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# ACCRTA

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June 2009

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## *Incoming President's Message*

*Marva Verkler*

*From your incoming President..... Hello from central Arkansas. Things here in Cabot are going well as I hope each of you and your cities are. I have to tell you that I am so excited about the upcoming year. I don't have grand plans to change anything rather I would like to challenge each of you to further your educations. Yes, I know that was Patti Grey's theme as president but I think that education is so important that we need to continually strive to improve ourselves, not just for our cities, but for our own personal growth.*

*I can't tell you what being part of ACCRTA has done for me. When I joined, I had already been clerk-treasurer for several years and I had always thought I didn't have time to get training. I had my training by the seat of my pants and what more could I possibly learn from a bunch of other clerks! Boy....was I wrong! I came to my first institute in 2000 and have only missed one since (because I had a terrible Mayor but that's another story). I have learned more about being a clerk than I ever thought I could learn. Every year I come away with something new. Not only do I learn something, I make new friends. Those friendships have energized me and improved my life. Just being around upbeat people who are purpose driven, who genuinely care about their jobs, their friends, their lives... well, it just makes you want to be a better person. Knowledge is key to that, if we stop learning, we stop living our lives to the fullest.*

*Please take the challenge to improve your education as a City Clerk, Recorder, Treasurer. Come to institute, come to the district meetings, take a part in ACCRTA and IIMC, volunteer for a committee or to be a district director. Be a part of this great organization and network of friends.*

## *Outgoing President's Message*

*Donna Jones*

*As I write these words, I realize that my year as your President is quickly coming to an end. That brings mixed emotions, a genuine sadness to my heart as well as a sigh of relief, and a smile in remembering what all has taken place over the last 11 months.*

*It has been a very good year in my life and a lot of that has to do with the interactions that I have had with each of you through various means, emails, phone conversations, and visits at District Meetings, Conference etc. I truly cannot tell you how outstanding I think our Association is, we have the greatest bunch of folks that are genuinely there for one another in times of need, for support, in crisis situations, whether personal or professional. That to me says so very much.*

*In reviewing the year, we had three very successful District Meetings, and let me take this opportunity one more time to say a personal "Thank You" to Mitri Greenhill, Jane Wilms, Peggy David and Joshua Clausen for all of your time and energy that went into these great meetings. You all provided excellent educational information and a wonderful time.*

*Our New Clerk's Orientation was very well attended and a great job was done by all those who had a hand in bringing that meeting together. I hope that we gave our "Newbies" a face to connect to a name in the way of mentors, a little insight into what to expect as their life begins in Municipal Government, and the knowledge that they are never alone...and we are here to help anyway we can.*

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## **HAPPY NEWS**

### **Future City Clerk**

*Maumelle City Clerk Joshua Clausen is the proud father of a daughter, Katelyn Wride Clausen. She arrived Monday, May 18, 2009 at 10:04 PM, weighing in at 7lb 15 oz and 19 inches in length.*

*Mother and father are doing well.*

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### **Another Future City Clerk**

*Rick and Jo Ellen Martin have a new granddaughter born May 15, 2009 at 6:02 AM. Channing Lucille Renfro weighed in at 7lb 10 oz and 20 inches in length. Jo Ellen is the Gentry City Clerk and former editor of the ACCRTA Newsletter.*

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## **Sad News**

### **Lonoke City Clerk Dies**

Billie Uzzell, born in 1929 in Wellington, Texas to William "Doc" and Jessie Hornsby Lewis, died June 5, 2009. Billie had served as Lonoke City Clerk since 1977.

She is survived by two daughters, Kerry (Roy) Ashton and Virginia (Rick) Woods, 14 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

A visitation will be Monday from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Online guest book, [www.boydfuneralhome.net](http://www.boydfuneralhome.net).

Funeral Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 9 at Boyd Funeral Home, Lonoke. Burial will follow in Lonoke Cemetery.

## **Huntsville Clerk Attains MMC**

*Janice Smith, Huntsville City Clerk, Treasurer, Finance Director, has received word from IIMC that she has achieved the status of Master Municipal Clerk.*

***Congratulations Janice!***

## **Retirement**

### **Message from Retiring**

### **Little Rock City Clerk**

I am retiring on June 12, 2009.

I just want to say what a great group of people I have had the pleasure to work with over the past 9 years.

I will miss you all very much. I have never worked anywhere, where there is the support and helpfulness I have found with all of you.

Some of you I know personally and want to say what great friends you all have been. Some of you, just your names are familiar through list serve, which is helpful, it seems we all have similar problems, and similar cares, and situations going on all over the state. Thank you all for sharing.

I want to thank all of the Clerks who have sponsored the District Meetings. Each meeting, I could tell how much work went into planning and hosting the event, to make it special as well as educational.

If you are a new clerk, and have never been to a district meeting, please try to go. You will find it beneficial to you and your city.

Again

Thanks to all of you. You are a great group to be associated with.

Maybe I will show up at future meeting as a "Retired Clerk".

**Nancy Wood, City Clerk  
City of Little Rock**

## *\*A.C.C.R.T.A. SCRAPBOOK\**

*In order to make this year's A.C.C.R.T.A.'s scrapbook more personal, I thought everyone in A.C.C.R.T.A. could have their own scrapbook page!*

*It would be a great way to get to know each other!*

*It needs to be either a single or double 12 x 12 page(s). You can scrap anything you want! Just let us get to know you, i.e. family, friends, hobbies, travels etc.*

*If you would like to scrap your own page that would be fantastic, but if you're not interested, just send me some pictures and a little write-up about yourself, and me and my staff would be pleased to help you out. My address is*

*321 N. Elm*

*Beebe, AR 72012*

*If you have any questions, you can reach me at 501-882-5106 ext. 102 or e-mail me at [cityclerk01@beebeark.org](mailto:cityclerk01@beebeark.org)*

*Thank you,*

*Carol Crump-Westergren*

*Clerk/Treasurer*

*City of Beebe*

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*Several of us just returned from Chicago, and let me tell you, that city knows how to put on a Conference. It was my first visit and I loved it! It was a full seven days of events, education, banquets and business meetings and man is my tail dragging. I am proud to say I did not fall on my face carrying our State flag in the opening ceremony. I will ask our Region Director Barbara Blackard to give you all an update on IIMC in our June Municipal League Conference meeting.*

*It has been such an honor and privilege to serve our Association this year; I thank you for your confidence in me and the kindness you have all shown over the last year. I hope that you all know, even though I will step aside at our June Conference and welcome our incoming President Ms. Marva Verkler in to begin her term, please know that I will always be willing to assist any of you in any way I can, please continue to call if you need me.*

*I look forward to seeing you all in Hot Springs, be sure to arrive early enough to attend our Clerk's Meeting at the beginning of the Conference, we will be sharing a ton of information with everyone!*

***DON'T FORGET***  
***ACCRTA MEETING***  
***2:00 PM***  
***WEDNESDAY***  
***JUNE 17***  
***HOT SPRINGS***