

2017 CLERK OF THE YEAR

CITY OF HERINGTON

DEBRA WENDT



Debra (Debbie) Wendt, MMC, retired City Clerk, Herington, Kansas, was selected as the recipient of the 2017 Mildred Vance City Clerk/Finance Officer of the Year for the State of Kansas. The award was announced at the 67th annual City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association of Kansas (CCMFOA) Conference in Wichita in March.

Mrs. Wendt worked for the City of Herington for 38 years, serving as the City Clerk for 37 years. In addition, she was appointed Interim City Manager four times. Debbie earned the distinction of Certified Municipal Clerk in 1987 and the prestigious Master Municipal Clerk in 2000. Education is important to Debbie; she's been a member of CCMFOA and served on several committees over many years. Debbie has mentored numerous clerks during her time in CCMFOA. When a tornado hit the City of Chapman, she coordinated a schedule for volunteer clerks to assist with the daily duties so the City Clerk in Chapman could focus on post-disaster paperwork.

Debbie is a strong leader and strives for perfection in every task she undertakes. She has helped her city prepare for the annual parade and fair. She has been active in Orange Express Booster Club, where she organized fundraisers and worked in the food stand. Debbie also served for many years on the Tri-County Fair Board. She is active in her church serving as an usher, greeter and assisting with funeral dinners. Debbie has been active on

many more boards and committees in her community.

Brenda Wildman, current City Clerk for the City of Herington stated, "Debbie is dedicated to the City of Herington and her life has been the city. She knows the importance of, and followed through, completing tasks in the workplace. She is a person who works hard and loved her job. But, at the same time, she never sought recognition of her accomplishments."

The Clerk of the Year award is presented annually to a City Clerk or Finance Officer who has made significant contributions to the state association, the profession and their city. The award was named in honor of Mildred Vance, former auditor and City Clerk/Municipal Finance Officer of Parsons, who served her community from 1948 to 1988. Mildred was instrumental in developing and promoting professional education programs for city clerks and finance officers at the state and national levels. She was one of the first 100 clerks to receive the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation in 1972. Mildred was later accepted into the Academy for Advanced Education (AAE) and served as a director of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She strongly believed that city clerks and finance officers should contribute to their communities and she unselfishly gave of her time and talents in church, community and civic activities. 🌟