

The Collector Treasurer

A publication of the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association

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No.2

MCTA's Annual Fall Conference to be in Holyoke, October 24

The Log Cabin will again be the site for this year's Fall Conference. Do come and enjoy this beautiful facility and the spectacular view of Mt. Tom and across the valley.

Responding to concerns from members that escalating meeting registration fees are making it more difficult to attend MCTA meetings in times of tight municipal budgets, the Executive Board has accepted Hampden Bank's generous offer to sponsor the continental breakfast and mid-morning break.

Please note that this meeting's fee is \$5 less than last year. The meeting notice, program, directions and registration form are included in this mailing.

The meeting will start with a presentation of Vadar Systems/Virtual Town Hall on the MCTA's new Web Site. This will be followed by two concurrent sessions, one discussing changes in the Community Preservation Act and how CPA funds are being used in various cities and towns, and one discussing the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Following an intermission, the next two concurrent sessions will discuss the timely topics of the impact of the Driver Privacy Protection Act on divulging data on Motor Vehicle Excise Bills, and forms and employer reporting required by the new Health Care Reform Law.

Holiday Meeting set for College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, December 12

The Hogan Center at Holy Cross will again be the site of MCTA's Holiday Meeting for December 12. Set the date aside on your calendar for a day of learning and socializing.

The Education Committee is developing a program which will feature a leading economist to speak on the Massachusetts and New England economy.

Employer Fair Share Contribution (FSC) and Employer Health Insurance Responsibility Disclosure (HIRD) Forms Reporting Process for the Health Care Reform Law Announced By Division of Unemployment Assistance

Report forms and a description of the new on-line reporting system will be mailed to employers this week.

DUA Director Ed Malmborg and DUA Revenue Director Chris Olin will present and explain the responsibility of municipal employers in the employer reporting session just before lunch at MCTA's Fall Conference at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. Plan now to attend and bring your other municipal officials involved in processing payrolls.

37th Annual School Approves 50 Members To be Newly Certified

MCTA's Annual School saw another strong year in attendance, with over 460 registrations. Many of our Certified members are taking advantage of the opportunity to achieve their courses at the June conference in Falmouth and are sending their assistants to Annual School.

Your Education Committee continues to review carefully the student evaluations and comments, and will continue to modify the Annual School program to keep it current with our members' needs.

Having taken all of the required classes and passed their examinations, 13 Treasurers, 17 Collectors, 10 Assistant Treasurers and 10 Assistant Collectors have earned their new Certification. Certificates will be awarded at MCTA's Holiday Meeting at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester on December 12.

Newly Certified Treasurers -
Christine Collins, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Groton; **Victor Garofalo**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Bedford; **Karen Girouard**, Treasurer, Town of Bourne; **Joy Grover**, Treasurer, Town of Bernardston; **Ann Guastaferrro**, Treasurer/Collector, City of Methuen; **Linda J. King**, Treasurer, Town of Raynham; **Greg Lebrecque**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Groveland; **Pamela Landry**, Treasurer/Collector in Stow; (cont. on page 2)

The President's Page

By

Nancy Holt

It was great to see so many familiar as well as new faces at Annual School. Several new courses were offered and the Education Committee will use your survey forms to assess which ones you found to be useful and which ones may need to be tweaked or trimmed. The few extra minutes of your time it takes to fill out these forms enriches our programs for all members.

The leaves are turning, so it is time for our fall meeting at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. Your Education Committee is hard at work with our new Executive Director, Mike Hanlon finalizing the program for October 24th. Please mark your calendars for our holiday meeting on December 12th at the Hogan Center at Holy Cross. Come enjoy the company of friends and colleagues as we celebrate the accomplishments of the year with all of our newly certified and re-certified members. →

Association Calendar- 2007-8

Sep 11 & 26, 07	Annual Staff School Municipal Office Bldg Littleton
Oct. 24, 2007	Fall Conference The Log Cabin Holyoke
Dec 12, 2007	Holiday Meeting Holy Cross College Worcester
Feb XX, 2008	Winter Meeting Location TBD
April XX, 2008	Spring Meeting Location TBD
May 14, 2008	New Coll/Treas Day Forbes Municipal Bld Westborough
May 31, 2008	PACT Form Deadline
Jun 8-11 '08	59 th Annual Cape Cod Conference Sea Crest Hotel North Falmouth
Aug 12-15, '08	38 th Annual School University of Mass. Amherst

In the meantime, the Legislative Committee is busy strategizing their next regional meeting while monitoring the activities of the Legislature on our bills. Please come out and support them when they are in your area. These meetings provide a wonderful opportunity for us to communicate with the members of the Legislature in an informal manner that educates them and empowers us.

It seems strange to be looking at the approach of calendar year 2008 and planning budgets for FY 2009 when it seems only such a short time ago that we were all worried about Y2K and what it would mean to our computers. Some things change but so many things stay the same. Please take advantage of the meetings offered by your association to enrich your professional development.

And to all you leaf peepers, see you on October 24th!

Nancy

Newly Certified Treasurers (Cont.)

Suzanne Marchand, Treasurer/Finance Director, Town of Westford; **Kevin Merz**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Ipswich; **Louise Redfield**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Chatham; **Diane Warren**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Blackstone; **Barry Yeaw**, Finance Director, Town of Wrentham

Newly Certified Collectors

Deborah Baldini, Collector, Town of South Hadley; **Lucia A. Blanchette**, Collector, Town of Charlton; **Christine Devine Caron**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Salisbury; **Jerilynn Deyo**, Collector, Town of Orange; **Ann Marie Enoch**, Collector, Town of Monterey; **Tom Florence**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of East Longmeadow; **William Garrett**, Collector, Town of New Marlborough; **Edna Holloway**, Collector, Town of Pelham; **Terry L. Kemerer**, Collector, Town of Warwick; **Rebecca Krause-Hardie**, Collector, Town of Royalston; **Susan Mills**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Norwell; **Patricia O'Connell**, Collector, Town of

Falmouth; **Dennis O'Neil**, Treasurer/Collector; Town of Framingham; **Cheryll Sashin**, Collector, Town of Oak Bluffs; **Kathryn Soule-Regine**, Collector, Town of New Salem; **Jeanne Sullivan**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Hanson; **Lisa Vitale**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Brewster.

Newly Certified Assistant Treasurers

Mary Day, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Lincoln; **Laura Hamilton**, Assistant T/C, Town of Rowley; **Kathleen Jones**, Assistant T/C, Town of Bedford; **Arnold Lovering**, Assistant T/C, Town of Framingham; **Maryann MacKay**, Assistant T/C, Town of North Reading; **Cynthia Mello**, Assistant Treas., Town of Westport; **Lisa Sinkus**, Assistant Treas., Town of Foxborough; **Susan M. Stoltz**, Assistant Treas., C.O.M.M. Fire Dist.; **Kimberly Yargeau**, Assistant Treas., Town of Douglas; **Melissa Zawadzki**, Assistant Treas., City of Northampton

Newly Certified Assistant Collectors

Teresa Ambrosino, Assistant Coll., Town of Bellingham; **Jacqueline Boudreau**, Assistant T/C, Town of Norton; **Martin Brophy**, Assistant T/C, City of Brockton; **Karen Gauthier**, Treasurer/Collector, Town of Grafton; **Sharon Jackson**, Assistant Treas., Town of Oak Bluffs; **Nghi To Lam**, Assistant Coll., Town of Southbridge; **Katherine Logue**, Assistant Coll., Town of West Tisbury; **Sharon Lowder**, Assistant Coll., Town of Holden; **Pat Robertson**, Assistant T/C, Town of Concord; **Patricia E. Rogers**, Assistant T/C, Town of Groveland.

The Collector-Treasurer

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Education Committee Report

By First V-P Joanne Savignac

Thanks to the staff, moderators, and vendors, the 37th Annual School was once again a success. Many attendees - those coming for the first time and those who have attended school for many years – commented that our Association's commitment to education is truly evident. Your Education Committee strives to continue this obligation, and they deserve your thanks...as well as giving yourselves a pat on the back. Without your topic and speaker suggestions, our educational programs would not have the quality they have.

If you did not complete the course survey form, you can still forward your suggestions and opinions to the MCTA office. Our new Executive Director, Michael Hanlon, is eager to hear what you'd like to learn more about. You can email him at MassCTA@aol.com or give him a call. The Education Committee members will also pass along suggestions. The committee member list is available on the MCTA web site at www.MassCTA.com.

Speaking of the web site, we are now working with Virtual Town Hall to "spiff up" the look and functionality of the current site. At this year's fall conference (October 24th at the beautiful Log Cabin in Holyoke), Millard Rose from VTH will give a presentation of what the site will potentially look like and do for you. He will also be asking for your ideas on what you'd like to see. Other topics scheduled at the meeting are FLSA, HIPAA, motor vehicle excise issues, the Community Preservation Act. In addition, and because of the number of requests received during the Annual School, we will have a presentation on the Health Connector and report forms required of municipal employers. The meeting date has returned to the last

full week in October and we hope you'll be able to attend.

Your Education Committee is busy crafting the program for the holiday conference at the Hogan Center on the Holy Cross campus December 12th. There are some exciting plans in the works.

Finally, at school we said "goodbye" but not "farewell" to Nils Nordberg, the Association's Executive Director for the past nine years. Nils will still be available to serve as a staff member at the annual school, staff school, or meetings, but only on his retired "schedule". Thanks, Nils, for all your work both in front of and behind the scenes. And welcome to Mike Hanlon! We all look forward to working with you and incorporating many of your ideas.

Joanne

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

(This feature in *The Collector-Treasurer* is intended to help our members keep abreast of changes taking place within our professional community. With your help in sending us late-breaking changes by fax or e-mail, we will be able to keep current on the whereabouts of our members and friends. Please tell us of changes you have not yet seen in print)

Debra A. Wilson is the new Treasurer for the Leicester Water Supply District, replacing Lillian A. Dorr.

Dana C. Robinson is the new Treasurer in the Town of Warwick, replacing Mary Wall.

Monica Ford is the new Treasurer/Collector in the Town of Winthrop, replacing Nicholas Basso.

Anna Tenaglia is the new Treasurer/Collector in the Town of Gloucester, replacing Donald Andrews.

Robert Boulrice is the new Treasurer/Collector in the City of Chelsea, replacing Anna Tenaglia.

Cynthia L. Mello is the new Treasurer in the Town of Rochester, replacing Naida L. Parker.

Dawn Coyle is the new Collector in Washington, replacing Lorraine Deane.

Rebecca Herzog, Collector in the Town of Cheshire, has become Collector/Treasurer, replacing retiring Treasurer

Ignatius Wojtaszek, Jr., who had served for 37 years. [Ed. Note – Ike Wojtaszek passed away on Sunday, September 16.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Treasurer/Tax Collector Town of Mashpee

The town of Mashpee seeks candidates for the full-time position of Treasurer/Tax Collector, 40hrs per week, Monday through Friday. Salary: \$65,802.00-\$75,000. Administrative, supervisory and technical work involving the receipt, disbursement and investment of town funds, borrowing of money and the collection of taxes, reconciliation of accounts and overseeing the town-wide payroll. Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance and more than five years of related finance experience, of which three years have been supervisory; or any equivalent combination of education and experience; municipal experience highly desirable. Position requires highly organized, detail-oriented person with strong written and oral communication skills and customer service skills. Experience in Microsoft Word, Access, Excel, M.U.N.I.S. highly desirable. Mass. drivers license required. Must obtain a Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurer's Certification within three to four years of appointment. Must be able to be bonded. Position opened until filled. Apply to Mashpee Personnel Department 16 Great Neck Road, North Mashpee, MA 02649. The town of Mashpee is an EEO/AA employer. Applications from women and minorities are encouraged. (posted 9/11, exp. 10/28)

Treasurer/Collector City of Somerville

The city of Somerville is seeking an experienced professional for the position of Treasurer and Collector. The Treasurer/Collector is an integral part of the city's financial team. Under the direction of the finance director, the Treasurer/Collector performs all statutory duties including collection of real estate, personal property, motor vehicle excise, water and sewer and other revenue; tax title and foreclosure activities; acting as custodian of tax title properties; administration of all city funds including short- and long- term investments; borrowings; cash analysis; employee benefits administration; payroll administration; reconciliation of bank accounts; and reconciliation of cash and receivables. The Treasurer/Collector supervises and manages a staff of 10 employees. Applicants should have a background in progressively responsible financial management positions with at least three to five years' experience in municipal financial management. Experience as a municipal treasurer or collector as well as certification preferred. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration, finance or related field. Successful candidate must have a working knowledge of municipal finance laws, DOR Regulations and other applicable federal and state laws; supervisory experience; demonstrated knowledge of data processing and applications; and excellent verbal, written, and analytical communication skills. Candidate must be bondable. Starting salary range: \$60,000-\$80,000. Please submit cover letter,

resume, and three references to Richard Tranfaglia, Director of Personnel, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143. Fax (617) 666-4426

Legislative Committee Report

By **Second V-P Paul Nowicki**

Good News! The Legislative Committee has filled two (2) open seats and now has a full working committee. The Committee membership is listed on the MCTA website: www.MassCTA.com.

As you know, the MCTA is sponsoring eleven (11) legislative proposals. The updates of the proposed bills are listed in Steve's "News From Beacon Hill" column in the summer newsletter, so I will not repeat them here.

At a recent meeting of the Legislative Committee, it was brought to our attention that House Bills #2990 and #3055, relating to condominium common area fees associated with condominiums in tax title and the taxation of condominiums, are being considered. The Committee voted to support both bills and the Executive Board concurred at their following meeting. We will follow up on these two (2) proposed bills with a presentation of a recent court case at the Fall Conference at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

Also please be aware of Senate Bill #512, an Act Updating the Animal Control Laws of Massachusetts. Apparently the state is looking for the local communities to collect an estimated millions of dollars in increased fees while many communities are cutting programs or charging fees because of cutbacks in local aid, etc. and it appears the increased fees will go to a revolving fund instead of the general fund.

Senate 2061, an Act Relative to Motor Vehicle Registrations, which appears to "strengthen" the Collector's ability to collect delinquent motor vehicle excise tax from corporations or business entities. There appears to be concern that requiring registration applications to contain a signed statement by the applicant that there are no outstanding excise tax liabilities on a vehicle is just not solid enough and that allowing a "mark" at the Registry of Motor Vehicles is a better way to go.

Of special concern is a proposed bill (adding Chapter 40T to M.G.L.) that affects future special assessment bond financing in the Commonwealth. The proposed law calls for local governments to fund infrastructure upgrades by

leveraging special assessment fees paid for by the homeowners and private businesses that benefit from the enhancements. Projects that could benefit from special assessment financing include downtown revitalization projects, such as when businesses join together to finance a parking structure, and also residential areas that need to improve their sewer systems, but do not want to issue General Obligation Bonds. In both cases, a portion of the community would pay assessment fees that will secure the bonds as opposed to an entire township or municipality taking on the debt burden. We will continue to monitor this bill as well as all of the other MCTA sponsored bills.

Paul

MCTA FALL CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24

THE LOG CABIN, HOLYOKE

REGISTER TODAY

News From Beacon Hill

By **MCTA's Registered Agent, Steve Roche**

Let's start with a quick update on several bills discussed in my report in the summer newsletter.

Senate 1691 (real estate tax notices) - approved by the Governor - Chapter 74 of the Acts of 2007

House 4110 (Governor's GIC bill) - approved by the Governor - Chapter 67 of the Acts of 2007

House 4125 (Governor's local retirement bill) - approved by the Governor - Chapter 68 of the Acts of 2007

As you may know, the House and Senate have been on their Summer Break for the past month or so. Things are starting to heat up once again as committee hearings have resumed.

There are several controversial issues that will be debated, and possibly decided, this Fall, including:

Governor Patrick's \$12 billion capital bond package, including higher education, transportation, housing, and other projects

Governor Patrick's \$1 billion "Life Sciences" proposal to grow that industry in the Commonwealth

Casino Gambling - the Governor has been inundated with information from both sides of the issue and his decision is expected by the end of September
Automobile Insurance - the battle for deregulation is heating up

And then, there are the thousands of other bills out there, like our proposals, that will continue through the legislative grinder between now and the end of the 2007-2008 session.

At this point in the process, most of our bills have had a public hearing before one of several joint legislative committees, but have not been voted upon by the committees' members. The job of the MCTA Legislative Committee and members during the next few months will be to convince the committees to act favorably on our bills.

We have had a few rounds of musical chairs on Beacon Hill since the start of the new year, including:

Robert Travaglini, Senate President, resigned - Senator Therese Murray succeeded him

Senator Steven Panagiotakis took over Murray's spot as Chair of Senate Ways & Means

Senator Steven Tolman moved up to Vice Chair of Senate Ways & Means

Senator Stephen Brewer assumed Tolman's post as Assistant Vice Chair of Senate Ways & Means

Jarrett Barrios, Senate Chair of Public Safety, resigned - special election under way

Senator James Timilty assumed Barrios' post on Public Safety

Representative Anthony Petrucci won Travaglini's seat and was appointed to Timilty's position as Senate Chair of the Municipalities & Regional Government Committee. Petrucci resigned his House seat - special election under way

Senator Robert Havern, Senate Assistant Majority Whip, resigned - special election under way

Representative Robert Coughlin resigned his House seat to work for the Governor as Undersecretary of Business Development (as you may know, he recently resigned this post to become President of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council)

Paul McMurtry of Dedham won Coughlin's seat

Got all that – GOOD – because there'll
be a quiz at the next MCTA meeting.

Steve