

4th Region XI Symposium

13:30 - 17:00 p.m. CET, Thursday September 21, 2023

De Balie, Kleine-Gartmanplantsoen 10, Amsterdam

Lifelong learning. Maintaining stability and serving democracy in a changing world.

Clerks all over the world are faced with unexpected challenges in society that they have to live with, cope with and manage. For instance intimidation and polarization are themes that have been reported and discussed in newspapers and magazines, investigated and clarified by scholars and scientists, and are being debated intensively on social media.

The question arises whether and how clerks can react and act upon these challenges. What are the ideas and tactics in the USA, the UK, The Netherlands and elsewhere? How do clerks approach these challenges and what can we learn from each other by crossing borders? So broaden your horizon and take on the challenge of crossing borders during the 4th symposium of Region XI in Amsterdam!

Morning program: Guided tours of The Houses of Parliament in The Hague

Region XI Symposium program at De Balie – Grote Zaal

13:00 - 13:30 Registration

13:30 - 14:00 **Opening of Region XI Symposium**

Moderator: Victor Vlam

Welcome address by

Drs. Femke Halsema, Mayor of Amsterdam

Drs. Renée Wiggers MMC, president VVG

Mrs. Lisa Garcia MMC, President Elect IIMC

14:00 - 14:45 **Jackie Weaver**

Author of the handbook: *You do have the authority here.*

The essential handbook for getting things done without fuss, keeping cool in the face of adversity and pressing mute on the noise.

What would lockdown internet sensation Jackie Weaver do? Jackie Weaver shares her life lessons: everything from Zoom etiquette and dealing with tiresome men to being a powerful older woman.

14:45 – 15:30 **Peter Fleming**

Former leader of Sevenoaks District Council and LGA Chair Improvement and Innovation Peter is leader of multi award winning Sevenoaks District Council, the first council to become self-sufficient from direct government funding, running a balanced 10 year rolling budget, in-house services and using investment property to support services to, and the priorities of, its residents.

15:30 – 15:45 Refreshment break & meet the exhibitors at De Salon

15:45 – 16:30 **Balance Act...life-long learning for democratic officers:**

The impact on curricula for democratic officers. An interactive international discussion.

Panel:

- Dr. Bea Nevarez Rodriguez, Director of Professional Development IIMC
- Prof. Dr. Klaartje Peters, Professor of Local and Regional Government at the University of Maastricht
- John Austin, Chair of the Association of Democratic Services Officers
- Joëlle van Eggermont, Filbert Academy EXELLO.NET

16:30 – 17:00 **Balance act: A personal reflection on the challenges in live by Eva Eikhout**

Eva is a young program maker and presenter and brings all kinds of social issues to light in a humorous way. In addition, she inspires people by telling about the obstacles that she challenges because of her physical disability in combination with a good dose of self-mockery and an instructive message.

18:30 - Buffet dinner and entertainment at De Balie

The speakers at the Symposium



Femke Halsema is the mayor of Amsterdam since 12 July 2018. Previously, from 1998 to 2011, she was a member of the House of Representatives of the States-General on behalf of GroenLinks. From 2002 to 2010, she was the party's parliamentary group leader and political leader.



Renée Wiggers MMC is clerk of the provincial council of Overijssel and since October 2015 president of the Netherlands Association of Clerks.



Lisa Garcia MMC is President Elect at the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She began her journey in the municipal clerk profession with the Town of Florence in 1994 as a Deputy Clerk. She was appointed Town Clerk in 1996 and Town Clerk/Deputy Town Manager in 2007. She continues in that capacity, leading the Clerk's Office while also managing the Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology Departments.



Jackie Weaver mainly works with Town and Parish Councils across Cheshire, but in 2021 came to the attention of the media after a council meeting she was involved in went viral. Since then she has done many tv and radio appearances and is regularly interviewed on local government and governance. She often gives presentations/talks to businesses and community organisations.



Peter Fleming is a former council member for the Conservatives at Sevenoaks District Council. He joined Sevenoaks in 2002 as cabinet member and has served on the council for over 20 years, including 18 years as leader. He has previously been chair of the Local Government Association's innovation and improvement board and finance spokesperson for the District Councils Network.



Dr. Beatrice Nevarez Rodriguez is the Director of Professional Development at the International Institute of Municipal Clerks since July 2021. She is a doctoral graduate in Higher Education Leadership conducting action research involving administrators in higher education leadership through the use of self-efficacy, performative support and mentorship. Her 30 years of work experience include legal administration, public service, and education. She is well known for her commitment to accomplishing organizational goals and objectives while employing best practices, professional development, excellent communication, and cultivating positive relationships.



Klaartje Peters is professor by special appointment of Local and Regional Government at the University of Maastricht. She also works as an independent researcher and publicist. Her main areas of focus are local and regional governance, inter-administrative relations and political-administrative decision-making. Her recent research focuses on the theme of control and accountability in local government and the functioning of municipal councils.



John Austin has been chair of the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) since it was created in 2009. ADSO represents staff working across all areas of democratic and governance support in local authorities, joint authorities and similar organisations in England and Wales. It is committed to promoting excellence, supporting the governance sector and providing a comprehensive range of high quality learning and development opportunities at low cost for its members and their councils.



Joëlle Eggemont is general director at the Belgian municipality of Kraainem. She is also boardmember of Exello.Net. Exello.net is the professional association of Flemish (deputy) general directors and opts for a knowledge-oriented and facilitating approach, based on a modest network that guarantees continuity at local level.



Eva Eikhout is a programme maker and presenter, that bring social issues to light in a humorous way. Eva studied Communication and Multimedia Design. After her studies she started her own company in media productions. She successfully completed the BNNVARA Academy, after which she joined YUNG DWDD as an editor and presenter.



Moderator

Victor Vlam is a sought-after speaker and moderator at conferences and events. He lectures on his specializations: communication and American politics. Every year Victor gives guest lectures at Tilburg University and the University of Amsterdam.

The venue



De Balie is The Netherlands' foremost venue for contemporary arts, politics and culture. It is known today as the house of free speech: a place where people from all over the world speak independently and freely about culture, politics and the rule of law. In the past, De Balie was mockingly called the unfree municipality. The Bar, a former district court, had been part of a large prison complex since 1891: Huis van Bewaring I.

During World War II, the Germans occupied the building and renamed it Polizeigefängnis. Numerous prisoners of the regime, including Anne Frank and her family, were detained and interrogated here immediately after their arrest. After this they were transported to other prisons, camps in the Netherlands or executed on the Weteringscircuit or in the dunes near Overveen.