

Muni View

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COORDINATOR'S CORNER

In the last issue of the Muni View I noted that there were many changes taking place within the Municipal Judge Community. Since that time a number of those changes have occurred. Each court has received a completely revised *Clerk's Procedure Manual* as well as a new *Municipal Court Directory* which now includes photographs.

Additionally, many of you have attended a seminar where retired Milwaukee Judge, James Gramling, along with District VII Court Administrator, Patrick Brummond, have discussed the many proposed legislative changes to Chapters 800 & 755. Enclosed is a summary of these changes, prepared by Judge Gramling. It is paramount that each municipal judge be familiar with these proposed changes; so please take the time to review this document thoroughly. Judge Gramling and DCA Brummond will present another update at the March 2008 Seminar and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

The winds of change are sweeping through the leadership of the Wisconsin Municipal Judge's

Association as well. See the article below for details.

I hope you all are staying safe and warm with all of the winter storms we have all had to deal with so quickly this year.

CHANGES WITHIN THE WISCONSIN MUNICIPAL JUDGE ASSOCIATION

At the November 5 meeting of the WMJA, District I Reserve Judge, Ron Wambach, announced that he will be stepping down as secretary/treasurer of the organization after more than 20 years in that position. Judge Jodi Sanfelippo of West Milwaukee agreed to fill in until a permanent replacement is selected in May 2008. Those of us who receive the monthly minutes from the WMJA will miss Judge Wambach's thoroughness and wit (I think . . .).

WMJA president, Judge David Nispel, also announced that he will not be seeking reelection as Middleton Municipal judge in the spring 2008 election and will therefore step down as President of the Association as of April 30, 2008. At that time, it is anticipated by the Association that Vice-President, Derek Mosley, will take over as President. Best of luck to Judge Nispel as he

moves on to new adventures.
GOOD-BYE AGAIN . . .

District I, Reserve Judge, Ron Wambach has announced that he will not seek status as a reserve judge after April 30, 2007. As you may recall, Ron retired as the judge for the City of Franklin at the end of April 2006 after serving for 34 years! It was a little bit easier for us to say good-bye to Ron then as we knew he was staying on as reserve judge. Ron also continued on as a member of the Municipal Judge Benchbook Committee and continued to volunteer as a faculty member at our seminars. This time we REALLY have to say good-bye and it isn't easy.

Thank you for your many contributions to Judicial Education through the years Ron. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement in sunny and WARM Arizona. We will miss you!



SPECIAL TOPIC SEMINAR

The last seminar for the current credit reporting period

The Special Topic Seminar will be held at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake on March 6 & 7, 2008.

The announcement and tentative agenda for the Special Topic Seminar are enclosed. For those judges who have not yet attained 4 Judicial Education credits for the May 1, 2007, through April 30, 2008, reporting period, *this seminar is your last chance to obtain them.*

EXPANSION OF ORIENTATION SEMINAR

In the past, the new judge Orientation has been one day in length, followed by a two-day review Institute Seminar. Beginning next May, we are expanding this session to a day and one-half. The Orientation Committee and I have long felt that one day is simply not enough time to provide new municipal judges with all the information and resources necessary. I am very pleased to offer this expanded training for new judges which would not be possible without the dedication of our Orientation faculty and staff.

2008-2009 SEMINAR DATES

Orientation - May 6 & 7, 2008 - Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids
Institute - May 8 & 9, 2008 - Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, Attendance is open only to new judges and those judges who have been on the bench 4 years or less and have attended this seminar less than 2 times.

Traffic - July 24 & 25, 2008 -

Radisson, LaCrosse

Special Topic - September 11 & 12, 2008 - Radisson, Green Bay
Clerks - October 23 & 24, 2008 - Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake
Law & Humanities - *not yet scheduled*

Trial - Wausau, March 2009, *exact date and facility not yet selected.*

INVOICE FOR 08-09 JUDICIAL EDUCATION

The annual invoices will be mailed to your courts early January 2008. The fee remains \$550 and payment is due March 31. This fee is transferrable, so please process even if you are not running for reelection in April.

NEW JUDGES, NEW COURTS & RESIGNATIONS

David Ditter was appointed to fill the judgeship in the **City of New Holstein** replacing Linda Will. This is a return to the bench for Judge Ditter who had previously held this seat from 1994-2000.

Christopher Duren was appointed in the **Village of Waunakee** following the sudden death of Mark Colbert.

Dan Floeter became a reserve judge for **District V**.

Jerry Hanson was appointed in the **City of Green Bay** in the wake of Tim Hinkfuss's election to circuit court.

Richard Kelly was appointed in the **City of Whitewater** to replace Steven Spear.

Brad Matthiesen replaced retiring Judge Mike Hurt in the **Village of Menomonee Falls**.

Roger Searls was appointed in the **City of Brodhead**.

R. Thomas Sommerfeld was appointed in the **Town of Boulder Junction** replacing June Clendening.

Steve Tinker was appointed in the **City of Monona** after the untimely death of Randy Paul.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU & YOURS!

