



TMCA NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We Can Do It, Yes We Can!

2009 brings exciting and bountiful changes our way. We witnessed a vital event in the history of our nation on Tuesday, January 20, as Barack Obama became the first African American to take the oath of office as President of the United States. To quote IIMC President Dyanne Reese, "We all celebrate, knowing no other country can claim this accomplishment. Only in America where anything is possible!"

TMCA, Inc., started off with the Election Law Seminar in January. There were over 460 attendees, with a large number of new clerks. We welcome all new clerks and encourage you to make sure you become a full-fledged member of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association and Certification Program. Your membership is vital to the



TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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President Ervin, TRMC, addresses the attendees of the TMCCP luncheon at the January Election Law Seminar in Irving. See full coverage starting on [page 12](#).

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<http://municlerks.unt.edu>

Vol. XX, No. 1, March 2009. **Co-Editors:** Alexandra Burke; Peggy Burnside, TRMC; Miriam Sheehan, TRMC; Joyce Snay, TRMC.

Submission deadline for publication in **June** issue: **April 27**.
 Send articles to: alexandra.burke@unt.edu

future and success of our organization and most importantly to your professional career. I appreciate your attendance, and I know you went away with lots of knowledge about election practices and procedures. Hats off to all of the Election Law speakers and presenters. Great job!

As we embrace the rest of our year, I encourage each of you to emphasize and focus on three “C’s”: ***Certification, Chapter, City.***

Certification: Education is a focal point. We cannot do our jobs without proper education and training. The training opportunities received through the certification program to become a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk will enhance your knowledge and ability to conduct the affairs of your office in the most professional manner. Once you enroll, you will find the time to fulfill the certification requirements. Scholarship funding can be obtained through local chapters and TMCA, Inc. There is educational information online that can be obtained and used to gain the support of your mayor, council, and/or city manager, and I will be happy to share written support as well.

Chapter: My challenge to each of you is to reach out to cities that surround you. Contact them, not just with one phone call or email, but several. Share with them the importance of being connected with your chapter. Share with them the resources available to chapter members. Share with them the enthusiasm you have of being associated with your chapter. Share with them the compassion you have for one another as you network to find solutions to important issues.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

City: Our profession revolves around our citizens and our communities. We are all fortunate and blessed to work for excellent cities that provide stability, leadership, good benefits, and a good work environment. Our cities recognize and appreciate the jobs that we do, and in turn we should do what we can to legally protect and safeguard what we do. Most of all, enjoy what you do daily.

Also, this year our own Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, embarks on another historical journey as she is **installed as president** of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. I look forward to representing our state at the annual conference in May as I congratulate and support Mary Lynne in this endeavor.

I, along with the Central Texas Chapter, will welcome you to Waco for the **June TMCCP seminar**. I hope you plan to attend and check out all Waco and the surrounding cities have to offer. You will learn a lot and have plenty of fun!

Just remember, clerks: WE ARE ONE!

Patricia Ervin, TRMC

2009 TMCA, Inc., President



President Patricia Ervin, TRMC (left), city secretary, Waco, and Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, administrative assistant, TMCA/TMCCP, at the Election Law Seminar registration table.



TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC, addresses the attendees of the luncheon before diplomas are conferred upon TMCCP graduates.



A vendor demonstrates voting equipment to an Election Law Seminar attendee.

Background: At the "Step By Step" session of the TMCCP Election Law Seminar.

Inset photos © Paul Traves, f16 Photography, f16photo.com

TMCCP Election Law Seminar photos starting on [page 12](#)

TMCCP SEMINAR

Public Relations & Leadership Essentials

April 2-3, 2009, McAllen, Texas • Early Registration Deadline: March 18



Speaker David Reed

Seminar hotel:
Embassy Suites McAllen
 956-686-3000 (block full)

Overflow hotel:
Hilton Garden Inn McAllen
 956-664-2900

Rate for the Hilton
 Texas Municipal Clerks
 room block: \$99 + tax
 (includes a cooked-to-
 order breakfast)

The Hilton will offer a
 complimentary shuttle to
 and from the airport and
 seminar hotel.

Attending TMCCP enrollees
 can receive **Course 2**
 seminar credit.

Register today!

Join us April 2-3 in McAllen for a comprehensive seminar on **Public Relations & Leadership Essentials**. The seminar begins at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, and ends at noon on Friday, April 3. Speaker **David Reed**, founder of Customer Centered Consulting Group, Inc., will speak on:

- Building a Culture of Service**
- Leadership Essentials—Motivation and Accountability**
- Getting More Out of Your Day**
- Building a Strong Team**
- Contingency Planning**

David Reed brings a unique combination of an engineering education, real-world experience, and entertaining presentation skills to each client engagement. Obtaining degrees in Chemical Engineering and Computer Science from Texas A&M University provided the technical, process minded approach to reviewing work processes; although his wife calls him “a weird engineer” because David has always enjoyed the people side of business.

David served with Andersen Consulting, Exxon, and in senior leadership roles with several smaller companies. His last stop prior to starting his own business was with Walt Disney World in Orlando.

Since starting Customer Centered Consulting Group, Inc., in 1999, David has provided business consulting, training, and speaking services for a wide variety of companies including State Farm Insurance, AT&T, Toshiba, and Halliburton. David is the author of four easy-read customer service books titled *Monday Morning Customer Service*, *Business Meets the Bible: Customer Service*, *A Culture of Service*, and *Service Where it Counts*. ★

TMCCP SEMINAR & OPTIONAL NOTARY SESSION

Municipal Debt Creation & Administration

June 18-19, 2009, Waco Hilton

Course 3 or 4 and Recertification Credit

Expert consultants Dan Wegmiller, Garry Kimball, and Jennifer Douglas, First Southwest Company, Austin, will present sessions on the following subjects: municipal debt financing; initiating a financing program; process of issuing debt securities; role of the bond attorney; and activities after a successful debt issue.

This seminar will run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to noon on Friday. Registration fee includes a continental breakfast on Thursday and Friday mornings, lunch on Thursday, and coffee breaks both days.

The combination registration form and brochure will be available on our [website](#) in mid-April. A reminder postcard will be mailed out to all Texas city secretaries the last week of April.

We encourage attendees to make reservations at the Waco Hilton now. Rates are \$124 (single occupancy) and \$134 (double occupancy). Phone: 254-754-8484. Ask for rooms in the Texas Municipal Clerks block.

No More Sign-up Sheets!

Beginning at the April TMCCP seminar in McAllen, seminar attendees will no longer sign the attendance sheets passed around during each session.

Instead, seminar participants will have barcoded name badges that will be scanned for attendance.



Two Important Education Opportunities

June 17-19, 2009 • Waco Hilton, 254-754-8484

TMCCP is honored to feature a **Texas Notary Law & Procedures Session** in conjunction with the June TMCCP **Municipal Debt Creation & Administration Seminar**. Anyone may attend one or both of these seminars; there will be separate registration fees for each one on a single registration form. Check our website in mid-April for registration information.

Texas Notary Law & Procedures Session

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., June 17, 2009, Waco Hilton

Dixie Lucey, State Notary Commission Director of Education, will conduct this optional session. Topics covered will include: Notary Laws, Proper Record Keeping, Avoiding Official Misconduct, Administering Oaths & Acknowledgments, Legal Procedures & Processes of Notarization, and Liability Protection Practice for Notary & Employer. Participants will be able to apply for or renew their Notary Public Commission at this session. Additional notary fees may be paid at this session. See online brochure for complete details on our [website](#) in mid-April. ★

2009 Scholarships

By Scholarship Committee Chair Kathy Wingo, TRMC

Application deadline is June 15—apply today!



Kathy Wingo, TRMC

The mission of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., and the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program is to provide an educational and professional development program for novice and experienced municipal clerks. The scholarship program is a great way to advance these educational opportunities for members of the TMCA, Inc.

There are two different types of scholarships that applicants may apply for: the **TMCA Major Scholarships** and the **MCCi Records Management Scholarships**. Read the following sections to learn more.

All applications must be received by TMCA Scholarship Committee Chair Kathy Wingo no later than **June 15** to be considered for this year's scholarships. The TMCA Scholarship Committee will consider all applications, deliberate on the factors of eligibility, and designate the scholarship awards for all of one calendar year. Scholarship winners will be notified that they have received a scholarship. The actual presentation of the awards will occur at the TMCA Awards Banquet on the evening of October 8 (this event will be held during the TMCCP Graduate Institute Seminar in San Antonio).

About the Scholarships

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2009 SCHOLARSHIPS

About the Scholarships • General Requirements • Selection Criteria • Scholarship Administration

About the Scholarships

Apply for a TMCA Major Scholarship Award or an MCCi Records Management Scholarship



TMCA Major Scholarship Awards

Depending on the applicant's intended use of the scholarship—TMCCP or college/university study—the applicant may be granted a scholarship from one of the following sources, chosen by the Scholarship Committee. To apply for a TMCA Major Scholarship Award, download and submit our **application form**.

Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship

Maximum amount awarded: \$500.00 each

Intended use: pursuit of either the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification/Recertification (TRMC) or eligible college/university study

History: The Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship was established in 1993 by the members of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc., to honor Dorothy Byrd, former Executive Director of Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program and Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.

Lila Fern Martin Scholarship

Maximum amount awarded: \$1,000.00

Intended use: eligible college/university study

History: The Lila Fern Martin Scholarship honors the 1958-1959 president of the Association of City Clerks and Secretaries of Texas—the predecessor organization of TMCA.

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship - new!

Maximum amount awarded: \$500.00

Intended use: pursuit of the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification/Recertification (TRMC)

History: Established in 2008, this scholarship honors TMCCP/TMCA Education Director Dr. Joyce Snay.

Vendor Scholarships

Maximum amount awarded: \$500.00

Intended use: pursuit of the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) or Recertification, including travel to and from approved seminars

History: Various donors contribute funds toward Texas Municipal Clerks scholarships in recognition of the mission of TMCA, Inc., and TMCCP, which states, "The Texas Municipal Clerks Association and the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program are dedicated to providing an educational and professional development program for novice and experienced municipal clerks." Past vendor donors have included: American Legal Publishing; Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc.; Laserfiche; Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP; Municipal Code Corporation; and Questys Solutions.

MCCi Records Management Scholarship

Developed to recognize city secretaries/municipal clerks who have established outstanding systems for records management or who have improved existing systems. To apply for an MCCi Records Management Scholarship, download and submit our **application form**.

Maximum amount awarded: \$500.00 in each of three categories

Intended use: Scholarship award funds are to be used for continued or advanced education in a TMCCP program or a TMCA-approved records management program (e.g., ARMA, Texas State Library, Council of Governments), including travel to and from eligible seminars.

History: The MCCi Records Management Scholarship was developed in 2006 for the purpose of recognizing city secretaries/municipal clerks who have established outstanding systems for records management or who have improved existing systems.

2009 SCHOLARSHIPS

About the Scholarships • General Requirements • Selection Criteria • Scholarship Administration

General Requirements

Eligible applicants shall be current paid members of TMCA and shall have been paid members of TMCA for two consecutive years previous to application for the scholarship. Applicants must be actively pursuing certification or recertification in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. Applicants must have already earned the TRMC to be eligible to use the funds for a college degree.

(To learn about requirements for those pursuing a bachelor degree or graduate degree, **visit our website.**)

Selection Criteria

1. Applicants must meet all of the eligibility requirements.
2. Scholarships will be awarded based on a combination of the applicant's years of municipal service, membership in TMCA, Inc., and progress in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification/Recertification Program. For those pursuing a college or university degree, points are awarded based on the number of college hours completed.
3. Preference will be given to applicants who have not received a previous award.
4. With the exception of the MCCi Records Management Scholarship, preference will be given to 1) city secretaries or municipal clerks; 2) assistant or deputy city secretaries or municipal clerks; and 3) other TMCA, Inc., members. Applicants *must be* city secretaries/municipal clerks to be eligible for the **MCCi Records Management Scholarship**.
5. Members of the current scholarship committee are not eligible to apply for a TMCA Major Scholarship or MCCi Records Management Scholarship.

Scholarship Committee:

Chair

*Kathy Wingo, TRMC,
city secretary, Lucas*

*Irma Parker, TRMC,
city secretary, Rockport*

*Marie Balthrop, TRMC,
city secretary, Holliday*

*Perla Zamora, TRMC,
deputy city secretary,
McAllen*

*Board Liaison Art
Camacho, TRMC, city
secretary, Haltom City*

Submit completed form
by **June 15** to:

**Kathy Wingo, TRMC
City Secretary, City of Lucas
151 Country Club Rd
Lucas, TX 75002**

Fax 972-727-0091

kwingo@lucastexas.us

*Download the TMCA Major
Scholarship Award **application***

*Download the MCCi Records
Management Scholarship
application*

2009 SCHOLARSHIPS

About the Scholarships • General Requirements • Selection Criteria • Scholarship Administration

Scholarship Administration

(For full information about scholarship administration, visit our [website](#).)

The TMCA treasurer disburses scholarship funds to the recipient(s) on a cost-reimbursement basis not to exceed the amount(s) awarded. The recipient(s) shall be reimbursed for qualifying expenses incurred between January 1 and December 31 of the year following the award of scholarship. The recipient must submit original, official receipt(s) issued by TMCCP, the college, or the university to receive payment for reimbursable expenses. Reimbursable expenses depend upon the scholarship awarded. Each scholarship and eligible expenses are listed below:

Dorothy Byrd Scholarship

(for TMCCP certification/recertification or college)

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to : 1) cost of enrollment, textbooks, exam fees, and seminar registration fees; 2) credit-hour tuition fees, (extension and correspondence courses listed in the institutional catalog that apply to the recipient(s) degree plan are acceptable); 3) building use fees; 4) student service fees; 5) identification card fees; 6) publications fees; 7) union building fees; 8) property damage fees; 9) science laboratory fees; 10) and academic department fees.

Lila Fern Martin Scholarship

(for college use only)

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to: 1) credit-hour tuition fees (extension and correspondence courses listed in the institutional catalog that apply to the recipient(s) degree plan are acceptable); 2) building use fees; 3) student service fees; 4) identification card fees; 5) publications fees; 6) union building fees; 7) property damage fees; 8) science laboratory fees; and 9) academic department fees.

Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship

(for TMCCP certification/recertification)

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to: 1) cost of enrollment; 2) textbooks; 3) exam fees; 4) seminar registration fees.

Vendor Scholarships (Including the MCCi Records Management Scholarship)

Reimbursable expenses are exclusive to: 1) cost of enrollment; 2) textbooks; 3) exam fees; 4) seminar registration fees; and 5) travel to and from approved seminars. ★



For full information about the scholarships, including post award requirements, please [visit our website](#).

2009 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year

By Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Annette Villarreal, TRMC

Nominate a fellow TMCA member for this honor by June 15!



Annette Villarreal, TRMC

On behalf the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee, I am pleased to solicit nominations for the distinguished 2009 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year. Each TMCA chapter is encouraged to nominate a representative for consideration; nevertheless, nominations are also accepted by individuals. This is the time to honor one of our own for their significant contributions they have made on the local and/or state level.

Your nomination(s) may be submitted to Committee Chair Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, City of McAllen, P.O. Box 220 McAllen, Texas 78505-0220; fax at 956-681-1010; email avillarreal@mcallen.net.

Nominee requirements:

1. Must be a municipal clerk who has been an active member of TMCA for at least five years;
2. Must have provided service to other municipal clerks on a local level where the opportunity exists, or on a state level;
3. Must have exhibited leadership abilities;

Download the PDF

of the nomination form and nomination instructions.

Nominees:

View your TMCA membership years by signing into your **account** on our website.

Don't have an account?

Create one now.



2008 Clerk of the Year Patricia Ervin, TRMC (right), is presented a plaque by Committee Board Liaison Linda Knight, TRMC.

2009 CLERK OF THE YEAR

4. Must hold the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification; and
5. Must currently hold a municipal clerk position.

The nomination form may be **downloaded here**, or you may contact the TMCA office to request the form: **municlerks@unt.edu** or 940-565-3488. Nomination forms will also be mailed to all TMCA chapter presidents. The deadline to submit nominations is **June 15, 2009**.

Members of the 2009 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee are: Chair Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen; Eddie Sturgal, TRMC, city secretary, Fate; Debbie Chelf, TRMC, city secretary, Hutto; Stacy Corley, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Nacogdoches; and TMCA Board Liaison Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown.

The 2009 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year will be announced at the Annual Awards Ceremony held in conjunction with the TMCCP Graduate Institute in San Antonio on Thursday, October 8, 2009. Make plans to attend the Awards Ceremony to support your nominee(s) and honor the recipient! ★

TMCCP Certificates Earned

Congratulations to the following enrollees who earned course certificates in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program after completing the homework, attending the required seminars, and passing the examination for the designated course.

Course 1

LuAnn Drake, Magnolia

Asucena Garcia, Decatur

Carrie Gregg, Meadows Place

Kelly Moore, Port Arthur

Karen Price, Pampa

Course 2

Jane Lees, Copperas Cove

Sherrie Phelps, Ladonia

Course 3

Peggy Cimics, Cibolo

Course 4

Laura Bell, Carrollton

Debra Brent, Magnolia

Linda Byers, Vernon

Deborah Dennis, Blue Mound

Holly Harmon, McKinney

Lisa Hernandez,
Fair Oaks Ranch

Esmeralda Hudson, Waco

Jane Lees, Copperas Cove

Cara McPartland, Wimberley

Christel Pettinos, Coppell

Susan Stewart, River Oaks

Sandra Rodriguez Torres,
Hondo

Kerry Williams, Llano

TMCCP 2009 Election Law Seminar

Photography by Paul Traves, f16 Photography, with special contributions from TMCA members

The 2009 TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving was a huge success! Over 460 were in attendance and our eleven speakers did an outstanding job presenting valuable election information to the attendees. This was also the first year to have vendors exhibit at the seminar (see page 17).



"Contracting Elections, Training Workers, Pending Legislation"
Speaker Bruce Sherbet talks with an attendee.



"Early Voting."
Speakers, left to right:
Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park;
Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city secretary, Wichita Falls; and
Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City.



"Step By Step: Process of an Election" Pre-Seminar Session.
Speakers: Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland; Linda Knight, TRMC, city secretary, Breckenridge; and Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city clerk, San Marcos.



"DOJ Submissions, Election Contests, Electioneering."
Speakers: Alan Bojorquez and Cristina Blanton,
Bovey & Bojorquez, LLP.

Inset photos © Paul Traves, f16 Photography, f16photo.com

2009 ELECTION LAW SEMINAR: CANDID PHOTOS

photo courtesy of Christi Wynn



© Paul Traves, f16 Photography, f16photo.com



photo courtesy of Susan House



photo courtesy of Teresa Moore

Above left: Christi Wynn, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Brownwood, and Christy Fath, TRMC, city secretary, Lakeway, display their Texas Registered Municipal Clerk certificates of graduation.

Above center: Beth Nemeth, city secretary, Blooming Grove; Teresa Moore, city secretary, Horseshoe Bay; and Linda Rorick, city secretary, Pasadena, at the seminar luncheon.

Above right: Susan House, TRMC, executive secretary, Mesquite; Linda Ardis, TRMC, city secretary, Lavon; Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco.

At left: Russell Haddock, senior account executive Southwest Region, MCCI, talks with Election Law Seminar attendees.

2009 ELECTION LAW SEMINAR: LUNCHEON & GRADUATION CEREMONY

On January 13 we celebrated Certification Program enrollees at the Election Law Seminar Luncheon and Graduation Ceremony—this year 31 enrollees graduated and 28 graduates recertified. TMCA members were delighted to have Past President Norma Rodriguez, TRMC, ret. city secretary, San Antonio, as the luncheon speaker.



© Paul Traves, f16 Photography, f16photo.com

Above: Standing at front, TMCA Certification Committee Chair Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock, and TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director Peggy Burnside, TRMC, prepare to award diplomas to those who have earned the Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification. At the podium, TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC, addresses the Graduation Ceremony attendees.

Top right: Certification Committee members at the head table, from left to right: Chair Becky Garza, TRMC, city secretary, Lubbock; Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen; Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett; and Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park.

Middle right: TMCA Past President Norma Rodriguez, TRMC, addresses the attendees of the luncheon.

Lower right: At the head table: TMCA/TMCCP Administrative Director Peggy Burnside, TRMC; TMCA/TMCCP Education Director Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC; President Elect Pam Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson; guest speaker Norma Rodriguez, TRMC.

Inset at left: TMCA Past President Norma Rodriguez, TRMC, addresses the attendees of the luncheon.

2009 ELECTION LAW SEMINAR

TMCCP Graduating Class of 2009

© Paul Traves, f16 Photography, f16photo.com



Front row, left to right:

Christi Wynn, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Brownwood
 Angela Kelly, TRMC, deputy city secretary, The Colony
 Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch
 Christy Fath, TRMC, city secretary, Lakeway
 Lisa Hennek, TRMC, town secretary, Trophy Club
 Cynthia Bowman, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Bryan
 Gail Weir, TRMC, city secretary, Ore City
 Laure Ladner, TRMC, city secretary/office mgr., Hemphill

Second row, left to right:

Melinda Welsh, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Friendswood
 Lori Carroll, TRMC, asst. to city mgr./dep. city sec., Boerne
 Tammy Edwards, TRMC, city secretary, Alvord
 Vickie Schmid, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Richardson
 Debbie Haile, TRMC, city secretary, Leander
 Theresa Bowe, TRMC, city clerk, Yoakum
 Linda Ardis, TRMC, city secretary, Lavon
 Susan House, TRMC, executive secretary, Mesquite
 Barbara Roberts, TRMC, public works administrator, Kemah
 Staci McGinty, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Huntsville
 Tina Broussard, TRMC, city clerk, Beaumont
 Kimberley Whitton, TRMC, city secretary, Azle

Third row, left to right:

Miriam Sheehan, TRMC, administrative asst., TMCA/TMCCP
 Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights
 Amanda McCrory, TRMC, city secretary, Burleson
 Edna Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Kingsville
 Mary Velasquez, TRMC, city secretary, Eagle Pass
 Sandy McCoy, TRMC, administrative asst., Highland Village
 Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco
 Cynthia Olguin, TRMC, city secretary, Red Oak
 Kim Barnes, TRMC, city secretary, Roanoke
 Kristi Rogers, TRMC, administrative asst., Hickory Creek
 Peggy Burnside, TRMC, administrative director, TMCA/TMCCP

Congratulations to this year's graduates of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. These graduates have met the requirements of certification: successfully completing the homework in each of the four TMCCP courses; taking the four TMCCP course tests; and attending eight TMCCP seminars. We salute the dedication and professionalism of these Texas Registered Municipal Clerks!

2009 ELECTION LAW SEMINAR

TMCCP Recertifying Class of 2009

© Paul Traves, f16 Photography, f16photo.com



Front row, left to right:

- Alice Rodgers, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Jackson
- Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary/dir. finance, Hondo
- Christie Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, The Colony
- Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls
- Kathy Turner, TRMC, city secretary, Kennedale
- Jeanne Fralicks, TRMC, assistant city manager, Duncanville
- Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland
- Scarlet Swoboda, TRMC, city secretary, Victoria

Second row, left to right:

- Kelly Edwards, TRMC
- Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa
- Pat Jones, TRMC, city secretary, Nassau Bay
- Tracy Dutton, TRMC, city clerk, Bellaire
- Ron Gonzales, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Fort Worth
- Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy
- Linda Cernosek, TRMC, city secretary, Rosenberg
- Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton
- Lori Payne, TRMC, city secretary, Southlake

Third row, left to right:

- Theresa Van Meter, TRMC, city secretary, West Orange
- Fran Wendeborn, TRMC, city secretary, Rusk
- Elizabeth Penny, TRMC, city secretary/treas., Runaway Bay
- Sylvia Martinez, TRMC, billing clerk, Plains

Congratulations to those recertifying in the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program in 2009. Recertification requires attendance at six TMCCP seminars and completion of three book reports every five years. We salute the dedication and professionalism of these Texas Registered Municipal Clerks!

Not pictured: Beverly Covington, TRMC, deputy city secretary (ret.), McKinney; Janet Davis, TRMC, city secretary/treasurer, Santa Fe; Cathy DiMaggio, TRMC, city secretary, Grand Prairie; Aref Hassan, TRMC, city manager/secretary/fire marshal, Winters; Debbie Millican, TRMC, town administrator, Bartonville; Marla Porter, TRMC, city secretary, Conroe; and Angie Warner, TRMC, judge, Double Oak.

2009 ELECTION LAW SEMINAR: IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to our vendors—your generous contributions helped make the 2009 TMCCP Election Law Seminar an unqualified success!

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Clockwise from top left:



Platinum-level sponsor
Municipal Code Corporation



Gold-level sponsor
Franklin Legal Publishing, Inc.



Gold-level sponsor
Granicus



Gold-level sponsor
Premier Election Solutions

Texas Municipal League Report

By TML Representative Mary Kayser, TRMC



Mary Kayser, TRMC

TML New Member Orientation December 11, 2008, Austin

The TML Orientation meeting began with a welcome from TML President John Cook and TML Executive Director Frank Sturzl and the introduction of the new members. The TML staff provided the new members with lots of information on the history of TML, the budget and our responsibilities as Boardmembers. TML is a very well-organized and well-run organization.

The TML Board of Directors Meeting December 12, 2008, Austin

President's Report

TML President John Cook named his appointments to the TML Executive Committee – James Rodriguez, Councilmember, Houston and Marie Briseño, Councilmember, Lamesa.

The membership of the TML Executive Committee is as follows:

TML President John Cook, Mayor, El Paso
 TML President-Elect Debra McCartt, Mayor, Amarillo
 TML Immediate Past Pres. Todd Pearson, Mayor, Rockport
 TML Past Pres. Henry Wilson, Councilmember, Hurst
 TML Past Pres. Dock Jackson, Councilmember, Bastrop

TML Past Pres. Terry Henley, Mayor Pro Tem, Meadows Place
 TML Past Pres. Jackie Levingston, Mayor, Grosebeck
 TML Past President Guy Goodson, City Attorney, Vidor
 Councilmember James Rodriguez, Houston
 Councilmember, Marie Briseño, Lamesa

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Frank Sturzl reported to the board that during the upcoming Legislative Session TML will be monitoring all legislation that impacts cities. Property taxes and appraisals, immigration and red light cameras will be among the hot topics.

TML is continuing to follow and provide some information for the City of San Antonio's suit against Hotels.com regarding hotel taxes.

TML will be making a contribution to the Governor's Mansion Restoration fund.

The Board reviewed and discussed the League's 2009 Legislative Program. The final version will be included in the January 2009 edition of the *Texas Town & City Magazine*.

As it has in years past the TML Legislative update provides a listing of filed bills that relate to municipalities. ★

IIMC News

By IIMC President Elect Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC



Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC

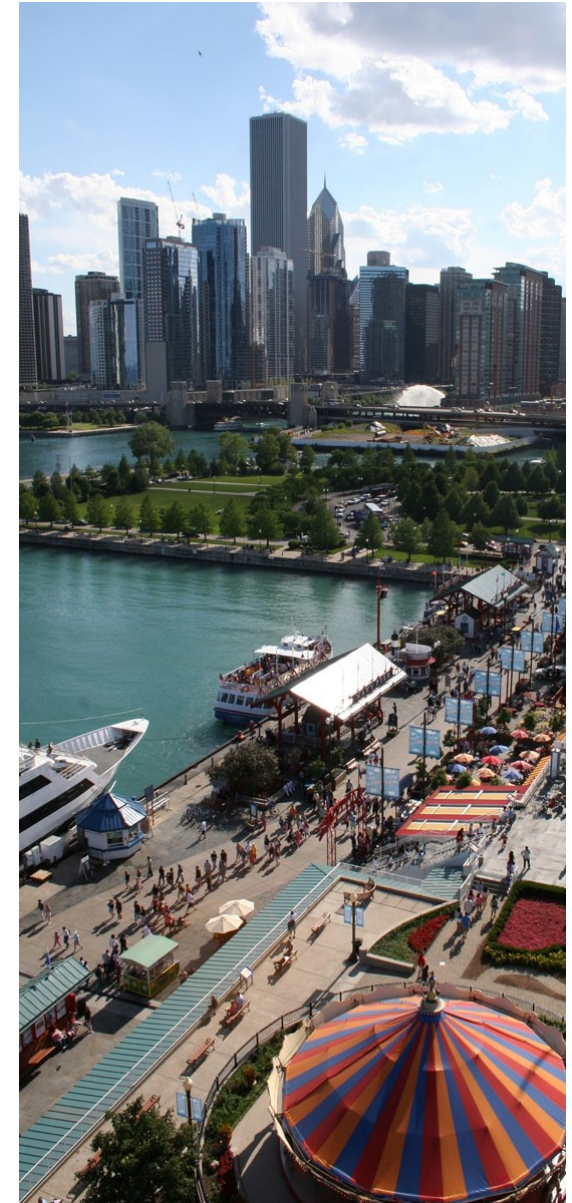
IIMC Annual Conference

May 19-23, 2009 • Chicago

Celebrate Mary Lynne Stratta's IIMC presidency—be sure to attend these two events on **Saturday, May 23**:
Business Meeting—8:30 a.m.
Annual Banquet—7:00 p.m.

The Municipal Clerks Education Foundation is offering **scholarships** (grants) to pay the **entire cost of registration for the annual conference**. Visit **IIMC's website** to apply. One scholarship will be awarded per region—let's be sure Region IV takes advantage of this opportunity!

The IIMC annual conference will be held May 19-23 in Chicago. The educational program promises to be outstanding, with four keynote addresses including Captain Jim Lovell (“Apollo 13: A Successful Failure”), Monster.com’s Jeffery Taylor, and “Team of Rivals: Lincoln’s Leadership Style,” by the highly regarded Second City Communications, as well as dozens of concurrent sessions. The all conference event will be held at the Navy Pier, with special entertainment by Gary Sinise’s Lt. Dan Band (actor Gary Sinise portrayed Lieutenant Dan in *Forrest Gump* and currently stars in “CSI: NY”). The opening reception is planned for the Field Museum of Natural History, one of the finest in the country. The host hotel, the Palmer House Hilton, is beautiful and located within walking distance of Millennium Park, considered to be Chicago’s most important projects since the World’s Columbian Expositions of 1893! Of course, the Magnificent Mile (upscale department stores, restaurants, luxury retailers and the Chicago River Walk) is also located within walking distance. The annual business meeting will be held Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m., and that is when I will take the oath of office to assume the presidency of IIMC. The chain of office will be passed to me Saturday night at the annual banquet, and I hope all of you can be there for the festivities.



IIMC NEWS

Please don't forget that the Municipal Clerks Education Foundation is offering scholarships (grants) to pay the entire cost of registration for the annual conference. Visit IIMC's website to apply. One scholarship will be awarded per region. Let's be sure Region IV takes advantage of this opportunity.

If you missed the deadline to submit an application to serve on one of IIMC's committees during the period May 2009-2010, please submit an application at this time. It is not

too late to be added to a committee and I need your help as we have much work to do to continue our journey to improve member services for all of our members.

The IIMC Board continues to be heavily engaged in discussions regarding the education and certification guidelines. There is consensus that the education/certification guidelines and application process need to be further streamlined and simplified (without impacting educational program quality).



Texas clerks at IIMC Conferences in years past. We hope to see you in Chicago in May!



IIMC NEWS

Stakeholders (institute directors, state associations, state education committees, members) will be engaged in this dialogue at the annual conference.

The IIMC Board has also started work on the development of a long-term strategic plan. The process will culminate with the adoption of the strategic plan at the Reno conference in May 2010. The Board identified five key result areas to be addressed through the plan: education, membership, board development, communication/technology, and finance. The results of the recent membership-wide survey will be used heavily in the development of the strategic plan.

Listed below are constitutional amendments that will be presented to the IIMC membership for approval and email ratification, as well as other items under review by the Policy Review Committee.

Constitution Amendments Policy Changes

The new IIMC Policy Review Committee presented a lengthy list of recommendations to

the IIMC Board of Directors at the mid-year meeting held in November.

Constitutional Amendments

The following amendments were approved by the Board of Directors for presentation at the business meeting in Chicago on Saturday, May 23, and, if approved there, will be forwarded for ratification to all IIMC members.

- Clarify that retired members do not have the privilege of holding office
- Provide that the Executive Committee is not a decision-making body and all action items are to be submitted to the Board of Directors
- Provide that the executive director reports to the Board of Directors

Constitutional Amendments Under Consideration by Policy Committee

- Board of Directors may confer honorary membership status upon retirement or assumption of position other than municipal clerk; currently, this is an automatic

designation for past presidents

- Procedure in event of vacancy in office of the executive director
- Parameters for retention of a seat on the Board of Directors if a director relocates outside of the region they represent due to a change in employment
- For candidates for IIMC Board of Directors representing Region X (Canada), waive the requirement of attendance at three IIMC annual conferences. Only two conferences would be required, the second of which may be at the time of assuming office. A similar waiver already exists for Region XI which comprises membership from outside North America.

Policies Approved

- Set \$50 limit on memorial contributions authorized by Board of Directors to MCEF with review every three years
- Executive Committee may recommend, not amend, budget estimates prior to submission to the Board
- Unbudgeted expenditures over \$10,000

IIMC NEWS

shall be submitted to Board of Directors after review and recommendation by the Budget and Planning Committee

- Executive director granted authority to re-allocate budgeted expenditures between accounts in the event of an emergency or unanticipated requirement with approval of the Budget and Planning Committee, provided total budget estimates are not exceeded and revenue targets are met
- Education Honors Award was replaced with the current practice of Institute Directors Award
- Code of Ethics shall be included in New Member Orientation, annual conference program, and prominently displayed at conference

Policies Under Consideration of Policy Review and Related Committees

- Executive Committee endorsement of candidates
- Composition and method of appointment of Budget and Planning Committee members
- Reinstatement of membership cancelled

prior to annual conference to enjoy discounted conference fee

- Conferences outside USA and Canada
- Consolidation of education policies

IIMC News Digest: Download Current and Prior Issues

Any member wishing to access the most current News Digest can visit www.iimc.com and click on “Current News Digest” (under latest news) or visit the “Members Only” link. Beginning January 2009, IIMC News Digest will be available online only except for periodic hard copy editions.

Downloading the current issue is a regular monthly feature to IIMC members. IIMC will send you an email informing you that the current issue is now available to download. Please be sure that IIMC has your current email address.

You must be an IIMC registered user to get into the “Members Only” link. If you have

not already done so, please follow these simple steps to register:

- Go to www.iimc.com
- Place your cursor on “Members Only” on the home page
- Click on “Login”
- Click on “Not a Registered Member”
- Complete the form and submit only once
- Be sure to remember your password

You will hear back from IIMC stating that you are now a registered user!

Incoming Vice President and Region IV Director

Filing for IIMC offices ended with only one candidate filing for the position of vice president: Colleen Nicol, MMC, Riverside, California. Colleen was appointed city clerk in 1996 and has been in the clerk profession for 28 years. She was president of the City Clerks Association of California in 2000-2001. She has served on the IIMC Board of

IIMC NEWS

Directors the past three years as Region IX Director.

Also, Deborah Miner, city clerk/assistant finance director, Harrah, Oklahoma, will be joining the Board representing our Region IV. Deborah has been active in the Oklahoma Municipal Clerks, Treasurers and Finance Officers Association for several years. Eddie Myers, city clerk, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, has served us very well and done an outstanding job as our Region IV director the past three years. Please be sure to thank him for his service.

Colleen and Deborah will assume these positions at the annual business meeting to be held Saturday, May 23, at the IIMC annual conference in Chicago.

I hope to see everyone in Chicago. If you need more information about the Chicago conference, IIMC, or have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at mstratta@bryantx.gov. ★

IIMC Bulletin

Eddie Sturgal, TRMC, city secretary, Fate, was awarded the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in December. Eddie's CMC status represents attendance at extensive education programs as well as pertinent experience in a municipality.

Eddie has served at the City of Fate since January 2009; he previously served at the City of Lowry Crossing. Eddie earned his Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification (TRMC) in 2007 (No. 519). He is active in TMCA and the TMCA Lone Star Chapter.

Celebrate!

Municipal Clerks Week

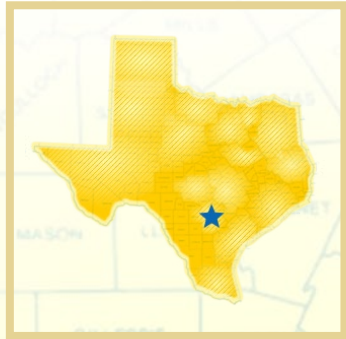
May 3-9, 2009

*Visit the **IIMC website** for information about Municipal Clerks Week, including a press release, proclamation, fact sheet, and check list.*

download the proclamation

Word document

PDF document



Alamo Chapter

By Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC

December 12 Meeting

The Alamo Chapter met in regular session on December 12. The meeting/holiday luncheon was hosted by City Secretary Brenda Dennis, TRMC, and the City of Schertz, and was held in the City of Schertz Council Chambers Conference Room.

Distinguished guests attending from the City of Schertz were Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Carpenter, Councilmember Tony Wilenchik, Assistant City Manager David Harris, Economic Development Director George Antuna, and Special Projects Coordinator Brad Gildea.



Outgoing **President Leticia M. Vacek, TRMC** (left), city clerk, San Antonio, administers the oath of office to the new Alamo Chapter Officers. *From left to right:* **President Yolanda Y. Benitez, TRMC**, city secretary, Hondo; **Vice President Brenda Dennis, TRMC**, city secretary, Schertz; **Recording Secretary Delia Flores, TRMC**, city secretary, Balcones Heights; **Historian Mary Ybarra**, deputy city secretary, Schertz. Not pictured: **Treasurer Jennifer Reyna, TRMC**, city secretary, Alamo Heights.

ALAMO CHAPTER

City secretaries attending the meeting/holiday luncheon were asked to bring an unwrapped toy, which would serve as the fee for the luncheon prepared by City Secretary Brenda Dennis and Deputy City Secretary Mary Ybarra.

The December Election Law Seminar was discussed. Chapter President Leticia Vacek and Melinda L. Uriegas from San Antonio gave a presentation on the upcoming legislation to be introduced in Austin regarding elections.

A motion was made to form an Officer Nomination Committee to bring forth a slate of names for 2009. The committee members selected were: Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; Peggy Cimics, city secretary, Cibolo; Delia Flores, TRMC, city secretary, Balcones Heights; and Deborah Goza, city secretary, Live Oak.



Alamo Chapter members at January meeting/luncheon. *Back row facing camera: Peggy Cimics, city secretary, Cibolo; Sheila Edmondson, assistant to the city secretary, Cibolo; Amelia Ramirez, senior executive secretary, San Antonio; Leticia Vacek, TRMC, city clerk, San Antonio; Leticia Saenz, deputy city clerk, San Antonio; Melinda Uriegas, assistant to the city clerk, San Antonio. Pictured left to right with back to camera: Celia Deleon, city secretary, Olmos Park; Grace Tamez, city secretary, Helotes; Sandra Passailalgué, city clerk, Shavano Park; Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Hondo; Sandra Torres, deputy city secretary, Hondo. Also pictured, facing camera: Debra Howe, city secretary, Castroville, and next to her, back to camera, Mary Ybarra, deputy city secretary, Schertz.*

ALAMO CHAPTER

At a later date, Janice Alamía, deputy city secretary, Hollywood Park, was added to the committee.

January 23 Meeting

The Alamo Chapter met in regular session on January 23 at The Egg and I. Host city for the meeting/luncheon was the Town of Hollywood Park and City Secretary Barbara Haddock, TRMC.

After approval of the minutes and the treasurer's report, a motion was made by Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Hondo, that the annual dues be increased from \$20 annually to \$35 annually. Barbara Haddock seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The discussion of the chapter bylaws was again postponed to the next meeting in March.

Two new members were welcomed to the chapter: Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, and Lisa Hernandez, deputy city secretary, from the City of Fair Oaks Ranch.



Pictured from left to right: new Chapter President Yolanda Benitez, TRMC; Historian Mary Ybarra; outgoing Chapter President Leticia Vacek; and Vice President Brenda Dennis, as flowers and an appreciation plaque were presented to outgoing Alamo Chapter President Vacek.


President Vacek mentioned how important certification and recertification is to city clerks and city secretaries. It was noted that Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights, had just received her certification, and Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Hondo, had just recertified. Other chapter members that only lack one course to become certified are Peggy Cimics, city secretary, Cibolo, and Mary Ybarra, deputy city secretary, Schertz.

The agenda item for discussion was "Super Precincts." Some of the city secretaries had attended the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving, and discussed the presentation on this issue. It was noted that Bexar County would have a hard time supporting this because of the potential loss of revenue if precincts are consolidated. It was mentioned that the pilot program in Lubbock has, from most accounts, been a success. It was mutually agreed that each municipality will write their representatives in Austin and voice their support for super precincts in

ALAMO CHAPTER

Bexar County. It was also decided that the Alamo Chapter would also send a letter of support signed by all member cities.

President Vacek presented a summary of the Officer Nomination Committee that met at the beginning of January. President Vacek read the recommendations of the committee as follows: for President, Yolanda C. Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Hondo; for Vice President, Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz; for Treasurer, Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights; for Recording Secretary, Delia Flores, TRMC, city secretary, Balcones Heights; and for Historian, Mary Ybarra, deputy city secretary, Schertz. A motion was made and seconded to approve the committee's officer recommendations for 2009. The new officers were administered the oath of office by outgoing President Leticia Vacek. The terms of the new officers became effective immediately. The new officers presented outgoing President Vacek with a bouquet of yellow lilies and a plaque for her service to the Alamo Chapter. ★

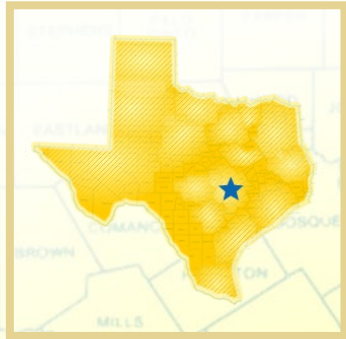


**thank
you**

to the
**South Plains
Chapter**

for their
generous donation

to the
Dorothy F. Byrd
&
**Dr. Joyce Snay
Scholarship Funds**



Capital Chapter

By Debbie Chelf, TRMC

The Capital Chapter met on December 10 in San Marcos to install the 2009-2011 chapter officers: President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop; Vice President Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Secretary Debbie Chelf, TRMC, city secretary, Hutto; Treasurer Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Buda; and Historian Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron. Officers were administered the oath of office by Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath. Outgoing Chapter President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city secretary, San Marcos, was honored for her service as President from 2007 through 2009.

Betty Brown officiating at the swearing-in ceremony for the Capital Chapter. *From left to right: Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath; President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop; Vice President Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia; Treasurer Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Buda; Secretary Debbie Chelf, TRMC, city secretary, Hutto; and Historian Amy Harris, city secretary, Cameron.*



CAPITAL CHAPTER



Above: **Capital Chapter swearing-in ceremony for 2009-2011 chapter officers.** From left to right: **President Teresa Valdez, TRMC**, city secretary, Bastrop; **Vice President Melissa Brunner, TRMC**, city secretary, Flatonia; **Treasurer Toni Milam, TRMC**, city secretary, Buda; **Secretary Debbie Chelf, TRMC**, city secretary, Hutto; and **Historian Amy Harris**, city secretary, Cameron.

At right: **2007-2009 outgoing President Sherry Mashburn, TRMC (right)**, city clerk, San Marcos, with 2009-11 incoming **President Teresa Valdez, TRMC**, city secretary, Bastrop.



2009 TMCCP SEMINAR CALENDAR

April 2-3, McAllen
PUBLIC RELATIONS & LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS SEMINAR
 Speaker: David Reed

TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 2 seminar credit

1:30-4:30 p.m., June 17, Waco
TEXAS NOTARY LAW & PROCEDURES SESSION

Speaker:

Dixie Lucey, State Notary Commission

No TMCCP seminar credit is offered for this session.

Participants can apply for/renew their Notary Public Commission at this session.

June 18-19, Waco
MUNICIPAL DEBT CREATION & ADMINISTRATION SEMINAR

Speakers: First Southwest

TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 3 or 4 seminar credit

August 20-21, Irving
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SEMINAR

Speaker: Alan Bojorquez

TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 2 seminar credit

October 8-9, San Antonio
GRADUATE INSTITUTE SEMINAR

Speakers: Judy King & Jana Hesser

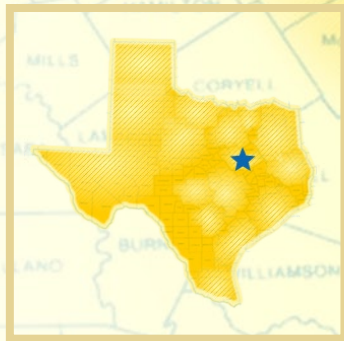
TMCCP enrollees can receive Course 1 seminar credit

Central Texas Chapter

By Lydia Lopez, TRMC

The Central Texas Chapter held their bi-monthly meeting and annual traditional Christmas luncheon on December 12 at the historic Hamilton House in Waco.

Wow! What a tremendous year it has been for the Central Texas Chapter! History was made as our chapter was honored by having one of its very own, Patricia Ervin, sworn in as president of TMCA, Inc., and chosen as



Back row (left to right): Betty Harrell, city secretary (ret.), Hillsboro; Lee Garcia, finance director, Hewitt; Linda Vranich, city secretary, Robinson; Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary, Mexia; Kendra Pursche, administrative assistant, Robinson; Dorthy Jackson, city secretary, Hubbard; Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt; Brenda Jackson, city secretary, Groesbeck; Jennifer Canady, TRMC, city secretary, Woodway; Dorothy Barkley, Woodway; LCP Justin Morse with the United States Marine Corps. *Front row:* Kathy Sampson, Robinson; Roshuna Wiley, deputy city secretary, Mexia; Karen Wood, city secretary, Hillsboro; Esmeralda Hudson, assistant city secretary, Waco; and Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

the recipient of the TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year award. This end-of-the-year luncheon was a time to reminisce over all the events that occurred in 2008, and to look forward to 2009. The party always includes a fun gift exchange; however, the highlight this year was making this an opportunity to share and give to others. We decided that along with our gifts to one another we would also bring along an unwrapped toy to donate to the Marine Toys for Tots Campaign. This is another tradition that we hope will continue in the future.

The Central Texas Chapter will continue to expand their membership in 2009. Consider this an invitation to all who might consider joining. If you have questions about membership or would like to join please call any of the members through their member city listed above. We would like to extend our well wishes to all for the upcoming year! ★



Chapter members present at the meeting:

Donna Barkley, TRMC, administrative assistant to city manager, Woodway

Jennifer Canady, TRMC, city secretary, Woodway

Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco

Treasurer Lee Garcia, finance director, Hewitt

Historian Kendra Giles, administrative assistant, Robinson

Betty Harrell, city secretary (ret.), Hillsboro

Esmeralda Hudson, Waco

Brenda Jackson, city secretary, Groesbeck

Dorothy Jackson, city secretary, Hubbard

President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt

Kathy Sampson, Robinson

Christi Shivers, TRMC, city secretary, Mexia

Linda Vranich, city secretary, Robinson

Karen Warren, city secretary, Hillsboro

Roshuna Wiley, deputy city secretary, Mexia

Special Guest: LCP Justin Morse of the United States Marine Corps from Waco, and Adam Miles, city manager, Hewitt

*Pictured, left to right: **Lydia Lopez**, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt; **Brenda Jackson**, city secretary, Groesbeck; **LCP Justin Morse** with the United States Marine Corps – Waco; **Dorothy Jackson**, city secretary, Hubbard; **Kendra Pursche**, administrative assistant, Robinson; **Esmeralda Hudson**, assistant city secretary, Waco; **Patricia Ervin**, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; and **Roshuna Wiley**, deputy city secretary, Mexia.*

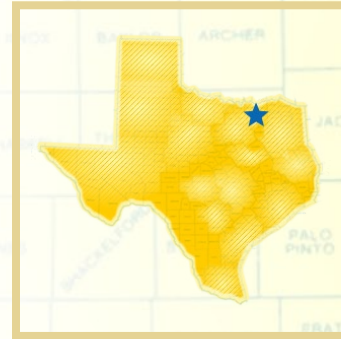
Lone Star Chapter

By Kathy Wingo, TRMC

A brand new year is here and the Lone Star Chapter will be busy making 2009 the best year ever for the chapter.

We have many opportunities in 2009. One is to call upon our surrounding communities and invite new members to join the Lone Star Chapter. Another is sharing knowledge and experience with other chapter members. We are currently working to schedule a representative from the Texas State Library who will spend half a day with us going over the new retention schedules. We also will have the opportunity this year to visit more of the “small town” Texas cities.

At the December meeting, City of Wylie **Mayor Eric Hogue** welcomed all the members of the Lone Star Chapter to Wylie and gave a brief overview of the history of the city.



Members in attendance at the December 3 Holiday Luncheon were:

Linda Ardis, TRMC,
city secretary, Lavon

Linda Bannister,
city secretary, Melissa

Bruce Dunn,
town secretary, St. Paul

Carole Ehrlich, TRMC,
city secretary, Wylie

Stephanie Galanides,
city secretary, Heath

Carole Kuykendall,
assistant city secretary, Greenville

Julie Lollar, TRMC,
city secretary, Denison

Aimee Nemer, TRMC,
city secretary, Murphy

Debbie Newell,
city secretary, Greenville

Dana Nixon, TRMC, development
services director, Melissa

Sherrie Phelps,
city secretary, Ladonia

Cathy Pugh, city secretary, Tom Bean

Susie Quinn, TRMC,
city secretary, Rowlett

Alice Snyder,
assistant city secretary, Plano

Eddie Sturgal, TRMC,
city secretary, Fate

Gayle Walton, TRMC,
deputy city secretary, Wylie

Christie Wilson, TRMC,
city secretary, The Colony

Kathy Wingo, TRMC,
city secretary, Lucas

Diane Zucco, TRMC,
city secretary, Plano

Special guests were: Mayor Eric Hogue, Wylie; Sharon Kotwitz, Senior Administrative Assistant, Plano; Gloria Fay, Clerk, St. Paul; and the First Baptist Church Day School, Wylie.

LONE STAR CHAPTER

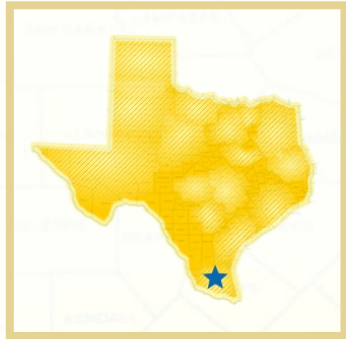
At its monthly meeting, the Lone Star Chapter met in the City of Wylie on December 3 for our Holiday Luncheon. City of Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue welcomed all the members of the Lone Star Chapter to Wylie and gave a brief overview of the history of the city.

The chapter was very pleased to have as its special guests the members of the Day School of the First Baptist Church, Wylie. The Day School children performed well known Christmas songs to the entertainment for all. We also had a slide show set to music prepared by Stephanie Calame, Wylie, which depicted many special 2008 Lone Star Chapter moments.

The next meeting of the Lone Star Chapter will be held on February 4 in the City of Allen. Pam Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson, will be our guest speaker. ★



Children from the Day School of the First Baptist Church, Wylie, entertained the Lone Star Chapter with Christmas songs at the December 3 Holiday Luncheon.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Perla Zamora, TRMC

The Lower Rio Grande Valley City Clerks Chapter met January 21 at Palm View Golf Course in McAllen.

Our guest speaker was newly appointed Elections Administrator Yvonne Ramon. Ms. Ramon introduced herself to the membership and gave a presentation on what her department offers in relation to contracting services. She also reviewed the proposed fees for contracting services and leasing the DRE's from Hidalgo County. A question and answer session followed.



Above: At the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter's January meeting.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER



Pictured left to right (standing): Blanca Castro, San Juan; Martha Alvarado, city secretary, Donna; Molly Vallejo, Weslaco; Sonia H. Padron, assistant city clerk, Pharr; Elizabeth Z. Aguilar, Weslaco; Hilda Pedraza, city clerk, Pharr; Dina Garcia, city secretary, Penitas; Denise Elliff, Hidalgo; Esmeralda Medina, Penitas. *Sitting left to right:* Gloria Banda-Gonzalez, city secretary, San Juan; Arturo Prida, city secretary, Rio Hondo; Vice President Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen; President Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Weslaco; Aida Rivas, city secretary, Palmview; Yvonne Ramon, Hidalgo County Elections Administrator; and Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen.



Panhandle Chapter

By Kim Rehkopf

The Panhandle Chapter met December 18 at the Amarillo Club with twelve members present for their bimonthly meeting.

Honored guests were 2008 TMCA President Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches, and her daughter, Bethany Fuller. Ms. Fuller shared valuable knowledge and how much she has enjoyed serving as president. Ms. Fuller said it has been a wonderful experience to have visited the different chapters throughout Texas.

The Panhandle Chapter held a brief business meeting and then enjoyed their Christmas gift exchange.

The chapter is scheduled to meet again February 19 at the Amarillo Club in the City of Amarillo. ★

Members in attendance at the December meeting:

Frances Childers, city secretary, Dalhart

President Suzanne Finch, TRMC,
city secretary, Hereford

Janie Guerra, city judge, Cactus

Terri Johnson, TRMC,
city manager/city secretary, Friona

Karen McGuire, city secretary, Dimmitt

Vice President Gretchen Mercer,
city secretary, Canyon

Treasurer Carolee Nance, city secretary, Fritch

Kim Rehkopf, city secretary, secretary/records
retention officer, Dumas

Cheryl-Gibson Salgado, TRMC,
city secretary, Spearman

Nelwyn Ward, city secretary, Memphis

Becca Wood, city secretary, Perryton



Red River Chapter

By Marie Balthrop, TRMC

The Red River Chapter met on December 10 at On the Border in Wichita Falls. The meeting included a Christmas Ornament exchange and question/answer session among the members. The group elected new officers for 2009-2010: President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday; Vice President Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie; and Secretary/Treasurer Conchita Torrez, TRMC, city secretary, Seymour.

The next meeting will be held March 18. For more information about the Red River Chapter, please contact President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, at 940-586-1313. ★

Members attending the December meeting were:

Marie Balthrop, TRMC,
city secretary, Holliday

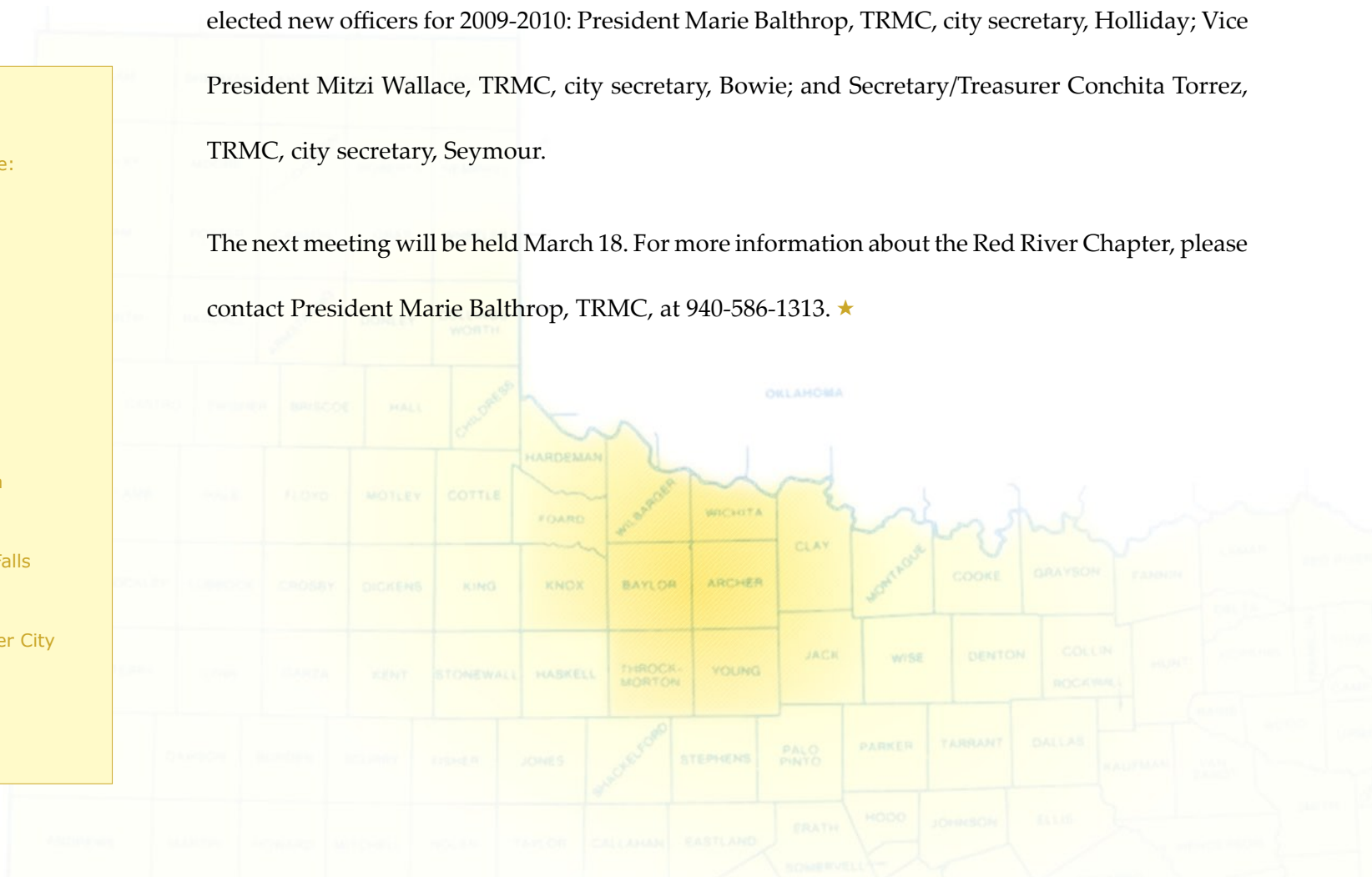
Linda Byers,
city secretary, Vernon

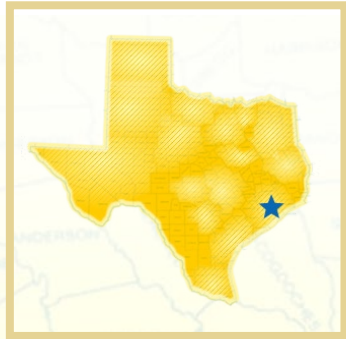
Trish Holley,
city clerk, Burkburnett

Carol Loucks, TRMC,
city secretary, Henrietta

Lydia Ozuna, TRMC,
city secretary, Wichita Falls

Kim Whitsitt,
city administrator, Archer City





Salt Grass Chapter

By Thelma Lenz, TRMC

November 2008

The Salt Grass Chapter met on November 12 at the Texas Land & Cattle in Houston. President Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton, called the meeting to order.

The speaker for the meeting was Attorney Art Pertile with Olson & Olson, and the topic of discussion related to the Attorney General's Opinion regarding agenda notice requirements for mayor/city council/city manager reports. The presentation was very informative, and the question/answer session covered many gray areas of the Opinion, as well as other topics such as how to list certain executive session items on agendas.

Other business of the chapter included approval of the October minutes; approval of

At right: Salt Grass Chapter members at the annual Holiday Party.



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

the September 2008 financial report; review and discussion of the proposed funds policy; finalizing the Chapter Holiday Party plans; approving \$200 to the American Red Cross for the chapter's annual Christmas charitable donation project; and conducting a monthly door prize, the proceeds of which went to the chapter's Deloris McKenzie Scholarship Fund.

December 2008

In lieu of the monthly business meeting, the Salt Grass Chapter held its annual Holiday Party at the very elegant Vargo's Restaurant in Houston on December 3. Each member was asked to bring a gift of no more than \$15 for the white elephant gift exchange. The food was spectacular, the gift exchange was entertaining, and the camaraderie was the best part as usual. It was a great kickoff to the holiday season!

January 2009

The Salt Grass Chapter held its January meeting on January 21 at the Texas Land & Cattle. President Lisa Olmeda called the meeting to order.

The program was presented by Elaine Brown, municipal court administrator, Katy, who discussed the rules of municipal court and traffic safety initiatives. Elaine provided some great information for those in attendance.

Other business of the chapter included approval of the minutes and financial reports, discussion of the chapter's proposed expenditures policy, and an open forum.



Above photos: Salt Grass Chapter members at the annual Holiday Party.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

The Salt Grass Chapter wishes to congratulate its graduates and recertifiers!

The Salt Grass Chapter congratulates those members that graduated or recertified at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving. We are so proud of their accomplishments and the dedication they provide to their communities and profession. Graduating were: Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco (formerly asst. city secretary, Dayton); Barbara Roberts, TRMC, public works administrator, Kemah; Melinda Welsh, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Friendswood. Recertifying were: Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy; Linda Cernosek, TRMC, city secretary, Rosenberg; Tracy Dutton, TRMC, city clerk, Bellaire; Pat Jones, TRMC, city secretary, Nassau Bay; Alice Rodgers, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Jackson. ★

Below: Salt Grass members graduating or recertifying in 2009. Pictured from left to right: Jenny Page, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Dayton; Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy; Pat Jones, TRMC, city secretary, Nassau Bay; Tracy Dutton, TRMC, city secretary, Bellaire; Linda Cernosek, TRMC, city secretary, Rosenberg; Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton; and Melinda Welsh, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Friendswood.



The following members were present at the November meeting:

Meredith Brant, TRMC,
assistant city secretary, Seabrook

Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy

Dayl Cooksey, assistant city secretary, Sealy

Kathy Davidson, Records Manager, Humble

Sherri Ditrich, Chief of Police, Morgan's Point

Robert Ewart, City Manager, La Marque

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC,
city secretary, Missouri City

Michelle Glaser, TRMC,
city secretary, Seabrook

Maria Gonzalez,
deputy city secretary, Missouri City

Claudia Harrison, city secretary, Brookshire

Kelly Johnson, city secretary, Bunker Hill

Krishna Langton, TRMC, city secretary, Sealy

Thelma Lenz, TRMC,
city secretary, West University Place

Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton

Jenny Redden, TRMC,
city secretary, Morgan's Point

Alton Robertson, Southwest Solutions, Texas

Crystal Scott, deputy city secretary, Webster

Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster

Gary Smith, TRMC,
assistant city attorney, Missouri City

Ann Vernon, city secretary, El Lago

Sandra Watkins, TRMC,
city secretary, Deer Park



South Plains Chapter

By Maria Hatchett, TRMC

The South Plains Chapter met on December 17 at the Lakeridge Country Club in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown, and Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary, Lamesa. President Toni Wilson called the meeting to order, welcoming members and guests.

President Wilson introduced TMCA President Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches, who spoke to the group about our TMCCP certification program and encouraged everyone to get involved and be active.

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe, lead everyone in a prayer for the loss of Debbie Gressett's son and the loss of Irma Parker's husband.

The chapter voted to donate \$500 to both the Dorothy F. Byrd Scholarship and the Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship.

Pam Rowe, Karen Lawson, Brenda Shaw, and Toni Wilson volunteered to serve on the chapter's 2009 Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee. Jodi Taylor,

At right: The South Plains Chapter at their December meeting.



SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

Nancy Hale, Jodie House, and Belinda Terrell volunteered to serve on the Annual Chapter Seminar 2009 Committee.

New Chapter Directories: Kirk Franklin with Franklin Legal Publishing created the original electronic file that contains the outline for the directory. Karen Lawson collected all the data and updated information to complete the directory. Karen was also responsible for the printing and binding of the directories.

TMCA President Lila Fuller swore in the chapter's 2009-2010 officers: President LeAnn Gallman, TRMC; Vice President Toni Chrestman, TRMC; Treasurer Maria Hatchett, TRMC; Secretary Brenda Shaw; Historian Sharon Trumble; and Director Belinda Terrell.

The next meeting was set for March 18. Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton, will host the meeting.

A Christmas Grinch Gift Exchange party was held after the meeting was adjourned. ★

Members and guests attending the December South Plains Chapter meeting were:

Jo Ann Beard, city secretary, Smyer

Jessica Boggs, Whiteface

Mary Brown,
deputy city secretary, Ransom Canyon

Toni Chrestman, TRMC,
city secretary, Slaton

Lila Fuller, TRMC,
city secretary, Nacagodoches

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC,
city secretary, Muleshoe

Nancy Hale, TRMC, city secretary, Spur

Maria Hatchett, TRMC,
city secretary, Lamesa

Linda Henry, city secretary, Amherst

Belinda Hinojosa, city secretary, Plainview

Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton

Sharon Kerby, Slaton

Brandi Jaquess,
utilities clerk/court clerk, Ransom Canyon

Karen Lawson, TRMC,
city secretary, Floydada

Sylvia Martinez, TRMC, billing clerk, Plains

Murvat Musa,
city secretary, Ransom Canyon

Patricia Phipps, TRMC,
deputy city secretary, Friona

Jeannie Rogers, billing director, Tulia

Pam Rowe, TRMC, city secretary, Plains

Bonnie Scaff, TRMC, city secretary, Bovina

Brenda Shaw, TRMC,
city secretary/manager, Morton

Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface

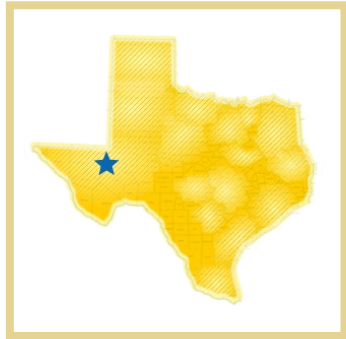
Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal

Lynette Whitten,
deputy city secretary, Morton

Susie Williamson, TRMC,
city secretary/administrator, Shallowater

Toni Wilson, TRMC,
city secretary, Sundown

Guests included: Bethany Fuller, daughter of Lila Fuller, and Jessica Terrell, daughter of Belinda Terrell

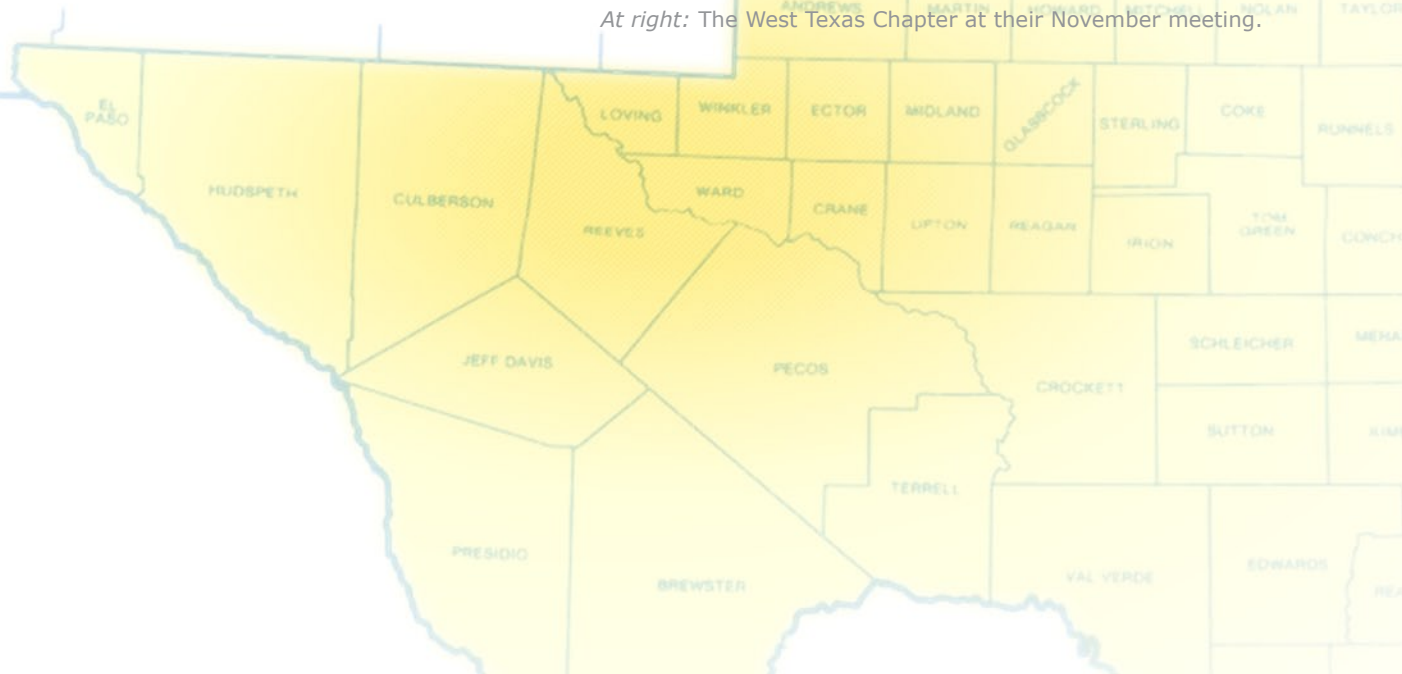


West Texas Chapter

By Karen Hornsey

The West Texas Chapter met at the Barn Door Steakhouse in Odessa for our fourth quarterly meeting on November 13, 2008. President Laura Reyes, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Van Horn, called the meeting to order and welcomed our special guest speaker, 2008 TMCA President, Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches. Secretary/Treasurer Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink, acknowledged seven members present, representing seven cities.

At right: The West Texas Chapter at their November meeting.



WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

The new officers for 2009-2010 were sworn in. TMCA President Lila Fuller read the oaths and duties of each officer. The West Texas Chapter 2009-2010 officers are as follows: President Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink; Vice President Tami Davis, assistant city secretary, Big Spring; Secretary/Treasurer Gloria Saenz, city secretary, Kermit; and Reporter/Historian Karen Hornsey, city secretary, Crane.

Ms. Fuller discussed her enjoyment of the chapter meetings during her term as TMCA president. She mentioned all the useful tools available on the TMCA website. Ms. Fuller also shared some great customer service skills with the members of the chapter.

The next meeting of the West Texas Chapter was scheduled for January 13 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel DFW, Ashley's Restaurant. ★

Members present at the November West Texas Chapter meeting were:

President Laura Reyes, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Van Horn;

Secretary/Treasurer Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink

Reporter/Historian Evelyn Ammons, city secretary Big Lake

Karen Hornsey, city secretary, Crane

Norma Aguilar, TRMC, city secretary, Odessa

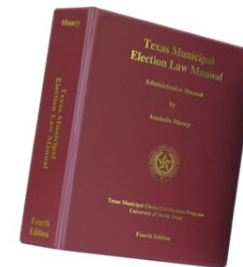
Gloria Saenz, city secretary, Kermit

Anita Sparks, city secretary, Rankin

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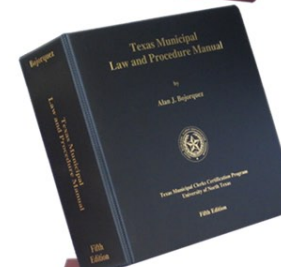
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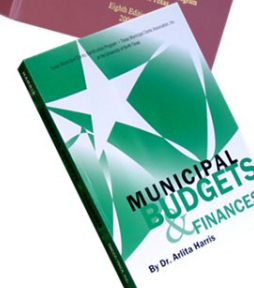
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TMCA Chapters



ALAMO CHAPTER

Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, President
1600 Ave M
Hondo, TX 78861
830-426-3378
830-426-5189 Fax
ybenitez@hondo.net



BLUEBONNET CHAPTER

Rhonda Williams, President
213 E Blackjack St
Dublin, TX 76446
254-445-3331
254-445-3727 Fax
dublintx@embarqmail.com



CAPITAL CHAPTER

Teresa Valdez, TRMC, President
PO Box 427
Bastrop, TX 78602
512-303-7305
512-321-6684 Fax
tvaldez@cityofbastrop.org



CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER

Lydia Lopez, TRMC, President
PO Box 610
Hewitt, TX 76643-0610
254-666-6171
254-666-6014 Fax
citysecretary@cityofhewitt.com



COASTAL BEND CHAPTER

Irma Parker, TRMC, President
622 E Market St
Rockport, TX 78382
361-729-2213, x138
361-790-5966 Fax
citysec@cityofrockport.com



HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER

K. Vivian Saiz, President
730 Main St
Junction, TX 76849
325-446-2622
325-446-3003 Fax
vivian.saiz@cityofjunction.com



LONE STAR CHAPTER

Kathy Wingo, TRMC, President
151 Country Club Rd
Lucas, TX 75002
972-727-8999, ext. 227
972-727-0091 Fax
kwingo@lucastexas.us



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, President
255 S Kansas Ave
Weslaco, TX 78596
956-968-3181, ext. 3102
956-968-6717 Fax
acelizondo@weslacotx.gov



NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

Codi Delcambre, TRMC, President
PO Box 609
Argyle, TX 76226
940-464-7273, ext. 105
940-464-7274 Fax
cdelcambre@argyletx.com



NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER

Melba Haralson, TRMC, President
PO Box 1725
Gladewater, TX 75647
903-845-2196
903-845-6891 Fax
haralsonm@cityofgladewater.com



PANHANDLE CHAPTER

Suzanne Finch, TRMC, President
PO Box 2277
Hereford, TX 79045
806-363-7100
806-363-7106 Fax
hfdcitysec@go-herd.com



PINEYWOODS CHAPTER

Carrie Edwards, President
PO Box 144
Colmesneil, TX 75938
409-837-5211
409-837-2502 Fax
cityofcolmesneil@valornet.com



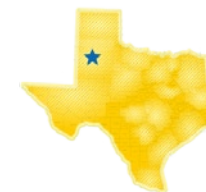
RED RIVER CHAPTER

Marie Balthrop, TRMC, President
PO Box 508
Holliday, TX 76366
940-586-1313
940-586-1107 Fax
holidayadmin@srcaccess.net



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, President
120 E Caney St
Wharton, TX 77488
979-532-2491
979-532-0181 Fax
lolmeda@cityofwharton.com



SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, President
215 S First St
Muleshoe, TX 79347
806-272-4528
806-272-5260 Fax
lgallman@fivearea.com



WEST TEXAS CHAPTER

Tonya Todd, TRMC, President
PO Box 400
Wink, TX 79789
432-527-3441
432-527-3303 Fax
cityclerk01@hotmail.com