

The Collector Treasurer

A publication of the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association

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MCTA's Annual Cape Conference at Cape Codder, June 14 to 17

MCTA's 60th Annual Conference on Local Taxation and Finance will be held at the Cape Codder Resort and Conference Center beginning on Sunday, June 14th. Reservations for the Cape Codder are on going till May 15. The Program and Conference Registration form is on the MCTA website, www.masscta.com. If you need a hotel registration form, you can call or email the MCTA Office.

The Education Committee has been very busy assembling a well-rounded conference agenda to meet the needs of our Association members. Credit for Re-Certification will again be offered, so please review the program agenda for the courses offered.

Our Program will begin on Monday morning with the Annual meeting of the Association, then the election of Officers followed by Michael Widmer, President of the Mass. Taxpayers Association addressing our membership. We will also have a Legislative Report and update from Steve Roche.

On Tuesday morning we will hear from Geoff Beckwith, Ex. Dir. of the Mass. Municipal Assoc. who will address our membership on the status of Local Aid. The Program throughout the Conference will offer courses featuring various panels on relative and timely subjects including Forecasting the MA economy, Evaluation Health Plans, Employee Assistance Programs and Credit Markets in Turmoil.

New Collectors and New Treasurers School on May 13 in Littleton

We have many newcomers entering the profession every year, and we know that the degree of expertise and knowledge demanded of the Treasurer and the Collector is increasing daily. For newcomers especially, MCTA's New Collectors and New Treasurers School represents the first step in your formal learning as a Collector or Treasurer. You will find this day to be a good orientation for the Association's Annual School at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in August, and to our educational program that leads to designation as a Certified Municipal Collector or Certified Municipal Treasurer.

All New Collectors, Municipal Treasurers and District Treasurers are urged to attend. Collectors attending will receive Annual School credit for Course No. 160, Duties & Responsibilities of the Collector. Treasurers attending will receive Annual School credit for Course No. 101, Duties & Responsibilities of the Treasurer. Officially appointed assistants are welcome, but clerical staff is not permitted to attend. The Association conducts a separate School Program for Staff in September.

A copy of the Program can be accessed at MCTA's web site, www.masscta.com, with directions to

the Municipal Building in Littleton and a registration form. The registration fee of \$30.00 includes a continental breakfast on arrival, all classroom material and lunch.

MCTA Announces State House Day

Arrangements have been made for the Association to meet at The Great Hall at the State House in Boston on May 21 from 9:30 to 1:30 pm. Join our Association members and meet your State Legislators to discuss our Association's Legislative Package and other local issues. Make your voice heard! Registration information is on the Association web site. Check it out at www.masscta.com

39th Annual School at Umass in Amherst, August 18 – 21, 2009 .

Make your plans to attend the Annual School. Certified Track Courses will be offered on Tuesday and Wednesday. **Examinations will be held on Friday.** The Education Committee has proposed a set of new Required Courses that will be added to the certified track for Collectors and Treasurers beginning in 2011. Anyone planning to take the exam in 2011 must take the new required courses
Con't on page three.

The President's Page

By

Joanne Savignac

MCTA President's Report

Winter is trying to make an exit and we look forward to being able to shed heavy coats and open the windows. But the anticipation of blooming flowers and balmy breezes is overshadowed by serious budgetary issues.

The Association certainly understands the dilemma of municipalities and spending restrictions. Members of the Education Committee have worked hard to craft programs that have timely and interesting topics, while holding the line on increasing costs. A case in point is the Annual Cape Cod Conference (June 14-17), this year being held at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis. We spent many years at the Sea Crest Hotel, but found a location that would not only accommodate the size of our group, but also work within the monetary

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Association Calendar- 2009-10

May 13, 2009	New Coll/Treas Day Littleton Municipal Bld Littleton
May 21, 2009	State House Day
May 31, 2008	PACT Form Deadline
June 14-17, 2009	60 th Annual Cape Cod Conference Cape Codder Hotel Hyannis
Aug 18-21, 2009	39 th Annual School University of Mass. Amherst
Sep 9 & 23, 09	Annual Staff School Municipal Office Bldg Littleton
Oct 21, 2009	Fall Conference The Log Cabin Holyoke
Dec 9, 2009	Holiday Meeting Holy Cross College Worcester
Feb, 2010	Winter Meeting Location TBD
April, 2010	Spring Meeting Location TBD

limitations we imposed for the sponsored events and costs to our members. That's why you see the price of all meals charged separately on the reservation form, rather than having everything bundled into the charge for the room, and leaving the choice of having your meals at the resort up to you.

The Legislative Committee has also brought back "State House Day" as a way for the membership to act as a whole to get our legislative proposals heard and voted favorably. Again, the cost for this meeting has not increased from the last visit in 2005. We hope that you are able to attend, especially the collectors and treasurers who took office within the past three or four years.

For those who can only go to one event, do not miss the Annual School at UMass Amherst August 18-21. The agenda and class syllabus is just about complete and details will be out in the next two months.

If you are restricted in your budget and cannot attend every meeting, and you are a certified collector or treasurer, why not *seriously* consider joining a committee? You will still get to meet with a group of your peers, keep up-to-date on Association issues, offer your own suggestions, and depending on the time of the meeting, get a lunch! Committees meet between four and six times per year, usually at the MCTA office in Littleton, but sometimes at committee members' city or town halls. Not only would you be helping your Association, but you would be adding a "bullet point" to your accomplishments for your annual review.

I look forward to seeing you at future meetings.

Joanne

Education Committee Report

By First V-P Sue Kelley

As I gaze out my window the leaves have "popped" and the grass is getting green and I can't help but be thankful for spring has finally come! With spring comes lots of opportunities for our association members to get together!

State House Day is right around the corner on Thursday, May 21st and the day is shaping up to be a great success. We already have a large amount of interest so I am looking forward to seeing everyone and having the opportunity to meet with our legislators to better make them aware of issues that pertain to our positions as well as our communities!

In addition the 60th Annual Conference at the Cape Codder will be held in Hyannis, MA from June 14th through the 17th. The education committee has been working on an exciting and educational schedule! It promises to have something for everybody! I hope you will make every effort to attend, even if it is only for one day! Just as a reminder, certified collectors and treasurer can earn continuing education credits at this event!

To conclude I would like to thank the education committee for their faithfulness and commitment to the MCTA! Without your volunteerism we would not be able to be as successful as I think we are. By name they are Mary Day, Richard Carmignani, Virginia Boutchie, Kevin Merz, Barbara Barry, Dorothy Jenkins, Lane Kelly and Victor Garofalo. For any certified collector/treasurer, we are always looking for new members so please give me a call or send me an email if you would like to join us!

Hope to see all in Hyannis!

Sue

The Collector-Treasurer

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Comings - - - - - And Goings - - - - -

Rebecca J. Pellegrino is the new Treasurer in the Town of Barre, replacing Rebecca Tuttle.

Deborah J. Kristoff is the new Treasurer and Collector in the Town of Leicester, replacing Janet Pierce.

Ehsanul Bhuiyan is the new Treasurer/Collector in the City of Springfield.

John Frias is the new Treasurer of the Bristol-Plymouth Regional School District, replacing Nelson Coluzzi.

Carlene Hamlin is the new Treasurer in the Town of South Hadley, replacing Judith Barthelette.

James D. McAuliffe is the new Treasurer/Collector in the Town of Milton, replacing Kevin Sorgi.

Legislative Committee Report

By Second V-P Gene Spickler

On behalf of our committee, we hope to see all of you at the State House for MCTA's DAY ON THE HILL, on Thursday, May 21st.

Thanks to the Education Committee for their efforts in rearranging programs and schedules so this day could happen.

The list of bills below indicates sponsors and committee contact persons for our legislative proposals. If your legislator(s) name is on the list, please take a moment to "Thank them for their support." This info is also on our Legislative Proposals on the website, and will be on the MCTA Legislative Proposal Summary included in your packet on the 21st.

Senate 1582 Uncashed Checks – Lead Sponsor: Sen. Stephen Brewer – Others: Reps. Cory Atkins, Vinny deMacedo & Todd Smola – MCTA Contacts: Sharon

"Tess" Summers & Anne Guastafarro

Senate 761 Trust Fund Investments – Lead Sponsor: Sen. Stephen Brewer – Others: Rep. Vinny deMacedo MCTA Contacts: Thomas J. Connolly & Teresa DeSilva

Senate 791 Municipal Borrowing – Lead Sponsor: Sen. James Timilty – Others: Reps. Vinny deMacedo, James Cantwell & Colleen Gary – MCTA Contacts: Barbara A. Auger & Thomas J. Connolly

Senate 1355 Personal Property Taxes – Lead Sponsor: Sen. James Timilty – Others: Reps. Cory Atkins & Vinny deMacedo – MCTA Contacts: Anne Guastafarro & Ken Glowacki

Senate 1102 Residency – Lead Sponsor: Sen. Michael Knapik – Others: Sen. Scott Brown, Reps. Vinny deMacedo, & Brad Jones – MCTA Contacts: Teresa DeSilva & Janet A. Pierce

House 1050 Safety of Public Deposits – Lead Sponsor: Rep. Thomas Stanley – Others: Reps. Cory Atkins, Vinny deMacedo & Colleen Garry – MCTA Contacts: Anthony T. Logalbo & Barbara A. Auger

If you are able to attend, please schedule an appointment with your legislators to discuss our legislative package and other topics of interest to you and/or your community. For those not attending, it would be helpful if you could email your legislators the Summary from our web page by the 21st with your comments or a note letting them know that you will call to discuss their support of our proposals. Legislators have been invited to join us the 21st for treats and many have

responded that they or their aids will stop by.

We plan to continue the past practice of scheduling regional meetings with legislators throughout the State and would appreciate hearing from anyone that would volunteer their facility to host the event. Reasonable refreshment expenses are covered by the MCTA.

There is still a vacancy on the committee and I hope a **certified member will volunteer to join the team** and contribute their ideas and efforts to help pass legislation benefiting the municipalities and districts we serve.

Thanks to those that support our efforts and contact their legislators for support of our proposals. Hope to see those that can't attend our Day on the Hill at the Cape Conference in June.

Gene

Continued from page one

39th Annual School

The new Required Courses for Treasurers are: Course No. 107-Tax Title and Interest Calculation, Course No. 401-Tax Rate Re-Cap, Free Cash, Cherry Sheet. Courses for Collectors are: Course No.102-Cash Control Procedures, Course No 361-Assessing Procedures, Course No. 401-Tax Rate Re-Cap, Free Cash, Cherry Sheet, and Course No. 775-Land of Low Value. Again, if you are planning to take the Examination in 2011, you must take these new required courses.

The Annual School will continue to offer New Student Orientation, School General Assembly and the Annual Legislative Program will be offered on Tuesday. Review of New Legislation (Course 201) will be offered on Wednesday.

News From Beacon Hill

MCTA LOBBYIST REPORT – SPRING 2009 By Stephen Roche

As I sat down to write this report, I first reviewed my last report – boy have things changed a lot since that last report.

- **A NEW HOUSE SPEAKER** - First, as you know, we have a new House Speaker. Representative Bob DeLeo of Winthrop was elected Speaker of the House to replace Sal DiMasi after DiMasi resigned from the House in late January.
- **NEW HOUSE & SENATE LEADERSHIP** – About a month after Rep. DeLeo took over the Speakership, he and the Senate President, Sen. Therese Murray, announced their leadership teams and committee assignments. As you might guess, there's a lot of new faces on the House side with a new Speaker in place.
- **NEW CHAIRS FOR SEVERAL KEY COMMITTEES** – We have new chairs for several key committees including:
 - Financial Services: Rep. Peter Koutoujian
 - Judiciary: Sen. Cynthia Stone
 - Municipalities & Regional Government: Rep. Paul Donato & Sen. Jamie Eldridge
 - Revenue Committee: Rep Jay Kaufman & Sen. Benjamin Downing
 - House Ways & Means: Rep. Charles Murphy

STATE BUDGET UPDATE

The news grows worse by the day! The Governor's FY 2010 budget plan, **House 1**, included millions of dollars in cuts in state funded programs, local aid and school funding, and proposed a variety of new taxes.

Since the release of the Governor's proposed budget in January, the state's fiscal woes have continued to grow, notwithstanding help from the federal stimulus package. Fiscal experts say that our state budget deficit for FY2009 has grown to over \$3.5 billion.

As I write this report, The House of Representatives has just completed its first day of debate on its FY2010 budget – **House 4100** - and nearly 1000 amendments that have been filed; including amendments to reverse cuts and increase a variety of taxes. We're tracking a number of these amendments for the MCTA.

The House eventually voted 108 Yes – 51 No to increase the state sales tax from 5% to 6.25% in the hopes of raising \$900 million to restore funding for programs. There was some political intrigue early in the first day of debate when Governor Patrick issued a letter warning that he would veto a broad-based tax until certain reforms take place, like pension and transportation reform. The House leadership was able to secure a veto-proof vote to ensure an override of such a veto by the Governor.

PUBLIC PENSION REFORM

Several of the MCTA Legislative Committee members have been busy the past month working on this issue. A major concern for a few of them was the treatment of a second public job in communities where a person holds two positions. As I write this report, a joint House-Senate committee is negotiating a compromise for two different versions of reform; **House 4060** and **Senate 2026**.

MUNICIPAL RELIEF

We are still awaiting a report from a special House-Senate commission that is considering a variety of proposals to assist cities and towns. More details when the report is released.

We

Look

Forward

To Seeing

You at

The Annual

Conference on

Local Taxation

And Finance

Steve Roche