

ANNUAL REPORT
TOWN CLERK OF BLACKSTONE
YEAR ENDING 2010

I am pleased to submit my report for the 2010 calendar year.

As an ongoing effort to bring all unlicensed dogs current, the Town Clerk's Office brought in over \$11,000.00 in dog licenses, fines, late fees and kennel licenses. Working in cooperation with ACO Kevin Sullivan and Police Chief Ross Atstupenas, we were able to pursue outdated dog licenses and bring them current.

As a result of the 2010 annual census, the population of Blackstone is 8,883. The census is one of the biggest tasks of the Town Clerk's office with over 4000 households to update. At this time, I would like to remind residents the importance of returning the census because the information gathered through the census is used in attaining an accurate town population which is used in obtaining grants for the town of Blackstone for things such as schools and road improvements. In addition, in an emergency when seconds count, the census is just another way of helping our public safety personnel do their job. It is also helpful to list the number of dogs when responding to the census form. This year, we were again very fortunate to have Kasey Bik, a member of the BMR National Honor Society serve hours of community service to help us with this tremendous duty of the Town Clerk's office.

Our vital records from the date of Blackstone's incorporation in 1845 to the present date, total the following: Births-18,410; Deaths-11,053; Marriages-9,881.

In addition to the three scheduled elections this year, a Special State Election was added and held in January due to the death of Senator Edward Kennedy. The poll workers did an excellent job with both and my thanks go out to them for their diligence working long hours to man the polls. Also, I give merit to the many voters who braved the long lines, weather conditions and traffic to get to the polls to do their civic duty on Election Day. The Town of Blackstone has approximately 6,158 registered voters. Party totals are as follows: 1,783 Democrats; 640 Republicans; 3,701 Unenrolled and 34 of all other parties and Political Designations

During 2010, a newly implemented Open Meeting Law has had a tremendous impact on the workload in my office. Every meeting that is posted now must be accompanied by an agenda and the number of boards required to post has increased greatly as well. Nonetheless, the boards, commissions and committees have been very willing in acclimating themselves to the new laws and I am very appreciative of that.

At this time, I would like to offer my thanks to all other Municipal Departments in Blackstone for their cooperation in working with our office because without it, the town hall would not function as it should. In addition, I would like to express gratitude to the other members of the Board of Registrars, Heidi A. Jalbert, Marc J. V. Greenwald, and Suzanne Mercier for their commitment to the Town of Blackstone. I'd also like to acknowledge the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District for their assistance this year in conducting the joint town-school census.

It is with sincere admiration for Assistant Town Clerk, Claudette C. Dolinski and Office Assistant, Donna M. Bik that I am appreciative for yet another year of loyal support to this office and to this town. This office continues to progress with the utmost integrity and prudence which is something that I believe are essential components of the Town Clerk's office and the Town of Blackstone.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne E. Staples, C.M.M.C.
Town Clerk of Blackstone