

# IIMC REGION V Newsletter

Fall 2009. Volume 3, Issue 2



*News from the great states of*  
**INDIANA \* KENTUCKY \* MICHIGAN \***  
**OHIO \* TENNESSEE**

This quarterly newsletter was created to keep Region V informed of the news of IIMC and throughout our region. We want your input, news, pictures and your ideas!

## Region V Directors

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***Greetings from Tami Kelly of Ohio and Brenda Young of Indiana your Region V Directors***

### ***Inside this issue:***

- *News from IIMC President Mary Lynne Stratta*
- *News from Sharon Cassler, IIMC President Elect*
- *News from State Association Presidents*
- *Members Earning Certification and New Members*
- *Notes from your IIMC Region V Co-Directors*

**Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, MMC  
2009-2010 IIMC President**



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is a busy time for IIMC. In mid-August, the Budget and Planning Committee will meet to prepare the 2010 IIMC budget to be presented to the IIMC Board of Directors at the mid-year Board meeting. I have charged this committee with preparing a balanced budget and, for the first time in IIMC's history, a three-year financial forecast and multi-year capital needs plan. I believe it is important with the current state of the economy that we plan ahead and that we be as financially conservative as possible. I have been extremely frugal with IIMC's money, using IIMC's bank of frequent flyer miles for my travels, and I have articulated my expectation to the rest of the Board that they be as frugal as possible when traveling on IIMC's behalf. Along that line, I asked that our Conference Planner and Executive Director go out for bids for the site location for the IIMC Board's mid-year board meeting. I had three criteria for the location: 1) Cheap; 2) Cheap; and 3) Cheap! We received an extremely good bid from Albuquerque, NM, and holding our mid-year meeting at that location will bring in the cost of the Board meeting below budget. It also provides the best value for our MCEF Board members, who donate their travel costs to MCEF. I would encourage future IIMC presidents to follow a bid process rather than just selecting a location, as has been the practice in the past. Every dollar we save is a dollar we can redirect to educational endeavors to benefit our members.

At the mid-year meeting, the IIMC Board will continue its work to develop IIMC's first membership-driven long-range strategic plan. The Board will adopt the strategic plan at the Board meeting held in conjunction with the May 2010 conference.

The Program Review/Certification Committee and the Education/Professional Growth Committee have been working extremely hard

to address ongoing issues with the current education guidelines. These two committees will come forward with strong recommendations for the Board to consider at the mid-year meeting (November 6-7). Prior to that, our state education committees and institute directors will be asked to provide feedback regarding the committee recommendations. If you have concerns and/or have experienced problems with the current education/certification guidelines and would like to see positive changes made to improve the program, I would encourage you to articulate those concerns and suggestions to your IIMC Region Directors prior to the mid-year meeting. I am hopeful the Board will take action at the mid-year meeting to correct as many of these issues as possible so that we can move forward with meaningful, achievable, affordable certification for all of our members.

Our Membership Committee has launched the new Region of the Month program. Each region will be featured in an article in the IIMC News Digest. Region V will be featured in the December issue. The Small Cities Task Force will be disseminating a survey to our small city members (less than 1,500 population) in the near future. The Policy Review Committee will be bringing to the Board several recommendations for new policies, changes in policies and proposed IIMC constitutional amendments to make sure that IIMC operates in the most efficient, ethical manner possible.

Using IIMC frequent flyer points, I attended the Institute of Municipal Administrators of South Africa conference held in Polokwane, South Africa, June 16-19. IMASA's objectives and founding values have at their heart the promotion of sound, professional and ethical municipal administration, serving the best interests of the profession of municipal



The IIMC 2009 study tour to Wales/England has met the minimum number of registrants. Additional information about this unique opportunity to learn about local government best practices in other countries is available on IIMC's website ([www.iimc.com](http://www.iimc.com)). The cost is very affordable and there is still an opportunity to participate.

Once again using IIMC frequent flyer points, I participated in the Reno conference site visit in July. We had the honor of meeting Reno Mayor Bob Cashell, who pledged the City of Reno's support to make the conference a rewarding experience for our members. The host hotel, the Grand Sierra Resort, has lowered our conference room rate for a standard room to \$99/night. The Grand Sierra offers a free shuttle service to/from the Reno airport and a wide variety of dining venues from fast food to fine dining. Attendance at the conference should be affordable for our members. Most importantly, the Nevada Institute Director, host committee and IIMC staff are developing an impressive and outstanding educational program for the conference.

I look forward to visiting with as many of our members as possible this year. I am always available to visit with you. My phone number is 979-209-5005 and my email is [mstratta@bryantx.gov](mailto:mstratta@bryantx.gov).

Thank you again for the honor of serving as your 2009-2010 IIMC President.

Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, MMC  
IIMC President

administration and the development and growth of its members in the profession. IMASA is working to establish an IIMC approved institute in South Africa. IIMC has approved their curriculum plan and IMASA is now working on funding and national government approval of their certification program prior to implementation. I had the opportunity address the delegates twice during the program. I discovered through my visit that the United States and South Africa are more alike than we are different, and that we share many common problems and challenges. I believe my visit helped to strengthen the partnership between IIMC and IMASA and I look forward to signing a new affiliation agreement with IMASA this year. I again want to thank IMASA Past President Selby Gibbs, IMASA President Ria Heitbrink and Host Clerk Barry Viljoen for their warm and gracious hospitality. South Africa hopes to host the IIMC 2011 study tour and I would encourage you to not miss the opportunity to visit this beautiful country and its warm and friendly people.



**At the IMASA conference banquet,  
Polokwane, South Africa**

Pictured Left to Right: JJ and Mary Lynne Stratta;  
Hans and Ria Heitbrink (Ria is President of  
IMASA); Johnathan and Deborah Bourne  
(Johnathan represented the SLCC (U.K. Clerks))

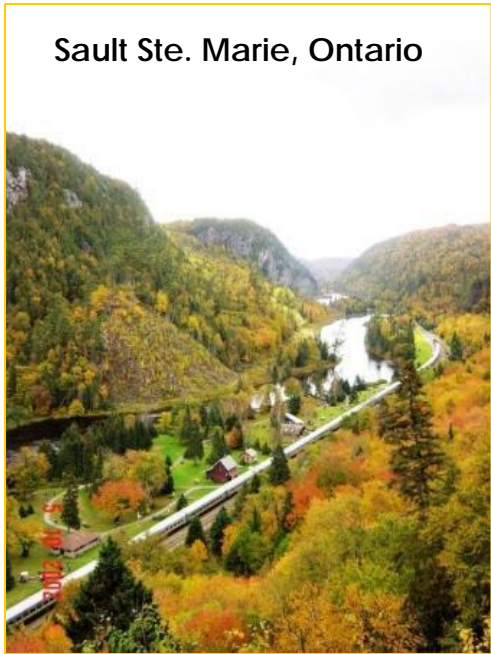


**AMCTO AND MAMC CONFERENCE REPORT  
SHARON K. CASSLER, MMC  
CAMBRIDGE, OHIO  
IIMC PRESIDENT ELECT**

I had the great pleasure and honor to represent IIMC and President Mary Lynne Stratta at the annual meeting of the AMCTO (Association of Municipal Manager’s Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario) conference as well as the MAMC (Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks) conference in June.

The AMCTO conference was held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario with 260 participants. The theme of the conference, *Meeting At The Cross Roads*, was chosen as a way to speak to a number of issues that are facing municipal officials. One such cross road is a generational cross road that is seeing a massive influx of young professionals entering the public sector. Another is a critical cross road regarding our environment that has caused municipalities to step to the plate and take a leadership role in the development of conservation practices and of course the cross road of maneuvering our way through this global financial crisis we find ourselves in.

The AMCTO conference was jam packed with educational sessions and networking opportunities for all conference attendees. I had the opportunity to visit with many members of AMCTO and talk with them about IIMC and what we can do to attract them to our organization. Even though AMCTO offers their own certification (certified municipal officer), there are still many benefits that can be realized by belonging to both organizations. I spent a lot of time defining those benefits. Many AMCTO members were very interested in the education that IIMC offers via on-line learning and through the purchase of the CD ROMs. One matter of extreme interest was parliamentary procedure. There was also great interest in the partnership with IMASA and the development of an institute in South Africa. Many of the members I spoke with are facing the same frustrations as those of us in the states – the financial crisis. It is universal and the sharing of knowledge and the lending of ideas on how to make government more efficient and effect seemed to be a resounding theme of conversation.



**Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario**

The highlight of the conference for me was hearing from Mr. Jim Watson, the minister of municipal affairs and housing. He addressed many issues facing Canadians, but his focus of course, was in relation to long term affordable housing. He pointed out that each municipality has a responsibility to address affordable housing and that status quo is not an

option. One statement he made that hit home to me was, the sign of a true society is how we treat our most vulnerable. He noted that \$1.2 billion dollars have been allocated to housing. The message to the delegates was loud and clear – their government is doing all they can to assist their citizens with their housing and poverty issues.

I left Sault St. Marie, Ontario and headed to the beautiful City of Frankenmuth, Michigan to visit with the Michigan clerks during their annual meeting. Although my time there was less than 24 hours, it was great for IIMC to be represented at the MAMC conference and I loved being among fellow region v members.

I had the chance to address the attendees during their "Clerk of the Year" banquet. As a member of Region V, going to Frankenmuth was like going home! I have a special place in my heart for the Michigan Clerks and it was a great pleasure for me to be a part of their program. The theme for their conference was ***"Back to Basics and Beyond."*** As with AMCTO, the MAMC conference was full of educational sessions that were designed to be thought provoking and to provide relief in knowing that you are not alone while performing your duties. The Michigan Clerks are a very proud group of individuals who take great pride in their profession. They work tirelessly to guarantee their elections are run in the most effective and efficient manner possible so as to provide faith in government to their residents. They take their oath very seriously and it is always a pleasure for me to be with them. Of course, you know that I'm a Buckeye so it's always fun for us to share some "spirited" rivalry jabs back and forth. Go bucks!!

In July, I had the pleasure of attending the Kentucky Municipal Clerks Institute. Barbara Combs, Institute Director and a great friend to IIMC, asked if I would do a session for their attendees on the advantages of membership in a Professional Association. That gave me an opportunity to speak to over 60 participants about the many services and benefits that IIMC has to offer. I also had the privilege of addressing the members and their guests at the Annual Banquet and was pleasantly surprised by being named a Kentucky Colonel. This is the highest honor awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Their Colonels are Kentucky's ambassadors of good will and fellowship around the world. Other Colonels include: President Lyndon B. Johnson, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, John Glenn, Ann Margaret, Tiger Woods, and Dwight Yoakam.

It was a great honor for me to represent IIMC and President Stratta at the AMCTO, and MAMC annual conferences as well as the Kentucky Institute. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with all three associations and extend my sincere thanks for the hospitality shown to me.





## DIANN JAMERSON, OHIO PRESIDENT

Here is what's happening in Ohio:

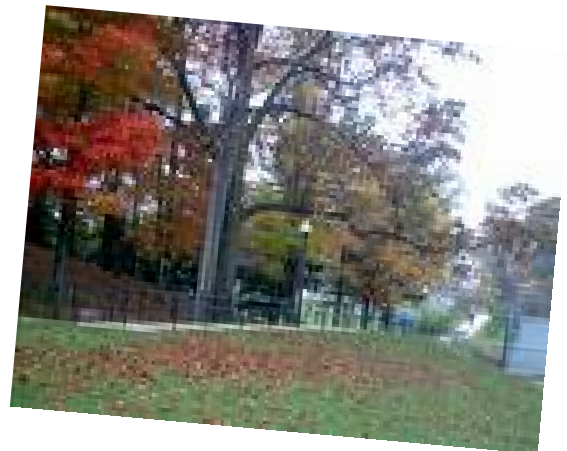
The Ohio Municipal Clerks Career Development Institute, like most other State's, is dealing with budget challenges. Our Institute remains a priority to Kent State and the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association. Together we are looking at cost saving measures and alternate funding sources.

We have relocated our program to the Kent State University – Stark Campus location. The program will be held October 5 - 9, 2009. The University Center provides a technologically advanced educational experience.

Examples of the CMC sessions are electronic record keeping, why public sector matters and economic development and regionalism. The MMC sessions include ethics training, legal notices, and annexations.

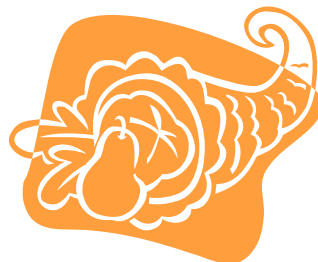
You can go to the Kent State website at [www.kent.edu\cpapp](http://www.kent.edu\cpapp) for an up to date listing of the programs. Be sure to check back for the most current updates as changes occur. Our listing can be found under Training Programs for the Ohio & West Virginia Municipal Clerks.

If for some reason you are unable to attend your Career Institute feel free to come join the Ohio & West Virginia Career Development Program. Please contact Kerry Macomber at 330-672-8025 or [kmacomb1@kent.edu](mailto:kmacomb1@kent.edu) for details.



We have also started preparing for our 2010 Spring Conference, "Making a Difference". It will be held April 21 and 22, 2010 at North Pointe Conference Center, Columbus, Ohio.

*"Everyday we have a chance to make a difference to many people in our lives. It doesn't matter if they are a stranger or your best friend. You never know when your words of encouragement or simplest unselfish gesture will help someone during a time in their life when they need it the most."*



# MEMBERS EARNING EDUCATION HONORS (May - August 2009)

## Indiana

Deborah S. Block, MMC  
City Clerk  
Mishawaka

Sandra C. Hash, MMC  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Ellettsville

Judith C. Rhodes, MMC  
City Clerk-Treasurer  
West Lafayette

Sharon E. Swihart, MMC  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Valparaiso

Mary Beth Wisniewski, CMC  
Chief Deputy  
South Bend

## Kentucky

Debra Batliner, MMC  
City Clerk-Treasurer  
Simpsonville

Lisa R. Dunbar, CMC  
City Clerk  
Maysville

Jeanette Kemper, MMC  
City Clerk  
Edgewood

Julia A. Sellers, CMC  
City Clerk-Treasurer  
Earlington

Christine F. Upton, MMC  
City Clerk  
Hopkinsville

Denise R. West, CMC  
Administrative Secretary  
Taylor Mill

## Michigan

Melanie D. Babij, CMC  
Deputy Clerk  
Grosse Pointe Woods  
Catherine Buck, MMC  
City Clerk  
Walled Lake

Jane L. Cartwright, MMC  
City Clerk  
Howell

Tamyra K. Gillis, CMC  
Deputy Clerk  
Big Rapids

Adam D. Herringa, CMC  
Deputy City Clerk  
Portage

Sue A. Hillebrand, MMC  
Township Clerk  
Northville

Joel H. Hondorp, CMC  
Township Clerk  
Byron Center

Heidi A. Isakson, MMC  
City Clerk  
Wyoming

Karen S. Jipping, CMC  
Deputy Clerk  
Zeeland

G. Machele Kukuk, MMC  
City Clerk  
Clawson

Sandra LaJoie, CMC  
Deputy Clerk  
Southfield Township

Doreen A. Martin, CMC  
Clerk Assistant  
Birmingham

DiAnn M. Jamerson, MMC  
Village Clerk-Treasurer  
Plymouth

## Michigan

Linda F. Shannon, MMC  
City Clerk  
Auburn Hills

Cynthia A. Sinck, MMC  
Township Clerk  
Marshall

Ann Ulrich, MMC  
Township of Hartland  
Hartland

Cheltzi M. Wilson, CMC  
City Clerk  
East Jordan

## Ohio

Kimberly M. McWilliams, CMC  
Clerk of Council  
Groveport

Sue D. Ross, CMC  
City Clerk  
Powell

Lauri K. TenEyck-Rupp, MMC  
Village Clerk-Treasurer  
Holiday City

## Tennessee

Shirley Dancy, CMC  
City Recorder  
Gates

Deborah L. Hedgepath, CMC  
City Recorder  
Brentwood

Cindy A. Mitchell, MMC  
City Recorder  
Knoxville

Kelly M. Rider, CMC  
City Recorder  
Ridgetop

Stacey L. Williams, CMC  
City Clerk  
Maury City





## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (May - August 2009)

### Indiana

Donna Bishop  
First Deputy Clerk-  
Treasurer  
Bargersville

Mindy Brines  
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer  
Princeton

Randy D. Geesaman  
City Clerk-Treasurer  
Portland

Carla D. Roy  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Bargersville

Connie L. Stern  
Deputy Clerk  
Sheridan

### Kentucky

Jami J. Green  
City Clerk  
Wickliffe

Debra Gross  
City Clerk-Treasurer  
Hyden

Vicki Hayden  
Asst. City Clerk  
Elkton

Rheba Roten  
City Clerk  
Douglas Hills

### Michigan

Kathryn M. Arledge  
Village Clerk  
Fowlerville

Christine Carrasco  
Township Clerk  
Oscoda

Terry Lilley  
Clerk  
White Lake

Stevan Nedin  
City Associate  
New Baltimore

Darlene O'Neal  
Deputy City Clerk  
Grand Rapids

Kimberly M. Rich  
Election Clerk  
Eastpointe

Karen Lovejoy Roe  
Clerk  
Ypsilanti

Nancy Wrybkowski  
Deputy Clerk  
Ypsilanti

### Ohio

Brenda K. Etter  
Chief Financial Officer  
New Lebanon

Lisa Spraggins  
Deputy Clerk of Council  
Twinsburg

Sandra F. Wright  
Clerk of Council  
New Lebanon

### Tennessee

Linda C. Steele  
City Clerk  
Hazard

### IIMC REGION V MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

8/30/09

**Indiana** 195

**Kentucky** 155

**Michigan** 521

**Ohio** 211

**Tennessee** 173

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**Total** 1255

## **Brenda Young, Region V Director from Indiana**



### **HELLO FROM THE BEAUTIFUL HILLS OF NASHVILLE, INDIANA**

It is officially autumn and our busy season is just around the corner. We are a small town of 825 residents and approximately 3 to 4 million visitors each year. We are certainly grateful when nature turns the leaves an array of red, orange and yellow. One can almost feel a sense of excitement in the air. Next weekend, I will be among the crowds wandering the streets enjoying the magic of this quaint little town. As one of your Region V Directors I am blessed to represent this

fine region. We truly have a great group of professionals who are always striving to improve our educational opportunities and strengthen our communities. It has been such a pleasure serving you these past 2 ½ years and I look forward to continued service these upcoming months.

### **REGION BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **2009 ANNUAL IIMC CONFERENCE – CHICAGO, IL**

Congratulations are in order to all of the host committees, IIMC Staff and our IIMC Officers. It was a great conference and offered many educational and networking opportunities.

#### **RE-CAP OF REGION V MEETING – MAY 20, 2009 – CHICAGO, IL**

(A very special thank you goes out to Clerk-Treasurer Amy Roberts of Danville, Indiana for taking notes for us during the Region V Meeting.)

The Region V Meeting was called to order by Region Directors Kathy Dornan and Brenda Young. All were welcomed to the meeting and guests and past directors were introduced. IIMC President Elect Mary Lynne Strata stopped by to say hello and to welcome our Region V attendees to Chicago. Our own IIMC Vice-President Sharon Cassler was introduced and welcomed and encouraged members to attend future IIMC events.

#### **IIMC CONFERENCE - 2011**

Marilyn Swing of Nashville, TN extended an invitation to the 2011 IIMC Conference which will be held in the great state of Tennessee. The conference will be held at the Opryland Hotel which is a magnificent venue.

#### **UPCOMING REGION V MEETING**

Members voted on proposed dates for the next Region V meeting. It was decided that the next meeting will be held in Michigan during the second weekend of September 2010.



## **REGION V DINNER – 2010 IIMC CONFERENCE, RENO, NV**

A general consensus was taken about having a Region V Dinner at the Annual Conference in Reno, NV. The Region Directors will try to arrange a dinner in Reno, NV for all who would like to attend.

## **STATE REPORTS**

**Indiana** - Larry Breeze, President of the ILMCT, presented Nashville, TN with a check for \$1,000 for the 2011 IIMC Conference and announced that the last Institute had over 100 in attendance.

**Kentucky** – President Debbie Batliner announced that they are starting a master’s program for Kentucky Clerks and they were working hard to encourage continuing education by their members.

**Michigan** – President Ann Ulrich announced their upcoming conference would be held in Frankenmuth, MI and that their membership was up to 740.

**Ohio** – President Diane Jamison announced that the Ohio Clerks held a silent auction and raised \$720.00 to help the Tennessee Clerks with the 2011 conference. Also that the Ohio Clerks Institute was switching over to Kent State.

**Tennessee** – President Shirley Dancy welcomed all Region members to help with fund raising ideas for the 2011 conference. A lot of money is needed to be raised by the sponsoring city to hold an international conference of this size.

**Region V Director** – Tami Kelly, Ohio, was introduced as the incoming Region V Director, replacing Kathy Dornan whose term would end during the annual conference.

Region Directors Kathy and Brenda reported the following from the IIMC Board meeting:

- Lance Deckard, strategic planner is working with the IIMC Board to address areas of concerns. All litigations have been resolved and adjustments have been made to ensure that we take appropriate action going forward.
- CMC applications are now caught up.
- MMC applications are now receiving extra help in processing.
- Going forward we should see a much shorter processing time for all applications.
- IIMC will be cutting budget due to the decline in the economy.
- IIMC has 862 delegates in attendance this week with over 50% located in Region V, VI & VII.
- IIMC has 10,100 memberships.
- There is currently a push for new memberships among regions.
- IIMC annual conference schedule:
  - 2010 Reno, NV
  - 2011 Nashville, TN
  - 2012 Portland, OR
  - 2013 Atlanta, GA

Tami Kelly reported on the International Exchange Scholarships that are available to any delegate.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57am after Kathy Dornan said her good bye.

**To our friend and colleague Kathy Dornan,**

I would like to say a great big "THANK YOU" from all of us! You served Region V with enthusiasm, dignity, professionalism and we can't leave off the humor! You were a pleasure to work with and we do appreciate all that you continue to do for this great organization.

**To our friend and colleague Tami Kelly,**

We welcome you as our Region Director and we look forward to working with you! You bring with you experience in IIMC committees and we can't help but see your enthusiasm for this fine organization! Welcome!

My wish is that all of you have a wonderful autumn season and experience a little bit of that autumn "magic".

Sincerely,  
Brenda K. Young, IAMC, MMC



**Tami Kelly, Region V Director from Ohio**

**GREETINGS FROM GROOVY GROVE CITY, OHIO.**

My City is about 35,000 in population and we just held our Arts-in-the-Alley event. It kicks off the Fall season around here, and by the drop in temperature lately, I believe Fall has arrived! I'm usually looking forward to seeing everyone at our Region meeting about now also, but our new schedule will have me waiting a while to see all your beautiful, friendly faces. It is exciting to be working for all of you as one of your Directors and I am looking forward to my first Mid-Year Board meeting. Please share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns with Brenda and I, so we can represent you well. Blessings to you and your families for a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas.

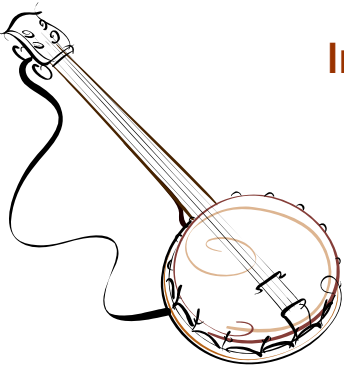
Sincerely,  
Tami Kelly, MMC

**STATE CONFERENCES**

**October 5 – 9, 2009  
Ohio & West Virginia  
Municipal Clerks' Institute  
Kent State University, Stark Campus, North Canton, OH**

**October 8 – 9, 2009  
Ohio & West Virginia  
Municipal Clerks Academy  
Kent State University, Stark Campus, North Canton, OH**

**2011 International Conference  
International Institute of Municipal Clerks  
Nashville, Tennessee  
May 8-12, 2011**



**2011 CONFERENCE REPORT**

We are busily making notes to help assure that the **2011 IIMC Annual Conference in Nashville** is a great one!!

For the three Region V states that have hosted an International Conference in the recent past, you know that lists are already being made and will continue to grow over the next three years with the hundreds of details that must be handled to produce a top-notch professional -- and fun!! -- conference for all. Clerks from each state in our region have already begun to come forward -- we are so thrilled with your willingness to help us in that way!! -- and Tennessee clerks, many of whom have never attended an IIMC Annual Conference, are volunteering and making the 3-year commitment to help produce this great event. That's why Tennessee's nickname has been "The Volunteer State" since 1812.

With the numerous venue options for the Opening Reception and All-Conference events in Music City U.S.A., we will be busy over the next few months with site visits and listening to what TAMCAR and Region V members hope to experience in Nashville in 2011 as we begin to make some major decisions about events.

We are working continually on fund-raising to cover host committee expenses and the special touches we want to put on the 2011 conference.

At this point we need as much input as we can get from Region V members for our conference planning. Is there something specific that you hope to experience while in Nashville? Is there a part of the IIMC conference that you think needs drastic improvement? What little touches do you like or think are unnecessary? Please let us hear from you -- it could make the difference between a good and great conference in 2011.

Please send your suggestions and ideas to:  
Marilyn S. Swing, MMC, 2011 Conference Host Clerk  
[marilyn.swing@nashville.gov](mailto:marilyn.swing@nashville.gov)