



TMCA NEWS

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President's Message

Greetings to my fellow colleagues and friends. We have had a fantastic start to 2010 beginning with the conferring of Texas Registered Municipal Clerk (TRMC) certificates to 27 Certification graduates and 37 Recertification graduates during the TMCCP annual Election Law Seminar held in January in Irving, Texas. Congratulations to each and every one of you!!

The Election Law Seminar began on Monday with the presentation of "Step by Step: Process of an Election," taught by Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City; Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland; Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, city clerk, San Marcos; and Toni Milam, TRMC, city secretary, Buda. This presentation lays out each



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TMCA President
Pamela Schmidt, TRMC
City Secretary, Richardson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

step of holding an election and is so well-received that the "Step by Step" book is sold to other entities for their use in training election officials. A BIG thank you to all of these clerks for the long hours of preparation and for volunteering to give their time and energy to help each of us hold the best elections we can.

We were honored with the presence of Esperanza "Hope" Andrade, Secretary of State, our keynote speaker, and our very own Norma Rodriguez, retired city clerk, San Antonio. Secretary Andrade inspired us with her pride in the State of Texas and expression of strong work ethic for success. She followed her comments by asking permission to have her photo (*pictured at right*) taken with the graduates. What an expression of respect for our profession, our education program and our municipal clerks, and what an expression of admiration for those of you graduating.

I also extend TMCA's heartfelt appreciation to seminar speakers Bruce Sherbet, Dallas County Elections Administrator; Kathy Van Wolfe, McLennan County Elections Administrator; and Alan Bojorquez, Bojorquez Law Firm, PLLC, and author of the *Texas Municipal Law and Procedure Manual*, for lending their expertise and advice regarding election law and best practices. Recognition



At top: Secretary of State Esperanza "Hope" Andrade (*center*) with the TMCCP graduating class of 2010 [**larger version**]. Above: Secretary of State Andrade with TMCA President Pamela Schmidt, TRMC, city secretary, Richardson. TMCA was honored to have Secretary of State Andrade as its keynote speaker at the TMCA Election Law Seminar luncheon and graduation ceremony.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

and thanks is also extended to our many colleagues who stepped up to the plate to keep us informed and educated about the very crucial role that city clerks and city secretaries play in the conduct of impartial and accurate elections. Those individuals were Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland; Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett; Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink; Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; Art Camacho, TRMC, city secretary, Haltom City; Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city clerk, Wichita Falls; and Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park. They all did an outstanding job!

Last but not least, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize our vendors—Dale Barstow of **Municipal Code Corporation** and Kirk Franklin of **Franklin Legal Publishing**. Their untiring support of our profession and their presence at our seminars illustrates their friendship as well as their partnership. My thanks to both.

Photo at top right (from left to right): Speaker **Susie Quinn, TRMC**, city secretary, Rowlett; **Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC**, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; and speaker **Pauline Small, TRMC**, city secretary, Webster, at the 2010 TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving.

At right: Members of the TMCA Red River Chapter in attendance at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar. *From left to right:* **Marie Balthrop, TRMC**, city secretary, Holliday; **Trish Holley**, city clerk, Burkburnett; **Mitzi Wallace, TRMC**, city secretary, Bowie; and **Sandy Page, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, Bowie.



Photo courtesy Alicia Richardson, NTMCA Chapter



Photo courtesy Marie Balthrop, Red River Chapter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The next TMCCP seminar—**Effective Communication in Business**—is scheduled for April 8-9, 2010, in San Marcos. The featured speaker is Adjunct Professor Evelyn Pitre of the UNT College of Business Administration. Besides having a fantastic time in San Marcos, attendees will earn credit for Course 2 toward certification or recertification requirements. I hope many of you will be there in spite of our troubled economy. Sharing a room and cab rides/rental cars with colleagues has been a great way to make my budget funds go further, and I would encourage you to consider this option.

As you may recall from my first and most recent article, the importance of upholding the TMCA Code of Ethics is vital. It is vital to our profession and it is vital to our success. During the October 2009 Graduate Institute, I issued a challenge to each of you. Have you met the challenge? Have you read the **Texas Municipal Clerks Association Code of Ethics** on the first workday of each month? With your attendance at the Election Law Seminar, you honored the last bullet in TMCA's Code of Ethics: *To strive constantly to improve the administration of the affairs of my office through independent study, courses, meetings and seminars, and through sound management*

practices to produce continued progress and so fulfill my responsibilities to my community.

With this article, I'm going to concentrate on three parts of our Code of Ethics.

- To uphold constitutional government and the laws of my community;
- To be ever mindful of my neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all and to extend the same treatment I wish to receive myself;
- To impart to my profession those standards of quality and integrity that the conduct of the affairs of my office shall be above reproach and to merit public confidence in our community

We are now well into the election season. Regardless of the type of election you are holding, the importance of upholding these three parts of our Code of Ethics is paramount. As candidates come to you to gather the information and documents they need, it is important that they have confidence that you and your staff will conduct an election that is impartial and meets the standards of law, and trust

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Co-Editors: Alexandra Burke; Peggy Burnside, TRMC; Miriam Sheehan, TRMC; Joyce Snay, TRMC

Submission deadline for publication in June issue: **April 26.**

Send articles to: alexandra.burke@unt.edu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Congratulations
to our 2009 TMCA
contest winners*

As a current member who introduced a new member to TMCA, **Amanda Davenport, TRMC**, city secretary, Piney Point Village, was selected in a drawing to win a \$50 Visa gift card. **Thank you for helping our membership grow!**

As a new member, **Patti Wood**, city secretary, Lott, was selected in a drawing to win a TMCCP seminar registration fee. **Thank you for joining our Association!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this contest and has helped our membership grow. **We reached a record of 929 members in 2009!**

that they will be treated the same as all other candidates, including incumbents. If you are holding a special election on any type of measure (i.e., bond, civil service, local option, etc.), keep in mind that there are proponents and opponents on all issues; these individuals, citizens, and community leaders expect the same standards that candidates do.

Everyone who comes into your office has his or her own story, purpose, and belief in regard to whatever situation is happening, and most likely they will want to tell you about it. That is why I want you to read and think about our Code of Ethics. What will you do with the information they impart to you? Decide now how you will handle these conversations. If you believe that you cannot keep the confidence of someone, be sure they understand your responsibilities, your role as an election official and as a city official. On more than one occasion I've been asked, "can I tell you something in confidence?" and I've used that opportunity to explain my role and responsibility. Candidates and citizens will respect your position. When I have made my position clear early in the relationship, many have prefaced later comments to me with, "I know you can't say anything, but..." Each time they return, I see the confidence they have that the city secretary's office will treat them with respect, and that it is a place of neutrality. The respect shown to me and the city secretary's office has been a positive note in each of my performance evaluations with the City of Richardson, and one that gives me great satisfaction and acknowledgement that I am upholding the TMCA Code of Ethics as well as my personal ethics.

It's up to you. What will people think and how will they feel about your conduct? What will you do?

Pamela Schmidt, TRMC
2010 TMCA President
pamela.schmidt@cor.gov

OBITUARY

Dorothy F. Byrd

By Dr. Charldean Newell

Dorothy F. Byrd of Denton, 82, died on February 25 after coping with several health issues in recent years. A memorial service will be held at a later date in the spring.

Dorothy was born December 23, 1927, in Brownwood, Texas, the daughter of the late Earl and Faye Byrd.

After teaching school for ten years, first in Hobbs, New Mexico, then in Andrews, Texas, Dorothy became city secretary and tax collector for the City of Andrews. She served as president of the Association of City Clerks and Secretaries of Texas (later



known as the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, Inc.) in 1964-65. She will be remembered professionally as the mother of the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program (TMCCP). She served as director of that program and of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association (TMCA) from 1968 through 1993, when she retired as director

emerita. She developed both the four-year certification program and the graduate recertification program, and was instrumental in the passage of HB 2092, 1985, which gives legislative legitimacy to the TMCCP.

DOROTHY F. BYRD

Her work was critical to recognition of city clerks and secretaries as professional administrators. The Texas clerks honored her with a named scholarship and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) presented her with its first Director's Award. She was a lifetime member of both TMCA and IIMC. She was especially proud of fostering the development of the first *Texas Municipal Election Law Manual*.

She also served as assistant dean of the School of Community Service and director of the Center for Community Services at the University of North Texas. Known for her facility in writing over 220 successful grant and contract proposals, she was vital to the development of a number of programs, ranging from public human resource management professional development to inventorying county records. She was known both for being careful to acknowledge the contributions of others and for her ability to provide high quality on the proverbial shoestring budget.

As a friend and companion, Dorothy will be remembered as one who was always willing to dip a hook in the water or pilot a boat (from bass boat to cabin cruiser capable of 12-foot waves), to fly wherever she was needed, to engage in a spirited discussion over current issues, or to relax by watching the ducks on the North Texas pond.

Dorothy held bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from Texas Woman's University and did further graduate study in management and organization theory at the University of North Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Dennis. She leaves behind her cousin Carolyn Bachofen and Carolyn's husband Andy, nieces and nephews, and longtime friends, especially Nancye Hood and Marian Benson.

A memorial gift may be made to the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, memo line of "Dorothy Byrd Scholarship," and sent to 1155 Union Circle #305067, Denton, TX 76203-5017. ★



Director Emeritus Dorothy Byrd

TMCCP SEMINAR

Effective Communication In Business

*With Speaker Evelyn Pitre, Adjunct Professor, UNT College of Business Administration
April 8-9, San Marcos, Texas*

Early Registration Deadline: March 24

Expressing yourself clearly is a challenge you face every day. Your credibility depends on it. In your place of work, expressing yourself in a clear, correct, concise, and considerate manner is an even bigger challenge since not only your credibility, but also your organization's credibility, depend on your abilities.

This seminar is designed to help the participants improve their business communication skills by increasing participants'

- Understanding of the communication process in organizational settings
- Conscious knowledge of grammar, syntax, and punctuation in business messages
- Recognition of the basic principles of effective and efficient business compositions
- Ability to use a writing process when creating business messages, and
- Facility to apply this newly refreshed and acquired knowledge to composing business messages such as instant messages, emails, memos, minutes, agendas, ordinances, resolutions, proclamations, letters, newsletters, white papers, issue statements, reports, proposals, and speeches destined for fellow employees, council members, or the public at large.

We hope to see you in San Marcos in April! **Learn more and register today.** ★



Speaker **Evelyn Pitre** teaches at the University of North Texas. Her areas of specialization include business communication and organizational

behavior. Ms. Pitre has taught classes in Business Communication, Organizational Behavior, and Human Relations. Ms. Pitre is also a communication consultant. Her business, E3P3, offers workshops in business communication, translation services (between French and English), copy editing, and proofreading services. She has worked for the World Organization of Preschool Education, the University of North Texas, the City of Denton, and numerous professors and doctoral students.

Calendar Upcoming of Events

March 19, 2010, Lucas, Texas

[Athenian Leadership Society Dialogue](#)

Go to the [Lone Star Chapter PDF](#) for more information.

April 8-9, 2010, San Marcos, Texas

[TMCCP Course 2 Seminar - "Effective Communication in Business"](#)

April 23, 2010, Plano, Texas

[Athenian Leadership Society Dialogue](#)

Go to the [IIMC website](#) for more information.

May 2-8, 2010

[41st Annual Municipal Clerks Week](#)

Go to the [IIMC website](#) for more information.

May 23-27, 2010, Reno-Tahoe, Nevada

[IIMC Annual Conference](#)

Go to the [IIMC website](#) for more information.

June 17-18, 2010, Lubbock, Texas

[TMCCP Course 1 or 3 Seminar - "Public Funds Investment"](#)

"Public Funds Investment" with speaker Patrick Shinkle, associate director, UNT Center for Public Management. This two-day seminar is designed to meet the training requirements of the Public Funds Investment Act *and* also fulfills a Course 1 or 3 seminar attendance requirement for TMCCP.

Watch the [TMCCP website](#) for more information about this seminar in April.

July 23-24, 2010, Salado, Texas

[Capital & Central Texas Chapters' Joint Annual Salado Seminar](#)

Contact the [Capital](#) or [Central Texas Chapter](#) for more information.

New TML Publications

By TML Rep. Mary Kayser, TRMC
City Secretary, Garland

TML has two new **publications** that you may wish to acquire. Both would be excellent resources for candidates and newly elected council members come May 2010.

How Cities Work

*A Guide to Becoming
A City Official*

These publications are free to TML members. PDF downloads are also available.

TMCCP Graduating Class of 2010

Photograph by
Paul Traves, f16 Photography



Photograph © Paul Traves, f16 Photography

Congratulations to this year's graduates!

Front row, left to right:

Deborah Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Blue Mound
 Cara McPartland, TRMC, city secretary, Wimberley
 Lisa Hernandez, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch
 Karen Warren, TRMC, city secretary, Hillsboro
 Sandy Page, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Bowie
 Holly Harmon, TRMC, records & information coordinator, McKinney
 Alicia Ramirez, TRMC, city clerk, San Angelo
 Kerry Meredith, TRMC, city secretary/exec. assistant, Texarkana
 Dessie Enns, TRMC, city secretary, Redwater
 Mary Ybarra, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz
 Debbie Thomas, TRMC, city secretary, Alvarado
 Vickie Brenton, TRMC, city secretary, Winnsboro

Second row, left to right:

Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC, city clerk, Shavano Park
 Melissa O'Sullivan, TRMC, records/acct. technician, Corsicana
 Stephanie Hunt, TRMC, finance clerk, Corsicana
 Ursula Paddie, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Lampasas
 Larry Thompson, TRMC, city secretary, Ganado
 Keynote speaker Secretary of State Hope Andrade
 Laura Bell, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Carrollton
 Deborah Goza, TRMC, city secretary, Live Oak
 Monica Solko, TRMC, asst. city secretary, North Richland Hills
 Peggy Cimics, TRMC, city secretary/HR, Cibolo
 Sherrie Phelps, TRMC, city secretary, Ladonia
 Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, city secretary, Brenham
 Angela Stutts, TRMC, city secretary, Onalaska

Not pictured: Jane Lees, TRMC, city secretary, Copperas Cove;
 Sonia Padron, TRMC, assistant city clerk, Pharr; and Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr.

TMCCP Recertifying Class of 2010

Photograph by
Paul Traves, f16 Photography



Photograph © Paul Traves, f16 Photography

Congratulations on earning recertification!

Front row, left to right:

Jennifer Canady, TRMC, city secretary, Woodway
 Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy
 Ashley Mitchell, TRMC, city secretary, Carrollton
 Dana Nixon, TRMC, development services coordinator, Melissa
 Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook
 Rose Ann Jones, TRMC
 Linda Rhodes, TRMC, city secretary, Lake Worth
 Kim Sutter, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Euless
 Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes
 Patricia Holley, TRMC, city clerk, Burkburnett
 Dianna Zulauf, TRMC, court clerk/village secretary, Salado
 Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, city secretary/asst. city mgr., Spearman

Second row, left to right:

Deborah Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Dallas
 Donna Pliska, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Haltom City
 Rita Frick, TRMC, city secretary, Hurst
 Michelle Ballenger Kissick, TRMC, city secretary, Longview
 Patricia Hutson, TRMC, city secretary, North Richland Hills
 Joyce Laudenschlager, TRMC, dir. of finance/deputy clerk, Burnet
 Deborah Loesch, TRMC, city admin./sec., Hunters Creek Village
 Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park
 Jeanine Inman, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Haslet
 Melba Haralson, TRMC, city secretary, Gladwater
 Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday
 Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie
 Kristi Gilbert, TRMC, town secretary/asst. town admin., Bartonville
 Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte
 Linda Ashby, TRMC, city clerk, Sherman

Not pictured: Rosalie Chavez, TRMC, city secretary/asst. city manager (retired), Sanger; Bill Flannery, TRMC, city secretary/admin., Comanche; Lila Fuller, TRMC, city secretary, Nacogdoches; Lynne George, TRMC, city secretary, Oak Ridge; Karen Lightfoot, TRMC, city secretary, New Boston; Deana McMullen, TRMC; Ruthie Sager, TRMC, city admin., Bunker Hill Village; Janet Sheguit, TRMC; Jana Shelton, TRMC, city secretary, Crandall; and Callie Shreckengost, TRMC, town secretary, Refugio.

2010 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year

By TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee Chair Debbie Chelf, TRMC, City Secretary, Jarrell

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



Debbie Chelf, TRMC

On behalf the Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee, I am pleased to solicit nominations for the distinguished 2010 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 Debbie Chelf, TRMC, city secretary, City of Jarrell, PO Box 828, Jarrell, Texas 76537; email citysec@cityofjarrell.com.

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;
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, 2010**.



*Recent TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year honorees, from left to right: (2007) **Pauline Small, TRMC**, city secretary, Webster; (2008) **Patricia Ervin, TRMC**, city secretary, Waco; and (2009) **Leticia Vacek, TRMC**, city secretary, San Antonio.*

Members of the 2010 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee are: Chair Debbie Chelf, TRMC, city secretary, Jarrell; Tracy Freimarck, TRMC, city secretary, Windcrest; Ron Gonzales, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Fort Worth; and TMCA Board Liaison Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen.

The 2010 TMCA Municipal Clerk of the Year will be announced at the Annual Awards Ceremony held in conjunction with the TMCCP Graduate Institute in Galveston on Thursday, October 14, 2010. Make plans to attend the Awards Ceremony to support your nominee(s) and honor the recipient! ★

2010 Scholarships

By Scholarship Committee Chair Marie Balthrop, TRMC

Application deadline is June 15—apply today!



Marie Balthrop, TRMC

Training budget take a cut this year? In these tough economic times we are all looking for ways to help defray costs, and one way you can do this is to apply for a TMCA scholarship. TMCA scholarships are available to members that are seeking certification or recertification as a Texas Registered Municipal Clerk through the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program. The certification program is designed to further the professional and personal development of municipal clerks through university level courses. The scholarship program is a great way to help you attain your educational goals this year.

There are two different types of scholarships you can apply for: the **TMCA Major Scholarships** and the **MCCi Records Management Scholarships**. Applications for these scholarships are available at the Texas Municipal Clerks website (links included in this article). Scholarship applications must be received by TMCA Scholarship Committee Chair Marie Balthrop by June 15 to be considered. The TMCA Scholarship Committee will consider all applications for eligibility and designate scholarship recipients. Scholarship winners will be notified that they have been awarded a scholarship and the presentation of the scholarship will be at the annual TMCA Awards Banquet (the awards banquet will be held at the Graduate Institute Seminar in Galveston in October.)

Following are more details on the scholarships available, and a link to the application. Good luck!

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2010 SCHOLARSHIPS

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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

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.

2010 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

*Marie Balthrop, TRMC,
city secretary, Holliday*

*Toni Milam, TRMC,
city secretary, Buda*

*Brenda Shaw, TRMC,
city sec./mgr., Morton*

*Christi Shivers, TRMC,
city sec./fin. director,
McAllen*

*Board Liaison Sherry
Mashburn, TRMC, city
clerk, San Marcos*

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

**Marie Balthrop, TRMC
City Secretary, City of Holliday
PO Box 508, Holliday, TX 76366**

Fax 940-586-1107

hollidayadmin@srcaccess.net

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

*Download the MCCi Records
Management Scholarship
application*

2010 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.

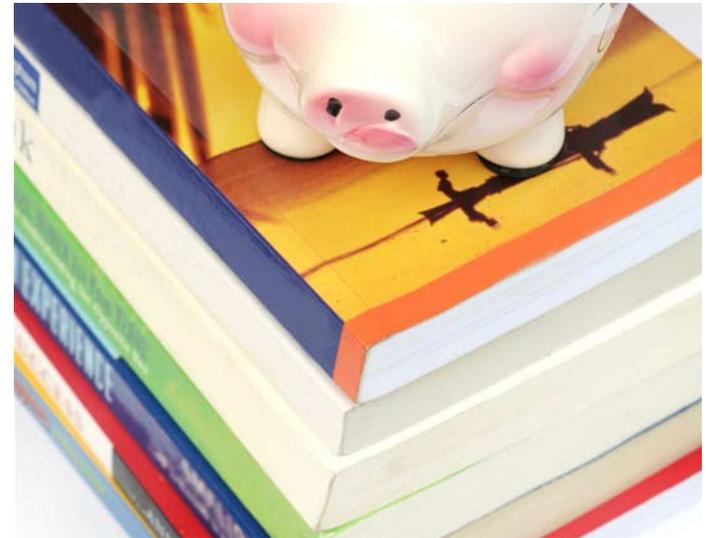
Dr. Joyce Snay Scholarship

(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](#).

TML Recognizes TMCA Election Calendar

In years past, the Texas Municipal League legal staff has issued an election calendar for general law cities. This year TML has stated it will discontinue this practice because of the “outstanding calendar prepared by TMCA.” TML’s legal staff remains available to answer election-related questions.

The current May election calendar created annually by *Texas Municipal Election Law Manual* author and attorney Analeslie Muncy is available on the [TMCCP/TMCA website](#). ★



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 2

Kay Lunnon, Gainesville
Traci Riggs, Stephenville

Course 3

Nan Brush, Bangs
Traci Riggs, Stephenville

Course 4

Barbara Boyd, Center
Vicki Collins, Mansfield
LuAnn Drake, Magnolia
Leisa Hester, Orange Co. WCID #1
Gale Ivy, San Saba
Kelly Moore, Port Arthur
Teresa Moore, Horseshoe Bay
Murvāt Musa, Ransom Canyon
Donna Myers, Orange Co. WCID #1
Beth Nemeth, Blooming Grove
Karen Price, Pampa
Sherry Roberts, White Oak

TMCCP SEMINAR RECAP • JANUARY 11-13, IRVING

TMCCP Election Law Seminar

Attendees, speakers, and TMCCP staff made this year's TMCCP Election Law Seminar one of the best we've had! Over 470 were in attendance in Irving at the Sheraton Grand Hotel. Topics included "Step By Step: Process of an Election," "Provisional Voting," "Contracting/Joint Elections," "Legislative Update/Training Workers," "Special Elections, Recount, Cancellations, & DOJ Submissions," and "Early Voting." This year we held a new Q&A Session featuring a panel of city secretaries, and it was a great success.

It was our special honor this year to have Texas Secretary of State Esperanza "Hope" Andrade as the keynote speaker for our luncheon and graduation ceremony.



We hope to see you at the 2011 Election Law Seminar in Irving—when we'll transition from a Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday format to **Wednesday-Thursday-Friday**. [Join us January 12-14, 2011, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel DFW](#). Registration starts this autumn! ★

Inset above: **Texas Secretary of State Andrade** was the keynote speaker for the TMCCP Election Law Seminar luncheon and graduation ceremony.

Top right photo: **Secretary of State Andrade** with the **TMCCP Recertification Class of 2010** after the conferring of diplomas.

Near right photo: TMCA Past President **Norma Rodriguez**, city clerk emeritus, San Antonio; TMCA Past President **Lydia Ozuna, TRMC**, city secretary, Wichita Falls; and Texas Secretary of State **Esperanza "Hope" Andrade**.



Photographs © Paul Traves, f16 Photography



Athenian Leadership Society Dialogue Program

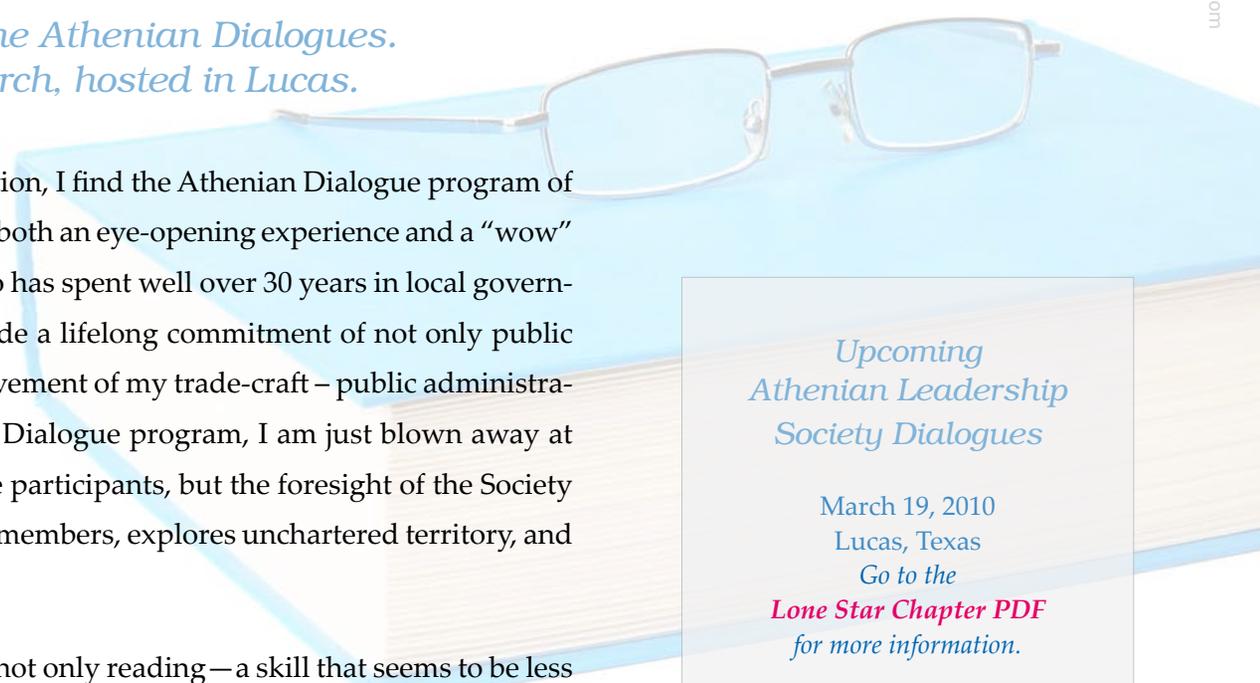
By G. M. Cox, Chief of Police, Murphy PD

PhD Candidate (ABD), UT-Arlington, Public Administration

*Chief Cox shares his perspective on the Athenian Dialogues.
He will be **facilitating a dialogue** in March, hosted in Lucas.*

As a practitioner and academic in public administration, I find the Athenian Dialogue program of the International Institute for Municipal Clerks to be both an eye-opening experience and a “wow” moment. Obviously, since I am a PhD candidate who has spent well over 30 years in local government and another 6 years in the military, I have made a lifelong commitment of not only public service, but also a private commitment to self-improvement of my trade-craft – public administration. However, after having experienced the IIMC’s Dialogue program, I am just blown away at not only the personal commitment on the part of the participants, but the foresight of the Society in providing this type of program that challenges its members, explores uncharted territory, and enriches the experiences of its members.

Participants are challenged to learn. This they do by not only reading—a skill that seems to be less practiced in this modern, virtually connected world—but also by group discourse. The process of discovery of not only a new topic but the learning of a thing is made even more valuable by the exchange of ideas, the debate of an issue, and the discovery of an alternative point of view that enriches the experience of the participants. In other words, it grows them as people and public servants. In many cases, the participants have not been in an environment that fosters debate and



Upcoming Athenian Leadership Society Dialogues

March 19, 2010

Lucas, Texas

Go to the

***Lone Star Chapter PDF**
for more information.*

April 23, 2010

Plano, Texas

Go to the

***IIMC website**
for more information.*

ATHENIAN DIALOGUES

certainly not critical debate. The Dialogues provide such an opportunity for self-expression and self-discovery.

The attendees stretch their imaginations by broadening their experiential base by reading books that, on their face, may not seem to be related to leadership, service or sacrifice. However, upon further analysis, it is an “*ah ha*” moment when they experience the gift of not only knowledge, but also of insight – insight into their own hearts and minds as well as the hearts and minds of co-participants and the topics explored in the various dialogues. This is truly a situation where a participant will get more out of the experience than they put into it. Knowledge is the gift that keeps on giving – once attained it cannot be taken back, but it can be shared.

Clerks who decide to venture out of their comfort zones to experience a dialogue will find themselves enriched beyond their wildest expectations. They will discover the secrets of history that have been locked away from sight because of neglect or filters. They will discover an alternative discourse of ideals about people, life, and the human experience. They will be changed, themselves, by the process. Their eyes will be opened and their hearts will be filled with a deep appreciation for the experiences of others and of alternative histories that have helped sculpt the American experience as well as the public servant’s life.

Finally, the Athenian Dialogue program is a way of shaping a commitment to public service. The experience is a shared one, for sure, but it is also a singular event where one has the opportunity to not only extend themselves, but also to better serve the public. Participants are like fine cutting instruments that require constant attention to keep them sharp and serviceable: the sharper they are, the better they serve. ★

What are Athenian Dialogues?

From IIMC’s website:

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.

Each Leadership Dialogue is led by a facilitator intuitively familiar with the subject and purpose of the book and also with the broader work and contributions of the author. The interest and involvement of the participants, as well as the author’s specific focus and emphasis, requires that the facilitator move purposefully, using what William Isaac referred to in his insightful book *Dialogue*, as the language of feeling, the language of meaning, and the language of power.

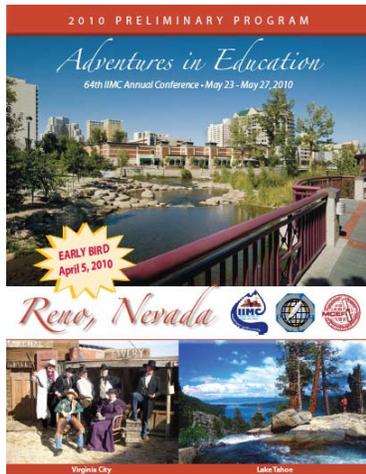
Learn more and participate.

IIMC News

By IIMC President Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, City Secretary, Bryan



Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC



The **IIMC Annual Conference** will be held May 23-27, 2010, in Reno-Tahoe, Nevada. The host hotel is the Grand Sierra Resort, which boasts the lowest room rate for IIMC delegates in over a decade—\$99.00 a night for a standard room. There is a free hotel shuttle service to and from the airport, and the resort also has all types of low cost eateries.

The conference theme is “Adventures in Education” and the education program is excellent. Attendees can earn up to eight points toward their CMC or MMC.

At this conference, IIMC will implement scanning of attendance for the first time. Since Texas was once again a pioneer in this area, it would be most appreciated if Texas clerks attending the conference would volunteer to help scan attendees at the various sessions. If you can help, please contact host clerk Monica Simmons at monica.simmons@cityofhenderson.com. Nevada has only 19 cities, so these hard working clerks can really use the help.

The All-Conference Event will be held in Virginia City—of *Bonanza* fame—and the President’s Opening Reception will be held at the National Automobile Museum. The MCEF Walk/Run will be along the Truckee River, which meanders directly behind the hotel. The conference program can be found at **IIMC’s website**.

At the Annual Conference, delegates will be asked to consider about a dozen IIMC constitutional amendments, all meant to strengthen the organization to ensure it operates in the most efficient, ethical manner possible. Those that are approved by the delegates in Reno will be forwarded via email to all IIMC members for a ratification vote. Please take the time to participate when these arrive in your in box.

IIMC NEWS

The changes to the education/certification guidelines that were approved by the board in November went into effect January 1, 2010, and have been very well received by the IIMC membership. These changes did not in any manner dilute the quality of education received by clerks, but rather streamlined and simplified processes while providing more flexibility to our state associations and individual members seeking certification (especially for MMC candidates). The staff has been inundated with certification applications, so there is still a waiting period for processing. Once the backlog is caught up, this process will flow much more quickly and efficiently under the new guidelines. I appreciate the support of TMCA, TMCCP, our wonderful education and administrative directors, our Certification Committee, and the clerks from Texas who serve on the IIMC Program Review/Certification and Education/Professional Development Committees. Together, we made significant changes that will serve our members and IIMC well.

In mid-February, I attended the IIMC Region III conference in Florida. Region III is composed of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina. I was most impressed to hear of Florida's pilot webinars offered through their IIMC institute. This next year, the Florida Institute will be offering four educational webinars that will count toward IIMC certification.

Knowing that the current economic climate is difficult at best, IIMC has offered payment plans for cities and/or individuals for the payment of membership dues. Continued IIMC membership is necessary for CMC and MMC designations to be recognized. If your city is having a difficult time paying membership dues, or if you pay your dues yourself, please contact IIMC Member Services Director Janis Daudt and ask for a three, six, or nine month payment plan for your dues if this would be helpful.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Reno! ★

IIMC Bulletins

MMC Awardees

Patrice Fogarty, TRMC

City Secretary, Missouri City

Pauline Small, TRMC

City Secretary, Webster

CMC Awardees

Irma Parker, TRMC

City Secretary, Rockport

Kathy Wingo, TRMC

City Secretary, Lucas

The CMC and MMC are professional designations granted by IIMC. To earn the CMC designation, a Municipal Clerk must attend extensive education programs. The designation also requires pertinent experience in a municipality. To qualify for entrance into the Master Municipal Academy (MMCA), which prepares participants for achieving the MMC status, one must have earned the CMC designation.

The program prepares the participants to meet the challenges of the complex role of the Municipal Clerk by providing them with quality education in partnership with 47 institutions of higher learning.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Chapter

By Chapter President **Yolanda Benitez, TRMC**

City Secretary, Garden Ridge

The Alamo Chapter held their regular meeting on December 11 at the Garden Ridge Community Center, located in the City of Garden Ridge. President Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge, called the meeting to order.

After approval of the minutes of the September 25 meeting and the December 2009 treasurer's report, President Benitez made some announcements and presentations:

Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes, was presented with a bouquet of roses in honor of receiving the American Legal scholarship at the Graduate Institute.

Photos, clockwise from upper left:

San Antonio Elections Manager **Melinda Uriegas** and San Antonio Deputy City Clerk **Leticia Saenz**.

Chapter President **Yolanda Benitez, TRMC**, city secretary, Garden Ridge, presents **Leticia Vacek, TRMC**, city clerk, San Antonio, with a door prize.

Chapter Secretary **Delia Flores, TRMC**, city secretary, Balcones Heights.

Chapter President **Yolanda Benitez, TRMC**, city secretary, Garden Ridge, presents roses to **Grace Tamez, TRMC**, city secretary, Helotes, in recognition of her receipt of the TMCCP American Legal Scholarship.



ALAMO CHAPTER



The Alamo Chapter at their December meeting in Garden Ridge.

The following Alamo Chapter members will be graduating in January 2010 at the Election Law Seminar:

Peggy Cimics, TRMC, city secretary/HR, Cibolo

Debbie Goza, TRMC, city secretary, Live Oak

Lisa Hernandez, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch

Saundra Passailaigue, TRMC, city clerk, Shavano Park

Mary Ybarra, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Schertz

Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes (*third recertification*)

Brenda Dennis, TRMC, city secretary, Schertz, has been appointed to the TMCA Nominating Committee and the IIMC Membership Committee; Carole Vanzant, TRMC, city secretary, Fair Oaks Ranch, has been appointed as chair of the TMCA Resolutions Committee;

and Yolanda Benitez has been appointed to the TMCA Certification Committee and is serving on the TMCA Membership Committee as the representative from the Alamo Chapter. Therefore, President Benitez stated, we are well represented on the state and international level.

President Benitez, along with Mayor Feibelman, gave the members a tour of the Garden Ridge City Hall Offices and Library.

Recognition was also give to Janice Alamia for being appointed to the position of city secretary at the City of Hollywood Park with Jessica Johnson being appointed to the position of assistant city secretary.

ALAMO CHAPTER

The next Alamo Chapter meeting was held on February 12 at Apple Annie's Restaurant, Castle Hills, hosted by Castle Hills City Secretary Linda Gill. President Yolanda Benitez called the meeting to order.

Mayor Marcy Harper, City of Castle Hills, welcomed the membership to Castle Hills and provided a brief overview of the city.

Sheila Edmondson, assistant city secretary, Cibolo, introduced Susan Rocha, attorney, Denton, Navarro, Rocha & Bernal, P.C., who made a presentation regarding the Legislative Update for the 2009 Legislative Session. She reported on the items of importance to municipalities.

The minutes of the December 11 meeting and the treasurer's report for February 2010 were approved.

In Brenda Dennis' absence, President Benitez stated that the Bylaws Review Committee and the Alamo Chapter officers will be meeting in the near future to review the proposed bylaws and make any necessary changes prior to bringing them to the membership for adoption.

President Benitez reported that Alamo Chapter Scholarship Committee Chair Leticia Vacek had solicited a donation from Municode, and that the chapter has received \$500, which brings the current total to \$955. President Benitez encouraged the members to solicit donations from their respective city attorneys. Susan Rocha presented Ms. Benitez with a check for \$200 towards the chapter's Norma Rodriguez Scholarship.



Top photo, from left to right: Janice Alamia, city secretary, Hollywood Park; Jessica Johnson, assistant city secretary/HR, Hollywood Park; Debra Howe, TRMC, city secretary, Castroville; and Grace Tamez, TRMC, city secretary, Helotes.

Above: Chapter Treasurer Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights, and Linda Gill, city secretary, Castle Hills, enjoying the holiday luncheon.

ALAMO CHAPTER

A brief discussion followed with regard to changing the chapter's meeting days from Fridays to Wednesdays as requested by several of the members. The City of San Antonio representatives stated that Wednesdays are not good days for them. President Benitez stated that she would send out an email to the membership to obtain more information. The issue will be readdressed at the next meeting.

Olmos Park City Secretary Celia DeLeon offered to host a meeting in either May or June, after the May election. Shavano Park City Clerk Sandra Passailaigue offered to host the next meeting.

President Benitez announced that she had applications for TMCCP scholarships and travel stipends for members wishing to attend the April seminar in San Marcos.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. ★

The following members and guests were present at the February Alamo Chapter meeting:

Yolanda Benitez, TRMC, city secretary, Garden Ridge

Angela Cantu, city secretary-treasurer, LaVernia

Peggy Cimics, TRMC, city secretary/HR, Cibolo

Sheila Edmondson, assistant city secretary, Cibolo

Delia Flores, TRMC, city secretary, Balcones Heights

Linda Gill, city secretary, Castle Hills

Jennifer Gonzales, Hill Country Village

Debra Howe, TRMC, city secretary, Castroville

Barbara Martinez, Pleasanton

Sandra Passailaigue, TRMC, city clerk, Shavano Park

Ofelia Pedroza, Devine

Jennifer Reyna, TRMC, city secretary, Alamo Heights

Dora Rodriguez, interim city administrator, Devine

Leticia Saenz, deputy city clerk, San Antonio

Sandra Torres, deputy city secretary, Hondo

Melinda Uriegas, elections manager, San Antonio

Cindy Urrabazo, city secretary, Pleasanton

Mary Ybarra, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Schertz

Guests: Carol Buttler, Live Oak; Mayor Marcy Harper, Castle Hills; Interim City Manager Rita Hoyle, Castle Hills; Susan Rocha, Denton, Navarro, Rocha & Bernal; Erika Garcia, Hondo

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Bluebonnet Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Christi Wynn, TRMC**
City Secretary, Brownwood

The Bluebonnet Chapter met December 10 with host Abilene City Secretary Danette Dunlap at the beautiful Fairway Oaks Country Club. Joy Hedges, Training and Employee Development Manager for the City of Abilene, gave an informative presentation about “Generations in the Workplace.”

The business meeting was held after the presentation. The Bluebonnet Chapter’s 2009 Municipal Clerk of the Year award was given to Shirley Stewart, city secretary, Eastland. The Bluebonnet Chapter Scholarship was awarded to Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge.

New officers were presented as follows: President Kay Torres, city secretary, Robert Lee; Vice President Maria Franco, city secretary, Hamlin; Treasurer Pat Martindale, city secretary, Bronte; Secretary Diane Latham, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge; and Historian Christi Wynn, TRMC, city secretary, Brownwood. ★



The new 2010 Bluebonnet Chapter officers, from left to right: Historian **Christi Wynn, TRMC**, city secretary, Brownwood; Secretary **Diane Latham**, assistant city secretary, Breckenridge; Vice President **Maria Franco**, city secretary, Hamlin; President **Kay Torres**, city secretary, Robert Lee; and Treasurer **Pat Martindale**, city secretary, Bronte.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Capital Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Debbie Chelf, TRMC**
City Secretary, Jarrell

The Capital Chapter met December 16 in Hutto. The meeting was called to order by President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop. Hutto Mayor Pro Tem Debbie Holland welcomed each member to the City of Hutto and expressed appreciation for the valuable work performed by city secretaries. Hutto Chamber of Commerce President, Tom Britton, gave a short presentation and provided valuable tips on how to extend exceptional customer service and understand customer value, especially as it applies to citizens.

Chapter business included approval of the September 2009 minutes, presentation of the July and September 2009 treasurer's reports, and the treasurer's report of the chapter's Ending Fund Balances as of December 15.

Above right: Hutto Mayor Pro Tem **Debbie Holland** (standing, center) welcomes chapter members to Hutto during the December 16 Capital Chapter meeting.

At right: Bickerstaff Heath Local Government/Election Specialist **Betty Brown, TRMC**, is entertained by guest speaker **Tom Britton**, president of the Hutto Chamber of Commerce. He gave a short presentation and provided valuable tips on how to extend exceptional customer service (as well as understand customer value) as it applies to citizens.



CAPITAL CHAPTER

Melissa Brunner, TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia, reported that her committee has been working on raising funds for the chapter by selling t-shirts to TMCA members. This has been a very popular item, with approximately \$500.00 going toward the chapter's scholarship funds. The chapter voted to purchase additional t-shirts.

Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, city secretary, Bryan, requested an item be placed on the next agenda for the chapter to consider granting one or two scholarships to allow chapter members an opportunity to attend the 2010 International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) annual conference; the funds could come from the proceeds received from the IIMC Region IV conference recently held in San Marcos, Texas, and would be considered in compliance with the Chapter Scholarship Policy.

Mary Lynne Stratta also expressed appreciation for the wonderful job San Marcos City Clerk Sherry Mashburn, TRMC, and Deputy City Clerk Shelly Goodwin accomplished in providing an outstanding location and hospitality for the IIMC Region IV Conference.

The chapter's next meeting was held in Bryan on January 20. President Valdez called the meeting to order, and Bryan City Secretary Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC, welcomed the members to the City of Bryan.



Above right: Chapter President Teresa Valdez, TRMC, city secretary, Bastrop, at the chapter's meeting on January 20 in Bryan.

At right: Municipal Court Administrator Hilda Cuthbertson (*standing at left*) took the Capital Chapter on a tour of the new Municipal Court areas within the new Bryan Municipal Justice Building.

CAPITAL CHAPTER

Chapter business included approval of the minutes from the December meeting and presentation of the treasurer's report as of January 19. Three \$500 scholarships were set aside to cover reimbursement costs for members to attend the IIMC 2010 Conference.

Toni Milam reported on chapter membership. As of December 2009 the Capital Chapter had 52 members.

IIMC President Mary Lynne Stratta presented an IIMC update to chapter members, and TMCA Trustee Sherry Mashburn presented a TMCA update.

Chapter President Teresa Valdez presented current committee chairpersons and members with certificates of appreciation for their work over the last year. Members were appointed to 2010 chapter committees (Membership, Chapter Clerk of the Year, Fundraising, Scholarship, and Salado Silent Auction).

President Valdez announced that the chapter had received a thank you note from the Chamberlain family in appreciation for the flowers sent for Caldwell City Secretary Don Chamberlain, who recently passed away. ★

Future chapter meetings:

March 17 - Bickerstaff Heath Law Firm, hosted by Betty Brown

May 19 - Point Venture, hosted by Chance Chatham

July 23-24 - Salado Annual Conference

September - (To Be Announced)

November/December - Bastrop, hosted by Teresa Valdez



Assistant Police Chief Wayland Rawls took the Capital Chapter members on a tour of the new Police Department within the new Bryan Municipal Justice Building.

Those in attendance at the January Capital Chapter meeting:

Cynthia Bowman, TRMC,
assistant city secretary, Bryan

Susan Brock, city clerk, Taylor

Betty Brown, TRMC, local government/
election specialist, Bickerstaff Heath

Chapter Vice President Melissa Brunner,
TRMC, city secretary, Flatonia

Jodi Chaney, Bryan

Chapter Secretary Debbie Chelf, TRMC,
city secretary, Hutto

Mary Goerig,
assistant city secretary, LaGrange

Lou Grinstead, Smithville (*guest*)

Chapter Historian Amy Harris,
city secretary, Cameron

Sherry Mashburn, TRMC,
city clerk, San Marcos

Tanya McNutt,
deputy city secretary, College Station

Chapter Treasurer Toni Milam, TRMC,
city secretary, Buda

Lisa Oltmann, city secretary, LaGrange

Brenda Page, city secretary, Smithville

Janet Rogers,
city secretary, West Lake Hills

Mary Lynne Stratta, TRMC,
city secretary, Bryan

Chapter President Teresa Valdez, TRMC,
city secretary, Bastrop

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Central Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Donna Hawkins**
City Secretary, Beverly Hills

The Central Texas Chapter held their bi-monthly meeting at the City of Robinson's city hall on October 28, 2009.

Robinson City Manager Dick Fletcher was the guest speaker, and presented a very informative program on "Ethics in Local Government."

President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt, announced the Central Texas Chapter Municipal Clerk of the Year is Beverly Hills City Secretary Donna Hawkins. Donna was presented with a plaque.

Nominations were made and approved for the 2010 Slate of Officers. Officers will be administered the oath of office in February. Teague City Secretary Yrene Morgan, TRMC, administrative assistant, Teague, was presented with a \$200.00 Chapter Scholarship.

The Central Texas Chapter met next at their annual traditional Christmas luncheon on December 11 at Cheeves Bros. Steak House in Temple.

Congratulations to Hillsboro City Secretary Karen Warren, TRMC, on receiving her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification, and to Woodway City Secretary Jennifer Canady, TRMC, on attaining her TRMC Recertification!

The Central Texas Chapter is proud to host the 2010 Annual Salado Seminar this summer. Be sure to **SAVE THE DATE: July 23-24, 2010.**



President **Lydia Lopez, TRMC** (right), city secretary, Hewitt, presented a plaque to Central Texas Municipal Clerk of the Year **Donna Hawkins**, city secretary, Beverly Hills.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



Central Texas Chapter members at their Christmas luncheon on December 11 in Temple.

Central Texas Chapter members present at the October meeting:

Esmeralda Cuate-Hudson, assistant city secretary, Waco

Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco

Connie Foreman, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview

Betty Harrell, city secretary (ret.), Hillsboro

Secretary Donna Hawkins, city secretary, Beverly Hills

Monica Hendrix, city secretary, Lorena

Michelle Hicks, city secretary, Lacy Lakeview

Brenda Jackson, city secretary, Groesbeck

Betty Jennings, Lacy Lakeview

President Lydia Lopez, TRMC, city secretary, Hewitt

Sherrill McDaniel, customer service representative, Waco

Kathy McKenzie, Robinson

Vice President Yrene Morgan, TRMC,
administrative assistant, Teague

Amber Rankin, city secretary, Hubbard

Karen Sanchez, Robinson

Jana Taylor, city secretary, Fairfield

Linda Vranich, city secretary, Robinson

Cynthia Ward, city secretary, Bellmead

Guests present: Robinson City Manager Dick Fletcher and newly appointed Robinson City Manager Robert Cervenka.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Hill Country Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Shelley Britton, TRMC**
City Secretary, Fredericksburg

The Hill Country Chapter met on December 16 at Kelly's Café in Fredericksburg for their annual Christmas Party and gift exchange! The group meets every other month in Fredericksburg.

The chapter met again on February 17 at Fredericksburg City Hall. Kirk Franklin of Franklin Legal Publishing gave a presentation on Electronic Agendas.

Anyone interested in joining the Hill Country Chapter can contact Fredericksburg City Secretary Shelley Britton at 830-997-7521 or email sbritton@fbgtx.org. ★



The Hill Country Chapter at their annual Christmas Party.

Seated, from left to right: Pat Dildine, city secretary, Johnson City, and Gale Ivy, city secretary, San Saba.

Standing, from left to right: Irma Hernandez, Mendard; Kerry Williams, city secretary, Llano; Bobby Mowery, city secretary, Blanco; Polly Krenek, city secretary, Bertram; Vivian Saiz, city secretary, Junction; Vickie Montez, assistant city secretary, Mason; Brenda Craig, TRMC, city secretary, Kerrville; Shelley Britton, city secretary, Fredericksburg; Karen Kiehne, Fredericksburg.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Lone Star Chapter

By Chapter President **Kathy Wingo, TRMC**
City Secretary, Lucas

The Lone Star Chapter continues its policy of offering meetings throughout its region.

November 4, 2009. The Lone Star Chapter met at the Municipal Court and Parks Buildings in the City of Allen. The meeting began with President Wingo administering the oath of office to 2009-2010 Chapter Historian Vicki Faulkner.

Chapter business included the unanimous approval of bylaw amendments, which added a Financial Policy Exhibit and Chapter Clerk of the Year Procedure as exhibits to the Amended Bylaws. The meeting's featured speaker was Stephanie Calame, City of Wylie. Ms. Calame presented the topic, "Public Information and Governmental Entities." Her presentation may be viewed online at the Lone Star Chapter's website (<http://tmcalonestarchapter.com>).

December 2, 2009. The Lone Star Chapter completed the year with its annual Christmas Celebration hosted in the City of Frisco at Randy's Steakhouse.

President Wingo recognized the following chapter members for their service to the chapter during 2008-09:

Audit Committee Chair **Bruce Dunn**, town secretary, St. Paul

Budget Committee Chair **Shelley George, TRMC**, city secretary, Allen

Bylaw Review Committee Chair **Vicki Faulkner, TRMC**, city secretary, Celina

Clerk of the Year Committee Chair **Diane Zucco, TRMC**, city secretary, Plano

Holiday Committee Chair **Deborah Sorensen**, city secretary, McLendon-Chisholm

Legislative Committee Chair **Shelley George, TRMC**, city secretary, Allen

Membership Committee Chair **Cathy Pugh**, city secretary, Tom Bean

Nominating Committee Chair **Susie Quinn, TRMC**, city secretary, Rowlett

Scholarship/Fundraising Committee Chair **Stephanie Calame**, records management administrative assistant, Wylie

Gayle Walton, TRMC, deputy city secretary, Wylie, for Website Development

The Annual Silent Auction was held, raising \$315.00 for the chapter's Scholarship Fund.

LONE STAR CHAPTER

Please join us as a member or guest at our chapter meetings in:

March 3, 2010 – City of Greenville (Hunt County)

April 7, 2010 – City of Celina (Collin and Denton Counties)

Visit the Lone Star Chapter's website to learn about upcoming events:

<http://tmcalonestarchapter.com>. ★



Lone Star Chapter members gathered together for a Christmas celebration in Frisco.

Members in attendance at the December Lone Star Chapter meeting:

Stephanie Calame, records management administrative assistant, Wylie

Bruce Dunn, town secretary, St. Paul

Carole Ehrlich, TRMC, city secretary, Wylie

Vicki Faulkner, TRMC, city secretary, Celina

Shelley George, TRMC, city secretary, Allen

Joy Hart, senior executive administrative assistant, Murphy

Mary Kayser, TRMC, city secretary, Garland

Angela Kelly, dep. city secretary, The Colony

Carole Kuykendall, deputy city secretary, Greenville

Julie Lollar, TRMC, city clerk, Denison

Aimee Nemer, TRMC, city secretary, Murphy

Debbie Newell, city secretary, Greenville

Teresa Niño, city secretary, Whitesboro

Jenny Page, TRMC, city secretary, Frisco

Sherrie Phelps, TRMC, city secretary, Ladonia

Cathy Pugh, city secretary, Tom Bean

Susie Quinn, TRMC, city secretary, Rowlett

Vickie Schmid, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Richardson

Alice Snyder, assistant city secretary, Plano

Gayle Walton, TRMC, dep. city secretary, Wylie

Christie Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, The Colony

Kathy Wingo, TRMC, city secretary, Lucas

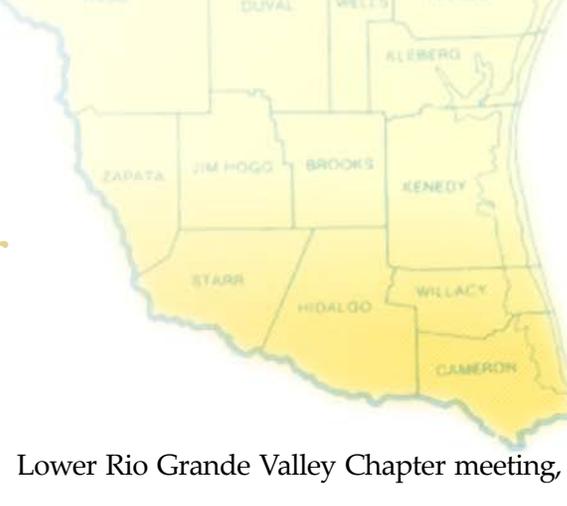
Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Dina Garcia**
City Secretary, *Penitas*

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter convened on Friday, November 20, 2009, at the McAllen Convention Center in McAllen. Deputy City Manager Brent Branham gave a warm welcome to members and invited guests. The City of McAllen graciously hosted a wonderful luncheon catered by the in-house caterer, Centerplate.

2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, extended her gratitude for allowing her the opportunity to attend the

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter meeting, and thanked the City of McAllen for hosting the meeting. Ms. Ervin discussed the Certification Program (TMCCP), stating it was one of the highest achievements at the state and national levels. She said that continuing education and leadership were the fundamental objectives of the Association. Chapter President Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Weslaco, thanked Ms. Ervin and presented her with a small token of appreciation.



The Lower Rio Grande Valley at their November 20 meeting at the McAllen Convention Center. 2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC (*fifth from left*), city secretary, Waco, was in attendance.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

At that time, Vice President Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen, introduced John Milford, from the University of Texas Pan American. Mr. Milford gave a presentation on the Certified Public Manager Certification Program (CPM). He stated the CPM Program was a nationally accredited program by the National Certified Public Manager Consortium and consisted of a seven-track course spread over a three year period. He further stated the program was designed to enhance and develop skills of the participants to deal with real-world challenges and situations. A CPM brochure detailing information and a tentative 2010-2011 program schedule was distributed to the members.

The chapter then continued to the next action item, where Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr, moved to appoint Dina Garcia, city secretary, Penitas, as chapter historian. Ms. Alvarado seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Dina Garcia then had the honor of being sworn in by TMCA President Patricia Ervin, who presented her with a candle to symbolically light the way through all the paperwork, calls, and meetings she will encounter as an officer. Historian



Top right photo: At the November 2009 Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter meeting. *From left to right:* Secretary/Treasurer Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr; TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; Historian Dina Garcia, city secretary, Penitas; President Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Weslaco; and Vice President Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen.

Near right photo: Speaker John Milford from the University of Texas Pan American gave a presentation on the Certified Public Manager Certification Program.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

Garcia said, "I would like to thank all of you for the privilege of serving as historian of the Lower Rio Grande Chapter and the honor of being sworn in by the TMCA 2009 President Patricia Ervin. We truly appreciated Patricia joining us and sharing her personal experiences and knowledge with our chapter."

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr, hosted the holiday luncheon on December 17 at Tierra Del Sol Golf Course. President Amanda Elizondo thanked everyone for attending the meeting and led the chapter in prayer. We then proceeded to action items on minutes and agenda approval. President Elizondo encouraged members to submit membership dues for fiscal year 2009-2010, and to attend monthly meetings, as we benefit with educational opportunities, peer recognition, and support. The chapter adjourned the business meeting, then proceeded to hold its exciting White Elephant gift exchange.



Top right photo: The chapter at their December meeting at the Tierra Del Sol Golf Course.

Near right photo: The chapter at their January meeting in Palmview.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER

The January chapter meeting had a growth in the attendance at Chozita's Restaurant hosted by Aida Rivas Palmview City Secretary.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter welcomed guest speaker Hidalgo County Election Administrator Yvonne Ramon to the January 22 meeting. All members present introduced themselves.

Ms. Ramon addressed the chapter about new legislation updates, important 2010 election dates, and County Elections Contract Estimate. She distributed handouts and briefly touched on the following as they related to elections: HB 401/Criminal background checks for all personnel that handle programming of the iVotronic./HB 3069/HB 536/HB 1256/HB 3062/SB 1970/SB 1134/SB 1402/Process for contracting or leasing election equipment, emergency plans, electronic poll book, and billing. A question-and-answer session followed the presentation.

President Elizondo then introduced an item on a travel/training stipend for the IIMC conference to be held May 23-27, 2010. President Elizondo stated a request had been submitted by Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen, for a training stipend to assist with registration fees associated with the IIMC Conference in Reno, Nevada, for herself and McAllen Deputy City Secretary Perla Zamora, TRMC. The item was approved, and President Elizondo recommended forming a committee to review the guidelines and procedures for the allocation of fees for travel/training stipends.

President Elizondo appointed Aida Rivas, Dina Garcia, and Arcelia Felix, TRMC, city secretary, Mercedes, to the committee.

Under other business, President Elizondo congratulated Sonia Padron and Hilda Pedraza on their Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification. President Elizondo also encourages all city secretaries/clerks to attend as many meetings as possible. The education gained and networking experienced is of great value. ★

Members present at the January chapter meeting:

President Amanda Elizondo, TRMC, city secretary, Weslaco

Vice President Perla Zamora, TRMC, deputy city secretary, McAllen

Secretary/Treasurer Hilda Pedraza, TRMC, city clerk, Pharr

Historian Dina Garcia, city secretary, Penitas

Blanca Castro, San Juan

Aida Rivas, city secretary, Palmview

Aleida Perez, Palmview

Julianita Zavala, city secretary, La Joya

Baudelia Rojas, city secretary, Alton

Anna Carrillo, city secretary, Mission

Aida V. Montoya, Pharr

Esmeralda Medina, city clerk, Penitas

Annette Villarreal, TRMC, city secretary, McAllen

Yesenia Rodriguez, administrative supervisor, McAllen

Molly Vallejo, Weslaco

Arcelia L. Felix, TRMC, city secretary, Mercedes

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

North Texas Chapter

By Chapter President **Linda Rhodes, TRMC**
 City Secretary, Lake Worth

The North Texas Municipal Clerks Association (NTMCA) Chapter is proud of their members that graduated and recertified through the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program this January. Way to go!!! Now you get to start those lovely book reports (for some, again).

In February, the NTMCA members were challenged by their president, Linda Rhodes, to set specific personal and professional goals for 2010. She encouraged them to write down goals that were attainable, and within reason, and to strive to meet them. At the February 10 professional business meeting, Valentine's pencils were given out with the following message attached:

Remember your challenge?

If you haven't done so yet,

Please do so today.

Write down your goals and meet them,

Then check them away!

Using pencil is a good thing,

For you can erase—

Not to completely get rid of things,

But to improve and replace.

There is one more thing

That I'd like to say—

From me to you,

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!!



The registration table at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving. *From left to right:* Cleburne City Secretary **Shelly Doty, TRMC**; TMCCP/TMCA Administrative Assistant **Miriam Sheehan, TRMC**; and Cleburne Deputy City Secretary **Ivy Peterson, TRMC**.

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

The guest speaker at the meeting was Mr. James Cogershall with the Texas Attorney General's office. Mr. Cogershall spoke on Public Information, which always seems to bring new and important things to know.

The March 10 professional business meeting topic will be "Preservation of Records," presented by Mr. Tom Kellam, Archivist of the City of Fort Worth Library. If you are in the DFW or surrounding areas and are not currently attending the NTMCA meetings, you are encouraged to do so. Please contact President Linda Rhodes at lindar@lakeworthtx.org or at 817-237-1211, extension 238, for more information on the meetings and membership. We would love to have you come and be a part. ★

*Top photo, from left to right: **Lori Payne, TRMC**, city secretary, Southlake; **Kim Sutter, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, Euless; and **Kelly Edwards, TRMC**, town secretary, Westlake, at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in January.*

*Near right photo: Speaker **Susie Quinn, TRMC**, city secretary, Rowlett; **Dr. Joyce Snay, TRMC**, education director, TMCA/TMCCP; and speaker **Pauline Small, TRMC**, city secretary, Webster, at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar.*



TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Panhandle Chapter

By Chapter Historian **Suzanne Finch, TRMC**
City Secretary, Hereford

The Panhandle Chapter of Texas Municipal Clerks met December 17 in Amarillo at the Amarillo Club with seven members present for their bimonthly meeting. Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford, presided over the meeting. The program was the installation of officers, conducted by 2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, followed by a Christmas gift exchange. After installing the new officers, President Ervin spoke to the group about her tenure as president of the Texas Municipal Clerks Association.

Congratulations to Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman, for completing her recertification (2009-2014).

The chapter is scheduled to meet again February 18 and April 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Amarillo Club. ★

Chapter members in attendance at the December meeting:

Kelly Daniel, deputy city secretary, Friona
 Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco
 Suzanne Finch, TRMC, city secretary, Hereford
 Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC, city secretary, Spearman
 Patricia Phipps, TRMC, city secretary, Friona
 Andrea Mercer
 Gretchen Mercer, city secretary, Canyon
 Nelwyn Ward, city secretary, Memphis
 Becca Wood, city secretary, Perryton



Top photo: 2009 TMCA **President Patricia Ervin, TRMC**, with newly installed Panhandle Chapter officers Historian **Suzanne Finch, TRMC**; Secretary **Cheryl Gibson-Salgado, TRMC**; and President **Gretchen Mercer**.

Above photo: The Panhandle Chapter members with TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, at the December 17 chapter meeting.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Red River Chapter

By Chapter President **Marie Balthrop, TRMC**
City Secretary, Holliday



The Red River Chapter met on December 2 at Logan’s Roadhouse in Wichita Falls. The chapter elected officers for 2010-2011: President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday; Vice President Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie; and Secretary/Treasurer Lydia Ozuna, TRMC, city secretary, Wichita Falls.

Members then voted to give a donation of \$100.00 to the Rathgeber Hospitality House of Wichita Falls. The Red River Chapter has supported the Rathgeber Hospitality House for several years, and commends their support of families of patients of United Regional Hospital.

Members participated in a Christmas ornament exchange in celebration of the Christmas season.

Several of the Red River Chapter members attended the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving in January. We would like to congratulate Sandy Page, TRMC, assistant city secretary, Bowie, for attaining her Texas Registered Municipal Clerk Certification, and also congratulate Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday; Trish Holley, TRMC, city secretary, Burkburnett; and Mitzi Wallace, TRMC, city secretary, Bowie, for completing TRMC Recertification requirements.

For more information about the Red River Chapter, please contact President Marie Balthrop, TRMC, at 940-586-1313. ★



At the TMCCP Election Law Seminar (from left to right): Chapter President **Marie Balthrop, TRMC**, city secretary, Holliday; **Trish Holley, TRMC**, city clerk, Burkburnett; Chapter Vice President **Mitzi Wallace, TRMC**, city secretary, Bowie; and **Sandy Page, TRMC**, deputy city secretary, Bowie.

Members attending the December meeting were: Amy Anderson, city secretary, Lakeside City; Marie Balthrop, TRMC, city secretary, Holliday; Kelley Bloodworth, city secretary, Henrietta; Linda Byers, city secretary, Vernon; and Trish Holley, TRMC, city secretary, Burkburnett

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

Salt Grass Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Sharon Harris, TRMC**

Assistant City Secretary, La Porte

The Salt Grass Chapter held their 2009 Annual Installation Banquet/Holiday Luncheon on December 2 at Cullen's Upscale American Grille. The invocation was lead by La Porte Mayor Barry Beasley. TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco, was there to install the 2010 officers as follows: President Melissa Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy; Vice President Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place; Secretary Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte; Treasurer Maria Gonzalez, deputy city secretary, Missouri City; and Historian Crystal Scott, deputy city secretary, Webster.

Recipients of the chapter's Deloris McKenzie Scholarship were: Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park; Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook; Crystal Roan, deputy city secretary, Webster; Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte; and Nancy Hempel, city secretary, Anahuac.

Sandra Watkins was presented the "Outstanding Municipal Clerk Award" during the banquet.



Installation of officers at the December Salt Grass Chapter meeting.

SALT GRASS CHAPTER

The Salt Grass Chapter presented outgoing President Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton, with an appreciation plaque.

Russell Haddock of Municipal Code Corporation and retirees Jean Rafetto (El Lago) and Kay Krouse (Pearland) also attended the Annual Installation Banquet/Holiday Luncheon.

Top right photo: Deloris McKenzie, TRMC, city secretary (ret.), Friendswood, and Kay Krouse, Pearland (retired).

Lower right photo: At center, Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City, and Russell Haddock, MCCi Senior Account Executive Southwest Region.

Below: Sandra Watkins, TRMC (right), city secretary, Deer Park, is presented the "Outstanding Municipal Clerk of the Year" award by Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook.



SALT GRASS CHAPTER

The Salt Grass Chapter next met at Texas Land & Cattle Steak House in Houston on January 20. Stacey Osborne, City of La Porte Economic Development/Main Street Coordinator, provided a very informative presentation and demonstrated the Pulse Smartpen from Livescribe.

Business of the Salt Grass Chapter during the meeting included approval of minutes, committee reports, and appointment of members to the Banquet/Holiday Committee.

For chapter contact information, please contact Chapter Secretary Sharon Harris at 281-470-5029 or at harriss@laportetx.gov. ★

Members in attendance at the January meeting:

Meredith Brant, assistant city secretary, Seabrook
 Missy Bunch, TRMC, city secretary, Katy
 Patrice Fogarty, TRMC, city secretary, Missouri City
 Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook
 Maria Gonzalez, deputy city secretary, Missouri City
 Claudia Harrison, city secretary, Brookshire
 Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte
 Nancy Hempel, city secretary, Anahuac
 Thelma Lenz, TRMC, city secretary, West University Place
 Lisa Olmeda, TRMC, city secretary, Wharton
 Crystal Roan, deputy city secretary, Webster
 Pauline Small, TRMC, city secretary, Webster
 Charlene Tighe, deputy city secretary, Deer Park
 Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park



Salt Grass Chapter members recognized for earning 2010 TRMC Recertification at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar, from left to right: Deborah Loesch, TRMC, city administrator/secretary, Hunters Creek Village; Michele Glaser, TRMC, city secretary, Seabrook; Sandra Watkins, TRMC, city secretary, Deer Park; and Sharon Harris, TRMC, assistant city secretary, La Porte.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

South Plains Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Brenda Shaw, TRMC**
City Secretary/Manager, Morton

The South Plains Chapter met December 16 at the Science Spectrum in Lubbock. The meeting was hosted by Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada.

President LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe, called the meeting to order and introduced 2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco. President Ervin addressed the group about her experience as a city secretary.

President Gallman welcomed members and guests. The meeting's guests included: 2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin; Slaton City Secretary Toni Chrestman's daughters Robin Chrestman, Meagan Chrestman, and Jennifer Anderson; and Toni Longoria, Lorenzo.

President Gallman read aloud a thank you note from Spur City Secretary Nancy Hale, TRMC, for her scholarship.

Chapter business included approval of the September meeting minutes and the December treasurer's report. Chapter members discussed the possibility of an organized activity for Wednesday evening of the June 2010 TMCCP seminar to be held in Lubbock, and decided to hold further discussion of this topic in March.



Top right photo: 2009 TMCA President **Patricia Ervin, TRMC**, addresses the South Plains Chapter in December.

Above photo: The South Plains Chapter at their December meeting.

SOUTH PLAINS CHAPTER

President LeAnn Gallman appointed Beth Wall, city secretary, Levelland, as chair of the chapter's Municipal Clerk of the Year Committee for 2010; fellow appointees included JoAnn Beard, city secretary, Smyer; Bonnie Scaff, TRMC, city secretary, Bovina; and Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown. This committee will report at the March 2010 meeting.

President LeAnn Gallman appointed Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface, as chair for the Annual Chapter Seminar 2010 Committee; fellow appointees included Murvat Musa, city secretary, Ransom Canyon; Patricia Phipps, TRMC, city secretary/city manager, Friona; and Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton.

The next chapter meeting was set for March 17. City of Idalou City Secretary Renee Wilbanks will host the meeting. ★



Members present at the December meeting:

JoAnn Beard, city secretary, Smyer
 Toni Chrestman, TRMC, city secretary, Slaton
 Lora Dockery, deputy city secretary, Sundown
 Christy Forbes, city secretary, Ralls
 LeAnn Gallman, TRMC, city secretary, Muleshoe
 Linda Garcia, clerk, Ralls
 Debbie Gressett, TRMC, city secretary, Seminole
 Margot Hardin, city administrator, Crosbyton
 Maria Hatchett, TRMC, city secretary/treasurer, Lamesa
 Jodie House, city secretary, Crosbyton
 Sharon Kerby, Slaton
 Karen Lawson, TRMC, city secretary, Floydada
 Monica Lopez, city secretary, Lorenzo
 Sylvia Martinez, TRMC, billing clerk, Plains
 Murvat Musa, city secretary, Ransom Canyon
 Kim Perez, deputy city secretary/court clerk, Ralls
 Pam Rowe, TRMC, city secretary, Plains
 Brenda Shaw, TRMC, city secretary/manager, Morton
 Belinda Terrell, city secretary, Whiteface
 Sharon Trumble, city secretary, New Deal
 Beth Walls, city secretary, Levelland
 Renee Wilbanks, city secretary, Idalou
 Susie Williamson, TRMC,
 city secretary/administrator, Shallowater
 Toni Wilson, TRMC, city secretary, Sundown

Guests:

2009 TMCA President Patricia Ervin, TRMC, city secretary, Waco; Toni Longoria, Lorenzo; Jennifer Anderson; Robin Chrestman; and Meagan Chrestman.

TMCA CHAPTER NEWS

West Texas Chapter

By Chapter Secretary **Karen Bullard**
City Secretary, Crane

The West Texas Chapter met on November 18 at Big Daddy's Catfish & Chicken in Odessa for its fourth-quarter meeting.

President Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Secretary Gloria Saenz noted members present. President Tonya Todd acknowledged and welcomed the six members present, representing six cities.

President Todd read a letter from the City of Andrews inviting the chapter to the Government Finance Officers Association meeting which will be held in Andrews on March 17; it will cover the topic "Fringe Benefits." The chapter may possibly hold its quarterly meeting at this time.

The West Texas Chapter members had a Christmas gift exchange.

The West Texas Chapter next met again at its 2010 first-quarter meeting on January 12 at 7:00 a.m., while in attendance at the TMCCP Election Law Seminar in Irving. ★



The West Texas Chapter in Odessa at its November meeting. *Seated, left to right: Evelyn Ammons, city secretary, Big Lake; Laquetta Harris, city secretary, Iraan; Anita Sparks, city secretary, Rankin. Standing, left to right: Reporter/Historian Karen Bullard, city secretary, Crane; President Tonya Todd, TRMC, city secretary, Wink; and Secretary/Treasurer Gloria Saenz, city secretary, Kermit. (Not pictured: guest Brandy Moore, granddaughter of Evelyn Ammons.)*

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