



The Gavel

Newsletter

Edition 2025-01

Greetings! Welcome to the first edition of ***The Gavel Newsletter***!

With the era of magazines ending, our printed version of ***The Gavel*** has ceased to exist. BUT, the National Judges Association has a strong desire to keep our membership involved and aware of the exciting new things happening within our organization! Thus, the beginning of our quarterly e-mailed newsletter to all active members.

43rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

The 43rd Annual Education Conference, hosted by the Vermont Association of County Judges, was held in South Burlington, Vermont July 7-11, 2024, featuring a wonderful array of speakers and topics. Attending judges enjoyed a busy day of sightseeing and shopping on Wednesday to include the Vermont Supreme Court, the State House, and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream factory! A spectacular conclusion to the conference was the annual banquet aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen with a beautiful cruise along Lake Champlain.

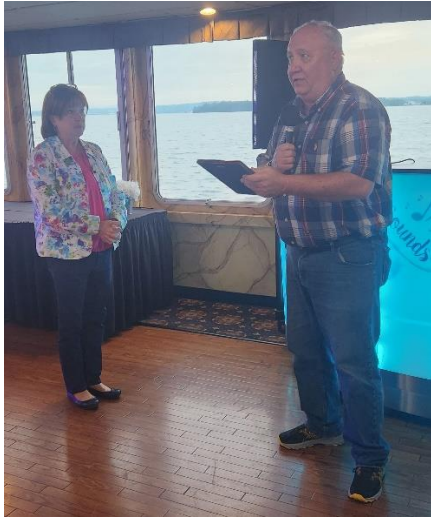


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HONORING!

Our beloved Candace Hissong stepped away from her official duties as the Executive Director in November of 2023, after having honorably serving our organization in that capacity since 2008.



Hon. Carlton Gray presents a plaque
to Hon. Candace Hissong.

*President's Award of Merit
With Deepest Appreciation
I Hereby Honor
Honorable Candace Hissong
In recognition for your passion,
unconditional commitment, and
enduring dedicated service to the
National Judges Association as
Executive Director
2008 - 2023*

Candace will still be a very active member of the National Judges Association and the Foundation. "Her dedication to the organization has been absolutely phenomenal! Candace wrapped the NJA in love and devotion. She truly is my mentor, my inspiration, and a truly wonderful person. I am so very proud to call her not only my colleague, but my dear friend who I will always hold with high esteem," newly appointed Executive Director Kerry Burman.

Thank you, Candace, for all you have done for the National Judges Association! The organization is so very thankful for all you have done and will continue to do!

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

As we begin this new era of the National Judges Association, I want to take time to thank all of our members who give so much to the organization. This is an organization made by the members and for the members. I hope to continue to bring the NJA mission to more states and help us grow into an unstoppable force. We are here because of you! Your dedication to the judiciary and continuing education, especially for non-attorney judges, is what keeps us strong.

My goal is to keep all members informed of what is happening with the NJA, and to encourage all members to continue to seek new members to join our organization. So many states continue to try to pass legislation to make all judges be attorneys. We know that lay judges are important, especially with continued education. When we are strong, educated, and dedicated,

we can continue to serve the citizens in our jurisdictions and help make changes in the lives of those we graciously serve.

With that in mind, I would love to share any good news from your state! Please email press releases, news of re-elected or newly elected judges, special achievements or anniversaries on the bench, retirements or even exciting personal news such as special birthdays, anniversaries or births to share in our upcoming newsletters! We are a family of judges who are here to support one another and would love to participate in your successes! My contact information is at the end of the newsletter.

Hon. Kerry Burman

**Judge: "Do you swear
to tell the truth, the
whole truth, and
nothing but the truth?"**

**Me: "I choose dare,
your honor."**

MID-YEAR COUNCIL OF STATE REPRESENTATIVES MEETING!

The mid-year Council of State Representatives Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. The start time is as follows:

11:00 a.m. Pacific Time Zone
12:00 p.m. Mountain Time Zone
1:00 p.m. Central Time Zone
2:00 p.m. Eastern Time Zone

Information will be emailed to all members of the Executive Board, State and Alternate Representatives, and Committee Chairs before the meeting.

AWARDS!

Kenneth L. MacEachern Award

This Award is the highest tribute given to a lay judge in the United States. It is named for Kenneth L. MacEachern, the founder, organizer and first Executive Director of the National Judges Association. Annually, the award committee, which consists of all previous recipients of this Award, select a judge who has been nominated by his/her peers as a jurist who has made an outstanding contribution to judicial education and the enhancement of the quality of justice.

To nominate a fellow non-attorney judge, please use the nomination form in this newsletter!

President's Award of Merit

Any member of NJA may nominate another individual who is not a Judge or an organization of Judges who has provided the NJA with support through funds, instruction year after year, for a secretary or clerk who has labored above and beyond that required to help with a conference, or any act that selfishly promotes the goals of NJA.

The written nomination should be sent to the Executive Director before March 1st. The Executive Committee will select the recipient, if any, for the award.

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

Plans are currently underway for the 2025 Annual Conference to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico beginning Sunday, July 6 with the Council of State Representatives meeting! This looks to be an excellent conference with great speakers and learning opportunities. Don't forget the fun-filled adventure outing during the week! We are sure you will fall in love with what the area has to offer! More information and registration forms will be out soon! Be sure to attend!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

The National Judges Association Foundation offers scholarships to cover the registration fee to attend the Annual Conference. Please email Hon. Candace Hissong, Foundation Director, for more information! Snickerg28@gmail.com

NATIONAL JUDGES ASSOCIATION
KENNETH L. MACEACHERN AWARD
Nomination Form and Confidential Report

I nominate _____ for the Kenneth L. MacEachern Award for Outstanding Achievement by a non-attorney Judge. In my opinion, he/she possesses the qualities below and seems to me in all respects to qualify for consideration under the eligibility rules furnished me.

1. Nominee's Birth Place: _____

Current Address: _____

Court Title and Address: _____

Dates of Judicial Service: _____

2. How Selected as a Judge: _____ Appointed _____ Elected

3. My opportunities to evaluate the nominee are:

4. How long have you known the nominee and what is your relationship to him/her?

5. From my personal knowledge, I believe the nominee possesses the following qualities which makes him/her deserving of the MacEachern Award:

6. The contributions of the nominee on a local, state, and/or national level to continuing education of the Judiciary are:

7. What other ways has the nominee improved the quality of justice on a local, state or national level? Include any awards, monimations, offices held, etc.)

8. The names and addresses of at least two other persons who are acquainted with the character and professional record of this nominee who are not related to or associated in business with the nominee. Attach their letters of endorsement or recommendations.

Any additional endorsements, recommendations or letters of support should be attached to this nomination form. If you need more space for further information, please attach additional pages.

Nominator's Signature

Please print name, address and telephone number of nominator.

Please return this form before March 1st to:

**National Judges Association
Hon. Kerry Burman, Executive Director
312 S Merrill Ave
Glendive, MT 59330**

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The nominee need not be a member of the National Judges Association in order to be nominated.

The MacEachern Award Committee will consider this nomination to be the personal choice of the nominator and not a nomination by any organization with which the nominator may be associated. Information furnished herein will be treated as confidential. The Committee will not make public the identity of any nominator or the nominee, except the winner of the Award.

NOTICE!

The following states have elections for Representatives and Alternates this year! As per our By-Laws:

A. Election: State Representatives are elected by the member's own state for a two (2) year term:

1. Representatives may be elected prior to the Annual Membership Meeting by N.J.A. members in their state by the majority vote of that state's members providing that all N.J.A. members of that state or government entity are properly notified of the time, place and date of the election;
 - a) If the state's or government entity's members agree, the Representative shall arrange for the election to take place in the state or governmental entity;
 - b) The Delegation from each state of government entity with an impending vacancy on the Council of State Representatives shall submit to the Chairperson of the Nomination Committee the names of the member elected by their prospective state or government entity to their State Representative;
 - c) A Regular Member of the nominee's state or government entity may challenge the election and the dispute shall be referred to that state's or government entity's delegation for settlement.

Alabama	Arizona	California
Connecticut	Florida	Hawaii
Illinois	Iowa	Kentucky
Maine	Massachusetts	Minnesota
Missouri	Nebraska	New Hampshire
New Mexico	North Carolina	Ohio
Oregon	Rhode Island	South Dakota
Texas	Vermont	Washington
Wisconsin	District of Columbia	Tribal Entities

Be sure to provide the name of the Representative and Alternate chosen for your state to the Executive Director. They will be sworn in during the banquet at our Annual Conference in July!

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

SR. DIRECTOR: Hon. Bill Sutton (AZ)

PRESIDENT: Hon. Carlton Gray (NM)

PRESIDENT ELECT: Hon. Mark Temaats (KS)

VICE PRESIDENT: Hon. Lamont Barnett (VT)

SECRETARY: Hon. Penny McPherson (MT)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Hon. Kerry Burman (MT)

STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES!

ARIZONA – Hon. Bill Sutton

KANSAS – Hon. Mark Temaats

MISSISSIPPI – Hon. Tabitha Britton-Porter

MONTANA – Hon. Kerry Burman and Hon. Penny McPherson

NEVADA – Hon. Jennifer Klapper

NEW MEXICO – Hon. Collis Johnson and Hon. Carlton Gray

NEW YORK – Hon. Amel Jowdy and Hon. Gary Graber

OREGON – Hon. Candace Hissong

SOUTH CAROLINA – Hon. Derrick Dash

VERMONT – Hon. Lamont Barnett and Hon. Carolyn Partridge

WYOMING – Hon. William Conner

CONTACT INFORMATION!

Hon. Kerry Burman
National Judges Association
312 S Merrill Ave
Glendive, MT 59330

www.nationaljudgesassociation.org
888-FONE-NJA
NJAExecutiveDirector@yahoo.com

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