CONGRATULATIONS TO MARILYN MCLAUGHLIN, CLERK OF COUNCIL, CENTERVILLE, OHIO---WINNER OF THE 2005 QUILL AWARD!

Hopefully this year, our communication with our members in Region V will take a dramatic turn UPWARD! At our November mid-year board meeting, we will be receiving training on how to create a fabulous newsletter, which is sorely needed by both of us! Secondly, we are investigating creating a list serv that will allow us to get hot news and topics to all members very quickly as well as to disseminate our newsletters to all members rather than just the State Presidents. In the meantime, we want to get news from the Annual Conference to you quickly as there is an awful lot to report.

- IIMC Executive Director Joe Tierney was terminated, with cause, effective May 25, 2005. The Executive Committee expects to have proposals within the next 30 days from companies providing executive search assistance. In the meantime, the Executive Committee has divided the areas among the officers to provide supervision of the activities at headquarters. Depending on the timeline for the hiring of a new Executive Director, an interim position may be created to relieve the Executive Committee of those direct supervision responsibilities.

- IIMC Director of Education Dr. Ray Garubo tendered his resignation effective May 23, 2005. A search committee is being formed for his replacement. The search committee will consist of the Executive Committee, Region V Director Sally Oglesby representing the Board of Directors, an Institute Director, and one other person in the education field to chair and guide the committee.

- Two staff members at headquarters were terminated, with cause. Their termination was not related to the investigations of the Executive Director or the other activities leading to the resignation of Dr. Garubo. They were “at-will” employees and not covered by any contract. Their positions will be filled in a timely manner.
Now for the UPLIFTING and POSITIVE news!

- A satellite office is being established in the Washington, DC area in the offices of ACCESS, a super-computing center of the University of Illinois. We are very excited about the opportunities this will give IIMC such as:
  - Increase visibility of IIMC
  - Develop collaborative working and professional relations with other professional organizations, i.e., GFOA, ICMA, NLC, IFES
  - Availability to secure grant funds for the accomplishment of the IIMC mission
  - Partner with a technologically advanced enterprise
  - Allow for video conferencing with the Board and other entities
  - Allow the opportunity to develop relationships with embassies in the area to further international relationships

- A task force has been appointed to continue with research on the possible relocation of headquarters to a new location somewhere in the United States. As we all know, costs in California are significantly more than in many other parts of the United States. In addition to the lower costs, there are other advantages such as travel costs and the potential for location in a time zone more accessible by the membership. There are no immediate plans for relocation. This is simply a task force to continue investigation of potential sites, costs for relocation, and other factors to determine if it is in the best interest of IIMC.

- The Master Municipal Clerk program requirements have been changed to allow the time between levels to be reduced from 2-4 years to 1-4 years, thereby allowing clerks to receive the designation faster. In addition, the Board voted to allow for 15 years of clerk experience to be substituted for the college degree, effective in 2006.

- A Constitution Task Force has been working on a review of the IIMC Constitution for potential changes. This committee has been expanded to include a member from each region. Region V is represented by Marilyn Swing from Nashville, TN. If you have any suggestions for changes, contact Marilyn at marilyn.swing@nashville.gov. This task force will make their report to the Board in November.

- A Mentoring Program is being established. Tonni Bartholomew from Michigan is the Chair of this committee. You may contact Tonni to offer to be a mentor or to request a mentor at t.bartholomew@ci.troy.mi.us

- As you know, last year the Board increased registration fees for members to the Annual Conference. There was no increase included for retirees at that time. However, the Board has voted to increase retiree registration by $50.
- A new committee has been established to provide programming and opportunities for our retirees. Our own Sharon Cassler has been appointed to chair this committee. You may contact Sharon to offer to serve on the committee or provide suggestions at clerkofcouncil@cambridgeoh.org.

- We are proud that we have many Region V members serving as Chairs on IIMC Committees. In addition to the ones already listed, other Region V Chairs are:
  - Michael Griffin, Program Review
  - Angie Blevins, Public Relations and Marketing
  - Barbara Ann Redford, Resource and Information
  - Marilyn Chittick, Budget and Planning
  - Ann Ulrich, Election Credentials

- Our next Region V meeting is scheduled for November 18-19 in Indianapolis. Flyers and registration materials will be mailed soon.

- President Sue Morrow has introduced a book entitled “Leadership Jazz” by Max DePree to be studied during the coming year. Each month in the *News Digest* will be a column reviewing a chapter of the book. We hope that you will consider participating in this most worthwhile study. The author will be present at the IIMC Annual Conference in Anaheim. You may contact IIMC for a copy of the book at a reduced cost of $12.50, including shipping.