

Dear Arkansas City Clerks, Recorders and Treasurers Association (ACCRTA):

Some of you may recall that I have served as your president in the past (2006-2007 to be exact). Due to restructuring of our Bylaws and Constitution, which reduced the number of officers in the organization, a past president was asked to volunteer to serve as your state association president for the coming year. I gladly volunteered! Why, you may ask? Because ACCRTA is an organization made up of diverse men and women who all bring something unique and special to their cities and towns. So, let's have a look at the year ahead, by taking a look at the year now behind us.

The elections in 2010 resulted in many city clerks, recorders and treasurers leaving office, either due to retirement or lost elections. This also brought in a lot of new folks for us to get to know, to mentor and to have fellowship with.

Being the (self-appointed) "Cruise Director", I like to have a theme for us to follow. When I served as ACCRTA President 2006-2007, my theme was "Communication." Patti Scott Grey followed with "Education". So what will it be for 2011-2012? After attending the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) Conference in May, it became clear to me that our motto for this coming term should be "Team." Why? Because it takes teamwork to accomplish any task. Think about it, your family at home is a "team." Your family at church is a "team." Your city council is a "team"...at least we hope they are! So we will take on "Team" and incorporate the importance of teamwork and cooperation into the upcoming year. Those folks who have been around awhile will be the "team" coaches or mentors. Those who have been around a lesser amount of time will be the junior and senior players. And those of you who are new will be the....NEWBIES!

Let's start building our team...if you are not a member of ACCRTA, please email me at [dwhitbey@northlittlerock.ar.gov](mailto:dwhitbey@northlittlerock.ar.gov) or call me at 501-340-5317 and I'll be happy to get you the information you need to join. If you are a member and would like to be more active, let me know and we will work with you on a committee appointment. (ACCRTA Committees include: Clerk of the Year, Education Review, Fundraiser, Handbook, Legislative, Membership Development, Mentor, Newsletter, Nomination/Elections, Scholarships, Scrapbook, and Website).

If you're not the committee type, then you should definitely check into and take full advantage of our educational opportunities directed specifically to people in our profession, and attend at least one of the district meetings scheduled during the next year. A list of upcoming district meeting dates and locations is included under the calendar tab at [www.accrta.org](http://www.accrta.org). These meetings are a great way to make connections and acquire a vast array of valuable knowledge. They are also "budget friendly" in that the registration fees are low and the meetings are scattered around the state so folks have the opportunity to attend a meeting in their neighborhood, without the added expense of lodging.

One of the best educational opportunities in the state is the annual Arkansas Municipal Clerks Institute held in September each year at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. This is an intense week of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. instruction taught by professionals and many in our profession. For more information, contact me or our institute director, Kim Jones ([kimj@uark.edu](mailto:kimj@uark.edu)).

In conclusion, I look forward to a great year of getting to know all of you or knowing you better! If there is ever anything I can do to assist you, please feel free to contact me. As your teams "head coach" I'm glad to work with you...and for you. Other ACCRTA officers "coaches" this year (season) are Vice President Johnny Brigham-Dumas, Treasurer Sondra Smith-Fayetteville and Secretary Linda Simpson-Lake City. Committee chairs will be announced in the near future.

*Go Team ACCRTA!*

Diane Whitbey, CMC/CMAC  
North Little Rock City Clerk and Collector  
ACCRTA President 2011-2012