

President's Message

The holidays have come and gone so quickly! I sincerely hope that each of you had a wonderful holiday. I took some time off to get ready for Christmas and spent a wonderful week with my 13 month-old grandson. Being a grandma is so wonderful! We also recently found out that we've got 2 more on the way!!

While I was home during the holidays – it hit me! Conference is now only 2 months away! Just like the holidays, it will be here and gone very quickly!! I hope many of you will be able to attend our 40th anniversary celebration in Spokane Valley. The Education and Conference Planning committees have been very busy organizing a terrific program. New executive committee members will also take their oaths of office. Our annual conference is something I always look forward to attending. The networking and educational opportunities are invaluable. I look forward to seeing many of you in March!

In November I was fortunate enough to represent WMCA at the Alaska Municipal Clerks Association annual conference in Anchorage. It was a great conference! Yes – it really was as cold as it looks. I couldn't believe it when the weather forecast indicated a high of 5 degrees my first day there. Our first day included a wonderful tour that took us to the Portage Glacier and Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. I was up close & personal with a moose! As many of you may not know, I collect them – although in a miniature version – so it was an awesome experience for me.



Portage Glacier was just beautiful.



Isn't he handsome!



It is always great to attend other state conferences and see their process. AAMC holds their conference in conjunction with the Mayors and Finance Officers so there were a lot of people in attendance.

The highlights of the conference included

- Katy Suiter, MMC, Ketchikan, Alaska was installed as President; Kathy Weber, CMC, North Pole, Alaska as 1st Vice President; and Kacie Paxton, CMC, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska, as 2nd Vice President.
- AAMC elected Kristie Smithers, MMC, Wasilla, Alaska as the next IIMC Region IX Director. Kristie will be sworn in at the IIMC Conference in Reno in May 2010 when Pam Kolacy's term expires.
- Recognized Sheri Pierce, CMC, Valdez, Alaska as the 2009 Alaska Clerk of the Year. You may remember Sheri who previously served as an IIMC Region IX Director.

It was a great experience and I look forward to attending the AAMC conference in Juneau next year!

I hope you all have a wonderful new year and I'll see you in March!!

Karen Kuznek-Reese, MMC