



Oracle Newsletter

President's Message

My theme this year is "Dare Greatly." What you are about to read was first used in a speech 110 years ago at the Sorbonne in Paris on April 23, 1910, by President Theodore Roosevelt, a man whom I've long admired. I didn't get his permission to use this excerpt from his famous speech that came to be known as, "The Man in the Arena," but I like to think that T.R. would be flattered that I chose his words as my message to you, even though I've tweaked them a bit.



"It's not the critic who counts; not the person who points out how a strong clerk stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit goes to the clerk who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood. The clerk who strives valiantly, who errs, who comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming. The credit goes to the clerk who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends themselves in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if they fail, at least fails while DARING GREATLY, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Clerks Dare Greatly every single day and in every single way. I am honored to represent the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks as President in 2023.



Brenda J. Henry, MMC
AAMC President
Assistant Borough Clerk



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Clerk of the Year

Congratulations Lonnie McKechnie, CMC, Mat-Su Borough Clerk, 2022 AAMC Clerk of the Year!



Lonnie was nominated by her Managers and Attorney, with support from her Mayor, former Mayor, and a local teacher. They recognized her strengths in facilitating meetings and discussion to address difficult topics through appropriate venues and scheduling. As well as her commitment to her own professional development by attendance at AAMC conferences despite scheduling challenges, and educating board and commission members in parliamentary procedure. She takes education to young people in her community by hosting up to 125 students and parent chaperones in the assembly chambers to conduct mock assembly meetings where these third graders participate as elected officials and concerned citizens to debate and vote on various issues, such as whether to spend money on a fire truck or park improvements.

Clerk of the Year Award History

The Clerk of the Year award was established in 2000 to recognize Alaska municipal clerks who have made significant contributions toward furthering the municipal clerk professional development through education, demonstrating leadership, and making significant contributions to the quality of life in their community.

But what her nominators really bring home is Lonnie's knowledge, professionalism, ability to lead, and grace under pressure related to elections where they say she has performed remarkably.

Her municipality is one of the few who hold their local elections concurrently with the State election. The State is not able to share their election equipment or workers so she has to coordinate separate election officials, ballots, and equipment for the local elections. In addition to recruiting, training and coordinating election officials, she organizes details to avoid voter confusion, minimize wait times, and provide voters with a clear and understandable process for voting both elections at shared polling locations.

In 2020 Lonnie was instrumental in executing an emergency ordinance in short order to suspend the witness requirement for by mail ballots to be consistent with the States directive during the pandemic, and successfully navigated the closure of an early and absentee polling location when a worker tested positive for COVID, while honoring the people's right to vote early. And if that wasn't enough, a recount was called for a district where there was an 11 vote difference, and upon completion of the recount, the results were unchanged, demonstrating integrity in elections in a chaotic year.

To quote her nominators, "Her performance continues to demonstrate to the Mayor, Assembly, Borough officials, and the public that a professional clerk is an indispensable part of a well-functioning local government and a vital component for public involvement and engagement."

Lonnie started in the clerk profession in 2002 as an administrative assistant, promoted to Secretary to the Clerk, Deputy Borough Clerk, and was appointed as Borough Clerk in 2008. As President of AAMC in 2015 she asked us to go boldly as clerks, and she continues to lead with that in mind.

Congratulations Lonnie!



2022 Fundraising Report Update

I will be the first to admit that Chairing the Fundraising Committee was more work than I had planned, but the committee's hard work paid off, quite literally, with over \$17K in gross revenue. The Scholarship fund will see an increase of \$13,737.99 after expenses and raffle prize payouts!

All of this happens because of Clerks like all of you who support our cause by the buying and selling of raffle tickets, the solicitation and donation of Silent Auction items, and buying merchandise. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

The winners of this year's big prizes were:

- \$900 Cash! (Donated Anonymously) – Howard Wayne, Sitka
- iPad Mini 6th Gen (Donated by Printworks) – Katie McConnachie, Fairbanks
- Major Marine Orca Quest Cruise and 2 Night Stay (Donated by Major Marine Tours) – James Baisden, Kenia
- Kenia Fjord Resurrection Bay Tour (Donated by Kenai Fjords Tours) – Elizabeth Anderson
- Alaska Railroad Trip for 2 (Donated by Alaska Railroad) – Annika Woods, Kodiak

Every year we solicit prizes from the same organizations for our Raffle Ticket – and while I love that they continue to support us, it would be great to reach out to other organizations for next year. What would you like to win? Email rrodak@fairbanks.us with suggestions or points of contact!

The 2022 Fundraising Committee was made up of rock stars who worked tirelessly with me throughout the conference. Mandy Honest, Jess Earnshaw, Melissa Dionne, Michelle Shuravloff-Nelson, and Brandy Warnecke, made the impossible a FANTASTIC Success! Thank you for all your hard work!

2023 is already underway and I'm excited to see what we can come up with!

Rochelle Rodak,

Fundraising Chair

News in Brief

- * Visit <https://www.alaskaclerks.org/general/page/committees> for a complete list of current AAMC Committee assignments and contact information.
- * Visit [alaskaclerks.org](https://www.alaskaclerks.org) for all approved Executive Board meeting minutes, conference information, certification information (CMC/MMC), resources/publications, and more!
- * Click here for the most up to date [AAMC Bylaws](#).
- * **Registration is OPEN for the 2023 NCI (Northwest Clerks Institute).** Visit <https://www.alaskaclerks.org/general/page/2023-nci-registration> for more information.
- * **Registration is OPEN for the 2023 77th IIMC Conference.** Visit <https://www.iimc.com/475/2023-IIMC-Annual-Conference>

2023 Conference Theme



President Henry's theme for her presidency and Annual Conference is:

"Dare Greatly"

"It's not the critic who counts; not the person who points out how a strong clerk stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit goes to the clerk who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood. The clerk who strives valiantly, who errs, who comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming. The credit goes to the clerk who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends themselves in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if they fail, at least fails while DARING GREATLY, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

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Brenda J. Henry, MMC
AAMC President

Membership Committee Report



DARE GREATLY in 2023! Join or Renew your membership with AAMC today.

Membership runs from January 1 – December 31. Complete the attached application or apply online at alaskaclerks.org. Questions?

Contact Membership Committee Chair Lina Cruz at lcruz@kodiakak.us or (907) 459-1412.

To use the fillable PDF, click here: [2023 AAMC Membership Application](#).



Billing Questions?

- Contact Shawn Myers, Finance Officer, at shawn@akml.org or (907) 586-1325.

Meet our 2022 AAMC PLATINUM Level Sponsors



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About AAMC

The Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks (AAMC) was established in 1965 by a group of 13 determined clerks with the intent to promote sound local government and the continuing education of municipal clerks throughout Alaska. Today, AAMC is a professional organization of borough, city, and village clerks from across Alaska dedicated to the continued growth and development of the municipal clerk profession.

Published by Clerks for Clerks!

If you have news to share or ideas for future additions of the Oracle newsletter, please email Communications Director Kim Lane at clerk@wrangell.com.

Executive Board:

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