

The K.A.C.M. Docket

Volume 78

April, 2015

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Amy Spitler



I hope everyone is enjoying the sunshine we have been blessed with this last week!

A BIG thank you to Denise Kilwein, her staff and the Office of Judicial Administration for a wonderful conference in Topeka. Forty-four (44) participants attended the new clerks training class, hopefully they all felt like "Super Clerks" by the end of the day! Friday morning Judge Robin Lewis, Gardner shared information about ethical issues court clerks might encounter. Judge Katie McElhinney spoke

about decisions judges make and factors behind those decisions. On the lighter side Bettina, Greg and I hosted the "Wheel of Justice" to review processes and procedures outlined in the court clerks' manual. After lunch we heard from the United States Marshals Service about courtroom security and to finish the day Jessi and the girls from Driver Solutions answered questions and gave legislative updates that will affect municipal courts. I must admit my favorite part of the conference was the opportunity to network with clerks from across the state!

Mark your calendars for October 1-2, Greg Nickel and the education committee members are finalizing plans for the fall conference that will be held in Newton. I look forward to seeing you there!

Have a wonderful spring and enjoy life's blessings!

Amy Spitler

KBI News

We are still working with several vendors on the interfaces between local court RMS's and the central repository. The vendors are in various states of programming and testing. We have yet to authorize a vendor into production, but Tyler Tech is very close.



Vanessa Rine is available to provide training on the electronic disposition form available on the KCJIS web portal. If you are interested in having her travel to you for training please contact her at (785) 296-0816 or Vanessa.Rine@kbi.state.ks.us.

That is really the only thing I can think of. Thank you for thinking of us when you write your newsletter!

Leslie
Leslie Moore

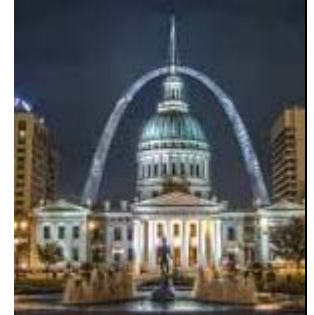
Help Wanted:

We are seeking someone to volunteer as Scholarship Chair. Kellie Barker (Bel Aire) did a wonderful job but has stepped down, leaving a vacancy. Please contact Amy Spitler if you are interested. It is a great way to get involved in KACM.



St. Louis Municipal Courts Agree to Standardize Fines

80 courts in the St. Louis area have agreed to a uniform fine schedule.



Fines in that area varied widely and did not foster the sense of fairness and equity that communities desire. Speeding 10 over carried fines ranging from \$45 to \$150. No Insurance fines ranged from \$99 to \$377.

According to the AP, "the agreement was announced Thursday by Frank Vatterott, chairman of the St. Louis County Municipal Courts Improvement Committee. The panel formed last year in the wake of unrest in Ferguson that came after Darren Wilson, a white police officer, killed Michael Brown, an unarmed, black 18-year-old. A St. Louis County grand jury and the U.S. Department of Justice declined to prosecute Wilson, who resigned a few months after the August shooting."

"The point of it is to be fair," Vatterott said. "If you get a ticket in Bellefontaine Neighbors, at the north end of the county, you shouldn't have to pay double for what you would have to pay for the same violation in Bella Villa, which is at the bottom of our county."

This is a non-binding agreement between the cities, allowing individual municipalities to vary as needed but there is now a benchmark standard in place.

The new uniform fine schedule establishes non-moving violation fines in the \$50 range. Moving violation fines are set in the \$70 range.

Legislative Committee Update

Gail Garrett, Chair

Legislative Report

As of April 6, the Governor has not signed anything into law this session that affects municipal court operations. The majority of the legislature's time has been taken up by education funding issues and the concealed carry law, which was just signed by the Governor last week. I suppose as court clerks, we need to be aware that anyone age 21 and over can legally be sitting in our courtrooms with concealed weapons and not need any kind of permit or license to do so.



The uproar over HB 2138, which is the bill relating to municipal court bonds that you probably saw several messages about on the court clerk e-mail list, was apparently sufficient to render that bill dead in the water after the committee hearing back in February.

If anything else should come to the forefront between now and July, I will do my best to get that information out as soon as possible, but as of right now I don't see any pending legislation that will impact how our courts function.

As always, if you have questions, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me at garrett@lansing.ks.us.

Gail Garrett
Legislative Chair.

Congratulations, Get Well Cards, Sympathy Cards...

KACM likes to congratulate people experiencing exciting life news. We also like to send cards to people when they find themselves in the hospital or in need of support.



Please email Kim Everley (McLouth) with any news for yourself or a co-worker. If we don't know about it, we can't do anything! (clerk@cityofmclouth.org)



KACM Facebook Page

Candy Westhoff (Girard) has made a facebook page for KACM! We want to make sure you have a chance to join if you haven't already. It is a private group so no one but members should be able to see our messages or photos.

To join, you will need to add Candy Carrell Westhoff as a friend or you can send her an email (candykansas@yahoo.com).

Thank you Candy!!

PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE!!

You may have noticed Candy Westhoff taking individual pictures at the conference. She is preparing to update the photo directory!

We have a lot of new faces and faces getting better with age! Keep your eye out for this in the future.

Membership Committee

Traci Dockery, chair (Bashor)
 Nancy Lanza (Basehor)

tdockery1@kc.rr.com
 nlanza@basehorpolice.org



It looks like we may be out of the winter cold and onto a nice spring. I am not sure of everyone else but I myself have a bit of spring fever, looking forward to planting some flowers soon.

The Spring Conference has passed and OJA hosted a total of 44 new clerks at the "New Clerk" training session on Thursday.

Deana has forwarded me the KACM Membership renewals, I have updated the roster and you can find it on the KACM website. As of today I have not received renewal forms from a total of 41 courts. I have begun sending email reminders to those courts on my list, you may also check the website to confirm that the renewal for your court has been received (www.ksmunicipalcourts.com/membership.htm). If your name is not on the list you may email me directly at tdockery2@kc.rr.com.

I would also like to welcome the following "NEW CLERKS" to KACM:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Christy Myers..... Atchison | Carol Young..... Pittsburg |
| Paul Mews Atwood | Dawn Jesberg Spring Hill |
| Sue Hershberger Hutchinson | Sally Johnson Uniontown |
| Cyndy Unruh..... McPherson | Kayci Bowman Burden |
| Jean Burrios Overland Park | Heather Simms Lincoln |
| Erica Kern..... Pleasanton | Angela Williams Osawatomie |
| Jennifer Whitehead..... Goessel | April Leon..... Prairie Village |
| Jackie Nugent..... Leewood | Cindy Gaunt..... Prairie Village |
| Lalo Arenas Leewood | Katie Morgan Bentley |
| Debra Burke Neodesha | Ashley Ropp Shawnee |
| Pam Osborn Olathe | Sarah Barry..... Udall |
| Kirsten Burke Pittsburg | |



Public Employee Web Use

Facebook was found to be most visited site by state employees in Oklahoma, according to a recent report by Government Technology Magazine. Three of the top ten sites frequented were social media.

Checking personal websites on-the-job can be an innocent trap – a little of it is often allowed but the accumulated amount of worktime spent can easily creep past a reasonable threshold.

The GovTech article quoted a state representative who “was adamant that the high rate of visits to Facebook is a valuable indicator that public employees may be underutilized. He pointed out that if an employee doesn’t have enough to do, they’ll simply find something to do to occupy their time... **That’s not something [the agencies] want to deal with at budget hearings**”

(continued..)

Preventing a problem is preferable to letting it escalate and become a City Council agenda item. Nobody wants egg on their face and nobody wants their budget threatened because of a perception that employees don't have enough to do.

This can be tricky to address constructively without impacting morale. As a super-easy start to avoiding trouble, GovTech indicated that after merely alerting employees to the statistics, social media web-use on the network "dropped off exponentially"

www.govtech.com/internet/Oklahoma-IT-Consolidation-Uncovers-Potential-Network-Abuse.html

Driver Solutions News

We were delighted to have the Driver Solutions team at our fall conference, which included Michele Chavez, Janelle Robinson, Lacey Black, Jessica Ross, and Laurie Martinez. They reported that DS is answering 80% of their call volume and are processing with ZERO backlog!! They are still telling people it can take 7-10 days to process their reinstatements but the reality is that people get a pleasant surprise – most are processed within 24-48 hours!



Their certified portal has been a huge success with over 500,000 lookups to date! (since it launched in August, 2014). Courts have benefitted from this service as a massive improvement over the old, slow process that required submitting requests by mail.

DS is starting the process of moving to an electronic alternative to the DC-66. This initiative is very young and so it is too early to know any details but the goal is for full implementation within 12-18 months. There is a possibility that officers will be able to conduct a live check of the insurance database out in the field, dramatically reducing the number of DC-66 forms needed. This possibility is still in the dreaming phase but it is great to see DS thinking big!

The online, publicly accessible DL status check has been very successful as well and DS plans to add even more functionality to this. If plans go as hoped, drivers will be able to view "everything" through this window – well, maybe not literally everything but including things such as copies of notices mailed.

Careless Driving is now a suspendable offense. This was just added within the past month but you can suspend using the code M81.

The conviction code "B51" was historically used to include BOTH No Driver's License (STO 192) and No DL in Possession (STO 193). Because the first is a Class B Misdemeanor while the second is a simple infraction, DS has now split these into two separate codes. This corresponds nicely with the federal ACD codes. Please change your systems to reflect the following:

B51 – Expired or No Drivers License (STO 192)

B78* – Failed to Show Non-Commercial Driver's License (STO 193)

Driver Solutions has been doing a fabulous job and has been making many improvements. We are very grateful for their hard work!

*This is still being implemented. The goal is for this to be in effect Friday, April 17th.



Spotlight on Legal Terminology

HABEAS CORPUS / hābēəs 'kôrpəs /

A writ commanding a person be brought before a judge. Most commonly, a writ of habeas corpus is a legal document that forces law enforcement authorities to produce a prisoner they are holding and to legally justify his or her confinement.

Source: Court Clerk's Manual and Dictionary.com

Habeas Corpus in the "Real" World.

A court in Buenos Aires, Argentina, granted a "habeas corpus" petition in December ordering the freedom of a Sumatran orangutan from Buenos Aires Zoo. Apparently the judge agreed with the petition's claim that Sandra, age 29, is a "non-human person" and thus sufficiently advanced in "cognitive function" to be not merely an object that humans can own without obligation.

Source: newsoftheweird.com

One wonders: Is Sandra is also eligible for a driver's license and in-state college tuition? Has Sandra filed her tax returns? 😊



Website Addition.

The website was revamped at the time we released the last newsletter and has already seen another addition. The Membership information now links directly to the live membership database.

If you need to contact anyone from a specific court, this is the place to go. If you have questions about other courts' docket fees, this is the place. If you want to know which other courts use your same software, go here.

Thank you Traci (membership chair) for your work maintaining these lists!

K.A.C.M Blackboard

Looking for Personal News. The only way we know what is happening is if you let us know! If you or a clerk from your city has news to share with the rest of us – we want to know. This can be **news of retirement, new babies, marriage, medical concerns...** Anything. Send an email to Greg Nickel: gnickel@newtonkansas.com.

Stacey McLennan (Gardner) had her first grandbaby! Owen Matthew McLennan came into this world at 7:15 am, Sunday, February 8 weighing 7 lbs 11 oz. CONGRATULATIONS!!



Janet Stice (Atwood) is retiring April 15. She had 18 years of court experience with being a Deputy Court Clerk and a Municipal Court clerk. Enjoy!



Congratulations to **Erica Ortega (Holcomb)** who is the proud parent of a baby girl! She sends this note along with the news:

Well, after months of planning for a baby girl, because that is what I was told I was having, we were very surprised when I went in for delivery and delivered a healthy baby boy.

His name is Kayson Alian Ortega born on 1/19/15 weighing 7lbs 14oz, and 18 ½ inches long. I'm very short so everyone was surprised and wanted to know where he was hiding. But we are all doing great.

Cecelia Knowles (Augusta) will be moving to Colorado – we will miss you! She leaves this note of farewell:

Hello All! Just wanted to let everyone know that my last day as the court clerk for the City of Augusta is this Wednesday the 8th. My family is moving to Colorado & I will be a court clerk for the City of Colorado Springs as of the 13th of April! Sad and exciting all at the same time.

Monica McGuffin will be the new clerk here, we have been training for about a week so I know she will still have lots of questions after I leave. Her email is mmcguffin@augustadps.org. Please welcome her as I know you all will!

I will sure miss everyone & all of the fun at the conferences!!

Kansas Association of Court Management Board of Directors Meeting
March 26, 2015
Ramada Downtown Hotel & Convention – Topeka, Kansas 66607

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

The K.A.C.M. Board of Directors Meeting was held on Thursday March 26, 2015 at The Ramada Inn in Topeka, Kansas.

The meeting was called to order by President Amy Spitler, Hutchinson.

Roll Call: Voting members present: Amy Spitler, Hutchinson; Greg Nickel, Newton; Deana Scott, Gardner; Bettina Jamerson, Shawnee; Katie Marcum, South Hutchinson; and Jacee Corby, Seneca. Absent: Diane Clay, Fort Scott; Candy Westoff, Girard; Linda Engel, Oakley; Cecelia Knowles, Augusta and Rick Voisen, Towanda.

Also in attendance: Traci Dockery, Basehor; Stephanie Taylor, Erie.

There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on January 16, 2015- This is tabled until next meeting as no copy of meeting minutes were available.

Treasurer's Report: Deana Scott, Gardner reported the current balance of \$16,060.72. She reported that much had been paid for the upcoming conference. The expenses for March are as follows: Hospitality for Spring Conference, fees for the attorney, Kevin Chambers, regarding our 501 (C) (6) and the actual fees for that 501 (C) (6) to be a total of \$1,280.00. The expected March 2015 deposits for membership are \$1,500.00. The end of month expected balance as \$16,280.72.

Katie Marcum moved to approve the treasury report, Bettina Jamerson seconded. All voted aye.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence to report.

Committee Reports:

Ambassador- Jacee Corby reported that Doris Kohn has asked to resign from region 4 of the Ambassador Committee and asked if there was a policy or procedure to step down. Jacee also asked if fellow Board Members had a chance to review replacement names suggested on previously sent email. Amy Spitler suggested Kim Clinkingbeard from Liberal. Jacee Corby also stated she had sent out an email requesting synopsis from all Ambassadors and had received most but not all and reported there are 166 years of experience between all current ambassadors.

Courtesy- Kim Everley was not present but sent report that flowers were sent to Erica Ortega on the arrival of her baby and a card was sent to Stacey McLennan regarding her grandson.

Education-Greg Nickel reported that the 2015 Fall Conferences major pieces have been arranged and presentation items are on track.

Historian-Nothing to report.

Hospitality- Hillary Pappan was not present, but the Hospitality suite was open Wednesday (March 25, 2015) to the new clerks and would also be open Thursday (March 26, 2015) evening for all clerks. Greg Nickel encouraged everyone to reach out and connect with the new clerks and recommend them to the Hospitality suite.

Legislative-Nothing to report

Manual-OJA Committee Member Bettina stated the new manual is on the KACM website.

Membership- Tracy Dockery reported that she will start notifying cities who haven't renewed next week, she will send emails first then attempt to contact by phone.

Newsletter- Greg Nickel reported April 3, 2015 is deadline for reporting information for the Newsletter. A recommendation to include information on the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus regarding DUI be included in the Newsletter.

Past President-Bettina Jamerson reported she is putting together a nominating committee for officers for the Fall Conference as well as Outstanding Clerk.

Promotion/Sales-Stephanie Taylor reports there is a new t-shirt design with new colors available and she is planning on bringing them in to the Hospitality suite that night.

Scholarship- Kellie Barker was not present.

Old Business-

Deana Scott stated that the 501 (C) (6) is in its' final stretch. Everything is available to read through before sending the paperwork to attorney Kevin Chambers. The next file date is in May. A question on the 990 annual state information came up in conversation which Deana stated she would look into as there were technical difficulties.

Greg Nickel reported on the website changes and said the major revamp was complete, which improved the site's organization.

New Business-

Amy Spitler reported that Kellie Barker will no longer be the Chair person for Scholarship Committee. Jacee Corby had signed up at last conference to join that committee. Conversation ensued stating that the chair position would be open to the members to see if anyone would like to fill the Chair. If no one volunteered, Jacee Corby would fill the position upon approval from her City Administrator.

The board considered changing our schedule of sending a KACM officer to the NACM conference. Currently each president is sent once, with all expenses paid by KACM. Because the vice president plans our conferences, our association might benefit more from sending each VP at the beginning of his/her term. Katie Marcum asked about the conference cost, which was reported to cost around \$2,000 (\$575 for registration plus expenses of transportation, food, lodging and etc). Deana Scott expressed some concern about our ability to fund this expense. Katie Marcum suggested increasing the KACM membership fee but Bettina Jamerson stated that membership had just been raised. Deana suggested that we could limit the NACM cost if the attendee is conscientious about spending. Amy Spitler offered to not attend in order to eliminate one expense but the board felt she should be sent.

Greg Nickel moved and Katie Marcum 2nd to shift the cycle of attendance to sending the incoming vice president every other year, contingent on available funds. This cycle-shift is to be accomplished by sending the president this year according to our current plan, the VP next year, then the incoming VP the following. Motion passed.

Greg Nickel reported the next Board Meeting to be in Newton Kansas Friday June 26, 2015 at Conference location at 11:00ish. Greg and Amy will work out the details closer to date of the meeting.

Amy Spitler shared that Jessica Ross, from Driver Solutions, wants input on the electronic DC-66 form, more information will be provided as it becomes available.

Adjournment:

Jacee Corby made a motion, Deana Scott 2nd. All voted aye. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jacee Corby, Trustee, K.A.C.M.
Seneca

Our Goals Find out more about KACM on our website at www.ksmunicipalcourts.com, which includes a listing of our goals as follows:

- Continuing education for Court Managers, Clerks, Administrators, and Assistants
- Interaction between members with problem-solving ideas
- Organization input into Legislation that will affect Municipal Courts
- An organized voice to State agencies
- Consistency within the Municipal Courts
- Promoting public trust and confidence

KACM Board of Directors



Left to right: Bettina Jamerson (Trustee/Past President), Rick Voisin (Sgt at Arms), Katie Marcum (Trustee), Deana Scott (Treasurer), Amy Spitler (President), Diane Clay (Secretary), Linda Engel (Trustee), Greg Nickel (Vice President), Candy Westhoff (Trustee), Jacee Corby (Trustee)

Committee List:

Ambassador.....	Diane Clay (Ft. Scott)
Courtesy.....	Kim Everley (McLouth)
Education.....	Greg Nickel (Newton)
Historian.....	Candy Westhoff (Girard)
Hospitality.....	Hilary Papan (Winfield)
Legislative.....	Gail Garrett (Lansing)
Membership.....	Traci Dockery (Bashor)
Newsletter.....	Greg Nickel (Newton)
Past Presidents.....	Bettina Jamerson (Shawnee)
Promotion.....	Stephanie Taylor (Erie)
Scholarship.....	Vacant

KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR COURT MANAGEMENT

Newsletter Editor Greg Nickel
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Visit our website at:

www.ksmunicipalcourts.com

Upcoming Dates:



Board Meeting

Newton
June 26, 2015

Fall Conference

Newton
Oct 1-2, 2015.