

## Coordinator's Corner

At the end of October the Governor signed the budget bill. Despite protests from the Municipal Judges Association and several judges individually, he did not veto the provision that abolishes the authority of the court (circuit and municipal) to suspend drivers' licenses for failure to pay a forfeiture on a **non-traffic** offense.

This provision takes effect for **forfeitures imposed on or after December 1, 1999**.

This affects both adults and juveniles

The budget bill is on the Legislature's website: [www.legis.state.wi.us](http://www.legis.state.wi.us) as Wis Act 9. There are no other major changes affecting municipal courts in the budget bill, however the Crime Lab fee has been raised to \$5, effective immediately. There is a new consumer information assessment, that municipal courts must impose under certain circumstances, and there are the new graduated license provisions with which the muni courts will have to become familiar. However, the legislature is back in session now and will be there until November 11. Several floor periods are then scheduled for early 2000. There may well be additional legislation that will affect municipal courts in spring.

**PLEASE let the office know if you are unable to attend a seminar for which you signed up. We have had several no-shows when we had waiting lists.**

We will be keeping track of those who sign up but do not show up and will register them for future seminars only after the deadline, and if there is room.

## Seminars

The Clerks Seminar in September and the Traffic Seminar in October were very well attended. Over 175 clerks were at the Ramada in Fond du Lac, and over 85 judges took advantage of the amenities at the Grand Geneva in Lake Geneva.

As mentioned in the last *Muni View*, our seminar year is now May to May. Therefore, there is still one more seminar -- the March Special Topic Seminar on Constitutionality and Juveniles -- at which anyone needing them can earn the required education credits for 1999. Please remember that the March 2000 seminar will **NOT** qualify for 2000 -- 2001 credits.

Many of the clerks expressed their dismay at our decision to cut the Clerk seminar back from one and half days plus the prior evening to one day (and the prior evening) in order to save costs. The Education Committee will revisit the issue at their meeting in mid-November to see if there may be another means of controlling the expense of this seminar.

## Fees

**Reminder:** We will be billing for 2000 AND the first 1/3 of 2001 (to take us to May 2001) when we send out our invoices in January. The invoice will total \$733.33 (\$550 for a year plus \$183.33 for 1/3 of a year). Thereafter, municipalities will be billed on a yearly basis from May to May.

No judge whose municipality has not paid its fee will be permitted to attend any seminar after May 1, 2000.

## New Judges/ Resignations

Since the last *Muni View*, there have been a few changes.

**Joan Olson** who had been appointed judge in the City of Wautoma was unable to take the position when it was learned that she did not live in the city.

Scott Rathbun resigned as judge in the Village of New Auburn and **Donald Boeger** has been appointed to replace him.

**Laura Reynolds** has been appointed judge in the **City of Horicon** -- a new court.

**Michael Collard** has been appointed judge in the **Town of Rome** -- a new court

**Tim Roberts** resigned as municipal judge in the Town of Madison/Town of Middleton Court. **James Olds** (former judge in the City of Middleton) has been appointed to replace him.

**John Siefert**, City of Milwaukee was elected to Circuit Court. **Vincent Bobot** has been appointed to replace him.

**Pat Brady**, City of Wausau, was elected to Circuit Court. **Philip J. Freeburg** has been appointed to replace him.

## Reserve Judges

Serving in 1999 -- 2000, are 5 reserve

judges. They are: **Carl Backus; Kevin Mathews; and George Weber.**  
**William Brash, III; Gregory Gregory;** All five are in Milwaukee County.

