

Muni View

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July 2005

Coordinator's Corner

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and not finding it too difficult to cope with this hot, and occasionally stormy, weather we've been having.

As you read in the previous Muni View, five new municipal courts were created as of April's election. Since then, *six more* courts were established, for a total of 240 Municipal Courts.

If you know of other communities considering municipal courts, please let us know so we can contact those communities to offer the services of the Office of Judicial Education.

I have received a number of calls asking whether the 2006-2007 Municipal Judge Education Fee will increase. The fee will remain at \$550. As in the past, invoices will be mailed in January and will be due by March 31st.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL TOPIC FORMAT; SOMETHING NEW

For those of you who have had an opportunity to review the recently mailed announcement for the September 29 & 30 Special Topic Seminar, you have undoubtedly

noticed that this year's seminar has a very different format.

Through your written evaluations, we've receive a number of requests for sessions on topics that go beyond the "nuts & bolts" of operating a municipal court. Although the Education Committee feels that providing practical how-to sessions on court operation is our primary purpose, we also feel that municipal judges can benefit from sessions that go beyond the basics of court operation. For this reason, we will devote one day to the day-to-day operation of the courts and a second day to issues related to your position as a judge. Specifically, issues pertaining to your role as a fact finder and decision maker. We hope this session will be both interesting and thought provoking and that we'll see many of you there.

OTHER SEMINARS:

The Orientation Committee and Faculty did another wonderful job of training **24** new judges this past May 11, 2005! The **Orientation and Institute** was held at the Wintergreen Resort in Lake Delton. We received many positive comments about the content of this program but found the accommodations less than adequate. Next year's **Orientation and Institute** is scheduled for

May 10-12, 2006, at The Heidel House Resort in Green Lake.

84 Judges attended the **Traffic Seminar** held July 14 & 15 at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc. The seminar received very good reviews and everyone seemed pleased with the remodeling and updating that has been done to the Olympia.

After the Special Topic Seminar, our next program will be the **Clerk's Seminar** October 27 & 28, 2005, at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Announcements for this seminar will be mailed the first week in August.

Our final seminar for the May 2005 – April 2006 reporting period will be the **Trial Seminar** scheduled for March 23 & 24, 2006, at the Marriott Madison West, in Middleton. We would appreciate receiving input from you regarding what trial topics you might like covered at that seminar. Feel free to contact us at (608) 266-7816 or by email at: karla.baumgartner@wicourts.gov or carol.koschel@wicourts.gov



NEW JUDGES/NEW COURTS:

District 4: A new court was created in the **City of Sheboygan Falls**. **Dave Specht** was appointed municipal judge on April 15, 2005.

District 6: Two new courts were created in the 6th Judicial District. **David Grace** was appointed municipal judge for the newly created **Town of Grand Rapids Municipal Court** on April 12, 2005. **Stacy Smith** was appointed municipal judge for the newly created **Regional Center Court** in Juneau County on May 5, 2005.

District 7: The **Hidden Valley Joint Municipal Court** was created in Vernon County. **Gary T. Monson** was appointed municipal judge on April 25, 2005.

District 10: Two new courts were created in the 10th Judicial District. **Janet Kelton** was appointed municipal judge for the newly created **Village of Frederic Municipal Court** on April 12, 2005. **Peter Close** was elected municipal Judge for the newly created **Village of Roberts Municipal Court**.

CDL LAW CHANGES

Please take a moment to review the enclosed handout, "Four CDL Law Changes That You *Should* Care About" which was prepared by Dane County Court Commissioner, Todd Meurer, and presented at the July Traffic Seminar. These changes go into effect on 9/30/05.

IN MEMORIAM:

James A. Beaudry, Municipal Judge of the Village of West Milwaukee passed away this month. Judge Beaudry served as the Municipal Judge since 1980.

REMINDERS:

Information Available on the Wisconsin Court System

Website: The State Court System's web address is: www.wicourts.gov. Municipal court information available on this website includes: seminar calendars, program announcements, the most recent version of New Laws/News Cases, municipal court statistics, the Municipal Court Directory, past and current issues of the Muni View and the publication "Starting a Municipal Court."

CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE/CREDIT REPORTS

Enclosed is a copy of your mid-year judicial education credit notice. These notices specify how many judicial education credits our records indicate that you have earned in this current reporting period. Please remember that our records only reflect credits for those seminars where you completed and returned a certificate of attendance. If you have any questions please contact this office at (608) 266-7816.

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Happy Summer!



