



# MoCCFOA Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 1

January 2012

## 2011-2012 Officers

Diane Monteleone, *President*  
Vitula Skillman, *Pres. Elect*  
Mary Happel, *Secretary*  
Gayle Conrad, *Treasurer*  
Kathie Needham,  
*Immediate Past President*

## 2011-2012 Directors

*Central*—Diann Warner  
*Eastern*—Ruth Baker  
*East Central*—Bobbi Limberg  
*Northeast*—Patti Spindler  
*Northwest*—Patricia Fisher-  
Johnson  
*South Central*—Shiela  
Matlock  
*Southeast*—Tracy Prost  
*Southwest*—Beth Anne West  
*Western*—Jeanie Woerner

## Outstanding Clerks

2011—Colleen Wolf  
Hazelwood  
2010—Karen Hotfelder  
Troy  
2009—Vitula Skillman  
Wentzville  
2008—Millie Powell  
New London  
2007—Denise Chisum  
Lee's Summit  
2006—Nancy Kossman  
Union  
2005—Myrna VanDeusen  
Licking  
2004—Sandra Williams  
Branson  
2003—Shirley Collins  
Sedalia  
2002—Marilyn Ahnefeld  
Gladstone  
2001—Coralee Patrick  
Nixa  
2000—Brenda Colter  
Camdenton  
1999—Bruce Lowrey  
Independence

## Master Academy

March 5, 2012 ~ 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
At The Lodge of the Four Seasons,  
Lake Ozark, MO

**What Followers Expect From Their Leaders  
& How to Fully Develop Those Traits.**

*Presented by Gary B. Minor JD, ITF*

## New Clerk's Institute

March 5, 2012 ~ 7:30 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.  
Public Administration & Organization, Agendas & Minutes,  
Local Record Retention, Sunshine Law, Identity Theft

*Presented by: Kathie Needham, MMC/MPCC  
and Karen Hotfelder, MMC*

## Spring Institute

March 6-8, 2012 ~ Beginning at 7:30 a.m.  
Check out the Brochure for all the informative classes Being offered.

**MAKE RESERVATION TO ATTEND TODAY**

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## President's Desk



### Happy New Year !

I hope everyone had a great holiday with your family and friends and I wish you and your families a “Happy, Healthy New Year !

The Fall Regional’s were a success ! Thanks to all of our panelists for sharing their knowledge on disaster preparedness. A special thank you to Barbara Hogelin, City Clerk of Joplin, Betty Montano, City Clerk of Kirkwood and Deni Donovan, City Clerk of Bellefontaine Neighbors for sharing their experiences and turning them into a learning tool for our Clerks.

Preparations are now underway for our Spring Institute. The Master Academy and New Clerks Session will be held on Monday, March 5, 2012. The Institute general sessions will begin on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 and run through Thursday, March 8. I think you will really enjoy the sessions. The Education Committee has worked really hard on topics that will benefit everyone with an array of new presenters.

Please consider signing up for committees at the Institute. You can find descriptions of all our committees in the Bylaws, which is available on the MoCCFOA website. I am so grateful to all of the committee Chairs and members this year. They are the ones that keep this organization strong.

The Hospitality Room will be hosted by the Southeast, Northeast and Central Divisions. The theme for this year is “Cruising With Missouri City Clerks 2012”. I think you will enjoy the activities, games and prizes the clerks have planned for you this year.

Review of the certification process is on-going. With the update to the Certification Plan, the Chairman of the Certification Committee and the State Officers will turn their attention on the over-all certification process. Their proposal will be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration and eventual inclusion in the MoCCFOA Standing Rules.

I look forward to seeing everyone in March !

*Diane Monteleone, MMC/MPCC*  
MoCCFOA President

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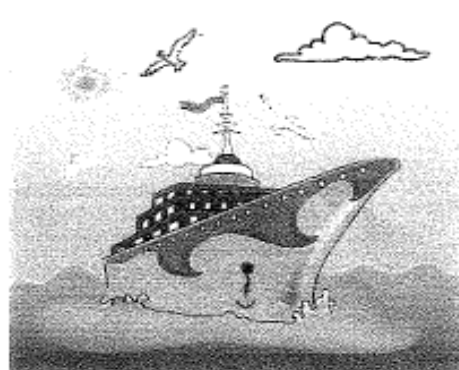
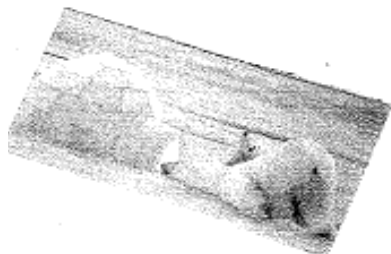
### **Legislature Update:**

The Missouri State Legislature is back in session. If you know of any bills that may affect City Clerks, please contact one of the members of the legislative committee, so we can track its progress and notify the membership.

Legislative Committee: Sandy Zook; Denise Chisum; Cheri Reisch; Jodi Schneider; Joyce Pumm; Julie Grillone; Laurie Oakes; Lisa Westfall; Shirley Olney; Teresa Setser; Terri Richardson

*Submitted by: Sandy Zook, Deputy City Clerk, MRCC*

# 2012 Hospitality *Presented by: Southeast, Northeast and Central . . .*



## Cruising With Missouri City Clerks 2012



**Sunday evening the ship will leave port at 7:00 sharp headed for a surprise destination!!**

**Monday evening the ship will leave port at 7:00 sharp heading for Hawaii!!**



**Tuesday evening the ship will leave port at 7:00 sharp heading for New Orleans!!**



**Activities, prizes and games will go with our locations and themes this year. Great prizes every night! Grand Prizes will be Dinner Cruises and a one night stay from around Missouri!!!!  
Yes there is Bingo on all of our ships!**



# Division News

## CENTRAL

The Central Division met on November 16, 2011 at City Hall in Laurie. The meeting was hosted by Laurie City Clerk Olive Wood and City Clerk Connie Stadler of Sunrise Beach. Members participated in an ornament exchange. Program presenter was former MML Director Gary Markenson who also answered questions from the audience. The next meeting will be held February 15, 2012 in Rocheport. Submitted by Diann Warner, Central Division Director



Diann Warner

## EAST CENTRAL



Bobbi Linberg

The East Central Division held its December quarterly meeting at the Hawthorne Inn in Labadie on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. President, Bobbi Limberg called the meeting to order and thanked the City of Washington for hosting this event and everyone for attending.

During the meeting, the division accepted the resignation of Sara Wheeler as Treasurer, due to her accepting the position as City Clerk for the City of St. James; discussed the bylaw and application changes needed to be made regarding the Scholarship applications; and elected new officers which will make effective May 1, 2012: President-Peggy Farrell, Kathy Trentmann-Vice-President, Kim Barfield-Secretary and Patty Pohlmann-Treasurer (effective immediately upon resignation of Sara Wheeler).

President Limberg reminded everyone that the "Everyday Hero Award" must be submitted by December 19<sup>th</sup>. A holiday gift exchange and delicious meals was enjoyed by everyone. Our next quarterly meeting will be held in March during the MoCCFOA Spring Institute. Submitted By Bobbi Limberg, Division Director.

## EASTERN

At the Eastern Division's October meeting which was held at the new facilities at the City of Frontenac, Ms. Miranda Duncan from St. Louis County discussed conflict resolution and management by negotiating through conflict. Included in her discussion were definitions, concepts and principles, communication styles and the actual process of communicating. After the meeting, tours of the new building were conducted by Frontenac City Clerk Leesa Ross.

The Eastern Division City Clerks met at the Innsbrook Resort and Conference Center in November. Dean Larkin of the University of Missouri discussed what St. Louis Extension (UMSL) courses can do for city clerks and for community development.

In December, at the Westborough Country Club in Oakland, the Eastern Division hosted the Holiday Party to "Honor our Mayors". Attendees dined on a delicious luncheon, there was a gift exchange, door prizes, and a charity drawing. The winning charity, "Our Little Haven" received a donation of \$480 from attendees. "Our Little Haven" in St. Louis provides a safe, secure and healing environment for children suffering from the tragedy of abuse and neglect.

Also, congratulations to Diane Waller, City Clerk of the City of Arnold for earning her Missouri Registered City Clerk (MRCC) designation. Submitted by Ruth E. Baker, CMC/MRCC, City Clerk of the City of Manchester, Eastern Division Director.



Ruth Baker

## NORTHEAST



Patti Spindler

The Northeast Division of City Clerks held their quarterly meeting in New London in November. Gina Mesmer of Shelbyville serves on the Planning Committee for the Hospitality Suite, and some ideas were presented from the group present that Gina will take to the next Planning Committee meeting. New London City Clerk Millie Powell talked about the certification process. The City of Edina will host the next meeting of the Northeast Division in February 2012. Submitted by Vickie Brumbaugh, CMC/MRCC, Newsletter Committee, Northeast Division.



# Division News



Beth Kar

## NORTHWEST

The Northwest Division met on Thursday, November 17 in Maryville at the Mazingo Family Cabins. There were 15 members present. Maryville City Clerk Sheila Smail made a delicious home cooked meal for the group with soup, chili, appetizers and dessert. The Division received an informative presentation from David Middleton of the Mazingo staff on the history of the complex. President Melissa Mattson gave the Oath of Office was given to new officers: President – Pat Fisher Johnson, Vice President – Beth Kar, Secretary – Sheila Smail and Treasurer – Jill Cottrill. The next meeting will be at Boudreaux's in St. Joseph, February 16, 2012. Education will be Patrick Watkins on Wage and Hour rules. Submitted by Beth Kar, MRCC, City Clerk for the City of Savannah

## SOUTH CENTRAL

The South Central Clerks met at Rockbridge, MO resort for our Christmas Party and meeting. We had a gift exchange and lunch. We discussed area happenings within our District. Our next meeting will be held in Cabool, MO on January 25th, weather permitting. Submitted by Sheila Matlock, MRCC, City of Mansfield. Division Director for South Central CCFOA.

No  
Picture  
Available

Shiela Matlock



Tracy Prost

## SOUTHEAST

The Southeast Division postponed their November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, which was to be held at the Hickory Log in Dexter. A new meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> in Cape Girardeau. Our main topic of discussion will be the upcoming Spring Institute and the role our division will play in planning the entertainment. Submitted by Tracy Prost, MRCC, Perryville.

## SOUTHWEST

No  
Picture  
Available

Beth Anne  
West  
Battlefield



Jeanie Woerner

## WESTERN

The Western Division met on January 18, 2012 at the Sprint Center in Kansas City. The education portion of our meeting was provided by Kansas City Police Chief, Darryl Forte on personal security measures. The business meeting agenda included the installation of officers for 2012: President-Nici Wilson, Pleasant Hill; Vice President-Amy Hubbard, Platte City; Secretary-Jane Sharon, Independence, and Treasurer-Jamie Rehmsmeyer, Grain Valley. Submitted by: Jeanie Woerner, MMC/MPCC, Western Division Director.

## CMC

### Designation from IIMC

We are pleased to inform the MoCCFOA that the following individual has earned the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC):

- Sue Frank, CMC, City of Concordia**
- Karen Robinson, CMC, City of Black Jack**
- Becky Schimmel, CMC, City of Grandview**
- Kimberly Barfield, CMC, City of Pacific**

The CMC designation program is designed to enhance the job performance of the Clerk in small and large municipalities. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. The program prepares the participants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the municipal clerks by providing them with quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning. The program has been in existence since 1970 and has helped thousands of clerks in various municipalities.

Founded in 1947, IIMC is a professional association with more than 10,000 members in the US, Canada and 15 other countries. IIMC's primary goal is to actively promote the continuing education and professional development of municipal clerks through extensive education programs, certification, recertification, publications, networking, annual conferences and research. IIMC also engages in municipal research administration, enhances critical professional skill development and fosters a spirit of mutual assistance and good fellowship among municipal clerks around the globe. IIMC is governed by a 26-member Board of Directors.

For more information please visit the IIMC website at [www.iimc.com](http://www.iimc.com) or contact us at [hq@iimc.com](mailto:hq@iimc.com) or 909-944-4162.

## MMC

### Designation from IIMC

We are pleased to inform the MoCCFOA that the following individual has earned the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC):

**11-01-11 Leesa Ross, MMC,  
City of Frontenac**

The MMC is one of the two professional designations granted by IIMC. To qualify for entrance into the Master Municipal Academy (MMCA), which prepares participants for achieving the MMC status, one must have earned the CMC designation.

The MMCA is an advanced continuing education program that prepares participants to perform more complex municipal duties. The program has an extensive and rigorous educational component, a professional and social contributions component, and a commitment to lifelong learning. The Academy members must demonstrate that they have actively pursued educational and professional activities and have remained informed of current socio-political, cultural, and economic issues that affect local governments and municipalities.



Leesa Ross with the Eastern Division obtained her Master Municipal Clerk's status from IIMC in November 2011. Leesa has been with the City of Frontenac, Missouri, since February 1991. She served as a Police Dispatcher and City Clerk prior to her appointment as City Clerk in 2000. She obtained her CMC Certification in 2005 and is currently a Missouri Registered City Clerk with the Sustaining Classification.



# *Missouri Certification Recipients*

## MRCC

Diane Faulkner  
Sarah Wagner  
Kimberly Barfield  
Kimberley DeMoss  
Bobbi Limberg  
Sandy Zook  
Diane Waller

## MRCC CONTINUING

Karen Robinson  
Robin Littrell

## MRCC SUSTAINING

Deanna Jones  
Becky Schomburg

## **Marilyn Woolsey CITY CLERK RETIRES FROM ST JAMES After 35 Years**

Marilyn Woolsey is retiring after 35 years with the city of St James, as the longstanding employee is rewarded for her years of service.

We want to wish Marilyn a long and happy retirement," Wilson said. After working as city clerk and with the St. James Municipal Utilities department for the past three and a half decades, Woolsey has decided to bring her career with the city to an end. While the city seeks a new clerk, Woolsey was honored for her great connection with city workers, the community, and those that she has worked alongside over her career.

While serving for four Mayors, Woolsey has been a staple at city hall. Sarah Wheeler, who is the current city clerk for Gerald, Mo., was recently announced by Mayor Dennis Wilson as Woolsey's successor effective January 3, 2011.

# **MOCCFOA CERTIFICATION PROGRESS PLAN**

This Plan must be submitted within 30 days after attendance of any of the following: Fall Master Academy/MML Conference, MOCCFOA Regionals and New Clerks or Spring Master Academy/Spring Institute, in order to receive education points toward MOCCFOA or IIMC certification. You may complete the form and submit it at the end of the Conference with your Affidavit or within 30 days electronically to: bdavis@missouristate.edu; or mail to: Belinda Davis, Management Development Institute, Missouri State University, 901 S. National, Springfield, MO 65897

Name:	Job Title:
City:	Division:
Signature:	Date:

**CONFERENCE SUMMARY.** Please use the space below to provide a summary on one or more of the following. Please use all of the space provided.

- a. Write a summary of the conference in general.
- b. Include information that you learned and how it will benefit you in your position or benefit your city.
- c. List any goals you may strive to implement as a benefit to yourself or your city.
- d. If you are in the final stages of the MPCC Designation, your information should be in essay form and include the benefits of participating in the education process.

# CONGRATULATIONS

## MOCCFOA Scholarship Recipients 2012 New Clerks Conference and Spring Institute

### 2012 NEW CLERKS CONFERENCE:

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Division</u>
Jennifer Calvin	City of Clarksville	Northeast
Claudia Donahue	City of Callao	Central
Deena Parsons	City of Palmyra	Northeast
Wendy Evans	City of Seymour	South Central
Noelle Harmon	City of Cassville	Southwest
Christine Thomas	City of Hazelwood	Eastern
Samantha Wagner	City of Battlefield	Southwest

### 2012 SPRING INSTITUTE:

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Division</u>
Wendy Evans	City of Seymour	South Central
Jennifer Calvin	City of Clarksville	Northeast
Beth Kar	City of Savannah	Northwest
Tammy Engen	City of Bates City	Western
Dana Louderbaugh	City of Fair Grove	Southwest
Deena Parsons	City of Palmyra	Northeast
Jodi Schneider	City of Troy	Eastern
Janis Diamond	City of Atlanta	Northeast
Darla Langford	City of Oronogo	Southwest
Patricia Zimdars	City of Battlefield	Southwest

### \$250 D.A. DAVIDSON SCHOLARSHIP for Spring Institute:

Bonnie Nordwald	City of Wentzville	Eastern
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**Special thanks** to MOCCFOA Scholarship members: Danette Henderson, Sharon Kakouris, Jill Cottrill, Cindy Simpson, Kim Barfield, Kathy Trentman, Missy Bergner, Sharon Ratliff, Julie Rodgers, Bridget Tyrey, Renee Keaton, Sandra Underwood and Sarah Wagner.

**Submitted by: Chris McCormick, 2011-2012 MOCCFOA Scholarship Chairperson**

### From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **clerk** is a senior official of many municipal governments in the English-speaking world. In some communities, the position is elected, but in many others, the clerk is appointed to their post. In almost all cases, the actual title of the clerk reflects the type of municipality he or she works for, thus, instead of simply being known as the *clerk*, the position is generally referred to as the **town clerk**, **city clerk**, **village clerk**, or **county clerk**. Other titles also exist. The office has existed for centuries, though in some places it is now being merged with other positions.

The duties of a municipal clerk vary even more than their titles. Particularly in the United States, it is impossible within the scope of this article to fully describe a clerk's duties, because there are literally hundreds of different job descriptions extant. In some U.S. states, there are provisions in the state constitutions delineating the clerk's duties, but in other states, each municipality decides for itself what role the clerk plays, or even, if there need be a clerk at all, the clerk's duties, but in other states, each municipality decides for itself what role the clerk plays, or even, if there need be a clerk at all.



# WORKPLACE VIOLENCE EDUCATION

**PROVIDED BY: KIRKSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

At the Missouri City Clerks and Finance Officers Association Spring Conference this year, I heard an education session by the City Clerk of Kirkwood, Missouri regarding the tragedy that struck the City of Kirkwood three years ago. Two police officers and three city officials were shot and killed on the night of a Kirkwood City Council meeting, plus one more death weeks later, as a result of a gunshot wound from that same night. The shooter was a man who had received 150 tickets for code violations over a period of time, and who made regular visits to Council meetings, before opening fire at a Council meeting. Kirkwood's City Clerk explained what security they had in place prior to the incident, but also what steps they took afterwards.

As the City Clerk of Kirksville (population 17,300), I understood the importance of educating city employees on workplace violence. I took the first step by sharing my thoughts with the City Manager to obtain support to proceed. My next step was to ask our Police Chief to hold an informational presentation with office personnel and supervisors regarding workplace violence. Our Police Chief was outstanding - He explained warning signs, such as verbal threats - "you'll be sorry"; the meaning of bizarre and delusional behavior - Example: If people feel they are entitled to a lower bill, then they see that customer service person as the one who is blocking them from their entitlement; degrading and humiliating others - if this person sees you as unimportant, why wouldn't they kill you?; and repeated violations of city policies and ordinances.

He offered us three options if an active shooter were present: You can hide. You can run. You can fight. There are pluses and minuses on each of these because it depends on the circumstances. If the shooter is shooting randomly, then hiding could be safe. If the shooter is taking his time and looking for people, then hiding may not be a good choice. If you run, then you become a moving target which makes the shooter want to turn and aim at you. On the other hand, you may have a chance by running to escape; it depends on how close an escape door is and how fast you can run. To fight also places you at danger to be shot. But fighting as a group could be the best option.

Homicide is the fourth-leading cause of fatal occupational injury in the United States. The Police Chief repeatedly told us there is no difference between suicide and homicide because anyone who is thinking about or contemplating suicide will not think twice about killing someone else.

Our Police Chief encouraged each city department to come up with a plan of escape. The City Council has received training on possible violence, and the danger they are placed in by meeting in a room for a work session that does not have but one door. The Council has chosen to continue to meet in this room. It is my hope that they will reconsider for their safety and others who are in attendance.

To continue our education on workplace violence, we will hold another meeting with office personnel to be conducted by a Police Officer who has been trained on violence in businesses.

Feedback from the attendees was excellent. All departments shared information about individuals who they have dealt with who lined up with some of the warning signs. One name in particular was brought up by different departments, but not everyone knew that others had dealt with this person. Therefore, we plan to communicate with other departments when someone presents themselves as questionable. On the day of the meeting with the Police Chief, our Water Department personnel had received an e-mail from a water customer who was threatening suicide although this same person has done this before. This is an example of a person who could also commit homicide.

What happens next: Each City department will come up with a plan for escape. We will communicate information on questionable people between departments. More educational training will be scheduled.

**Submitted by: Vickie Brumbaugh, CMC MRCC**  
City Clerk, Kirksville

# Did You Make a New Resolution for 2012?

I mail the MoCCFOA Newsletter to our retired City Clerk friends, and I thought it would be nice to hear about their New Year Resolutions, or to share their plans for 2012. We greatly appreciate their responses.

Vickie Brumbaugh, CMC/MRCC  
City Clerk of Kirksville  
MoCCFOA Newsletter Committee

Since we are both retired, my husband and I keep looking for something to keep us busy! One of my resolutions will be for us to find a new place for us to visit at least one time a month. I'm getting excited about the possibilities.

**Dorris Carter**  
**retired and loving it**

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I resolve to be the best sister and caregiver to my baby sister, Margaret, while she is going through her treatment for cancer of the larynx. We found out about it back in June, and it's been quite the journey since then. We live together here in Alton, and she has been very, very brave. We are both learning a lot (things we never thought we would need to know), and I'm glad that I retired when I did. I had a lot of ups and downs when I was trying to decide whether I should retire, but now I am very happy that I did at that particular time, as it has given me time to take care of her. We both feel blessed that we have each other, and want everyone to love each other each and every day! Happy New Year, everyone!

**Dinah Slaughter**  
**Alton**

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Happy New Year to everyone!

Resolutions - didn't make any this year - who keeps them longer than the first week anyway. I have promised myself to live a healthier lifestyle - portion control (guess that is what measuring cups are for) and to set aside time for more exercise. I have found it difficult to manage leisure time, there is always tomorrow, tomorrow, and then tomorrow.

Projects - I have lots of projects lined up however my first one for the new year is to make bandanna- style college quilts for my two 'Seniors' grandchildren. The twins graduate in May and it will be here before I know it.

Travel - My California sister and I travel together and have been on several overseas trips. Due to family commitments she was unable to go last year so we are planning to go 'somewhere' this year.

I have 3 grandchildren on traveling basketball teams - different teams naturally - so will be watching a lot of grade school ball games this winter. With a total of 10 grandchildren, ranging in ages from 3-18 there is always something going on. Now you know why I need to stay in shape. What fun!!

**Linda Plenge**  
**Retired City Clerk**  
**City of Kahoka**

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Continued from page 10

## Did You Make a New Resolution for 2012?

This is the start of my 3rd year of retirement and I have not made a New Year's Resolution for any of those years. I sleep as late as I want and do what I want. I have done a lot of reading - at least one book every day. I am not planning on any trips but I am expecting two family visits this year which will be something unusual for me; it is usually me doing all the traveling. I did move after retirement and currently live in Rogersville which is a few miles outside of Springfield. I do miss seeing all the City Clerks but I continue to talk and e-mail several of them. Happy New Year to all of you!

**Barb Stinson, Retired from City of Waynesville**

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The latter part of February, I will fly to Boise, pick up my 11 year old niece and fly to the San Diego naval base. We will then board a Naval Aircraft Carrier. This is the ship on which her naval officer father has been serving for the past 9 months.

We have a room in the officers' quarters and will ride the remainder of the way to their final location, Bremerton, Washington.

Friends and family have been making statements like: There goes the ocean; the Navy will never be the same; first time in many years, a naval ship has been lost at sea; Rhoda will be where she shouldn't be, see a button, press it, and WHAMO, we have bombed Russia.

My brother in California plans to keep CNN on at all times, in the event an evacuation is required.

Once we finally dock, I will somehow get to Seattle, board a plane for Tampa, Florida, where my husband John will be waiting with our travel trailer. Hope everything goes as planned, but as always seems to happen, something could possibly go wrong.

Hopefully, I will be able to give an update for the April newsletter.

**Anchors Away,  
Rhoda Womack Gwaltney**

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My "plans" for this year are no plans. For over 20 years, there were always meetings and deadlines - and now, I volunteer for several organizations and just wake up in the morning whenever I feel like it and set out on our porch, look at the lake and think about what we want to do today. Each day is a blessing! I do miss all the City Clerk functions - you all were such a great resource and help.

**Jo Ann Hoehne**

*Karen Susman has been a former speaker at some of our City Clerks State and International Conferences. She shared this poem recently:*

## The Train of Life

Some folks ride the train of life  
Looking out the rear,  
Watching miles of life roll by,  
And marking every year.

They sit in sad remembrance,  
Of wasted days gone by,  
And curse their life for what it was,  
And hang their head and cry.

But I don't concern myself with that,  
I took a different vent,  
I look forward to what life holds,  
And not what has been spent.

So strap me to the engine,  
As securely as I can be,  
I want to be out on the front,  
To see what I can see.

I want to feel the winds of change,  
Blowing in my face,  
I want to see what life unfolds,  
As I move from place to place.

I want to see what's coming up,  
Not looking at the past,  
Life's too short for yesterdays,  
It moves along too fast.

So if the ride gets bumpy,  
While you are looking back,  
Go up front, and you may find,  
Your life has jumped the track.

It's all right to remember,  
That's part of history,  
But up front's where it's happening,  
There's so much mystery.

The enjoyment of living,  
Is not where we have been,  
It's looking ever forward,  
To another year and ten.

It's searching all the byways,  
Never should you refrain,  
For if you want to live your life,  
You gotta drive the train!

Author unknown



Becky Schomburg  
City of Tarkio  
602 Main Street  
Tarkio, MO 64491

**Newsletter Staff 2011-2012**—*Editor:* Becky Schomburg—Northwest; Vickie Brumbaugh—Northeast, Brenda Jackson—Southwest, Susan Lane—East Central, Carrie Mulch—Central, Carly West—Northwest and Melissa Burton as Spring Institute Photographer.

# The Spring Institute Brochure is in the mail.

**March 5, 2012 - New Clerk's Institute and Master Academy**

**March 6-8, 2012—MoCCFOA Spring Institute**

**The Hospitality Room for 2012 is being hosted by  
Southeast, Northeast and Central.**