



Minute-By-Minute

Minute-By-Minute is the Monthly Newsletter of the

December 2017

North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks

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President Hunt's December Message:

Called for Such a Time as This



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Greetings,

Fellow Clerks, Why is it that we wait until the Christmas season to sing, Joy to the World? Why is it we characterize Joy to the World as a Christmas carol?

Recently, I learned that Joy to the World was not written as a Christmas carol. I learned that this song that we sing every Christmas has nothing to do with Christmas. As a matter of fact, it was not written to be a song. In 1719, Isaac Watts, a hymn writer published these words as a poem to be placed in his book of poems. It was stated that Joy to the World became a song by accident!

“Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n and heav’n and nature sing!”

We can have joy throughout the year because joy is for every season. Lasting joy is possible when we follow the truth. There is so much going on in the world; however, I encourage you to keep your joy. Choosing joy during trying times is possible although not easy. I challenge each of you to stay focused on whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are good, and whatsoever things are loving. By staying focused, we can have joy in troubling times such as these. What the world needs now is definitely love more love. True love and genuine compassion are necessary daily. Sing it from the housetop, Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.”

What a joyful time I had on November 3rd at Wrightsville Beach, NC celebrating our 2017 Municipal Clerk of the Year! I was very thankful to have the opportunity to share in the tree planting ceremony for Sylvia Holleman. Sylvia is an awesome young lady and well-deserving of this honor. Congratulations, Sylvia!! You are one in a million and as I stated during the ceremony, you are truly a pearl—to the Association and to the Town of Wrightsville Beach.

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Special thanks to the Leaving a Legacy Committee, the neighboring clerks who attended the ceremony to include Penny Spicer-Sidbury. Penny assisted me in presenting the plaque to Sylvia.

Our 2018 Clerks School will be here before you know it. The dates are January 17-19, 2018 and will be held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Research Triangle Park.

If I was given three wishes for you, it would be that all the HAPPINESS, all the PEACE, and all the JOY that you are able to retain be granted unto you. I pray that during this season, only the best comes to you!

Our board meeting took place on Friday, December 8th at 11:00 AM in the Wells Fargo Building located on 150 Fayetteville Street, Suite 300. It was great seeing all of you that attended.

Thank you, fellow clerks, for all that you!! Always remember, that we are a grand design—called, destined, and appointed FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!

**Elaine F. Hunt, MMC, NCCMC
NCAMC President**

Congratulations

The following Clerks have earned the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk designation. Congratulations to:

Melissa R. Matti, CMC—Deputy Clerk of Dunn
Holly D. Utt, CMC —Town Clerk of Pilot Mountain
Jane G. Starling, CMC—Deputy Clerk of Fayetteville
Christina Craft, CMC—Town Clerk of Williamston

The City of Salisbury has a new Deputy Clerk, please welcome Emily Michael to the fold!

The Town of North Wilkesboro has a Town Clerk position available. Please visit their website for more information.

It's Your Birthday, Celebrate!

Happy Birthday!

December

- 16 Whitney Ledford
Eyvonne Smith
- 18 Iris Smith
- 19 Adrienne Rorie
- 20 Dionne Greenlee
Tammy Kirkley
Cheryl Mears
- 21 Sherry Scoggins
- 23 Betty Belle
Beth Usery
- 24 Brenda Blanco
- 25 Merry Christmas!
Sharon Evans
Rebekah Gainey
- 26 Sabrina McDonald
Maria Smith
Christine Thompson
- 27 Sue Morton
Sabrena Reinhardt
- 28 Kelley Currie
Rupa Venkatseh
- 30 Patsy Dougherty
Jenny Larson
Susan Suggs



January

- 1 Happy New Year!
Mary Ellen Brown
Dora Moore
Pat Prescott
- 2 Ann Burgess
- 3 Kim Hensley
Robin Watts
- 4 Jeanne Martin
Janice Thomas
Angela Young
- 5 Jenny Tippett
- 7 Debbie Ogle
- 8 Katherine Cathey
- 9 Jim Byrd
Mary Boggs
Jane Dreher
- 11 Bruce Creech
April Williamson
- 12 Letha Hines
- 13 Denise Dale
Deborah Holland

Please send birthday updates to:
kwingo@TownofWingateNC.gov

Holiday Ideas

It's official! The holidays are upon us. Not just nudging into our thoughts but rather stampeding into our psyches like a freight train of emotions and responsibilities! The holiday season brings out the chance to do novel things for our clerk offices. It's a time when we can say 'thank you' and even extend greetings to employees of other departments. While specifically wanting to go the extra mile during the holidays, the cost factor may weigh heavily on our minds and pocketbooks. Combining a bit of creativity with a handful of goodwill, here are some Buzz Feed-like, cheap thrills that can foster holiday excitement, promote engagement and enhance inclusion.

1. Gosh Hog, Dog Gone Ugly Sweater Day- You know it! Everyone has one some place, but usually in the donation bag. The secret is to wear them simultaneously to immortalize that sense of adventure that only elves sliding down a mountain side can bring! Memorialize the day with photos and post them on your city's website. Don't forget props of Santa hats, reindeer antlers and elf caps!
2. Speaking of photos... How bout everyone dress in holiday colors for a group photo- then forward as a downloadable and delightful screen saver!
3. Cookie Exchange or Swap. For the fans of the *Great British Bake Off* show out there, who aspire to bake like our Ms. Mary Berry, bless you! For the rest of us mortals, bring or buy a dozen for all to enjoy; or, for the overachievers, sponsor a cookie swap where employees trade plates of cookies to have a variety at home for tea and crumpets!
4. The classic Secret Santa Gift Swap brings inexpensive presents to delight all the participating employees. Encourage homemade items – anyone knit? Sew? Paint? Cook? Use your imagination- if that fails, there's always the Dollar Tree.
5. Arrange a communal holiday lunch with turkey, stuffing and dessert of holiday cookies. Or go funky, ask everyone to bring holiday colored foods of red and green? Silver and gold? Blue and silver?
6. Have a crafting day at work. Prior to spilling the glue, take 8 x 10 photos of the Clerk Office employees; then on craft day, deck out the photos for the holidays with felt hats, cotton balls for fur and red bows. Frame and hang them in the entry way to your office. Or, keep your hot glue gun and supplies at home, wrap up the outfitted photos, pop into a few frames from the Dollar store and gift them.
7. Check out local happenings in town and attend with your coworkers! Heat up some cider and kick back with donuts before departure, or even better, afterwards!

I'm tuckered out just writing about all these super-wonderfully, exciting, cheap holiday adventures designed to promote engagement, inclusion and holiday cheer!

Wishing you the best of the holidays as you celebrate with your family and coworkers!

Diana Schreiber, District 9 Director

Winter Events in North Carolina

Rogers + Hammerstein's Cinderella—Dec.13-30—DPAC, Durham

A Christmas Carol—Dec.13-23—PlayMakers Repertory Company, Chapel Hill

20th Annual Twelve Days of Christmas—Dec.13-Jan.2,2018—The Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill

Ava Living in London Exhibit—Dec.13-Jan.12,2018—Ava Gardner Museum, Smithfield

Triangle Weavers Exhibition—Dec.13-Jan.6, 2018—Carrboro Library, Carrboro

Meadow Lights—Dec.13-31—Meadow Lights, Benson

30th Annual Christmas @ Captain Whites—Dec.13-23--Main Street, Graham

Beautiful Star: An Appalachian Nativity—Dec.13-24—Triad Stage, Greensboro

White Christmas—Dec.13-19—Carolina Theatre, Greensboro

Holiday Artist Makeup—Dec 13-29—Emerge Gallery & Art Center, Greenville

Tanglewood Festival of Lights—Dec.13-Jan.1,2018—Tanglewood Park, Clemmons

Presents for Paws—Dec.13-22—Onslow County Animal Services, Jacksonville

Fishstrong Winter Wonderland Interactive Lighted Hayride—Dec.13-23—Fishstrong Foundation, Hubert

Centennial Christmas @ Reynolda House—Dec.13-31—Reynolda House, Winston-Salem

Gingerbread House Class—Dec.13-22—Tart Sweets Bakery, Winston Salem

Quill Award

The Quill Award is a prestigious award established to recognize Municipal Clerks who have distinguished themselves by making a significant and exemplary contribution to their community, their state, principality or province and, in particular, IIMC and their peers. The award is open to all members of IIMC, deceased members, retired clerks or a clerk who has changed positions. Serving members of the Board of Directors or present officers of IIMC are not eligible. Past Presidents will be eligible for the Quill Award four years after completing service on the Executive Committee.

If you are interested or want to nominate someone else the following documentation has to be submitted by April 1, 2018:

1. Resume of Nominee and reason for nomination;
2. A written endorsement from the State/Provincial or National Association;
3. A written endorsement from the IIMC Region Directors.

The following Criteria is required:

- A. At least ten years of service as a Municipal Clerk
- B. At least ten years of IIMC membership
- C. Strong and extensive participation in IIMC
- D. Service in teaching fellow Municipal Clerks
- E. Involvement with the initiation or administration of an IIMC-approved training Institute or program or any other activity that enhances the professionalism of IIMC members
- F. Leadership in State/Provincial/National Municipal Clerk professional organizations
- G. Significant and exemplary contribution to their community
- H. Significant and exemplary contribution to their State/Province/Country
- I. Significant and exemplary contribution to IIMC; and
- J. Significant and exemplary contribution to peers
- K. Attainment of the CMC Designation

For more information and forms please visit the IIMC website.

Condolences

Please join me in sending out heart-felt condolences to Athina Williams, Administrator/Clerk for the Town of Belville. Athina lost her father on Thursday, December 7, 2017. You may send expressions of sympathy to the following address: Athina Williams, Administrator, 63 River Road, Belville, NC 28451-7428.

Also, condolences to DiAnne Enoch on the loss of her husband, Otis. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to: DiAnne Enoch, 6812 Winners Drive, Whitsett, NC 27377.

We all know that death is inevitable and is an event that we must face. It is our sincere hope that these, our sister Clerks find comfort in knowing their loved ones are resting in the arms of the Almighty.

Tips for Creating the Ultimate Quiet Space

The following information comes from Nicole Greer, The Vibrant Coach. I hope you find it useful.

- * Purchase an alarm clock that gently nudges you from your slumber. Nothing so loud that it jars you. Choose a sound from nature that woos you out of bed.
- * Keep a beautiful bathrobe and slippers at the end of your bed. This will help you carry the warmth of your slumber into your quiet space.
- * Use a coffee pot with an automatic brew setting that begins 5 minutes before your alarm time. This allows you to arrive in your kitchen with hot water for tea or coffee at the ready.
- * Create a spot in your home where you will meet the day. This gives you a foundation for your new habit. Choose a place with a window facing east (so you can welcome the sun), a comfortable chair, a journal, a pen, your calendar and reading materials to inspire the day.
- * Enter the space with reverence for life and its creator-an attitude of gratitude to carry you through the day.
- * Wear pajamas that enable you to do some stretching or yoga that entices you to literally move into the day.
- * Start your quiet time with centering. This practice allows you to consent to the day. To consent means to agree with the day and give it permission to unfold. You also agree to show up today with your “best” self. Listen for the small still voice inside that says you are not alone. Quiet is the space where you recognize your desires and release them into dreams so they can become your destiny.

Yes, these tips will work for males as well as females. Nicole Greer has been a presenter at the Associations summer conference and is a powerful speaker and coach.

Bacon-Wrapped Pork Loin With Cherries

This is the perfect staple for a weekend dinner party or simply for a family get together during the holidays. This recipe yields perfectly cooked, moist pork, wrapped in crispy bacon with a sweet-and-salty layer of dried cherries, parsley and mustard in between. This would be perfect with mashed potatoes or for a lighter meal, serve this with a green salad.

Bon apete!



You will need:

- 1 2-pound piece boneless pork loin
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- Black pepper
- 1/2 cup dried cherries, chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon whole-grain mustard
- 6 slices bacon
- 1 tablespoon currant jelly
- 1 teaspoon red wine vinegar

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Season the pork with allspice and 1/2 teaspoon pepper and place on a rimmed baking sheet.

In a small bowl, combine the cherries, parsley and mustard. Spread evenly over the pork. Lay the bacon slices crosswise over the pork, overlapping them slightly and tucking the ends underneath. Roast for 45 minutes.

In a small bowl, combine the jelly and vinegar. Brush over the bacon and continue roasting for an additional 10-15 minutes. Let rest at least 10 minutes before slicing.

Smoky Fish Chowder

This is a recipe that I have made for Christmas Eve dinner for the past 2 years. It is very good and easy to make. It is especially good when the weather is a little cool and you have some extra mouths to feed.

Ingredients

8 ounces Spanish chorizo, thinly sliced
4 leeks (use the white & light green parts) cut them into half-moons
1 1/2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes (about 4 medium sized ones) cut into 1/2 inch pieces
1 28 ounce can diced tomatoes
Kosher salt and black pepper
2 pounds skinless firm white fish (I use cod, but you can use halibut), cut into 2-inch pieces
1/2 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

How to Make It

In a large pot, brown the chorizo over medium heat, 1 to 2 minutes. Add the leeks and cook, stirring occasionally until they begin to soften, about 3 or 4 minutes.

Add the potatoes, tomatoes (juice included), 3 cups water, 3/4 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Cover and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat and simmer until the potatoes are just getting tender, about 10-12 minutes.

Add the fish and simmer gently until the broth is opaque, about 5-6 minutes. Then stir in the parsley right before serving.

I usually serve mine with a hard bread or a ciabatta roll to sop up the broth.

This is a hearty chowder that warms the body and soul. My daughter even adds a little shredded smoked cheddar cheese to hers.



Early Christmas Morning

It's early Christmas morning and Santa has completed his duties. There is wrapping paper and bows strewn all over the living room, the younger ones are trying to get batteries in the toys, the older ones are on their new electronic devices, and Dad is in his new recliner taking it easy. Now, is the time for Mom to have a little something for herself before attempting to cook breakfast. It's time for a little Christmas cheer in the form of a Christmas Mimosa. Here is what I recommend.

You will need: 1 lime cut in half, 2 tablespoons sugar, 1 cup sweetened cranberry juice, 1 bottle of your favorite champagne, 12 fresh cranberries and 4 small sprigs of fresh rosemary.

Now, this is what you do: rub rims of champagne flutes with lime and dip them into the sugar. Pour 1/4 cup cranberry juice into each glass and then top them off with champagne. Use a toothpick to poke a hole through cranberries then thread rosemary skewer through berries and garnish the mimosas. Now, remember this only serves 4 so if you need more; please adjust the ingredients accordingly. Another bit of advice, please drink responsibly, because no one wants burned bacon.



For after lunch or dinner, I recommend, Jingle Juice! You will need 2 cups frozen cranberries, 3 sliced limes, 5 cups sparkling cranberry juice or cranberry soda chilled, 4 cups chilled cranberry-raspberry juice, 2 cups Captain Morgan's Original Spiced Rum, chilled, 1 cup Grand Marnier, chilled, 1/2 cup lemon juice, 1/2 cup lime juice and 1/2 cup star anise(optional).

Add frozen cranberries and lime slices to a large punch bowl. Add sparkling cranberry juice, cran-raspberry juice, rum, Grand Marnier, lemon juice and lime juice. Add star anise last, stir to combine all ingredients and serve immediately. Bottoms Up!

Something for the Elves

Tis the season to be jolly. Now that Santa is taken care of, let's make a little something for Santa's helpers. They have worked all year and now it's time to reward them with something special to drink.



This drink is called **THE GRINCH** and instead of trying to ruin Christmas, its job is to make it better.

You will need: Sprite, vanilla ice cream or lime sherbet, green food coloring (only if you are using the vanilla ice cream), green sugar crystals on a cookie sheet and straws.

The first thing you need to do is coat the rim of the glasses with Sprite, so just pour a little on a plate and roll the glass around; after that roll the glass around in the sugar crystals. Fill about 1/3 of the glass with Sprite and if you are using the vanilla ice cream, put in 1 drop of the green food coloring, add 1/2 cup of ice cream and then continue to fill the cup with Sprite. Place a straw in the glass and you are done. If you are using the lime sherbet, place 1/2 cup of sherbet in glass and fill the rest with Sprite.

Drink up!

Peppermint White Chocolate

Ingredients

3/4 cup 2% milk (whole milk if you feel froggy)

2 tablespoons sugar

1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder

2 tablespoons white chocolate chips

Dash peppermint extract

Candy canes

Whipped cream

Directions

Heat milk to hot but not boiling

In the bottom of the mug, stir together sugar and cocoa powder. Add 2 tablespoons of hot milk to make a thick paste, then slowly stir in the remaining milk.

Stir in the white chocolate chips and peppermint extract and top with whipped cream. You can use the candy cane as a stirring stick or break it up on top.

