

Vol 7, Issue 1

Spring 2013

The Reporter's
Notebook



The Official Newsletter of Georgia's
Magistrate Court Clerks

Executive Committee, 2011-2013

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Carla Brown, Lee County

Vice President
Cynthia Kelly, Burke County

Secretary/Treasurer
Gayle Gazaway, Whitfield County

Immediate Past President
Vacant

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2011-2013**

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Jo Anne Jones, Lowndes County

DISTRICT 3
Jackie Norman, Lee County

DISTRICT 4
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DISTRICT 5
Mark Harper, Fulton County

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Leslie Dukes, Fayette County

DISTRICT 7
Sonya Petty, Murray County

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Table of Content

Greetings from the Presidents.....	2
Happenings.....	2
From Your Advisor.....	4
Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and Secretaries 2012-2013 Officers & District Representatives.....	5
The Listserv...is ready to serve you!.....	6
Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and Secretaries Budget Period.....	7
Council of Magistrate Court Clerks Business Meeting.....	8
Membership Dues.....	10
Magistrate Court Change in Personnel.....	11
Nominating Committee Chair.....	12
2012 Caseload Data Collection for Georgia Courts.....	13
Twelve Hour Magistrate Clerks Training.....	14

Greetings from the President

Hello to everyone. I hope this letter finds you having a great 2013 year so far. I know we have been very busy in Lee County. It was good to see everyone in Savannah at school.

The council has been going full force since our return from Savannah in December. In January we had a meeting in Athens to plan our curriculum for Clerk's training in June. In case you do not know we are having it at Lake Lanier Island Resort, June 20-21. I hope by having it during the summer that this will allow a higher attendance of clerks. I am excited about our summer meeting and training session.

We have, as a council, made a few changes. We are no longer known as The Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and Secretaries. We are now incorporated and known as The Council of Magistrate Court Clerks. The yearly

dues have increased from \$10.00 per clerk to \$15.00 to help offset the cost of training. If you haven't paid your yearly dues, please speak with Gayle Gazaway from Whitfield County.

At this year's meeting it will be an election year. I hope you can make plans to attend and let your voice be heard. Without you, our council would not work.

We have been working on legislation to mandate training for the clerks. After speaking with some representatives, we feel that this is not the appropriate time to move forward with our bill. However, we are not giving up on the bill.

Hope to see you in June.

Carla Brown,
Lee County

Happenings...

Burke County New Additions

Burke County Magistrate Court added two new part-time magistrates in 2013:

Cynthia D. Kelley (Also the Chief Clerk) and Clifford Carter, Jr. There was also the addition of one full time clerk, Ms. Lena Travis.

The Butts County Magistrate Court would like to announce their new staff:

Rebecca Pitts, Chief Magistrate,
Stephanie Davies, Associate Magistrate
Charles Lawson, Associate Magistrate
Clerk of Court, Megan Kinsey

Happenings cont...

Happenings from Lee County Magistrate Court

Happenings from the hometown of Luke Bryan, Buster Posey, and Phillip Phillips!

In case you didn't know, they are all from Leesburg, Lee County and we are so proud of their accomplishments!

Judge James "Jim" Thurman ran unopposed this term. Yeah, four more years!

Carla Brown's youngest son, Matt was deployed in January. Let's all keep our military in our prayers. We should be thankful to them all for serving and keeping our country safe.

Jackie Norman became a mamaw in September 2012. Her granddaughter is Kylie Rane.

And Buddy Craver and his wife Marie will be celebrating their 35th anniversary in April.

We are getting a Chick-fil-A in May. It will be located right in front of Publix on US

19. (Boy we have waited a long time for this!)

We are looking forward to the Clerk's training in June at Lake Lanier for some learning, socializing with all of you and some fun in the sun!

News from Charlton County

Charlton County has had a lot of changes in the Magistrate Court. As of December 31, 2012, Chief Magistrate Judge Billy R. Sands and Associate Judge Pamalyn R. Suggs retired.

The Magistrate Court consolidated with the Probate Court January 1, 2013. Judge Suggs ran against incumbent Robert F Phillips, Probate Judge for the Magistrate-Probate seat in the November 2012 election. Judge Robert F Phillips won and presides over both offices. Judge Phillips appointed Magistrate Clerk, Cheryl McMillan as Associate Magistrate Judge and was sworn in February 21, 2013.

I look forward to seeing you at Lake Lanier in July!!

Cheryl McMillan



From Your Advisor:

I hope all of you had a wonderful New Year. First, I want to start off with saying how good it was to see all of you at the Clerks training in Savannah. The training was great, the weather was great, our meals were great, our hotel was wonderful and so was the fellowship with all of you. It is hard to believe that the time has flown by so fast, with another new year and many changes for a lot of you. Some of you were blessed to still be with your courts, but some of you have left or retired. For those that retired, we will miss them, but I wish them the best in the world. For those of you that have new Judges and new fellow clerks, we wish you a great and successful next 4 years.

It is so hard to believe that it is March and spring is almost here. Our Council President, Carla Brown, and your Executive Committee of the Council of Magistrate Court Clerks, have been working hard with Dr. Lynda Hanscome and Tiffany Sargent, for our upcoming training for Magistrate Court Clerks and our Annual Business meeting for June 20th thru the 22nd, 2013 at Lake Lanier Islands. They met with Dr. Hanscome and Ms. Sargent in Athens for a Curriculum Planning meeting on January 18th, 2013, to plan for that training and they have planned an excellent training agenda for you. Dr. Hanscome mailed out all of the information to you all earlier for your registration and we already have a good many clerks signed up. She really provided a wonderful training last year and will be presenting another great one again this year. She and Tiffany work so hard to make sure that

you get the clerks training you need and you can take that information and knowledge you gained back to your fellow clerks that are unable to attend. We all are truly looking forward to the upcoming training and meeting and looking forward to seeing all of you again.

I want to thank you, each and every one of you, for all you do for your Judges. If it were not for you all, we could not do our jobs. Remember, you are the backbone of the Magistrate Courts. You represent us.

By the way, if anyone is interested in working on the newsletter or is interested in being in charge of the newsletter, please let me know. I promise I won't lose you names next time.

Well, that's all for now. I really look forward to seeing you all at Lake Lanier. Take Care.

Connie Holt
Chief Judge
Magistrate Court
Morgan County
(706)342-3088
cholt@morganga.org

COUNCIL OF MAGISTRATE COURT CLERKS AND SECRETARIES 2012-2013 OFFICERS & DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

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Cynthia Kelley, Vice President • Burke Co. Magistrate Court • P.O. Box 1375
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cynthia1375@burkecounty-ga.gov

Gayle Collins, Secretary/Treasurer • Whitfield Co. Magistrate Court • P.O. Box 386
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Vacant

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59 Justice Way
Dawsonsonvillle, Ga. 30534
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jalday@Dawsonmagistrate.com

District Ten

Vacant

The Listserv...is ready to serve you!

The Magistrate Clerks' Listserv's purpose is to automatically send information out as well as provide interaction between all Magistrate Clerk/Secretary subscribers. For those of you who are not aware here are a few reasons to join listerv:

- 1) It's an inexpensive (no-cost) way to interact with fellow Magistrates Court Clerks and discuss issues concerning your class of court,
- 2) Great way to seek out advice on unusual cases or cases you may have not experienced before and,
- 3) It's a quick way to send urgent notices that may other wise require sending postcards, making long distance calls (faxes) and playing phone tag (remember the cost buildup).

The Council encourages you to subscribe to this list. It is convenient, infor-

mative, and not to mention, it can be used as a great reference in referring to past events. Subscribing takes one call or e-mail. Once you have subscribed, you will receive a welcome message, providing instructions on using the service

To subscribe to the Magistrate Listserv, please contact LaShawn Murphy, AOC, at (404) 651-6325 or via email at murphyla@gaaoc.us

Welcome aboard to all new subscribers!

Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and Secretaries Budget Period

BUDGET PERIOD

NOVEMBER 20, 2012 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2013

Balance as of November 20, 2012	\$10,411.64
Deposits for October 30, 2012 thru March 4, 2013	0.00
Check #1008 to I.C.J.E. for training	-3,300.00
Check #1009 to Gayle Gazaway---Reimbursement for door prizes.	-103.95
Check #1010 to McCamy Law Firm for incorporating The Council of Magistrate Court Clerks	-165.00
Check # 1011 to Carla Brown---Reimbursement for the cost of certificates.	-71.40
Balance as of 11/20/12	\$ 6,771.29

Bank Reconciliation Statements shown upon request.

The request for the clerks' dues is in the newsletter. At the printing of the financial report, March 4th, only one county has paid 2013 dues and it was paid at the time 2012 dues were paid.

Gayle Gazaway
Secretary/Treasurer

Council of Magistrate Court Clerks Business Meeting Winter-December 4, 2012

Welcome and Call to Order

The Annual Business Meeting of the Council of Magistrate Court Clerks met at 12:30 p.m. on December 4, 2012 at Hilton DeSoto in Savannah, Georgia.

The meeting was called to order by President Carla Brown.

The President began the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing herself, the officers and the representatives that were present. She also announced the retiring of Past President Debbie Barron and then acknowledged the clerks that were present for the first time.

Minutes

The minutes from last meeting were read and approved.

Financial Report

The financial report was read and approved.

Old Business

1. Proposed legislation to mandate clerks training is being perfected by the Magistrate Court Clerks Council as there are some amendments that still need to be made. The proposal has been reviewed by the Magistrate Judges Training Council and the Council of Magistrate Court Judges who offered suggestions. A request was made for clerks to talk to their Chief Magistrates about getting it passed. A copy was distributed for everyone to review and it was requested that members also talk to their State Representatives and Senators to help get it passed.
2. Reminded clerks of the Listserv and their need to join. To do so they should contact LaShawn Murphy with the A.O.C. Ms. Murphy was then introduced.

New Business

1. Discussion took place regarding the need to change the Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and Secretaries to the Council of Magistrate Court Clerks and get incorporated.

Business Meeting cont...

2. Proposal to increase dues from ten dollars (\$10.00) to fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

A Motion to approve the increase was made and seconded. It passed with all was in favor.

3. Stacey Askew, Nominating Committee Chair talked about the need for participation from all the clerks. Elections will be held in June.

4. Judge Holt, Council of Magistrate Court Clerks' Advisor, announced there is a need for assistance with gathering information for the newsletter in addition to information for inclusion in the newsletter.

The next training session will be in Buford, Georgia at the Lake Lanier Island Resort, June 20-21, 2013.

In final, door prizes were given to seven (7) clerks with names being drawn at random.

Motion made, Seconded and approved by all to adjourn the meeting.
Respectfully submitted by Gayle Gazaway, Council of Magistrate Court Clerks' Secretary/Treasurer.



Membership Dues

COUNCIL OF MAGISTRATE COURT CLERKS AND SECRETARIES

P O BOX 386
DALTON GA 30722-0386
(706) 876-1519
FAX: (706) 278-8810
EMAIL: ggazaway@whitfieldcountyga.com

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2013 ARE \$15.00 ANNUALLY PER PERSON
(Please remit to the above address A.S.A.P.)

COURT NAME: _____

COUNTY: _____

CONTACT PERSON/NAME & TITLE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

NAME & TITLE OF CLERKS, DEPUTY CLERKS, & SECRETARIES:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____

If you need more space, duplicate this form.

AMOUNT REMITTED _____

Gayle Gazaway,
Secretary/Treasurer

THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
SUITE 300
244 WASHINGTON STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-5900
404-656-5171
FAX: 404-651-6449

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN MAGISTRATE COURT PERSONNEL

In accordance with the Uniform Rules for Magistrates Courts: Rule 13. Notice of selection of magistrates, constables and clerks of magistrate court. Whenever a magistrate, constable, or clerk (but not deputy clerks) of the magistrate court shall take the oath required for office in O.C.G.A. § 15-10-3, the chief magistrate shall forward to the Administrative Office of the Courts the name and title of the person taking the oath; the name of the person being succeeded; the term of office, if appropriate; the date assuming duties; and the address and telephone number the official wishes to use for business correspondence.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE SENIOR MAGISTRATE MAGISTRATE
CHIEF CLERK DEPUTY CLERK CLERK CONSTABLE

COUNTY _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE(____) _____ FAX (____) _____

EMAIL _____

GENDER: Female Male FULL-TIME PART-TIME

ATTORNEY: Yes No

ELECTION/APPOINTMENT DATE: _____ TERM from _____ to _____

REAPPOINTMENT: Yes No TERM from: _____ to _____

Replacing someone? _____ If So, Who? _____

Has this person ever served as a magistrate? If so, when and in what county? _____

(Optional) Are you Spanish/Hispanic/Latino Yes No

(Optional): RACE African American (Black) Asian \ Pacific

Euro American (White) American Indian or Alaska Native

Fax or mail this form to the Administrative Office of the Courts at the contact information above.

Submitted by: NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____

News: Dooly County, Stacey Askew: Nominating Committee Chair

Happy New Year!! I hope all is well until we meet again....

Chief Magistrate Al Willis was reappointed by unanimous vote on December 6, 2012. Thank you Dooly County Commissioners for another four year term. You know what this means? I will also have a job for the next four years as well.... LOL

Our daughter, Nicosha Sierra Askew will graduate this year from high school. Congratulations baby! Nicosha will have survived for ten years March, 2013 of an inoperable brain tumor called Brainstem Glioma. Her tumor remains stable however; due to radiation therapy she has other issues. I have been very busy; she has developed some new medical issues this past year. She is a patient at St Jude Children Research Hospital Memphis TN. Overall she is doing well taking one day at a time.

Please make note: My email account was hacked last year. Make sure you have the correct email address in your contacts. If you email me and you do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt please call the office at 229-268-4324 to confirm. (doolymagclerk@yahoo.com)

Sonya Petty, Murray County has elected to resign from being District Seven Representative.

Thank you Sonya for your years of service. Monika Welch, Bartow County has volunteered to fill the position until the Election June, 2013. As of December 11, 2012 the Executive Committee appointed Monika Welch to serve as District Seven Representative. Also, Wendy Peacock, Rockdale County announced she has a new job starting January, 2013. Congratulations! **Thank you Wendy for your years of service.** District Four position is vacant only two counties are available for replacement (DeKalb and Rockdale County). District eight will be available for nominations. Here is a list of some of the counties in district eight: Dooly, Morgan, Greene, Wilkinson and Ben Hill counties. Please be advised the counties from district eight are listed due to the participation from last year attendance.

If there are any changes that may occur in your office e.g. Retirement, change of Career etc. please contact your District Representative. If you do not know what district you are in please do not hesitate to contact me. Our goal is to keep accurate records for the Council of Magistrate Court Clerks.

ELECTION YEAR: JUNE 2013

1. NO ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL BE SUBMITTED
2. ALL NOMINATIONS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED THIRTY DAYS (30) DAY PRIOR TO THE ELECTION MONTH. THIS IS DUE TO THE BALLOT HAVE TO BE PREPARED AND APPROVED.
3. EACH OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS.
 - EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Secretary/Treasurer (General Membership)
 - DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES
 - Ten (10) Members Elected from General Membership
4. EMAIL OR MAIL NOMINATIONS TO:
 - doolymagclerk@yahoo.com
 - 113 N 3rd Street, Room 2, Vienna, Georgia 31092
 - **YOU MUST BE PRESENT AT THE CLERKS TRAINING**



Judicial Council of Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts

Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein
Chair

Marla S. Moore
Director

March 1, 2013

TO: All Magistrate Court Clerks

RE: 2012 Caseload Data Collection for Georgia Courts

Annually since 1976, the Judicial Council and Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) have worked with local officials to measure activity in Georgia courts for the purpose of informing state and county management and policy decisions. In partnership with the Council of Magistrate Court Judges, this letter marks the initiation of the calendar year 2012 caseload data collection for magistrate courts. The caseload reporting period is January 1 through December 31, 2012, and the data submission deadline is **Friday May 3, 2013**.

Attached, please find the *Georgia Caseload Reporting Guide: CY 2012*, which contains instructions and forms to assist with submitting caseload information. Again this year we direct you to <https://myaocportal.georgiacourts.gov/login.html> to report the caseload online through the AOC Portal.

As always, staff in the Office of Research, Planning and Data Analysis (Research) are available to respond to questions and comments by telephone and email and to assist with technical issues relating to the AOC Portal. For assistance, you may call 404-463-6298 or send an email to caseload@gaoc.us.

The 2012 caseload for all Georgia courts will be reported on the AOC's website late this year. Individual requests for caseload data and/or analyses may also be directed to the Research staff.

Thank you for your assistance and continued support of the caseload reporting project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Marla S. Moore in black ink.

Marla S. Moore
Director, Administrative Office of the Courts

Handwritten signature of Judge Alan C. Harvey in black ink.

Judge Alan C. Harvey
President, Council of Magistrate Court Judges

Attachment
cc: Magistrate Court Chief Judges
Magistrate Court Administrators

244 Washington Street SW • Suite 300 • Atlanta, GA 30334
404-656-5171 • www.georgiacourts.gov

12-Hour Magistrate Clerks Training, June 20 – 21, 2013

Hello! Have you registered for the 2013 Magistrate Clerks Training? If you haven't already, please visit <http://icje.uga.edu> and complete the 2013 Magistrate Sign-up Form to mail in with your \$125 Clerks Fee. Once we receive your Sign-up Form and Fee, your confirmation letter will be emailed to you. We have included a tentative schedule below for your convenience.

Thursday, June 20

Registration	7:15 – 8:00 a.m. (outside of meeting room)
Class	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
Clerks Council Meeting	12 Noon – 12:30 p.m.
Group Lunch (pre-set menu)	12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Class	1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, June 21

Class	8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
-------	------------------------

The 2013 Magistrate Clerks Training will be held at the Legacy Lodge & Conference Center in Buford, Georgia. You may visit their website here: <http://www.lakelanierislands.com/accommodations/lodge> and watch their in-room video here: <http://youtu.be/j4Ca7giOSx8>. Rates range from \$145 per room per night plus state tax based on single/double occupancy. Group rates will be extended three days prior and three days after our conference so this would be a great opportunity to build your family vacation around this comprehensive training!

For more info contact:

Dr. Lynda Hanscome – 706-369-5813 – lynda@icje.law.uga.edu

Ms. Tiffany Sargent – 706-369-5807 – tiffany@icje.law.uga.edu

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