

ACCRTA NEWS

Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association

April 2008

District IV Meeting Highlights Caddo Valley & Arkadelphia, AR February 28 & 29, 2008

Special thanks to Sarah Roberts, Caddo Valley and Rendi Currey, Arkadelphia for hosting a great District IV meeting on February 28 & 29, 2008!! From the opening barge ride around Lake DeGray to the excellent topics covered during the meeting, a good time was had by all.

After checking into our absolutely luxurious cabins, a welcome reception and boat ride followed. While the eagles were nowhere to be seen, the barge tour of the lake was beautiful. An excellent buffet dinner sponsored by the Caddo Valley A&P Commission and catered by TaMolly's was great! Arkadelphia police officer and Nashville Star Contestant, Jody Evans, entertained everyone well into the evening. Everyone was able to hear their own "style" of music, as Mr. Evans took requests from the crowd and did a great job. It's easy to see how he made it to the Nashville Star Contest!!

Friday's agenda started with a continental breakfast with welcomes following by Arkadelphia Mayor C. T. Hollingshead, Arkadelphia City Manager Jimmy Bolt, Caddo Valley Recorder/Treasurer Sarah Roberts and ACCRTA President Patti Scott-Grey. Sarah then proceeded to stump the entire group with a warm up game that took a little prodding for everyone to get going. It's always so easy to see the end result when someone gives you the answers!! Fun game – saving to use at one of our local meetings!!

Speakers during the morning session included Phil Baldwin, Southern Development and June Barron with Legislative Audit. June has the daunting task of filling David Kraft's shoes and she is doing an excellent job of it. Mr. Baldwin brought many ideas to the group on development issues that cities face and what it takes to overcome obstacles.

Lunch was sponsored by McClelland Engineering and provided by Subway. Everyone enjoyed the meals and snacks provided throughout the meeting. I know I "enjoyed" way too much but loved every minute of it!

Don Zimmerman, Executive Director of the Arkansas Municipal League and John Tackett, Caddo-Valley Planning Commission Chairman rounded out the afternoon session. As can always be expected, Mr. Zimmerman had information to share and answers to questions asked. As so often meetings now are turning to the streamlined sales tax, this one was no exception. Mr. Tackett lead us on a journey of planning from ancient times – Rome, Italy to current cities and the problems that they struggle with. Poor planning is a lesson that many cities have to remedy all too often, and he urged us to make sure our planners and city officials keep abreast of all that is required for developing our cities.

Thanks again, Sarah & Rendi, excellent, excellent meeting!!

District II Meeting Highlights Dumas, AR March 20 & 21, 2008

Johnny Bingham, Clerk/Treasurer of Dumas, has been the epitome of hanging in there!! When tornados blew through their tiny little southern town shortly before the District II meeting that was scheduled, Johnny had to put the meeting on hold. This year, he has come back with a wealth of knowledge of disaster relief – something no town wants to go through – but something we all need to be prepared for. Disasters happen in many shapes and forms, and no matter the reason, realize that as city officials, it will be handed to you on a platter to solve all the problems.

Opening night gave us all a chance to visit with our fellow clerks followed by a delicious catfish dinner provided by McClelland Engineering and Delta Supreme. Bingo games rounded out the evening.

Friday started with breakfast provided by M & F Bank and welcome from Dumas Mayor Marion S. Gill. Jody Carter with General Physics, Certified Emergency Manager, Bill Cantrell, SBC Disaster Relief Team, Scott Bass, ADEM, and John Robinson, National Weather Service lead the morning discussions with the services that they provide during disasters. Simmons Bank provided lunch with Desha County Judge McElroy sharing his antidotes with the crowd.

Afternoon speakers included Russell Hall with Senator David Pryor's office, Raymond Frasier with Senator Blanche Lincoln's office and Jeff Weaver with State Representative Mike Ross' office. They explained the different aspects of what government ties could do to help disaster areas.

Dumas City Police Chief Everett Cox, Fire Chief David Byrd and Asst. Fire Chief Doug Weatherford then explained to the group the "real" problems a city faces in a disaster. They were able to convey the true sense of "been there, done that" and fielded questions from the group. It was an eye-opening session that makes us realize that being prepared in imperative during a disaster situation.

Thank you Johnny for doing such a fantastic in providing such an educational and enjoyable meeting. Everyone in Dumas made us feel right at home!

REMINDER!!! Mark Your Calendars!!!

**ACCRTA District 1 Meeting
April 10, & 11, 2008
West Memphis, AR**

Calling All City Clerks, Recorders & Treasurers!!

We have a need for volunteers to serve on various committees with ACCRTA. I'm giving you the list of committees **before** the June AR Municipal League Convention so that you will have time to consider serving on one or more of the committees. There will be sign up sheets at the Convention so think hard and decide where best to place your name for the coming year!! Here is the list of committees:

- Clerk of the Year
- Education
- Fundraising
- Handbook
- IIMC
- Legislative
- Membership
- Mentor
- Newsletter
- Nomination/Elections
- Scrapbook
- Scholarships
- Audit

Again, please consider the committees and try to find one or more that suits your talents and share those assets with us all! If you have any questions as to what each committee does, please email me at gentrycityhall@cox-internet.com and I will put you in touch with someone to answer your questions about that particular committee.

Fellow Clerks:

As it stands now, I will be unable to attend the AR Municipal League Convention in June, so I am getting this request to everyone early. This is a message to anyone out there who might be interested in doing the newsletter this coming year. While I have enjoyed doing it for the last two & a half years, my schedule will not allow me to do it this coming year. I have great faith that there are many very talented clerks out there who could do an outstanding job in getting the news out to everyone. Newsletters can be a fun and exciting way to get to know your fellow clerks, and it is an important information source for covering all that is going on within our organization. You even have the opportunity to learn new computer skills when it refuses to go out i.e. the last newsletter!!

I hope that those of you interested in being the newsletter chair would contact Donna Jones at djones@dequeen-ar.us the president-elect for this coming year. If you are interested and have any questions about how we do it, please contact me at gentrycityhall@cox-internet.com.

Thanks to you all for making this a challenging and rewarding experience!!

Jo Ellen Martin

Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders & Treasurers Association 2007 – 2008 OFFICERS

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Incoming President's Message...

Greetings from the southwest corner of our great state (De Queen)! As June rapidly approaches, it is with great excitement, (and yes, nervousness too) that I write you all a note about soon becoming your President of ACCRTA. I have some pretty big shoes to try to fill, speaking of those who've held the office in previous years and did an outstanding job for our organization. Each year we try to select a mission, a goal to strive for. I remember Diane's was communication and she did a fantastic job of that. During Patti's term, her emphasis was placed on education and we all know the major changes that have taken place in that area in the last year. In thinking about what I would hope to accomplish during my year in office, I gotta admit, I am not too sure yet what I would like my mission to be. Therefore, I am asking you all to let me know your thoughts. What is an area that you would like to see ACCRTA grow in, where do you as clerks/recorders/treasurers see our group 5 years from now...etc...? Please email, snail mail or call your recommendations to me. Email is djones@dequeen-ar.us, snail mail is City of De Queen, P.O. Box 730, De Queen, AR 71832 and phone is (870) 584-3445.

We have a phenomenal group of individuals in ACCRTA, I am so proud to have the privilege of working with each one of you. Please know that I am only a phone call away, and I certainly don't have all the answers, but I promise to find enough people who do, that we can get any issue resolved that we might face in our day to day duties of Municipal Government.

Jo Ellen is listing all of our committees in ACCRTA, in this issue of the newsletter; I encourage each one of you to find a place to serve. Take part in making this a truly wonderful year for us. Think about what you can bring to the table and be ready to sign up in our meeting at the June Conference in Hot Springs. I promise you, it will be time well spent and greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you all in JUNE!!

Donna Jones
City of De Queen

Congratulations! **MMC Designation!!** **Barbara Blackard** **City Clerk/Treasurer** **City of Clarksville**

Congratulations to Barbara Blackard for obtaining her MMC designation from IIMC. She was elected as City Clerk/Treasurer in 1995 for the City of Clarksville, Arkansas and has been a member of IIMC since her election in 1995. She is a member of the Arkansas City Clerks, Records and Treasurers Association and served as District III Director in 1998, and has held the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, 2nd Vice President, Vice President, and President in 2002. She was nominated as Clerk of the Year in 2003 and currently serves on the Education Committee. She received her CMC certification in 1998 and was accepted into the Master Municipal Clerk Academy Program in 2003. She has been an active member of the Arkansas Municipal League serving on the Executive Committee in 2003, held the office of Vice President of District 3 for the State of Arkansas, and currently serves on the Advisory Council for First Class Cities. Barbara says she looks forward to serving as the IIMC Region IV Director in 2008.

Deadline!!!

Clerk of the Year Nominations -
Deadline May 1, 2008
Nomination Form in this months
City & Town

Scholarship Applications for
Municipal Clerk's Institute
September 2008
Deadline May 5, 2008 - Contact
Paula Caudle at paula@westforkar.gov



THE SILENT TREATMENT

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment.

Suddenly, he realized that the next day, he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 p.m. for an early morning business flight.

Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper,

"Please wake me at 5:00 a.m..." He left it where he knew she would find it.

The next morning, he woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 a.m. and he had missed his flight.

Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't wakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed.

The paper said, "It is 5:00 a.m. Wake up."

Men are not equipped for these kinds of contests.

Word is ... it's a girl!!
And Ms. Patti Scott-Grey,
our president for the year
is proud as can be!!
Her name is Reese Lucille
Cheak –

6 lbs. 12 ozs. and was 20
inches long!!

Mom is doing well, baby is
adorable and the rest of
family couldn't be
happier!!