

CLERKS IN THE NEWS

Gore, Debby

Brunswick's Gore takes helm of county clerks association

Brunswick County's Debby Gore knows she has some big shoes to fill as the new president of the North Carolina Association of County Clerks.

Caldwell County Clerk Kathy Myers, now past president of the NCACC (yes, there are two of them), completed an ambitious and productive year as leader of the Association at the group's Annual Conference, held in mid-April in Rowan County. Her work, according to Gore, included revisions of the Association's bylaws and handbook.

Gore said before taking the reins as president of the Association, she saw to it that Myers received a much-needed neck massage. The clerks association has enjoyed a close relationship with the N.C. Association of County Commissioners as an affiliate organization since 1981.

Gore said she is relying on her support staff, which includes Deputy Clerk to the Board Margie Stephenson and a "loaner" from the Building Inspections Department, to make it possible to pull off double duty as clerk to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and as clerks association president.

"It's going to be a challenge but I think I can handle it," Gore said. "With both of them it's going to make it easier."

Gore said one of her initiatives is to increase membership and involvement beyond an already "great group." The Association is planning three regional meetings for the fall – Oct. 1 in Hoke County, Oct. 22 in Johnston County and Sept. 24 in Burke County.

Another goal is to work with the N.C. Association of County Commissioners on an updated version of the Clerks Reference Guide.

"Kathy told me the best part of the job would be going to the regionals and seeing more of the state," Gore said. "It's something you only do once, so I'm going to make it fun."

In addition to Gore, the other officers are Vice President Jeanette Deese (Carteret County), Secretary Ann Clark (Ashe), Treasurer Angelena Kearney-Dunlap (Warren) and Past President Myers. The Board of Directors consists of Carolyn Athey (Rowan), Kristen King (Franklin), Gaynell Lee (Lee County), Effie Varitimidis (Guilford) and Marcia Wilson (Wayne).

Also at the Annual Conference, Craven County Clerk to the Board Gwen Bryan was presented with the Howard Holly Outstanding Clerk Award. Bryan, who has served as Craven's clerk since 1993, thanked her

Board of Commissioners and her management team for allowing her the opportunity to pursue her educational goals and to remain active with the clerks association.

"It means a lot to be recognized by your colleagues," she said. "It's quite an honor. It's not something I take very lightly. There is quite an effort that goes on in attaining some of the certifications."

Wake County will host the 2011 N.C. Association of County Clerks Annual Conference on April 7-10 at the Crabtree Marriott.

Grissom, Kelly

Kerr-Tar COG awards Vance County's Kelly Grissom as Outstanding Clerk

Vance County Clerk to the Board Kelly Grissom was named Outstanding County Clerk to the Board at the Annual Awards Banquet of the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) on September 25, 2014, at the Soldiers' Memorial Sports Arena, in Butner, N.C.

Each year the COG recognizes a clerk from its five-county region for his/her contributions to local government achievement; special accomplishments and job initiative; professional skills and expertise; and service on regional, state, or national committees or commissions representing local government.

Ms. Grissom officially became Clerk to the Board of the Vance County Board of Commissioners and the Executive Assistant to the County Manager, a dual position in which she has excelled for over 9 years. During her service as Clerk to the Board, Ms. Grissom has brought a high degree of professionalism to her job. She has organized and overseen the codification of County Ordinances, restructured administrative files, and implemented many other improvements. It was noted that Mrs. Grissom is truly a dedicated and critical member of the administrative team in Vance County Government.

The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments serves Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance and Warren counties and the municipalities therein.

King, Kristen

Kerr-Tar COG awards Franklin County's Kristen King as Outstanding Clerk

Franklin County Clerk to the Board Kristen G. King was named Outstanding County Clerk to the Board at the Annual Awards Banquet of the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) on September 27, 2012, at the Warren County Armory Civic Center, in Warrenton, N.C.

Each year the COG recognizes a clerk from its five-county region for his/her contributions to local government achievement; special accomplishments and job initiative; professional skills and expertise; and service on regional, state, or national committees or commissions representing local government.

Mrs. King was recognized for her service to the North Carolina Association of County Clerks as an active Board member and for co-hosting the Association's 2011 annual conference held in Wake County. Mrs. King was also recognized as a Certified Municipal Clerk and a North Carolina Certified County Clerk.

Franklin County's commissioners and County Manager noted Mrs. King demonstrates a high level of professionalism and genuinely cares about those served by the County. It was also stated she is dedicated to keeping Franklin County elected officials well informed and that she is timely, creative and has a great deal of integrity. They also commended Mrs. King for making everyone's day at the office a lot brighter!

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Kurtzman, Ann

Scotland County Clerk Ann Kurtzman named Lumber River COG's Regional Clerk of the Year

Scotland County Clerk Ann Kurtzman is Lumber River Council of Government's Regional Clerk of the Year. The COG held its Annual Meeting on October 16, 2014 at the Southeastern Regional Agricultural Center in Lumberton. One of the awards presented at the meeting was the Annie Kohnen Award, Regional Clerk of the Year. Named in honor of Annie Kohnen, long time Scotland County Clerk, this award was established in 1999 and honors those clerks demonstrating the true spirit of public service exemplified by "Miss Annie". The award is given in recognition of the relentless work performed by clerks in each municipality and county.

Ms. Kurtzman, this year's Region N Clerk of the Year, believes county government exists to serve the people. She understands the difficulties faced by administrative and elected officials and serves as a sounding board for both.

In every jurisdiction clerks take on different roles. But in each, they are the official custodian of record for board action. This role is one of the greatest tools in providing transparency in government to the citizenry. This year's winner not only serves as a very accurate record keeper, but also as a champion of open government. As Public Information Officer, Ms. Kurtzman works to ensure the records of public actions are maintained and distributed to citizens. She has been instrumental in the design of the County's new website, striving for more public interaction. She serves as the webmaster and the primary contact for training and trouble shooting. She publishes the minutes of each meeting as well as the agenda package. Ms. Kurtzman was also the driving force in moving commissioners to an electronic agenda, generating savings that have paid for their devices in less than two years. As an integral member of the Scotland County Management Team, Ms. Kurtzman serves as chairman of the County's Aging Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

McLain, Pamela

Pamela McLain, Clerk to the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners Receives Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award

Pamela McLain, Clerk to the Rockingham County Board of Commissioners, was presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award by Rockingham County Commissioner Mark Richardson. The award honors McLain for over 36 years of dedicated service to the state of North Carolina, which began in 1965 as

Deputy Register of Deeds. After serving five and a half years, she worked for a local law firm for 16 years, then returned to county service in 1987, as Secretary to the County Manager. McLain was appointed Clerk to the Board in 1990 - a position she has held for 28 years, serving 26 County Commissioners.

Reaves, Brenda

Kerr-Tar COG awards Person County's Brenda Reaves as Outstanding Clerk

Person County Clerk to the Board Brenda Reaves was named Outstanding County Clerk to the Board at the Annual Awards Banquet of the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) on Sept. 23, 2010, at the Henderson Convention Center, in Henderson, N.C.

Each year the COG recognizes a clerk from its five-county region for his/her contributions to local government achievement; special accomplishments and job initiative; professional skills and expertise; and service on regional, state, or national committees or commissions representing local government.

Brenda was noted as the "customer service" key for Person County, maintaining a professional, happy and helpful demeanor for all. She serves a dual role as Person County Clerk to the Board and the Executive Assistant to the County Manager. In addition to those duties, Brenda recently completed her Clerk's Certification. Person County staff submitted that Brenda is a true pleasure to work with and is always committed to give 100%!

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Weary, Debra

Kerr-Tar COG awards Granville County's Debra Weary as Outstanding Clerk

Granville County Clerk to the Board Debra A. Weary was named Outstanding County Clerk to the Board at the Annual Awards Banquet of the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments (COG) on September 28, 2017 at Vance Granville Community College Civic Center in Henderson, NC.

Each year the COG recognizes a clerk from its five-county region for his/her contributions to local government achievement; special accomplishments and job initiative; professional skills and expertise; and service on regional, state, or national committees or commissions representing local government.

Mrs. Weary's performance was described as exceptional and her performance as a foundation of support that allows Granville County leaders to meet the expectations of the community. Mrs. Weary is said to provide a healthy balance and temperament that elicits cooperation and support. She also wears many hats and titles in Granville including historian, therapist, event planner, information services and even detective!

Mrs. Weary was recognized for her service to the North Carolina Association of County Clerks. She serves as Chair of the Membership Committee and assists as a member on the Goody Bag and Door

Prize Committee for various events. She has also achieved the status of Certified Municipal County Clerk and North Carolina Certified County Clerk.

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Certified County Clerk Designation

39 Earn North Carolina Certified County Clerk Designation

The North Carolina Association of County Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners is pleased to announce the launching of a state certification program for North Carolina Clerks to Boards of County Commissioners, Deputy Clerks and Administrative Aides to Regional Councils of Government. Organized in 1976 for the purpose of providing "...an opportunity to exchange ideas and techniques which may be used in the performance of Clerks' duties...", the Association has broadened its focus over the years to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and professionalism of its members through ever increasing means. At the outset, pioneers in the profession recognized the importance of being knowledgeable about current and proposed local, state and federal legislation. Continuing education has been a priority of the Association and through collaboration with its partners – the University of North Carolina School of Government, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks – members have had access to numerous training opportunities.

The new certification program, developed with the assistance of the UNC School of Government (SOG), will be administered by the SOG. Following completion of the required training, experiential and examination components, the NCCCC (North Carolina Certified County Clerk) designation will be conferred upon members who achieve the qualifications.

Thirty-nine Clerks, representing 35 North Carolina counties have currently qualified for the program, and were recognized at the 2010 Annual City and County Clerks School at the School of Government in January.

For more information on the program, see the NCCCC Brochure.

Contact: Marcia R. Wilson, Chairman
State Certification Committee
Wayne County Clerk to the Board
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Eastern Regional Clerks Academy

Johnston County hosts the Eastern Regional Clerks Academy

SMITHFIELD – Thirty-five county and municipal clerks attended the North Carolina Association of County Clerks Eastern Regional IIMC Academy on October 22, 2010. The event was sponsored by the UNC School of Government and held at the Johnston County Agricultural Building in Smithfield, NC.

Attendees received information on current legislative issues from Fleming Bell of the UNC School of Government and were provided updates on recently enacted laws that impact clerks.

Other guest speakers included Pat LaCarter and Melanie Proctor from the Johnston County Human Resources Department, Cynthia Toudle from the Johnston County Health Department, and Nancy Murphy from the North Carolina Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Association. A panel discussion concluded the day's sessions providing the opportunity for clerks to share valuable information.

The regional event was organized by Johnston County Clerk to the Board Paula Woodard and Deputy Clerk to the Board Melissa Daughtry with support from Johnston County Manager Rick Hester as well as the Johnston County Board of Commissioners.

Piedmont Regional Clerks Academy

Lumber River Council of Governments hosts the Piedmont Regional Clerks Academy

PEMBROKE - Twenty county and municipal clerks attended the North Carolina Association of County Clerks Piedmont Regional IIMC Academy October 1, the first ever to be hosted by a Council of Governments.

The event was sponsored by the School of Government and held at the Lumber River Council of Governments based in Pembroke, NC.

Attendees received information on current legislative issues from State Representative Garland Pierce (District 48), learned the role a Council of Governments plays in support of counties and municipalities and were provided updates on recently enacted laws that impact clerks.

Two panel discussions and sessions on effective health and wellness programs, the daily challenges of economic and workforce development and suggestions on creative budgeting in difficult financial times rounded out the day-long academy.

The regional event was organized by Lumber River Council of Governments Clerk Gainer Cummings with support from Bladen County Clerk Sara West, Hoke County Clerk Linda Revels, Richmond County Clerk Marian Savage, Robeson County Clerk Tammy Freeman and Scotland County Clerk Ann Kurtzman.

The Lumber River Council of Governments serves as an administrative and service delivery arm for federal, state, regional and local programs of its member governments. The counties of Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson and Scotland, along with 27 municipalities within these counties, make up the current membership of the Lumber River Council of Governments. The agency is part of a system of 17 regional councils covering the entire state of North Carolina.

Seven Honored with Master County Clerk Designation, CountyLines, February 2016

Seven North Carolina county clerks recently received the designation of Master County Clerk, the highest certification, each clerk was required to achieve the rank of "Certified County Clerk" through the UNC School of Government and hold that designation for six years.

“Tremendous dedication is necessary to obtain designation as a Master County Clerk,” said Trey Allen, Assistant Professor of Public Law and Government at the UNC School of Government. “To be eligible for the MCC, a county clerk must go through the steps required to be designated as a Certified County Clerk, maintain the CCC designation for a minimum of six years, and successfully complete more than 100 hours of continuing education within a three-year period. A clerk who obtains the MCC demonstrates a strong commitment to her profession and to public service.”

Each city and county in North Carolina is required to have a clerk (G.S. 160A-171 & 153A-111). The position of clerk is one of the oldest in recorded history, responsible for recording the historical business of the governing board and many other duties that keep local government meeting the daily needs of its residents. The clerks who achieved the designation were:

Carolyn Barger, Rowan County

Kimberly Hines, Pitt County

Gaynell Lee, Lee County

Paula Woodard, Johnston County

Kay Draughn, Burke County

Kathy Hughes, Buncombe County

Marcia Wilson, Wayne County