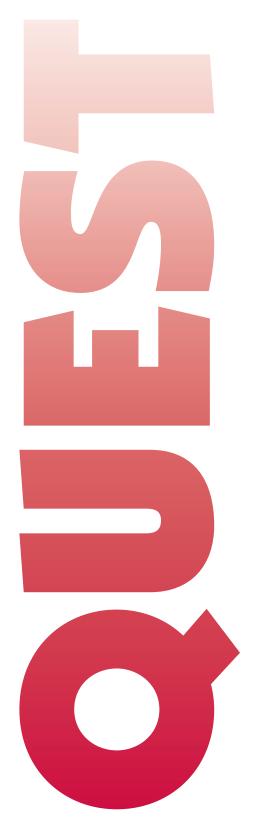
the newsletter
of the
INDIANA
LEAGUE OF
MUNICIPAL
CLERKS
AND
TREASURERS



# Message from the President

Spring has finally arrived. Spring means the State Legislators have adjourned from their short session and left our Cities and Towns new challenges to face. Legislative Committee Chairman Diana Cordray, has informed me that H.B. 1002, i.e. the "Clerk's Bill", has passed, after numerous amendments, and is before the Governor for his signature. I would like to thank Diana and the Legislative Committee for a job well done. As your League we will attempt to inform you of the new legislation and how it will affect our Cities and Towns.

The IL MCT Institute/Academy Classes held in Muncie the week of March 5<sup>th</sup> were excellent. I would like to thank HR Resources, Gary and Lisa Whorlow; Kay Brown, and the Education Committee; all of the Vendors who were so supportive; The Roberts Hotel and The Horizon Convention Center, for another fine week of education.

The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual ILMCT Conference is quickly approaching. The Conference is being held at the Marriott Hotel, downtown South Bend, the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. You should have received registration informa-

Kim Ingle



tion in the mail. If you have not received the information you can go online to the ILMCT website and download the registration information. Conference Co-Chairmen, Debbie Block, City Clerk of Mishawaka and Toni Hutchings, City Clerk-Treasurer of Plymouth and their committees have been working very hard to be sure that your Conference experience will be memorable.

June State Board of Accounts School will be held at the Indianapolis Marriott East the week of June 5, 2006. You will be receiving mailings from the State Board of Accounts regarding the school as the time draws nearer. There will be an Institute and Academy day and two days of State Board of Accounts School. Fred Lewis, City Clerk-Treasurer of Seymour is serving our League as Chairman for this event.

See you in South Bend!

Kim

#### UPDATE ON HOMETOWN MATTERS

By Retha Hicks, Winona Lake Clerk-Treasurer

The 2006 General Session ended and legislators passed HB 1001 with provisions that will mandate future local government budget cuts. While Sen. Luke Kenley offered a plan that would provide an alternative source to make up the revenue that will be lost by the property tax cuts, it was blocked during the conference committee process. The 2% circuit breaker in HB 1001 will be devastating, and a long-term strategy that enables municipalities to replace the lost revenue must be implemented in 2007.

House Ways & Means Committee Chairman Jeff Espich pledged to consider a long-term strategy next year that includes alternative revenue measures, and Gov. Daniels, Sen. Kenley and Speaker Bosma have all agreed to address the issue.

Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) have developed an answer in House Bill 1399, "Hometown Matters." Even though all of the IACT Finance Sub-committee members (there was representation from ILMCT on this committee) believe the only stable revenue source is property taxes, IACT and local community leaders need to partner with state legislators to resolve this issue. But Hometown Matters did not advance in the current general session.

(Continued on page 2)

### HOMETOWN MATTERS

(Continued from page 1)

Although press reports indicate that Rep. Jeff Espich will author a bill next session that provides alternative revenue sources to local governments. Gov. Daniels, Sen. Kenley and Speaker Bosma have all agreed that a long-term solution must be discussed. The basic premise of the Hometown Matters proposal is still a viable resolution to all entities.

The following is IACT's synopsis of the proposed Hometown Matters bill:

**Reduces Reliance on Property Taxes** by establishing Hometown Revenue Options. After funding by a Tax Stabilization Fund, property taxes would be reduced based on their per capita municipal tax levy.

**Establishes Alternatives for Financing Local Government.** One of the main premises of Hometown Matters is that one size doesn't fit all when it comes to local government. Under the proposal, local governments would have the option to fund services through a combination of local option taxes that would be applied to property tax reduction.

Creates Efficient and Effective Local Government by encouraging cooperation and regional efforts, providing for local responsibility for funds management, streamlining Department of Local Government Finance regulation, and establishing the State Commission on Responsibility and Efficiency (SCORE) to report biennially on property tax reductions, State PTRC savings and efficiency progress.

Assists the State in Balancing its Budget. Property Tax Replacement Credit (PTRC) is the state's second largest budget line item and was designed to offset local government tax rates and levies, and provide a State tax credit to property owners. As property taxes increase, the State's liability increases. Hometown Matters can help the state balance its budget by reducing property taxes.

Clerk-Treasurers need to be cognizant of the development of this bill and to assist in its support. To determine your per capita municipal levy: Municipal levy divided by your community's population. If your per capita levy is below \$250, no new revenue would reduce your property tax rate. If your per capita levy is within \$250 - \$350, 25% of Hometown Equity would go toward reducing property taxes. Within \$350 - \$450, 50% and anything above \$450 is 75%. The first three years the community would establish a Stabilization Fund with 33% of the new revenue. Hometown Revenue Options are a local sales tax; supplemental income tax; local innkeeper's tax; and local food and beverage tax. These new revenue options may not be beneficial or may be ineffectual to some small communities. In that case, those communities would not be required to reduce property taxes.

The IACT Finance Sub-Committee with the assistance of some of our finest vendors (Umbaugh, Ice-Miller and Policy Analytics) dedicated an enormous amount of time and thought into this proposal. My hope is that the Indiana State Legislators would emulate IACT's procedure for legislative changes in the future. Thank you to all the "Hometown Matters" participants for your dedication and commitment to make our state a wonderful place to live and work.

# Ask Charlie:

Charlie Pride Indiana State Board of Accounts Ph: (317) 232-2521 Email: cpride@sboa.IN.gov

**Question:** Are weed cutting costs incurred by a city or town in removing weeds and rank vegetation, as allowed through an ordinance adopted under IC 36-7-10.1, required to be recorded with the County Recorder?

**Answer:** No. IC 36-7-10.1-4 states that if the owner of the of the real property fails to pay a bill for the weed removal costs within the time specified in the ordinance, the city or town shall certify to the county auditor the amount of the bill and the auditor is to place the total amount certified on the tax duplicate.

Please note that those costs incurred by a city or town which are not paid to bring a property into compliance with an ordinance adopted under IC 36-1-6-2, shall be both recorded at the County Recorder's office and certified to the County Auditor.

### It's Not Too Late...

The task of compiling the history of IIMC has begun. To that end we hope you will submit photos, written informa tion, documents etc. to us for inclusion in the project. In view of the fact that a book has already been completed covering the first 50 years (1947-1996), we will be concentrating on the years from 1997 to the present.

Photos, documents and information from clerk institutes, educational sessions, conferences and on the job would be appreciated. Please make sure that all photos submitted have written descriptions. If possible, photos and documents should be scanned and emailed to either of the emai addresses below. We also will accept written information via email. If you need to send it by regular mail, our addresses are below as well.

Sue Iverson
Finance Director
City of Mahtomedi
600 Stillwater Road
Mahtomedi, MN 55155
siversov@ci.mahtomedi.mn.us

Donna Dutton City Clerk/City Historian City of Watertown 245 Washington Street Watertown, NY 13601 ddutton@watertown-ny.gov

# Sharon Swihart Receives the 2005 Financial Management Award

Valparaiso, IN - Valparaiso Clerk-Treasurer Sharon Swihart received the 2005 Financial Management Award from the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) on Monday, September 26, during the Annual Awards Lunch at the 2005 IACT Annual Conference and Exhibition in Fort Wayne, IN.

The Financial Management Award is given to a finance officer or administrator who has made outstanding achievements in fiscal management, financial recording and leadership in public service.

Swihart began her employment with the City of Valparaiso as Secretary for the Police Department, and was appointed to the Clerk-Treasurer position. Since then she has been elected to five terms, serving since 1983. She consistently receives excellent State Board of Accounts reports, and has worked to keep the City in good financial standing.

Swihart has earned her IAMC and CMC status with the Indiana League of Municipal Clerks & Treasurers, and has attended ILMCT Spring Institute to attain her Master Municipal Clerk status.

The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) is a coalition of municipal officials who seek to improve the quality of life in Indiana through effective government, and is a member of the National League of Cities. IACT is one of the oldest state municipal organizations in the country at 115-years, with 471 cities and towns as members. IACT advocates for municipalities as the official voice of municipal government in Indiana, and promotes good government through education, training and leadership.

## **Debt Report Perplexing**

You are behind schedule if you have not filed your city or town's debt report which was due March 1st. The new report requirement can be found at:

http://www.in.gov/dlgf/structure/debtreporting.html

On the site this link will take you to, you will find directions and forms that will guide us through the new procedures.

Many members have reported that the new capital lease and debt report is somewhat confusing. Contact your mentor member or Charlie Pride for additional explanations.

#### Our Condolences...

- Claudia Mentink Carlson, former Cedar Lake Clerk-Treasurer, on the loss of her father George R. Adams;
- Donna Thompson, former Poseyville Clerk-Treasurer, on the loss of her husband, Larry Thompson;
- Nancy Fischer, Avilla Clerk-Treasurer, on the loss of her mother, Myrtle Barrett in November;
- Sandy Kennedy, Ft. Wayne Clerk, on the loss of her brother, Joe Champ, in November;
- Jill Runkle, Clerk-Treasurer from Akron, on the loss of her mother:
- The family of Donna R. Smelley, Clerk-Treasurer of Lake Station.



Visit the ILMCT Store at www.ilmct-store.com or Go to www.ilmct.org

### Corrections and Updates:

- Town of Clarkshill fax number should be 765-523-3144. It is listed incorrectly in the directory.
- Terri Payton is the Clerk-Treasurer of the City of Rockport.

### **Upcoming Events:**

 April 24-27, 2005 70<sup>th</sup> Annual ILMCT Conference South Bend Marriott
 May 14-18, 2006 IIMC Conference – Anaheim, CA
 June 6-8, 2006 State Board of Accounts School Indianapolis Marriott East

# **Suzy Bass Achieves Black Belt**

Suzy Bass, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Jeffersonville

Suzy started her Martial Arts Training five years ago in Mt Washington, KY. She started training with her then 4 yr old daughter. Her daughter trained for 3 yrs and reached blue belt level before having to quit when basketball got in the way of her training.

Martial Arts is a combination of karate, judo, kempo and several other types of training.



To reach her goal of black belt, Suzy had to test for 7 other belts. All levels have their own 'form' that has to be mastered. When testing for her black belt, she had to learn 8 forms, know Korean terminology, know one-steps, two-steps, take downs, grappling, how to take away a gun, and how to take away a knife. She also had to fight many black belts at one time. She had to break 9 boards at the end of her testing.

Suzy has been in several tournaments and is undefeated. She said her most accomplished win was a sparring tournament for the Kentucky Bluegrass Nationals where she won 1<sup>st</sup> place.

Suzy said that Martial Arts is something the whole family can enjoy and do together. They have all ages in her school ranging in age from 5 yrs old to 55 yrs old.

She is still training but enjoys teaching the classes also. She said it is her 'little way to pay back' some of those who have sparred with her over the years.

She also teaches self-defense class for groups, individuals and businesses

### Finally! Wear Your Membership Proudly

Retha Hicks, Winona Clerk-Treasurer

League Affinity Clothing or "Schotzky" (as our beloved Michael Griffin coined it) is finally available. About ten years ago, the idea had its beginning when Frankfort Clerk-Treasurer Marilyn Chittick was President of the League. The league purchased sweatshirts for the Educational Institute that year and then several clerks and clerk-treasurers mentioned, "Why don't we have league logo wear?" At that point, the league received a donation for this project. But not until Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin became ILMCT President in 2001-2002 did the project have direction. Michael appointed a committee to research and to develop our options. Laura Baker, Etna Green Clerk-Treasurer; Janet Castle, Pierceton Clerk-Treasurer and myself were members of the committee.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau stated: "There are two things to be considered with regard to any scheme. In the first place, "Is it good in itself?" In the second, "Can it be easily put into practice?"

It took us awhile to get this project up and running but we believe it will be well received and supported. Thank you to all that had a part in this endeavor!

### **S2** Prepares Logo Wear for ILMCT

S2 Promotional Products is a small hard-working promotional marketing company located in Indianapolis, Indiana. The name S2 derives from the two owners of the business, Steven Ramon and Stephen Kridle. S2 is closing out its second year in business, and is focusing on Indiana municipalities as one of its primary clientele.

S2 is a company in the business of making the purchasing experience easier. Our sourcing ability gives us an edge if you are shopping for a gift to hand out at your next event, want something creative for the spring golf outing or are looking for durable uniforms for one of your departments. Whatever the occasion we specialize in assisting our clients solve problems with the use of corporate apparel, safety and work uniforms and business incentives. We carry many different apparel lines from the price conscious Port Authority to Tommy Bahama. This year we've added the full Nike Golf line and Carhartts full line of work wear.

The service we provide keeps our clients coming back to us for their solutions. Our mission is to help the clients succeed in their promotional marketing. Please call us with questions or for more information at 317-228-0269, or look us up at www.s2pros.com

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# City of Richmond Celebrates!!!

Amazing things have happened in the 200 years since Quakers settled along the banks of the Whitewater River in 1806 and preparations are under way for the City of Richmond to celebrate its rich heritage. The theme for the birth-day party is *Richmond Celebrates*. Our founding fathers have given our community a wonderful legacy and we will be celebrating our history with art, music, education, faith, and just plain fun. I invite you to be a part of the excitement. Our vision for this festival includes the remembrances of our beginnings, the opportunity to enjoy the present and to set the stage for our Tercentennial Celebration in the Year 2056. This birthday party will set the standard for future community celebrations.

A *Richmond Celebrates* office has been established in the Municipal Building. David and Beverly Nixon have been appointed Co-Chairs. They have already been busy with the *Richmond Celebrates* Queen pageant which was held in June. Our royal court will reign over all events in the coming year. All are outstanding individuals and will represent our community well. The Town Crier is already announcing upcoming events.

To honor our history, it is anticipated that 200 events will be held from August 2005 thru August 2006. The "kick-off" event was the *Torch Run* throughout Wayne County on August 27, 2005. On this date all area communities were invited to participate in our birthday year. The *Run* ended at the Moonlight. After the Parade, the Torch has been in full view at the Richmond Municipal Building to serve as a constant reminder of our birthright. It will remain lit until August 20, 2006.

All the events of our celebration will be listed on the City of Richmond website (<u>www.ci.richmond.in.us</u>). This list will be amended each time a new event is registered.

The festival which will culminate the year of activities will be August 12-20, 2006. Everywhere you look you will see *Brothers of the Brush and Sisters of the Swish!!!* There will be a midway, a beer garden, fashion shows, children's activities, more parades, artists, crafts, music, dances, car shows and lots more.

Come help us celebrate. We are very proud of our heritage and we want to share it with you.

If you want to know more about Richmond and Wayne County, take a look at Waynet.org

### Runkle heads to Togo with Peace Corps

By Ann Allen Previously published in the Rochester Sentinel

For Tyson Runkle, going to Togo with the Peace Corps "just feels right."

"It's what I'm supposed to do," the 22-year-old said. "You don't get scared when you know in your heart it's what you're meant to do."

Still, it's a big leap of faith for Runkle, son of Phil Runkle and Jill Runkle, both of Akron. A 2001 alumnus of Tippecanoe Valley High School where his tailgate parties drew strong support, he graduated from Ball State University in May with a degree in public relations that he feels will serve him well in Togo where he will prepare and present HIV and AIDS prevention awareness programs.

"I won't be there to do for them but to help them become self-sufficient and learn to pass skills to others," he said.

Although he'd thought about the Peace Corps for a long time and had applied, it wasn't until last year's Christmas break that something clicked for him. "I was watching a concert for Nelson Mandela," he said, "and they were talking about 2,500 Africans dying from AIDS every day. All of a sudden, the numbers made sensethat was more than twice the number of people in Akron. That's a lot of people. It just seemed like the time was right for me to give back some of my PR training by getting information to those people."

He'd already glimpsed how effective his PR skills could be when he spent a summer doing an internship with an Indianapolis community group. "Good communication is very effective in the medical field," he said. "If it worked there, it can work anywhere."

While at BSU, he served as executive director of Cardinal Commerce, a campus PR-ad firm. "I had 43 people working under me," he said. I helped guide and teach them and in the process found my niche-I'm good at motivating people and getting them to do things on their own."

Buoyed by that experience, he applied for the Peace Corps last fall but didn't learn he was accepted until July 25.

"It was a long process," he said. "I had to write essays, do telephone interviews and undergo a lot of medical tests.

He's also been brushing up his high school French since that is the official language of Togo.

While he'll be located in what he terms the middle of nowhere in the pencil-thin African nation tucked between Ghana and Benin, he's pleased with his assignment. "I requested some place that was warm and had no snow," he said. "Africa was my real goal, and I'm glad to be going there."

The present government of Togo is in transition following the February death of Etienne Eyadema. Elected president after killing a former president in 1963, Eyadema, then a sergeant, quickly became a lieutenant colonel and then a general. The new presi



Above: Peace Corps group arrives in Togo. Tyson is in the second row, sixth from the right.

dent is Eyadema's son, named to the office despite Togo's constitution that declares that in the event of the president's death, the speaker of Parliament takes his place and has 60 days to call new elections. A day after Eyadema's death, however, Parliament retroactively changed the constitution, declaring the son can hold office until 2008, a move the African Union described as a military coup d'etat.

Nevertheless, Runkle says, "There are worse places I could be going."

Like the more than 178,000 Peace Corps volunteers invited by 138 host countries to work on a variety of issues since the Corps' formation in 1960, Runkle will live at the same economic level of the people he's helping. "I'll pretty much be on my own," he said, "but we're never more than 10 kilometers from the nearest Peace Corps volunteer. There probably won't be any electricity or running water."

He'll receive a monthly stipend and at the end of two years will be paid \$6,000 to help him start a new life in the States.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge. I want to see what's out there, discover who I am and what I'm capable of. You can't change the world but you can change yourself, and that's what I'm trying to do."

"This is the time for me to do this. I own nothing. I'm not in a relationship. There's nothing holding me back."

Planning to pack light and have most of his clothes tailored there, he will take along family photos, his Slinky as a stress reliever and a baseball and mitt. "I'll really miss baseball," he said. And he'll take a journal a friend bought for him in Italy. "I want to record everything," he said.

Only an emergency will bring him back before his 27- month service ends, but he left Monday for Philadelphia and a short training session with the whole-hearted support of his parents and friends. After that, he'll fly to Paris and on to Lome, Togo's capital. "Some of my friends think I'm crazy," he said, "but they're happy for me because they're all searching for something."

While he doesn't know exactly what he's looking for or what he'll do when he returns home - "That's half the fun of it," he says - he knows Akron will never be far from his mind.

"I'm the quintessential John Mellencamp boy. Akron will always be home. I have small town roots."

#### **ILMCT MEMBERSHIP 2006**

With this being one of the busiest (if not the busiest) time of the year in our offices, the ILMCT 2006 Membership drive is in progress. You should have already received the membership dues form; however, another copy is included here. Being a member of the ILMCT is such an honor and of course beneficial to our professionalism to be used in our offices daily.

Taking advantage of the education classes offered at the State Board of Account School, District Meetings, our Annual Conference and our accredited classes in March are always great opportunities for growth in our profession.

One of the most rewarding benefits of being a member of our league is the "Networking" opportunities. I personally have learned so much just from having conversation with my colleagues at a function.

Associate Rusiness Member:

After becoming a member or continuing your membership with the league, you will be a proud owner of the ILMCT Member Directory. The additional pages of City Clerks and City Controllers will be distributed at the annual conference. Also included will be the Associate Members & Business Associate Members pages based on 2006 membership.

As the ILMCT Membership committee chairperson I would like to encourage you to submit your membership form, pay your dues and become a member of the most rewarding league around.

Please remit your dues to: Gayle Allard, ILMCT Treasurer, and P.O. BOX 420, BARGERSVILLE, IN 46106.

\$150.00

Submitted by:

Robin R. Riley, IAMC, CMC Clerk-Treasurer, Huntertown ILMCT Vice President & Membership Chairperson

This Portion for Business Members ONLY... Please see other side for City or Town individual memberships.

Associate Business Name:		Phone:			
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:		
Card Bearer Name:					
Card Bearer Name:					
<ul><li>Notice of League event</li><li>★A subscription to the Quantum</li></ul>	nip card denoting your affiliations, which include training and pluest, our official newsletter! ts for League sponsored events	professional development	t opportunities!		
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBER:		\$			

I hereby certify that the foregoing is just and correct, that the amount claimed is legally due after allowing for just credits and that no part of the same has been paid.

Indiana League of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Town of Bargersville, P.O. Box 420, Bargersville, IN 46106-0420

**Date: March 31, 2006** 

TOTAL ASSOCIATE BUSINESS MEMBER

Gayle Allard
Gayle Allard, ILMCT Treasurer

TOTAL ENCLOSED CHECK: \$

PLEASE RETURN COPY WITH REMITTANCE!

### ILMCT ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

### **Claim and Invoice**

This invoice and claim for payment is made upon the Clerk or Clerk-Treasurer of the City or Town for payment of membership dues for the **Indiana League of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers**. You may pay from this invoice any class of membership. Please check the appropriate box to indicate the actual class of membership and dues schedule that applies.

### 2006 Dues for all Classes of Membership due on or before March 1, 2006

### **Active Members:**

Towns with populations under 700 Towns or Cities with population of 701 to 5,000 Towns or Cities with population of 5,001 to 20,000 Towns or Cities with population of 20,001 to 35,000 Towns or Cities with population over 35,000			\$40.00 \$50.00 \$75.00 \$100.00 \$150.00		
Indicate Municipality's population	Indica	te if dues are pa	aid by Municipality o	or Member	
Active Member Name:					
Title (Circle One): Clerk-Tr	easurer	Clerk	Controlle	Controller	
Certification (Circle <u>all</u> that apply):	IAMC	CMC	MMCA	CMFA	
Name of Municipality:			County:		
Office Address:	District # :				
City/Town:		Zip:		_	
Office Phone:		Fax:			
Home Address:	Home Phone:				
City/Town:	Zip:		Email:		
Associate Members (Any former acti	ive member or s	taff of an acti	ve member of the L	eague): \$35.00 each	
Associate Member Name:			Title:		
Address:	City/Town:			_Zip:	
Associate Member Name:		Title:			
Address:	Cit	v/Town·		Zin:	

(Please copy form for any additional associate members)

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### AND TREASURERS INDIANA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS

600 E. Third Street

Mishawaka, IN 46544



# il ssiM i'noU

### South Bend Marriott April 24 — 27, 2006 ITWCL SPRING CONFERENCE

gro.tomli.www

9:00 to 11:30 State Board of Accounts 7:30 to 9:00 Conference Registration Wednesday, April 26th - Vendor Day

1:00 to 3:00 DLGF State Board Of Guest Speaker 11:30 to 1:00 Lunch with Vendors and

6:00 to 7:00 President's Reception Accounts

Thursday, April 27th 7:00 Annual Banquet and Dancing

\* All times are Eastern Standard Time \* Session 9:00 AM Business Meeting and Closing

> 7.30 to 8.30 Registration - ILMCT Institute & Monday, April 24th TBA Executive Committee Meeting Sunday, April 23rd

1:00 to 4:00 ILMCT Institute & Academy Class ILMCT Institute & Academy Class 9:00 to Noon Pre-Conference Registration Academy

7:30 to 12:00 Boyce Networking Room 5:30 to 7:30 Welcome Reception

Tuesday, April 25th

9:00 to 11:30 Opening Session Parade of Flags 8:00 to 9:00 Conference Registration 7:00 Walk/Run

8:00 to 12:00 Boyce Networking Room 1:00 Off-Site Trip to Nappance

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Municipal Clerks and Treasurers. and Controlles by the Indiana League of about Indiana's Clerks, Clerk-Treasurers bne rof ylrefrenp beheildug ei **teeu**Q

(574) 258-1616 • FAX: (574) 258-1728 600 E. 3rd Street, Mishawaka, IN 46544 dblock@mishawakacity.com Deborah S. Block, IAMC, CMC, Editor

getresults@indy.rr.com Carmel, IN 46082 Get Results, Inc., P.O. Box 3312 Send address corrections to:

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