WMCA 2020-2021 PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – September, 2020

Greetings!

I’m going to start with a short story:

A week before the Partisan Primary election I woke up on Sunday morning to a sad text – my deputy broke her ankle was going to need surgery. She was out – for 2 ½ weeks. Sunday night I was sitting on my couch like, what am I going to do? Thinking, thinking….I remember my former co-worker Cathy. I worked with her at the City of Appleton. So I texted her. Then called her. In my calmest panicked voice I screeched, HELP ME! She showed up two days later. She had me so organized and ready and helped clean up the election, it was amazing!

But just a week or two later, I received a similar message from a neighboring Clerk. Her Deputy was also out on medical leave and she, herself, was unable to be physically at work. I asked, what can I do to help? She jokingly said, my Board of Review! I said, “You got it”. I had to pay it forward. I WANTED to pay it forward.

And that’s my vision for 2020-2021. We are “All in this Together”. Think about it. The Clerk List, trainings, mentoring, panic phone calls, texts or emails to our Clerk friends. We are all in this together, we always have been. It is my hope that we continue the tone Diane set for her presidency and portrayed by her theme song "Stand by Me". I sincerely and truly believe that most, if not all of us will need someone to stand by them or help them this fall. Could be anything. Big or small. Every lent hand or ear this fall will make a difference.

That being said – I know we are in for a busy fall. We all know that. Not only with absentee ballots, constant phone calls, walk-in traffic, rule changes (let’s hope there aren’t any), pending legislation, budgets, taxes, the list goes on and on, but some of you will also be part-time at-home teachers or working from home to provide care for children who are on-line learning one or more days a week.

With all of the craziness, my expectation and goal for the fall/winter is help to each other. Help yourself. Take CARE of yourself. Our committees will work together to achieve the necessary items: budgets, educational opportunities and legislative communication. After the dust of November settles and everyone has had some time to breathe a little before the next election, we can hit the ground running. So for now? Be there for each other.

I sure missed seeing you at the conference this year. I absolutely love all of the educational opportunities, meeting with vendors and celebrating the successes of the year. What we also didn’t have a chance to do is thank Diane for her leadership through unprecedented times and Barb Goeckner on her Lifetime Achievement Award! Congratulations! We, as an organization, are so lucky to have dedicated individuals who care so deeply and give so selflessly. We thank you. I’m looking forward to working with Diane on planning the fall 2021 conference.

I encourage all of you to reach out to me or any member of the Board of Directors if you have questions or ideas. We’d love to hear from you. In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy, good luck and smile!

All my best,

Wendy

Wendy Helgeson WCMC