

Athenian Dialogue: ILMCT Annual Conference 2024

What Is An Athenian Dialogue?

Dialogues are conversations that go beyond the usual knowledge recall and application process familiar to all municipal clerks in training seminars. They are unique because they explore leadership principles and practice, drawing on the insights contained in a book that all participants have read.

Dialogues are conversations in which clerks share their experience and understanding as it relates to the ideas of the author and the relevance of those ideas to their public leadership role.

The premise of the Athenian Dialogue Society is the idea that clerks are leaders in very profound yet subtle ways. Leadership here is not the transactional vending machine citizens seem to believe about public management. The interest and involvement of the participants, as well as moving the author's specific focus and emphasis, require that the facilitator move with purpose using language of meaning, feeling, and power. Participants devote a full day (6 hours) to a Dialogue and come away intellectually enriched by this communication experience.

Clerk leadership is more transformational in nature. That is to say, the contribution of clerks to municipal leadership changes the perception of colleagues and citizens about the role and purpose of government.

CMC/MMC Points Earned

Pre-approved Dialogues are eligible for 3 CMC Education Points or 3 MMC Advanced Education Points with completion of the required learning assessment.

Note: A maximum of 18 points can be applied to a CMC/MMC application from Athenian Dialogues.

Date and Time: Sunday, 23 June 2024, 8:00am-3:00pm EST

Book: *Finding Me: A Memoir by Viola Davis*

A New York Times bestselling memoir by actor Viola Davis, encapsulating her journey of growing up in poverty in Rhode Island and overcoming the trauma of her circumstances to find global success and fame. Davis is a celebrated actor with numerous awards and accolades to her name. At the time her memoir was published, she was the only African American to have won the Triple Crown of Acting: a Tony, an Emmy, and an Oscar. Through the retelling of her own experiences and the insights she has drawn from them, Davis touches upon themes of the interrelation between poverty, race, and trauma; the long and arduous process of coming to terms with one's identity in the face of marginalization and discrimination; and the heavy hand that luck, chance, and privilege play in the glitzy world of Hollywood. *Finding Me* is a deep reflection, a promise, and a love letter of sorts to self. My hope is that my story will inspire you to light up your own life with creative expression and rediscover who you were before the world put a label on you.

By looking inward and understanding yourself, you can become better in your position, serve your community in rewarding ways, and find your Joy.

Facilitator: Tami Kelly, MMC, Clerk of Council, City of Grove City

Appointed in November, 1990, Tami serves as the Clerk of Council for the City of Grove City, Ohio. She became a member of both OMCA and IIMC in 1991 and continues to remain active. She served as the OMCA President in 1998-99; and as the IIMC Region 5 Director from 2009 – 2012.

After receiving her MMC, and continuing her commitment to life-long learning, Tami completed the Athenian Leadership Program and became an Athenian Fellow in 2011. She trained and became a Facilitator in 2012.

Tami has been a speaker at a variety of conferences, meetings, and programs, including OMCA Conferences, Kent State Institutes, IIMC Conferences, IIMC Region meetings, the Southwest Community Leadership program; Local School programs; and the County Success program for High School students. In addition, she has led Study groups through foreign countries and teaches dance in her spare time.

Tami was appointed to the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board in 2018 and continues to serve today. She is a member of the Grove City Historical Society; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church; and Dana Olshefski Zumba group. She has been married to Brian Kelly for 35 years and they have one son, and two grandsons.

Cost: \$100 for ILMCT members, \$125 for IIMC members (Lunch included in price, book must be purchased separately)