



City Clerks' REPORT

DEBBIE BERNARDO, CMC, MMC, MMCCA PRESIDENT

2016-2017 MS Municipal Clerks & Collectors Association Officers

- President** Debbie Bernardo, Hattiesburg
- 1st Vice President** Angela Richburg, Byram
- 2nd Vice President** Cathy Clark, Clarksdale
- Treasurer** Patricia Lockett, Inverness
- Immediate Past President** Celia Boren, Tunica
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Committee Chairs

- Budget** Angela Richburg, Byram
- Certification** Sheila Speights, Purvis
Bettye Massey, Pelahatchie*
- Education** Suzette Davis, Collins
Lesa Hardin, Starkville*
- Handbook** Lesa Hardin, Starkville
- Hospitality** Missy Jones, Prentiss
Servia Fortenberry, Magnolia*
- IIMC** Mary Ann Hess, Laurel
- Legislative** Russell Wall, Clinton
- Membership** Alma Harris, Tutwiler
Kristi Moore, Jackson*
- Mentoring** Jean White, Edwards
Lisa Planchard, Waveland*
- Nominating** Celia Boren, Tunica
- Promotion** Jamie Morgan, Chair
- Records** Cathy Clark, Clarksdale
- Retirement** Kathy Anderson, Lucedale
- Scholarship** Mary Parker, Saitillo
Lisa Russell, Fulton*
- Silent Auction** Amber Hinton, Picayune
Linda White, Byram*
- Website/Social Media** Amber Hinton, Picayune
Lisa Luu, Hattiesburg*

*Co-Chair

Please feel free to contact any of the above referenced clerks with your questions, comments or ideas. We are here to serve you.

Members of the Mississippi Municipal Clerks and Collectors Association (MMCCA) received certification training for elections at the midwinter education update in December. The meeting was so well attended that we had to bring in extra seating! Kim Turner of the Secretary of State's office did a great job providing us with information and fielding questions. That training was geared specifically to city clerks and deputy city clerks, but since January the Secretary of State's office has offered additional opportunities for training all over the state. Election season is in full swing now: good luck to all candidates, and Godspeed to all the city clerks, deputy clerks, election commissioners and poll workers who are responsible for ensuring the fairness and validity of local elections.

Ms. Turner discussed election law issues for municipalities at our spring meeting, held March 15- 17, 2017, in Hattiesburg. This talk was not only timely, but also critically important because of the information it provided: reminders of all the details we clerks need to keep in the forefront as elections draw near. The education program also included excellent presentations on parliamentary procedure, interpersonal communication, and wage and hour responsibilities and the new FLSA standards.

At the Hattiesburg meeting, MMCCA was delighted and grateful to receive a \$500 scholarship from John Strickland of R&D Computer Systems, LLC for our Birmingham or Bust fundraising project to send 50 clerks to the IIMC (International Institute of Municipal Clerks) annual conference in Birmingham in 2018; this gift will help tremendously to put us on the road!

Our organization also hosted a special Painting with a Twist fundraiser to benefit the MMCCA Silent Auction. This summer, Silent Auction Chair Amber Hinton of

Picayune promises the event will be bigger and better than ever, and you'll even be able to bid on artwork created by some very talented clerks! Kathy Johnson, City Clerk of Lucedale, announced details for a new gun raffle that will take place during Silent Auction: MMCCA will offer two guns, with the raffle winner choosing either a Taurus Stainless Steel Judge Magnum 45 Cal/410 Ga 3-shot or a Ruger 45 Cal SR 1911 Automatic. Prices will be \$2 for 1 ticket, \$5 for 3 tickets and \$20 for a book of 12 tickets. Each winner will fill out background paperwork and pick up the gun of his/her choice at the gun store in Lucedale. The table for this raffle will be located outside the Silent Auction room.

As you can tell, MMCCA's director, officers and committees are preparing for the annual conference in Biloxi. Our certification committee is reviewing applications for graduation from the clerks' certification program administered by the Extension Service at Mississippi State University. Education is our priority, and this three-year certification program provides the foundation clerks and deputy clerks need in order to best serve your citizens. Please do not let finances keep your clerk from participating in this program; MMCCA has set aside funds to help, and our scholarship committee is accepting applications for scholarships for the entire three years. If you need more information, please contact Mary Parker of Saitillo, our Scholarship Chair.

Thank you for your support of MMCCA. We look forward to seeing you this summer at the MML annual conference!

Debbie Bernardo, CMC, MMC
President, MMCCA
Clerk of Council, City of Hattiesburg