President Diane Coenen February 2020 Article

GOOD NEWS ALERT – ‘A’ & ‘B’ BALLOTS ..... By now I hope you have all heard that the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) has decided it is ONLY necessary to send out ‘A’ Presidential Preference Ballots to military and overseas voters (UOCAVA) for the April 7th Spring Election. WEC is directing Professional Clerks to follow past practice and only comply with the 47-day deadline on February 20 to send Presidential Preference-Only Ballots to military and overseas voters. THANK YOU WEC!!!

AVEO UPDATE ..... The Legislative Communications and Advocacy Committee Chairman, Kelly Michaels has received information that the last session of the year for the Assembly will be sometime in March. If the Assembly introduces AVEO (AB 203) and approves it, it will move on to the Senate. This will be our last chance in 2020 to get the AVEO bill passed so we have a solution for the November processing of in-office absentee ballots. Please continue to reach out to your legislators asking them to support this bill.

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!!! I couldn’t do a February Newsletter without mentioning that we have come to celebrate it as a day of romance and love and thank goodness it’s a day of candy and cupids because although the exact origin of the holiday isn’t known, in ancient Rome two men by the name of Valentine were executed on Feb. 14th (different years) in the 3rd century A.D. Their martyrdom was honored by the Catholic Church with the celebration of St. Valentine’s Day. Even more disturbing from Feb. 13th – 15th Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia where men hit on (wooed) women by sacrificing a goat & a dog, then whipping them with the hides of the animals they had just slain. It is said that young women would lineup for the men to hit them. I say, give me Chocolate!!!!!!

Since my last newsletter article, I attended a WMCA Board of Directors meeting on January 17th and traveled to the City of Stillwater, MN on January 24th – 25th for an IIMC District VI Region Meeting and Athenian Dialogue (Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker.) I also had a phone conversation with Meagan Wolfe, WEC about a new Election Security Grant the Federal Government has approved in the amount of $425M, with $7.8M of that going to Wisconsin. WEC has a tight timeline (Feb. 27th) to determine how to distribute these funds for municipalities, SO STAY TUNED.

VISIONS:

Helping Future WMCA Presidents/Boards: At the Jan. 17th Board meeting, we approved a “new” template letter for Presidents to use when the Board approves supporting a Professional who has requested WMCA support in their quest to run for an office affiliated with the Clerk’s Profession. The intent of the template is to have standard language of support (which can be added to) to ensure consistency in how a support letter is written for all Professionals that ask. The Vision of creating this letter lead to another Vision of creating a “President Folder” in the Membership Log-In section that will have useful tools such as a list of duties spreadsheet, letter templates, and other pertinent documents to be used by your President. The folder contents will be a work-in-progress for the remainder of my term so your next President and those thereafter will have tools to help them prepare for, and achieve, their duties.

VICTORIES:

WMCA Policy & Procedures Manual: In June 2016 the WMCA Board of Directors approved Chapters 1-10 of the Policy and Procedures Manual. The manual did not include WMCA Committees. In August 2019,
the Manuals Committee was given the directive to develop the committee sections. Each member of the Manuals Committee was assigned a WMCA Committee and worked with the Chair(s) to write the policies and procedures for that specific Committee. On Jan. 17th the Board approved these newly revised Committee Sections: 12 – Committees; 13 – Certification Committee; 14 – Conference Committee; 15 – Finance Committee; 16 – Legislative Communications & Advocacy Committee; 17 – Lifetime Achievement Award Committee; 18 – Manuals Committee; 19 – Mentoring Committee; 20 – New Clerks Class Committee; 21 – PEC-Professional Education Committee; 22 – Promotions Committee; 23 – Scholarship Committee; and 24 – WCEF-Wisconsin Clerks Education Fund Committee. WOW – that’s a lot of sections and a lot of work. The Manuals Committee vision was to provide the sections to the Board on Jan. 17th and mission accomplished. This was a huge undertaking, led by Chairman Brenda Ayers and it’s a huge Victory for WMCA. Please join me in Thanking the Manuals Committee for all their hard work and determination to not only get this task done in record time, but also achieving their goal. BRAVO!!!

Wishing all Professionals, a Happy Valentine’s Day filled with Love and Support!  
Diane