

MACA eNews

Summer 2023

Message from the President

I'm AMAZED how the years, months and days pass swiftly by, and before you know it, a new MACA President is sworn in. Which leads me to take this opportunity to express how grateful and excited I am to serve this organization as your President for next two years. This was a historic occasion for me, and I humbly plan to follow the leadership of such an elite group of men and women who has left a legacy and who puts the memberships needs first. Moreover, let me not forget our executive board who serve with passion and perseverance, who sit through a countless number of hours in meetings exchanging ideas to seek solutions, to change By-Laws and Policy and Procedures for the BEST interest of our organization and its members. As we are aware, without our members, our MACA organization doesn't exist!

Additionally, this Organization's display of support, encouragement and well wishes, as I find my pathway for the next two years, speaks volumes! You all have really touched my heart! I am more devoted than ever before to serve this organization with integrity, honor, and the uppermost values.

As we now enter the month of July, it is hard to believe the Annual Conference in May has come and gone. I would like to thank Stacey Fields and our Education Committee, which includes Ericka Jones, the PA Representative for the commitment to work together and bring forth all your hard work to find the best training sessions and speakers to meet the education needs for our professions. The Clerks and PA Clerks were front and center in the majority of the sessions for this year's conference. Hats-off to our ENTIRE Education Committee, you all continue to rise to the occasion, however difficult it might be. If you have ever sat in the background to watch the details and the number of hours that goes into planning, you would be amazed. Thank You, Thank You for all that you do!! Belinda Pearson who facilitates, our conference, thank you for the great job and always going over a beyond the call of duty! Did you all get Groovy with Lezlie Meyer and Region 3 at the Social?!! Lots of fun and games! So many people getting groovy, lots of peace love and music, while we dance the night away! Great job Lezlie and Region 3!

Our Fall Conference will be held October 10th- 13th at the Hampton Inn & Suites-Columbia at the University of Missouri. I am hoping if all goes well at the Fall Conference in October, I can see this hotel as a permanent location to host our future conferences in the fall. Reminds me a lot of the Drury Inn in Cape, that all the members raved about a couple of years ago. We requested a lot of detailed information regarding their check-in process and hotel procedures just to make sure. Fingers crossed.

A quote from Forest Gump: "my mama always said, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get!" Therefore, take time to smell the roses and enjoy the million little things in life! ---Have a safe summer and I can't wait to see you all at the Fall Conference!

LaJohna R. Wooldridge

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2023 MACA FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 10 - OCTOBER 13, 2023

HAMPTON INN & SUITES
1225 FELLOW'S PLACE BLVD
COLUMBIA, MO 65201

**Registration and hotel
information coming soon!!!!**



MACA Scholarship 2023 Fall Conference

MACA is accepting applications for 1 Court Clerk and 1 Prosecutor Clerk to attend the Annual Fall Conference. The scholarship covers conference registration for the recipients.

Guidelines are:

Applicant must be a Court Administrator, Court Clerk or Prosecutor Clerk.

Applicant must be an active member of MACA.

Applicant must be certified or working toward certification.

Applicant must agree to the recipient's requirements:

1. Recipient must file an application by the July 31, 2023 deadline to receive the Fall Annual Conference scholarship.
2. Recipient's application MUST be fully completed.
3. Recipient must submit a written expense report with receipts upon return from the Conference.
4. Recipient must sign an agreement to volunteer a minimum of three hours to be as scheduled by the MACA Board during the Fall Conference.



MACA CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FALL 2023

**MANDATORY
3 HOURS OF
VOLUNTEER
SERVICE DURING
THE MACA
CONFERENCE**

Name: _____

Court Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Business Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please check one: Court Administrator/Clerk _____ Prosecutor Clerk _____

Court Administrator/Clerk for ____months/years (circle one)

Prosecutor Clerk for _____ months/years (circle one)

MACA Member Since: _____

MUNICIPALITY INFORMATION

City Population: 10,000 or UNDER OVER 10,000

Number of Full-Time Court/Prosecutor Clerk (circle one) Employees: _____

Number of Part-Time Court/Prosecutor Clerk (circle one) Employees: _____

_____ Work Hours per week/month (circle one)

Does your court collect \$1.00 from court costs for the Judicial Education Fund (JEF)? [§479.260](#)

*Yes No (Court Clerks Only)

If YES, please document the amount collected in last fiscal year: \$ _____

Amount budgeted for Travel/Education for Municipal Court/Prosecutor Clerk employees:

\$ _____

Are any travel expenses assumed by the Administrator/Clerk?

*Yes No

If YES, explain: _____

*****A copy of your budget for the last fiscal year MUST be included with this application*****

MACA USE ONLY—

Date Application Received: _____

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM ON JULY 31, 2023

MAIL TO: **Sylvia Deering**
Pineville Municipal Division
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s.deering@pinevillemo.us

Policy and Procedure updates for Certifications

The Board has approved the following changes for obtaining your Certification(s).

There is now only **ONE** deadline to submit applications. All applications must be received before March 1st. You can submit your applications anytime before the March deadline. Certifications will be given at the Spring Conference.

Four (4) **consecutive** years of MACA membership are no longer required. You only need four (4) years of MACA membership.

***CLERK
SHOUT OUT***



Submitted by:
Jeanette Chastiain

I would like to do a shout out to Jeanelle McDaniel, Oakview Municipal Certified Court Administrator.

Jeanelle is retiring after 43 years as being the Court Administrator for the City of Oakview.

She served many years on the WACA Board and has been a mentor to many of the clerks in the Region 2 membership. Her last day is June 29, 2023.

She was just a phone call away and always eager to help.



In Loving Memory of Juanita Hughes

Submitted by: Taran Svoboda

Some people come into your life like a wrecking ball and give you no other option than to love them. Juanita Hughes is that person for me.

Juanita came into my life as an applicant for my Deputy Clerk position in December 2017. In the interview, she was full of energy, and I immediately felt a connection with her. At one point, she even sprawled out and simultaneously answered an interview question by saying, "Yea, and I'm Miss America!"

Uhhhh.....HIRED!

Her personality just spoke to me. I felt her vibrations, and I left that interview knowing she was my pick.

Juanita was my right-hand woman until health and family reasons forced her to retire in 2021. However, she remained a permanent fixture in my life regardless of her employment status.

Juanita was the life of the party ALL THE DAMN TIME! This woman was a good time, all the time. Never a dull moment. NEVER.

She was old enough to be my mom, and while she was very maternal to me, more importantly, she was one of my closest friends in life. She had a genuine heart of gold.



She brought out the best in me, and I loved how she made me feel. She energized me. She also brought out my orneriest side, and we spent a good portion of our time playing practical jokes on each other. LOTS of them. They were usually set in the maturity level of a pre-pubescent boy.

June 2023, we were having a great day. We were laughing and carrying on and didn't have a care in the world. Until she collapsed. She collapsed and wasn't breathing or responsive. Somehow, I was able to act quickly, and I immediately administered CPR until someone arrived and announced they were a nurse, and I stepped back. I then had an adrenaline dump and lost it. My friend was lying lifeless in front of me... dying.

There were so many wonderful people who jumped in to help. Complete strangers offering hugs and doing whatever they could in the moment. First responders arriving quickly and took control. Everything was a blur, and I don't even remember focusing on anything or anyone in particular because my critical thinking was completely depleted.

I rode with her by ambulance to the hospital, somehow knowing my friend wasn't going to make it. But still having hope at the same time. Even though she started breathing again, she was not responsive.

My clerks have become my closest friends in life. The people I work right next to and have seen some of the worst versions of me have also shared some of the best moments with me, and I love you all dearly.

While this is less of a "thank a clerk" post and more of a memorial post, it reminds us all to appreciate those around us while we have the chance. Juanita, I love you fiercely, my friend. I know you're already making new friends. Even though you are gone, you are sharing gifts with other families, and I find peace knowing you will live on in others.

Please keep the Hughes family and Juanita's long list of friends in your thoughts. We've suffered a devastating loss.