State of Nebraska might impose.

Herein lies the problem, the State of Nebraska does not require such a certification for municipal clerks of cities and villages, so why should we bother with a membership to IIMC to get a certification that we do not need? As your fearless leader I feel compelled to come up with an answer. I don't have all the answers, but the following **fictional** news story might be an example of the benefits of membership and certification.

Dateline May 1, 2016 – Lincoln, Nebraska

Many communities in the State of Nebraska are in a state of confusion. On the last day of the legislative session this year, the

Nebraska state legislators, under pressure from the federal government, passed a law with an emergency clause that requires all municipal clerks to have a certification before doing any of the statutory requirements of their position. This comes on the heels of an unexpected move by the United Nations requiring its members to enact such legislation to help battle the cyber terrorism that has plagued local government offices around the world. The Legislature fought the idea of such a mandate, but the federal government is taking the issue seriously and threatened federal aid cut backs if the legislation was not enacted.

Approximately 25 percent of the communities in Nebraska will meet the requirements of the law because their municipal clerks have been part of a group called the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and have



Continued on page 2



Message from the President

Continued from page 1
followed through with the continuing educational programs. The other 75 percent of the communities are scrambling to meet the short deadline to comply with the law or make arrangements to have a qualified municipal clerk from another community come in and take care of the statutory duties which have increased over the years.

“This is causing a great deal of confusion for our smaller communities” stated Clara Kadiddlehopper, President of the Nebraska Municipal Clerks Association.

“I have received communications that several villages are considering becoming unincorporated because they will not

be able to comply.”

Speaker Philbin of the 13th District was asked if there were any other options for the communities that do not have a certified municipal clerk.

“The federal government gave us only one option and that is all we are able to pass on to the cities and villages. If they can not get the statutory duties of the municipal clerk done, they risk losing state and federal aid also, it can be very devastating.”

“Thank goodness the University of Nebraska – Omaha School of Public Administration has been so diligent in staying up to date on the IIMC requirements” added Kadiddlehopper, “their program is the only hope for all of the communities that

have a short time to comply.”

May 22, 2008 – Crete, Nebraska

This example does not intend to justify any changes they might make to the requirements of getting certified; only that certification is a good idea for all professions. As we have learned in the past, legislative mandates of “one size fits all” are not good for rural Nebraska. I hope that our representatives at the IIMC conference in Atlanta are able to bring back some answers to our questions about the changes that IIMC would like to make. See you at the Finance Conference in Kearney!

*Jerry L. Wilcox
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402-826-4313*

CITY NEWS:

Swedish Midsömmar Festival slated for June 20-22 in Stromsburg

Please join us for the 56th annual Swedish Midsömmar Festival in Stromsburg June 20-22, 2008. There will be food, music, and many activities throughout the weekend including a quilt show, pa-

rade, Smorgasbord, Extreme Soapbox Derby and much, much more. For a complete schedule of events and more information please visit our website at www.stromsburgnebraska.com.

Check out legislative web site

Check the Legislature’s web site for more information about your state Senators. Interim committee hearings schedules will be posted later in the summer. The web site address is <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/web/public/home>.



Northeast Nebraska Clerks Association

The Northeast Nebraska Clerk's Association met on April 17, 2008 at Norfolk City Council Chambers in Norfolk. President Alisha Bartling called the meeting to order at 1:57 p.m. Clerks from the following communities were present: Verdigre, O'Neill, two from Madison, Norfolk, Genoa, Petersburg, Elgin, South Sioux City, Wausa, Plainview, Randolph, Wisner, and Oakdale.

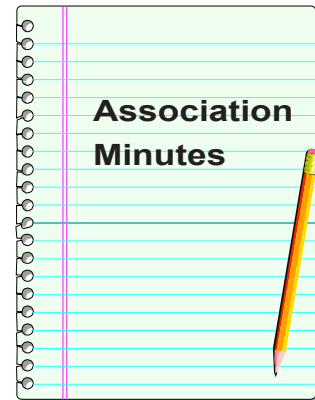
A motion to approve the Jan. 17, 2008 minutes was made by Karen Kleinschmit from Wausa.

There was a second by Sue Murray of South Sioux City. Motion carried.

There was no treasurer report available. There was a motion to approve two claims of Jennifer Carr for postage and also Dee's Delight made by

Nikki Johnston from O'Neill. There was a second by Vicki Miller from Elgin. Motion carried.

Clerks Institute and Academy of 2008 was discussed. One item that had discussion was the papers that will be continuing for the CMC/IIMC. There was also discussion of how and who was with IIMC. Other items discussed were the Banquet for the 2009 Clerks Institute and Academy, as Beth Deck will be president. Themes were discussed and a committee was formed, which is Sue Murray of South Sioux City, Lacie Andreasen from Genoa, Jennifer Carr from Oakdale, Cinda Jones from Randolph, and Andrew Devine from Albion. The July 17, 2008 meeting will be in Norfolk at the City Coun-



cil Chambers with Dee's Delight providing the meal. For speaker, we are talking about getting someone from the League, or else Sen. Flood. Report from the Sunshine Committee was asking questions on what all we send cards for and also was asked to send Elaine a bouquet of flowers. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m. The next meeting will be July 17, 2008 at the Norfolk City Council Chambers.

Linda Wetzel of Hy-Vee, who is a registered Dietitian, gave a presentation on how to handle stress and what stress can do to our food intake. If you would like to know any information on what she talked about, feel free to get a hold of myself and I would be willing to get copies to you.

Submitted by Jennifer Carr – Secretary



**Mark your calendars
for the League's Municipal
Accounting and Finance
Conference in Kearney,
June 25-27, 2008**



Heartland Clerk's Association

*April 17, 2008
Grand Island, Nebraska*

The Heartland Clerk's Association met on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at Valentino's Pizza in Grand Island, Nebraska. President Connie Jo Beck of St. Paul called the meeting to order with 19 members present: Connie Jo Beck, St. Paul; Kellie Crowell, Julia Tapia, Ravenna, Missy Waldo, Republican City; Janet Greenwalt, St. Paul; Kris Gall, Alma; Raquel Felzien, Franklin; RaNae Edwards, Grand Island; Linda Jensen, Central City; Misty Garcia, Dannebrog; Vicki Nelson, Axtell; Sandy Kruml, Ord; Brenda Kehler, Greeley; Susan Kluthe, Cairo, Martha Mayhew, Alda; Lyndi

Share your news

Share your city or village's news with fellow municipal officials from across the state by sending information for the *Nebraska Municipal Review* to the League of Nebraska Municipalities, Attn: Lynn Marienau at 1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-476-2829 by phone, 402-476-7052 by fax, or lynnm@lonm.org by e-mail.

Fitzgerald; Annette Gallaway, Loup City; Gail Zoerb; Mason City; Bonnie Gilpin, Wolbach. Copies of the minutes from the January were presented for review. Motion made by Kellie Crowell, seconded by Sandy Kruml to approve the minutes as presented. Upon roll call vote, all present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Brenda Kehler, seconded by Susan Kluthe to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented with a balance of \$1,401.82 upon roll call vote, all present voted aye. Motion carried.

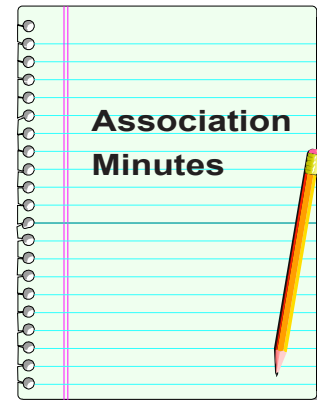
Unfinished Business

Clerk Academy/Institute March 16-21, 2008 was great conference.

Wednesday Night Hospitality Night was awesome, everyone had a great time.

New Business

Election of Officers. Raquel Felzien nominated Kris Gall from Alma and Linda Jensen nominated Jean Polzkill from Central City. A vote was taken and Kris Gall won by majority. Motion by Kellie Crowell and seconded by Martha Mayhew to approve Kris Gall as the new secretary/treasurer starting on Aug. 21, 2008 upon roll call vote, all present voted aye. Motion carried.



Connie Jo sent Joan Kovar from David City a Get Well Wishes card, and sent RaNae Edwards' husband a Get Well card; he is recovering from open heart surgery.

Finance Conference will be June 25-27, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska.

Announcements

Connie Jo introduced a new member, Lyndi Fitzgerald from Loup City.

The next meeting date will be Aug. 21, 2008.

Speaker John Trecek from Ameritas Investment Corp. gave a presentation on bonds for first class cities, second class cities, and villages.

Motion made by Janet Greenwalt and seconded by Annette Gallaway to adjourn the meeting. Upon roll call vote, all present voted aye. Motion carried.



The power of a mother's kiss

When American-born painter Benjamin West was 7, he was put in charge of his infant niece while his mother and sister went for a walk. As the baby lay in the cradle, Benjamin fanned flies away from her and the baby laughed. Grabbing a paper and pen, Benjamin set to work trying to capture the baby's charms. As he finished, his mother and sister returned. Benjamin, caught off-guard,

tried to hide his drawing so as not to upset his mother. But instead, his suspicious behavior drew her attention.

"What have you been doing?" she asked.

Benjamin begged his mother not to be upset and handed her the paper. She looked at it and said to her daughter, "I declare, he has made a likeness of Sally." Then she smiled and gave Benjamin a kiss.

The following year a cousin sent a box of pencils, paints and canvas. Benjamin disappeared one morning with the supplies – forgetting all about school. His mother, upset that he was neglecting his schooling, found him in the attic and was about to scold him when her eyes fell on the compositions he had created. Instead of reprimanding him, she picked him up and covered him in kisses and promised to explain to his father what had kept him from his studies.

Later, the famous artist was often heard saying, "It was my mother's kisses that made me an artist."

Some Questions to Ponder... (from Lyle's Web page of Funnies)

- Why are there Braille signs on drive-up ATM's?
- If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?
- What would happen if there would not be a Silent Auction at Clerk's School?

We don't want to know, so here are your next two ideas:

Idea #3: Certificates are great for everyone.

Idea #4: Gifts for Children – remember we all have children in our lives whether they are our own, grandchildren, nieces – nephews...., remember there is usually a holiday around our school – great presents and especially when the children are not around.

Stay continued for more ideas!!!

*Submitted by,
Barbara Whitley, Geneva
NMCA 2nd Vice*

Shortcomings assessment

- I was just getting used to yesterday. Now it's today.
- Lately, I feel like it's a parallel universe and I'm parked diagonally.
- We all have photographic memories, but only a few of us have film.



How to register for newsletter e-mail list

Here is how you sign up to have your name placed on the newsletter e-mail list. Through this list, you will be notified of when the latest *Nebraska Municipal Clerks Newsletter* is available to view online.

1) Go to the League's website at <http://lonm.org>. Click on the Sections and Committees tab that appears on the right hand side of the main page. On the Sections and Committees page, immediately under the heading "Sections and Committees," there is a paragraph, which begins with the words "Attention Municipal Clerks."

2) Click on the underlined phrase "Sign-Up," which will link you to a Newsletters Alert Sign-Up Form. Fill out the requested information and create a username and password of your choosing. Click on the box with the words "Sign-Up" in it. Your name and e-mail address is automatically added to the list. When a new newsletter is available, a notice will be sent to you.

3) Later, if you want to remove your name and e-mail address from this list or change your e-mail address, you follow the above directions, but click on the "Sign-In" link. There you can login with your existing information and make the necessary changes.

4) To access the list of newsletters, you can go to the Sections and Committees page and click on the underlined phrase "click here" in the paragraph above the list of NMCA officers. The list of Clerks Newsletters will be at the bottom of the page filed by date and title.

July Birthdays

Mindi Clarke	Julian	7/1	Robin Sullivan	Brainard	7/12
Patty Knobbe	Snyder	7/1	Pamela Richter	Kimball	7/13
Susan Kiesel	Gering	7/1	Barbara Grabhorn	Edgar	7/14
Wendy McKain	Trenton	7/2	Sandra Farmer	Gordon	7/14
Judy Dietz	Amherst	7/3	DeAnn Swickl	Grant	7/14
Richard Young	Minden	7/3	Jeanine Wasser	Ulysses	7/15
Nancy Niemann	Raymond	7/3	Patty Lamberty	Arnold	7/17
Angela Oliver	Clarks	7/3	Geri Anthony	Sidney	7/17
Tom Delmont	Beemer	7/4	Janelle Kline	Columbus	7/18
Irene Y. Cooper	Bridgeport	7/4	Lea Ann Doak	McCook	7/18
Crystal Seyditz	Osceola	7/5	Joyce Beck	Crete	7/20
Cynthia Sanders	Guide Rock	7/6	Tammy Cooley	Morrill	7/20
Cathy Lupomech	La Vista	7/7	Lesa Parker	Hay Springs	7/23
Irene Dresch	Primrose	7/7	Becky Kramer	Litchfield	7/24
Barbara Sydow	Stratton	7/7	Melissa Vanderford	Benkelman	7/25
Kristine Gall	Alma	7/7	Brenda Daniels	Verdon	7/26
David Rish	Central City	7/10	Rosemarie Russell	Gering	7/29
Charlene Jensen	Hubbard	7/10	Rebecca Sandman	Utica	7/30
Linda Eschenweck	Thayer	7/10	Karla Keller	Bassett	7/31



**Municipal Legal Calendar
(All statute citations to Revised Statutes of Nebraska)**

JUNE 2008

CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS

Within 10 working days following meeting or before next meeting (whichever is sooner)	Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
Within 15 days of Passage	Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (16-405)
First Monday	Board of Equalization meets. (16-707)
Within 30 days following Council meeting	Clerk publishes official proceedings of meetings, including claims. (19-1102)
Within 20 days after end of month	Treasurer files monthly financial report. (16-318)
At end of month	Clerk files monthly report. (16-317)
* *	Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)

CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS

Within 10 working days following meeting or before next meeting (whichever is sooner)	Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
Within 15 days of Passage	Clerk publishes or posts ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 30 days following Council meeting	Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting. (19-1102)
Within 20 days after end of month	Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
* *	Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)

VILLAGES

Within 10 working days following meeting or before next meeting (whichever is sooner)	Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
Within 15 days of Passage	Clerk publishes or posts ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 30 days following trustees' meeting	Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting, including claims. (19-1102)
Within 20 days after end of month	Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
* *	Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Board meeting. (84-1411)