

MUNICIPAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
Annual Business Meeting
November 20, 2013 - Atlantic City, NJ

President Nancy Saffos called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

1. **Call to Order and Welcome:** Nancy L. Saffos, President, MCANJ: Municipal Clerk, Township of Cherry Hill
2. **Roll Call of Officers:** Dina Zawadski, Secretary; Municipal Clerk, Township of Deptford
 The following members of the Executive Board were present for the meeting:
 President, Nancy Saffos
 1st Vice President, John Mitch
 2nd Vice President, Keith Kazmark
 Treasurer, Denise Szabo
 Secretary, Dina Zawadski
 Immediate Past President, Andrew Pavlica
 Executive Director, Joel Popkin
3. **Flag Salute:** Joel Popkin, MCANJ, Executive Director
4. **Invocation:** Andrew J. Pavlica, Immediate Past President, MCANJ; Municipal Clerk, City of Garfield
5. **Introduction of President's Guests:** Nancy L. Saffos, President, MACNJ; Municipal Clerk Cherry Hill Township
6. **Introduction of President-Elect's Guests:** John M. Mitch, President- Elect, MCANJ; Municipal Clerk Township of Woodbridge
7. **Approval of Minutes:** MCANJ Annual Meeting of December 12, 2012
 Motion made by Kathy Anello, second by Melissa Seader and unanimously passed on voice vote; the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of December 12, 2012 were approved.
8. **Treasurer's Report:** Denise Szabo, Treasurer, MCANJ: Municipal Clerk, Township of Bernards
 - a. Treasurer, Szabo reported the Account Balances as November 17, 2013 as follows:

Operating Account	\$167,503.79
Scholarship Account	\$14,431.50
Raffle Account	\$2,705.00
 - b. Treasurer Szabo presented the General Ledger and the Profit & Loss Budget documents to the Board.
 - c. It was confirmed that at the appropriate time, funds in the Raffle Account need to be transferred to the Scholarship Account for disbursement. Further, President Mitch stated that he would contact the Raffle Chairperson to confirm that all required paperwork (Report of Operations) for previous raffles have been filed with the State.

 Motion made by Kelly Rohde, Borough of Ringwood and second by Patricia Frontino, Borough of Glassboro to accept the treasurer report.
9. **Introduction of Candidates for 2014 MCANJ Secretary:** Dina L. Zawadski, 2013 MCANJ Secretary, Municipal Clerk, Township of Deptford; introduced: Kevin V. Galland, Municipal Clerk, Woodland Park Borough; and Tanya Goodwin, Municipal Clerk, Borough of Swedesboro
10. **Explanation of Voting Procedure and Commencement of Election for 2014 MCANJ Secretary:** Sharon Young, Chair, Credentials Committee, MCANJ: Municipal Clerk, West Windsor Township
11. **Education Session & Legislative Update:** Richard Lustgarten, Esq., MCANJ Legal Counsel, Goodman & Lustgarten discussed the Clerk's responsibilities regarding Finance & Ethics in the Fair & Open Bidding Process.
12. **Recognition of Committee Chairs:** Nancy L. Saffos, President, MCANJ: Municipal Clerk, Township of Cherry Hill. President Nancy Saffos recognized the following chairpersons for their hard work and commitment to MCANJ; (Committee Reports in bound form included in Minutes)
 - a. **Constitution and Bylaws:** Harold Wiener (Irvington)
 - b. **Education:** Harold Wiener, (Irvington) Sharon Young (West Windsor) Co-Chair
 - c. **Education Conference (IIMC):** Christina Wilder, Co-Chair, Retired, Former Municipal Clerk (Hamilton Township) and Allan Susen (Haledon)
 - d. **Elections:** Jane Williams-Warren (Paterson City)
 - e. **Fundraising:** Doreen Cali (Roselle Park)
 - f. **Information Technology/Web Page:** Daina Dale (Harvey Cedars)
 - g. **Legal Defense Fund:** Sharon Brienza (Branchburg)
 - h. **Legislative Committee for Laws Pertaining to the Municipal Clerk's Profession:** Kim-Marie White (Eastampton)
 - i. **Manual Review:** Joel Popkin, Coordinator; Deanna Bennett (Haddonfield)
 - j. **Membership North:** Sally Bleeker (Franklin Lakes)
 - k. **Membership Central:** Cecelia Covino (Clinton)

- l. **Membership South:** Denise Brouse (Merchantville)
 - m. **Past President's Council:** Andrew J. Pavlica (Garfield)
 - n. **Professional Development and Mini-Conference:** Joanne M. Kwasniewski Chair (Fair Lawn)
 - o. **North:** Amy Lobban(Sandyston) and Joanne Kwasniewski (Fairlawn)
 - p. **Central:** Diane Pflugfelder (Liberty) and Ann Marie McCarthy (Franklin)
 - q. **South:** Roy Duffield (Woodbury)and Susan Robostello,(Millville)
 - r. **Public Relations/MCANJ Booth:** Cecilia Covino (Clinton)
 - s. **Quill:** James Doherty, Editor (Wantage)
 - t. **Raffles:** Heather Mailander (Ridgewood Village)
 - u. **Records:** Elaine B. Kennedy, Chair, Retired, Former Clerk of Eagleswood
 - v. **Resolutions:** Sandra Bohinski (Helmetta) and Marie Elena Macari, Co- Chair (Saddle River)
 - w. **Scholarship:** Karen Hughes, Chair (Westwood)
13. **Announcement of Scholarship Winners:** President Saffos noted that Karen Hughes was not available this time so Karen will announce the scholarship winners later in this program.
14. **Tribute to Retired Members:** Marie Elena Macari, Co- Chair (Saddle River) read the following Resolution:

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 Clerk's Association of New Jersey, Inc., that we commend your dedication to the residents of your community and organization, and point to it as an example to be exemplified and emulated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Honorary membership is bestowed upon the below-named retired Municipal Clerks in accordance with Article II, Section 1.D of the Municipal Clerks' Association of New Jersey., Constitution and By Laws; and

BE IT FURTHER 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

Bergen County

- Linda LoPiccolo, South Hackensack (2012)
- Gwen McCarthy, Allendale Burlington County
- Patricia D. Ryan, City of Bordentown
- Mary Ann Finlay, Pemberton Township
- Carmela Bonfrisco, Evesham Township

Cape May County

- Janet H. Harkins, North Wildwood City (2012)
- Kevin Yecco, Wildwood Crest Borough
- Wanda Gaglione, Township of Upper

Gloucester County

- Carolyn Toy, Franklin Township (2012)

Hunterdon County

- Marilyn Hodgson, Glen Gardner Borough

Monmouth County

- Jean B. Montfort, Matawan Borough

Morris County

- Christina Whitaker, Mountain Lakes

Ocean County

- Elizabeth A. Mastropasqua Beachwood Borough
- Elaine B. Kennedy, Eagleswood Township
- Betty Silvestri, South Toms River

Passaic County

- Barbara J. Nagy, Clifton City

Somerset County

- Margaret J. Gould, Peapack & Gladstone Borough

Union County

- Diane Rowe, Hillside Township (2012)
- Janet Vlasisavljevic, Hillside Township (2012)

Kelly Rohde made a motion to approve the resolution, second by Vincent Buttiglieri. Motion carried unanimously.

15. **Tribute to Deceased Members:** Sandra Bohinski, Co-Chair,(Helmetta) read the following resolution:

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 at all times 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,

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

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

Bergen County

Jeanne D'Alessio, retired, Fort Lee Borough

Cape May County

Angela H. Pileggi, retired, Ocean City (2001 Clerk of the Year)

Monmouth County

Margaret Smith, retired, Borough of Eatontown

Margaret Montanan, retired, Borough of Keyport

Ocean County

Beatrice Iden, retired, Berkeley Township

Sussex County

Lynn Stanzlaus, retired, Green Township (1998 MCANJ President)

May they rest in peace.

Allan Susen made a motion to approve the resolution, second by Sharon Brienza. Motion carried unanimously.

16. **Recognition of 2013 CMC (Certified Municipal Clerk and MMC (Master Municipal Clerk) Awards:** Vincent Buttiglieri, IIMC Region II Director, (Ocean Township) announced Daina Dale (Harvey Cedars) achieved the Master Municipal Clerk's Designation.
17. **Recognition of Instructors of Municipal Clerks Courses:** Pamela Morley-Chapelle, Associate Program Specialist, Rutgers University announced the following instructors of RMC Courses and thanked them for all their hard work and dedication:
Barbara Bascom, Jennica Bileci, Sharon Brienza, Catharine Coletta, Jim Doherty, Elaine Kennedy, Mary Madonna, Vita Merkovetz, Joel Popkin, Lucy Samuelson, Linda Wanat, and Kevin Yecco
18. **Announcement of 2012/2013 Registered Municipal Clerks Certification Recipients:** Harold Wiener, (Irvington) announced the October 2012 RMC recipients as follows:

Recipients of the Registered Municipal Clerk Designation in October 2012:

Leena Abaza, Donna Bell, Michele Bobrowski, Elizabeth Bonseewich, Pamela Borek, Bonnie Brookes, Cosmo Cirillo, Linda Mae Gonzales, Freda Gorman, Diane Grimaldi, Ray Heck, Joanne Heron, Jeanne Hitchner, Kathleen Holmes, Carol Marsh, Chelsea Nollett, Tara O'Grady, Karin Parker, Josh Pitts, Jeanne Smith, Emilia Strawder, Melidan Taylor, Mark Zschack,

Recipients of the Registered Municipal Clerk Designation in April 2012:

Gina Affuso, Judith M. Bass, Melissa Bovera, Maryellen Brennan, Christine J. Burke, Joy C. Covertini, Arlene M. Corvelli, Anne M. Friscia, Jeannette L. Giberson, Jean-Marie Golisano, Amy E. Leso, Patricia A. Macaluso, Jason R. Martucci, Julie A. Picard, Kathleen M. Potter, Amy E. Rhead, and Sarah Wooding

Recipients of the Registered Municipal Clerk Designation in April 2013:

Nancy Acciavatti, Georgann Berardis, Kathleen Capristo, Stephen Carasia, Andrew Casias, Laura DiBella, Nina DiGregorio, Tamara Garaffa, Denise Gelormino, Michele Giardino, Janine Gillis, Anna Godfrey, Kathleen Hart, Robin Hough, Kathleen Keen, Joyce Lanier, Marie Marlor, Ana Minock, Susan Minock, Rhonda Pisano, Kathy Russell, Andrew Tatarenko

19. ***Reminder for RMC/CMC/MMC Recipients; Please remain after the meeting for photographs for our Quill and to receive your RMC pin.**
20. **Presentation of L. Manuel Hirshblond Distinguished Service Award:** Nancy L. Saffos, President, MCANJ: Municipal Clerk, Township of Cherry Hill awarded Allan Susen (Haledon) and Christina Wilder (Retired Hamilton Township) the recipients of the L. Manuel Hirshblond Service Award.

21. **Presentation of Friend of the Municipal Clerk Award:** Nancy L. Saffos, President, MCANJ: Municipal Clerk, Township of Cherry Hill awarded to Chris Kyriacou, Director of Bernards Township Information Technology Department
22. **State of the Association Address:** Nancy L. Saffos, President, MCANJ: Municipal Clerk, Township of Cherry Hill delivered the following comments:

Good Morning! Allow me to begin by saying to all of you, individually and collectively, to you who are our association, it has been my privilege, my honor and my pleasure to have had the opportunity to serve as your president for 2013. I would like to reflect for a moment, to this very time last year. Last year, for the first time in the NJLM's history, we were unable to come together because of the New Jersey League of Municipalities Convention was cancelled as a result of the devastating effects of what has come to be known as Super Storm Sandy. This time last year many of our colleagues were busy trying to, literally, pick up the pieces of their towns, save what they were able, and begin the work necessary to make their towns whole again. Some towns were bruised, some hurt badly, and far too many crippled by the awful effects of that disastrous storm. Even when we re-scheduled our Annual Business Meeting to December 12th, many of our colleagues were still in a whirlwind trying to bring sense and order of the catastrophe that Mother Nature had so devastatingly and so quickly created. To all of you who stood strong in the face of chaos; all of you who remained steadfast in your commitment to public service; all of you who could not be with us last year, after the storm had ended because your work had just begun; all of you who have spent endless hours, days, weeks and months trying to make your towns whole again; to all of you – we all say thank you. Thank you for being there and for representing our profession in such a way that makes and keeps us proud to say we are a municipal clerk. You truly are Stronger than Any Storm!

So, this is to be "The State of The Association." The state of our association is alive and flourishing. We are strong. We are working hard. We are changing and improving; and we are having an effect. We are being noticed and being listened to, rather than just heard, which is evidenced by Senator Loretta Weinberg's presence here with us this morning. The state of our association is very much alive and flourishing! 2013 proved to be yet another busy and productive year for MCANJ, and challenging as well. Thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer, Denise Szabo (& company); we were able to launch an on-line membership process in January. Denise was firm in her belief that we should, and as firm in her commitment that we could and would be successful in launching a streamlined on-line membership renewal process for the association and its members. I am proud to tell you (and again thanks to what I call the "electronic leadership" of Denise Szabo and our 2nd Vice President, Keith Kazmark), MCANJ will be launching a totally new website by the end of 2013. I guess you can call us technologically current, so look for our new site. I do ask your help with encouraging any retired clerks you know, who may not be aware of our new renewal procedures, to go to our website and fill out their annual renewal memberships on-line. This provides us with the most current contact information for all of our members including our Honorary Retired Members. Drew Pavlica and Jim Doherty have continued to keep our Facebook page updated. Some days it feels like it's hourly because of all the notices I receive to check out tagged photos and accept suggested friends. It is hard to believe that my friend Drew, who didn't have a cell phone two or three years ago, is now posting on Facebook and all the time! Look out Twitter because I think Drew has his eye on that too. Thank you to Drew and Jim for your efforts. Jim Doherty has continued to provide us all with outstanding publications of the Quill, as its Editor, along with Sharon Brienza, who is our People Page Editor. Thank you both for your efforts providing us with outstanding publications. Thank you also to Daina Dale, who not only had to put up with my pestering for e-mail blasts and website postings, she also tended to all of the details of the daily maintenance of our website and the requests of so many members for e-blasts. Daina has worked on our website, and will continue to work on our new website, as well. I extend my gratitude to all of the committee chairs and members, as well as the advisory board representatives. All of you worked very hard and gave your time for MCANJ and I appreciate all of your efforts and your support throughout this past year.

The legislature has been busy this year. Proposed amendments to OPRA and OPMA have kept us quite busy as they have since way back to Past President Vinny Buttiglieri's term. At times, it has been frustrating: watching for when committee hearings would be scheduled, so that we would be able to attend and testify to the Senate or the Assembly; and learning that amendments were moved to second reading without committee hearings. The way the state legislative process works continues to mystify us. Thanks to the dedication and help of Lori Buckelew at the New Jersey League of Municipalities, we have remained diligent in our efforts to protect the integrity of local government and the office of the municipal clerk, watching all legislation that affected our positions. Because of 2nd Vice President Keith Kazmark's efforts, we were able to meet with Senator Loretta Weinberg's Chief of Staff, Jason Redd, who spent a considerable amount of time with us in August, reviewing OPRA and OPMA amendments. This board has approached the discussions on these amendments from the standpoint of realistic implementation and we have addressed issues like commercial requests and the use of taxpayer dollars to increase private businesses' client and customer bases. We noted the issue of who should be held responsible and liable for withholding public documents or for responding late when it has nothing to do with the municipal clerk. We have spoken to the fact that prohibiting additions to an agenda could likely be a hindrance to necessary, efficient, and effective government action and ultimately hurt the citizens of our municipalities. We have addressed all parts of the legislation and we will remain optimistic anticipating revisions that make implementation more reasonable. These bills are not going away, however we have affected many important changes to them. We have spoken to the realities of local government and the need for flexibility. We have addressed, and continue to address, many issues while emphasizing that we, as municipal clerks, are proponents of good and transparent government. Our mission is to serve the public in a way that achieves just that – open and good government that meets the needs of our residents and businesses, in the most expeditious, efficient, professional and respectful manner possible. The Early Voting bill thankfully was put to rest. Interestingly enough, it was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly. Fortunately, it was absolutely vetoed by the governor. We already have early voting in New Jersey. It is called "Vote by Mail!" Jim Doherty was good enough to come to Trenton with me and testify before the Senate. Government is mystifying! The legislation providing for the President of the Municipal Clerks' Association or their designee to have a seat on the Government Records Council passed both the Senate and the Assembly unanimously. It was sent to the governor's desk where it sat for quite some time and then was vetoed. The governor's message explained his only objection was that the appointment of another government employee would upset the balance of the council. Once again, we flooded legislative offices with calls and letters asking for an amended bill to address the governor's one and only concern. Thanks to our 1st Vice President John Mitch's contact with his legislative office, on November 7th, 2013 Senator Joseph Vitale introduced that amended bill. I am now anxiously waiting for "that" e-mail or telephone call advising us that this new bill has been added to the Senate Committee's agenda, so that we can make the trip to Trenton and provide supporting testimony, which will include a reminder that they already approved the bill unanimously! At this time, both the Senate and the Assembly are in session until January 14, 2014, so we ask that you continue to call and write your senators and assembly representatives and ask for support of this very important legislation. We are hopeful that good government will prevail at the state level and we will see this legislation become law very soon. We are optimistic and expect that both the Assembly and Senate will once again unanimously support the bill and the governor will sign it as our Holiday Present! Finally, it has been a long time coming! We deserve a seat on the GRC and given that seat, we will improve the productivity of that council. The Common Sense Shared Services Bill did pass, however only as a pilot and only in a handful of counties. We did influence that legislation and meaningful amendments were made to the original bill. We paid very close attention to this and all legislation pertaining to the office of the municipal clerk. While some of the legislation is not exactly what we would have preferred and there are many who are unhappy about the final legislation, make no mistake that our attention and the attention of all those who sent resolutions of opposition, made telephone calls and wrote letters to the legislature all helped soften the blow. We may not have achieved what we wished for but we did get a softer, kinder version than that which was originally proposed because of our efforts.

Our Annual Education Conference this year was wrapped into the IIMC Annual Education Conference, which we, MCANJ, proudly hosted here in Atlantic City. We hosted clerks from all over the United States and the world. Thanks to the efforts of the many volunteers and the steadfast stewardship of Co-Chairs Chris Wilder and Allan Susen, the conference was a huge success and is being touted as one of the best IIMC conferences in its history. I also offer our thanks for the help and guidance of the staff at the Trump Taj Mahal: Wendy Wenal, Robert Kelly and Denise, as well as Flo Kelly and Felicia from the AC Convention & Visitor's Bureau, On the topic of IIMC, I am pleased to announce that our very own Vinny Buttiglieri, currently serving as IIMC, Region II Director has thrown his hat in the ring and is running for IIMC Vice President. To those of you who are members of IIMC, please make sure you support Vinny and vote for him to be IIMC Vice President. This year we had a change to the way our Education Committee operated as the Executive Board, along with our fabulous Executive Director Joel Popkin, developed a new structure and policy for its continuance. It is said there are no coincidences, just small miracles. That must be true because all of the sessions for this year's league conference were already organized from last year's cancelled League Convention, so the committee was able to reconfirm their program for this year and not a beat was missed. A new structure has been established and we are confident that we will be as strong, if not stronger, as we move forward. A special thank you to Harold Weiner, Sharon Young and all of the members of the Education Committee for your patience, your efforts and your professionalism, as we "rebooted" your committee. This year we had conference "call in", as an option for participation in all Advisory Board Meetings. This seemed to work well. We even had an Executive Board Meeting by conference call. Times are changing and we are changing with the times. Change can be good! We must be willing to change or we will be left behind. We have all become busier and busier in our offices. This year we had two Special Elections for State Senator; we continued to experience cutbacks in our offices and municipal budgets; we had another increase in our portion of contribution to our health benefits' cost; and as I said last December, there is one thing that has not changed a bit.... We are asked every day to do more with less and for less! We are professionals and we must remain committed to our pledge to serve the public with the highest level of professionalism and respect. Only in that way will we continue to receive and maintain the respect we deserve as municipal clerks. Once again, I urge you all to get involved. We are extremely fortunate and look forward in 2014 to the leadership of President Elect John Mitch, who will undoubtedly welcome your help and your support. To misquote Aristotle, our association is only as good as the sum of all its members! As I have said before, gone are the days of the few. We are in the days of the many! Everyone is welcome. We encourage your participation. We need your participation to grow. Join us and be a part of the solutions we seek. It has been my honor, my privilege and my sincere pleasure to serve as your president. There have been and will continue to be challenges that we must face and only if we are committed to unity and to the greater good of the whole will we be successful in our endeavors, as an association. Please come and be part of what keeps us alive and flourishing. Thank you for allowing me this wonderful opportunity.

23. **Presentation of the 2013 Municipal Clerk of the Year Award:** Elaine B. Kennedy – 2012 MCANJ Municipal Clerk of the Year; Retired, Former Municipal Clerk, Eagleswood Township presented Clerk of the Year to Cecilia Covino of Clinton Township.
24. **Announcement of Election Results for 2014 MCANJ Secretary:** Sharon Young, Chair, Credentials Committee, MCANJ; Municipal Clerk, West Windsor Township
Kevin Galland – Borough of Woodland Park - 66 votes cast
Tanya Goodwin- Borough of Swedesboro - 44 votes cast
25. **Motion to Cast Ballot for Slate of Officers :** Dina Zawadski, Secretary; MCANJ; Municipal Clerk, Deptford Township announced the Slate of Officers for 2014 as follows:

President	John M. Mitch, Woodbridge Township
1 st Vice President	Keith Kazmark, Elmwood Park Borough
2 nd Vice President	Denise Szabo, Bernards Township
Treasurer	Dina Zawadski, Deptford Township
Secretary	Kevin Galland, Borough of Woodland Park
Immediate Past President	Nancy L. Saffos, Township of Cherry Hill

Motion to approve by Sharon Young and second by Kathy Anello.

26. **Administration of Oath of Officers:** The Honorable John E. McCormac, Mayor, Township of Woodbridge installed the 2014 Slate of Officers.
27. **Acknowledgements to President Nancy L. Saffos:** John M. Mitch, President-Elect, MCANJ, Municipal Clerk, Township of Woodbridge presented President Saffos with a plaque and gifts for serving as President.
28. **Remarks by President-Elect:** John M. Mitch, President-Elect, MCANJ, Municipal Clerk, Township of Woodbridge delivered the following comments:

On January 1, 2014, I will begin my 25th year in local government. Having served in various elected and appointed positions including Fire Commissioner, Councilman, Deputy Municipal Clerk, Emergency Management Coordinator, Acting Business Administrator, and Municipal Clerk, I cannot think of a better way than to celebrate this milestone while simultaneously serving as your association's President. I have been thinking about this year for some time now. Being President of an organization of more than 700 professionals is truly an honor. I owe many of you who sit here today a big thank you for your support over these past years and look forward to your continued support this coming year. In particular, I want to thank the Municipal Clerks, Deputy Clerks, County Clerk, Deputy County Clerk and Freeholder Clerk from Middlesex County (known as the greatest county in the land) for their on-going support and encouragement. After all, this is where I got my start. We work well together as a group as we share common goals and a true commitment to our governments. To my Council, Mayor, administration and colleagues from town hall in Woodbridge, one could not ask for a better team to work with. When someone like myself enjoys what I do and appreciates the people I work with, it makes going to work not feel like a job. To several of my good and longtime friends who are here today, you're absolutely the best. While we all share a common bond from the Avenel fire house, our friendships couldn't be stronger.

And to those members of my family who are here this morning, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. For more than 33 years I have been involved in my community and much of what I have done could not have been done without your support. Whether it was political campaigns, fundraisers, walking door-to-door, manning phone banks, putting up lawn signs, buying raffles, purchasing tickets to events and so much more, you have always been there for me. To my wife Laura and my children, Kelly, Tommy and Kara, you all know too well how seldom I am home. With that, you do not complain or question it; you simply (or simply not) work around it. I thank the four of you from the bottom of my heart. As for our state association, please allow me to first acknowledge President Nancy Saffos for her leadership this past year. While she enjoyed the pleasures of being host President for an International Conference whose attendees numbered 900 from 10 different Countries and Provinces, she also spent much time addressing legislation regarding

Common Sense (or not so common sense) Shared Services, the Open Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act; not all which we were in favor of (in part or in full). President Saffos always did her best to look out for Municipal Clerks and municipalities around the Garden State. She also followed the footsteps of so many Presidents before her. Being a member of this Executive Board involves many different tasks. To name a few, it is staying on top of legislation that affects our profession; it is ensuring that educational opportunities are plentiful and affordable; it is facing new challenges, both professionally and personally and it is working with what has become more common these days ... reforms, and so much more.

The 2014 Executive Board will undoubtedly be busy. In December (2013) we will be rolling out a facelift to our website that will hopefully be easy to navigate; much thanks to 2014 1st Vice President Keith Kazmark (Elmwood Park), 2014 2nd Vice President Denise Szabo (Bernards Township) and Information Technology Chair Daina Dale (Harvey Cedars). With an improved website, continuous Facebook postings by Andrew J. Pavlica (past MCANJ President) and Information Technology Committee Member Jim Doherty (Wantage), and continued e-blasts, we hope to improve our communication to you. The 2014 Executive Board will also continue to stay on top of the Legislature to see that we get a seat at the table of the Government Records Council. This well-intended effort began years ago under the leadership of Vincent Buttiglieri (past MCANJ President) with 2013 taking it to its furthest point. However, even with bi-partisan and full support of both the Senate and the Assembly, Governor Chris Christie vetoed the Bill due to an issue he had with "balance." While I respect his position and understand his concern, I don't know why he simply did not conditionally veto the Bill and allow the Legislature to do its job if they were inclined to do so. To that end, my District Senator, Joseph Vitale, who initially introduced the vetoed Bill, has introduced a new Bill which addresses the Governor's issue. I also learned this week that Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, who initially introduced the companion Bill in his House, has indicated that he will again introduce the companion Bill this session. I want to personally thank my sister-in-law Laurie McCabe, a legislative assistant to Senator Vitale, who is here today, for her assistance with this Bill. In 2014 I hope to get this Bill back on the Governor's desk, but this time, for his signature. Some of you already know from my comments at the September Advisory Board Meeting, that I do not understand why we hold our Annual Meeting during the League of Municipalities Conference rather than at MCANJ's Annual Education Conference. The Annual Meeting is extremely important as this is where our membership votes on changes to our By-Laws and Constitution and, where our membership votes on who will represent them on the Executive Board. In fact, if municipalities are hesitant about allowing employees to attend the League because of the negativity that is sometimes cast upon it, some Municipal Clerks would never be able to stand before you as a candidate. In addition, the amount of voting members at the Annual Meeting is at least double or even triple of what is here today. I truly believe that a bigger audience rather than a smaller audience should be making these decisions. To that end, I will soon charge the responsibility to a committee of several to review this possible change and to make a recommendation to the Executive Board. If their findings are favorable we will begin to review the logistics to make these changes in the near future. I also believe that this change will save our organization money by reducing some of the expenses incurred during the League.

29. **Acknowledgements to President-Elect John M. Mitch:** Nancy L. Saffos, President, MCANJ: Municipal Clerk, Township of Cherry Hill made a presentation to President Elect John M. Mitch.

30. **Adjournment**

Motion to approve by Kelly Rohde, second by Sharon Young to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dina L. Zawadski, MCANJ Secretary