

City manager aces state Clerk's Quiz

Ann Powers

Staff Writer

apowers@plumasnews.com

Portola City Manager Robert Meacher is among an honored few the California Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Association considers to be ultra state and civil service savvy.

Meacher is one of four test takers to score 100 percent on the Clerk's Quiz in the test's 25-year history. The computer-generated, random-question quiz covers California geography, landmarks, county seats, constitutional officers, election results and more. There are three different levels and nearly 1,400 questions. Participants answer as many questions as they can in five minutes.

"In a way I'm humbled, in a way I'm honored, and in a way I feel validated my 20 years of public service to the people I represent would make me part of this elite

group," Meacher said about the quiz, which is presented by the CCBSA during the annual California State Association of Counties meeting. "I didn't realize at the time I was in the company of such few Californians."

The tradition began in 1989 when John Taylor, a retired clerk of the board for the city and county of San Francisco, suggested the clerks sponsor an exhibit booth at the CSAC conference with a quiz about the state's 58 counties. The initial challenge had 116 questions — today there are 1,388.

Taylor said he wanted to provide a friendly competition while highlighting the important role clerks of the board play in county organizations.

"I saw it as a way to get county supervisors to think of the clerks of the board not just as clerical people, but those who were doing significant jobs," he said. "I

think it's paid off and a perfect score is a rare accomplishment."

Like Meacher, Taylor was also a city manager. He worked for five different municipalities including Berkeley and Fresno.

Meacher aced the Clerk's Quiz at the 2012 CSAC meeting in Long Beach when

he was a Plumas County supervisor. Former Nevada County Executive Officer Ted Gaebler was the first 100 percent winner, in 2002, followed by former Butte County Public Health Director Phyllis Murdock in 2010, and CSAC Legislative Analyst Christopher Lee in 2014.

NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH

Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015 • 10am – 1pm

\$10 Per Person

Children Under 6 • FREE

For info call

530-832-5785



Calpine Elks Lodge (Hwy 70 in Maybe)

Pat Ch
Living in Sus
9 year

(Carryin

Sat
Su

Inclu

Firear
(fo

Class Si