



Nebraska Municipal Clerks NEWSLETTER

July 2024

President's Message

Hello Municipal Clerks!!

Whoa....I swear yesterday was the first of June, now we are again at the end of the month. Have you ever seen the cartoons where there is a firecracker with a really long wick and the person just keeps running to get away from it? I am sure we all feel like this sometimes. Summertime brings a lot more activities and a lot more work with seasonal employees, community festivals and budgeting. And sometimes it feels like that firecracker wick is lit at both ends.



Even though it seems our work will never end I want to encourage each of you to do more. Do more barbequing, do more fishing or boating, spend more time enjoying your flowers, spend time with family, call a friend you haven't heard from in a while, volunteer to help with your community festival, go for a swim, read a book, take a walk, just do it. With the stress of so many things happening in both our professional and personal life we need to remember to take care of ourselves.

Here is just a little bit about me: I was born and raised in and near Ravenna and graduated from Ravenna Public Schools. And will have been with the City of Ravenna since September 11, 2000. My husband Jeff and I have been married for 36 years; we have 3 children. Our oldest daughter Nichole and her husband Ethan just moved back to Ravenna about a year ago, they have five girls Faith, Charity, Grace, Harbor and Merit. Our son Josh and his wife Kylie live just outside of Kearney and they have 3 children, Ruelynn, McCoy (our only grandson) and Rhenley. Our youngest daughter Alexia and her husband Aaron live in North Carolina, Aaron is active duty for the US Marine Corp and will be leaving for deployment again soon. My hidden talent is auctioneering...growing up my dad was an auctioneer and my mom and siblings helped with the auctions. After several years of listening to dad I picked it up and during one of our sales dad handed over the microphone and I started up, I loved it! With most auctions being held online now, I just help out at fundraisers if needed.

I attended the Municipal Accounting and Finance Conference last week in Lincoln and I have to say it was excellent. The Municipal Accounting and Finance Committee and the staff of the League of Nebraska Municipalities did an impressive job with the sessions again this year. The Preconference seminar on Labor Relations/Personnel Management was particularly good. Brandy Kloepping from Cozad and I presented on "How to Effectively Present & Explain Your Budget to Your Governing Body, Citizens & Media."

The NMCA Executive Board met during the conference with several things to discuss. One of the main topics was the 2024 Clerk Institute and Academy in Columbus. As most of you know we will be in Columbus again in 2025, we will be sending out RFPs to hotels for 2025 & 2026 to review at that time. The feedback that was received was good and is something that both our Education Director Ellen Freeman-Wakefield and our Executive Board looks at. There were 209 attendees in total with \$11,349 in scholarships distributed. Of the attendees, 74 submitted assessments to collect education hours. However, all who attended the board meeting and Executive Board meeting were shocked and disappointed that some of the assessment comments, submitted anonymously, were derogatory and discriminatory related to the speakers of the event. I have been a City Clerk for 24 years and have attended many conferences, nothing I have ever attended has been so bad that I would have chosen to say the things that some clerks submitted.

In closing I would like to share a few pictures of the fun I had during our annual community celebration "Annevar" (Ravenna spelled backwards) a few weeks ago: we closed off our main street into town and a carnival sets up; I am usually a pie judge at the pie contest but I missed it this year as I was in Lincoln, but I'm definitely back on the list for next year. We had all 8 of our grandkids here this year which makes things so much fun, they participated in the fun run and turtle races.

Summer: Hair gets lighter. Skin gets darker. Water gets warmer. Drinks get colder. Music gets louder. Nights get longer. Life gets better. – Author Unknown

Kellie Crowell, CMC
NMCA President

P.S. See photos from Annevar at the bottom of the newsletter!

Need something? Here's how to reach Kellie!



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Clerk's Corner

League Municipal Accounting and Finance Conference



League President, LARM Board Member and Mayor of Gibbon, Deb VanMatre presented Lanette Doane, former Clerk/Treasurer from Ansley and former LARM Board Chair, with an award honoring her for her dedication and years of service.



Kellie Crowell and Brandi Kloepping presenting at Accounting and Finance Conference in Lincoln.

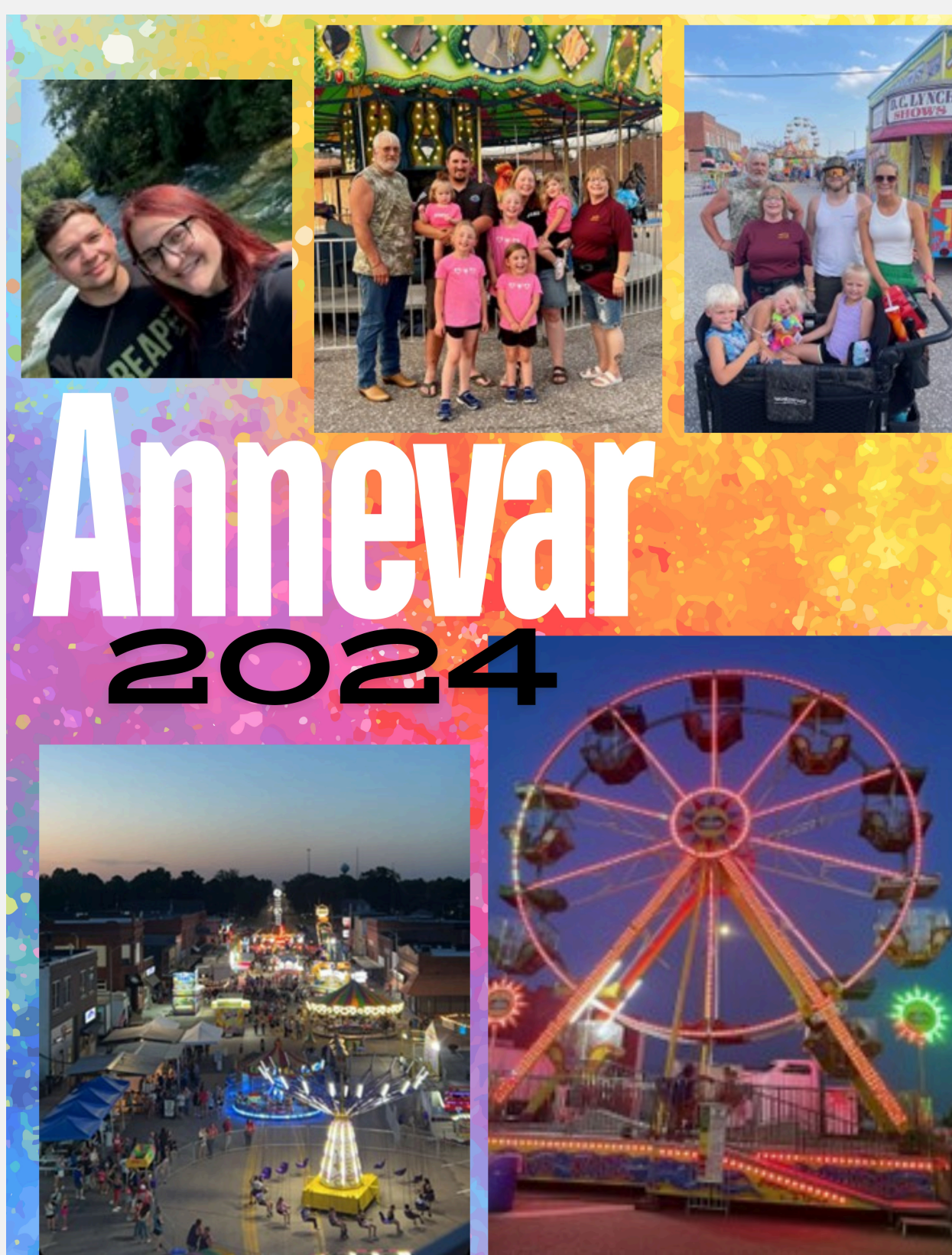
Mark your calendars: The 2025 Clerk Institute and Academy will be held from March 17-21 in Columbus.



NCMA Board Members

- President - Kellie Crowell, Ravenna
- 1st Vice President - Kimberly Hoelsing, Omaha
- 2nd Vice President - Darcy Gurule, Farham
- Secretary - Derek Bargmann, Seward
- Treasurer - Tami Comite, David City
- Past President - Elizabeth Butler, Omaha
- District 1 Director - Janine Schmidt, Morrill
- District 2 Director - Jessie Faber, Grant
- District 3 Director - Misty Bussinger, Gothenburg
- District 4 Director - Pam Vander Veen, Wakefield
- District 5 Director - Jaala Johnson, Hickman

Note: Don't miss the NCMA meeting minutes attached!



Annevar 2024



Contact Info:
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Connect with the League:

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