

January 3, 2007

Ms. Marcella O'Connor, President
International Institute of Municipal Clerks

Dear President O'Connor, EC Members and All IIMC Board Members:

On December 1 and 2, 2006, IIMC Region V members gathered for our annual Region V Conference in Covington, Kentucky. The Kentucky clerks did a wonderful job hosting, providing us some outstanding educational opportunities, fun social activities, great food and networking opportunities. We were honored to have IIMC President Elect, Chuck Tokar, with us for this event, who did a great job representing President O'Connor and the IIMC Executive Committee.

During the annual business meeting when Sally Oglesby and I were outlining details of the mid-year board meeting; summarizing the IIMC financial situation and dues increase, providing information on the change to educational requirements, etc. we were questioned about the merits of the award of the 2010 conference to Sydney, Australia. Many clerks expressed their concern about having a conference in this location and their inability to attend. A show of hands indicated that 2-3 clerks would be able to attend the Sydney conference, from the approximately 130 clerks in the room. Normally 50-75 from Region V attend the annual conference, most of whom would have also been at the Region V meeting.

After discussion, a motion was made and adopted, directing the Region V Directors to send a communication to the IIMC Board, requesting that the award of the 2010 Conference in Sydney be reconsidered by the entire Board, with the understanding that Region V would like serious consideration given to this conference being relocated. Reasons for this request are 1) that there are currently only 3 members from Australia; 2) that due to the high costs of both airfare and hotel many clerks will not be able to attend; 3) that due to the current financial condition of IIMC it would be "fiscally irresponsible" to hold a conference in a location that will most likely either lose funds for IIMC or at the least, not generate the revenues a conference usually produces that are so necessary to the budget of IIMC at this time; 4) that while Sydney is a beautiful City and that most clerks would love to travel there, it is common knowledge that most clerks, specifically in the U.S, will not be able to travel to this location, many of whom are working towards certifications and who need the points and conference experience, etc. and 5) that there is a concern with public perception which may be expressed by our constituents in knowing that their local clerk has traveled to Sydney, Australia, for a work-related conference on taxpayer dollars (even if only some or no tax dollars are used for this trip).

When Sally and I advised the Members that it was a Board Policy to award the IIMC conference overseas every ten years, we were "challenged" and "corrected" on this, being advised that the Board policy was not a "given commitment or requirement set in stone"; but that the Board AGREED to "look at and consider" this option every ten years. The

Members of Region V feel that 2010 is NOT the time, for many, many reasons, to award a conference overseas, or at least to Sydney. IIMC is in severe financial difficulties; dues are being raised; we have borrowed money to pay bills, no new services are being offered to members; we do not have a permanent Executive Director, etc. It was also questioned that IF a conference HAS to be awarded overseas for 2010, why wasn't the bid from London considered, as the airfare and travel expenses would be half as much as those for Sydney. Region V members were aware that a bid had been received late and felt the bid should have been considered by the Board.

In summary, Region V would like to see this conference location changed and hereby requests that no contracts be signed or monies be guaranteed until this situation is reconsidered by the Board. We also suggest a vote on the issue by the membership as a whole in New Orleans.

We are requesting that this issue be included on the agenda for discussion at the next Board Meeting. Please be advised that a copy of this letter is being forwarded to all members of the IIMC Board of Directors and to the Presidents of each of the State Associations and to the Officers of the Canadian Association. We thank you for your time and consideration.

On behalf of the IIMC Members of Region V, we

Respectfully submit,

*Sally Oglesby*¹⁶⁰⁴

Sally Oglesby

Kathryn A. Dornan

Kathryn Dornan

Directors, Region V

Cc: Chris Shalby, IIMC Interim Executive Director