

GENESEE COUNTY CLERK'S/TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION MEETING
MAY 6, 1998, 12:00 P.M., WALLI'S SUPPER CLUB

The Meeting was called to order by Ginger Spencer, President, at 12:40 P.M.

Ginger explained that an envelope would be passed around for a free-will offering to help our treasury pay for any additional speakers we may have, mailing of notices and sympathy cards and stamps.

Ginger said our guest speaker will be Jennie Barkey from the Friend of the Court. She will be giving us an update on the new Family Court. She will not be joining us for lunch today.

A thank you was given to Debbie Gorey, Deputy Treasurer, from Flint Township, who collected the money for our lunches and dues each month. Thanks Debbie, for a job well done.

GUEST SPEAKER - Jennie Barkey, Friend of the Court:

Jennie explained that a great deal has happened since she was at the meeting last year. She explained some of the changes that have occurred and what they mean to the people. She also reviewed some of the future plans involving the Court system.

Jennie gave a handout of the Corporate Structure of the Family Court. The Judges include Joe Farrah, Duncan Beagle, Bruce Newman and Thomas Gadola. The Court has been broken down into divisions such as paternity, non-support, civil and criminal matters. Under the new Family Court, the same judge stays involved with the child if he/she get in trouble and comes from a divorced family.

There are 48,000 cases that had to be changed and both the County Clerk and the Friend of the Court staffs worked together to get this running efficiently.

The procedures for the domestic case process is as follows: After a case is filed with children involved, there is a divorce class taught with the Judge. Of those who came to the classes, 97% said they got something out of them. The sessions are offered both live and on video and the thrust of the classes is what NOT to do to your kids during a divorce. The Judges order a Standing Temporary Domestic Relations Order which includes the following areas: Relocation of children; Child support; Treatment of children; Conduct of the parties during the case; Disposition of assets and cash; Personal and business records/insurance; Additional debt; Sanctions; Application of this order; Service of order and Exchange of information. There are no changes made to the content of this standing order without the written signature of all the assigned Judges of the Family Court.

Jennie explained that because there are fewer Judges in the Family Court, there are fewer trial dates. That is still a great deal of work to be done, but they are proud of the accomplishments to date. She reviewed the direct deposit program and said they are currently working on letting the machines do what they are capable of and having the people work with people.

Jennie noted that she and Sheriff Joe Wilson are working together to get the individuals who are not paying their child support, in and out of jail within a 24 hour period due to the overcrowding of the jail. The Judges are agreeing to arraign and have a trial within this 24 hour period. We are having the people spend time in New Path while waiting for their arraignment. Usually 9 out of 10 people pay what is needed in lieu of going to jail. As we speak, there are women being arrested for non payment of child support. So far, there have been 15 arrested this morning. We need to get the message out that having both parents is important to a child and anything we can do to encourage parents to spend more time with their children is important.

Jennie entertained a question and answer session.

GENESEE CLERK'S/TREASURER'S MINUTES
MAY 6, 1998/12:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CLERKS:

Janet Johnston spoke concerning the Qualified Voter File. She advised that in speaking with Emanuel at State Elections, the Genesee County Clerks have a better grip on what we are supposed to be doing than any other County in the State. They would like everyone to remain patient as they are aware the system is not perfect. There is concern that we may turn away a voter because of not being on the new computer system.

Janet noted that on June 17th at Weekday's Restaurant, the Governmental Clerks will meet for the quarterly meeting. At that meeting, we will be having either Emanuel or Sue McRill from State Elections to discuss the Qualified Voter File.

TREASURERS:

Ginger said she had a typed copy of the meeting held at the Equalization Department and these would be sent out with the minutes of the meeting. She stated that the Treasurer's Seminar at Grand Blanc Township was sponsored by Jeff Cyphert, NBD Bank and Standard Federal. She thanked them for the successful seminar.

Ginger said Janet is working with Lapeer County to try and get the two groups to meet either here or somewhere in their County. If they can't meet in June, possibly this could be done in the Fall.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Secretary